



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Muslim Community Center, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MCC Condemns Deadly Mass Shooting in Nashville, Tenn.

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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 cowardly act of terror by a shooter at a Waffle House restaurant in Nashville, Tenn. on Sunday, and extends its condolences to the families and friends of his four victims.

Akilah DeSilva, 23, of Antioch, was pursuing a career in musical engineering at Middle Tennessee State University and was also a budding rap artist and music video producer. DeEbony Groves, 21, was a senior majoring in social work at Belmont University. Taurean C. Sanderlin, 29, had been an employee at the Waffle House for about five years. Joe R. Perez, 20, was a Texas native and the youngest of his mother's children. All four of these young souls were people of color, as were two others who were injured, and the shooter, Travis Reinking, 29, was a white man with a history of delusions who had already had his guns and licenses taken away, before his father returned his guns to him. Reinking was disarmed by an unarmed bystander, James Shaw, 29, who has now raised over \$150,000 for the families of the victims.

Although a motive has not yet been established, Reinking was reported to consider himself a “sovereign citizen,” part of an unorganized movement of ant-government extremists who are considered the top terror threat to our country. The gun he used to commit these murders was an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, the same gun used in seven of the ten deadliest mass shootings in American history. In light of these facts, MCC expresses its sorrow and outrage at yet another mass shooting that tears at the fabric of our nation. We stand with the community in Nashville against all acts of terror and all ideologies that promote violence, hatred, and racism. As Muslims, we believe that God created all humans as equals, and our beloved Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, taught us that no one has superiority over another person except by piety and good deeds. We condemn unequivocally such acts of violence and draw upon our faith for strength in holding fast to our nation's common ideals of peace, unity, and equality.

You can donate to Shaw's fundraising efforts at <https://www.gofundme.com/5g07bvs>.

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