

Muslim and Arab American Leaders of Oregon and SW Washington Commend Efforts of Law Enforcement, Strongly Condemn Attempted Bombing at Times Square, and Encourage Positive Human Relations in our Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Imam Mikal H. Shabazz, *President of Oregon Islamic Chaplains Organization*,
503.705.5300, mikalshabazz@msn.com

Ms. Hala Gores, *President of the Arab American Cultural Center of Oregon*,
503.295.1940, hala@goreslaw.com

Mr. Imtiaz Khan, *President of Islamic Center of Portland (Masjed As-Saber)*, 503-758-
0615, president@assaber.com

Mr. Gulzar Ahmed, *Co-Chair of the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland*,
503.692.0287, csi@crescentsystemsinc.com

Portland, OR - May 10, 2010 - The Muslim and Arab American leaders of Oregon and SW Washington join the Muslim communities nationwide and our fellow American citizens in expressing our appreciation for the outstanding work done by the various law enforcement agencies in investigating and apprehending the alleged perpetrator(s) of the botched attack on New York city and its residents.

At the same time, Muslim and Arab American leaders of Oregon and SW Washington condemn in the strongest terms the planned attack on innocent city-dwellers of every race and creed. The planned attack, described by the alleged sponsors as a sort of "pay-back" or "revenge", is "inexcusable and without any justification in Islam or authentic Muslim tradition", said Muslim and Arab American leaders of Oregon and SW Washington signed below. "Even the murder of a single innocent person is abhorrent and in direct contradiction to the clear and unequivocal teachings of our faith (Quran Chapter 5, Verse 32), let alone the mass murder of unsuspecting innocent bystanders in a crowded square", they added.

The Muslim and Arab American leaders of Oregon and SW Washington are thankful for the vigilance of alert and loyal residents of New York city including Senegalese Muslim Aliou Niasse, who first noticed and pointed out the suspicious smoke coming from the vehicle, Lance Orton, who called the police, and Officers Wayne Rhatigan and Pam Duffy for acting swiftly and courageously to contain the damage and prevent the loss of life and limb of fellow Americans.

The Muslim and Arab American leaders of Oregon and SW Washington ask our fellow Muslim and Arab Americans to stay true to their faiths and cultural values in rejecting any ideas or actions that tolerate or attempt to justify the use of terrorism for any purpose or by any group. The Muslim and Arab American leaders of Oregon and SW Washington call on all Americans to help build safe, sustainable neighborhoods and communities based on positive human relationships that value diversity, individual initiative and mutuality. We believe that we achieve success by encouraging working models based on positive human relations in our government and public institutions, in the business sector, and at the personal level in our neighborhood and family structures.

-END-

Signed:

Dr. Nohad Toulan, *Portland State University's emeritus dean of PSU's College of Urban and Public Affairs, member of the Muslim Educational Trust Advisory Board*

Dr. Khalid Khan, *Associate Dean, School of Engineering, University of Portland, member of Islamic Society of SW Washington, Vancouver, Washington*

Imam Mohammad Najieb, *President Imam of the Muslim Community Center of Portland, 503.475.1955/503.281.7691, NAJIEBM@msn.com*

Imam Mikal H. Shabazz, *President of Oregon Islamic Chaplains Organization, 503.705.5300, mikalshabazz@msn.com*

Ms. Laila Cully, *Trustee of the Muslim Educational Trust, laila@metpdx.org*

Mr. Jahed Sukhun, *VP of the Muslim Educational Trust, sukhunji@pdx.edu*

Mr. Larry DeBlock, *VP of the Muslim Educational Trust, deblock92951@comcast.net*

Mr. Gulzar Ahmed, *Co-Chair of the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland, 503.692.0287, csi@crescentsystemsinc.com*

Mr. Ayooob Ramjan, *Co-Founder of Muslim Educational Trust, member of City of Portland Citizen Review Committee and board member of the Islamic Social Services of Oregon State, ayooob.ramjan@gmail.com*

Ms. Hala Gores, *President of the Arab American Cultural Center of Oregon, 503.295.1940 hala@goreslaw.com*

Dr. Jan Abu Shakrah, *Co-Chair of the Institute for Christian Muslim Understanding, jabushak@pcc.edu*

Dr. Shahriar Ahmad, *President of Bilal Masjed Association of Beaverton, 503.591.7935, shesum@comcast.net*

Mr. Jim Hanna, *Member of the Arab American Community of Oregon and SW Washington, member of the Portland State University Middle East Studies Center Advisory Board*

Mr. Jasmin Huskic, *Imam of Bosnian Educational and Cultural Organization of Oregon*

Dr. Mohamed Siala, *President of Salman Al-Farsi Islamic Center, Corvallis, Oregon*

Ms. Salma Ahmed, *President of Islamic Society of Greater Portland*

Mr. Imtiaz Khan, *President, Islamic Center of Portland (Masjid As-Saber), 503.758.0615, president@assaber.com*

Ms. Zaha Hassan, *Civil Rights Attorney and member of MET Advisory Board, 360.213.9739, zahahassan@comcast.net*

Mr. Ahmad Qayoumi, *Board Member of Islamic Society of SW Washington, ahmad.qayoumi@gmail.com*

Dr. Tugrul Keskin, Assistant Professor of International and Middle Eastern Studies and editor of Sociology of Islam and Muslim Societies Portland State University, tugrulkeskin@pdx.edu

Mr. Osama Elamin, President of Islamic Society of SW Washington, Vancouver, WA

Mr. Arif Kareem, Board Member of Bilal Masjed and member of MET Advisory Board, humtoo@aol.com

Mr. Tom Nelson, Attorney at Law and member of MET Advisory Board, 503.709.6397, nelson@thnelson.com

Mr. Haroun Khalid, Vice President of Islamic Social Services of Oregon State, 503.515.8139, zorree1@gmail.com

Ms. Laila Hajoo, President of Islamic Social Services of Oregon State, 503.259.2320, laila.hajoo@verizon.net

Mr. Mohammad Haque, President of Oregon Muslim Citizens Associations of, peacetoyou18@yahoo.com

Mr. Jim Kennedy, Co-Chair of Arab and Muslim Portland Police Advisory Council, jk.hajoo@verizon.net

Mr. Wajdi Said, President of the Muslim Educational Trust, 503.579.6621, wajdi@metpdx.org