



Exposing the True Costs of War  
and Militarism Since 1985

## Veterans Challenge Islamophobia

We are United States military veterans, many of whom saw combat in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Vietnam, who are appalled by the current spate of bigotry, racism, and hatred expressed toward Muslims.

Bigotry and racism violate all of the values we believed we were defending during our military service. The ideals contained in the Constitution, to the degree they have been manifested in the U.S., have been a beacon to much of the world because of the diversity, openness, and respect for people of all faiths that most people in the United States live by. It will be a great calamity if we let fear give rise to hatred.

Fear-mongering endangers our national security and gives rise to hatred and racism that play into the hands of an enemy that wants to convince Muslims around the world that the West, led by the United States, hates them, and that joining ISIL or similar organizations is the only way to truly observe and defend their religion. We can never defend ourselves effectively by playing into our adversary's strategy, giving credibility to their recruitment propagandas. We endanger ourselves whenever we make that mistake.

We call on all in the United States to let their voices be heard and to stand up for the values of tolerance, respect, and love.

**Sign onto this Statement Online:**  
[www.veteranschallengeislamophobia.org](http://www.veteranschallengeislamophobia.org)

A campaign of: Veterans For Peace  
[www.veteransforepace.org](http://www.veteransforepace.org)



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