

# Democrats to Attend Prayer Service at Dar al-Hijrah Mosque

Adam Kredo writes in the [according](#) to the *New York Times*.

Beyer told the *Times* that the visit could help diffuse tensions with the Muslim community in the wake of the San Bernardino attack and the recent terrorist massacre in Paris.

“After Paris and after the House resolution a few weeks ago, we just thought it was really important to continue to reiterate to the many, many peace-loving Muslim Americans that they were still a welcome part of our community,” Bayer said.

The accused attackers in San Bernardino [according](#) to the Investigative Project on Terrorism.

Dar al-Hijrah has come “under numerous investigations for financing and providing aid and comfort” to extremist groups, according to these records compiled by the Investigative Project.

The FBI indicted a former board member at the mosque, Abdulhaleem al-Ashqar, in 2004 for his alleged participation in a financing scheme meant to provide money to Hamas.

While al-Ashqar was acquitted on these charges, he was sentenced to 11 years in prison for contempt and obstruction of the investigation.

A founding member of Dar al-Hijrah, Ismail Elbarasse, also has been accused of working for Hamas’s top leadership. The FBI accused Elbarasse of wiring \$735,000 to a Hamas

operative in 2004, according to the Investigative Project.

Past preachers at the mosque have been accused of disseminating extremist rhetoric that encourages violence.

Imam Shakir El-Sayed in 2009 condoned Palestinian violence during a speech at the mosque.

“Islam does not accept peace when its communities are humiliated, when it is exploited, when it is manipulated, when our rights are taken away, when our communities are being killed or attacked, the blood is being shed, then this is not time to talk about peace. It will only be time to fight back,” the imam said, according to the Investigative Project.

The mosque has additionally hosted Sami Al-Arian, who [covered the mosque](#), told the *Washington Free Beacon* that Dar al-Hijrah has been a “premier” spot for “terrorist recruitment” and questioned why Democrats would choose this as a site to promote tolerance...