

## **Al-Munadee Dar Al Hijrah Newsletter Special Issue - 1423**

### **A Letter from the President Concerning the Events of April 5, 2003**

#### **In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen; Brothers and Sisters

Let me greet you as Muslims do greet one another when they meet, by exchanging greetings among themselves.

Asslamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

May the Peace, the Mercy and the Blessings of God “Almighty” be upon you, individually and collectively

Addressing you as brothers and sisters rather than Ladies and gentlemen does give the feeling of brotherhood, a feeling of belonging and a feeling of fraternal bond, instead of a far distant and formal feeling;

Assalamu Alaikum or Peace Be Upon You.

On behalf of Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Administration and the Muslim community of Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center in Falls Church, VA, I would like to express my deep felt gratitude and appreciation for your full support and your efforts to stand with us condemning this irresponsible act which took place the morning of last Saturday April 5, 2003. Your statements of support as well your action to express your opinions against such acts is a very good proof that all our communities, despite any differences what so ever it might exists, do not agree on these hateful actions. This country will not give up its constitutional rights of religious freedom and freedom of speech. We need to work together, as much we can, to bring about common understanding of the different religions, and try hard to eliminate the hate from all the communities. As you may know, many Muslim scholars have been talking about Islam and Muslims. Most of them gave the definitions of the word of Islam. The root of the word “Islam” is “silm” and “salam” which means peace, greetings and the divine attribute of “God”. Islam is the religion of peace; submission to God, to live a peaceful way of life, and to be a peaceful person.

Allah (swt) informed us that neighbors are important parts of the society. Without good neighbors, people will have a difficult and miserable life. We are commanded by Allah (swt) to look after the neighbors, to take care of them, and to make sure that we have a good relationship with them.

Once again, our thanks and appreciation to all our neighbors and our supporters, churches, temples, and organizations who visited us and offered their support and condemned such acts against the Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center.

The same thanks and appreciation goes to the Muslim communities of USA for their beautiful and strong support to Dar Al Hijrah community and for helping us to get beyond this irresponsible act.

In closing, I pray to Allah (swt) that we will meet again on a better occasion and all of you will be in the best of health and good spirit.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the staff of Dar Al Hijrah, I wish to express our sincerest thanks and appreciation to our community at large for the marvelous support. Dar Al Hijrah would not be able to fulfill its responsibility without the help of its donors and team of volunteers.

Wa-Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

Samir Salah, President

## Letter of Support from ADAM'S Center

On the morning of April 5, 2003 we got word at ADAMS about the tragedy of an alleged hate crime against Dar Al Hijrah. We, at ADAMS, called Dar Al Hijrah right away to make sure everything is ok and if we could help. We thank Allah (SWT) that nobody was hurt. It is our duty as Brothers and Sisters to be there for one another. InshaAllah, we hope we can do more to help, if needed.

We made announcements in our daily prayers for people to make dua. It is indeed a challenging time for us Muslims, but we must stay together and look out for one another for the Sake of Allah (SWT).

We pray to Allah (SWT) that the bus burners are brought to justice. We pray to Allah (SWT) to keep our communities and families safe in these times.

We have a lot of work to do to let our Neighbors know more about Islam and Muslims. We must get out and continue to be involved in our communities, InshaAllah.

We should get more involved in community service for the Sake of Allah (SWT).

Wa'Salam 'Alaikum,

Rizwan Jaka  
President, ADAMS

## Community Responds to Fire-bombing of Dar Al Hijrah School Bus

Al-Hamdulillah, many of our neighbors responded to the fire-bombing of one of the school buses belonging to the masjid on Saturday, the 3rd of Safar, 1424 by sending

messages and gifts expressing support to Dar Al Hijrah. What follows is some of those messages and some pictures of gifts.

**First Christian Church wrote:**

Greetings to our brothers and sisters of Dar Al Hijrah,

I am writing to let you know that we are thinking of you following the tragedy you experienced over the weekend. Some of our members were working around the church and noticed the thick smoke billowing in your direction. We were all saddened to discover on the news that our good friends at Dar Al Hijrah were victims of a vicious attack of hatred.

On behalf of first Christian Church, Falls Church, please accept our prayers for you and for an end to such acts, and know that we stand in support of you and your congregation. Let us (know) if we can help in any way.

Blessings in the name of God—Creator and Sustainer,

Cheryl L. Tatham

Interim Bridge Minister

**An email message said:**

We were saddened to learn of the arson at Dar Al Hijrah on Saturday, and hope that this insanity does not happen again. Thank God there were no injuries to people! Our prayers are with you.

Belinda Barrington and Andres Acedo, St. Charles Borromeo Parishioners.

**Part of a lengthy letter written by The Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington to the President of Dar Al Hijrah, Samir Salah:**

Dear Mr. Salah,

As-Salaam ‘alaikum. With these words of peace I write to share the deep concern and sorrow of the Board of Directors and Staff of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington for the burning of the school bus of Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center on Saturday. We join you in giving Thanks to God that no one was injured.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Clark Lobenstine, Executive Director

To the Community of Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center,  
While attending mass at St. Charles Borromeo, we learned of the terrible incident to your school bus. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time. The actions of a few do not speak for the many. Know that we are with you in peace.  
The Huise Family

## Press Release from Dar Al Hijrah Regarding the Firebombing of the School Bus

The Dar Al Hijrah Islamic in Falls church, Va. operates a weekend Islamic school for over one hundred children from the community.

Muslim children, while playing in the masjid (mosque) playground, discovered a fire in a school bus parked in the parking lot.

The children alerted the masjid office, 911 was called and two community members attempted to contain the fire and secure the area. The Fairfax County Fire Department, Police along with AGENTS of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) AND Secret Service responded to the scene. The fire was extinguished although the passenger section of the bus was severely damaged.

The Fairfax County Fire Marshal, Michael Reilly, has determined that the fire was arson, but at this time, has not determined the attack to be a “hate crime”. Praise be to Allah (God), there were no injuries.

The masjid has increased its security and is calling on law enforcement to provide increased 24-hour surveillance of this and other Islamic centers in the region in light of the current climate.

As the investigation continues we hope and pray that the perpetrators will be brought to justice and we encourage everyone to avoid a rush to judgment against anyone.