

March 9, 2026

Chair Anne Healey

House Rules Committee

230 Taylor House Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony In Support of HJ 9 Condemning Violence and Violations of Law - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza, and Sudan

Chair Healey and Members of the Committee:

I am here to testify in strong favor of House Joint Resolution 9.

My name is Muzna Ansari, I am the Director of the Howard County Muslim Alliance. We are a group dedicated to civically empowering American Muslims in Howard County.

Our Muslim faith teaches us that all human life is sacred- regardless of the person's faith, the color of their skin, their ethnicity, or which country they are from. Whether someone resides in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, or Gaza—if they are subjected to oppression, violence, or genocide—their life matters. The belief in the sanctity of life is of course not limited to the Muslim faith- countless faith traditions believe in preserving the dignity of each human being. I am sure each of you, our electeds leaders, believes in the sanctity of life.

Your responsibility as our leaders, in the progressive state of Maryland, is to stand up for this sanctity of life. Voting in favor of HJ09 is the first step in standing up for the sanctity of each life in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and Palestine. This is the bare minimum each of you as our leaders could and should be doing.

I respectfully urge a favorable vote.

Thank you.