July 4, 2012

## Dear Muslim Leader,

We are all aware of incidents of intimidation, threats of violence, assaults, imprisonment, and murder against former Muslims here and abroad because they left Islam. We call on you, as a Muslim leader or as a Muslim in a position of responsibility in federal, state or local government here in the U.S., to repudiate the threat from authoritative Shariah to the religious freedom and safety of former Muslims. As leaders of FORMER MUSLIMS UNITED, we ask you to sign the enclosed "Muslim Pledge for Religious Freedom and Safety from Harm for Former Muslims," known as the Freedom Pledge. We reach out to you with a sincere hope that you will sign the pledge to show your support for ensuring peace, justice, safety, and freedom for Muslims and former Muslims alike.

We sent the Freedom Pledge to 125 leaders of Muslim organizations in America almost three years ago, on September 25, 2009. On that date in 1789, the U.S. Congress passed the Bill of Rights. This was a fitting date to put our pledge to the world, for the first of those rights guarantees religious freedom, which includes the right to leave Islam, to change our religion from Islam to another religion, and to express unbelief in Islam.

As our Declaration of Independence states, these rights are unalienable, and among them are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. For former Muslims, who throughout history have lost their liberties and often their lives when they left Islam, America's Declaration of Independence, signed on July 4, 1776, has special significance. Therefore, we are sending out the Freedom Pledge again this year, starting on July 4, 2012, to over 200 Muslims in positions of responsibility in government and private organizations. In the spirit of 1776, we extend to you the opportunity to repudiate the Shariah doctrines against people who leave Islam.

In 2009, only two people signed the pledge: Dr. Zuhdi Jasser of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy and Dr. Ali Alyami of the Center for Democracy & Human Rights in Saudi Arabia. Let us hope that this year all American Muslim leaders, especially those chosen by our elected officials as advisers, will join them.

As leaders of FORMER MUSLIMS UNITED, we have pledged our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor to achieve for former Muslims their unalienable rights. We urge you, as a Muslim leader, to support our claim to these rights by signing the enclosed Freedom Pledge.

Please sign the pledge and encourage others in your organization to do so, as well. Our request is simple. We look forward to your timely response within two weeks. The need is urgent.

Sincerely,

NONIE DARWISH

MOHAMMED ASGHAR

WAFA SULTAN

IBN WARRAQ