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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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**Dromm Joins *I Am a Muslim, Too* Rally  
with Faith Communities in Support of American Muslims**

**Jackson Heights, NY**, March 7, 2011 -- New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm joined members of diverse faith communities throughout his district to stand in solidarity with American Muslims in response to Congressional hearings dubbed "The Radicalization of Muslim Communities in America" led by Congressman Peter King (R-NY). On Sunday, supporters rallied in front of Dromm's community office in Jackson Heights as they prepared to partake in the "Today, I Am a Muslim, Too" campaign which took place in Times Square later in the day.

Dromm, the Chair of the New York City Council's Committee on Immigration, urged the Congressman from Long Island not to vilify and alienate our nation's Muslims.

"Congressman King should be ashamed of himself for doing this," said Dromm. "His religious intolerance will only further divide our country. Instead, we should be directing our efforts to protecting the freedoms that make our nation great. That is why today, I am Muslim too. We must show Congress that the strength of America continues to come from the unity of people from all religions, races and ethnic backgrounds."

Leading organizations which protect the civil and human rights of South Asian and Muslim immigrants were also on hand to echo the Council Member's sentiments and condemn the upcoming hearings.

"Islamophobia and racism does not make us safer," said Monami Maulik, Executive Director of Desis Rising Up & Moving (DRUM). "Peter King's hearings targeting Muslims are his latest attempt to divide us and stoke fears for political ends. Just as masses of people stood up for human rights after his passage of the anti-immigrant Sensenbrenner bill in 2005, so too do conscious people stand now to end these witch-hunts."

"SAYA! works with youth from multiple faiths and understands that it takes trust to build ties between communities. Demonizing a community as radical only increases mistrust. We stand today and everyday in solidarity with American Muslims and those of all faiths," says Udai Tambar, Director of South Asian Youth Action (SAYA!).

"As immigrants, we especially realize one of America's greatest freedoms – the freedom to be who we are and not be persecuted because of it," said Afreen Alam, Deputy Director of Chhaya, CDC. "The generations before us have fought to protect this freedom so that we can enjoy this privilege today and it is now upon us to continue that fight and stand by Muslim Americans against xenophobia.

Imam Qayyoom from the Muhammadi Center of Jackson Heights also stood next to Council Member Dromm to spread a message of peace and harmony.

"All faiths are united for peace. A faithful Muslim cannot be a terrorist. Those who engage in terrorism in the name of religion must be punished by the full extent of the law."

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