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PRESS RELEASE

A Rejection of Injustice and Barbarity

On behalf of the Muslim community of New Zealand we place on record our complete rejection of the actions of those who carry out acts of injustice and barbarity to others who they regard as not being worthy of any respect or mercy.

We reject without reservation the claims of the group known as ISIS or IS or Daish to be acting for Muslims or for Islam when they engage in beheading, crucifixion and in forced, so-called "conversions".

We are well aware that in many places across the world Muslims have been, and continue to be, victims of considerable violence and injustice. The actions of a wide range of forces and the weight of a vast supply of weaponry have brought chaos to the Middle East and in Afghanistan and other places. We know that drone attacks on wedding parties and other everyday activities cannot be accepted without question as "surgical strikes" and that innocent lives have been taken. But we believe in the very clear Qur'anic teachings and injunctions that nothing, not even anger, should make us sway from justice and that, as Muslims, we are to "stand up for justice even against ourselves".

We believe that Islam is a faith that affirms the right of all to dignity and safety. ISIS has taken innocent people, including aid workers; those who have travelled into danger to help Muslims. Instead of respecting them and their work they seem to have delighted in brutal actions of beheading, accompanied by the humiliating taunting of the victims.

The actions of ISIS have been condemned by Islamic scholars of all schools and still they threaten to carry out further beheadings and killings. They seem deaf to all appeals to act justly. All of us who are Muslims pray every day for mercy and forgiveness. However others may see us we are taught that the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) was sent as a "Rahmatillil Aalameen" – a mercy to all the worlds. Those same prayers demand all of us that we strive always to show mercy to others. In this crucial test ISIS has turned its back on a fundamental teaching of Islam. As a community we reject them.

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A United and Progressive Community

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