



مجلس الامة القديرة الى استراليا

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL**

27 July 2016

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **ANIC AND THE GRAND MUFTI OF AUSTRALIA DENOUNCE ISIS KILLING OF FRENCH PRIEST**

The Australian National Imams Council and The Grand Mufti of Australia were extremely shocked to hear of the brutal slaying yesterday of French Catholic Priest, Father Jacques Hamel in a church in Normandy.

We would like to convey our deepest condolences to Father Hamel's family and friends.

It is alleged that the two men responsible for the killing claimed to represent ISIS. We denounce in the strongest possible terms the violent murder of Father Hamel. The Grand Mufti of Australia, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohamed said: "ISIS is an evil organisation that has hijacked the religion of Islam for its own brutal and nihilistic goals. The betrayal of the Islamic faith and violation of its core principles are enough to refute ISIS's false and absurd claims."

The sanctity of all human life, and especially that of people of religion, religious leaders of all faiths and their places of worship, are of paramount importance in Islam.

Sheikh Shady Alsuleiman, President of ANIC added: "We should not allow the brutality of ISIS to cause us to turn against each other nor create disunity. This is exactly what they aim to achieve, but we must stand firm in support of our united opposition to their violence. Our shared humanity, civility and cohesiveness must be safeguarded."

We call for calm and restraint in the face of this tragic incident.

End...

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