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Office of the Mayor

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Global Imams Council
 Ottawa

Dear Council,

As the Mayor of the City of Mississauga I'm proud of our peaceful, multicultural population who come from all over the world. It includes over 100,000 Muslims in a population of 750,000 who contribute immensely to the success of our city through business, academics, volunteerism and much more.

I want to thank you for your letter to the Minister of Public Safety regarding a proposed conference of the extremist group Hizb-ut Tahrir. I want make it absolutely clear: there is no place in our city for groups or individuals who promote hate, division, and extremist ideologies. Hizb-ut Tahrir have been banned from renting, or gathering in any of our City's buildings for over 10 years due to past hate speech against our country and its citizens, this still stands today.

Let me assure you that my office has taken every possible step within the municipal jurisdiction to address this issue swiftly and responsibly. As Mayor, I have worked closely with our city officials and law enforcement in the past few weeks to ensure that we uphold both the safety and the principles of our community.

Their proposed conference on January 18th was originally publicized as taking place in Mississauga but moved to Hamilton because of pressure from our City staff who immediately connected with all private facilities within Mississauga to inquire about rentals on the 18th. The gravity of the situation and nature of the group was clearly explained, and our staff were assured no such booking had been made.

We have reason to believe, however, that in fact the group will still be meeting in Mississauga and we have no power to stop them. While the City has done everything within its jurisdiction, this situation requires action at the federal level. You have correctly written to the Federal Minister of Public Safety where the power lies to ban this group from gathering and to detain them as they attempt to enter Canada at our borders.

This extremist group's hateful ideology in no way reflects the values or beliefs of our Muslim residents, who stand for peace, respect, and harmony and play a vital role in our city.

I thank you most sincerely on behalf of our City and Council for taking the initiative you have done.

Sincerely,

Mayor of Mississauga

