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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Muslim Americans in Public Service (MAPS) National Supports Members During Israel-Gaza War

Washington, D.C. — Muslim Americans in Public Service (MAPS) extends our heartfelt solidarity to our colleagues and members, partners and affiliates across the nation who are profoundly affected by the ongoing distress in the Middle East.

As MAPS is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose mission is to support Muslim public servants, MAPS refrains from making public statements on foreign or government policies that do not directly or specifically involve Muslim government employees and their workplaces within public institutions. Our unwavering commitment to **the well-being of our community remains our top priority**. We fully recognize the emotional weight the tragedy unfolding in Israel and Gaza places on our dedicated public servants, particularly those with personal connections to the region. We are also devastated by the horrific killing that took place in Plainfield, IL this past weekend. We grieve for Wadea Al-Fayoume. We pray for his mother Hanaan Shahin, the entire family, and their loved ones.

Our members also mourn the over a thousand killed in this week's three earthquakes in Afghanistan. In these challenging times, we offer the following recommendations for seeking support:

1. Extend your compassion to your colleagues within the workplace.
2. Contact your HR department to explore available Employee Assistance Programs. If you prefer to seek external support, consider reaching out to the following mental Health resources:
 - <https://naseeha.org/>
 - <https://www.oneworldstrong.org/>,
 - <https://ovc.ojp.gov/help-for-victims/>
 - <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Coping-With-Grief-After-Community-Violence/SMA14-4888>
3. Report any instances of Islamophobic or antisemitic behavior or discrimination more broadly in the workplace to your line manager or contact your bureau EEO Officer to initiate EEO Counseling. To preserve your right to file a formal complaint, you must do this within 45 days of the action you believe is discriminatory or when you first knew or should have known of the possible discrimination. Your EEO Counselor can also give you information about other possible avenues of redress for your claim. MAPS also collects data on such adverse member experiences. Contact us at legaladvocacy@mapsnational.org for further information.
4. If you or someone you know received any threats to life due to the recent current events, feel free to let us know and we will do our best to relay those internally to appropriate stakeholders at the Bureau. Any threats should also be submitted as a tip to your local FBI office or electronically via <https://tips.fbi.gov/home>.

5. Our partner organizations and others have also provided guidance and can provide additional support and context during this time:

- <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights>
- <https://www.cair.com/resources/guides-and-toolkits/>
- <https://www.ispu.org/countering-islamophobia/>
- <https://www.ispu.org/government-administrators-toolkit/>
- <https://www.americaindivisible.org/resources>
- <https://www.eeoc.gov/religious-discrimination>
- <https://www.usa.gov/job-discrimination-harassment>
- <https://ing.org/maintaining-an-inclusive-workplace/>
- <https://ing.org/what-you-need-to-know-about-bullying-of-muslim-students/>

Thank you for your dedication to public service and to fostering understanding and unity. Your well-being matters to us, and we are here to support you. Our prayers are with everyone here and abroad during this difficult time.

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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.

For more information, visit: mapsnational.org

For press inquiries, contact: MAPS Communications Director, at communications@mapsnational.org