

Letter to the Oregonian
November 29, 2010

To the Editor:

The arrest of Mohammad Othman Mohamud last Friday for the alleged attempt to detonate a bomb at the annual tree lighting ceremony at Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland is a sad reminder that the threat of ideologically inspired violence is ever present and no community in the world is immune. Clearly these actions are antithetical to the strong intercultural and interfaith efforts towards peace and understanding that are present in many communities throughout Oregon. In the days ahead, it is important that the response to Mr. Mohamud's actions is based on the rule of law and reinforce the principles of community and equality that we strongly value. It is also important that we stand united in our opposition to any attempts to denigrate or attack any Muslim, Muslim organization or place of worship as what happened to the Salman Alfarisi Islamic Center in Corvallis on Sunday. Violence of this nature is also antithetical to what we value in Oregon and only works to further divide people and erode our collective sense of community well-being and security.

David Leslie
EMO Executive Director
0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite B
Portland, OR 97239
(503) 221-1054