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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Muslim Americans in Public Service (MAPS) National Condemns Removal of Congresswoman Omar from the Foreign Affairs Committee

Washington, D.C. — Muslim Americans in Public Service (MAPS) National condemns the removal of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (MN-05) from the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the grounds of her policy positions and statements. The removal of Congresswoman Omar from her committee assignment sends a chilling message to American Muslims and minority communities that their religious views and political beliefs are sufficient enough to alienate them amongst their peers and prevent them from contributing in government.

Rep. Omar was ostensibly removed due to statements she made and apologized for, while her detractors - who have made similar statements and never apologized - make it clear that it is her religion that is the motivation for this targeted action. Article VI of the Constitution clearly states that "no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States." Denying Rep. Omar the committee assignment, a public trust she has earned as a member of Congress, is an affront to the Muslim community, the constituents that voted her into office, and to the Constitution itself and the religious freedom it guarantees all Americans.

Muslims and Islam have been a part of this nation's fabric since its inception. From the hundreds of thousands of enslaved Muslims brought to America upon whose backs this country was built, to the inspiration the Quran gave Thomas Jefferson when drafting our founding documents. Moreover, Islam's Prophet Muhammad is honored in our Supreme Court, amongst the greatest lawmakers of history. However, the rights, protection, and identity of Muslim Americans and other minority groups continue to be jeopardized and denied - from ongoing police surveillance and harassment to discriminatory state security bans. It is outrageous to witness the discrimination of Americans' religious and cultural backgrounds feeding politicians' motives and political gain.

The hate-fueled, exclusionary forces that plague our nation are promoting Islamophobic and antisemitic sentiments that go against the principles of the United States of America and the values promised by our founders. American Muslims have been and continue to be an integral part of the United States, and MAPS calls on the 118th U.S. Congress and White House to cease using religion to divide our nation.

Muslim Americans in Public Service (MAPS) is a national, non-partisan, non-profit network of professionals and organizations that aims to create an enabling ecosystem for Muslim American public servants and the public institutions they serve.

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