



Philadelphia Tragedy During Eid al-Fitr Celebrations

Thursday 11th April, 2024

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) is deeply saddened by the events that transpired during the Eid al-Fitr celebrations in West Philadelphia. On the afternoon of April 10, a peaceful gathering of 1,000 attendees was marred by a senseless act of violence, resulting in injuries to three individuals.

AFIC extends its heartfelt sympathies to all those affected by this tragedy, especially the victims and their families. “Despite the genocidal-like killings in Gaza, Eid al-Fitr should be a celebration of peace and unity, and it is devastating that such an event has been overshadowed by violence,” said Dr. Rateb Jneid, President of AFIC. ‘We stand united with the Philadelphia Muslim community during this challenging time.’ He continued.

As we await more information, AFIC is supporting to our community members and advocating for peace and safety across all communities. Over the course of the last 8 months, AFIC has provided numerous warnings and concerns for congregations here in Australia and continues to be vigilant. We pray for a prompt recovery for the injured and for the swift return of peace and security.

This incident serves as a stark reminder that heightened tensions can threaten the social fabric of our society. Events such as this, and the Christchurch attacks five years prior, can become glorified by certain elements within the community or, conversely, underplayed in public discourse.

We urge the Australian Government to adopt a proactive stance to prevent such tragedies from reaching our shores. It is also essential to acknowledge that such events compound the trauma and distress faced by local communities.

AFIC calls for unity and action to ensure the safety and well-being of all communities, and we remain committed to these principles in our ongoing efforts.

AFIC, established in 1964, stands as the Peak Muslim Organisation in Australia, with 170 members including 9 State and Territory Councils. It has a rich history of pioneering numerous community services and actively advocating for the rights and representation of the Muslim community.

Authorised:

Dr Rateb Jneid
President of AFIC