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W I S  E M S
MUSLIM CAUCUS



For Immediate Release

Democratic Party of Wisconsin Muslim and Jewish Caucuses Condemn ICE Detention of ISM President Salah Sarsour

We are the Muslim and Jewish Caucuses of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. We do not always agree; we hold that in honesty and without apology.

Today, **we are united in condemning the detention and planned deportation of Salah Sarsour** - the President of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. Salah is a husband, a father, grandfather, and our Wisconsin neighbor for over 30 years.

Today he sits in a jail in south Indiana, far from his family and community, with Secretary of State Marco Rubio claiming Salah "poses an adverse consequence to foreign policy considerations."

With this White House's policies of **open bigotry**, **it is clear that Salah was targeted for political motivations** based on being a Palestinian-American and his advocacy for his community.

We decry the Trump Administration's continued detention, which they justify with character attacks. This includes repeated statements and attempts to paint a picture of Salah as somehow

deserving of fewer rights than are Constitutionally guaranteed, and villainize him to the greater public and pit our two communities against one another.

This is not justice.

We say clearly, together: this is wrong, and we will not be silent.

We come together in a rare moment from a place of shared faith. Both of our traditions - regardless of nationality, religion, or politics - are created in dignity and deserving justice.

The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said, "All mankind is from Adam and Eve; an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab."

The Jewish concept of *b'zelem Elohim* - that every person is created in the image of God - demands that we see the divine - the dignity, worth, and value - in Salah Sarsour. When that is lost, every person's freedom is threatened.

Our outrage is not just as Jews and Muslims, but as Americans. The First Amendment protects the speech that power finds inconvenient, for everyone. When the government uses its authority to silence voices it disagrees with—as in the cases of Mahmoud Khalil, Rumeysa Ozturk, and Salah Sarsour—it is an unconstitutional attack on all of our freedoms.

Nothing is more American, more Jewish, or more Muslim than believing that even our fiercest opponents deserve dignity, due process, and the right to speak.

We call on the Trump Administration to release Salah Sarsour immediately and end the use of immigration enforcement as a tool of political silencing, especially against Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab communities.

We urge all Wisconsinites to stand for a country where speaking your mind doesn't lead to detention. Today we stand arm-in-arm fighting for that country.

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