



Jan 1, 2020

Statement from StandWithUs Northwest regarding Imam Mohamad Joban

StandWithUs Northwest was shocked to learn of the blatantly antisemitic comments made by a religious leader in the local Islamic community.

Imam Mohamad Joban and his employer, the Muslim Association of Puget Sound, have issued apologies and they have committed to taking steps to ensure that “nothing like this happens again.” Imam Joban claimed to love, honor and respect Jews as members of the human family. We appreciate the kind words, however we don’t think attitudes and beliefs about Jews that have been built over a lifetime can transform so quickly.

It was just over two weeks ago that Imam Joban was laughing and smiling on video as he described Jews as deceitful people who disobeyed God’s will and were turned into apes. His sermon, now available forever on the Internet, is now catalogued among thousands of other videos from extremist preachers railing against Jews. Each of these videos is part of the problem, and it’s why we need to see a strong and sustained response from MAPS.

The apologies certainly contain helpful sentiments, but they are clearly an attempt at damage control after an embarrassing sermon. We call for the apologies to be followed by a sustained effort to transform MAPS’ relationship with, and teachings about, the Jewish community. We are prepared to lend our support in good faith to these efforts.

Randy Kessler
Executive Director
StandWithUs Northwest