



# المؤسسة الإسلامية - تورنتو ISLAMIC FOUNDATION OF TORONTO

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28 June, 2022

Re: India Should Not Be an Obstacle for Freedom of Religion, Specifically During the Muslim Sacred Festival of Sacrifice (Eid Al-Adha)

The Islamic Foundation of Toronto along with its congregants is very concerned about the increased islamophobic, racist and hateful activities against the Muslims of India.

We are quickly approaching the islamic festivals of sacrifice in the islamic month of Dhul Hijjah which coincides with the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July. There are reports Muslims are being sanctioned, threatened and stopped from the annual ritual animal sacrifice.

We call upon all levels of governments to raise their voices against stopping freedom of religion in India. India boasts being the world's largest democracy yet minority faith groups are being targeted by extremists and also government officials.

We call upon the Muslims of India to remain calm and adhere to all legal means to stand up for rights of freedom and faith practice in India.

The Islamic Foundation of Toronto reiterates its position to live in peace, and coexist with fellow humans of diverse backgrounds, religions and persuasions. We will continue working with our interfaith partners to strengthen our bonds of love and peace.

The IFT calls on all concerned to raise awareness and do its part to bring peace, stability and freedom of religion across the globe.

Sincerely,

  
Akbar Warsi, President

Islamic Foundation of Toronto



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## **GTA Mosques Very Concerned About Islamophobic Statements Made by Indian Officials.**

The Islamic Foundation of Toronto representing a large Muslim populous in Canada are extremely concerned about hateful remarks made in India by government officials against the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him).

Both, Nupur Sharma and Naveen Jindal's derogatory statements have gone viral inciting hate. Both officials representing and affiliated with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have caused irreparable damages of disrespect, racism and islamophobia.

We are aware both leaders have issued public apologies and have been removed from their posts after international pressure. However, this is part of a strong trend in India, disrespecting people of other faiths. How can this be allowed and promoted in the world's largest democracy?

2 billion Muslims across the globe, including at least 200 million in India revere and honour the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) as an icon of religion and peaceful teachings. Canadian Muslims are equally disturbed and offended.

We call upon all levels of government to pressure the Indian government to stop all injustices and acts of hate against minority groups and faith communities in India and across the world. Until and unless we do not respect every faith's leaders and icons, hate and racism will continue to be a major obstacle to world peace and co-existence.

We as Islamic Centers will continue doing our work to promote peaceful coexistence, peace and harmony with one and all.

Sincerely,

  
Akbar Warsi, President  
Islamic Foundation of Toronto