



## Bangladesh Unity Federation of Los Angeles

**"To enhance unity among the Bangladeshi community"**

President: Major (Retd) Enamul Hamid  
Vice-President: Mohammed Sayedul Hoq  
General Secretary: Lt (Retd) Zia Islam  
Finance Secretary: Mohammed Ashraf Hossain  
Organizing Secretary: Ahsan Hafeez Rummy  
Public Relations Secretary: Saiful A Chowdhury  
Cultural Secretary: Shahnag Bulbul

Memo:

Date: Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Attention:

Bangladeshi Nationals Living in Los Angeles

My Dear members of the Bangladeshi community

Bangladesh Unity Federation of Los Angeles (BUFLA) condemns the act of terrorism in Bangladesh and offers our heartfelt condolences to the victims of this horrific tragedy in Dhaka.

We have written too many condolences on this issue alone and frankly are sick of it. I am sure the whole Bangladeshi diaspora is, but there is no denying now that the country is in turmoil. We are all united in our stance that DAESH or whoever claimed the responsibility is not representing us Muslims in any shape or form. Islam is a Religion of Peace, and anyone saying or acting otherwise neither is related to Islam and Muslims, nor speak for the religion of Islam.

If you are Muslim – you cannot terrorize the general population, and if you are a terrorist – you cannot be a Muslim. Islam and Terrorism are mutually exclusive of each other. Here are some of the examples in Quran which specifically forbids killing of innocents and coering people to become Muslims – as is being done by DAESH in Iraq & Syria:

1. In Sura-Mai'dah (5:32) Allah says, "... who so kills a soul, unless it be for murder or for wreaking corruption in the land, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind; and he who saves a life, it shall be as if he had given life to all mankind."
2. The Qur'an demands of believers that they exercise justice toward people even where they have reason to be angry with them: "And do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness." [Surah Al-Mai'dah 5:8]
3. If the motive for terrorism is religious, it is impermissible in Islamic law. It is forbidden to attempt to impose Islam on other people. The Qur'an says, "There is no compulsion in religion. The right way has become distinct from error." (Surah Al Baqarah, 2:256). Note that this verse was revealed in Medina in 622 AD or after and was never abrogated by any other verse of the Quran. Islam's holy book forbids coercing people into adopting any religion. They have to willingly choose it.
4. People of all Abrahamic Religions are friends of Islam. In Surah Al-Mai'dah (5:69) Allah says: "Surely they that believe, and those of Jewry, and the Christians, and those Sabeans, who so believes in God and the Last Day, and works righteousness—their wage waits them with their Lord, and no fear shall be on them, neither shall they sorrow."

Chief Downey of LAPD Counter Terrorism unit has expressed his condolences to us and had assured any assistance needed if your family members here are affected in any way by this tragedy. Their prayers are with us to go through this difficult situation of the nation.

We are thankful to Commanding Officer Lt Col Imrul Kayes and to the brave soldiers of 1<sup>st</sup> Paratrooper Battalion of Bangladesh Army who put down the insurgency within 12 minutes of storming the compound. Had they been allowed within the 1<sup>st</sup> hour of the seize, the lives of the 20 foreigners and the 2 police officers could have been spared. We ask everyone to pray for the departed Police Officers,



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civilians and foreigners killed in this horrific tragedy. Bangladeshi soldiers have not only shown their bravery in keeping peace in the rest of the world, but also in war when the whole country is in the chokehold of terrorists.

May Allah give us the strength to eradicate terrorism from this earth and abide by the Holy Book of Quran in this Holy Day of Lailatul Qadr in the month of Ramadan.

Sincerely Yours,

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