



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL



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PRESS RELEASE

ANIC Strongly Condemns the Recent Attacks Against Muslims in Sri Lanka

The Australian National Imams Council strongly condemns and expresses consternation over recent attacks perpetrated by hardline Buddhist groups against the Muslim community in the Kandy district and its surrounding areas of Sri Lanka. To date 17 Mosques and billions of dollars' worth of properties, including businesses, owned by Muslims have been destroyed. One innocent Muslim was also killed. According to recent media reports and statements by MPs in Sri Lankan Parliament, it is understood that the attacks were well organised and orchestrated by the perpetrators with no impunity to the law and order.

Sri Lanka is home to approximately two million Muslims, the second largest minority population. For generations, Sri Lankan Muslims have had a reputable history of leading a peaceful life with the majority Sinhala Buddhist community. After the defeat of the LTTE terrorists in 2009, a small number of Buddhist extremists have turned against Muslims and initiate attacks on mosques and Muslim owned business establishments.

The burning and severe damage caused to any place of worship goes against all rights of civilization and that of International law. As responsible global citizens and religious clerics, we appeal to the Government of Sri Lanka to illuminate such incidents by applying the full force of the law without prejudice or favour. Sri Lanka has had enough bloodshed and violence. The people of Sri Lanka deserve a peaceful and cohesive existence after having endured 30 years of violent terrorist campaigns.

ANIC urges all its member Imams to raise this issue during Friday Khutbah in the coming weeks and keep the community aware of the atrocities being committed by a small number of Buddhist extremists against the Muslims in Sri Lanka.

ANIC also calls upon the international community, the United Nations, and in particular the Australian government, to act swiftly in condemning these unjustified and brutal attacks and pressure the Sri Lankan government to take all necessary actions to stop this genocide and any future attacks.

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