



September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows
www.peacefultomorrow.org

Contact: Shonna Carter or David Lerner, Riptide Communications
917-453-8286 or 212-260-5000
Talat Hamdani, Peaceful Tomorrows, 631-655-8781

**9/11 Victims' Family Members Say NYS Hearings on Homeland Security Tainted
by Anti-Muslim Witnesses**

Families Say Witnesses Slated for Testimony Before the Committee Have History of Inflammatory Speech; Urge Senators to Seek Real Solutions Rather than Bow to Intolerance

*New York, NY April 7th, 2011-- As the State Senate Committee Chairman on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs, Greg Ball, prepares to conduct controversial hearings on homeland security issues, members of **September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows** released the following statement:*

September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows takes very seriously the issue of public safety and the need to be prepared. We do not want any other person to experience the violent death of a loved one, as our members did nine and a half years ago. Indeed, it is the primary duty of our elected officials to protect the citizenry at large.

The New York State Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs hearing tomorrow has the right title but the wrong witnesses. 'Reviewing our Preparedness: An Examination of New York's Public Protection Ten Years after September 11' is a worthy topic. Unfortunately, some currently listed as invited speakers have a history of inflaming issues rather than seeking pragmatic solutions.

We demand that all elected officials immediately cease any injection of bigotry, religious intolerance and partisanship into public debate on security preparedness. New Yorkers want real discussion about public protection, not political posturing. Our lives depend on it.

September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows is an organization founded by family members of those killed on September 11, 2001. Currently comprised of over 200 families, the group advocates nonviolence and adherence to the rule of law in the pursuit of justice and accountability