



**For Immediate Release**

**Concerning the Brutal Killing  
of our Fellow Citizen, Mr. George Floyd,  
in the City of Minneapolis, MN**

*May 27, 2020 at 10:45 p.m.*

The Muslim Community of Pittsburgh who attend the state's oldest mosque, *al-Masjid al-Awwal* (the First Muslim Mosque), hereby **openly and unequivocally** condemn the recent killing of one of our fellow citizens, Mr. George Floyd, in the city of Minneapolis. Our hearts are truly hurt over this obscene and brutal act, which cannot be described as anything less than domestic terrorism.

Our thoughts and sympathy go to the family and friends of the victim. We openly support the family of Mr. Floyd in their request to have all officers involved charged with murder. Public servants who murder the citizens they are paid to serve and protect should face the legal results of the tyranny and terroristic atrocities they commit, as anyone else would.

Our religion, Islam, forbids all acts of oppression, especially the oppressive killing of an innocent person:

﴿مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا﴾

**"Whoever kills a single person who has not killed someone or caused mischief in the land (i.e. terrorism, mass killings, etc.), then it is as if he has killed all of humanity" [Quran 5:32]**

Any citizen unjustly murdered by anyone is unacceptable. However, when the perpetrator is yet another law enforcement officer, and the victim is yet another black man, this repeated narrative perpetuates that well-known, long-standing and painful rift in our country, and the underlying illusion of white superiority. It is a nasty snapshot of our failure to progress as a society and an absolute embarrassment to all forward-thinking and peace-loving citizens!

This being said, we also remind our congregants and all people of genuine reflection at this time of tragedy in our country, with the real solution for social injustices, oppression, racism, and all other cancers afflicting such a fragmented society. **The religion of Islam**, and no other alternative, brings the people together across lines of race, ethnicity, and economic and social divides. When we receive the message of the Prophets of our Lord, and come together to fulfill our true purpose in life, the lines that divided us truly disappear. Apprehension, mistrust, hatred, and animosity are replaced by brotherly love and genuine concern for one

another, all under the worship of the one singular Creator, and none else, the only One in whose Hand alone is the sovereign Lordship of the entire creation.

﴿وَأذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا  
وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَى شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْهَا﴾

**"And remember the Favor of Allah upon you, when you were enemies to one another, and then He brought your hearts together, so that you became brothers. After you had been right at the brink of a pit of Fire, He saved you from that. Such is how Allah clarifies His Signs for you, in order for you to be rightly guided." [Quran 3:103]**

Finally, as an important word of advice and caution to our Muslim brothers and sisters: Yes, this event is indeed obscene and enraging. Yes, it is injustice and tyranny. And no, sadly, it is nothing new in our country. We are rightly upset and disturbed, yet we have to remember that we are not left to ourselves without guidance, so that we would need to join in with non-Muslim methods of political and social reform. We have been given the steps to reform ourselves and our societies, and it is not emotionally chanting in the streets, picketing, or rioting. It is not that we do "something, anything" to respond.

We are people of restraint who carefully consider how we should respond to every challenge in this life. Our actions need to be refined and in line with the teachings of our religion, as we will stand before our Lord and be questioned about our actions. Rioting and destroying property is an evil that does not solve problems. Attacking innocent people in retribution is just oppression upon oppression. Demonstrating and protesting is blameworthy imitation of non-Muslims. Our pathway to reformation is a proven successful one, but it requires patience and hard work. We must rectify ourselves through education and purification, ourselves and our families first, our neighbors, close relatives and contacts. As we build personally and with our communities, upon the two solid foundations of authentic knowledge and sincere practice, we then deserve the honor and distinction that we seek, as true worshippers of the one God of all mankind. May He, the Most High, give us success and keep us from disgracing ourselves at our own hands.

***The First Muslim Mosque (Al-Masjid Al-Awwal), est. 1932, located in the heart of Pittsburgh's historic Hill District, hosts a vibrant community of local and international congregants, adhering to the tenants of Orthodox Islam, actively condemning terrorist organizations such as ISIS, Alqaeda, and the (so-called) Muslim Brotherhood.***

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