



# Press Release

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## **Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA Mourns With Families of Chapel Hill Students**

### *Issues call for patience and tolerance*

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA mourns with the families of Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23, and his wife Yusor Abu-Salha, 21, and Abu-Salha's sister, Razan Abu-Salha, 19, of Raleigh. Each was murdered late on February 10 by their neighbor. Early reports indicate the murders may be a targeted anti-Muslim hate crime. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of this horrible atrocity, their families, and their friends. From God we are and to God must we return.

“As parents, as Muslims, and as Americans we are devastated at this senseless act of violence,” said Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah, National Vice President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA. “These students were dedicated to the service of humanity, were proud Muslims, and proud Americans. We pray for their departed souls and trust that the authorities will bring the culprit to justice.”

At a time of rising Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiment, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA implores all Americans regardless of faith to remain united against intolerance and bigotry.

#### **About Ahmadiyya Muslim Community:**

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a dynamic, reformist and fast-growing international movement within Islam. Founded in 1889, the Community spans 206 countries with membership exceeding 160 million. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, established in 1920, is among the first American-Muslim organizations.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the only Islamic organization to believe that the long-awaited messiah has come in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) of Qadian, India. Ahmad claimed to be the metaphorical second coming of Jesus of Nazareth and the divine guide, whose advent was foretold by the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad. The Community believes that God sent Ahmad, like Jesus, to end religious wars, condemn bloodshed and reinstitute morality, justice and peace. Ahmad's advent has brought about an unprecedented era

of Islamic revival and moderation. He divested Muslims of fanatical beliefs and practices by vigorously championing Islam's true and essential teachings.

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