

## MACLC - Muslim American Civil Liberties Coalition

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### **NYC Muslim Communities and Supporters Seek Dignity, Respect, and Accountability from NYPD**

New York, NY – Local City Council members and local and state representatives will join interfaith groups, civil rights leaders, Muslim and immigrant organizations, and a diverse group of concerned community members for a press conference in response to the NYC Police Department's use of a disturbing and prejudicial film to train officers working in Muslim communities in New York City.

**When:** Tuesday, March 22nd at 2pm

**Where:** City Hall Steps

**Who:** City Council members Daniel Dromm, Robert Jackson, Jumanee Williams, & others  
Local and State Representatives  
Civil Rights advocates  
Interfaith and Immigrant groups

As the Village Voice recently reported<sup>1</sup>, the NYPD used an offensive and discriminatory film about Islam and Muslims, *The Third Jihad*, as part of a training program, which would lead to increased racial and religious profiling. Given that this is not an isolated incident, but reflective of a problematic national trend exemplified by the recent and controversial Rep. Peter King hearings, use of biased instructors and materials<sup>2</sup>, and the systematic failure to regulate content in nationwide counterterrorism trainings<sup>3</sup>, community leaders believe the NYPD's actions present dangerously escalating consequences for the safety and constitutional rights of all New Yorkers. As New Yorkers, we object to the racial and religious profiling of all ethnic communities by law enforcement, including this recent targeting of Muslims.

MACLC, a coalition of community and civil rights organizations, has reached out to the NYPD, requesting full disclosure about curriculum and the process of selecting materials to train officers about Islam and Muslims, and the assurance that trainers and materials would be properly vetted in order to protect New Yorkers' collective safety and to avoid the profiling of Muslims. Commissioner Kelly's brief response stating that the video is no longer being used does not address any of our substantive concerns. This coalition, and concerned allies, seek further accountability to promote genuine safety, civil rights and dignity of all New Yorkers.

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<sup>1</sup>Robbins, Tim. "NYPD Cops' Training Included an Anti-Muslim Horror Flick," *Village Voice*, January 19, 2011 (Available at : "<http://www.villagevoice.com/2011-01-19/columns/nypd-cops-training-included-an-anti-muslim-horror-flick/>")

<sup>2</sup>Cincotta, Thom. "Manufacturing the Muslim Menace: Private Firms, Public Servants, & the Threat to Rights and Security," Political Research Associates. (Available at: "<http://www.publiceye.org/liberty/training/project-home.html>")

<sup>3</sup>Craze, J. and Stalcup, M. "How We Train Our Cops to Fear Islam," *Washington Monthly*, March/April 2011. (Available at: "<http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2011/1103.stalcup-craze.html>")

**The Muslim American Civil Liberties Coalition (MACLC) includes:** Arab American Association of New York (AAANY), Association of Muslim American Lawyers (AMAL), Council on American Islamic Relations – New York (CAIR-NY), Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility (CLEAR) - CUNY School of Law, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM), Muslim American Society of New York (MAS-NY), Muslim Bar Association of New York (MuBANY), Muslim Consultative Network (MCN), Muslim Progressive-Traditionalist Alliance (M-PTA), Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC-NY), NYU Brennan Center for Justice, Women In Islam, Inc., and more.

**Endorsed by (list in formation as of 03/20/2011):** Adhikaar, Arab Muslim American Federation, CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities, Center for Constitutional Rights, Center for Immigrant Families, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center, DAMAYAN Migrant Workers Association, Defending Dissent Foundation, Dr. Dhafir Support Committee, Families United for Justice in America (FUJA), Friends of Human Rights, Interfaith Center of New York, Jews Against Islamophobia, Justice for Newburgh 4, Make the Road, The Malcolm X Museum, Muslim Peace Coalition USA, Muslim Solidarity Committee of Albany, NYC Coalition to Stop Islamophobia, NYC Majlis Shura Council, Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance - MIRA (Jackson, MS), National Liberty Fund (NLF), National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms, New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE), New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), NY Senator Kevin Parker, Pakistan Solidarity Network, Peace thru Justice Foundation, Professor Alfonso Gonzalez (Lehman College, NY), Project SALAM, South Asian Americans Leading Together - SAALT (Washington DC), The Shalom Center, Sikh Coalition, Turning Point for Women and Families, Ugnayan ng mga Anak ng Bayan / Linking the Children of the Motherland, UNITED SIKHS, Urban Justice Center, VAMOS Unidos, Voice of the Ex-Offender - VOTE (New Orleans, LA), Women Against Islamophobia and Racism (WAIR)