

Assalamu Alaikum,

After spending the weekend grasping the horrific scope of the loss of life and humanitarian crisis in Palestine, the idea to have Wednesday (October 11) evening's community program first arose Monday morning. At that time, we never imagined that in 2 short days, we would gather over 500 community members (at least) represented by 21 Muslim organizations united under one roof.

Subhan Allah, it is a testimony to Allah SWT words which remind us "And if he comes to Me walking, I go to him running." With sincere effort and the collaboration of so many unrecognized individuals, Allah SWT put Baraka in this endeavor.

It is also a lesson in the power of Unity. An oft repeated criticism is that Muslims can never unite. And yet tonight we exemplified the Hadith about how "The believers, in their love, mutual kindness, and close ties, are like one body; when any part complains, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever." [Muslim]

Despite our many diverse cultures, socio-economic classes, organizational affiliations, languages, tribes, and skin colors, we were blessed to Unite against Injustice under the Banner of Islam. What a Blessing and What an example to our children! Let's hold on to this memory in a special place and remind each other of this when our differences will inevitably arise.

Hearing the voices of our youth reminding us to fill the masjids at Fajr exemplified the best of what we hope for the next generation. These are such challenging times for our youth, where they are under such scrutiny for voicing opinions with long-term consequences. Yet tonight our young speakers exemplified the definition of courage by speaking up for justice. We pray for their protection always.

As we are blessed to enter our warm homes with the blessings of family, food, and peaceful skies, let us remain amongst the grateful. As our hearts have been softened by the Imam's dua, let us find new ways to connect with the oppressed in Palestine (and in so many other forgotten places across the globe). Let this connection allow us to amplify our courage, duas, donations, and avenues to uplift the oppressed. If we achieve this, then truly this gathering was a success!