



AHMADIYYA  
MUSLIM COMMUNITY  

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United States of America

*Muslims who believe in the Messiah,  
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani<sup>ra</sup>*

# Press Release

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## **Muslim Convention in Chino a Call for Peace**

***For 33<sup>rd</sup> year, Muslim convention draws faith leaders, politicians and law enforcement in a call to fight hate with compassion***

On Friday December 21, 2018, prominent civic, political and religious leaders across Southern California lauded the efforts of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA during its 33rd Annual West Coast Convention at Baitul Hameed Mosque in Chino, CA. More than 2,000 convention delegates, including 220 guests, took part in a special session to discuss ways to establish peace. The special event kicked off a weekend convention that saw members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community from several western states, as well as Canada and Europe, convene in Chino. The gathering (called Jalsa Salana) featured various speeches on social and religious topics for men, women and children.

The theme of the evening gathering was “Justice – the Foundation of Lasting Peace.” The National Vice President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Imam Azhar Haneef, highlighted the life example of the founder of Islam, the Prophet Muhammad, and his standards of kindness and justice to all, “It’s not just about being kind to one another, its being kind even to the one who hates you.”

California Assemblywoman Eloise Gomez Reyes acknowledged the work of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community towards promoting peace, commenting, “I value your voice at the table. We must promote peace and interreligious harmony. We must focus on building bridges and finding common ground.”

Mayors from the cities of Chino and Pomona, alongside local police chiefs, voiced their deep appreciation for the Community’s efforts to unite faith communities across southern California. They were joined by prominent faith leaders from the San Bernardino Diocese, Presbyterian,

Lutheran, Jewish, and Buddhist communities, as well as local academics from University of La Verne and Chaffey College.

Chino Mayor Eunice Ulloa commented, “I will admit to you, as I did when I was first invited to the mosque, I was fearful...there is so much misunderstanding out there. Now when I come here, I am completely at peace in visiting the mosque, and in visiting you. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is truly a community of peace.”

California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon sent a special message to the convention acknowledging the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community’s True Islam Campaign which was launched in the aftermath of the 2015 San Bernardino attacks to educate the public about Islam, “The actions enacted by your community across California inspire both hope for the future and goodwill for those around us. The campaign to educate people about the basic tenets of Islam is an important example of outreach and expression.”

### **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 over 200 countries with membership exceeding tens of millions. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, established in 1920, 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 (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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