



Australian Federation  
of Islamic Councils

## **AFIC calls for calm in the Muslim community, the Mufti has made a mistake, let us pray for him and move on**

**Media Statement**

**23 December 2020**

"We are all entitled to a gaffe or two, whilst the Mufti's "letter" to French president Macron goes against community sentiments and the direction that Muslim leadership has taken towards the failed Islamophobic French president, it is clear that the Mufti's letter is an attempt to show Macron that we are not the enemy, but rather the anti-Muslim right-wing extremists in France are the true enemy of France and its interests." Said Dr Rateb Jneid, president of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils.

"It is shameful that our community is at a stage where scholars and leaders are disrespected and are choosing to be fault-finders publicly ridiculing anyone they feel has made a mistake. The purpose of this statement is to do justice to a long-term critic. We stand by the words of Almighty Allah, that we should not allow the salient enmity of anyone to divert us from justice (The Holy Qur'an 5:8). The Mufti is human, he is fallible, he is not appointed for his political acumen, rather he is selected for his Islamic knowledge." Said Dr Jneid.

This latest gaffe from the Mufti is clearly well-intended, even though it is out of touch with the efforts of the community in outing Macron and pinpointing his failures, some might see it as a message shrouded in hubris where an ego as big as that of some of our leaders would lead them to think that they are Saladin, without any heed to the position of Saladin when he successfully gave medical treatment to his enemy Richard the Lionheart. That was a different situation, a different setting, a leader dealing with a leader, an action that ended the ugly, brutal and vicious crusades and brought a temporary truce between the Muslim world and the invading crusaders.



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“With this introduction, the Mufti’s romantic-toned letter simply appeals to a sense of humanity from a failed leader who continues to pillage the African continent and create division within France itself. The Mufti should have been better advised; his “bitanah” (inner circle) has failed him again as they did on the multiple occasions when he was savaged throughout the Australian media. Despite his failings, we believe that his white flag to Macron may have been intended as the olive branch of Islam and peace (tautology acknowledged). We understand the hurt caused by his letter to Muslims throughout the world. We understand the feelings amongst sincere grassroot Muslims. We ask you all to resort to prayer to help him deal more wisely with emerging issues.” Said Dr Jneid.

“With the holiday season at hand, we pray for the Mufti and humbly advise him to look at those around him and ensure that they properly address the more pressing local issues.” Said Dr Jneid.

“We pray for wisdom for all our Imams (including Muftis) and leaders.” Said Imam Kafrawi Hamzah, AFIC’s National Sharia Board.

AFIC wishes humanity a safe and joyous holiday season and prays to Allah to deliver us safely from the Covid nightmare.

**Authorised by:**

Dr. Rateb Jneid

*President*