



**ECUMENICAL
MINISTRIES**
— OF OREGON —

EMO issues statement on Arson Attack at CAIRO Playground August 7, 2025

On Monday, Aug. 3, 2025, in a deliberate attack on the organization's preschool, the recently completed playground at the Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organization (CAIRO), was burned to the ground. While no classroom structures were burned, the playground is a total loss. Local law enforcement and fire departments have confirmed this was arson and are investigating it as a bias crime. Once again, we at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) find ourselves condemning a violent act against a vulnerable group of people (previous statements: [here](#) and [here](#)).

We must especially protect spaces for all children and families in our communities from fear, hate, and violence. Attacking a culturally specific organization's site designed for imagination, play and joy is a deliberate act of cruelty. Where a brand-new playground once stood, ready for children to explore the structures, climb a rock wall and be kept safe by new fencing, is now charred wood and twisted melted plastic. It is a chilling monument to the xenophobic and anti-immigrant sentiment spreading throughout the state and the country.

CAIRO has pledged to rebuild and set up a GoFundMe to further that project. We admire their resilience, and yet we are distressed that a group that has served its community faithfully for over 10 years in various forms must face this new challenge. We cannot let this hate and violence persist in Oregon.