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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MCC Condemns Deadly Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Mosques

March 15, 2019

The Muslim Community Center (MCC) of Silver Spring, Maryland, one of the oldest Muslim faith-based organizations in the Washington, DC area, expresses its shock and grief over the mass shooting at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand today, and offers its prayers and sincere condolences to the victims, their families and friends, and their communities.

White supremacist terrorists murdered 49 Muslim men, women and children and injured 48 others as they worshiped at the weekly Friday Jumu'ah prayer. At least one of the shooters' intentions were spelled out clearly in a manifesto and video, indicating that this was a deliberate attack on Muslims because of their religion.

A mosque is more than a prayer hall. It is a place where friends meet for prayers and conversations, where families gather for activities, where children and youth play, grow, learn and find solace in their shared faith experiences. Like the Tree of Life synagogue near Pittsburgh, PA; like the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC; the Masjid Al-Noor and the Linwood Islamic Centre in Christchurch were sacred places of community that were brutally attacked by an ideology of hate and bigotry.

The MCC continues to categorically reject the ideologies and speech of those who spread hate, as well as the horrific acts of violence their words give license to. We stand with all people of good will in opposition to forces that use violence to terrorize innocent people. And we stand with the Muslim community of Christchurch and their allies, in sorrow and prayer. As we go to our own Jumu'ah prayers today here in America, we pray that their suffering is eased with patience and support, and that we have the strength to stand firm against the evils of fear and ignorance.

MCC's mission is to promote brotherhood and human dignity among all by developing an environment of understanding, compassion, and justice in our personal and professional lives. We strive to serve the needs of the Muslim community and community at large in a manner that promotes its positive image and standing in a changing environment. We aim to represent the Muslim community in interfaith circles, in government, public and media relations, and in the society at large.

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For more information, please email info@mccmd.org or call 301-384-3454