

# **National Black Church Initiative**

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## **The National Black Church Initiative Says The Rev. Jessie Jackson and Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan Should Speak for African Americans for our Beloved Brother Muhammad Ali**

*Jessie Knows the African American Community's Heart  
on this Issue*

**Washington, DC** – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans, have no problem with the family's wishes that multiple denominations and individuals speak at the public service on behalf of our beloved brother Muhammad Ali. We understand that there will be a separate Muslim service attended from foreign dignitaries and Presidents from the Middle East and elsewhere throughout the world. We respect and honor this.

We are honored to know that our brother has had such an international appeal on behalf of peace and justice all over the world. There are few individuals and especially African American Black

Muslims who possess the capacity, dignity and voice to speak with power and clarity at this moment in the history of our people and the crisis of the world.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative, “I would have loved to be at this gathering, among this tribe of peace loving people. This is another opportunity for healing and forgiveness. Atonement should be at the center of our wills and what better time to do that than in the ongoing service of our dear and beloved brother Muhammad Ali.”

We understand that President Barak Obama may not be the right person to speak on behalf of this Nation at this time over the body of Muhammad Ali, given his Middle East policy and his deadly and indiscriminate use of drone warfare. The Obama Administration has proven to be drunk on killing the terrorists and the innocent. No one can argue that in all of those thousand drone strikes directed by the CIA and the President that innocent women and children and old men and old women have not been killed while carrying out the daily works of their lives (accidentally or otherwise) because they sought the blood of one person. This is why President Obama cannot speak over the body of Muhammad Ali, our beloved Muslim brother.

This is why we make an unusual appeal to have the Rev. Jessie Jackson and the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan speak on behalf of Black people all over the diaspora over the body of this great man. We know that there has been pain and hurt and misunderstandings across the years amongst the parties, but Muhammad Ali’s death should be a time of bringing people together especially in the African American community and healing our wounds. Our pain is so deep, our misunderstanding needs clarity and we need to take every moment to bring about healing, especially at a time like this.

### **About NBCI**

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI’s mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. Our methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science.

NBCI’s purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI’s programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at [www.naltblackchurch.com](http://www.naltblackchurch.com).