



Muslims for Peace & Justice

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Press Release

---FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE---

SASKATCHEWAN MUSLIMS CONDEMN VANDALISM OF MOSQUE

Call on police to treat it as a hate crime

(Regina, SK – 03/26/2004) Muslims for Peace & Justice (MPJ), a Saskatchewan-based Muslim outreach & advocacy organization, today condemned the recent targeting of the Al-Mahdi mosque in Pickering, Ontario by vandals. The attack comes on the heels of a recent wave of hate crimes that targeted the Jewish community of Toronto.

The incident involved the vandals entering the mosque, spraying the words “Jesus Rules” on its walls, destroying equipment and setting the building on fire. Mosque officials estimate the cost of the damages to be in the thousands of dollars.

“This brazen act of vandalism and arson is very disturbing for the Canadian Muslim community. We are relieved to hear that nobody was hurt. There is no place in Canada for such menacing acts of hate,” said MPJ President Dr. Naiyer Habib. “We call on local officials and community leaders to condemn this act of violence and those who perpetuate anti-Muslim sentiment.”

“We ask that the local police thoroughly investigate this incident, and treat it as a hate crime. The Canadian Muslim community must be assured that its institutions will be protected,” said MPJ Communications Director Kashif Ahmed.

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“Saskatchewan Muslim Voice on Public Affairs”