

Bismillah Ar-Rahman Ar-Rahim

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

Assalaamualaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa barakatuh

PREAMBLE

The Queen's University Muslim Students' Association (QUMSA) aims to provide Muslims with the best environment possible on Queen's Campus that adheres as much as possible to Islamic principles. Our services include providing and maintaining a place of prayer on campus, organizing Friday Khutbas, daily iftars and Ramadan activities, guidance on Halal food availability on campus, as well as many other educational and religious services. We would like to provide an environment that offers almost the same comforts of home, whether you are from the area, or even from another country. In order for us to provide such an environment, we must keep the safety and security of all our members first and foremost in mind.

As such, we have drafted a QUMSA Musalla Code of Conduct that is available at <http://www.qumsa.net/Musalla%20Policy.pdf>. We are trying to make all members aware of what the policy states so as that it can be acted upon as soon as possible. If we can get everyone to read, comprehend, and implement the policy, we can ensure that the musalla will be the ideal environment where people can feel safe, relaxed, and able to perform their acts of worship in the best manner.

Our musalla is located in the John Deutsch University Centre, which is open 24 hours a day, all days of the week, except for in the winter break. As such, it is necessary for QUMSA to take certain security measures to ensure that the musalla can be available with the best of security throughout the day and whatever hours the musalla is occupied.

The recent measures that QUMSA is taking are a proactive step ensuring that a recent security breach will never occur again. The incident is outlined below omitting certain details in order to protect the identity of certain individuals.

RECENT INCIDENTS

Between the hours of 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., a break in occurred in rm. 232 of the JDUC on the day of Saturday, September 20th, 2008. A door panel was broken through and the intruder was able to unlock the door through the panel. Upon entering the room, the intruder looked through the black filing cabinet as well as removing certain property that belonged to QUMSA. Alhumdulillah, no one was present in the musalla at the time the break in occurred

and therefore no one was put at risk of harm. The property is replaceable, but our biggest concern was for the safety of our members, particularly if they were present in rm. 231 at the time. If anyone has any details pertaining to suspicious activities around that time and day near the musalla, please call Campus Security at 613-533-6733.

Between the hours of 11:30 p.m. Sunday, September 21st, and 8:30 a.m. of Monday, September 22nd, a person(s) vandalised a sign indicating the location of the club space for QUMSA. The message was hateful and incites violence against Muslims. It has been reported to the Campus Security Services as well as to the Kingston Police, both of whom were able to take immediate action and have been of great help thus far.

PRACTICAL SAFETY MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY

- *Absolutely **do not** leave any personal belongings in the musalla unattended at any time.* QUMSA cannot be held responsible if people leave behind any valuable possessions that go missing. We will do our best to facilitate a search for the possessions, but we are not liable for the compensation of said valuables.
- *Absolutely **do not** leave any money in the musalla.* For donations, please consult any QUMSA Exec member and they will direct you to the proper venues.
- *Absolutely **do not** leave the musalla open and unattended.* If there are no brothers present in the musalla, please close and lock the windows and doors of the brothers' side. If there are no sisters present, please close and lock the windows and doors of the sisters' side. There is no expectation to observe the coming and going of members on either side of the musalla. Please use reasonable judgement when closing up.
- If people are planning to stay in the musalla past the regular prayer hours, please notify any QUMSA Exec member and they will take the appropriate steps to ensure a safe stay.
- If people are staying alone, past the prayer hours, please notify Campus Security Services (613-533-6111) and notify them of your current situation. They will send someone every once in a while to check up on you. When leaving, please notify the Campus Security, follow their instructions, and then proceed to lock up.

Insha'Allah, if everyone can follow these steps, we can ensure a certain level of security and comfort to all of our members.

QUMSA has taken immediate action on these incidents and has launched a task force in order to coordinate with local authorities and groups about an appropriate course of action. We are also working hard with different bodies within the university to ensure the complete safety of our members. The solidarity of our members is absolutely crucial in such incidents, and we should all work together towards providing a better environment not just for all current members, but any potential members as well. If there are any temporary inconvenient steps taken by the Exec, then it is for the general good of all the members. Kindly check your emails for follow up messages regarding this topic.

JazakumAllah ta'ala khairun.

Assalaamualaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa barakatuh.

QUMSA Executive Committee