



Franciscan Action Network

Transforming the World in the Spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare

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August 12, 2010

Reza Mansoor, MD, FACC
President, Muslim Coalition of Connecticut
P.O. Box 290734
Wethersfield, CT 06129-0734

Dear Dr. Mansoor,

Greetings of Peace and All Good!

I write today on behalf of the Franciscan Action Network to express our solidarity with you and all gathered for the August 13, 2010 Press Conference and Rally on Islamaphobia.

We are deeply disturbed by the actions of “Operation Save America” last Friday, August 6th at the Masjid An-Nur community in Bridgeport, CT. Though we recognize that all people in the United States have a right to free speech, it is unfortunate that the persons from Operation Save America forgot that all rights have corresponding responsibility. In particular, our right to free speech must not seek to dehumanize other persons nor misrepresent communities.

The people from “Operation Save America,” cause scandal for Christianity by spreading such heresy as “Jesus hates Muslims.” There is nowhere in Scripture where we have an account of Jesus hating any person, in particular in a way that seeks to dehumanize the other. Such actions and speech presented by “Operation Save America,” stand as a polar opposite of the message of Jesus Christ.

In our own Franciscan Tradition, we seek inspiration and direction from life of St. Francis of Assisi whose goal was to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. In St. Francis’ life, he believed the message of Jesus to bring healing and reconciliation was so strong that he journeyed to meet with a Muslim leader during the Crusade. Such an example of crossing apparent barriers in a time of actual war is a truer example of what it means for Christians to follow Jesus. This type of action is needed more and more these days as we must counter the un-Christian example of those who want to discriminate against followers of Islam.

Though we cannot be with you in person, know of our heartfelt support for you and all standing for healing relationships. May you also find blessing in the month of Ramadan.

Sincerely,

Rev. Larry Janezic, OFM
Executive Director