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### Book Information:

Allah's Garden by Thomas Hollowell | ISBN: 978-0964142398 | [www.ThomasHollowell.com](http://www.ThomasHollowell.com)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **A New Book on Islam, Human Rights, and Travel Reveals an Ignored War in the Sahara Desert**

A true story of a humanitarian catastrophe in the Muslim world, the newly released book entitled *Allah's Garden* brings readers an unprecedented account of an untold war in the Sahara Desert of North Africa.

(Urbana, Illinois) -- A former Peace Corps Volunteer's riveting nonfiction narrative of one of the longest-held prisoners of war in world history delivers a captivating tale of dire hardship, faith, and human courage. *Allah's Garden* focuses on a Moroccan doctor's 25-year detention by a militant group, known as the Polisario, in prison camps within the Sahara Desert. This plight is interwoven with the author's own engaging travelogue while in the North African region.

"[*Allah's Garden*] is a sad reminder of the cost of war in Western Sahara," says James Sater, author of the forthcoming *Morocco: Challenges to Tradition and Modernity*. "Hollowell's powerful narrative...is an excellent account of a humanitarian disaster...." The opening scene grabs readers as insurgents raid a small village in Morocco near the Algerian border. While many civilians and soldiers are killed, the rebels take prisoners into Algeria where they are placed into encampments, often tortured for information, and forced to labor. "[The main character] *could* be a tragic figure, given the suffering," says Ariele Huff, a national columnist based in Seattle, "but due to his persistence, kindness, and courage, this is an inspiring book."

Though not a political book by definition, the perspective of the protagonist and his revealing account to the author will strike a strong and controversial chord for those on both sides of the debate: those recognizing the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) and those supporting Morocco's claim to Western Sahara. For the uninformed, *Allah's Garden* is an enlightening read on the history and dispute of the region, while still delivering a potent depiction of human rights violations that have taken place.

The author, Thomas Hollowell, has lived in and traveled extensively throughout various regions of Morocco, including Western Sahara. He will be conducting signings and interviews in the United States throughout the summer and fall of 2009. His book tour includes a promotional sweepstakes sponsored by Journey Beyond Travel LLC, specializing in Morocco tours, which is giving away a trip to visit the various regions mentioned in the book.

Please e-mail Twinlance to set up an interview, presentation, or signing. *Allah's Garden*, ISBN 978-0964142398, is published by Tales Press in Urbana, Illinois and is available at bookstores, online, and to booksellers (through Ingram). The author's website at <http://www.ThomasHollowell.com> provides more information about the book and author events. # # #