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Kamal Nawash Founder of the Free Muslims Coalition



Kamal Nawash began life as a Palestinian refugee. One of six children born in Bethlehem, Mr. Nawash was nine years old when his family arrived in New Orleans in 1979. Upon completing his education in 1997, Mr. Nawash became the Legal Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). Today, he is an attorney with degrees in business and law and international legal studies. An active member in his community, as well as in his voting district, Mr. Nawash ran as a Republican candidate for Virginia State Senate in 2003.

After 9/11, Mr. Nawash saw the need for Muslims to speak out against terror and founded the Free Muslims Coalition to respond to this need. Mr. Nawash is committed to fighting terrorism because it threatens the United States and the rest of the world, including the Muslim and Arab world.

He has studied the causes of terrorism for a decade and is the author of several articles on Islamic terrorism, political Islam, the Arab/Israeli conflict, the spread of Muslim extremism, terrorist financing, and on the economic implications of globalization for the Middle East and North Africa. With the Free Muslims Coalition, Mr. Nawash wants to expose and root out terrorism at every level, from the sympathizers, to the financial supporters of terrorism, to imams and community leaders preaching a message of hate, to Islamic terrorists themselves.

Mr. Nawash's insights come not only from having expertise on the Middle East and the Muslim world, but also from his detailed understanding of American Muslim organizations.

The Free Muslims Coalition promotes a modern secular interpretation of Islam that is peace-loving, democracy-loving and compatible with other faiths and beliefs. Mr. Nawash's efforts are unique; he encourages other Muslims to be both proud of their faith and critical at the same time. As he recently said, "The only way that we as a people can make a profound difference and improve the quality of life for all Muslims is if all of us make a difference individually."