



USPAK Foundation

Promoting the ambitions and aspirations of Pakistani Americans

Press Release

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Contact Us

info@uspakfoundation.org

202 505 4 PAK

[Website](#)

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USPAK condemns loss of life due to making of anti-Muslim film

The USPAK Foundation strongly condemns the violence against the US Embassies in Libya and Egypt over September 11th, 2012. The Foundation is deeply disturbed that the violent attacks resulted in the death of U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three more American officials. Ambassador Stevens was a longtime supporter of the Libyan people and helped citizens of Benghazi in achieving freedom from the Kaddafi regime.

The attacks are a mob-reaction to a low-budget, amateur, anti-Muslim film, *a trailer of which is posted on the internet*. The Foundation urges all Muslims world-wide to refrain from violence, and to ignore this deliberate attempt to provoke a reaction as this will only provide additional publicity to the makers of the film. The Foundation especially urges the cessation of this extreme violence forthwith. Using the film to justify this violence runs counter to Islamic teachings as practiced by the majority of the 1.62 Billion Muslims worldwide. We ask Governments of Muslim countries to take concrete measures to avoid loss of innocent lives.

At this uneasy time we must be reminded of the saying of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) "*The ink of the scholar is holier than the blood of the martyr*". We urge American Muslims to participate in active discussion on this issue in their local and national media, and ask for practice of responsible journalism rather than sensationalism at this time.

USPAK Foundation respects the right of freedom of speech; however we must remain cognizant of the American values of respect and sensitivity of others. Time and again movies, cartoons, or documentaries, void of facts or any scholarly value have been made that have hurt the feelings of Muslims; they only promote and ignite hatred of each other. We ask Western Governments to discourage producers from making such movies and not to let them hide behind the veil of freedom of speech.

We also ask the Governments of Muslims countries to start "Centers of Islamic Understanding" throughout the world to educate others about the true elements of Islam.

The USPAK Foundation seeks to promote the aspirations of Pakistani Americans. The Foundation seeks to promote values of mutual respect, especially in multi-religious and multi-ethnic societies such as the United States.

For more information contact ed@uspakfoundation.org or call 202 505 4725.

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