**(Date)**

To Whomever It May Concern:

This letter is regarding one of our students, **(Insert name)**, a Muslim who follows the Sunni Orthodox Islamic faith.

Sunni Orthodox Muslims have a sincerely held religious belief about the impermissibility of the Covid-19 vaccines. Authoritative Muslim scholars around the world have issued religious verdicts (*fatwas*) about the Islamic permissibility of the vaccine. Islam has certain foundational principles with which taking this vaccine would be in direct conflict. This is *not* a personal conclusion. Rather, it is the religious edict issued by numerous Islamic religious clergy.

One example of such a *fatwa* was issued on March 2021 by Majlisul Ulama in Africa. A second example is the Wifaqul Ulama, one of the major scholarly bodies in South Africa representing many Islamic institutions across the country. A third example is the Association of Jurists and Imams, led by Shaykh Muhammad al-Sufi b. Mukhtass, one of the leading Islamic scholars in the world.

According to these religious authorities and numerous others, it is incumbent on Sunni Orthodox Muslims to abstain from taking the Covid-19 vaccines.

The religious derivation (*ijtihad*) for this position is derived from Quran and Sunnah (i.e., statements of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)) and certain Islamic legal principles.

“***He makes lawful to them what is good and pure and prohibits them what is foul and impure***.” (Qur'an 7:157)

Certain chemical ingredients within these vaccines are deemed impure or are derived from what is impure, according to Islamic law’s religious definition of purity. This means that they are impermissible for Muslims to consume or to inject into their bodies. For Sunni Orthodox Muslims, to do so would be a direct violation of their faith.

Furthermore, refusal of medical treatment and placing one’s reliance upon Allah and acceptance of His Divine Decree, is among matters endorsed by the Quran and Sunnah. This is supported by religious texts, for example what Al-Bukhari reports from ‘Ata b. Abi Rabah from Ibn ‘Abbas that a woman came to the Prophet—peace be upon him—and said, “I suffer from seizures to the point that my body becomes exposed. So, pray to Allah for me.” He said, “If you would like, you can endure it and be rewarded with Paradise. And if you would like, I can ask Allah to cure you.” She responded, “I will endure it.” She, then, said, “I become exposed. So, pray to Allah for me not to become exposed.” So, he prayed for her.

There are many details that can be elaborated here, but the point being that Sunni Orthodox Muslims are obligated to avoid medical treatments that are derived from impure chemical ingredients and are enjoined, in those cases, to be patient and trust in Allah’s decree in this life (*dunya*) in order to be rewarded with Paradise (*jannah*), as the narration from Al-Bukhari describes.

In light of these sacred religious tenets, we respectfully request that the sincerely held religious beliefs of Sunni Orthodox Muslims be accommodated with an exception to the Covid vaccine mandate.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Muhammad Reza

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*Executive Director*