



Statement on the Killings of Four Muslim Men in New Mexico

August 10, 2022

We at Muslims for Progressive Values are heartbroken at the news out of New Mexico and the loss of four Muslim men at the hands of their fellow Muslim. The alleged reasoning behind these killings - anti-Shia sentiment and anger at a marriage between a Sunni and Shia - makes the loss of four innocent lives even more tragic.

For far too long, the Sunni Muslim community has allowed anti-Shia rhetoric and sentiments to persist and escalate to the point that we have become oppressors of our very own brothers and sisters. Each of us must take pause to acknowledge how we, whether through our thoughts, beliefs, actions, rhetoric or silence, have contributed to the persecution and exclusion of the Shia community, both within the United States and abroad. And in this pause, we must recognize how our choices, whether it be to contribute to this oppression, to look away, to ignore it, or to remain silent, contributed to the environment that allowed these unfathomable deaths to occur. May this awaken us to cease the teaching and following of hate in the name of Islam, where it has no place.

And May God grant peace to Naeem Hussain who was killed on August 5, Muhammad Afzaal Hussain who was killed on August 1, Aftab Hussein who was killed on July 26, and Mohammad Ahmadi who was killed on November 7. May God grant them the highest place in heaven and bring ease to their family members as they face this hardship. Ameen.