



For Immediate release

December 5, 2011

Anti-Muslim Cartoons Inciting Violence & Hate on Mosque's Entrance**

Just one week after the successful Open House event, welcoming neighbors and friends to Hamilton Downtown Mosque, members of the mosque come to be terrorized and extremely concerned for their safety after seeing an anti-Islam and anti-Muslim cartoon inciting violence and hate posted on the entrance of the mosque.

On Sunday December 4, 2011 at about 4:00 P.M. the 9th day of Muharram (1st month of the Islamic Calendar), many Muslims observe fast to show their gratitude to Almighty God for saving Prophet Moses (Peace be upon him) and his followers, the Israelites. Shortly before preparations began for Fast-Breaking Meal at the Mosque, Mr. Wahed Al-Jabry, President of the Board of Directors of the Mosque, was shocked to see this violence and hate-inciting cartoons of primitive man burning the Holy Quran. A few moments after, another member of the Mosque noticed that some plants and flowers were uprooted from flowerbeds around the Mosque building.

Some members of Downtown Mosque believe that this could be the result of the recent Islamophobic remarks of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Others believe this act may have been inspired by "International Burn a Koran day" led by Pastor Terry Jones of Dove outreach Center in Gainesville, FL. In an interview by ABC news *, the reporter asked Pastor Jones:

"You're prepared to do this and prepared and ready to incite violence?"

Pastor Jones: "We are definitely prepared to do this. We are definitely prepared to give our lives for this particular message and cause. Yes."

Reporter: "Will you be armed?"

Pastor Jones: "Yes. We will"

The congregation has been informed of the incident and has been told to stay alert. As a precautionary measure, and for the safety of the children and female members of the Mosque, the Imam and members of the Board of Directors have decided to cancel the Children's Evening Classes on Monday December 5 and the Homework Club on Tuesday December 6. After learning of the hateful incident, a 9-years-old student of the evening classes expressed her fear to Imam Tora and exclaimed: "What if someone attacks us in the Mosque?"

After years of cooperation with neighboring organizations to maintain a peaceful and safe Beasley, members of the mosque are truly dismayed by this unwarranted act of hate and aggression. Members of the congregation demand Hamilton Police Services and other Government agencies to take serious and preventative measures to provide a safe and peaceful environment in and around the mosque property.

A Press Conference will be held at the Hamilton Downtown Mosque at 2:10pm on December 9,2011 following Friday Prayers.

* <http://abcnews.go.com/US/terry-jones-pastor-burn-koran-day/story?id=11575665#.Tt0orUqbRMi>

** Pictures of the hate and violent inciting cartoons are attached.