

**A statement from the office of the Grand Mufti of Australia.**

**Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammad**

**Regarding the anti Mohammad film**

The film made to insult to prophet of Islam (peace be upon him) is the beginning of a new model of hatred and misinformation that exploits freedom to assault all religious symbols. It will herald a spate of similar attacks on sacred symbols in all religions.

Religions however should be respected. In the Islamic understanding they are protected rights that should not be aggressed upon, thus strengthening the fabric of society and ensuring a diversity of faiths and cultures.

For this purpose, the Quran provides the most eloquent illustration of tolerance and acceptance of others in the verse "And do not insult those who invoke other than Allah , lest they insult Allah in enmity without knowledge. Thus We have made pleasing to every community their deeds. Then to their Lord is their return, and He will inform them about what they used to do."

This is the difference between the Quran revealed to the prophet Muhammad, as opposed to the vile lies of those occupied with hating and slander of others.

Those who stand behind this movie are benefiting from divisiveness, engaging in vile acts and inciting internal conflicts.

This film is full of baseless lies only found in the minds of sick individuals, its only purpose was to cause maximum offense to Muslims, some of which has lead to unwarranted reactions. We regard this film as a cheap ploy to instigate violence, hatred and distrust between people.

We assert that this hateful group of individuals who happen to be Coptic have sold themselves and their homelands, they do not represent the Copts of Egypt, nor are they keepers of its churches.

The unwarranted reactions of attacking innocent people, embassies and public property is a disservice and a hijacking of the protest, because it will turn us from victims to aggressors, which is what the makers of this film want. Therefore we strongly condemn all actions of violence and lawlessness that took place in Australia. To thwart the efforts of those vile individuals, our Australian Muslim youth have to protest in a civil manner that breaks no law and threatens no one.

From a religious and moral position, we condemn this abuse of freedom, as we condemn the transgression against embassies and innocent people. We give our heartfelt prayers to the families of the victims who died in Libya, Sudan, Egypt and other countries due to this issue. We call on all Australians and all those who want good for Australia to exercise patience and wisdom and not to engage in any reckless actions. We reiterate that much of the blood of the innocents who fell victim in those protests is on the hands of those makers of this vile film.

The Grand Mufti of Australia.  
Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammad