

Council on American-Islamic Relations Minnesota Chapter 2511 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 100 Minneapolis, MN 55406 Office 612.206.3360 Fax 612.206.3361

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Monday, June 26, 2023

Governor Tim Walz Office of the Governor 130 State Capitol 75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Request for Independent Investigation and Ban on High-Speed Chases

Dear Governor Walz,

CAIR-Minnesota and the families of Salma Abdikadir, Siham Adam, Sabiriin Ali, Sahra Gesaade and Sagal Hersi, who tragically lost their lives in a recent incident involving a motorist, urge your immediate attention to this matter as we seek justice and accountability for the victims and their grieving families.

First and foremost, we kindly request the State of Minnesota to engage outside counsel to conduct a comprehensive investigation into this incident. The scope of the investigation should encompass various aspects, including but not limited to the role of the state trooper, the issuance of licenses, the leaked video footage of the case, and any other relevant factors. Given the presence of conflicting reports and information, it is vital to have an impartial and independent investigation to shed light on the truth.

Furthermore, we urge the state to consider implementing a ban on high-speed chases. The pursuit of suspects at high speeds poses a significant risk to the public, often resulting in tragic consequences such as the loss of innocent lives. We strongly encourage the exploration of safer alternatives for apprehending suspects, ensuring the protection of both law enforcement officers and the general public.

The magnitude of this case and the multitude of unanswered questions make it clear that relying solely on the state's own investigative agencies may not yield the most objective and unbiased results. Therefore, we respectfully request a meeting between the affected families, CAIR-Minnesota, and yourself to discuss our concerns and the urgent need for an independent investigation.

Governor Walz, we appreciate your commitment to justice, fairness, and the well-being of all Minnesotans. We firmly believe that your intervention in this matter can help restore trust and confidence in the investigative process. By addressing these concerns and taking necessary actions, we can pave the way towards a more just and secure society.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to your favorable response and the opportunity to work together towards a resolution that honors the memory of the victims and brings solace to their families. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any additional information or assistance.

Thank you,

Jaylani Hussein, Executive Director CAIR-Minnesotac