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## **MAS Condemns the Assassination of Sheikh Yassin, Calls for Congressional Action**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

..: MAS Freedom Foundation :..

March 23, 2004 PRESS RELEASE

### **MAS Condemns the Assassination of Sheikh Yassin, Calls for Congressional Action**

The Muslim American Society condemns the assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and calls on Congress to investigate Israel's violation of the U.S. Arms Export Control Act.

(Washington DC) - The Muslim American Society (MAS) joins world leaders in strongly condemning the assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a quadriplegic Palestinian religious leader, as he was leaving a mosque after performing prayers with companions.

This horrific act will plunge the region into further turmoil and escalate the cycle of violence in a region already suffering under an unlawful Israeli occupation and devastated by unrelenting bloodshed. The assassination will undermine the stated U.S. policy of fostering peace and stability in the region.

The killing of Sheikh Yassin has brought condemnation from leaders worldwide.

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana condemned Israel's killing of Sheikh Yassin as "very, very bad news" for the Middle East peace process.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said, "[Israel] is not entitled to go for this type of unlawful killing, and we therefore condemn it.

"It is unacceptable, it is unjustified, and it is very unlikely to achieve its objective."

MAS is deeply concerned about President George W. Bush's administration's laissez-faire policy exhibited towards Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, especially since Sharon's policy of extra-judicial assassination violates international law and undermines the very stated position of President Bush's peace policy for the region.

MAS Freedom Executive Director Mahdi Bray said, "This is an unlawful, cowardly, and dangerous act of state-sponsored terrorism committed by Sharon's government which should be strongly condemned by our government.

“By continuing a policy of not holding Israel accountable to violations of U.S. and international law, we seriously undermine our national interest and any genuine efforts in the war on terrorism. Such policies continue to contribute to the devaluation of Palestinian lives and further undercut legitimate aspirations towards creating a climate for lasting peace and freedom in the region.”

MAS Freedom Foundation has contacted members of Congress asking for an immediate investigation and hearing on Israel’s continued use of U.S.-made weapons to attack civilians, a clear violation of the U.S. Arms Export Control Act.

MAS Freedom Foundation will hold a press conference in Washington DC, at 23<sup>rd</sup> and C Streets, across from the State Department, on March 23, 2004, addressing Sheikh Yassin’s assassination and U.S. policy in the region.

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\* The Freedom Foundation is the public affairs arm of the Muslim American Society (MAS), a national grassroots religious, social, and educational organization. Learn more at [www.masnet.org](http://www.masnet.org).

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