

New Jersey Muslims Mourn the Lives Lost
For Immediate Release - July 8, 2016

On behalf of a broad coalition of almost 100 Muslim organizations in New Jersey, we are saddened by the tragic deaths of most recent black victims of police shootings in Louisiana and Minnesota and the targeted killings of five police officers in Dallas. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of these victims and ask God to give them strength and patience to get through this difficult time.

The Qur'an states, "Whoever kills a (innocent and peaceful) person, it is as though he has killed all mankind. And whoever saves a life, it is as though he had saved all mankind."

We are also reminded in the Qur'an, "...Take not life, which God has made sacred, except by way of justice and law: thus does He command you, that you may learn wisdom." (al-An'am 6:151). Thus we strongly affirm that all lives regardless of background are sacred and must be valued and protected.

We also reiterate the importance of recognizing the undeniable racial inequities of our law enforcement and judicial system as it relates to African-American and other minority communities. We urge our political leaders to begin the important work of addressing these injustices so that every person is treated equally under the law. We ask this so that we can make progress toward a "more perfect union" that our founders sought. And we remind everyone of our nation's motto: E Pluribus Unum – Out of Many, One

With respect to the targeted attack against our police officers, we raise our collective voice to remind all that a vast majority of law enforcement officers protect and serve our communities with distinction. They are our brothers and sisters, our neighbors, friends, sports coaches, mentors to countless young people and are the pillars of our community. There is absolutely no justification for these attacks against these brave men and women.

At the same time, we request law enforcement agencies to improve training of their personnel to prevent targeting based on race. We also urge local police departments and faith communities across our nation to hold meetings to strengthen ties between local police departments and their communities and issue a common call for peaceful resolution of all conflicts and restraint on use of force.

We request all mosques to join us in this statement and encourage the Imams to address this issue in their sermons and we request our Christian and Jewish faith leaders to address it in their sermons. We also urge those who wish to join protests to do so peacefully.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of the following contacts.

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See page 2 for a list of the organizations supporting this statement.

List of Organizations Supporting the Statement

Ahlul-Bayt Student Association
Al Hoda Islamic Center - Jersey City
Al Tawheed Islamic Center – Jersey City
American Arab Civic Org
American Coalition for Good Government
American Muslim Alliance - NJ
American Muslim Council PAC
American Muslim Union
American Muslims for Democracy
American Muslims for Hunger Relief
American Muslims for Palestine
Anjumane Nawjawanane Ali Akber
Bayonne Islamic Center
Bayonne Muslims
Baytul-Iman Academy
Bergen County Islamic Center
Blessed and Highly Favored, Inc
CAIR - NJ
Center for Islamic Life at Rutgers University
Council for the Advancement of Muslim Professionals
Dar ul Islam
Elizabeth Islamic Center - Midland Park
EMERGE - USA
Green Muslims of New Jersey (GMNJ)
HAC
Helping Hand for Relief and Development
Hudson County Moslim Associations
Inspiring American Muslim Youth
Institute of Islamic Studies
Islamic Center of East Brunswick
Islamic Center of Jersey City
Islamic Center of Morris County
Islamic Center of Old Bridge
Islamic Center of Passaic County
Islamic Center of South River
Islamic Center of Union County
Islamic Circle of Mercer Country
Islamic Circle of North America
Islamic Council of Greater Trenton
Islamic Council of Hudson County
Islamic Council on Scouting of North America
Islamic Cultural Center
Islamic Relief USA
Islamic Society of Basking Ridge
Islamic Society of Central Jersey
Islamic Society of Essex County
Madinah Cultural Center -Kearny
Majilus Ashura of Essex and Union County
MAROC
MAS
Masjid Al Wali
Masjid Ibrahim - Newark
Masjid Muhammad Atlantic City Inc.
Masjid Waarith ud Deen, Irvington
Masjid-e-Ali
Masjidullah Inc. Plainfield
Mehfile Shahe Khorasan
Mehfile Shahe Khorasan / Sultan Karamali
Message of peace Inc/ Patan-e- Aman
Mohammadia English Program
Muslim American Society
Muslim Center of Middlesex County
Muslim Community Center of Union County
Muslim Community of New Jersey
Muslim League of Voters of NJ
Muslim Public Affairs Council
MUSLIM Society of Ridgewood
Muslim Students Association of NJIT
Muslims4peace.org
New Africa Educational Inst.
New Africa Excellence Enterprise LLC
New Brunswick Islamic Center
New Business Islamic Center
New Jersey Muslim Lawyer's Association
New Jersey Muslim Voter Project
NJ Sisterhood
North Hudson Islamic Educational Center
Palestinian American Community Center
Plainfield Center for Islamic Enlightenment
Rutgers MSA
Sadaqa House Inc.
Shia American Relationship Council (SARC)
Shia Assn Of North America, Baitul Qaem
SMILE
standwithdignity.org
Sultan Karamali
Swasia Charity Foundation
The Building Blocks of NJ
The Citizens Foundation
The Indigo GLOW Foundation
THE ISLAMIC CENTER OF JERSEY CITY
The Islamic council of Hudson County
The Muslim Network
The New Guidance Center
Tri State Imams Council
Turkish Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Universal Muslim Association of America
World Islamic Committee on Scouting
Zanabia New Jersey