



Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Dear friends,

I am writing this letter as an official statement on behalf of the Islamic Foundation of Peoria.

We feel that the recent atrocities committed in the *name of our faith* by a group calling itself ISIS requires that we make our stand clearly known to our friends and neighbors.

**First**, ISIS' expulsion of Christians from the Iraqi city of Mosul is a reprehensible, vile act not allowed in our religion.

**Second**, ISIS' indiscriminate killing, destruction of houses of worship, treatment of prisoners and women, and fanatic extremism has left us in shock and disgust. Such actions have nothing to do with Islam, whose principles call for tolerance, kindness, justice, and coexistence.

**Third**, ISIS is universally denounced by international and American Muslim organizations<sup>1</sup>:

- The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which represents 1.4 billion Muslims in 57 countries around the world, condemned ISIS's persecution of Christians as "a crime that cannot be tolerated."
- Al-Azhar, the rough equivalent of the Vatican in Egypt, declared ISIS "corrupt" and "a danger to Islam."
- Turkey's highest ranking cleric said that ISIS poses a threat that is "hugely damaging," and "truly awful."
- Saudi Arabia's highest religious authority said that terrorist groups like ISIS are the "number one enemy of Islam."
- The Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) stated, "The mind-numbing brutality of ISIS is in absolute opposition to the values of any faith."
- The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) repeatedly condemned ISIS as "un-Islamic and morally repugnant."
- The Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) said that ISIS's actions "are to be denounced and are in no way representative of what Islam actually teaches."
- Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) condemned ISIS and called for a "stand against extremism."

**Forth**, we believe in taking an open approach against extremism. Consequently, I, as the Resident Scholar of IFP, have addressed our youth at the IFP Sunday School about extremism in

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<sup>1</sup> The condemnations and denouncements are fully documented at:  
<http://theamericanmuslim.org/tam.php/features/articles/american-muslim-organizations-condemn-isis-murder-of-journalist-james-foley/0020275>



general and ISIS in particular. I have also delivered the same message to our congregation in a recent sermon at IFP.

**Fifth**, based on what has proceeded, we hope that our faith will not be judged by the actions of a fanatic group and religion will not be seen as the cause, but in the context of a complex geopolitical reality.

**Lastly**, we request that you spread this message to your congregation and friends in a way you deem appropriate.

Our prayers are with all the oppressed and we sincerely hope for peace and stability in the region.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Imam Kamil Mufti

Resident Scholar

Islamic Foundation of Peoria (IFP)