



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MCC Condemns Deadly Van Attack in Toronto

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The Muslim Community Center (MCC) of Silver Spring, Maryland, one of the oldest Muslim faith-based organizations in the Washington, DC area, condemns the murder of 10 innocent people in Toronto on Monday by a man who drove a van into crowds on a sidewalk, and expresses its condolences to the families and friends of the victims.

Alex Minassian, 25, was arrested immediately after he committed the crime. A Facebook post reportedly attributed to him indicated that he subscribed to misogynistic beliefs and praised mass shooter Elliott Rodger, who wrote a manifesto against women before going on his 2014 killing spree in Southern California. Minassian's victims included several Canadians, a Jordanian national, and two South Korean nationals; they ranged in age from young adult to mid-90s, and although they were mostly women, there is as yet no evidence that Minassian was specifically targeting women.

MCC expresses its outrage at this despicable crime and at all ideologies that promote violence and hatred. We stand in solidarity with the community in Toronto, and we join the majority of Muslims worldwide in affirming our complete rejection and strong condemnation of all acts of terrorism wherever they occur. No loss of innocent human lives is permissible. We here at MCC will continue to pray and work for peace and justice, building bridges instead of walls, and standing together with our larger community, rather than being divided by fear.

A Canadian Islamic organization, Dawanet, has set up a Gofundme account to raise up to \$1 million for the families' funeral expenses: <https://www.gofundme.com/TorontoVanAttack>

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