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Monday, July 4, 2016

**FOURTH OF JULY MESSAGE AND MORE**

We, WNY Muslims, are proud to be Americans who care about our community, country, and the world. This 4<sup>th</sup> of July is the best time to tell our fellow Americans to please be safe and take care of our neighbors as well as show compassion to those who are suffering from terrorist attacks here and around the world.

Just recently two Muslim men were attacked outside the mosques in Texas and Florida. Both Baghdad, Iraq and Dhaka, Bangladesh have been attacked by terrorists killing at least 200 in Baghdad (CNN) and at least 22 in Dhaka (WSJ) including two Emory University Muslim Students, Aminta Kabir and Feraaz Hussain. The Bangladeshi army killed 6 terrorists and freed 13 hostages during its rescue operation. Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Shaikh Hasina, announced two days of national mourning on Sunday. She called on Bangladeshi people to rise up against extremism. Although ISIS, who killed mostly Muslims, claimed responsibility for the attacks, home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said the café attacks were “all Bangladeshis and had no foreign connections.”

On Sunday, Iraqi firefighters and civilians pulled out bodies of victims killed by a bomb in Baghdad. Associated Press reports that many of those murdered were children. ISIS claimed responsibility online but NPR wasn't able to verify that claim. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has announced three days of mourning. Amateur videos on social media showed locals throwing objects at a convoy carrying al-Abadi in Karrada. These videos showed protesters yelling "thief!" and "get out!"

We as Americans who stood up earlier along with other countries saying

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“We are Bangladesh” to show the world what we Americans are all about. May Allah (Arabic name for God) guide us all to the right path and protect us from evil. Please stay safe and have a wonderful Fourth of July!

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