

*****ACTION ALERT*****

**URGE THE PRESIDENT TO KEEP HIS PROMISE TO PROTECT ZAKAT!
CALL THE WHITE HOUSE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 4th**

On June 4, 2009, in Cairo, Egypt, President Obama made a historic speech promising American Muslims to remove significant hurdles to *zakat*:

"... in the United States, rules on charitable giving have made it harder for Muslims to fulfill their religious obligation. That's why I'm committed to working with American Muslims to ensure that they can fulfill zakat."

President Barack Obama

This June 4th, Muslim Advocates is urging Muslims across the country to call the White House and tell President Obama to **keep his promise** and reform the many federal laws complicating our ability to give *zakat* freely.

Did you know?

- Under the law, the government can prosecute donors and charities for well-intentioned donations if support is sent to prohibited organizations or individuals.
- There are currently at least **five separate lists** for donors to check prior to giving abroad, making it challenging for both individuals and smaller institutions such as mosques to navigate government requirements.
- American Muslims are questioned by federal government officials about their donations to and activities with *lawful* charities and mosques.

The federal government continues to target Muslim donors and charities for investigation and prosecution, while other faith communities give without fear. This is wrong and must change. Together, we must make our voices heard.

ON JUNE 4TH MAKE THE CALL!

1) Make the Call: On the one-year anniversary of the President's Cairo commitment, call the White House at 202-456-1111 and ask President Obama to keep his promise to protect zakat!

To guide your call:

Hello, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I'm calling to ask President Obama to keep his promise made last year to remove hurdles to *zakat*, or charitable giving. As a [DONOR or NONPROFIT LEADER] many of these laws and policies have prevented me from giving charity. In particular, I am concerned about being investigated and prosecuted for giving in good faith.

- I ask the President to take measures to simplify the number of government lists I need to check in order to make a donation.
- I also ask the President to create legal protections to ensure that donors acting in good faith will not be investigated or prosecuted.

Thank you for your time. I will be keeping track of how the President honors his commitment to remove hurdles to *zakat*.

2) Share this Action Alert: Forward this action alert to your family, friends, community listservs. Post it on facebook and twitter. Urge your network to be part of this national call-in day!

For more information, visit our website (www.muslimadvocates.org), or contact **Akil Vohra** at **415.692.1486** or **akil@muslimadvocates.org**.