



April 18, 2021

CIOGC CONDEMNS MASS SHOOTINGS IN INDIANAPOLIS

On behalf of the Muslim community, the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago humbly offers prayers and condolences to the seven families victimized by the mass shooting in Indianapolis, Indiana. We are saddened at the loss of precious lives from this violence and shaken by the shooter's targeting of members of the Sikh community.

We condemn the killing of these seven innocent human beings. It violates a fundamental precept of our faith: the sanctity of the life of each human being. Since the beginning of this year, we have witnessed over a hundred mass shootings, and the absence of a response to this epidemic of gun violence devalues the life each of those killed.

If we are to hold sacred the life of each human being, we must oppose actions that fuel division and violence in our multicultural society. We must stand against public speech that ostracizes a racial, ethnic, or religious group. We must challenge lies, misstatements, and conflated opinions about groups within our society. We must condemn hate speech and its cloaked call to violent action against minority groups within our society. If we are to curb violence directed at racial, religious, and ethnic minorities, we must vet the public discourse for truthfulness, and denounce it when we find, lies and unsubstantiated opinions. This obligation rests on our nation's leaders.

Finally, we must challenge the notion that guns protect us. It is reported that among seven western nations, gun ownership and the incidence of homicides committed with guns is the highest in the United States. A gun does not preserve a life. It is the value that a holder of the gun has for the sanctity of the life of another human being that will preserve a life.

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