

MARYLAND MUSLIM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS STATEMENT ON TEMPORARY
SUSPENSION OF DR. ZAINAB CHAUDRY

Dear Attorney General Brown:

We are members of the Maryland Muslim community and friends of the community who are shocked and deeply offended by your decision to suspend Dr. Zainab Chaudry, a widely respected civil rights activist and an important leader of the Maryland Muslim community, from the state's Hate Crimes Commission.

Over the past month, anti-Muslim bigotry and anti-Palestinian racism have surged in our state, leading to harassment, discrimination, hate crimes and an unprecedented campaign to censor Americans who express support for Palestinian human rights.

The misleading and hateful attacks that Fox News and other bigoted voices have launched against Dr. Chaudry this week is just the latest example of that campaign of hate. By giving in to the demands of anti-Muslim extremists, your office has validated a dishonest smear campaign against Dr. Chaudry and emboldened voices of hate.

As the only American Muslim on the Attorney General's Hate Crimes Commission, Zainab's voice was critical in representing our community's concerns to your office. Even a temporary suspension of her role is harmful and completely unjustified.

Like Zainab, many members of the Maryland community have been critical of the Israel government's horrific crimes against the Palestinian people. As you know, the Israeli government has bombed residential buildings, refugee camps, hospitals, ambulances, mosques and churches, killing over 13,000 people, most of them women and children.

Israeli leaders have also made genocidal remarks about the Palestinian people, calling them 'human animals,' claiming that there are 'no innocent civilians' in Gaza, and threatening to ethnically cleanse millions of people.

Suspending Zainab for criticizing the Israeli government's horrific crimes and for expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people is unacceptable. This attack on her is an attack on all of us and we will not accept it.

As Zainab has said, "There is no conflict between condemning the Israeli government's war crimes overseas and standing up against all forms of hate here at home, including antisemitism, Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism. False smears from anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim extremists will not stop me from standing up for justice here and abroad."

We completely agree. We call on your office to reverse the decision to suspend her, condemn the threats and harassment being directed against her, and work with her to move forward in a positive way.

Signatories

The Academy of Muslim Achievement
American Muslims for Palestine
Anne Arundel County Muslims Council
Baltimore Area Muslims (BAM)
Baltimore County Muslim Council
Family Rights for Religious Freedom
House of Worship LLC
Howard County Muslim Council (HCMC)
Islamic Circle of North America DMV Region
Islamophobia Studies Center
Islamic Center of Maryland
Islamic Center of Owings Mills
Islamic Community Center of Laurel
Islamic Community of Potomac
Islamic Society of Baltimore (ISB)
Islamic Society of Frederick
Islamic Society of Baltimore
Justice For All
Masjid Mustafa
Maryum Islamic Center
Montgomery County Muslim Council (MCMC)
Muslim Family Center
Muslim Outreach and Volunteer Enterprise
Muslim American Society MD
The Islamic Society of Baltimore
The Tunisian United Network
United Maryland Muslim Council