

Through news media and other sources, many members of the Kingston community are aware about the seemingly hate crime which occurred on the early morning hours of Saturday, November 22, 2014 at the Islamic Center Kingston. Since then we have been receiving various kinds of support from the Kingston community. On behalf of the Islamic Society of Kingston and the Muslim community, I would like to thank and express my gratitude to all the organizations and individuals who sent us messages and came in to the Islamic Center Kingston.

We thank Kingston Police force for their timely arrival, conducting the initial investigation, communicating with Islamic Society, issuing a press statement and continuing with the investigation to apprehend the perpetrators of the crime.

We thank media organizations for reporting their findings and exposing the nature of the crime.

National Council of Canadian Muslims press release and advice was timely and helpful, and we thank them for this.

Many Christian faith groups and Kingston Jewish Council have expressed their open public support by sending their messages of support to the Kingston press. I assure you that the Muslim community values this solidarity and appreciates it. We also thank all the other faith groups' leaders, individuals and friends who approached us individually. The Kingston Faith and Justice Coalition has appealed to the Kingston citizens to denounce this outrageous and cowardly act. We appreciate this gesture of community spirit.

Visits by the local members of the Ontario legislature, the Kingston Mayor and councilors to the Islamic Center and their concern is very much valued.

Individual members of the Kingston community came to offer us help to repair the windows, an unknown person(s) left flowers at the Center, support messages were recorded, and a neighbor who is a retired police officer offered to make frequent patrol visits to the center. We are thankful for these practical and symbolic solidarity and community spirit.

Finally, I would like to thank members of the Muslim community by standing steadfast against the intended interruption by the perpetrators of the crime, having the successful bazaar on the same day, and continuing with the repairs and security enhancements.

I am grateful to all of you and I hope that we all Kingstonians stand together as a community to ensure that the perpetrators of this crime are brought to justice and in future bigotry of all kinds never surface again in our city.

Mohammad Saleem  
President of Islamic Society of Kingston