

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 589

Honoring Wadee Alfayoumi, a 6-year-old Palestinian-American boy, murdered as a victim of a hate crime for his Palestinian-Muslim identity, in the State of Illinois.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 14, 2024

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Honoring Wadee Alfayoumi, a 6-year-old Palestinian-American boy, murdered as a victim of a hate crime for his Palestinian-Muslim identity, in the State of Illinois.

Whereas Wadee Alfayoumi, a 6-year-old Palestinian-Muslim-American boy, was loved by his family and friends as an energetic, loving, and joyous light who brought sunshine to his loved ones and classmates;

Whereas, on October 14, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., Wadee Alfayoumi was brutally stabbed 26 times by a hate-driven perpetrator and tragically succumbed to his injuries;

Whereas Wadee Alfayoumi's perpetrator has been indicted for a hate crime by the Will County, Illinois, grand jury, and the Department of Justice has opened a hate crimes in-

investigation into the events leading to Wadee Alfayoumi's death, as there is evidence the perpetrator yelled during the brutal killing, "All Muslims must die and your people must die" and has been observed to be a consumer of media containing dehumanizing and hateful rhetoric that is anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian;

Whereas Wadee Alfayoumi was born and raised in the United States, and his family wanted the United States to provide them a life of safety away from dehumanizing and hateful rhetoric toward Palestinian people;

Whereas no one should be a target of hate because of their ethnicity or religion, whether such ethnicity or religion is expressed verbally or through how one dresses, such as through the wearing of a hijab, keffiyeh, turban, mitpahat, tichel, shpitzel, sheitel, kippah, or yarmulke;

Whereas dehumanizing misinformation and disinformation fuel sentiments of hate that result in violence against those who belong or who are perceived to belong to a certain ethnic or religious group;

Whereas the Palestinian community's migration to the United States dates back to the late 19th century;

Whereas the United States is home to one of the largest Palestinian diasporas in the world that is made up of lawyers, doctors, teachers, business owners, law enforcement, and others, all who contribute to the history, arts, commerce, promise, and character of the United States;

Whereas Wadee Alfayoumi shared a heritage, history, love, culture, tradition, and brilliance belonging to the Palestinian people and was a symbol of another great Palestinian life full of promise;

Whereas Palestinian children, Israeli children, children in the United States, and those all across the globe deserve to live in peace and be free from discrimination, hate crimes, and violence; and

Whereas the recent Israel-Gaza conflict has had a particularly devastating impact on children in the region, including at one point resulting in a Palestinian child dying every 10 minutes, according to the World Health Organization: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes that—

2 (1) the United States lost the beautiful light of
3 Wadee Alfayoumi because of hate;

4 (2) it is the duty of elected officials and media
5 to tell the truth without dehumanizing rhetoric when
6 informing the public of factual information;

7 (3) freedom of speech and peaceful protest are
8 constitutionally protected and a fundamental corner-
9 stone of democracy; and

10 (4) the United States has zero tolerance for
11 hate crimes, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and anti-
12 Palestinian and anti-Arab discrimination.

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