



Council Of Imams Queensland

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Press Statement Re Protest in Sydney

The Council of Imams Queensland (CIO) expresses deep disappointment at the reprehensible violence by the protesters in Sydney on the weekend. This behavior is both un-Australian and un-Islamic. We would further like to express our regret to the Australian nation who was understandably perturbed by the ugly scenes.

Australia is a nation that epitomizes 'fair go' and indeed this beautiful country affords us all the right to protest against the unashamedly provocative and inflammatory content of the movie "Innocence of Muslims", we must stress that the nature of these protests does not concur with the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad in whose name they are protesting.

It remains our duty to state unequivocally that we condemn any form of violent behavior. Whilst we encourage freedom of speech and freedom of expression we emphasize that there should be a certain amount of responsibility with regards to vilification of any particular group or groups.

We would also like to acknowledge the strong support for the vast majority of law abiding Australian Muslims by prominent Australian politicians as well as our fellow Australians from the wider community.

Lastly, we would hope that key figures in our nation will denounce the outrageous attack in the movie on the essential belief system of Muslims. This is important as it helps to display empathy and respect for the beliefs of others leaving little room for dejection or marginalization, the emotions that precipitate this behavior.

It is also our hope that all Australians can co-exist in a peaceful and respectful manner. We need to engage and educate ourselves to be tolerant and respectful towards the multitude of different nationalities, cultures and religions that love and call Australia home.

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