

ALIANZA ISLAMICA

***A platform for
change, not
self-gain!***

Since our establishment, Alianza Islamica has stood for change and making a difference. We have participated in many worthwhile causes for the betterment of the community. Whether people perceive we have made a difference or not, I think we have. We were acting out of concern for the community in its present state. It is our natural Islamic disposition to become involved in the community and uplift conditions in any way possible. "Islam is a community based way of life, with out it there is "NO Islam". Therefore, our participation has been for the pleasure and love of God.

As we continue to do what we do, we fortify our position in the community, which results in our raised status amongst our peers. This manifestation is of little importance to us, because our commitment is religiously motivated, not an issue of dollars, voters or a popularity contest. Unfortunately, we have gotten hoodwinked into many activities that initially seemed noble and sincere, but later revealed its true ugly face of self-gain and self-empowerment. It is very upsetting and disappointing when you're trying to do what's right but are told one thing and shown another. It tends to try your patience.

However, the Qur'an says:

"Ye shall certainly be tried and tested in your possessions and in yourselves; and ye shall certainly hear much that will grieve you, from those who received The Book before you and from those who worship partners besides Allah. But if ye persevere patiently, and guard against evil,-then that indeed is a matter of great resolution". Qur'an (3.186.)

We have been used as a platform by many local politicians, interfaith dialogues, leadership conferences etc., to participate in what they describe as activities for the betterment of the community, but in reality were self-empowering objectives with hidden agendas, thus wasting our time, energy and manpower.

Despite our recent conclusions we will, nevertheless, continue to serve our community as best as we possibly can. However, we will close our door to any joint ventures for now, until we meet someone equally, sincerely and genuinely interested in helping the community raise itself from its current position. Someone willing to follow our lead.

People must acknowledge and accept the fact that Alianza Islamica is a power broker in El Barrio and will continue to be one insha'allah(God willing) as we grow in power and structure, thereby, requiring the respect it demands. Individuals or organizations cannot come into our community to dictate, much less teach us how to change and uplift our positions. We on the other hand, are in a better position to organize, lead and dictate the needs of the community. Because most of Alianza's members grew up in El Barrio and have been in a similar situation in one way or another. Therefore, we know what the struggle is and what it feels like.

We are not a vehicle for power hungry, self-interested individuals or organizations. These people must realize that we must answer to a power greater than anything or anyone. That power being ALLAH! Therefore, we will never compromise our beliefs or position for a moment or at any time.

Views expressed by the Director during an informal gathering at Alianza.