

Flint Islamic Center

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In the Name of Allah, Most Compassionate, Most Merciful

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT ON THE COORDINATED MASSACRE IN SRI LANKA

On Easter Sunday, a series of coordinated bombings occurred in churches and hotels, just as Sri Lankan Christian faithfuls gathered for Mass. Christians in Sri Lanka are a minority, making up about 10% of the population. These attacks occurred yesterday, killing nearly 300 worshipers and injuring over 500. The Sri Lankan government has identified the group of suicide bombers, as associated with an extremist group claiming to act in the name of Islam.

Firstly, our prayers are with the families, victims, those injured, and the entire nation as they mourn the most horrific violence that has occurred in their country since the end of their civil war. Secondly, we are outraged, and condemn in the strongest of terms, these acts of murder committed in the name of God. As Muslims, we not only find this reprehensible, but state clearly that it is against the very nature of our religion. In what way can a group of people claim to act in the name of the Creator by murdering His creation?

“On one of the holiest of days for Christians, in their holiest of places, a group of hateful extremists carried out a massacre in the name of Islam. Our community rejects that in its entirety,” said Sheikh Abdullah Waheed, Imam of the Flint Islamic Center. “We preach love, unity in all our differences, and justice. We hope to see the Sri Lankan government take swift action to bring the perpetrators and all their supporters to justice. Though it will not bring back the lives lost, we pray the Sri Lankan people find some solace in accountability.”

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The Flint Islamic Center (FIC) is an institution established for the purpose of providing religious, educational and humanitarian services to its members, to the Muslim community in the Flint area and to advance the cause of Muslims in accordance to the teaching of the Holy Quran and the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). The FIC works to promote peace, justice, harmony and understanding among our community and the communities around us.