



March 12, 2006
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

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Society for Islamic Awareness

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UT Muslim Students Association

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A CALL FOR MUSLIM SOLIDARITY

A Sit-in Denouncing the Loss of Human Lives and the Sacrilege of Holy Sites across Iraq

Austin, Texas -- Muslims from all around Austin will gather March 3, at 6:30 p.m. on the Main Mall of the University of Texas for a solidarity sit-in to denounce the recent surge of attacks on individuals and sacred religious spaces in Iraq.

Organized by various Muslim-based student groups on campus, including the Society for Islamic Awareness (SIA), the Muslim Students Association (MSA), and the Pakistani Students Association (PSA), the *Call for Muslim Solidarity* strives to uphold the Islamic ideals of unity, peace, and justice. The event will feature presentations by several community and student leaders as well as a vigil to commemorate the victims of these senseless crimes.

The unfortunate event sparking this call against violence took place last week with the bombing of the golden-domed Askariya mosque in Iraq, a sacred shrine for Muslims throughout the world. Attacks like these have sent powerful reverberations throughout the region, leading to false perceptions that the devastation reflects a deep discord between schools of thought in Islam.

This perception is greatly misguided. Rather than stemming from sectarian differences, the violence that plagues such regions is actually based on a deeper historical and political context; it is this context and not theological differences that creates such violence. Peace, respect, and unity are central to Islamic teachings and are sacred to Muslims worldwide.

Local Muslims are taking this call against violence as an opportunity to promote solidarity among Muslims, raise awareness to dispel possible misperceptions, and stand together for peace. Islam requires Muslims to speak out against injustice wherever it may occur, and this event is oriented towards achieving that goal. Please come out and show your support.

If you would like more information about the event, please contact _____
at _____ or _____ at _____.

Announcements for Muslim Groups

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Salaam Alaikum (Peace be upon you),

In the wake of the recent escalation of violence in Iraq, the Muslims Students Association, the Society for Islamic Awareness, and Pakistani Students Association are organizing a sit-in denouncing the loss of human lives and the sacrilege of holy sites across Iraq.

These recent attacks were evidently aimed at provoking violence among Muslims and thereby destabilizing Iraq. The Muslim community at UT Austin feels that in these trying times all Muslims need to send a resounding message of peace and solidarity to our Iraqi brothers and sisters and to the rest of the world, Muslims and Non-Muslims alike. We must write our history with our own hands with the ink of peace, harmony, compassion, and justice.

We need your full support and participation to make this happen! Please join in this sit-in with full enthusiasm. Bring your family and friends with you. We also urge all people of conscience to join us in denouncing the violation of sanctity of human life and values in Iraq. Let our response be heard loud and clear!

Call for Muslim Solidarity

A Sit-in denouncing the Loss of Human Lives and the Sacrilege of Holy Sites across Iraq

**Friday, March 3 at 6:30 pm
Main Mall, South of the UT Tower**

The event will begin with Maghrib prayers at 6:45pm and feature presentations by several community and student leaders as well as a vigil to commemorate the victims of these senseless crimes.

Click [here](#) for more information on the event.

On behalf of,

Muslim Students Association (MSA)
Society for Islamic Awareness (SIA)
Pakistani Students Association (PSA)

General Announcement

Salaam Alaikum (Peace be upon you),

In the wake of the recent escalation of violence in Iraq, the Muslims Students Association, the Society for Islamic Awareness, and Pakistani Students Association are organizing a sit-in denouncing the loss of human lives and the sacrilege of sacred spaces across Iraq.

These recent attacks were evidently aimed at provoking violence and thereby destabilizing Iraq. The Muslim community at UT feels that they must send the message of unity and peace to the Iraqi people and to all the people in the world, Muslims and Non-Muslims alike, that all Muslims are united and they are with the Iraqi people in these trying times. They also urge all people of conscience to join them in denouncing the violation of sanctity of human life and values in Iraq.

Call for Muslim Solidarity

A Sit-in denouncing the Loss of Human Lives and the Sacrilege of Holy Sites across Iraq

**Friday, March 3 at 6:30 pm
Main Mall, South of the UT Tower**

The event will begin with congregational prayers at 6:45pm, followed by presentations of several community and student leaders, ending with a candle light vigil.

[Click here for more information on the event.](#)

Society for Islamic Awareness (SIA)

Muslim Students Association (MSA)

Pakistani Students Association (PSA)