

January 25, 2012

To the editor of the Lantern:

One has to wonder why someone would place an advertisement in a campus newspaper on a campus with an active Muslim Student Association titled "Former Leaders of the Muslim Student Association (MSA): *Where Are They Now?*" The only possible reason one can think of for placing such an incendiary piece of advertising is to incite fear, suspicion, ethnic and religious hatred and possible violence against the named organization. To print such advertising on the heels of an arson attack on a Muslim family in Hilliard sends a chilling message to the Muslim student community: this is not a safe place for you. It is therefore in the strongest terms that the University Interfaith Association must protest the lack of editorial judgment and the promotion of religious and ethnic hatred that the Lantern's decision to print this advertisement represents.

The University Interfaith Association consists of the outside advisors of religious and worldview organizations serving students at The Ohio State University. Our membership includes a wide range of religious groups and worldview organizations who agree to a Code of Ethics which can be found at [www.osuinterfaith.org](http://www.osuinterfaith.org). The Code of Ethics governs our relationships toward one another, our conduct in the university, and how we will relate to the student body at The Ohio State University. The Muslim Student Association is one of our member organizations in good standing.

To the members of the Muslim Student Association, we want to say, "We stand with you and are thankful that you are part of the Ohio State community." To the rest of the university, we want to say, "We hope you will defy the hopes of the advertisers and take time to learn about the beliefs and culture of your Muslim classmates and colleagues." And to the Lantern, we would urge not only that you apologize to the Muslim Student Association and Muslim students in general for the chilling message this editorial choice has made, but that you rise to the best tradition of investigative journalistic work and expose the individuals and groups behind this campaign, as well as the chilling impact such campaigns have upon a significant and valued part of our student body.

Sincerely,

The University Interfaith Association

Executive Team

Bob Trube, President and staff with Christian Graduate Student Alliance (InterVarsity)

Rev. Tommy Faris, University Baptist Church

Sharon Moss, Secular Students Alliance

Bob Roehm, North Columbus Friends Meeting

Austin Schafer, St Thomas More Newman Center