



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Muslim Community Center, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MCC Condemns Racist Slogans Attacking Howard County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball

May 27, 2020

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 disgust over the slogan on the t-shirts worn at a Reopen Howard County protest on Tuesday 26th May 2020. The right of the Reopen Howard Movement to peacefully protest is certainly protected in our Constitution; however, we cannot condone nor overlook the bigotry and hatred symbolized in this particular event.

Islam teaches us that we must seek justice. We cannot sit idly by and allow actions like this to stand unchallenged.

O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest ye swerve, and if ye distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily Allah is well-acquainted with all that ye do. - Qur'an 4:135

We will always stand with our brothers and sisters from all communities. Today we stand by Dr. Calvin Ball and the African American community. We pray for his safety and continued leadership. An attack on any of us is an attack on all of us. 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 racism to terrorize innocent people.

While these t-shirts with the racist and offensive slogan were created by the event organizers, we cannot overlook the elected officials who supported this slogan and by their conspicuous silence tacitly approved of the hateful message being delivered on the t-shirts that were clearly visible all around them. The Qur'anic verse above is not simply directed at Muslims. It is address to all of those who believe. We call on all people of faith, people of moral conviction, to repudiate these types of messages and all of those who support them.

We must continue to work together to dispel fear, hate and ignorance and work towards a society that accepts all of us.

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 301-384-345.