



**PRESS RELEASE
NO EMBARGO**

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AL JAMA-AH condemns religious discrimination against Muslim woman who's application for a gun licence was turned down because she wears a hijab

THE AL JAMA-AH party is dismayed at South African Police Service's action to have allegedly refused a Muslim woman a gun licence on grounds of her wearing a hijab (head scarf) in her application photo.

We demand a thorough and urgent investigation into this blatant act of religious discrimination. Just recently a major in the South African National Defence Force who had to endure months of disciplinary hearing for refusing to remove her hijab from under beret, won the right to wear a hijab with her uniform.

We are alarmed at the continuous harassment of Muslim women who wear hijab. We call on the government to impose strict fines on individuals in state employment and in the private sectors who are found guilty of religious discrimination against any person of faith. These discriminatory practices are part of the GBV inherent in our government departments and against the President's call for professionalism.

SAPS discrimination against the woman, violates her human rights and that of our country's Bill of Rights. The supervisor of the brigadier fingered does not make the cut and should be removed. We further applaud the chairperson of PC Committee on Police Ms Tina Joemat-Petterson's call on the SAPS Management to provide a reason why the woman was refused a gun licence.

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