

**** PRESS RELEASE ****

New York, February 14, 2011

Re: “Today, I Am A Muslim Too” Rally

Where: 42 Street and 7th Avenue – Times Square

Date: 6 March 2011

Start Time: 2:00 p.m – 5:30 p.m.

Dear Partners and Supporters,

On 8 March, 2011, Peter King (R-Long Island) is planning a congressional hearing dubbed “The Radicalization of Muslim communities in America”. Mr. King’s platform is that as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, it is his job to protect national security by denouncing the many Muslim Americans he claims are conspiring with extremist or terrorist forces to attack the U.S. He claims law enforcement receives no assistance from Islamic communities when rooting out terrorism and that Muslim leadership has failed. In reaction to this, he argues a strengthening of discriminatory practices against Muslims in the U.S. is called for. The facts buttressing his argument are scarcely dependable, but he is trading on the miscomprehension that many Americans have of Islam as a religion of terror and hate, to push his agenda forward. The transparent bigotry he projects is not lost on those who consider themselves patriotic Americans and believe in the rights of freedom of religion, speech, and expression, enshrined in the United States Constitution. His remarks and incendiary rhetoric have raised the ire of groups across religious lines, who seek to live in peace and brotherhood with each other.

In anticipation of these events, we are organizing a rally themed “I am A Muslim Too” on Sunday, 6 March, 2011. Muslim and non-Muslim alike will be shoulder to shoulder, making our collective voice heard. We will show that in our friendship we are united, we stand together, and the goals and mutual trust that we share will not and cannot be divided. The hearings Representative King is planning will alienate American Muslims instead of partnering with them, and potentially put their lives at risk by stirring up fear and hatred against them. We want to honor the United States’ pluralistic and multicultural tapestry, declaring a unified stance against Islamophobia in America; one people, all children of God, joined together against the bigotry caused by anxiety, misinformation, and ignorance.

We have set up a Facebook page for the rally which you can join to follow our events and to lend your support. We will also welcome your comments and suggestions on that page.

We call on all our interfaith and civic partners to join us. We need your strength in numbers, your help in dissemination of this event to your congregations to raise awareness and participation, and your assistance with funding and sponsorships wherever possible. We count on your support to re-dimension the general misconceptions of our faith in America, and to contribute to a more productive and cohesive dialogue, integrating our faith and our civil responsibilities as Muslims and as Americans.