

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

المجلس الإسلامي الأصيل غرب استراليا  
THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## PRESS RELEASE

Attention: News editors. Social affair, Ethnic media, interfaith media, and community writers

Monday 15 December 2014

### **“Sydney Siege” Armed man holding hostages in Martin Place**

The unfolding events in Sydney CBD are still unclear however we strongly and unequivocally condemn all and any violence in the name of Islam.

As Australian Muslims and religious leaders our thoughts and prayer go to the hostages, their families. The Islamic Council hope for a peaceful resolution to the “Sydney siege” as the incident threatens to stimulate racial tensions in the nation particularly with the increased reports of hate crimes against the Muslim community since September this year.

While the real motivation behind this criminal act is still unknown, the Islamic Council of Western Australia calls upon all Australians to demonstrate unity during such time and speak up against bigots that want to drive a wedge between Australians of diverse cultures and beliefs.

We remind everyone that the Arabic inscription on the black flag means “There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is His Messenger” and it does not represent in any way shape or form the terror of innocent civilians witnessed today at Martin Place.

< end press release >

Islamic Council of Western Australia Inc.

Islamic Council of Western Australia (ICWA) was established in 1976 and incorporated as a State Council for Islamic affairs in 1977. We promote unity and friendship amongst Muslims and other communities within and outside of Western Australia.  
<http://www.islamicouncilwa.com.au/>