



Council on American-Islamic Relations
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USAWC Commandant Major General John S. Kem
Provost Dr. James G. Breckenridge
US Army War College
122 Forbes Avenue
Carlisle, PA 17013-5234

Dear Major General Kem and Provost Dr. Breckenridge:

We are writing to both of you today to voice the deep disappointment and concern of the Muslim community of Pennsylvania with the decision of the US Army War College to invite Mr. Raymond Ibrahim to deliver the prestigious 50th Annual Lecture Series of the US Army War College. The talk is scheduled for June 19, 2019, and is titled after Mr. Ibrahim's recent book, *Sword and Scimitar: Fourteen Centuries of War between Islam and the West*. Raymond Ibrahim's book and previous writings, as well as his past lectures and media appearances, advance a simplistic, inaccurate and often prejudicial view of the long history of Muslim-West relations which we find deeply troubling.

Indeed, as word of Mr. Ibrahim's upcoming lecture has spread, we have been contacted by Muslims and interfaith allies from all over Pennsylvania, and especially from the Harrisburg area which houses over a dozen mosques, who called us to express their shock that such a prestigious institution as the US Army War College would invite, and thereby confer legitimacy on, an individual who spreads falsehoods about their faith, the faith of 1.6 billion human beings, and the fastest growing religion in the United States and the world.

Please understand, as a civil rights organization primarily serving the needs of Muslim Americans, we respect Mr. Ibrahim's right to his opinions, even though his oeuvre is filled with inaccurate conclusions and inflammatory and dangerous rhetoric. As Americans we accept his right to free speech. We do not believe, however, that such views should benefit from the endorsement of an institution established to protect all Americans when it clearly puts others in harms way.

For instance, in an interview published on May 28, 2018, Mr. Ibrahim notes:

"... Sword and Scimitar ... sets the much-distorted historical record between the two civilizations straight, and, in so doing, demonstrates once and for all that Muslim hostility for and terrorization of the West is not an aberration but a continuation of Islamic history."
<https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/270266/sword-and-scimitar-jamie-glazov>

Mr. Ibrahim's analysis is based on poor research and carries a high potential to instigate hatred against Muslims. We are deeply concerned that his troubling views would skew our servicemen and servicewomen's perceptions of Islam and Muslims, and would be an insult to the thousands of Muslim Americans who have proudly worn the uniforms of this great nation, and would dishonor the memory of those brave Muslim Americans who gave their lives in defense of their country. We

also do not believe that there is any benefit to the US in promulgating the inaccurate thesis that Islam is our enemy, as this stereotype only alienates millions of Muslim Americans.

On this Memorial Day, we wanted to reach out to you, and with all due respect, to urge you to reconsider your invitation to Mr. Ibrahim. As a tax-payer financed institution that seeks to educate the top echelon of the United States military, the US Army War College, in our opinion, should not be promoting the views of Mr. Ibrahim, as these views fuel anti-Muslim hatred at home and abroad and are not strategically helpful in achieving the stated goals of our nation. We would ask that if Mr. Ibrahim delivers his talk that we be allowed the same format to put forth counter points to his arguments and discuss ways in which we can work together to achieve the goal of peaceful co-existence that we all seek.

We are hopeful that your institution, with its storied history and extensive academic networks, would be able to identify a balanced and informed speaker for this series to educate our servicemen and servicewomen. We stand ready to present to you a pool of such names that can inform the College's decision, and would as well, look forward to travelling to Carlisle to discuss this issue with you in person.

We will look forward to hearing back from you, and we gratefully thank you for your service to our nation.

Sincerely,



Jacob Bender
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