

Zohran Mamdani Refuses to Back Down Amid Growing 9/11 Memorial Backlash

As America approaches the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, a growing controversy is unfolding in New York City over who should stand among those honoring the nearly 3,000 lives lost.

Despite mounting opposition from many victims' relatives and first responders, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani says he will attend this year's Sept. 11 remembrance ceremony at the National September 11 Memorial.

According to USA Today, Mamdani told reporters he intends to join survivors, victims' families and first responders at the annual observance, calling Sept. 11 "a horrific terror attack" that forever changed the nation.

"I will proudly honor the families, the survivors, the first responders forever impacted by that horrific terror attack by standing alongside them at this year's 9/11 commemoration," Mamdani said, according to USA Today. He also said the anniversary is a reminder that "we will never forget."

His remarks come as an online petition urging organizers to bar him from attending continues to gain momentum. USA Today reported that the petition has attracted thousands of signatures, including many from relatives of those killed in the attacks.



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For those families, the issue is not political—it is deeply

personal.

According to USA Today, petition organizers argue the annual memorial should remain a sacred occasion dedicated exclusively to remembering the victims, honoring first responders and reflecting on the unity that emerged in the wake of one of the darkest days in American history. They contend that Mamdani's previous comments surrounding the phrase "globalize the intifada," along with other statements and associations they believe failed to adequately condemn terrorism, make his attendance inappropriate for the milestone event.

Among those speaking out is Giovanni Galante, whose wife, Grace, was killed in the attacks.

According to The Times of Israel, Galante described the memorial ceremony as sacred to the families who continue to carry the grief of Sept. 11 and said Mamdani would be "an unwelcome guest."

Cheri Sparacio, whose husband, Thomas, was also killed on Sept. 11, echoed those concerns. She believes Mamdani's presence would cause additional pain for families who gather each year to remember loved ones whose lives were cut short.

Twenty-five years after terrorists attacked the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and United Flight 93, the emotions surrounding Sept. 11 remain as raw for many families as they were in the days that followed.

As this landmark anniversary approaches, this discussion serves as another reminder that the legacy of 9/11 is not confined to history books—it continues to shape conversations about remembrance, sacrifice and the enduring promise to never forget.

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