

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2021

**AN UNLIKELY ALLIANCE TO PROMOTE HUMAN DIGNITY AND EQUALITY
AT WASHINGTON, D.C., EVENT**

WASHINGTON, DC: Major faith leaders from around the world will gather to announce the establishment of a global alliance founded upon the principle of “harmony and unity amid diversity,” at a religious forum and book launch that will be held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at Masjid Muhammad, The Nation’s Mosque, 1519 Islamic Way (4th Street) NW, Washington, D.C., 20001.

The book, “God Needs No Defense: Reimagining Muslim – Christian Relations in the 21st Century,” is an anthology of essays written by preeminent Muslim and Christian scholars, produced by religious organizations sponsoring the event. Spiritual leaders of Indonesia’s Nahdlatul Ulama, the world’s largest Muslim organization, have dedicated the book to German theologian Archbishop Thomas Schirrmacher, in honor of his appointment in February 2021 as Secretary General & CEO of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), which represents 600 million Protestants in 140 countries.

The religious forum will kick off with a 2 p.m. press conference featuring Kyai Haji Yahya Cholil Staquf, General Secretary of the Nahdlatul Ulama Supreme Council; Archbishop Thomas Schirrmacher; and Imam Talib Shareef of Masjid Muhammad, The Nation’s Mosque; as well as additional interfaith representatives. The Nation’s Mosque – a community of the late Imam W. Deen Mohammed in Washington, DC – will host the event. Located in the historic Shaw district, less than two miles from the White House, Masjid Muhammad is the first mosque in the United States built by descendants of enslaved African Americans.

At the press conference, KH. Yahya Cholil Staquf, Archbishop Schirrmacher and Imam Talib Shareef will announce the establishment of a global alliance that seeks to prevent the political weaponization of identity; curtail the spread of communal hatred; promote solidarity and respect among the diverse people, cultures and nations of the world; and foster the emergence of a truly just and harmonious world order founded upon respect for the equal rights and dignity of every human being.

Immediately following the press conference, the religious forum will continue with the book launch and a panel discussion that will be broadcast virtually (live-streamed) worldwide.

Media are invited to attend the press conference and the program onsite and should RSVP to info@thenationsmosque.org. Journalists may request one-on-one interviews with the principal speakers. Individuals interested in viewing the virtual program can register at bit.ly/rsvp-god-needs-no-defense-virtual.

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For more information about this event’s partners, click on the links provided: [Nahdlatul Ulama](#), the world’s largest Muslim organization; [Institute for Humanitarian Islam](#); [Masjid Muhammad, The Nation’s Mosque](#); [World Evangelical Alliance](#); and the [Center for Shared Civilizational Values](#).