



**November 24, 2023**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Muslim Americans in Public Service (MAPS) National Expresses Solidarity with Victims of Bigotry in our National Security Institutions**

**Washington, D.C.** — Muslim Americans in Public Service (MAPS) expresses solidarity to our colleagues and members, partners and affiliates across the nation who are experiencing harassment, bigotry, and other forms of toxicity in our national security institutions.

Former acting director of the National Security Council South Asia directorate at the White House and former deputy director of the State Department's Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs [Stuart Seldowitz](#) repeatedly harassed an Egyptian-American street cart vendor with vile, anti-Muslim verbal abuse in New York City over the course of a two-week period. It is important to note that victims of anti-Muslim bigotry don't necessarily have to be of Muslim faith, but any individual perceived to be Muslim – including persons of Sikh, Hindu, Arab Christian, and other backgrounds. We welcome the New York Police Department's arrest of Mr. Seldowitz, an important step toward accountability and healing for the victim of this hateful set of attacks.

Mr. Seldowitz's anti-Muslim views are alarming for the MAPS community given his role shaping foreign policy in critical national security leadership roles. In 2021, after President Biden released White House Executive Order 14035 tasking every federal agency to develop concrete action plans to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA), MAPS created a complementary [blueprint](#) to ensure American Muslim and other faith-based communities are integrated into the process. This blueprint includes suggestions to screen Federal employees for known racial animus, religious hatred, or other forms of bigotry in both the security clearance and the White House appointment and detailee vetting processes.

MAPS urges the State Department and other national security institutions to adopt a zero-tolerance policy for harassment, toxicity, and bullying. MAPS is alarmed that [Fritz Berggren](#), an employee espousing white supremacist views including antisemitism, is currently employed as a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. Department of State. Hateful rhetoric, whether anti-Muslim or antisemitic bigotry, has no place in our national security institutions. It makes our workplaces unsafe and puts our national security at risk.

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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](https://mapsnational.org)

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