

BELIEVERS BAIL OUT



2025
ANNUAL
REPORT

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SUPPORT OUR WORK

2025 IN REVIEW

MARCH

Ramadan Reflections

BBO hosted a reflection and Iftar with Br. Marcellus Williams Jr. in conversation with organizer Br. Kanoya Ali

JUNE

Black Mama's Bail Out

BBO gave \$87,500 to bail out eight Black mothers for Black Mama's Bail Out

MARCH

Zine: Letters from the Inside

BBO volunteers worked with Jamaat Ibad Al Rahman at Statesville Prison to create a zine of essays reflecting on Islam and incarceration illustrated by Sara Alfageeh

AUGUST

Black August Book Club

BBO members observed Black August and participated in a study of Safiyah Bukhari's "The War Before"

WHO WE ARE

BELIEVERS BAIL OUT (BBO) IS A COMMUNITY-LED EFFORT TO BAIL OUT MUSLIMS IN PRETRIAL INCARCERATION AND ICE CUSTODY.

Based in Chicago, which is home to the largest single-site jail in the United States, BBO supports efforts to abolish money bail and raise awareness within Muslim communities on the injustices of the bail bond system, immigration bonds, and the broader prison-industrial complex.

Since our beginnings in **2018 in Chicago**, we have expanded to **bail out Muslims across the U.S.** in Texas, Philadelphia, Indiana, New York, Massachusetts, Missouri, Minnesota, and Georgia.





EXPANDING OUR REACH

In 2025 we collected over **\$283,500 to bail out** over **49 Muslims** from jails and immigration incarceration.

Since the successful passage of the Pretrial Fairness Act, a monumental achievement that eliminates cash bond in Illinois, BBO has continued to collaborate with community bail funds to to pay bonds on behalf of Muslims across the country.

As an abolitionist organization working to transform our society to one that is rooted in accountability and healing, we know that we must work collectively to bring about the change our communities desperately need.



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2025 BY THE NUMBERS

\$264,868.57

LAUNCHGOOD
RAMADAN FUNDRAISER

\$18,639.03

DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS

\$150,000

GRANTS AWARDED

40

Individuals freed from
pre-trial incarceration

9

Individuals freed from
ICE incarceration



2025 BY THE NUMBERS



\$386,440

PRETRIAL BAILOUTS

\$135,000

ICE BAILOUTS

- Philadelphia Community Bail Fund: **23 people**
- Prairielands Freedom Fund (ICE bailouts): **9 people**
- Massachusetts Bail Fund: **12 people**
- BBO Bailouts in Indiana: **2 people**
- Decarcerate WMass Bailout Project: **1 person**
- New York City: **1 person**
- Atlanta: **1 person**

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BBO IN ONE CITY: Our Work with PCBF and PMFF

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO PARTNER WITH BAIL FUNDS
ROOTED IN SHARED VALUES AND A VISION OF LIVING
IN A MORE JUST WORLD WHERE WE CAN ALL BE FREE.



The mission of the **Philadelphia Community Bail Fund** is to end cash bail in Philadelphia. Until that day comes, PCBF posts bail for residents of Philadelphia who cannot afford to pay for their freedom. PCBF works to bring to light the inequities of the use of cash bail in Philadelphia and advocate for the abolition of bail and pretrial detention in our city.



During the sacred first days of Dhul Hijjah, **BBO gave \$87,500 to bail out eight Black mothers for Black Mama's Bail Out**, a campaign by Philadelphia Community Bail Fund in partnership with **Philly Muslim Freedom Fund** to free Black caregivers who are incarcerated pre-trial in Philadelphia.

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“ESCAPE” FROM ALCATRAZ AND BAIL OUT A BELIEVER



\$1,163

raised of \$5,000 USD goal

22 supporters, 20 days left

Share

Donate



Impact: United States

Registered 501(c)(3)

Verified for authenticity.

FUNDRAISER WITH BR. RASHEED SHABAZZ

On June 1, 2025, or the fifth day of Dhul Hijjah, our community member, Br. Rasheed Shabazz, participated in the “Escape” From Alcatraz triathlon.

He used the race as a way to **raise awareness on the cruelty of mass incarceration** and raise funds for BBO to cover the average cost of bailing someone out.

Through this creative fundraiser, **Br. Rasheed raised \$1,794.56 for BBO** to help free someone from the bonds of captivity.

RAMADAN REFLECTIONS

In Ramadan, BBO hosted a reflection and Iftar with Br. Marcellus Williams Jr. discussing the legacy of his father Imam Khalifah Williams, who was murdered by the State of Missouri. The conversation was held with organizer Br. Kanoya Ali. Over 100 people attended for the discussion and to share an Iftar.





RAMADAN REFLECTIONS



28,500

dates provided
to incarcerated
individuals in Illinois
prisons

167

money orders
to incarcerated
individuals

3



Iftars hosted at the Inner
City Muslim Action
Network campus, for
formerly incarcerated
individuals & community
members





COURT SUPPORT

Over the last 2 years, we have focused efforts on attending court dates with our Muslim kin. By attending, we build relationships with them and their families, and show the court that they have a community who cares.

Many volunteers have begun attending court for the first time and attest to the importance of witnessing the racist and dehumanizing criminal legal system. **We are always looking for more volunteers who can do court support.** Please inquire via believersbailout@gmail.com. You can learn more about how to conduct court support using [our BBO guide](#).

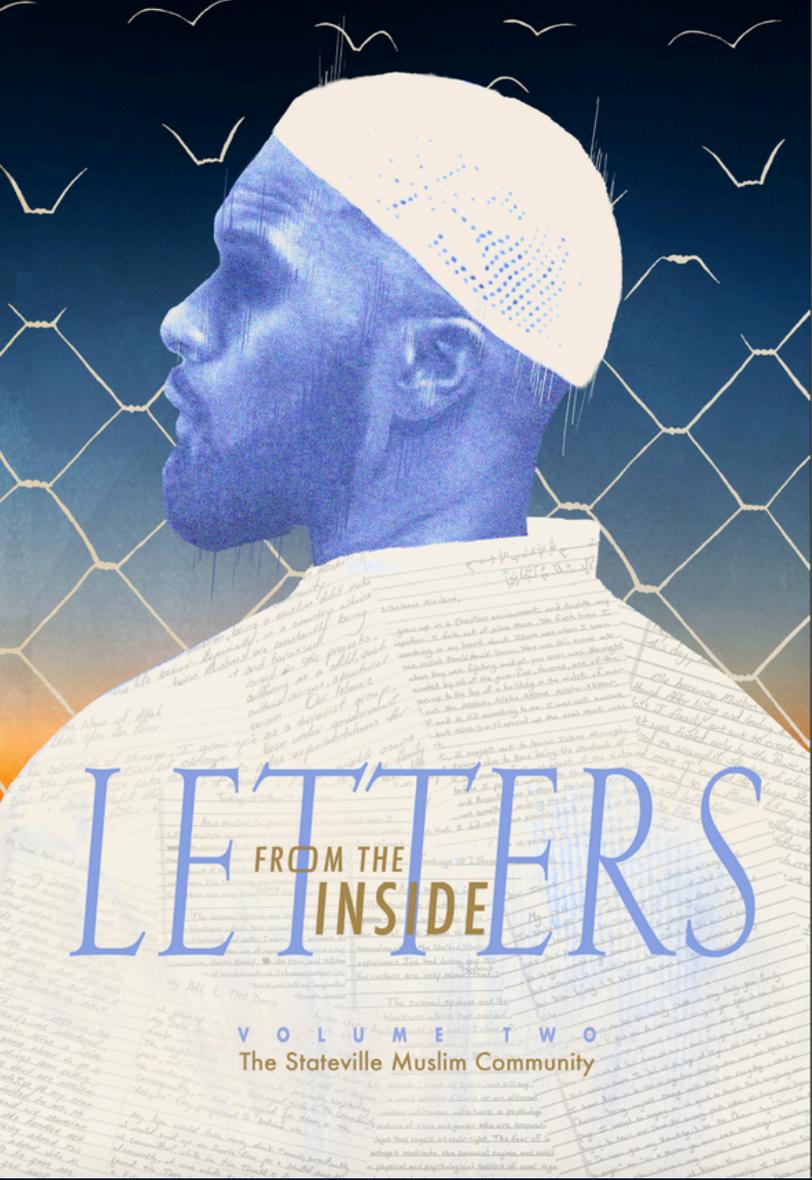
PARTICIPATORY DEFENSE HUB

BBO IS PARTNERING UP WITH SEVERAL LOCAL CHICAGO ORGANIZATIONS TO LAUNCH A COMMUNITY DEFENSE HUB THIS SPRING.

The hub will serve as a biweekly community space where individuals facing criminal legal charges/ convictions, their families, and community members come together to learn about the legal process, support each other, and advocate for better outcomes within the carceral system.

You can learn more about the general principles and benefits of participatory defense [here](#).





Sixteen incarcerated Muslims reflect on Islam and community.
A Zine by Believers Bail Out.

ZINE: LETTERS FROM THE INSIDE

Between March and September of 2024, members of Believers Bail Out attended Jummah at Statesville prison.

The Jummah was organized by Jamaat Ibad Al Rahman, an established Muslim community that was supported by volunteers on the outside.

Some of the brothers at Statesville described their community as a family because of how close and supported they felt.

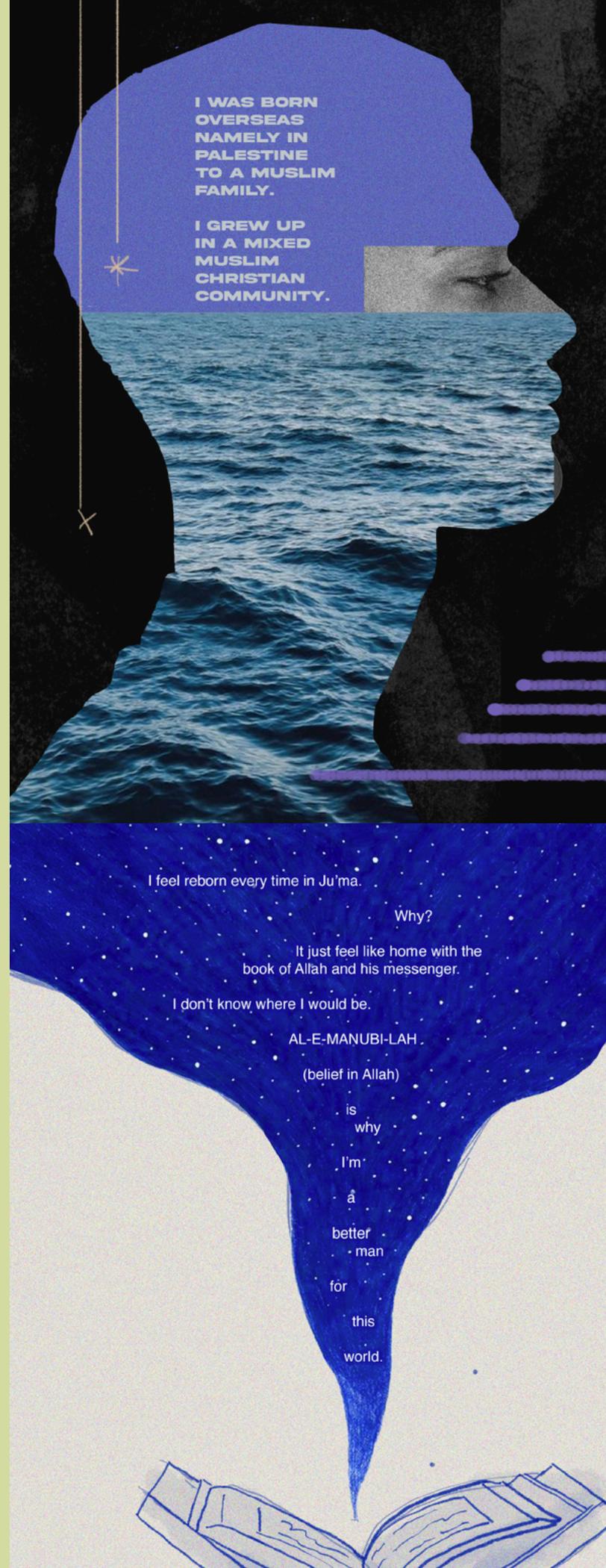
As the Jummah team were cultivating these relationships, it was announced that Statesville would be closed.

Suddenly, the community that had been supporting one another for decades would be separated and dispersed.

That was when BBO volunteers asked if Jamaat Ibad Al Rahman would be willing to write essays about their experiences to document the community and share its impact with a wider audience.

Those essays were turned into a zine: Letters from the Inside. The zine includes the writing of sixteen Muslims who were incarcerated at Statesville, reflecting on their relationship to Islam and their communities. The essays are powerful and poetic, cementing the cruelty of incarceration and the creativity and community it stifles.

Each essay was gorgeously illustrated by Sara Alfageeh and beautifully printed by Irrelevant Press. May these stories, and the people writing them, serve as a reminder of our collective obligation to our incarcerated kin.



ALLAH KNOWS BEST

**BROTHER
LEONARD KIDD**

...In 1996 I was trying to pray with them. I stop and look at one of them. I say, "I can not do this." But Allah knows best. In 1996 is when I did take my shahada, and once more, when I got here to Stateville. In about 2015, I can say that I feel much more of myself being a Muslim.

...I just do my very best to take one day at a time. I am so very tired of being locked-up in here for so long. I am not looking to go back to drugs and the things that I once was doing. I am not that 22 year old boy I was when I came to jail. Allah has helped me to overcome so much in my life.

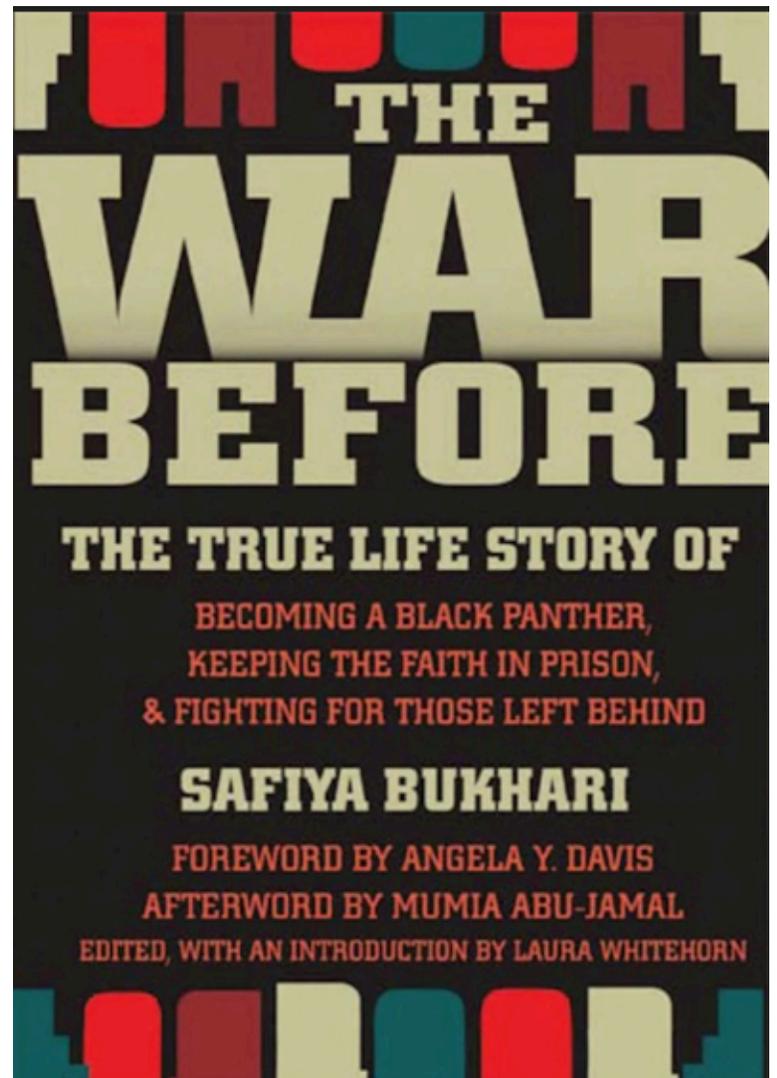
...Being a Muslim give me a new look at life itself. I have not ever been so humble in my life.

BLACK AUGUST BOOK CLUB

For Black August, members of BBO observed the four principles “fast, study, train, fight” and learned more about the month’s Muslim roots. The BBO team read “The War Before” by Safiya Bukhari to learn more about the legacy and lessons Bukhari tasked us to carry on, by refusing to abandon her comrades behind prison walls.

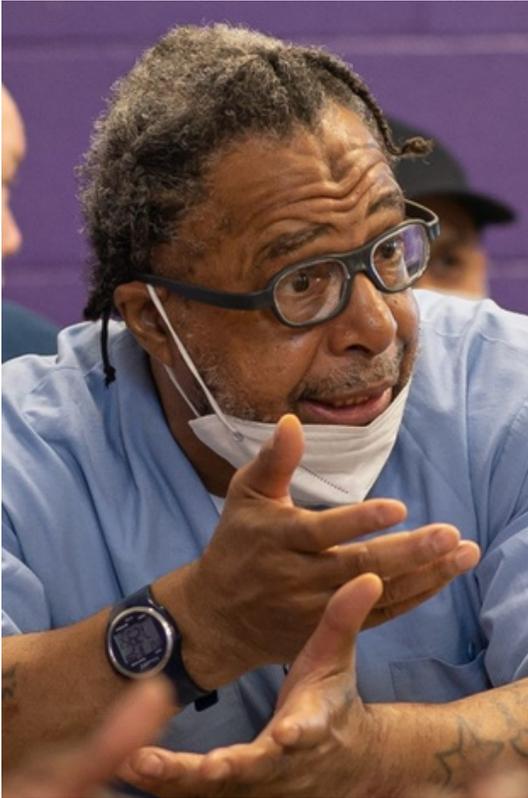
“What we have in common is a common enemy and a common struggle. The common enemy being the racist, sexist, colonialist, imperialist, capitalist system of the united states of america... Our common struggle is against the enemy that utilizes a propaganda war to criminalize our struggles, to demonize us, to make the world believe that our struggles are not just struggles...”

Safiya Bukhari speaking at the 1998 March on Washington, organized by the Jericho Movement.



REMEMBERING

LIVES AND LEGACIES OF MEMBERS
OF OUR COMMUNITY



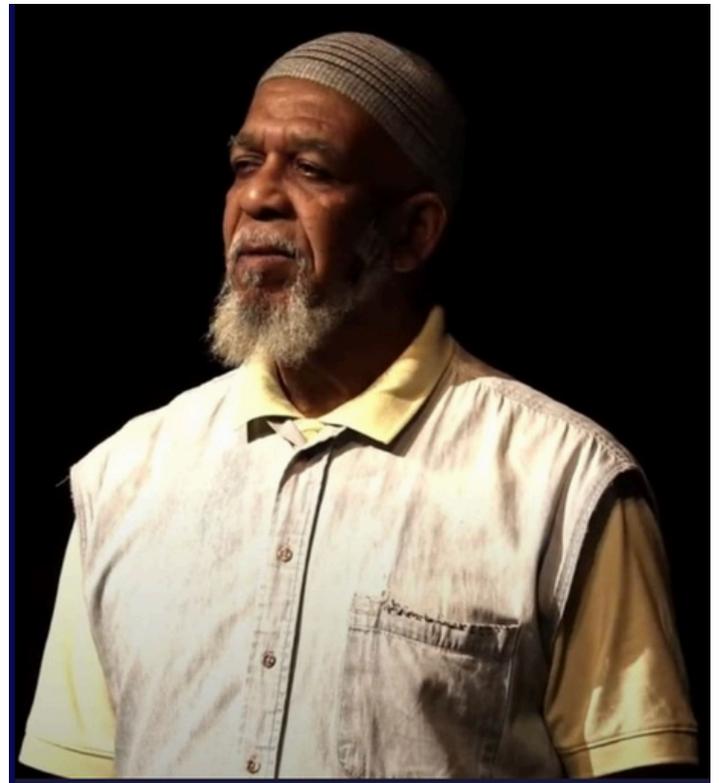
BR. DAVID NAZEEH BAILEY

Br. David Nazeeh Bailey passed away after 43 years of incarceration. Throughout his time inside, he served his community as a law clerk, a mentor and a Muslim. We at Believers Bail Out met him by attending Jummah (Friday prayers) at Stateville Prison in 2024, where he was part of the Jamaat Ibad Al-Rahman.

He was also a beloved part of the North Park, Prison + Neighborhood Arts/Education Project (PNAP), and Precious Blood Ministry communities. The impact of his death has been felt far and wide.

BR. HAKIM ALI

Hakim Ali, a giant in the abolition movement in Philly, passed away last summer. Incarcerated for 40 years until 2003, he was part of the Revolutionary Action Movement in the 1960s and a key leader in the Black Liberation Movement in Philadelphia. He co-led Fight For Lifers and Reconstruction Inc.—two organizations from which the modern abolitionist movement in Pennsylvania emerged.



REMEMBERING

LIVES AND LEGACIES OF MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY



IMAM JAMIL ABDULLAH AL-AMIN

Imam Jamil was a profound political and spiritual leader for generations. Many of us were guided towards Islam because of Imam Jamil's clarity and commitment to telling the truth. But his words were never just words- he lived the path of jihad, bridging the internal and external struggle.

While Imam Jamil has passed, the fight for his justice is not over and we still have to clear his name and secure his exoneration Inshallah. Support Imam Jamil's legacy by donating at FreeImamJamil.com

IMAM AL-HAJJ TALIB ABDUR-RASHID

Imam Al-Hajj Talib Abdur-Rashid served as the longstanding imam of The Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood (MIB) in Harlem, a key institution for Black Sunni Muslims in New York and a cornerstone of the city's Muslim community. Imam Talib served as a chaplain at New York prisons and counseled Muslims affected by AIDS and domestic violence. Hundreds recently attended his janazah (funeral prayer) at Harlem's Masjid Malcolm Shabazz.



SUPPORT OUR WORK

RAMADAN 2026 FUNDRAISER
LAUNCHGOOD.COM/BBO2026

PAYPAL



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