

# Media Advisory

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## **“Muslims For Life” - Largest American Muslim Initiative to Honor 9/11 Victims Returns to Capitol Hill with Partner American Red Cross in 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Blood Drive**

*Prominent Muslim and Christian leaders unite to give blood to honor victims of 9/11 on National Day of Service*

To pay homage to the 9/11 victims, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA will hold its eighth annual American Red Cross blood drive on Capitol Hill and officially launch the 2018 nationwide “Muslims for Life” campaign ([www.muslimsforlife.org](http://www.muslimsforlife.org)). The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, with bi-partisan support, has extended invitations to members of U.S. Congress along with their staff to participate in what has become the largest American Muslim initiative to honor 9/11 victims. This life-saving year-long campaign hopes to collect 10,000 pints of blood nationally to help save as many as 30,000 lives. To date, the campaign has collected over 60,000 pints of blood nationwide. This year, the blood drive will feature remarks by prominent inter-faith leaders from the Muslim and Christian faith communities.

**Event:** Muslims for Life Blood Drive

**When:** Tuesday September 11th @ 8:30am – 2:30pm

**Where:** Rayburn House Office Building Foyer, 45 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20515

**Media Opportunity:** Muslim leaders and Red Cross leaders will be available for statements and/or interviews. Please contact in advance for interview or statement requests from members of U.S. Congress.

**Press Conference** at 8:30 AM at Rayburn Foyer, with guests Rev. Johnnie Moore (U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom) and Imam Hammad Ahmad (Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, D.C. Chapter).

**Background:** In 2011, memorializing the 10th anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA launched this campaign with the aim to collect 10,000 pints of blood across America in order to help save more than 30,000 lives. The campaign ran in over 200 locations and resulted in 11,803 pints being collected that year. To date, “Muslims for Life” has collected nearly 60,000 pints of blood to help save well over 160,000 lives.

Please find links below to video coverage of just a few of the many members of U.S. Congress who joined the “Muslims for Life” campaign in prior years:

U.S. Rep. Brad Sherman, Democrat from California, [Rep. Sherman's Remarks](#)  
Former U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison, Democrat from Minnesota, [Rep. Ellison's Remarks](#)  
Former U.S. Rep. Tom Petri, Republican from Wisconsin, [Rep. Petri's Remarks](#)  
Former U.S. Rep. Donna Edwards, Democrat from Maryland, [Rep. Edwards's Remarks](#)

**About the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community:**

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a dynamic, reformist and fast-growing international movement within Islam. Founded in 1889, the Community spans over 200 nations with membership in the tens of millions. Established in 1920, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA is among the oldest 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 of Qadian, India (1835-1908). 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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