

Tuesday, October 21st 2014

Muslim Community Leaders Condemn Recent ISIS Video Threatening Australia

Leading Muslim Community Organisations have expressed their profound concerns and sadness over reports that a 17 year-old Australian, who was apparently under surveillance by law enforcement agencies has run away from home and managed to travel to Syria to fight with ISIS. In a video aired recently on Youtube he has threatened the safety of Australia and specifically mentioned the Prime Minister in his threat.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms any threat against Australians and reiterate the position of His Eminence, the Grand Mufti of Australia, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammad, who previously said: "The recent so-called 'fatwa' from overseas making reference to Australia as a target has no religious authority and must be rejected."

On this occasion, Dr Abu Mohammad said: "It is utterly deplorable for violent extremists to use Islam as a cover for their crimes and atrocities. Their misguided actions do not represent the overwhelming majority of Muslims who emulate the pure teachings of Islam such as justice, mercy and freedom."

We believe that there is an urgent need to examine how this 17 year-old youth felt the need to leave the country and fight with a proscribed terrorist organisation overseas. It is also imperative that the government commits further resources into addressing the root causes of radicalisation which need to be identified and adequately addressed.

We call upon everyone concerned to act with restraint and not to use this latest video to exacerbate community tensions in Australia.

End.

Signed:

Office of the Mufti of Australia
Australian National Imams Council ANIC
Islamic Council of New South Wales ICNSW
Lebanese Muslim Association LMA
United Muslim Women's Association MWA
Muslim Legal Network MLN (NSW)
Muslim Legal Network MLN (VIC)
Australian Muslim Women Association AMWA
United Muslims of Australia UMA

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