

Article Details

June 01, 2010

» Action Alert #606: Ask Pentagon to Drop Anti-Islam Speaker

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Action Alert #606: Ask Pentagon to Drop Anti-Islam Speaker

Posted 4/22/2010 2:16:00 PM

(WASHINGTON, D.C., 4/22/10) – CAIR today called on American Muslims to join in the call for Pentagon officials to disinvite a scheduled speaker who has called Islam a "very evil and wicked religion" and this morning said Muslims are "enslaved by Islam."

Controversial Christian evangelist Franklin Graham is scheduled to speak May 6 -- the National Day of Prayer -- at the Pentagon. Military officials are considering whether to withdraw Graham's invitation after the Military Religious Freedom Foundation raised objections to his appearance.

In an interview today about the controversy on Fox News, Graham refused to revise his past comments that Islam is evil and claimed that Muslims are "enslaved by Islam."

SEE: [Fox Hosts Franklin Graham Who Attempts to Convert Muslims Away from 'Evil' Islam](#)

"To have an individual who calls Islam evil and claims Muslims are enslaved by their faith speak at the Pentagon sends entirely the wrong message at a time when hundreds of thousands of our nation's military personnel are currently stationed in Muslim countries," said **CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad**. "Franklin Graham's appearance has the potential to harm unit cohesion and morale through the promotion of distorted, intolerant and divisive views within military ranks."

Awad added that while CAIR supports the right of all American's to worship according to their personal preference and to follow the religious leader of their choice, Graham's message of intolerance and hate are not appropriate for a government venue such as the Pentagon.

In a 2009 CNN interview, Graham stated in part: "[T]rue Islam cannot be practiced in this country. You can't beat your wife. You cannot murder your children if you think they've committed adultery or something like that, which they do practice in these other countries...I don't agree with the teachings of Islam and I find it to be a very violent religion."

SEE: [Franklin Graham Repeats Attacks on Islam](#) (Video)

In 2002, Graham said terrorism is part of "mainstream" Islam and claimed the Quran, Islam's revealed text, "preaches violence."

In 2001, Graham stood by remarks he made about Islam at the dedication of a chapel in North Carolina. At that event, he said: "We're not attacking Islam but Islam has attacked us. The God of Islam is not the same God. He's not the son of God of the Christian or Judeo-Christian faith. It's a different God, and I believe it is a very evil and wicked religion."

In the spirit of reconciliation and mutual respect, CAIR has in the past offered to arrange a meeting between Graham and American Muslim leaders to clear up his misconceptions about Islam, but Graham never responded to those requests.

SEE: [Muslim Civil Rights Group Calls for Meeting to Clear Up 'Misconceptions'](#)

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUESTED (As always, be POLITE and RESPECTFUL.)

[Please note: After many of you called and emailed the Pentagon, they decided to disinvite Franklin Graham. We will leave this Action Alert on our site as an archive, but there is no longer a need to contact the Pentagon (unless you wish to thank them). Thank you to all who responded to this Action Alert -- your voices were heard.]

1. CONTACT the Pentagon's public affairs office to express your concerns about a person with such Islamophobic views speaking to military personnel.

E-Mail: george.b.wright@us.army.mil
Copy to: PentChap-Mailbox@conus.army.mil, info@cair.com

2. DONATE to CAIR to help us challenge the growing "Islamophobia machine" that seeks to demonize Islam and marginalize American Muslims.

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