

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