

US President Joe Biden releases strategy to counter anti-Muslim, anti-Arab hate



Published on December 13, 2024

Document Date: Sat, Apr 11 2026 08:39:27 am

Category: ,English,International - ,Snippets

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Washington, December 13 (QNA) – US President Joe Biden released a strategy for countering anti-Muslim and anti-Arab hate, up sharply since the start of the war in Gaza, calling for urgent, continued work to reduce discrimination and bias.

The 64-page document, which maps out more than 100 executive branch actions, comes weeks before the inauguration of former President Donald Trump, who imposed a travel ban on people

from some majority Muslim countries during his first term that Biden rescinded on his first day in office.

It mirrors a comprehensive strategy to fight antisemitism released by the White House in September 2023, and comes more than a year after death of six-year-old boy Wadea Al-Fayoume, stabbed by a man who targeted him and his mother because they were Palestinian-American.

In a foreword to the strategy, Biden called the attacks on the Chicago boy and his mother “heinous acts” and noted a spike in anti-Muslim and anti-Arab hate crimes, discrimination and bullying that he called wrong and unacceptable.

“Muslims and Arabs deserve to live with dignity and enjoy every right to the fullest extent along with all of their fellow Americans,” Biden wrote. “Policies that result in discrimination against entire communities are wrong and fail to keep us safe.” The Council on American Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights group, called the strategy “too little, too late” and faulted the White House for not promising any changes to a federal watchlist and “no-fly” list that includes many Arab and Muslim Americans, and for failing to end the war in Gaza, which has been driving Islamophobia.

The Trump transition team had no immediate comment on the strategy or whether it would support it.

