

Washington Area Muslims and Jews to Commemorate Holocaust Together at Mosque in Northern Virginia

Participants to Vow ‘Never Again’ to Persecution of Any Community

Please contact: Walter Ruby 917 294 1772 walterruby@gmail.com
Andra Baylus 703 606 2764 interfaithandra@gmail.com

Jews and Muslims will come together at a prominent Northern Virginia mosque to honor the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, and to vow to stand together against the persecution of any faith or ethnic community.

The commemorative event will take place on January 29 from 1:30-4:00 PM at ADAMS Ashburn Mosque, 21740 Beaumede Circle, Ashburn, VA, 20147. Among the many worldwide events being held to mark the 71st anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp in 1945, the event at ADAMS-Ashburn is unique for being held in a mosque and engaging the active involvement of Muslims from throughout the Metropolitan Washington area.

The event, which is co-sponsored by the Greater Washington Muslim-Jewish Forum, I Am Your Protector, The Center for Pluralism and the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, will feature the participation of **Johanna Neumann**, a Holocaust survivor whose life was saved by Albanian Muslims who hid her from the Nazis.

In addition, participants in the event will commemorate the genocide perpetrated against Bosnian Muslims in the 1990's; discuss ongoing persecutions of two small Muslim communities, the Crimean Tatars and Rohingya Muslims of Burma, and highlight the upsurge in Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry during the 2016 U.S. Presidential election. They will vow that Jews and Muslims will stand up for each other if either faith community—or any other community—is demonized, discriminated against or victimized by hate crimes or violence.

Rizwan Jaka, Chairman of the Board of the All-Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS Center), a mega-mosque with 9 locations in Northern Virginia including ADAMS-Ashburn, commented, “ADAMS is proud to serve as a co-host of this event, which brings together Jews and Muslims to remember the horrific events of the Holocaust 70 years ago.” **Mike Ghose, President of the Center of Pluralism**, which has hosted Holocaust memorial events for the past 12 years, said, “The point of this event is not only to honor the innocent Jewish victims of the Holocaust, but to help ensure that nothing like it happens again anywhere in the world.”

Nazli Chaudhry, Washington area chair of I Am Your Protector, a community of people who speak up and stand up for each other across religion, race, gender and beliefs, remarked, “We are proud to honor Johanna Neumann, who survived genocide as a child, and will also speak about brave Muslims in Albania, Tunisia and other places who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.”

Andra Baylus, co-chair of the Greater Washington Muslim-Jewish Forum, commented, “Commemorating the Holocaust together and applying its lessons today is a key component of our work to enhance Muslim-Jewish cooperation in Greater Washington and beyond.” Summing up the significance of the January 29 ADAMS-Ashburn event, **Walter Ruby, Muslim-Jewish Program Director at the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding**, commented, “It is of great significance that Muslims and Jews are coming together in a mosque to pay tribute to the victims of the Holocaust and to say ‘Never Again’ to bigotry and persecution against either of our communities--or any other community.”