The Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC)

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Offering Condolences to Our Muslim Community Friends for the Loss of Nabra Hassanen and Condemning Acts of Violence

The Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC), which unites the Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic, Jain, Jewish, Latter-day Saints, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Sikh, and Zoroastrian faith communities in the DC metropolitan area is devastated to hear of the murder of Nabra Hassanen, a 17 year old Muslim woman, and condemns the violence that stems from all forms of polarization based on fear and hate. According to the Fairfax County Police, she was reported missing around 4:00 am on Sunday, June 18. She was abducted while returning to the ADAMS Sterling mosque to pray in the holy month of Ramadan after breakfast with friends.

A loss like this is difficult for any community, and this attack comes at a time where we live in an environment saturated with hate-filled rhetoric and actions. Violence like this is not just an attack on a particular community—it is an attack on all of us. We unite to call for justice: when one of us is targeted for violence for any reason, our social fabric of peace and civility is attacked as well. All of us must continue to speak out against any form of violence and instead treat our neighbors with love and compassion.

We offer our deepest condolences to Nabra's family and to the ADAMS and greater Northern Virginia community. Our thoughts and prayers will be with them in the coming days and weeks as the Muslim and interfaith community heals from this devastating loss and seeks mutual understanding to move forward. As we have for the past 38 years, the InterFaith Conference will continue to do the work of engaging different faith traditions in dialogue. Our work reveals how strong we are as a DC metropolitan community and a nation because of, and not in spite of, our differences. Only together can we create a strength in love that can drive out fear and hate.

June 20, 2017