

# A DECADE OF GROWTH



*past*



*future*



*present*

CAIR TENTH ANNIVERSARY REPORT, 1994-2004

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is a non-profit civil rights and advocacy organization. With regional offices nationwide and in Canada, CAIR is America's largest Islamic civil liberties group.

Through media relations, lobbying, education and advocacy, CAIR puts forth an Islamic perspective on issues of importance to the American public. In offering this perspective, CAIR seeks to empower the American Muslim community and encourage their social and political activism.

To obtain copies of this report, contact:  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
453 New Jersey Ave. S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Tel: 202-488-8787  
Fax: 202-488-0833

E-mail: [pubs@cair-net.org](mailto:pubs@cair-net.org)  
URL: <http://www.cair-net.org>

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written and compiled by

**Rabiah Ahmed**

design and layout by

**Shazia Pappa**

edited by

**Joshua Brockwell**

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*mission*

TO ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING OF ISLAM, ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE, PROTECT CIVIL LIBERTIES, EMPOWER AMERICAN MUSLIMS AND BUILD COALITIONS IN SUPPORT OF JUSTICE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

*Art thou not aware of  
how God sets forth the  
parable of a good word?  
[It is] like a good tree  
whose root is firmly  
fixed and its branches  
(reach) to the heavens.*

*-Holy Quran, Chapter 14, Verse 24.*

*vision*

TO BE A LEADING ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

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*Over the years, CAIR has served as a credible voice for American Muslims, appearing on national and international news shows and in front of Senate committee hearings. It has worked diligently to disseminate accurate information about Islam and Muslims to the American public and policy makers, challenging those who choose to do otherwise.*

*But it has been a long journey, from CAIR's modest beginnings and big responsibilities to its current successful notoriety here and abroad. This publication, CAIR's 10th Year Anniversary Report, takes a look at the last decade of CAIR's work, showcasing its hardest struggles and biggest victories. It's a one-of-a-kind publication, chronicling the development of an institution and the growth of a community.*



# INTRODUCTION

## Dear Friends,

*Assallamu Alaykum.* Peace be unto you.

For a decade, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, CAIR, has worked to present a positive image of Islam in North America. From our headquarters in the nation's capital and through 30 chapters across the United States and Canada, we have striven to present the Islamic perspective on issues of importance to the public.

Since the tragic events of 9/11, our community has suffered under twin burdens: the fear and apprehension shared by all Americans in the face of terrorism and the sense of siege caused by attempts to tar all Muslims with the brush of suspicion. Islam itself has not been free from attack. Islam-bashers have, on a daily basis, painted a picture of our faith that is unrecognizable to any Muslim. Sensing that these attacks will only grow unless they are challenged with accurate information on Islam and Muslims, CAIR has taken on the task of counterbalancing the hate-filled rhetoric of Islamophobes through education and dialogue with American public.

CAIR's message of optimism in the face of violent animosity has guided us through thick and thin; indeed, our principles are more crucial today than ever before. Our journey over the past 10 years has brought us face to face with giants, and united, we achieved positive results. We have proven that we can make a difference when we put our hearts and minds together. We have broken new ground in our field, and our community's response has been inspiring.

From taking on corporate insensitivity to making the Muslim voice

heard in the halls of Congress, CAIR has become the premier membership-based Islamic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States. Indeed, over the past decade, CAIR has spearheaded several major initiatives, including most recently our global anti-terror petition campaign, titled "Not in the Name of Islam," and a series of public service announcements emphasizing the compatibility of Islam and the West. Our library project has placed thousands of Islamically-accurate materials in public libraries nationwide, and our "Islam in America" advertisement campaign has placed advertisements in national and local newspapers showing ordinary Muslims implementing Islamic values in their daily lives.

Despite numerous achievements, more work remains to be done. Many important issues face our community in the coming years, from civil rights to national security. Steps are necessary to ensure a safe and prosperous environment for future generations, and the first step begins by learning from the past, mobilizing for the present issues at hand, and boldly looking ahead toward the future of Islam in America.

The next decade promises to be even more challenging than the last, and it is incumbent upon us all to rise to the challenge. If the past is any indication of the future, we all have reason to be hopeful.

Together, *Insha Allah*, we will make the next decade even better than the first!

Sincerely,

Omar Ahmad  
Chairman of the Board

Nihad Awad  
Executive Director

Ibrahim Hooper  
National Communications Director

meet the board



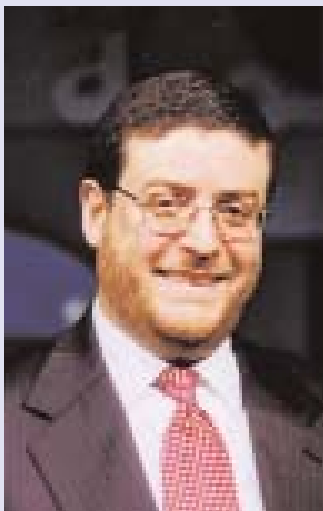
Omar Ahmed, Chairman of the Board



Nihad Awad, Executive Director



Parvez Ahmed, Board member



Ahmed Al-Akhras, Board member



Nabil Sadoun, Board member



Ihsan Bagby, Board member



Fouad Khateeb, Board member



Ibrahim Hooper, National  
Communication Director



Khalid Iqbal  
Director of Operations

# planting the SEEDS

*Faced with numerous challenges in its first year, CAIR works to establish a presence in society and offers the Muslim community a new sense of confidence and strength.*

When CAIR's founders first opened its cramped, two-person Washington office on K Street in June of 1994, they knew that great challenges lay ahead of them. First, the negative image of Islam and Muslims in the American media was having a devastating effect on public perception and public policy; and second, the founders had to address the lack of direction and motivation among American Muslims to change or ameliorate their situation.

Limited by a modest budget, but limitless in their sincere conviction to empower their community, the founders began their

historical journey. Each challenge -- seen as an opportunity -- would bring invaluable experience and confidence much needed for the development and advancement of the community.

One of CAIR's first public campaigns was against a major Hollywood corporation. In its movie "True Lies," 20th Century Fox portrayed Muslims as the stereotypical sweaty, swarthy, kuffiyeh-clad Arabs firing wildly into the air with enormous bombs wrapped in the American flag.

CAIR, along with other Muslim organizations, expressed serious concerns over the



film's potentially stereotypical content and tried to meet with the producers. After many requests for a meeting were denied, CAIR issued its first action alert calling on community members nationwide to distribute leaflets with accurate information about Islam and Muslims to moviegoers.

With major newspapers such as the *Washington Post* covering the issue, 20th Century Fox agreed to include a disclaimer in the credits stating, "This film is a work of fiction and does not

represent the actions or beliefs of a particular culture or religion."

The modest but organized effort was CAIR's first success. The positive action gave the Muslim community a new found sense of confidence and assurance it needed to continue protecting its image and religion on different fronts -- confidence and assurance a Muslim woman in Virginia would later draw from when she came across an offensive card at a Hallmark gift store.

In September 1994, a Muslim

woman decided to report an offensive card, produced by Recycled Paper Greetings (RPG) -- the nation's fourth-largest greeting-card company -- to CAIR. The card depicted a fully-veiled woman on the cover with the words: "Rather than confront her morbid fear of germs, Millicent changed her name to Yazmine and moved to Tehran." Inside the card read: "So you're feeling like Shiite. Don't Mecca big deal out of it."

CAIR's first action was to write to RPG, requesting that they recall the



Muslims and Arabs march in protest at the 20th Century Fox film, "True Lies." The film portrayed Muslims as violent and anti-American. Following its release, CAIR issued its first action alert, calling on communities nationwide to distribute accurate information about Islam to moviegoers.



A Muslim girl joins other Muslims in the Washington, D.C. area to protest an offensive greeting card by Recycled Paper Greetings.

card. When RPG refused, CAIR initiated its first public campaign in the consumer world. CAIR called on the corporation to recall the card and urged others to boycott its products. In response to the campaign, more than 400 people called the card company to protest. A disabled Vietnam War veteran in Lawrence, Kansas, even went on a hunger strike in protest. Weekly marches took place at the firm's offices and protesters announced plans to escalate their campaign to a nationwide rally. Other religious and civil rights organizations joined in denouncing the card's bigoted message.

In mid October 1994, Recycled Paper apologized for the card and ended its publication. It also agreed to exchange unsold copies of the card returned by retailers. In a formal apol-

ogy, the company said it had not meant to offend the Muslim community.

Similarly, in December 1994, Anheuser-Busch pulled from the airwaves a Budweiser commercial that included a tank top-clad woman whose shirt bore a sacred phrase in Arabic saying "In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful."

Anheuser-Busch's move came after CAIR received complaints about the ad and contacted the company explaining that the commercial was inappropriate because Muslims shun alcoholic beverages and stress modesty in personal attire.

In an official statement, the company said: "We were made aware of the situation and have since pulled the commercial off the air....We did not mean to offend anyone and if we did,

we apologize."

Bob Lachky, vice president for Budweiser brands, told CAIR that Anheuser-Busch had reminded all of its ad agencies not to use religious symbols or sayings in marketing their products.

In 1994, CAIR also challenged the inaccuracies of documentaries, such as Steven Emerson's "Jihad in America." In November of that year, a coalition organized by CAIR held a press conference at the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) headquarters in Virginia to protest the airing of the controversial one-hour documentary.

CAIR noted that the program lacked factual support for its allegations and that it took quotations out of context. CAIR also noted that hate crimes against Muslims in the United States were likely to increase as a result of the unbalanced documentary. In a statement, CAIR officials said, "While we cherish freedom of speech, we are against the misuse of public media to present distorted and one-sided news programming."

CAIR asked PBS for a fair, balanced and objective broadcast. It requested the channel either block the broadcasting or include a panel following the broadcast to balance the program. CAIR also launched a letter-writing campaign aimed at PBS affiliates all over the country.

In response, the Dallas, TX-based KERA and the Tampa, FL-based WEDU public televisions included panel discussions after broadcasting "Jihad in America." Both panels featured Muslim speakers among other guests.

PBS insisted on airing the program despite many Muslim community protests. Several U.S. media outlets including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Dallas Morning News* covered Muslims' criticism of the documentary.

Also in 1994, the international community was introduced to CAIR when it participated in the Cairo Population Conference. In August, CAIR joined the "Ad Hoc Coalition for Cairo" to protest a United Nations report on population that would be presented at the United Nations Cairo Population Conference in September of that year.

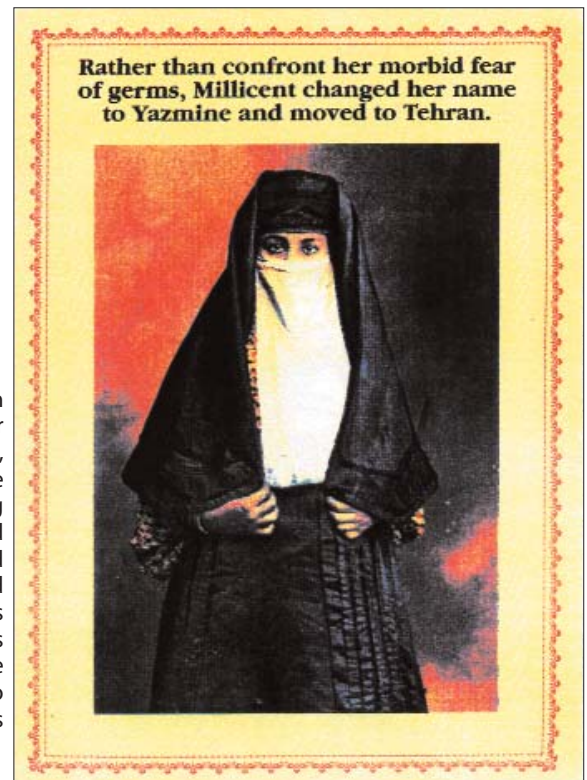
The Cairo Coalition involved about a dozen Christian, Muslim, environmental, and women's advocacy groups, including the Rockford Institute, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the World Organization for the Family. The coalition held media conferences and published a *New York Times* advertisement to express its criticism of the United Nations population report and conference.

CAIR issued a statement calling for Muslim countries and groups to withdraw from the conference, saying their participation "only offers legitimacy to what promises to be a rubber-stamped, anti-Islamic final document."

CAIR's first campaign against the consumer world. The card read, "So you're feeling like Shiite. Don't Mecca big deal out of it." The card company apologized and retracted unsold cards after numerous civil rights and religious groups joined the protests and rallies to denounce the card's message.

*"Should the requests for a public apology to our Muslim sisters and brothers fall on deaf ears ...I, for one, will encourage my church (5.3 million in size) to join in a nationwide boycott of all products by Recycled Paper Greetings."*

Daniel F. Martensen, Associate Director of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, wrote to President of Recycled Paper Greetings on Sept 13, 1994 on behalf of CAIR's campaign.



# THE challenge OF intolerance

*CAIR's first efforts to end discrimination and intolerance across the nation pave the way for future successes.*



CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad stands in the ashes and rubble of a burned mosque in Denver. Vandals and arsonists attacked five American mosques in the aftermath of the Oklahoma bombing.

**I**n 1995, CAIR continued its work of promoting an accurate image of Islam and Muslims in the media and consumer world, but the one-year old organization also extended its work to include protecting the civil rights of American Muslims.

CAIR took on its first discrimination case involving an employer refusing to reasonably accommodate an employee's choice to wear the "hijab," or Islamic headscarf. Hijab discrimination later became one of the most common forms of complaints received by CAIR's civil rights department.

Doris Karimnadir's story is one example. Karimnadir, of California, had never faced any objection to the Islamic practice of wearing a headscarf. She was startled when she was sent home from a new assignment as a Pinkerton guard at Silicon Graphics Inc., after refusing a security supervisor's order to remove the scarf. The supervisor had not previ-





Following the Oklahoma City Bombing, CAIR coordinates a nationwide campaign to deal with the anti-Muslim hysteria produced by the attack. CAIR's efforts are discussed in a front-page *New York Times* article.

ously seen her hijab.

In swift defense, CAIR and Karimnadir's attorney alerted Pinkerton International to the incident. Pinkerton apologized, paid her for lost work time and brought her back to a new security post at Silicon Graphics.

Though Karimnadir may have been surprised by her employer's unwarranted suspicion, others in the Muslim community saw her case as a clear example of what could go wrong when religious practices unfamiliar in a particular region collide with long-established workplace traditions.

In 1995, CAIR also had its first run-in with sportswear giant Nike. On a Los Angeles billboard, Nike featured basketball player John Williams with the headline: "They called him Allah." CAIR asked the company to remove the ad, saying it offended Muslims because "Allah" is the Arabic word for God.

Nike officials worked quickly to remove the ad and stated that they deeply regretted any offense taken by the Muslim community; the Muslim community, in return, appreciated Nike's concern and response. Although the initial interaction was based on controversy, the encounter would later prove to be the beginning of a very positive relationship between the institutions.

Also, during this year, CAIR began proactive educational campaigns to prevent discrimination. The experiences of the previous year led the organization to mature and appreciate that while it was important to react to pressing issues, it was also crucial to educate others about Islam and the Muslim community. CAIR began to release publicity kits about Islam and statements on issues of concern to the American Muslim community.

For instance, CAIR developed

Ramadan and Hajj publicity kits containing media relations tips, news release templates, and creative ideas for events to assist local communities in publicizing Islamic holidays and practices.

Later that year, CAIR joined more than 20 U.S. Muslim and Arab organizations in urging their members to contact Congress to oppose the Omnibus Counterterrorism Act of 1995. CAIR argued that the act violated fundamental constitutional rights such as the rights to free association, due process of law, and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

CAIR further said the measure unfairly stereotyped Muslims, Arab-Americans and mosques, singling them out for investigation, surveillance and prosecution without adequate evidence. The Act criminalized charitable donations to legal organizations engaged in lawful activities and allowed resident aliens to be deported or held on the basis of secret evidence without due process.

In autumn of 1995, CAIR held its first annual fundraising dinner, calling on community members to invest in their future by supporting the nation's leading Islamic civil rights and advocacy group. The dinner was deemed a success; 300 attendees donated \$110,000.

The most poignant moment for American Muslims in 1995 took place on April 19th, when Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols bombed the Alfred Murrah building in Oklahoma City, killing hundreds of federal workers, including agents of the Justice Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

Not only was the Muslim community outraged and saddened by the Oklahoma City bombing, their emotions were coupled with a fear of backlash against American Muslims.

Within minutes of the attack, news stations across the country reported unverified claims that two Middle Eastern men were seen running from the scene.

On national and international TV, media and security experts stated that the devastating explosion bore a striking resemblance to blasts directed at U.S. and Israeli targets in Buenos Aires and Beirut by Muslim extremist groups. On the *CBS Evening News*, self-appointed terrorism expert Steven Emerson said, "This [the bombing] was done with the intent to inflict as many casualties as possible. That is a Middle Eastern trait."

CAIR moved quickly to caution the world against premature finger pointing and quickly sent representatives to Oklahoma to give a voice to the Muslim community. CAIR held a news conference to condemn the attacks and asked fellow Americans not to rush to judgment. It also helped raise over \$21,000 for the relief effort and informed Muslim communities around the country how to respond to the backlash caused by ill-advised speculation about Middle Eastern involvement in the terrorist attacks.

Unfortunately, the feared backlash against American Muslims was immediate. Reports of verbal and physical attacks against Muslims and their institutions were widespread, especially in New Jersey, Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina, and Illinois.

The burial of a stillborn baby named Salaam (Arabic for "peace") marked one of the most devastating episodes of misplaced retaliation in the days following the Oklahoma bombing. A pregnant Iraqi refugee, huddled with her frightened children in the bathroom, miscarried due to the terror she felt when her home was attacked by several assailants.



The rash of anti-Muslim attacks brought to light the need for American Muslims to document and track discrimination they faced in the aftermath of the Oklahoma bombing. On May 19, 1995, CAIR's newly developed Research Department announced a first-of-its-kind report on anti-Muslim and anti-Arab hate crimes. The report, fittingly titled "Rush to Judgment," stated that 227 bias related incidents against Arab-Americans and Muslims were committed in the United States after the April 19th attack.



TOP: Shortly after the Oklahoma City bombing, CAIR holds a news conference condemning the attacks.  
 BOTTOM: Governor Frank Keating of Oklahoma thanks CAIR for its contribution to the relief effort.



National Communication Director Ibrahim Hooper joins other Muslim leaders in condemning those who attack the Prophet's (p.b.u.h.) dignity. In response to a CAIR "Action Alert," Muslims worldwide contact **U.S. News & World Report** to protest an editorial in which that magazine's editor-in-chief claimed the Prophet Muhammad had a "doctrine of deceit." The magazine later apologized in an editorial.

“WE UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR  
CREATIVITY IN ADVERTISING,  
BUT CREATIVITY SHOULD NOT BE AT  
THE EXPENSE OF FAITH AND CULTURE.”

-CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad

# DEFENDING THE Prophet AND Islam

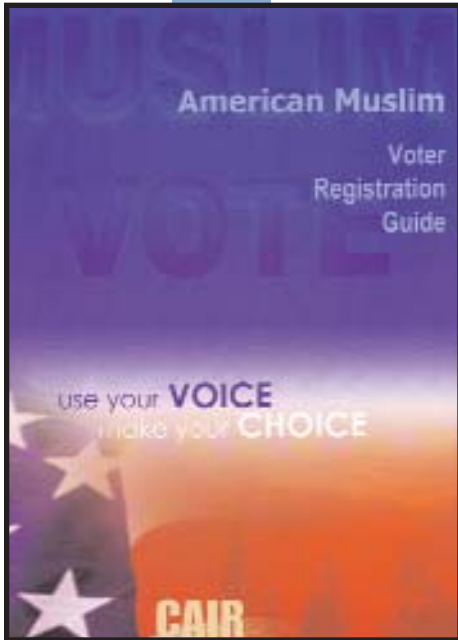
*CAIR challenges those who work to divide our nation along ethnic and religious lines*

**I**n 1995, although American Muslims continued to experience the negative portrayal of their faith and community in movies such as Warner Bros' "Executive Decision," the hard work from the previous years seemed to pay off. CAIR's frequent appearances in the media and news of its successes positioned it to take on more cases and inspired its members to believe in themselves as agents of positive change.

Media outlets and individuals who defamed Islam were increasingly being held accountable. On June 13, CAIR demanded an explicit apology for defamatory remark made against the Prophet Muhammad by the editor-in-chief of *U.S. News & World Report*, Mortimer Zuckerman. Zuckerman had suggested that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), Islam's central religious figure, was unethical. Zuckerman said, "Does (Arafat) believe his own rhetoric when he echoes the doctrine of the Prophet Muhammad of making treaties with enemies while he is weak, violating them when he is strong?"

The editor-in-chief initially refused but later retracted his allegation after a CAIR Action Alert motivated thousands of Muslims to contact *U.S. News & World Report*.

At the request of CAIR and other Muslims, MasterCard also apologized and withdrew a commercial aired in Quebec



that mocked Muslim prayer. The minute-long commercial was apparently set in Morocco and featured a well-known French-Canadian actress searching for her lost MasterCard. According to CAIR, the most offensive part of the commercial came at the end when the minaret of a mosque was shown and the words "Allah, Allah" were heard. Groups of people were then shown prostrating in mock Islamic style. The people placed their foreheads to the ground several times.

"We understand the need for creativity in advertising, but creativity should not be at the expense of faith and culture," said CAIR in a statement. "This commercial mocks Islamic prayer in a way that can only serve to reinforce existing stereotypes of Muslims."

CAIR's advocacy work extended to the print media when the June issue of *Life* magazine contained a photo showing a Muslim praying in front of a Coca-Cola cooler. The worshipper and the logo on the cooler were shown in such a way as to suggest that the man was praying to the Coke logo. The caption read: "It's only natural for a man of religion to try to quench his spiritual thirst...In his search for truth he turned towards Mecca, and just happened to find the Real Thing." *Life* magazine later apologized for the photo and in a letter to CAIR, a Coca-Cola spokesperson wrote, "The Coca-Cola company...would never have condoned the use of our trademarks in a context so clearly insensitive to Islam..."

Following another protest from CAIR, United Parcel Service (UPS) apologized for the use of a "picture" of Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) in a company newsletter. The illustration appeared in the "International Holidays" section of the newsletter.

The "Birth of the Prophet" was listed on July 28 and a drawing of what appeared to be a stereotypical sheikh accompanied the listing. In a letter to CAIR, UPS wrote: "Sensitivity to each others' religious strictures and cultural traditions is the essence of personal courtesy...Your counsel has been very helpful."

CAIR also extended its efforts to the political world in 1996 by holding its first voter registration drive and increasing its outreach to political candidates. In return, political candidates began to actively communicate with the Muslim community and seek out its votes. CAIR released the text of letters it solicited from each of the major party presidential candidates. Both Senator Bob Dole and President Bill Clinton expressed a concern that increased security measures for airlines not include the use of suspect profiles that would single out potential terrorists based on Middle Eastern appearance or surnames.

"Since the end of the Cold War, many American Moslems [sic] have been the targets of stereotyping, bias and discrimination," Dole said. "This discrimination has been seen in the workplace, where Moslem [sic] workers were denied reasonable religious accommodation, in schools, and in the media, where our Moslem [sic] citizens are often unfairly associated with acts of violence."

Dole said as president he would "oppose any discriminatory procedures for screening airline passengers based solely on race, sex, economic status, national origin, or political beliefs." He added that he would "support a clear, long-term and evenhanded foreign policy that is consistent with our nation's vital interests."

Clinton's letter echoed statements he made following the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, stating: "We must always reserve judgment and

avoid ethnic stereotyping." He added that the commission he appointed to draw up enhanced aviation security measures was actively seeking non-intrusive ways to assure Americans that air travel is safe and secure.

These messages were welcomed by American Muslims and came at a very crucial time for the community. Just months earlier, a crash of a Paris-bound TWA jetliner into the sea posed another potential threat of anti-Muslim backlash similar to that which followed the 1995 Oklahoma bombing. While some continued to prematurely attribute the crash to Middle Eastern terrorists, others such as President Clinton warned against it.

CAIR also continued its work fighting to ensure American Muslims enjoy the constitutional protection of freedom of religion. In April, Council representatives helped a Virginia Muslim who was told by a potential employer that wearing a headscarf would violate dress code policy. The owner of the Quality Inn Governor hotel in Virginia refused to accommodate a Muslim woman after she told him that she would not remove her headscarf on her first day of work as a front desk clerk.

CAIR asked Islamic and civil rights organizations to send letters of protest to the hotel and to Choice Hotels International, the Maryland-based

company that franchises Quality Inns. Officials at a nearby mosque in Virginia, which had often booked visitors in the hotel, said they would no longer.

On April 18, 1996, the hotel apologized, hired the Muslim woman, gave her a week's back pay, covered her attorney's fees and promised she could wear the scarf to work.

In a press release, CAIR said that the hotel violated the woman's civil rights and feared such incidents would only increase as women from the growing Islamic community in the United States entered the workplace.

Another form of discrimination commonly felt by Muslim Americans in 1996 was passenger profiling. In many cases, American Muslims and people from the Middle East had been stopped and searched not because of suspicious activity, but because of their physical appearance, such as the wearing of beards and Islamic dress. CAIR informed the U.S. Congress of its concern that prevailing anti-Islamic stereotypes could be acted out in any passenger profiling scenario.

CAIR's 1996 civil rights report, titled, "The Price of Ignorance," reported 296 incidents in the year after the Oklahoma City bombing, ranging from verbal barbs to job discrimination to beatings and mosque vandalism. More than 200 of the incidents

Nihad Awad  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic  
Relations  
Suite 807  
1511 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Nihad:

Thank you for writing to me. I greatly appreciate your support of my Administration's response following the crash of TWA flight 800. I am grateful for the support of the Council on American-Islamic Relations as we continue our effort to discover the cause of this tragedy.

Sincerely,



occurred in the week following the attack when Muslims were wrongly blamed in initial reports. Dr. Mohamed Nimer, a researcher with the Council, explained that incidents of anti-Muslim stereotyping ultimately led to harassment, threats, discrimination and actual violence.

SENSITIVITY TO EACH OTHERS' RELIGIOUS  
STRUCTURES AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS

IS THE ESSENCE OF PERSONAL COURTESY...  
YOUR COUNSEL HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL.

- United Parcel Service (UPS) in regards to the use of a "picture" of Prophet Muhammad in a company newsletter.

# collective efforts LEAD TO positive action

*Interested in  
empowering its  
community,  
CAIR focuses  
on strategic  
development  
within its out-  
reach to prevent  
discrimination*

In 1997, CAIR continued to rely on the strength of its numbers to challenge inappropriate portrayals of Islam. In March, many American Muslims asked the U.S. Supreme Court to remove a carved stone depiction of a sword-wielding Muhammad (p.b.u.h.), Islam's revered prophet, from its courtroom wall. While appreciating the fact that Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) was included in the court's pantheon of 18 prominent lawgivers of history, CAIR noted that Islam discouraged its followers from portraying any prophet in paintings, sculptures or other artistic representations.

Moreover, the Prophet (p.b.u.h.) was shown with the Quran, Islam's Holy Book, in one hand and a sword in the other, reinforcing long-held stereotypes of Muslims as intolerant conquerors, a CAIR official said.

In a letter, Chief Justice William Rehnquist told CAIR that the image could not be erased or altered. The larger-than-life image was part of a marble frieze surrounding the upper

part of the courtroom and depicted other lawgivers - Moses, Justinian and Confucius. Rehnquist added that swords were also used throughout the court's architecture as symbols of justice.

"Altering the depiction of Muhammad would impair the artistic integrity of the whole. Additionally, it is unlawful (under the U. S. Code) to remove or in any way injure an architectural feature in the Supreme Court," he said.

Instead, literature handed out to tourists at the court would be revised to show more respect for Islamic beliefs. The literature formerly cited Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) as the "founder" of Islam, but was changed to say Muslims believe "the divine word of God...was revealed to Muhammad." The literature would also point out that the image in the courtroom was "a well-intentioned attempt" to honor Muhammad (p.b.u.h.), but that Muslims "have a strong aversion to sculptured or pic-

tured representations of their Prophet."

In April of 1997, CAIR had its second encounter with sportswear giant Nike. CAIR called on Nike, Inc. to recall and apologize for using a logo on athletic shoes that resembled the word "Allah" in Arabic script. Nike said the logo was meant to look like flames for a line of shoes to be sold that summer with the names Air Bakin', Air Melt, Air Grill and Air B-Que. The company said it caught the problem six months earlier, long before the shoes went into production and changed the logo to separate the "A" in "AIR" from the "IR."

But to Muslims, the logo sewn on the backs of the shoes still clearly resembled the word "Allah" in Arabic.

"For Muslims, to have the name of God as part of a shoe design is extremely offensive. This is the lowest of respect that anything can be viewed with," said CAIR.

While Nike at first refused to

respond, after pressure it said its samples were not intended for sale to the public and announced an agreement to ease Muslim concerns over the logo design on a range of summer basketball products. Nike also apologized to the Islamic community for any unintentional offense to its sensitivities, and implemented a global recall of the original salesman samples; it also discontinued all models with the offensive logo and promised no further product with either version of the logo would be produced.

Nike also agreed to pull back all remaining products in their distribution center and implement organizational changes to their design department to tighten scrutiny of logo design. Nike worked with CAIR to identify Muslim design resources for future reference and has since then taken measures to raise its internal understanding of Islamic issues.

Another great success for the Muslim community in 1997 was when

Simon & Schuster, the publishing arm of Viacom, recalled more than 4,000 copies of a children's book titled, "Great Lives: World Religions." The book portrayed Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) as a man who despised Jews and Christians and took pleasure in beheadings.

Written by William Jay Jacobs, the book was intended for 10 to 12-year-olds and was part of a series that sought to portray historical figures as human beings. A chapter on Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) began with a description of a "man who loved beautiful women, fine perfume, and tasty food." It continued: "He took pleasure in seeing the heads of his enemies torn from their bodies by the swords of his soldiers. He hated Christians and Jews, poets and painters, and anyone who criticized him."

Following CAIR's intervention, Simon & Schuster offered apologies and admitted that factual errors existed in "Great Lives: World Religions." The recall of the 280-page book cost Simon & Schuster about \$15,000.

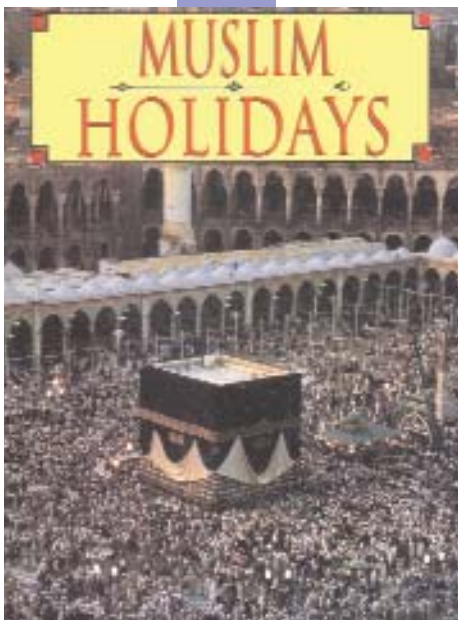
Simon & Schuster also invited CAIR to help revise the chapter for new editions. CAIR was satisfied by these positive actions, and urged its members to send thank-you notes to the publisher.

In August, another children's book was recalled after complaints that it contained inaccurate and offensive information about Islam and Muslim culture. Minnesota-based Capstone Press, Inc. decided to take "Muslim Holidays" by Faith Winchester out of print after receiving complaints from CAIR. Two cases of inaccuracies involved folk tales that CAIR said were not Islamic beliefs. The book also showed illustrations of the Prophets Mohammed, Noah, Ismail and Abraham (peace be upon them).

CAIR also challenged those who defamed Islam and Muslims in the political-religious arena. Pat Robertson, founder of the Christian

CAIR Communication Director Ibrahim Hooper calls on Nike to recall a shoe containing a logo that resembled the Arabic word for God.





TOP: CAIR's information guides and handbooks receive coverage in major U.S. newspapers.

BOTTOM: Muslims call on Capstone Press to recall the book, "Muslim Holidays" because it contains offensive and inaccurate information about Islam and Muslims.

Coalition and an unsuccessful candidate for the Republican Party presidential nomination in 1988, called Islam "the religion of the slavers" on his television program, *The 700 Club*. Robertson said that it would be insane for Americans to embrace the Islamic faith.

"To see Americans become followers of Islam, is nothing short of insanity. Why would people in America want to embrace the religion of the slavers. You say, what's going on in America when we welcome into our society and give rights to people who are persecuting Christians around the world," he said.

In response, CAIR held a press conference with representatives of interfaith and religious groups condemning Robertson's inaccurate and incendiary statement.

CAIR also called for the removal of a South Carolina Board of Education official who said "Screw the Buddhists and kill the Muslims" during a board discussion of whether the Ten Commandments should be posted in public buildings. The official, State Board of Education member Henry Jordan, was also quoted as saying that the religion of Islam was a "cult" that worshiped "Lucifer."

In a letter to South Carolina Governor David Beasley, CAIR stated: "American Muslims, and particularly Muslim parents in South Carolina, view these remarks with great alarm. The remarks demonstrate a level of bigotry and intolerance that is entirely inappropriate for a person charged with formulating public policy."

CAIR faxed copies of the letter to the Superintendent of the South Carolina Department of Education, and to the Chair of the State Board of Education. CAIR also asked Muslims in South Carolina and around the United States to contact the governor's office and express their outrage at the remarks.

CAIR's annual report on the status of civil rights of Muslim Americans in

1997 showed an alarming and disturbing increase in reported incidents involving workplace discrimination and bias. Two years after the Oklahoma City bombing, research showed that American Muslims suffered 240 acts of violence, discrimination and harassment, a threefold increase over the previous year.

To counter the growing numbers of cases involving workplace discrimination, CAIR sought to educate the public about Muslim practices and to educate Muslims about their rights. CAIR published guidebooks on Islamic religious practices for employers and educators.

The "Employer's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices" addressed issues employers of Muslims may face in the workplace. Topics discussed included Islamic attire in the workplace, minimum requirements for Islamic prayer, Muslim dietary laws and legal precedents for accommodating religious practices.

The "Educator's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices" provided basic information about the everyday lives of Muslims: dietary laws governing food; a schedule for the five daily prayers; and explanations about clothing requirements, like covering for women.

Some typical student concerns, like worries about eating pork or the need to observe Muslim holidays, led CAIR to recommend other steps to improve Muslim student-life. The booklet advised school cafeterias to clearly mark food with pork in it and teachers not to schedule major exams on the same days as Islamic holidays, Eid.

RIGHT: CAIR issues this action alert, calling on Nike to apologize to Muslims worldwide and recall the shoe. After CAIR's four-month campaign, Nike agrees to do both but also agrees to conduct sensitivity training and consultation with Muslim representatives.

# CAIR Action Alert

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) **Alert #132**  
 1050 17th St., N.W., Suite 490, Washington, D.C., 20036 Tel: 202-659-CAIR (2247) Fax: 202-659-2254  
 E-mail: [cair1@ix.netcom.com](mailto:cair1@ix.netcom.com) URL: <http://www.cair-net.org>

## MUSLIMS CALL ON NIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR WORD "ALLAH" ON SHOE

Design resembles Arabic word for "God" - Shoes sold on both coasts

(WASHINGTON, D.C., 3/24/97) - CAIR is calling on sportswear giant Nike, Inc. to apologize for a shoe design that resembles the Arabic word "Allah." (See photo at <http://www.cair-net.org>) CAIR received complaints about the shoe from Muslims who saw it on display and for sale in stores on both coasts. In a letter to CAIR, Nike admitted the symbol on the shoe resembles the word "Allah," but claimed the shoe design was a sample that should never have been sold to the public. Nike representatives also claim the resemblance to "Allah" was brought to the company's attention early in the production process and that the shoe will go to stores with a modified design.

In an exchange of calls and letters with Nike, CAIR asked for a clear statement from the company containing the following points:  
 1) An apology to the American Muslim community for the appearance of these shoes in stores. 2) A statement of recall for those shoes that remain in stores. 3) Sensitivity training about Islam, by Muslims, for marketing and graphic design teams. 4) A statement of willingness to work with American Muslim consultants in the future. 5) An internal investigation of the incident.

This is not the first incident of its type involving Nike and the Muslim community. In 1995, also at CAIR's request, Nike agreed to remove a billboard deemed offensive to Muslims. The billboard featured a picture of a basketball player with the headline "They Called Him Allah."

"When Nike first used the name of Allah in its advertising, we gave them the benefit of the doubt as to their intentions," said CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad. "But in this case, with Nike's past history in this regard, we must ask for a clear apology and a clarification as to why Nike allowed this insulting design to be remain available for display and sale in stores nationwide," said Awad. Awad added that American Muslims and people of other faiths are being asked to contact Nike about the shoe design.

**ACTIONS REQUESTED:** (Be FIRM, but POLITE. Hostile calls and letters are counterproductive.)  
 1) Call, write, fax, and e-mail Nike asking that they address the points outlined above. Contact: Mr. Tom Clarke, President, Nike, Inc., 1 Bowerman Drive, Beaverton, OR, 97005 TEL: 1-800-344-6453 FAX: 503-644-6655 E-MAIL: [mcclain\\_rainsey@nike.com](mailto:mcclain_rainsey@nike.com) 2) Contact CAIR with details if you see these shoes in any store.



YES, I would like to help promote a positive image of Islam and Muslims. Enclosed you will find \$\_\_\_\_\_ for my new/renewed CAIR membership. I also enclose a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Student/Low Income	\$10
Individual	\$25
Family	\$50
Institution	\$100
Donation:	
_____ \$1,000	_____ \$500
_____ \$100	_____ Other

**NOTE:** Each Action Alert costs CAIR about \$500. Please support this important work by sending donations to CAIR or by helping plan a fundraising event in your area.



A scene out of the 20th Century Fox film "The Siege" shown here. CAIR coordinates a campaign challenging the stereotypical portrayal of Arabs and Muslims in the movie.



Muslims worldwide were disturbed about a cartoon by Bruce Beattie of *The Daytona Beach News-Journal* in Florida that unfairly linked the faith of Islam to nuclear weapons.

# Education thro

*CAIR incorporates new strategies to inform the public about Islam and the Muslim community.*

In 1998, CAIR continued to expand the services it offered to the community, especially those services that sought to empower and educate the public. With four years of experience, CAIR discovered creative strategies that worked and continued to implement them.

In May of 1998, CAIR announced the availability of a new e-mail mailing list designed to be a journalist's window to the American Muslim community. Subscribers to the list, called ISLAM-INFONET, would receive daily news releases and articles about issues of concern for the Muslim community. The list would also keep media professionals, officials, and congressional staffers

informed about Islamic religious holidays, conferences, seminars, and other local and national community activities. Previously, CAIR had launched a similar digest of news articles called CAIR-NET. This digest was designed to keep American Muslims informed about topics of interest and allowed them to set their own agenda.

Through its action alerts, CAIR challenged Islamophobic remarks in all sectors of society. In September, CAIR called on members to request that the magazine *U.S. News & World Report* apologize for the publication of an advertisement that attacked Islam. The ad, paid for by the Pro-Israel group Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME), contained a number of offensive claims that essen-

tially referred to the world's fastest growing religion as "virulent" and claimed Muslims believe "any act of violence is permitted and encouraged."

In December of 1998, CAIR called on Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ), to retract an inflammatory and incorrect statement. In an essay titled, "My Almost-Trip to Israel," published on a website, Saxton wrote: "...how can anyone trust an agreement compared to the Treaty of Hudaibiya enacted by the Prophet Muhammad, in which a treaty lasts as long as political expediency dictates."

After receiving complaints about the remarks from concerned Muslims, CAIR sent a letter to Rep. Saxton asking that he retract the defamatory



CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad and former Vice President Al Gore at a White House reception.



As part of a settlement, Nike agrees to construct playgrounds at several Islamic centers nationwide. One of the first playgrounds was constructed in Dar Al Hijrah in Northern Virginia, shown here.

# ugh Outreach

statement and apologize to the American Muslim community. The letter outlined the historical events relating to the Treaty of Hudaibiya, showing that it was not the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) who broke the treaty.

In 1998, while Hollywood continued to produce movies with themes of violent and cruel Muslims and Arabs, CAIR noticed changes in the way movie producers responded to its campaigns. For instance, similar to its 1994 film "True Lies," 20th Century Fox's "The Siege," had a plot line depicting Muslims and Arabs as a threat to American society. The film, set in Brooklyn, N.Y., involved a bombing campaign by Muslims that prompted the American military to

**"I would like to stress to you and to all American Muslims that at no time did I mean or intend disrespect for Islam as a religion, for Muslims as individuals or for the Prophet Muhammad."**

– Rep. Jim Saxton

declare martial law and carry out mass arrests of American Muslims and Arab-Americans.

Instead of organizing protests, CAIR representatives met with the producers to discuss their concerns about the film's potential negative impact on the American Muslim community. At that meeting, CAIR offered an analysis of the script describing several offensive and stereotypical themes it said existed in the film. CAIR was particularly concerned that "The Siege" depicted American Muslims as a danger to society. In response to CAIR's analysis, 20th Century Fox agreed to make minor modifications in specific scenes, but rejected a reappraisal of the film's plot line. They contended that the film

**"Today's announcement represents the ideal resolution of our differences with the Muslim community," said Nike Vice President of Law and Corporate Affairs Lindsay Stewart. "What began in controversy has now blossomed into opportunity. We thank CAIR for helping build this bridge of understanding."**

was challenging Islamophobia and the governmental infringements on constitutional rights. CAIR disagreed, and ultimately, various news agencies reported that the movie lost \$20 million in sales.

"The barrage of negative and stereotypical portrayals of Muslims in this film will overpower any positive message," said CAIR in a press release. "American Muslims have to wonder, given 20th Century Fox's history, whether this studio has a political agenda to 'Americanize' the conflict in the Middle East."

CAIR also called on the Showtime cable network to consider pulling a poorly-rated film that stereotyped Muslims and Arabs as violent, greedy, corrupt, lecherous, and cruel. The film, "Escape: Human Cargo," taped

in Israel, included scenes in which a woman is stoned to death for thinking about committing adultery.

Following discussions with CAIR and other anti-defamation groups, Showtime representatives were made to understand that the constant and unchallenged repetition of these stereotypes has a direct negative impact on the lives of ordinary American Muslims. Showtime said it would add a disclaimer at the beginning of the film that read: "This is one person's experience, and does not reflect Arab culture or the Islamic faith."

In another incident, a syndicated political cartoonist and a Canadian newspaper apologized to Muslims for slights to their religion. The cartoonist, Bruce Beattie of *The Daytona Beach*

*News-Journal* in Florida, sent a letter of apology to CAIR after Muslims worldwide complained about a cartoon that it said unfairly linked the faith of Islam to nuclear weapons and portrayed Muslims stereotypically.

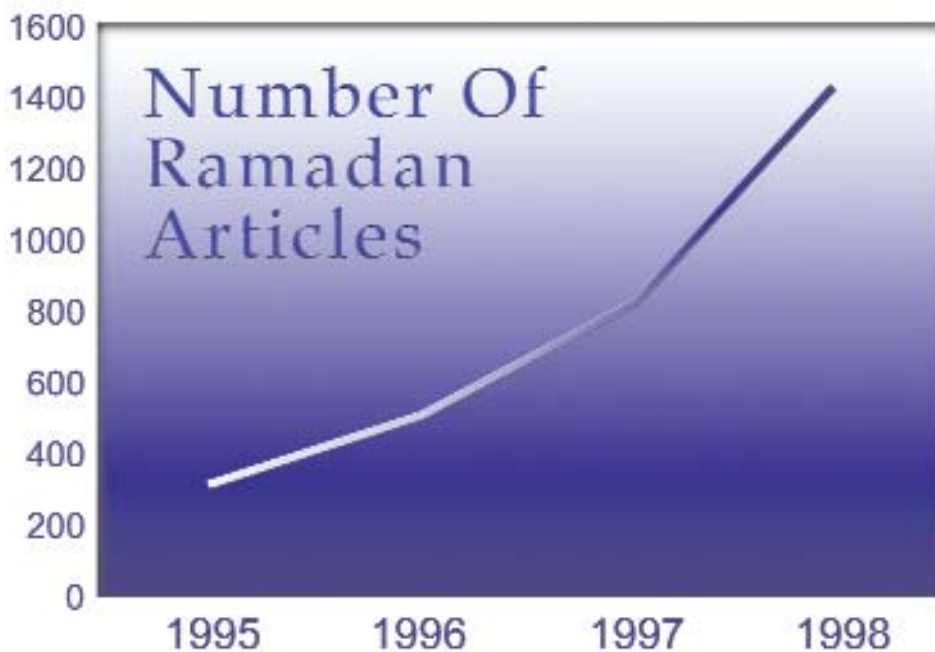
Beattie had drawn a nuclear mushroom cloud labeled "Islamic Bomb" and showed a "Muslim" wearing a turban and brandishing a scimitar of the type often used to stereotype Muslims and Islam as violent. The sword-wielding figure says: "An eye for an eye...a megaton for a megaton!"

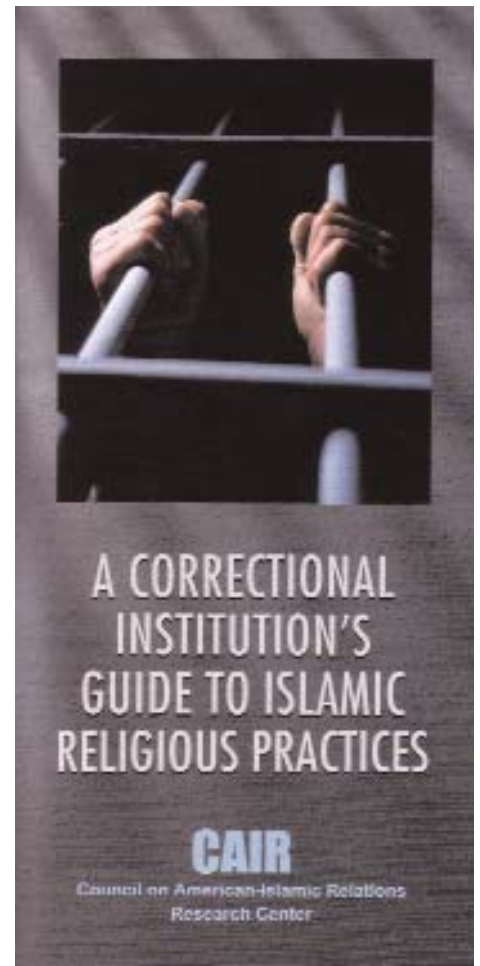
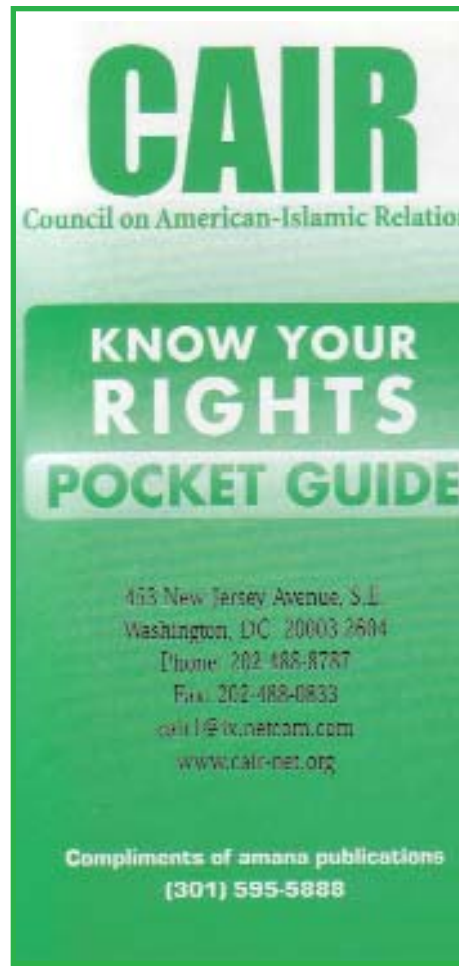
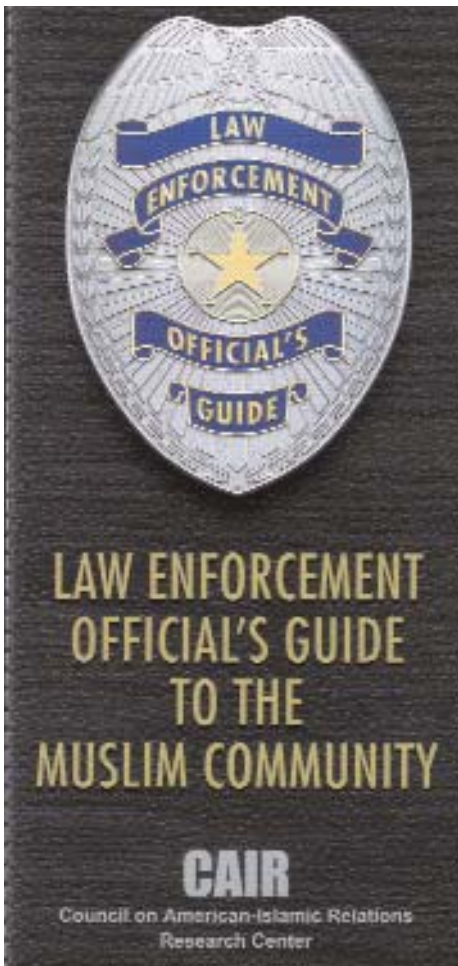
In his letter to CAIR, Beattie wrote: "I feel your letter criticizing my cartoon of June 2nd raises some valid points. I hereby apologize for my depiction of Muslims in the cartoon, and wish to express my regret for any offense the cartoon may have caused. In the future, I will be more sensitive to the concerns of the American Muslim community."

Anti-Muslim sentiment was also widespread on the Internet in 1998. With the cooperation of America Online (AOL), CAIR helped remove a web site that sought to imitate the Quran. AOL said the site was in violation of the terms of service in that it was clearly designed to be hurtful and defamatory.

On a more positive note, CAIR and Nike announced the resolution of outstanding issues relating to an offensive logo design that resembled the Arabic word "Allah," or God, on one of its shoes. The dispute was initially resolved with a recall of the shoes, but after the recall, other related issues, such as the method used to remove the offensive design and the continued appearance of shoes in stores

After CAIR first issued its Ramadan Publicity Kit in 1998, coverage of Ramadan and Hajj in the media increased drastically in the following years.





CAIR raises the issue of religious accommodation in its series of guides. Shown here are "Law Enforcement Official's Guide to the Muslim Community," a "Know Your Rights Guide," and "A Correctional Institution's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices."

worldwide, arose again.

Following extended discussions, CAIR and Nike resolved their differences on mutually agreeable terms. The agreement included a Nike-sponsored community development project involving construction of playgrounds at several Islamic centers and Muslim schools nationwide and sensitivity training for Nike designers. Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center in Falls Church, Va., was chosen to be the first recipient of such a facility.

"Today's announcement represents the ideal resolution of our differences with the Muslim community," said Nike Vice President of Law and Corporate Affairs Lindsay Stewart. "What began in controversy has now blossomed into opportunity. We thank CAIR for helping build this bridge of

understanding," said Stewart.

The playground at an Islamic center in Virginia, and those to be built in the future, would be surfaced with Nike Grind, a resilient composite material made from used sneakers. The sneakers are collected as part of Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe effort.

The Nike case became so well known in the media that it became a case study at the George Washington University School of Business and is featured in many marketing textbooks across the country.

CAIR's release of its 1998 annual report on the status of American Muslim civil rights, called "Patterns of Discrimination," detailed more than 280 incidents and experiences of anti-Muslim violence, discrimination, stereotyping, bias, and harassment. It

indicated an 18 percent increase in total incidents and a 60 percent rise in discrimination cases.

# WORKING WITH *Legislators*

*CAIR takes steps to assure that the Muslim voice is heard in the halls of Congress.*



American Muslims gather at Lafayette Park in Washington, D.C. to rally for peace and justice in the world.

In 1999, CAIR began to comment more frequently on issues affecting America's interests and image domestically and abroad. On the international level, CAIR supported action to end Serbian aggression. As a member of the Kosovo Task Force, CAIR endorsed a letter that expressed support of NATO attacks on Serbian military positions. It asked that the military campaign continue until former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic agree to stop his aggression and allow freedom and independence for Kosovo and its people.

Representatives of several national American Muslim organizations, including CAIR, met with State Department officials to discuss the religious and political rights in Turkey. The meeting was sparked when a Turkish parliamentarian, Merve Kavakci, was denied the right to take her seat in Parliament and was subsequently stripped of her Turkish citizenship for refusing to remove her religiously-mandated headscarf. She was also the target of a smear campaign by secular extremists in Turkish government and in the media.

Muslim representatives discussed the denial of Kavakci's religious rights as well as the broader issue of religious freedom in Turkey with State Department officials. The meeting was



one of several in a series of discussions on this and other issues related to religious freedom.

Later that year, when a religious phrase allegedly used by a crew member of Egypt Air Flight 990 just before that plane crashed into the Atlantic was misconstrued as a suicide prayer, CAIR was there to set the record straight. CAIR officials flew to New York and alongside Islamic scholars and New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, held a news conference to present more information about Islamic prayer.

CAIR representatives explained that the phrase, "tawakkaltu 'ala Allah," or "I put my trust in God," by itself would not be sufficient to prove criminal action or intent. It is one of many religious phrases, or supplications that Muslims use on a daily basis.

"This phrase would only be used when the act that follows is in full compliance with the Islamic faith. There is little chance that someone would say this and then commit suicide and murder, which are strictly prohibited by Islam," said a CAIR spokesperson on CNN's Crossfire.

Domestically, CAIR offered its support for the Secret Evidence Repeal Act of 1999. Reps. Tom Campbell (R-CA) and David Bonior (D-MI) introduced the legislation that would repeal the use of secret evidence in Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) deportation hearings. The Act's sponsors said more than 20 of the 25 individuals held based on secret evidence at that time were Muslims and/or Arabs.

To this day, many American Muslims and civil libertarians believe secret evidence is unconstitutional

and that it is used disproportionately against members of the Muslim and Arab-American communities.

"Secret evidence is a legal shortcut that does not lead to justice. An unconstitutional measure that is today used against Muslims and Arabs could one day negatively impact the legal rights of anyone in our society," said CAIR in a statement.

In a series of roundtable discussions with the State Department, CAIR met with top State Department officials in 1999 to discuss issues such as American foreign policy in the Muslim world, the negative effect of Islamophobic stereotyping and terminology, governmental attitudes toward Islam, discrimination against Muslims in Western countries, and freedom of religion in Muslim-majority countries.

Muslim leaders encouraged the



TOP: Isra'a Abdul Rahman, of CAIR National, helps a Virginia woman register to vote at one of CAIR's many voter registration drives. ABOVE: CAIR encourages Muslims to register to vote in its flier posted in mosques across America.

State Department officials to view American Muslim organizations as a resource in formulating policy and consider eligible Muslims for senior level positions within the State Department.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright also met with CAIR and other Muslim and Arab-American groups in 1999 to brief them on her trip to the Middle East. While the discussion focused on topics such as human and religious rights violations in Turkey and Kashmir, the American Muslim community's role in formulating foreign policy and the need for Muslims in policy-making positions in the government, the Secretary also acknowledged the growth of the Muslim community in America and said officials needed to better understand Islam as they consider policy issues.

In May of 1999, CAIR thanked Colorado law enforcement authorities for preventing a terrorist attack on an Islamic center in that state. According to the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office in Littleton, Colorado, a patrol sergeant noticed a suspicious vehicle at the entrance to the Colorado

Muslim Society in Denver. The vehicle drove off when approached by the officer.

In a subsequent car chase, police said the suspect tried to ram the sheriff's vehicle. The Denver Police Department (DPD) eventually located the suspect as he entered a residence. He was then identified by a sheriff's deputy and taken into custody. While being arrested, 39-year-old Jack Merlyn Modig fought with the officers and said, "I am an enemy against the Islamic nation and I was going to take care of business."

When Modig's car was searched, officers found a loaded shotgun, a loaded high-powered hunting rifle with a scope and bipod, two 9mm semi-automatic pistols, along with hundreds of rounds of ammunition, large quantities of bomb-making components, two machetes, a 7-inch survival knife, a black ski mask, black military vest and a pair of tactical goggles.

Modig was charged with possession of explosive devices, attempted vehicular assault, vehicular eluding, carrying concealed weapons, and ethnic intimidation.

Using the incident as an example of what could go wrong when a community is not prepared, CAIR issued guidelines for Muslim communities to minimize risks of similar attacks. In its "Mosque Safety Kit," the Council called on all mosques and Islamic centers to install security cameras and perimeter floodlights outside the mosque, install fire and burglar alarm systems, participate in neighborhood watch programs, meet with the local police department and document description of suspicious people or vehicles.

In 1999, even Hollywood became more sensitive to the portrayal of Arabs and Muslims in the Warner Bros' movie, "Three Kings." The story attempts to highlight three American

soldiers' journey through Iraq during which their ignorance of Iraqi culture and lifestyle was replaced with understanding and appreciation for all humanity.

Studio officials retained experts from the Muslim community to help assure that the film was sensitive to Arab American and Muslim American concerns and conducted a screening for their constituents.

Also in 1999, CAIR settled a case out of court with California-based Solectron Corporation -- the world's largest electronics manufacturing company -- over prayers by Muslim employees at a plant near Atlanta, Georgia. At the time, more than 10 percent of Solectron's worldwide workforce was Muslim.

The dispute began when more than 30 Somali Muslim contract employees assigned to Solectron quit their jobs assembling cellular phones because they were not allowed to offer obligatory Islamic prayers during work breaks. The workers, who were all refugees from Somalia, wanted to take two five-minute prayer breaks each shift.

Upon hearing about the case, CAIR sent a legal team to Atlanta, Georgia to negotiate a resolution. The resolution, achieved through discussions between CAIR and top Solectron representatives, included a letter to each worker stating regret over the misunderstanding, reinstatement of all contract employees involved in the matter who wished to return to their jobs, and back wages for time missed.

Solectron also issued a statement

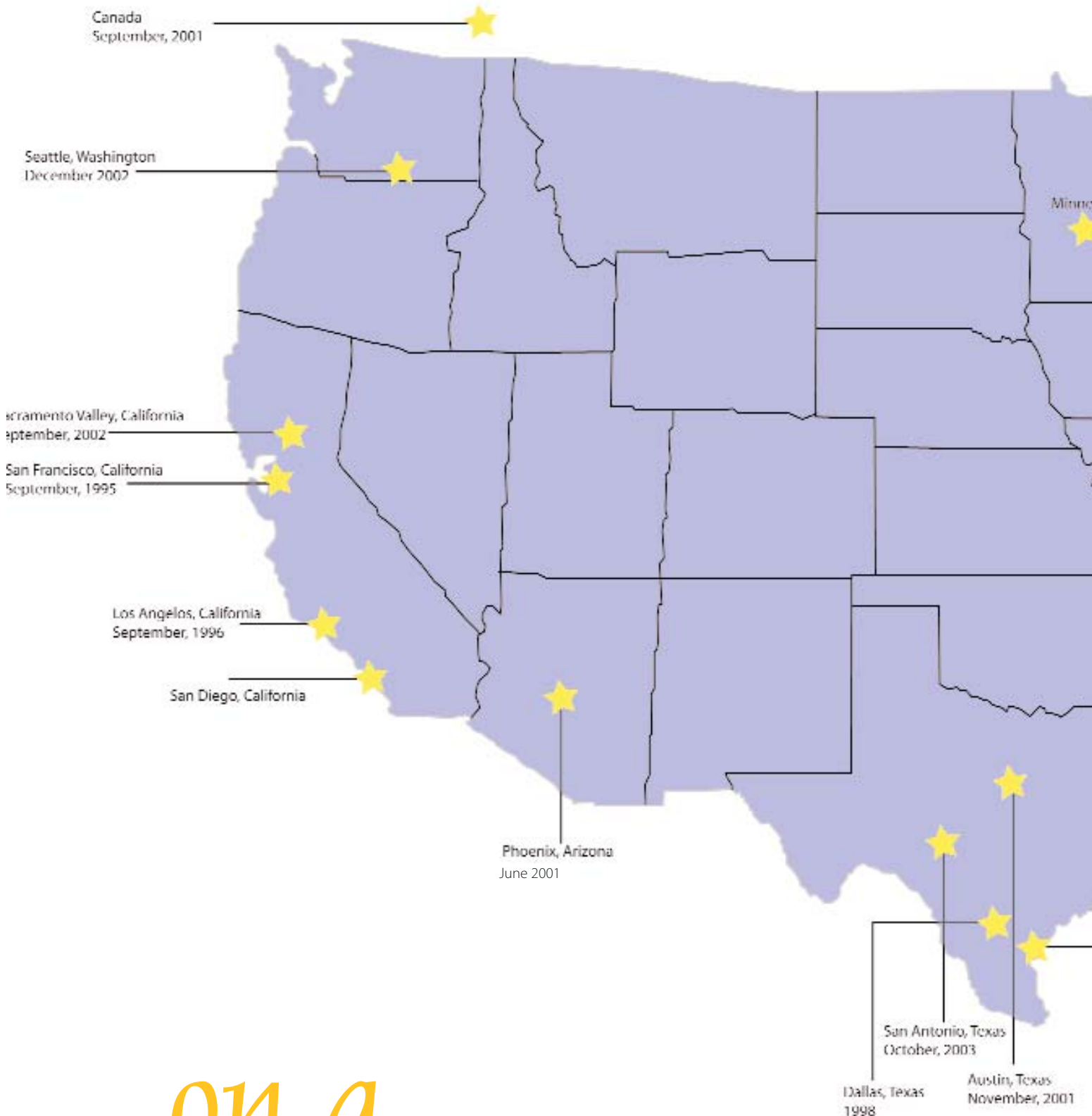


Tom Campbell (R-CA) and David Bonior (D-MI) hold a press conference on the Hill about secret evidence.

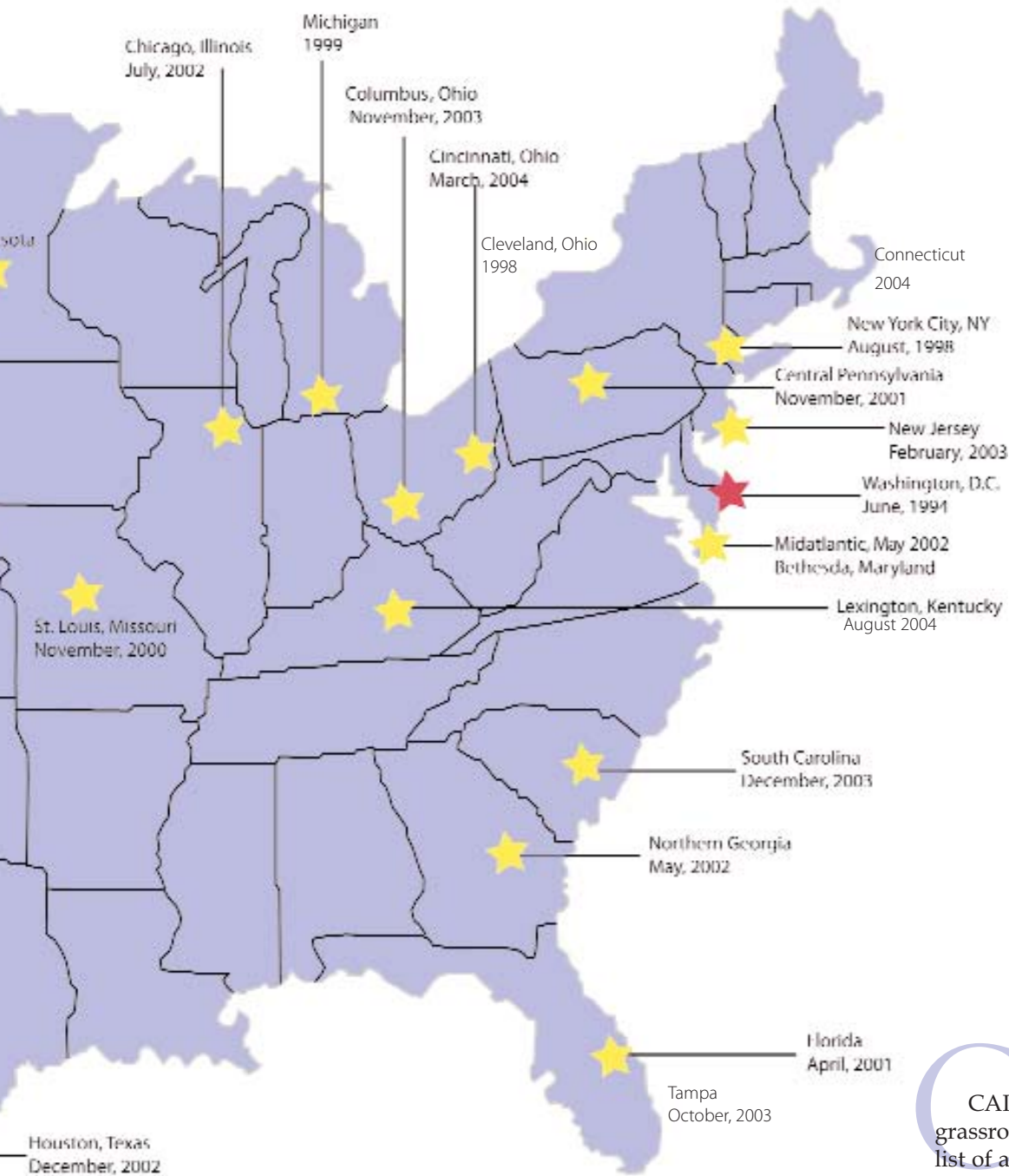
clarifying its commitment to diversity in the workplace that was distributed to managers worldwide with an addendum on the specific workplace needs of Muslims and other religious groups. The company made a contribution to the refugee relief agency that serves the Somali community in the Atlanta area and invited CAIR to remain as an ongoing consultant to Solectron on issues relating to religious accommodations for Muslim employees.

In 1999, CAIR focused on building the American Muslim voting base by declaring September "Voter Registration and Education Month." In an open letter to the Muslim community, leaders encouraged their community members to come together and cooperate on several issues, especially registering more community members as voters and educating them as to how to get involved in the electoral process.

**"Secret evidence is a legal short-cut that does not lead to justice. An unconstitutional measure that is today used against Muslims and Arabs could one day negatively impact the legal rights of anyone in our society,"**  
**said CAIR.**



# On a GRASSROOTS



CAIR prides itself on being a grassroots organization. With a long list of achievements, our 29 offices and chapters nationwide embody the grassroots spirit of our work. Many CAIR chapters are staffed by full-time executives and others are still volunteer efforts. In the coming months and years, CAIR not only expects to add more chapters but will also staff its chapters with full-time professionals.

# LEVEL



TOP: Ahmed Bedier of CAIR Florida at a press conference regarding a religious accommodation issue

ABOVE: Iesa Galloway of CAIR-Houston is interviewed by 90.1 KPFT, a Pacifica channel, regarding the Gujarat, India riots.

## THE BEGINNING

The first CAIR chapter was established in California, which opened its first of three offices in Los Angeles. CAIR-California (CAIR-CA) was established in 1996 with an office in Anaheim and later went on to purchase its own building in 2001. This chapter has been very active in one of CAIR's major activities: sensitivity training. CAIR believes that prevention is the best cure. By training law enforcement in the protocols of interaction with the Muslim community, CAIR not only prevents potential abuse but also makes law enforcement more effective.

CAIR-CA's civil rights department has conducted multiple trainings for law enforcement offices in San Francisco, Laguna Beach, Brea, Hawthorne, Santa Monica, Palos Verdes and Orange County. CAIR-CA, along with several other chapters, has conducted sensitivity training for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Joint Terrorism Task Force. CAIR-CA also coordinated a townhall meeting, "Healing the Hate: Bringing Orange County Together," where 120 students, parents, educators, religious and civic leaders addressed two hate crimes and sent a message of unity to those who seek to divide our nation along religious and ethnic lines.

Besides commenting regularly on issues in the news affecting the American Muslim community, the communication department at CAIR-CA has initiated several successful pro-active projects, such as co-hosting fundraising drives for the local PBS station. PBS-KOCE featured "Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet" and "Islam: Empire of Faith," and over 10 million viewers tuned in as CAIR officials presented information on the life of the Prophet, Islam, and the Muslim community. The communication department also coordinated the "Stop the Hate Campaign," which

documented hate speech on radio over a three-month period and met with radio station executives to urge them to tone down hateful speech on the airwaves.

Part of CAIR's work involves working with government officials at all levels: federal, state and local. CAIR-CA has been at the forefront of positive engagement with government officials. Governor Gray Davis of California signed a historic Halal Food Bill, and the State Legislature passed a resolution condemning bigotry against American Muslims. And, like other chapters nationwide, the California offices conducted townhall meetings with incumbents and candidates to address issues of concern.

Lobbying plays a major role in state politics and helps create a meaningful presence in America for any group. CAIR-CA communicated with dozens of state legislators and invited all members of Congress to utilize CAIR as a political resource for lawmakers. Today, CAIR-CA's Los Angeles office is a reference point on Islam in Southern California and consists of seven full-time staffers, interns, and volunteers. CAIR-CA serves one of the largest Muslim populations in the country and is recognized as the go-to source for media, interfaith, government and civil rights associations.

## NEW CAIR CHAPTERS

In the last few years, CAIR has experienced a significant increase in the numbers of its chapters across the country. For instance, CAIR Arizona (CAIR-AZ) was founded in June 2001 and has been very successful in political, media, and civil rights advocacy for Muslims.

The CAIR-AZ media department established a media match group that regularly monitors daily print media and local talk radio; it also facilitates an online discussion group through

which members write op-eds for submission to local media outlets.

In the realm of political activism, CAIR-AZ has met with numerous government officials to share the concerns of the Muslim community, including U.S. Representatives John Shadegg and Raul Grijalva, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano and Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon. Since the inauguration of the chapter, CAIR-AZ has held voter registration drives to sign up new voters and record the number of registered Muslim voters. These drives were held at Friday prayers, annual Eid prayers and private gatherings.

In March 2003, CAIR-AZ created "Operation Safe Haven," a program that operates in coordination with churches, synagogues and the larger community to provide Muslims with safe places in which to seek refuge when feeling threatened. As a result, the city of Tempe designated all city government buildings as "Safe Havens."

CAIR-Ohio (CAIR-OH) began in 1998 with two offices in Columbus and Cleveland; a third office opened in Cincinnati in early 2004. CAIR-Ohio has been active politically by networking with various government officials and has held townhall meetings with the FBI. The Cincinnati office has also been heavily involved with voter registration campaigns and has held an inner-city iftar called



Celena Khatib of CAIR- Michigan conducts a diversity training workshop on Islam and Muslims for local professionals.

"Share a Feast" that fed 500 people. Additionally, they held an interfaith dialogue for peaceful responses to the Middle East conflict, and its Cincinnati office discussed this same issue on a local radio station show.

On the East Coast, there are many successful CAIR chapters. CAIR-Florida (CAIR-FL) was established in April of 2001 with its first office in South Florida. In October 2003, a second office was established in Tampa. Since its inception, CAIR-FL has successfully mediated and resolved hundreds of civil rights cases ranging from job discrimination to racial profiling to overzealous law enforcement.

One of the most prominent cases was an incident involving three medical students who were wrongly

accused of making a terrorist threat and were later detained. CAIR-FL not only used the media effectively to advocate their innocence but also worked to provide them legal counsel to clear their names and records. When the hospitals at which they were scheduled to intern terminated their positions due to public pressure, CAIR-FL worked with the hospitals to get the internships back.

Another well-known CAIR-FL case involved the Pinellas county podiatrist, Dr. Goldstein, who intended to kill hundreds of Muslims and bomb 50 Florida Islamic centers. Despite the fact that Goldstein planned to "kill all the rags," he was not charged with terrorism and was sentenced to serve only 12 years on charges of weapons

Sarwat Hussain (center) is one of many panelists invited to speak at the "Civic Awareness Week" at the University of Texas, San Antonio.



violation. CAIR-FL was at the forefront of this case, encouraging the Muslim community to voice their concerns and question the apparent double standards in justice.

CAIR-FL also worked with the Broward County School District to pass a "zero-tolerance" resolution on hate crimes against Muslim students. Florida Governor Jeb Bush announced, "We have assured Islamic leaders that any actions against them because of who they are or what their religion is will absolutely not be tolerated."

CAIR-FL along with other rights groups such as the Center for Advancement of Human Rights at Florida State University, the Florida Immigration Advocacy Center, and the Muslim Student Association at Florida State called for the withdrawal of proposed legislation that would prohibit state funds from being used to provide financial aid to students from mainly Muslim countries. Florida House Bill 31 and Senate Bill 1760 targeted students from Iran, Sudan, Libya, Iraq and Syria and was later defeated in the House Education Committee.

CAIR-FL also participated in a joint press conference with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to call upon all community members to cooperate with law enforcement officials in reporting terrorism activities. CAIR-FL leaders stood with FBI officials to demonstrate their support for the search of Adnan El' Shukri-Jumah, a person who is on the FBI's most wanted list. In a statement, CAIR-FL said, "This is our country, this is our state, this is our community. We join the FBI

in calling on the public to come forward and contact the FBI if they have any information."

CAIR-FL officials have also been interviewed in several media outlets around the state and have had numerous letters to the editor and op-eds published in almost all major state newspapers. The St. Petersburg Times characterized CAIR as the "growing voice" for American Muslims.

CAIR-FL also published the first



Sabiha Khan of the Southern California chapter, is being interviewed by the media about the "Stop the Hate Campaign" which documents radio hate speech.

statewide annual report on civil rights. Florida Muslims reported that their daily experiences in schools, workplaces, public areas, airports and government agencies included incidents in which they were profiled and singled out because of perceived religious and ethnic identity. The report also cited how media coverage of Muslims also played an important role in shaping public perceptions about Islam and Muslims.

CAIR-FL organized and participated in several townhall meetings to discuss the major challenges facing the nation. These seminars were conducted in Miami and Jacksonville and were attended by hundreds of con-

cerned citizens of all races, religions and nationalities.

CAIR-FL also hosted presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich during the Democratic Primary. In addition, CAIR-FL conducted voter-registration drives and workshops educating the Muslim community about the electoral process and urged communities to get in contact with their elected officials.

In February 2003, CAIR-New Jersey, (CAIR-NJ) was established with an inaugural fundraising dinner by a group of long-time activists in the New Jersey area. In September 2003, CAIR-NJ became a fully functional chapter with the hiring of its first Executive Director.

Since its establishment, CAIR-NJ has handled over 45 civil rights cases through advocacy and mediation. It has helped spread awareness of critical incidents in its

community, such as the tragic death of Nabeel Siddiqui (October 2003), the acts of vandalism at the Ocean County mosque (April 2004), and the rise in anti-Muslim crimes. In addition, CAIR-NJ established a working relationship with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights, a state agency running under the office of the New Jersey Attorney General. CAIR-NJ has simultaneously built coalitions on civil rights issues with like-minded groups including the New Jersey chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union and the America-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Politically, CAIR-NJ has met with numerous members of the U.S.

Congress and has initiated a dialogue between Senator Jon Corzine's office and the Muslim community. Also, CAIR-NJ launched a project to establish a relationship with the county prosecutors for all New Jersey counties.

CAIR-NJ has become a respected voice in the media. The chapter has convened with the editorial boards of a number of local New Jersey newspapers. CAIR-NJ has taken a leading role in educating its community. In the past year, CAIR-NJ has held a leadership conference, a grant-writing seminar, and numerous know-your-rights workshops.

CAIR-NJ hosted a successful, full-day leadership conference, bringing in respected experts on topics such as lobbying, coalition-building, media relations, grant-writing, the USA PATRIOT Act, and interfaith outreach.

CAIR-NJ also organized a first-of-its-kind grant-writing workshop. The workshop prepared Muslim leaders with the information and tools they needed to write a successful grant application. This two-day hands-on workshop was later replicated by CAIR National.

CAIR-NJ handles cases of religious discrimination and gives referrals to the NJ Division on Civil Rights and attorneys throughout the state. CAIR-NJ offers a quarterly newsletter which is distributed free of charge to community members.

Also on the East Coast, CAIR Mid-Atlantic (formerly CAIR-Maryland), began its operations in May of 2003. CAIR Mid-Atlantic covers Maryland, Virginia, and the DC-metro area. The Mid-Atlantic chapter's biggest events were the Law Enforcement and Media Appreciation Reception held in April of 2004 and its annual fundraising dinner in June of 2004.

More than 70 sheriffs, police chiefs, delegates, and other officials attended



Feroze Abdul-Amin of CAIR-NY conducts a voter registration drive on the streets of New York.

its Law Enforcement and Media Appreciation reception. FBI Directors Michael Mason (DC) and Kevin Perkins (MD), Montgomery County Councilmember George Leventhal all spoke at the event and deemed it a great success. The evening started off with a representative from Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich's office, who presented CAIR Mid-Atlantic with the Governor's Citation in recognition of the chapter's "dedication, commitment, and leadership for the benefit of the American Muslim community."

In June, CAIR Mid-Atlantic's fundraising dinner attracted over 600 people to the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, MD. The keynote speakers included Presidential Candidate Ralph Nader and Dr. Umar Faruq Abd Allah of the Nawawi Foundation. Ilyasah Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X, presented the "Malcolm X" Award to Muhammad Ali (in absentia). The evening ended with an announcement that the ACLU of Maryland added CAIR Mid-Atlantic's Executive Director to its Board of

Governors.

On the West Coast, one of CAIR's most successful chapters is CAIR-Seattle, established in November 2002. Since its inception, CAIR-Seattle has had numerous successful fundraisers, workshops, press conferences, and case victories. It has established connections not only with important members of Congress, but has also worked with other advocacy groups including the ACLU, Hate Free Zone, AACC, ADC, Organization of Chinese, Justice for New Americans and Eastside Pacific Islanders Association.

CAIR-Seattle played a major role in the case involving the wrongly-accused U.S. Army Chaplain James "Yusuf" Yee, organizing various news conferences and bringing national media attention to his case. This chapter has also been politically active in registering voters and organizing workshops geared toward educating the public about effective political participation.

In order to facilitate greater under-

standing and trust among the Abrahamic faiths, CAIR-Seattle worked with many Jewish and Christian organizations on establishing constructive dialogue.

In the South, CAIR's South Carolina chapter was established in Columbia in July 2002. CAIR-Columbia is organized into four committees, each with its own developmental goals and strategies, and is entirely staffed by volunteers. The Muslim Community Relations Committee specializes in outreach through mailings, banquets and other events. The Civic Relations Committee is involved with interfaith dialogue meetings with Christian and Jewish groups.

The Media Relations Committee has also established good rapport with *The State* newspaper and other media outlets. Members of the committee have submitted numerous letters to the editor, guest columns and story ideas. One example of CAIR-Columbia media work relates to the controversy over hijab in French public schools. Because of this controversy, CAIR-Columbia approached a high school student to write a guest column about her perspective on wearing a scarf. Her column was printed and received much praise. Soon afterwards, at the suggestion of the Media Relations Committee, the newspaper also wrote a religion feature about Muslim women and the headscarf, which included pictures of how to don a scarf.

CAIR-Columbia has initiated a Media Watch Committee in which it monitors coverage of Islam and

Muslims and reports on its findings through regular editorial board meetings.

The Government Relations and Civil Rights Committees have advised Muslims in need of legal advice through the services of local lawyers. Elected officials, such as Congressman Joe Wilson, Governor Mark Sanford, and Senator Fritz Hollings, have also met with representatives of CAIR-Columbia.



Rizwan Mowlana of CAIR Mid-Atlantic at a press conference calling upon Bank of America to resolve a religious discrimination issue with a Muslim employee.

Currently, the primary focus of CAIR-Columbia is to build a relationship with South Carolina FBI offices. CAIR plans meetings with the two highest FBI officials in the state to discuss how the FBI can be sensitive to Muslims' civil and religious rights while maintaining a high level of security for all.

### **CAIR VOLUNTEER CHAPTERS**

Like South Carolina, CAIR's San Antonio chapter is volunteer-staffed.

CAIR-San Antonio was established in October 2003. CAIR-San Antonio has dealt with cases of prayer accommodation and discrimination at work, detentions, child custodies, and hate crimes. A series of well-known hate crimes took place in March 2004 and involved the torching of four Muslim-owned businesses. CAIR-San Antonio organized a press conference that received local and state media attention. Members from the city council,

ACLU, NAACP, Interreligious Council, Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, and local police were invited to speak. As a result, considerable pressure was placed on the law enforcement agencies and the culprit was caught within a few days. In a meeting with the police chief, CAIR-San Antonio discussed holding a sensitivity and diversity training workshop for local law enforcement personnel.

As for political achievements, CAIR-San Antonio invited Democratic Presidential Candidate Dennis Kucinich to meet the Muslims of San Antonio in a successful event attended by over 400 people.

Additionally, the chairperson and a board member of CAIR-San Antonio were elected as Democratic Party state delegates and were actively involved in forming the Muslim Democratic Party Caucus at the party's state convention in Houston. During the convention, CAIR-San Antonio's chairperson was elected vice president of the Muslim Caucus.

### **CAIR ACROSS NORTH AMERICA**

In addition to the United States,

CAIR also has a presence in Canada. CAIR-Canada (CAIR-CAN), like its parent organization in the U.S., attempts to foster an accurate understanding and fuller appreciation of Islam in Canadian society. In 1996, a group of concerned Canadian Muslims started an informal network to work in Canada with CAIR, an organization well known among Canadian Muslims since 1994. After years of growth, CAIR-CAN was incorporated in 2000, and currently operates with four employees.

CAIR-CAN has been successful in reaching its objectives through a wide variety of channels. Its publications include guides to understanding Islam for journalists, educators and health care providers. These publications are regularly requested by government departments, local and national media, law enforcement, hospitals, schools, private firms, and non-profit organizations.

CAIR-CAN's media portfolio in print, radio and television is unparalleled in its depth and breadth. CAIR-CAN is sought after by media outlets around the country when commentary on issues affecting Canadian Muslims is needed.

CAIR-CAN has also been very successful in resolving religious accommodation issues such as the observance of Friday prayers, prayer facilities at work or at universities, hijab at workplaces and schools, and acknowledgment of Eid holidays.

CAIR-CAN has also brought attention to Islamophobic comments by

members of Parliament, police misconduct, harassment by security agencies and racial profiling.

Protecting the legal and political interests of Canadian Muslims requires vigilance and sustained government advocacy. CAIR-CAN has been at the forefront of Muslim organizations in defending basic Canadian rights and liberties. It has organized press conferences and offered written and oral testimonies before parliamentary committees on numerous occa-

Syrian prison, Arar returned to Canada. In the words of Arar, "Since its creation three years ago, CAIR-CAN has been active in the important areas of media relations, anti-discrimination and political advocacy. These areas have been traditionally neglected by other Muslim organizations. From conducting Islamic awareness courses to writing op-eds for major Canadian newspapers, CAIR-CAN has been successful in changing misconceptions about Islam in the minds of non-Muslims."



On CAIR-Northern California's behalf, Congressman Michael Honda (D-Ca) gives Jimi Yamaichi, a Japanese internment camp survivor, a "Courage Award" at CAIR- Northern California's 2003 banquet.

sions.

CAIR-CAN also has assembled a growing portfolio of critical commentary in prestigious Canadian academic journals, including a detailed and authoritative rebuttal of "The Trouble with Islam" by Irshad Manji.

One of CAIR-CAN's most notable achievements was in obtaining the release of Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen who was detained in the United States en route to Canada and deported to Syria where he was tortured. After spending more than a year in a

## CHAPTERS' EXPERIENCE

All CAIR chapters share common challenges and have similar aspirations. Among their aspirations are to put more resources into political activism, encourage Muslim youth to become active, increase the Muslim community's circle of friends, continue safeguarding civil rights, and enhance media relations to assure a more accurate portrayal of Muslims in the media. The challenges faced by CAIR chapters are the same shared by many non-profit organizations -- a geographically widespread commu-

nity coupled with limited financial and human resources. Most CAIR chapters find that its limited resources make it difficult to reach out and respond to the dozens of Muslim communities, large and small, scattered throughout the state. In spite of these challenges, CAIR chapters have shown themselves capable of the great achievements listed above.

# A DECADE OF GROWTH

**1995**

## **The Challenge of Intolerance**

- Following the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19, CAIR coordinates a nationwide campaign to deal with the anti-Muslim hysteria produced by the attack.
- One month after the Oklahoma City bombing, CAIR issues "A Rush to Judgment," a report detailing the more than 200 incidents of anti-Muslim harassment, threats and physical violence in the first few days after the attack.
- CAIR begins to issue publicity kits about Ramadan and Hajj, educating the public about Islamic holidays and practices.

**1997**

## **Collective Efforts Lead to Positive Action**

- Following a four-month CAIR campaign, Nike apologizes to Muslims worldwide and recalls shoes with a logo resembling the Arabic word for God.
- CAIR issues an employer and educator guides to Islamic religious practices.

**1999**

## **Working with Lawmakers**

- CAIR focuses on building the American Muslim voting base by declaring September "Voter Registration and Education Month." In an open letter to the Muslim community, CAIR encourages Muslims to register to vote and get involved in the political process.

**1996**

## **Defending the Prophet and Islam**

- CAIR deals with the anti-Muslim portrayals in the Warner Bros.' film "Executive Decision."
- An Internet e-mail list, called CAIR-NET, is launched to provide Muslims in America and worldwide with news and information.
- CAIR wins its first major "hijab" cases against Quality Inn Hotels and JC Penney.
- CAIR moves to a larger office and adds staff.

**1994**

## **Planting the Seed**

- Through the efforts of a number of Muslim activists, CAIR opens a small office on K Street in Washington, D.C.
- CAIR's first campaign: "True Lies."

**1998**

## **Education Through Outreach**

- In response to stereotypical portrayals in the 20th Century Fox film "The Siege," CAIR coordinates a successful national campaign involving mosque open houses, newspaper advertisements and other grassroots efforts.
- A second e-mail list, called ISLAM-INFONET, is launched to reach media professionals, elected officials and opinion leaders.

# 1994 - 2004

## 2001

### United We Stand

- CAIR releases a major report on the Muslim community in the United States. The report, called "The Mosque in America: A National Portrait," was the result of in-depth interviews with a randomized sample of representatives drawn from more than 1,200 American mosques.
- CAIR issues a congressional guide that delivers a wealth of vital information on the executive, judicial and legislative branches of the United States Government.
- Within minutes of the attacks, CAIR and other American Muslim organizations coordinate a national statement condemning the acts of September 11.
- CAIR places a full-page advertisement in the *Washington Post* on September 16, 2001 to unequivocally condemn terrorism in all of its forms.

## 2003

### Faith In Action

- CAIR holds major voter registration drives across the country to coincide with Eid, the Muslim holiday at the end of the pilgrimage to Mecca.
- CAIR launches its Library Project to educate the American public about Islam.
- CAIR's raises over a million dollars in its "Million in Ramadan" campaign.

## 2000

### An Increase of Political Presence

- CAIR proudly announces the opening of its new headquarters in Washington, D.C., 2 blocks south of the Capitol.
- CAIR organizes its first leadership conference, inviting activists from all around the country to learn the basics of grass-roots activism and network with other community leaders.
- United States Postal Service debuts a stamp that recognizes the Muslim holiday of Eid ul-Fitr.
- CAIR participates in the first Eid reception at the White House

## 2002

### Defining Our Future

- CAIR hosts a "Day of Unity and Prayer," commemorating the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.
- CAIR launches its Library Project, a first-of-its-kind national initiative to educate the American public about Islam and to counter anti-Muslim bigotry.
- CAIR's Research Director Dr. Mohamed Nimer releases *The North American Muslim Resource Guide*, a guide packed with data designed to serve researchers and activists alike.

## 2004

### Building a Better America

- CAIR launches its "Not in the Name of Islam" online petition, encouraging Muslims to help correct misconceptions of Islam and its stand on terror.
- CAIR releases its radio and TV public service announcements, "I am an American Muslim," featuring the diversity of the Muslim community.
- CAIR files a defamation lawsuit against those who make false claims against the Muslim community. It was one of the first times an American Muslim organization filed a defamation lawsuit.
- CAIR celebrates 10 years of service.

# the building blocks of

## **Civil Rights Department**

The Civil Rights Department at CAIR was founded in response to the tragedy of the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. Muslims were the suspected perpetrators, becoming targets of abuse across the country. CAIR emerged as the representative of Muslims in America by defending a previously unheard of and politically neglected segment of the nation.

The Civil Rights Department has grown to defend Muslims' rights in government, employment, schools, prisons and airports. It also works to educate Americans about Islam to prevent discrimination. Some of the department's most notable accomplishments over the years include settlement of high profile cases with the country's largest corporations such as Nike, JC Penny, and Delta Airlines. The Civil Rights Department successfully lobbied the government to accommodate religious attire in pho-

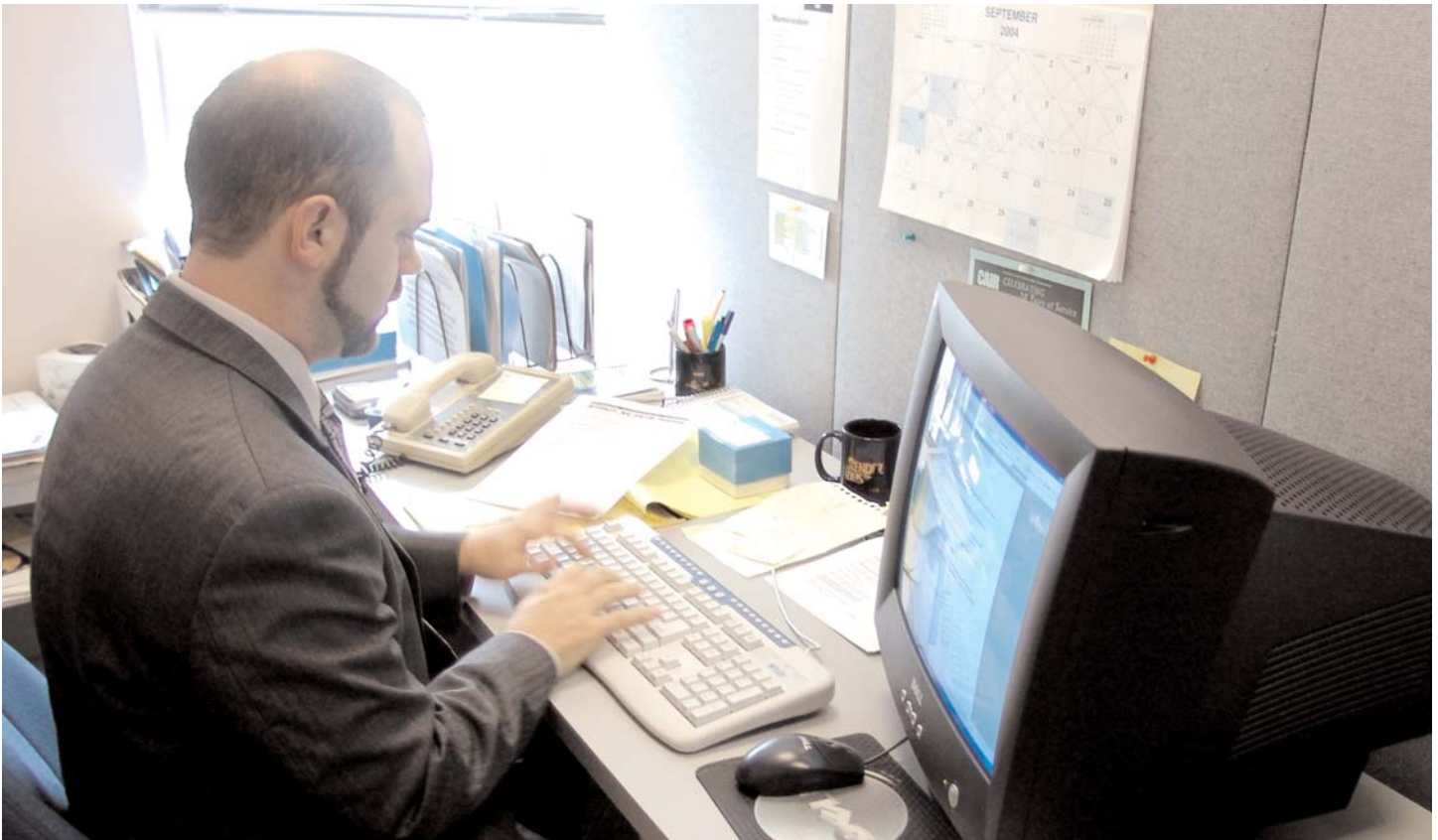
tographs and Islamic practices in prison, and has been actively educating countless schools and offices about Islam.

## **Legal Affairs**

CAIR's Legal Affairs Department was established in the summer of 2003 to assist CAIR in matters such as developing positions and honing messages on policy issues, protecting CAIR and the American Muslim community against slander and defamation attacks and providing general legal counsel in civil rights cases.

In its short history, the Legal Affairs has had several significant accomplishments in representing and defending CAIR and American Muslims. In October of 2003, CAIR filed a defamation lawsuit against Congressman Cass Ballenger (R-NC) who falsely claimed the group is "the fund-raising arm of Hezbollah." It was one of the first times that an American

*a brief look  
at the internal  
departments  
that keeps  
CAIR  
running  
smoothly*



Corey Saylor of the Governmental Affairs Dept. is putting together a "CAIR 2004 Election Update," an email service designed to inform the American Muslim community about where the presidential candidates stand on certain issues.

Muslim organization filed such a high-profile defamation lawsuit -- one that will only help to serve as a model for the Muslim community as more and more organizations, leaders and mosques stand up for themselves in a court of law.

Just as the NAACP and ACLU began as small organizations unable to offer legal services to their constituents, CAIR hopes that one day it will have enough attorneys on staff to be able to litigate and become even more active in the preservation of the civil and legal rights of Americans.

### **Communication Department**

CAIR's Communication Department works in conjunction with local and national media to ensure that an accurate portrayal of Islam and Muslims is presented to the American public. CAIR monitors local, national and international media, in part to challenge negative stereotypes, but also to applaud and

encourage positive representations of Islam and Muslims. Over the years, CAIR has become a respected and credible source for journalists and other media professionals.

In an effort to empower the American Muslim community, the Communication Department issues "Action Alerts" as a means of generating a grassroots response to political, social and media-related issues. These alerts have had a significant impact on bringing about change. CAIR also offers an e-mail list designed to be a source of information and news for the American Muslim community. Subscribers to CAIR-NET receive news releases and other materials dealing with American Muslim positions on issues of importance.

### **Governmental Affairs Dept.**

The establishment of the Governmental Affairs Department granted American Muslims something

the mere presence of a physical building could not: a political and legislative voice. In 2002, the Governmental Affairs department was established to voice issues of concern and importance to American Muslims on Capitol Hill.

The Governmental Affairs Department communicates with elected officials on the congressional level to bring the Muslim community's issues to the forefront. It also works with CAIR chapters to register more Muslims to vote and encourage them to get involved in local and national politics.

Government Affairs has also provided a venue for officials and organizations in D.C. to contact and work with CAIR on a political level. When French President Jacques Chirac announced the banning of hijab in all public state-run institutions, CAIR was pivotal in helping to obtain congressional signatories to a letter sent by 50 members of the U.S. House of



Volunteers help put together binders for CAIR's annual leadership conference.

Representatives to the French President. When Lt. Gen. William "Jerry" Boykin made remarks in official uniform that Muslims worshiped an "idol" and that "...my God was bigger than theirs," CAIR's Governmental Affairs Department was crucial in obtaining the support of 18 congressional co-sponsors drafting a resolution which condemned Boykin.

### **Internships**

CAIR's internship program provides Muslim youth first-hand experience with the fundamentals of democracy at work. Their activities include research, organizing grassroots activities, writing information guides and pamphlets and learning the art of media and public relations.

CAIR interns work with skilled and dedicated mentors to gain invaluable experience in the areas of civil rights and governmental affairs.

Each year, CAIR invites up to 12

interns to work in Washington, D.C.

### **Research Department**

The Research Department was established in 1996 to provide information and analysis of data on the Muslim community and their civil rights issues. One of the projects that the Research Department works on is the annual civil rights report which tracks discrimination, harassment and hate crimes against Muslims in America. The Research Department also develops the multicultural guide used in CAIR's sensitivity training programs. The 300-page North American Muslim Resource Guide, the first-ever comprehensive study of Muslim community organizations is also produced by the Research Department.

One of the department's future goals is to develop a databank accessible to the public on the Muslim population at the state level, to explore Muslim community issues from a

public policy perspective and to study the social conditions of the Muslim community across the country.

### **Publications Department**

CAIR's Publications Department offers a variety of publications addressing the needs and rights of American Muslims. These include guides for employers, educators and healthcare and law enforcement professionals. The Department also helps produce practical handbooks and resource materials for the Muslim community and publishes an annual report on the status of Muslim civil rights in the United States, which serves to document reported hate crimes and discrimination.

### **Community Affairs Dept. (C.A.D.)**

The Community Affairs Department (C.A.D.) was established in May 2002 to help raise public awareness about CAIR and its work to raise funds, increase CAIR's mem-

bership base, and empower the Muslim community through lectures and workshops on civil rights and the media. C.A.D. reaches its goals by visiting hundreds of Muslim communities annually, by representing CAIR at major Muslim conferences, and by educating and encouraging Muslims to be active locally. The future of C.A.D. involves continuing to bring CAIR to the community and the community's support to CAIR.

### **Membership Dept.**

Since its inception in June 1994, the Membership Department's work has been crucial to CAIR and its future. CAIR depends on the funds generated from members' annual dues and donations to support its programs and general operations. The Membership Department processes memberships and donations and maintains a database of all of CAIR members and donors.

The future goals of the department include increasing CAIR's membership base by adding 100,000 new members and supplying active members with membership cards.

### **Library Project**

The Library Project, introduced in September 2002, sends 18 quality books and other media materials containing accurate information about Islam and Muslims to over 16,200 public libraries across the United States.

To date, close to 8,000 libraries have been sponsored. Churches, prisons and public schools often request the Library Project for their institution. The immediate goal of the Library Project is to send the package to each and every public library across America; the next phase includes university and public school libraries.

Tina Qureshi of the Membership Department processes an application for CAIR membership.



Participants of CAIR's leadership conference share notes.



CAIR acquired this building two blocks south of the Capitol to serve as its main headquarters.

# *an increase of* **POLITICAL**

*With a physical presence on the Hill, CAIR marks the establishment of its roots in American politics*

**I**n 2000, CAIR proudly announced the opening of its new headquarters in Washington, D.C. The presence of the new building, located in the heart of Capitol Hill, marked the arrival and establishment of the American Muslim presence in Washington, D.C.

CAIR hosted several open houses where community members visited the new building, met with staff and took a tour of the first-of-its-kind Leadership Training Center. This Center was designed for community members to train in the arenas of civil rights and political and media activism.

CAIR also worked diligently to have its political presence felt on Capitol Hill as well. In May of 2000, a group of national American Muslim leaders, including CAIR's executive director, met with presidential candidate George W. Bush to outline the Islamic community's concerns on a variety of domestic and international issues.

CAIR officials called on then-Governor Bush to support the Secret Evidence Repeal Act (H.R. 2121), a

secret evidence and racial profiling against Muslims and Arabs in the second presidential debate that year.

To mark the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in 2000, President Clinton invited CAIR and other American Muslim representatives to the White House where the President said there was much that the world could learn from Islam. Earlier that month, the State Department hosted its first iftar, the breaking of the day's fast. These series of events were symbolic of the American Muslim community's increasing political presence on the Hill.

In August, to help build the first Muslim voting bloc, CAIR launched its largest official voter registration drive by issuing the "American Muslim Voter Registration Guide." The guide, prepared by CAIR's Research Department, explained why Muslims should participate in the political process, and contained a copy of the National Mail Voter Registration Form, a sample flier and a news release for American Muslim Voter Registration Day. The

# PRESENCE

piece of legislation that would repeal the use of secret evidence in Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) deportation hearings. Governor Bush said that he would consider the request and criticized

guide also contained a candidate survey, voter registration log sheet and organizational data form.

Later that year, as part of the American Muslim Political Coordinating Council (AMPCC),

CAIR and other prominent national Islamic organizations encouraged a Muslim bloc vote for the presidential election that would later determine the outcome of elections in several states. CAIR conducted a poll to gauge American Muslims' level of support for the 2000 presidential candidate. In that survey, 40 percent of eligible Muslim voters said they would vote for Bush, 25 percent favored Nader, and 24 percent supported Gore.

In November, CAIR distributed an election exit poll to gauge the American Muslim's response to the 2000 presidential race. The exit poll was distributed via email, fax and mail to thousands of mosques, community centers and individuals. It asked respondents about who they voted for in the presidential race, the influence of the AMPCC endorsement on their vote and their demographic identification.

CAIR also reached out to the Muslim community by hosting its first annual leadership conference. Community activists from all around the country were invited to Washington, D.C., to learn the basics

*“In August, to help build the first Muslim voting bloc, CAIR launched its largest voter registration drive by issuing its American Muslim Voter Registration Guide.”*

of grassroots activism and network with other community leaders. Prominent Muslim leaders, politicians and experts on civil rights and political activism were all available to offer their expertise.

But just as CAIR's political clout grew, so did the attacks on the Muslim community. Nine national American Muslim and Arab-American organizations condemned what they said was anti-Muslim bigotry coming from the campaign of New York Republican Senate candidate Rick Lazio, who later lost the election.

Group leaders said Lazio used deceptive campaign tactics aimed at inciting hatred and hostility towards American Muslims. Those tactics included conducting a "deceptively-worded" phone campaign seeking to link First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Muslim groups and individual Muslim contributors to the tragic bombing of the USS Cole.

Council leaders called the smear campaign that used ethnic and religious stereotypes, distorted information, partial citations, and complete fabrications as tactics of political intimidation, "modern day

At CAIR's grand opening, Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan welcomes CAIR's new location on Capitol Hill and congratulates CAIR on its important work.



Thousands of Muslims gather in Washington, D.C., to p



McCarthyism."

Along with increased political attacks, CAIR continued to deal with other, now familiar, forms of bias -- offensive products in the consumer world. Liz Claiborne, Inc. recalled a line of DKNY jeans deemed offensive by Muslims because verses from the Quran, Islam's revealed text, were incorporated in its design. The recall came at the request of CAIR when it received complaints about the jeans from members of the American Muslim community. Muslims were particularly offended that Quranic verses were printed on the back pocket of the jeans.

Liz Claiborne also agreed to offer an apology to Muslims worldwide, institute changes to its design process, conduct sensitivity training to prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future and dispose of the recalled jeans as recommended by Islamic scholars and consultants.

In July 2000, a Muslim shopper in Chicago, Illinois received a catalog from a company owned by Cendant that did business through America Online (AOL.) The shopper saw that the words "sand nigger" had been

*Liz Claiborne Inc. recalled a line of DKNY jeans deemed offensive by Muslims because verses from the Quran, Islam's revealed text, were incorporated in its design...Quranic verses were printed on the back pocket of the jeans.*

scrawled under his name on the back of the catalog. A settlement was reached after hundreds of Muslims contacted both Cendant and AOL to express their concerns about the incident. Financial compensation, a letter of apology and sensitivity training for Cendant employees had been demanded by the recipient of the catalog. CAIR initiated its informational campaign when the parties failed to reach agreement after months of discussions.

CAIR also published a booklet titled, "A Healthcare Provider's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices," designed to sensitize health care providers to the religious needs of Muslim patients. The 20-page publication contains information about the religious rights of patients as well as basic details about Muslim views on the role of faith in treating illness, dietary requirements, circumcision, autopsies, and funeral rites. Islamic perspectives on abortion, organ transplants and reproductive technologies are briefly discussed.

protest the one-sided US foreign policy toward Israel.



CAIR representatives and other Muslim leaders announce George W. Bush as the choice for the Muslim bloc vote in the 2000 presidential elections.





**“ UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST DEFINING  
MOMENT FOR AMERICANS IN 2001 WAS  
THE TERRORIST ATTACK OF SEPTEMBER 11. ”**



CAIR Communication Director Ibrahim Hooper and a member of the Sikh community participate in a candlelight prayer vigil for the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

# *united we* **STAND**

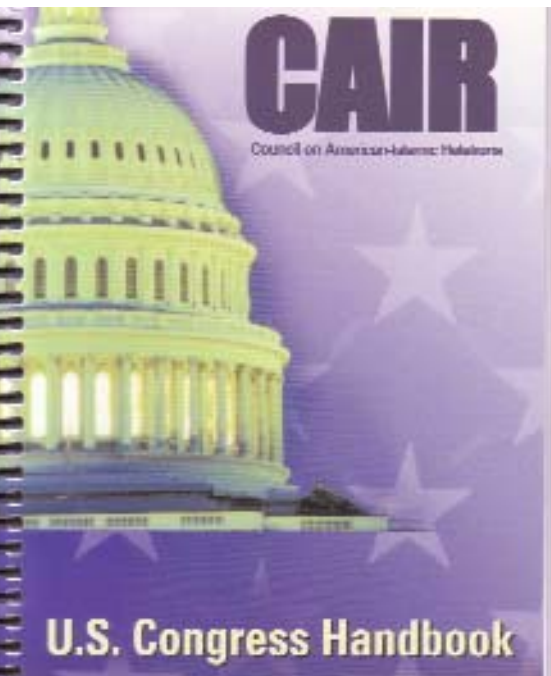
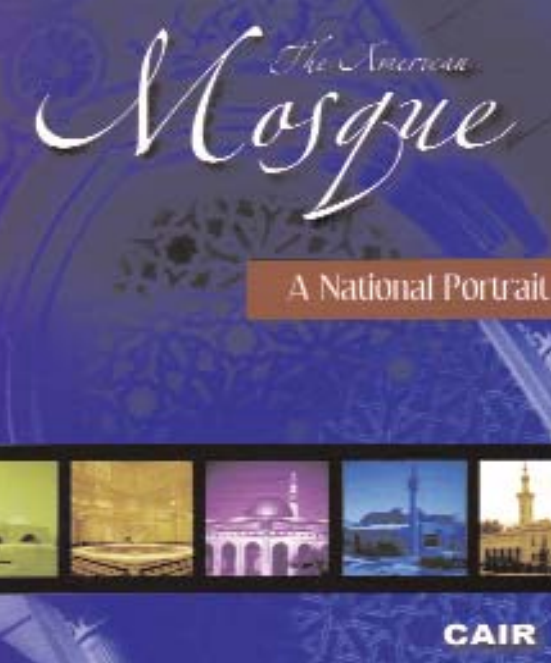
*Faced with unforeseen challenges, CAIR reminds America that we are stronger when united as one.*

**I**n the early part of 2001, CAIR enjoyed considerable success for the American Muslim community. Hollywood films were more sensitive to the stereotypical portrayal of Muslims and CAIR released much-needed reports surveying the American Muslim communities and their mosques.

The villains in "The Sum of All Fears," a film by Paramount Pictures starring Ben Affleck and Morgan Freeman were changed to neo-Nazis following objections from CAIR who had concerns about possible stereotyping of Muslim characters.

Director Phil Alden Robinson ("Sneakers," "Field of Dreams") told CAIR that unlike the Tom Clancy novel on which the movie was based, "The Sum of All Fears" would have "European neo-Nazis" as the villains who detonate a nuclear device at a sports game. In his letter to CAIR, Robinson wrote: "I hope you will be reassured that I have no intention of promoting negative images of Muslims or Arabs, and I wish you the best in your continuing efforts to combat discrimination."

In May 2001, the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) asked the producer of the upcoming documentary series "Islam:



Empire of Faith" to edit an image of the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) in deference to Muslim sensitivities about representations of religious figures. The three-part series, which aired on May 8, 2001, had included an image of Muhammad helping to place the "Black Stone" into the Kaaba in Mecca.

PBS's decision to edit the image came after a screening of the series by Muslim scholars, community leaders and activists held at the Washington, D.C., headquarters of CAIR.

In April 2001, CAIR released a major report on the Muslim community in the United States. The report, called "The Mosque in America: A National Portrait," was the result of in-depth interviews with a randomized sample of representatives drawn from more than 1,200 American mosques.

"The Mosque in America" was the largest and most comprehensive survey of its kind to be conducted in the United States and was part of a larger study of American congregations called "Faith Communities Today" coordinated by the Hartford Seminary's Institute for Religious Research.

That spring, CAIR also announced the publication of its new "Congressional and Media Directory" for Muslims. The must-have 'who's who' guide was designed to empower Muslims who wanted to have an impact on issues relating to the Islamic community. The directory included current photos, contact information and biographical data for each member of Congress as well as tips on writing and visiting Congresspeople.

The directory also contained a list of newsroom contact information for major media outlets, tips on writing a letter to the editor, advice on local social and political activism and sections on one's religious rights as an American citizen. Similar information was also made available on the Internet through Capwiz, an electronic and interactive format of the

Congressional directory.

CAIR released its sixth annual report on the status of Muslim civil rights in the United States, titled "Accommodating Diversity." It reported more than 360 incidents and experiences of anti-Muslim violence, stereotyping, bias and harassment.

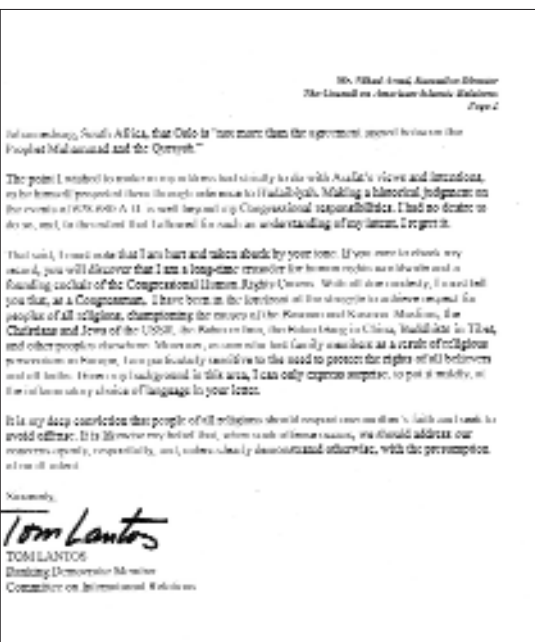
In June of 2001, CAIR officials,

*"I fully respect Islam as one of the world's great religions and civilizations and as a faith that provides spiritual comfort and uplift to hundreds of millions."*

– Congressman Tom Lantos

along with a number of other national and local Muslim leaders, risked arrest during a "sit-in" outside the Department of State building in Washington, D.C. This act of civil disobedience was designed to protest what event organizers said was America's uncritical support for Israel's "apartheid-like" policies toward Palestinian Muslims and Christians, including forced expulsions, home demolitions and denial of basic human and religious liberties.

In August 2001, Congressman Tom



# “THE FACE OF TERROR IS NOT THE TRUE FAITH OF ISLAM. THAT’S NOT WHAT ISLAM IS ALL ABOUT. ISLAM IS PEACE.”

-President George W. Bush

Lantos (D-CA) apologized to Muslims for remarks he made in a speech to a pro-Israel lobbying group that described a treaty signed by the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) as "treacherous." However, he failed to retract his specific allegation about the Prophet's actions. Lantos' response came after hundreds of Muslims called, faxed and e-mailed his office to express outrage at his remarks.

In a letter to CAIR, Lantos wrote:

*"...[L]et me make very clear that I intended no offense to Muslim believers nor any defamation of the Prophet Muhammad...and I regret any pain caused, however inadvertently. I fully respect Islam as one of the world's great religions and civilizations and as a faith that provides spiritual comfort and uplift to hundreds of millions...Making a historical judgment on the events of 628-630 A.D. is well beyond my Congressional responsibilities. I had no desire to do so, and, to the extent that I allowed for such an understanding of my intent, I regret it."*

Undoubtedly, however, the most defining moment for Americans in 2001 was the terrorist attack of September 11. Since that fateful day, American Muslims and Arabs have been assailed on almost every front. While grieving with their American neighbors, the Muslim community was also besieged by those seeking to divide America along religious, racial and cultural lines.

Within minutes of the attacks, American Muslim organizations coordinated a national statement condemning the acts of September 11 in unequivocal and categorical terms, stating: "...American Muslims utterly condemn what are apparently vicious and cowardly acts of terrorism against innocent civilians. We join with all

Americans in calling for the swift apprehension and punishment of the perpetrators. No political cause could ever be assisted by such immoral acts."

To show support for the victims and their families, Muslims also organized blood drives at mosques and community centers across the nation and collected hundreds of thousands of dollars for the victims of September 11.

CAIR placed a full-page advertisement in the Washington Post on September 16, 2001 to unequivocally condemn terrorism in all of its forms.

The full-page ad read:

"We at the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), along with

the entire American Muslim community, are deeply saddened by the massive loss of life resulting from the tragic events of September 11th.

"American Muslims unequivocally condemn these vicious and cowardly acts of terrorism.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families, friends and loved ones of those who have been killed or injured.

"We also extend our gratitude to all the heroic firefighters, police officers and emergency medical workers who continue to risk their lives in the ongoing rescue and relief efforts.

"We join with all Americans in calling for the swift apprehension and punishment of the perpetrators of

After addressing the media, President George W. Bush talks with Muslim leadership during his visit to the Islamic Center of Washington, D.C. White House photo by Eric Draper.



# ANTI-ISLAMIC RHETORIC IN THE MEDIA

Using McCarthy-like tactics and "guilt by association," many attempt to turn the "War on Terror" into a "war on Islam" for their own personal gains:

*"We should invade their countries, kill their leaders and convert them to Christianity."*

-Ann Coulter, Syndicated Columnist (Town Hall, September 14, 2001)

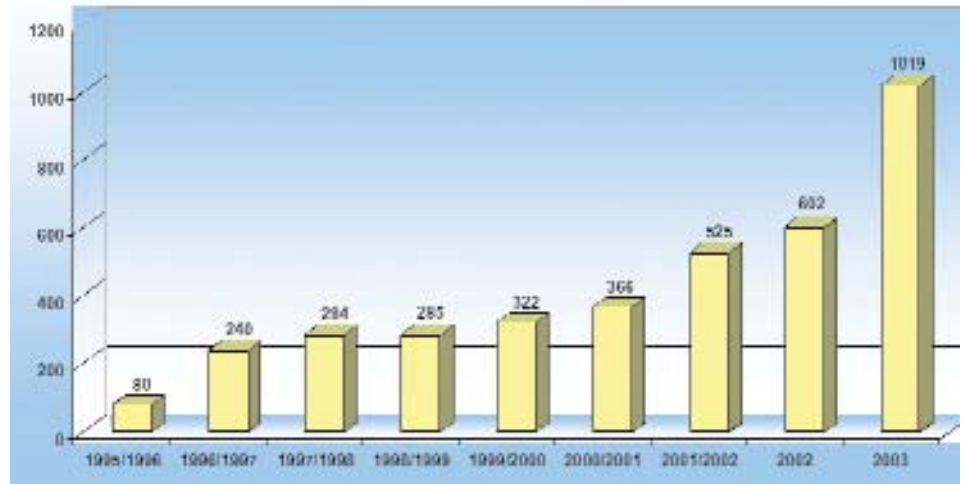
*'Just turn [the sheriff] loose and let him arrest every Muslim that crosses the state line...'*

-Representative (now Senator) Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), (Associated Press, November 20, 2001)

*"[Prophet Muhammad] was an absolute wild-eyed fanatic. He was a robber and a brigand. And to say that these terrorists distort Islam, they're carrying out Islam..."*

-Pat Robertson, (Hannity & Colmes), September 18, 2002

Number of Discrimination Reports by Year



these crimes.

"May we all stand together through these difficult times to promote peace and love over violence and hate."

On September 17, 2001, President George W. Bush met with CAIR and other American Muslim groups at a news conference in the prayer area of the Islamic Center of Washington, D.C. Topics discussed at the hour-long meeting ranged from the current cycle of violence in the Middle East and the need for American Muslim input on government policy, to ways in which terrorism could be eliminated worldwide.

At the press conference, President Bush said:

"Like the good folks standing with me, the American people were appalled and outraged at last Tuesday's attacks, and so were Muslims all across the world, both Americans, our Muslim friends and citizens, tax-paying citizens, and Muslims in nations were just appalled, could not believe what we saw on our TV screens. These acts of violence against innocents violate the fundamental tenets of the Islamic faith, and it's important for my fellow Americans to understand that. The English translation is not as eloquent as the original Arabic, but let me quote from the Koran itself. 'In the

long run, evil in the extreme will be the end of those who do evil. For that they rejected the signs of Allah and held them up to ridicule.'

"The face of terror is not the true faith of Islam. That's not what Islam is all about. Islam is peace."

Other key leaders also offered support to the Muslim community including Senators Ted Kennedy, Tom Daschle, and the Democratic National Committee.

But while the numbers of inter-faith dialogues has increased since 9/11, so too has the volume of anti-Muslim rhetoric in the media and political world. The new wave of Islamophobia is led by a camp of racially prejudiced pundits and special interest mercenaries who advance their own political or theological ideologies by propagating misinformation about Islam and American Muslims.

We at the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), along with the entire American Muslim community, are deeply saddened by the massive loss of life resulting from the tragic events of September 11th.

American Muslims unequivocally condemn these vicious and cowardly acts of terrorism.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families, friends and loved ones of those who have been killed or injured.

We also extend our gratitude to all the heroic firefighters, police officers and emergency medical workers who continue to risk their lives in the ongoing rescue and relief efforts.

We join with all Americans in calling for the swift apprehension and punishment of the perpetrators of these crimes.

May we all stand together through these difficult times to promote peace and love over violence and hate.

# CAIR

## Council on American-Islamic Relations

New York • Washington DC • San Francisco • Los Angeles • Dallas • St. Louis • Columbus  
Detroit • Raleigh • Minneapolis • Miami • Ottawa

CAIR places a full-page ad in the *Washington Post* on September 16, 2001 to unequivocally condemn terrorism in all of its forms.

# DEFINING OUR *future*

*Faced with unforeseen challenges, CAIR helps American Muslims define their status and presence in society.*



Former Governmental Affairs Director Jason Erb testifies before a congressional subcommittee, examining the status of American Muslim civil rights.



CAIR-FL Communication Director Ahmed Bedier appeared on NBC Tampa Affiliate WFLA to discuss the plea agreement of Robert Goldstein.

On MSNBC's Hardball, Communication Director Ibrahim Hooper defends the Prophet Muhammad against Rev. Jerry Fallwell's claim that the Prophet was a terrorist.



The FBI raids the homes and offices of reputable Muslim leaders and their organizations. Muslim leadership characterizes the raids as "McCarthy-like tactics" meant to intimidate the community.



In 2002, while much uncertainty remained as to how world events would unfold, one fact remained clear: American Muslims' reaction to the impact of 9/11 would define their future immeasurably.

The year after the September 11 terrorist attacks proved to be a great challenge for the American Muslim community. Civil rights abuses, a wave of anti-Muslim hate crimes, rising Islamophobic rhetoric and increased discrimination forced CAIR to defend and protect its community in an unprecedented way.

Complaints of repeated profiling of American Muslims prompted CAIR and other civil liberties groups to meet with the Department of Transportation (DOT) in May of 2002. The meeting was related to the case of Asif Iqbal, a Muslim software consultant from New York, who was routinely delayed or prevented from boarding domestic flights because of his name. Iqbal had the same name as that of a detainee being held in

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

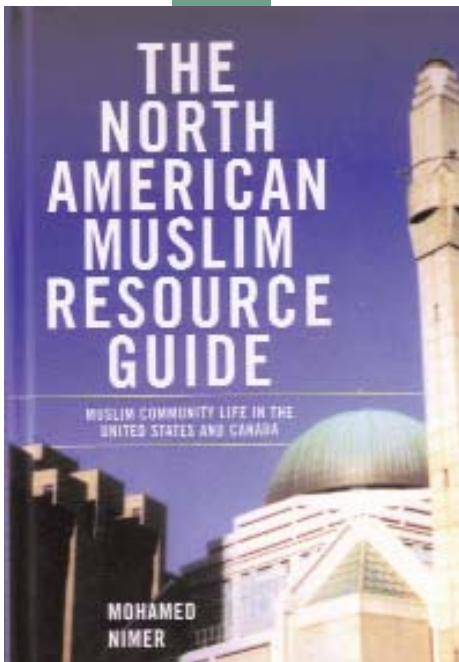
In the meeting with DOT officials, CAIR offered suggestions for ways in which authorities could maintain flight security and avoid profiling innocent passengers. It also highlighted the need for sensitivity training for new federal airport security workers. Meeting attendees also discussed a number of other serious civil right issues in the meeting, including the hundreds of Muslim detainees that were held indefinitely following the 9/11 attacks, the FBI's "voluntary" interviews of legal Muslim visa holders, and the government's closure of immigration hearings.

In the year after 9/11, physical attacks against the community were another growing concern. In Florida, a man in a pick-up truck drove into the front of the Islamic Center of Tallahassee. Fifty-one-year-old Charles D. Franklin of Tallahassee was arrested and charged with burglary and criminal mischief. Authorities treated the incident as a hate crime because of

the statements Franklin made after the attack. According to police reports, Franklin stated he was motivated by his "hatred of Muslims" and told officers he would have blown up the mosque if he had put propane tanks on the front of his truck. He said he even tried to join the military in order to "kill Muslims."

Also in Florida, Robert J. Goldstein, 37, was arrested after authorities found a stash of explosives and weapons, including .50-caliber machine guns and sniper rifles, in his home. Police discovered a list of some 50 Florida mosques and detailed plans for destroying an Islamic education center using bombs. He was subsequently sentenced to 12 ½ years in federal prison for civil rights criminal violations, not terrorism.

Jonathan Turley, George Washington University law professor duly noted in a *Los Angeles Times* commentary that, "Goldstein was sentenced to a paltry 12 ½ years for conspiracy to violate civil rights... Is there



any question what the charge would be if an Arab American or Muslim were found with such an arsenal and plans to bomb churches or synagogues?..."

In July, relatives of a Dearborn, Michigan Muslim found anti-Muslim graffiti in their home after an FBI search. Relatives told CAIR that they found the words, "Islam is Evil" and "Christ is King," written on a Muslim prayer calendar attached to the man's refrigerator.

Later, a Secret Service agent admitted to the anti-Muslim graffiti and was given an appropriate reprimand. The Secret Service said it "does not and will not tolerate racial, cultural, or religious bias. The Secret Service regrets the unprofessional action taken by this individual agent."

The president of Delta Air Lines also apologized to a Muslim high school student who was forced to remove her religiously-mandated headscarf by guards hired by the airline at Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI). In his letter to 17-year-old Enaas Sarsour, Delta President and Chief Operating Officer Frederick W. Reid stated: "We regret and apologize for the embarrassment and discomfort you experienced. Be assured that we take this matter very seriously." He quoted Delta's Code of Ethics and Business Conduct that states: "...discrimination is not only illegal, it is wrong and will not be tolerated."

The apology came at the request of CAIR who explained that the forced removal of a Muslim woman's scarf, called hijab, amounted to a public "strip search."

CAIR officials stated that such incidents across the nation were likely the result of the barrage of anti-Muslim rhetoric by right-wing commentators and evangelical leaders who saw the tragic events of 9/11 as an opportunity to attack Islam and its leaders,

which was further exacerbated by the failure of national leaders to challenge that rhetoric.

For instance, in March of that year, CAIR demanded an apology from the conservative *National Review* for comments published by an editor that suggested "nuking Mecca," Islam's holiest site. In an online forum called "The Corner," editor Rich Lowry wrote:

"Lots of sentiment for nuking Mecca. Moderates opt for something more along these lines: 'Baghdad and Tehran would be the likeliest sites for a first strike. If we have clean enough bombs to assure a pinpoint damage area, Gaza City and Ramallah would also be on list. Damascus, Cairo, Algiers, Tripoli and Riyadh should be put on alert that any signs of support for the attacks in their cities will bring immediate annihilation..."

CAIR also joined other Muslim and Arab-American groups in calling on Attorney General John Ashcroft to clarify offensive remarks he allegedly made about Islam. According to an interview with syndicated columnist Cal Thomas published on the internet site crosswalk.com, Ashcroft said: "Islam is a religion in which God requires you to send your son to die for him. Christianity is a faith in which God sends his son to die for you." Despite several requests from Muslim and Arab-American groups, Ashcroft never responded publicly.

Some in the American Muslim community argued that government officials, influenced by extremist evangelical groups and self-proclaimed experts on Islam, took the attacks on Islam even further when they raided a number of Islamic institutions and homes in Virginia and Georgia. These attacks led leaders of prominent national Muslim organizations to hold a news conference saying that the raids were a "fishing expedition" that would only serve to intimidate law-

**"We appreciate Secretary Powell's effort to reach out to the American Muslim community. Muslims are in a unique position to help build bridges of understanding between the United States and the Islamic world," said CAIR Communication Director Ibrahim Hooper, who attended Secretary Powell's dinner.**

abiding Muslim citizens. In a statement issued at a Capitol Hill news conference, the groups said:

"The Muslim community is deeply concerned about what appears to be a fishing expedition by federal authorities using McCarthy-like tactics in a search for evidence of wrongdoing that does not exist.

"As in past incidents targeting American Muslim institutions, no one is being given their day in court to confront accusers or refute allegations. Where then does one go to retrieve a reputation damaged by an irresponsible and out-of-control investigation?"

The curbing of civil rights, the anti-Muslim rhetoric and the failure of the nation's political and religious leaders to repudiate bigotry had a direct impact on the lives of American Muslims. According to a poll released by CAIR, a majority of American Muslims reported they had experi-

enced some form of bias or discrimination in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and almost all respondents said they knew of a fellow Muslim who had experienced discrimination.

In the midst of increasing anti-Muslim sentiment, American Muslims knew that the way they responded to these challenges would define their future in America. Thus, many took the opportunity to increase interfaith dialogue, and community and educational outreach with their neighbors.

The Southern California chapter of CAIR launched a billboard campaign in February designed to promote tolerance, unity and kindness. The first billboard, "Even a smile is Charity -- a message from your Muslim neighbor," was based on sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) and showed how the simple act of smiling could promote goodwill. The billboards were located along major freeways in

Los Angeles and Orange counties.

In July, CAIR declared the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon as the "National Day of Unity and Prayer." Muslim leadership called on all faith communities to participate in the national observance by opening houses of worship on September 11, 2002, for interfaith visits, prayers, congregational exchanges, and other activities intended to foster national unity and religious tolerance.

Furthermore, when the nation's capital was terrorized by sniper attacks in October, CAIR asked members of the American Muslim community to respond by donating to the National Capital Area Healing Fund, established by United Way of the National Capital Area in partnership with SunTrust Bank. The fund was designed to "support the unmet immediate and long term needs of the

Robert Goldstein and his accomplices are found guilty and given sentences ranging from 3- 12 ½ years in prison.



## The Goldstein Terror Cell

# POLL RESULTS

A CAIR poll surveyed a large sample of Muslims regarding the level of bias or discrimination they experienced after September 11, 2001. The results included:

- o 48 percent of respondents said their lives changed for the worse in the year following the attacks.

- o Those who said their lives changed for the better (16 percent) often cited a deepened knowledge of Islam made necessary by requests to explain their faith to others.

- o The most frequent forms of bias experienced by the respondents were verbal abuse, religious or ethnic profiling and workplace discrimination.

- o 67 percent of respondents said the media have grown more biased against Islam and Muslims.

- o 45 percent of respondents said Fox News was the media outlet that exhibited the most biased coverage.

- o PBS, the BBC and ABC were named as media outlets worthy of praise for their coverage.

- o 70 percent of respondents were registered to vote or will register before the next election. (Seventy-seven percent of respondents were eligible to vote.)



The Library Project, introduced in September of 2002, sends 18 quality books and other media materials containing accurate information about Islam and Muslims to over 16,200 public libraries across the United States

victims, survivors and their families."

In November 2002, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell hosted a Ramadan iftar, or fast-breaking dinner, for representatives of the American Muslim community at the State Department. CAIR welcomed Powell's statements rejecting Islamophobia in American society which came a day after similar remarks were made by President Bush.

"We appreciate Secretary Powell's effort to reach out to the American Muslim community. Muslims are in a unique position to help build bridges of understanding between the United States and the Islamic world," said CAIR officials who attended Secretary Powell's dinner.

In September, CAIR launched a national initiative to educate the American public about Islam and to counter anti-Muslim bigotry. The year-long campaign, called "Explore Islamic Civilization and Culture," involved the community-sponsored distribution of books, videos and audio cassettes about Islam and Muslims to some 16,000 public libraries nationwide. The 18-item

library packages contained materials such as the PBS documentary "Islam: Empire of Faith," Prof. Jack Shaheen's "Reel Bad Arabs" and "The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?" by Professor John Esposito of Georgetown University's Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding.

The director of CAIR's research department, Mohamed Nimer, also released an invaluable resource book, "The North American Muslim Resource Guide," for Muslims and for general readers seeking a clear and accurate perspective on the American Islamic experience.

The Muslim Resource Guide explored the mainstream American Muslim community up close and in-depth by briefly tracing the history of Islam in the US and Canada. It also offered an informative introduction to Islamic values and institutions, assessing such issues as American Muslims' perception of themselves, their differences from and similarities to Muslims in other countries and how they have adapted to life and work in the secular societies of the US and Canada.

The book also depicted the

**"These countries are using the pretext of security to engage in widespread abuses of Muslim communities based on the violent actions of a relatively small number of individuals."**

responses of Muslim media organizations, charities, and community support structures in the wake of 9/11. It showed them coping with the loss of loved ones in the World Trade Center, the growing incidence of fear-fueled hate crimes, and an increased barrage of attacks upon their religion and way of life.

CAIR also announced the publication of a booklet designed to sensitize correctional institutions to the religious needs of Muslim inmates. CAIR's publication, "A Correctional Institution's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices," contained information about the religious rights of inmates, as well as basic details about Islamic beliefs, dietary and clothing needs and the requirements for the five daily prayers. The booklet also described the Islamic perspective on the issue of inmates' beards.

On a political level, American Muslims also knew that in order to

become better integrated and have their voices heard, they had to become more politically active. CAIR announced another major voter registration drive designed to coincide with Eid ul-Adha, the Muslim holiday that commemorates the end of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, or Hajj. CAIR called on Islamic communities nationwide to register Muslim voters at the festivals held following Eid ul-Adha prayers. The festivals typically draw thousands of Muslims in each community and offers an excellent opportunity to distribute voter registration materials.

CAIR established a link on its web site through which registered voters added their names to a Muslim voter database, unregistered potential voters accessed registration materials and Eid ul-Adha festival organizers obtained information about setting up a voter registration drive.

Executive Director Nihad Awad

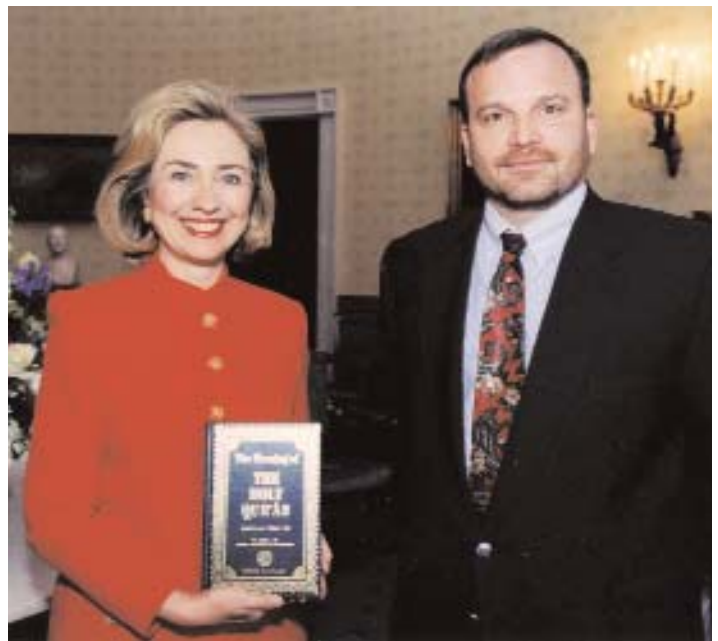
also testified before a congressional subcommittee examining the State Department's Annual Report on International Religious Freedom. Awad's testimony was before the International Operations and Human Rights Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee.

Awad drew the subcommittee's attention to four countries, Russia, China, India and Israel, which highlighted America's apparent reluctance to address religious persecution by friendly nations. He told the subcommittee: "These countries are using the pretext of security to engage in widespread abuses of Muslim communities based on the violent actions of a relatively small number of individuals."

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell hosts a Ramadan iftar for representatives of the American Muslim community at the State Department.



CAIR Communication Director Ibrahim Hooper with Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.



# faith [in] ACTION

*CAIR continues to rely on Islamic principals of justice and equality to guide the organization's work.*

**T**he year 2003 consisted of many challenges, both old and new, for CAIR. While CAIR continued to deal with discrimination and the negative effect of post 9/11 policies on the Muslim community, new forms of anti-Muslim rhetoric from government officials and media personalities and anti-Muslim hate crimes forced CAIR to step up a more proactive agenda to protect the safety and dignity of its community.

CAIR called on state and national Republican leaders to condemn a walkout by two members of the GOP during a Muslim prayer in the opening session of the Washington State House of Representatives. Republicans Louis McMahan and

Cary Condotta went to the back of the chamber while Imam Mohamad Joban of the Islamic Center of Olympia recited a prayer. Condotta said he "wasn't particularly interested" in the prayer. McMahan said she did not remain in the chamber because: "It's an issue of patriotism...The Islamic religion is so...part and parcel with the attack on America. I just didn't want to be there, be a part of that...My god is not Mohammed."

CAIR officials urged state and national Republican leaders to repudiate the lawmakers' walkout, claiming that such divisive actions by elected leaders could only serve to divide the nation along religious and ethnic lines and increase dis-

**WE'RE ALL AMERICANS...**



**BUT, WHICH ONE OF US IS A MUSLIM?**

We all are...we're American Muslims. It's impossible to make general assumptions about Muslims because we represent more than one billion people from a vast range of races, nationalities and cultures – from the South Pacific to the Horn of Africa. Only about 18 percent of Muslims live in the Arabic-speaking world. The largest Muslim community is in Indonesia. Substantial parts of Asia and most of Africa have Muslim majority populations, while significant minorities are to be found in the countries of the former Soviet Union, China, North and South America, and Europe.

American Muslims are an equally diverse group of people. We're immigrants from across the globe who came here seeking freedom and opportunity. We're the children of immigrant parents, and descendants of Africans who have called America home for generations. We're converts of varied nationalities and ethnic backgrounds. We're doctors, lawyers, teachers, politicians, civil rights activists, mothers, fathers, students... making our homes and raising our families in communities across America.

What we all have in common is a shared faith and a shared commitment to our nation's safety and prosperity. We're Americans and we're Muslims.

**WE'RE AMERICAN MUSLIMS**

Number one of fifty-two in the *Islam in America* series.  
To learn more about the series, visit [www.americanmuslims.info](http://www.americanmuslims.info)

**CAIR**  
COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS

crimination against ordinary American Muslims.

In another incident, a North Carolina Congressman blamed Muslims for the failure of his marriage. In an interview with the Charlotte Observer, Rep. Cass Ballenger (R-NC) claimed the stress of living near the Muslim civil rights group's headquarters in Washington, D.C., caused the breakup of his 50-year marriage. Ballenger said that proximity to CAIR "bugged the hell" out of his wife. He said his wife also objected to women "wearing hoods" going in and out of CAIR's building and he falsely accused the group of raising funds for terrorists.

CAIR viewed the incident as a direct byproduct of the continued campaign being waged by neo-conservative opinion leaders to marginalize and disenfranchise the American Muslim community. In response, CAIR filed a defamation lawsuit against Ballenger and called on national Republican leaders to repudiate the bigoted statements.

CAIR also called for the reassignment of a top U.S. general who said he was in "the army of God" and claimed Muslims worshiped an "idol." Speaking in uniform before a Christian group in June, Lt. General William Boykin claimed "radical Islamists" hate America "because we're a Christian nation, because our foundation and our roots are Judeo-Christian...and the enemy is a guy named Satan." Our "spiritual enemy," Boykin said, "will only be defeated if we come against them in the name of Jesus."

Boykin, the new deputy undersecretary of defense for intelligence, was assigned to track down Osama bin

Laden, Saddam Hussein and other high-profile targets by working with the Muslim world.

"Putting a man with such extremist views in a critical policy-making position sends entirely the wrong message to a Muslim world that is already skeptical about America's motives and intentions," said CAIR in a statement. "Everyone is entitled to their own religious beliefs, no matter how ill-informed or bigoted, but those beliefs should not be allowed to color important decisions that need to be made in the war on terrorism. General Boykin should be reassigned to a position in



Chairman of the Board Omar Ahmad welcomes Representative Dennis Kucinich to the CAIR-MidAtlantic fundraising dinner.

which he will not be able to harm our nation's image or interests."

CAIR also urged President Bush to rescind his nomination of a noted Islamophobe who claimed 10 to 15 percent of Muslims were "potential killers," to the board of a government institution formed to promote the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

President Bush had nominated pro-Israel commentator Daniel Pipes, who many American Muslims regard as the nation's leading Islamophobe, to join the board of the United States Institute of Peace, a federal institution created by Congress. The institute's

board of directors is appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

"Pipes' nomination sends entirely the wrong message as America seeks to convince Muslims worldwide that the war on terrorism and the war against Iraq are not attacks on Islam. His bigoted views are incompatible with the mission of the United States Institute of Peace," said CAIR.

CAIR along with a number of other Muslim, Arab-American, civil liberties, and interfaith groups lobbied on the Hill against Pipes' nomination and designated August 13, 2003 as a "National Call-in Day" to oppose the Pipes appointment. Thousands of people contacted the White House and Senate to oppose Pipes' nomination. The Washington Post, the Dallas Morning News, the Chicago Tribune, and many foreign policy scholars and Jewish peace groups also opposed the nomination.

Although several senators of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee -- the body that would

have taken the initial vote on the nomination -- expressed opposition to Pipes' bigoted views, President Bush bypassed the Senate confirmation process and issued a recess appointment for Pipes in August of that year which would only allow him to serve for 18 months instead of the full 48 months.

"This back-door move by the president is a defeat for democracy and an affront to all those who seek peace," said CAIR in a statement.

On the air waves, Dr Laura Schlessinger and Paul Harvey crossed the line from legitimate commentary on terrorism to Islamophobic bigotry.

**"Putting a man with such extremist views in a critical policy-making position sends entirely the wrong message to a Muslim world that is already skeptical about America's motives and intentions," said CAIR.**

Schlessinger's offensive comments came in response to a mother who asked whether her 16-year-old daughter should take part in a Catholic high school class field trip to a local mosque. The purpose of the field trip was to have the students in a "moral themes" class learn how "Muslims are treated" in America.

Schlessinger said in her response: "This is a class on morals. What is the point of going to a mosque?...You're joking of course....How many Americans have tortured and murdered Muslims?...I think you ought to stand up against this class and this teacher. This is despicable. You tell him you are willing to go to the mosque only if it is one that has done its best to rout out terrorists in its midst...instead of complaining...I am horrified that you would let her go...I am so sick and tired of all the Arab-American groups whining and complaining about some kind of treatment....What culture and what religion were all the murderers of 9/11...they murdered us....That's the culture you want your daughter to learn about?"

Dr. Laura issued an on-air apology for her tirade on her nationally syndicated talk show after CAIR called on all people with conscience to call in and protest her bigoted remarks.

Chicago-based syndicated radio commentator Paul Harvey also apologized to the Muslim community after hundreds of Americans expressed outrage over his assertion that Islam "encourages killing." On his program, a prepared statement from Harvey stated he had received letters from "dear friends" in the American-Muslim community who "reminded all of us that Islam is a religion of peace, that terrorists do not represent Islam."

CAIR officials issued an invitation to arrange a meeting between Harvey and American Muslim leaders to begin a dialogue on issues related to Islam. Previously, in 1999, Harvey issued an on-air apology to Muslims for remarks suggesting that Islam was a "fraudulent religion." The apology came after hundreds of concerned Muslims called, faxed and e-mailed both Harvey's office and that of ABC Radio Networks, his program's syndicator.

Also, in 2003, to help American Muslims take back the task of defining their faith from those with political and religious agendas, CAIR launched the "Islam in America" ad campaign designed to foster greater understanding of Islam and to counter a rising tide of anti-Muslim rhetoric in the United States.

The campaign consisted of newspaper ads with the theme, "We're All Americans." Each ad was placed in different issues of the *New York Times* and showcased the diversity of American Muslims. The first ad, released in February of that year, featured images of an African-American girl, an Asian man and another man of European heritage and asked the question: "Which one of us is a Muslim?" The response: "We all are...we're American Muslims."

"Without accurate and balanced information about mainstream Islam and Muslims, ordinary Americans are vulnerable to the purveyors of hate, in this country and around the world, who seek a perpetual religious and civilizational conflict," said CAIR in a statement.

In the summer, CAIR took its educational initiatives to television, launching a satellite talk show that offered insights on the American Muslim community and issues of

**I'M AN AMERICAN AND I'M A MUSLIM**

**MY NAME IS HANNAH (HANA). I'm an oral, a Muslim (Muslim) from Georgetown University and I've won several national public speaking awards. I'm a development professor for an international organization. I love: The auto industry, and I believe in scientific organizations.**

**I'm an American Muslim because I'll never back down on my rights - a legal suit and media case - because the practice is shared by my religious beliefs, and because I am proud to be a Muslim woman in Islam, both women and men are encouraged to dress modestly, which allows a greater or less degree of freedom of expression and not an official appearance.**

**There, right in the heart of my world here and at home.**

**I'M AN AMERICAN MUSLIM**

**CAIR**

Member list at [www.cair.com](http://www.cair.com). For more information, visit [www.cair.com](http://www.cair.com).

**WE'RE AMERICAN AND WE'RE MUSLIMS**

**MY NAME IS AMIRAH KAMAL, and I'm a wife, a mom and a teacher. I'm working in a private hospital in education, and I volunteer at my father's school, where I've also worked in the 1990s. I was born in Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania, and I have lived here since I was born. My husband, Edin, is from India, but I've lived in America for more than 30 years. I'm an attorney and I have worked for the U.S. Department of State. Now I spend my time teaching a community class and working on my own T-shirt and merchandise.**

**The more Americans we tell and tell how the challenge of religious freedom is so incredibly small. That's why you have people of our religion, the information you're looking for, and you're part of our lives. And that's what I believe in. The best of us is in the culture in the hands. There are people of our faith and we're looking for the best of our faith.**

**We follow the example of our ancestors in the way of our faith, and that's the way we live our lives that give us the strength.**

**WE'RE AMERICAN MUSLIMS**

**CAIR**

Member list at [www.cair.com](http://www.cair.com). For more information, visit [www.cair.com](http://www.cair.com).

These ads were part of CAIR's "Islam in America" ad campaign.

**"It is unfathomable that a perpetrator of two anti-Muslim hate crimes, including a terrorist bombing, would be let off with a slap on the wrist and 'anger management' classes," said CAIR.**

their concern. The weekly hour-long program, called "Washington Live," was broadcast out of the nation's capital across North America and the world by the Arab Radio & Television (ART) satellite network.

The unique program provided Muslims and Arab-Americans a long sought media outlet that reflected their views and concerns. It focused on the practical social and political issues that impact Muslims and Arabs living in North America and invited guests such as elected officials, policy-makers and commentators, who offered a broad spectrum of views on current issues.

But with the war in Iraq newly begun, American Muslims braced themselves for an inevitable backlash. Recent history has shown that war

with a predominately Muslim country usually results in an increased number of hate crimes and discrimination against Muslims in America.

Since the beginning of 2003, CAIR received a number of reports of physical assaults against American Muslims (or those perceived to be Muslim) and Islamic institutions. Council officials said fire investigators in Georgia determined that a blaze at the Islamic Center of Savannah was an act of arson. Previously, five bullet holes were discovered in the door to a prayer area of the center. The apartment of a Muslim who lived near and frequently prayed at the center was broken into, and a racist anti-Muslim note with a Nazi swastika was left at the scene. The note threatened the lives of local Muslims, demanded that

they leave Savannah and claimed the Islamic community was being watched "24-7."

One incident in Yorba Linda, California, left a Muslim teenager badly beaten by a mob that allegedly included white supremacists. In another incident, a Massachusetts pizza delivery man, whose attackers thought he was Muslim, was kidnapped and beaten. As he was being taken to a remote location in the trunk of a car, he managed to escape.

In Illinois, an explosive device destroyed a Palestinian Muslim family's van. The van's door was blown off, shattered glass was thrown up to 30 feet away and a hole was punched in the vehicle's floor. Despite CAIR's calls for terrorism charges, the anti-Muslim bomber got off with just two years probation and 'anger management' classes.

"It is unfathomable that a perpetrator of two anti-Muslim hate crimes, including a terrorist bombing, would be let off with a slap on the wrist and 'anger management' classes," said CAIR National Board Chairman Omar Ahmad. "It goes without saying that the result would have been much different had the perpetrator been Muslim or Arab. If the Justice Department wants to prove that it is serious about combating anti-Muslim hate, it must take up this and similar cases at the national level."

Ahmad again cited a Florida case in which Robert Goldstein was sentenced to just 12 years in prison for plotting to attack some 50 Islamic institutions in that state, including a school, as another example of light sentencing for anti-Muslim terrorism.

In Maryland, CAIR officials held a news conference in reaction to a cross-burning incident that took place the night before at an Islamic school in College Park, Maryland. Prince

Rep. Kucinich along with other Congress people and Muslim leaders call for the repeal of the U.S. Patriot Act at a press conference on the Hill.



George's County Police Department officials reported that a cross was burned outside Al-Huda School at about 1:30 a.m.

Two teenagers were later arrested for the crime. Authorities said the 17-year-olds were charged with religious and ethnic crimes, defacing property and burning a cross or other religious symbol in violation of Maryland's hate crime statutes.

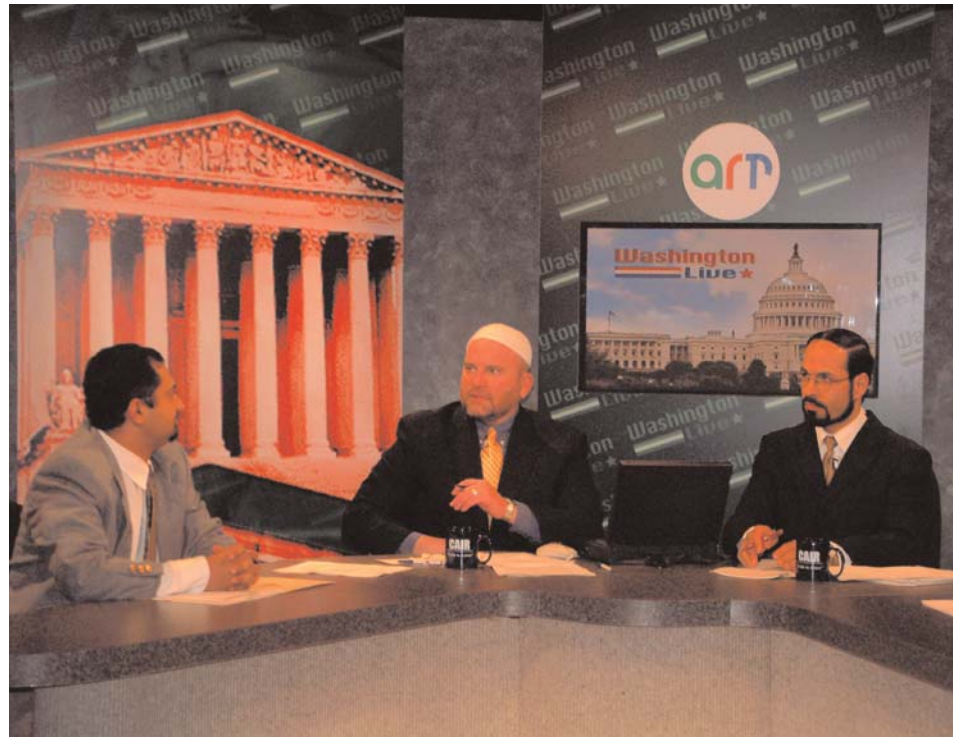
When convicted, the suspects could have faced up to three years in prison and a fine, but CAIR-Maryland officials suggested instead that the teens be assigned to community service at the mosque or Islamic school to assist in their rehabilitation.

Addressing the growing need to protect the community, CAIR distributed a "Community Safety Kit" for American Muslims, Arab-Americans and those perceived to be of Middle Eastern descent. The 9-page kit offered proactive steps American Muslim communities could take to protect against anti-Muslim or anti-Arab bigotry and to secure basic legal rights.

The steps included developing positive relationships with law enforcement agencies, meeting with elected representatives to discuss community concerns, building coalitions with interfaith and minority groups, coordinating a community support network for victims of hate crimes, and meeting with school administrators to protect Muslim students from harassment.

The kit also offered advice on how to react to anti-Muslim hate crimes and acts of discrimination, and listed the legal rights of employees, airline passengers and students. It provided a step-by-step guide to improving mosque safety, how to respond to bomb threats and how to deal with suspicious letters and packages.

In May of 2003, CAIR also issued a travel advisory for Muslim visa holders working in the United States, warning that minor violations of immigration procedures could result in denial of re-entry following trips abroad. CAIR issued that advisory



In the summer of 2003, CAIR launches "Washington Live," a one-hour live program on ART satellite television, addressing issues of concern to the American Muslim community.

after a Pakistani physician working in North Carolina was denied re-entry at Washington Dulles International Airport because he failed to abide by a little-known registration policy.

According to the policy, anyone who went through the Special Registration program instituted after 9/11 would have to provide notice of departure from and re-entry into the United States. The policy stated: "Nonimmigrants who must follow these special procedures will also have to use specially designated ports when they leave the country and report in person to an immigration officer at the port on their departure date."

Relatives of Dr. Shahid Mahmood, a family practitioner working in an underserved area in North Carolina for more than four years, said he and his family (including an American-born child) were forced to return to Pakistan after coming back from a two-week trip to that country. Mahmood was denied re-entry despite the fact that he had been told by airline personnel there was no reg-

istration requirement. Immigration authorities told him to re-apply for a work visa, a process that could take months.

Shortly after, Mahmood returned to his medical practice after CAIR brought national media attention to the case and lobbied elected officials such as Senator Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina to request the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan expedite his visa process.

CAIR applauded a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) policy that granted relief to airline passengers who were prevented from flying because their names were similar to those of terror suspects on a "No-Fly List." CAIR said the policy was prompted at least in part by the case of Asif Iqbal, a New York Muslim who was kept off planes because he shared the name of a person held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Iqbal sought CAIR's assistance in March of last year after he had repeatedly been denied boarding or interrogated by law enforcement authorities.

Under the new policy, travelers



TOP: On the second anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, CAIR organizes an interfaith candlelight vigil at the Capitol Hill reflecting pool. LEFT: Muslim Community Safety Kit

who have been delayed as a result of the "No-Fly List" would be able to submit a Passenger Identity Verification Form that expedited check-in and boarding.

In October, CAIR called on the Oklahoma State Department of Education to intervene after a Muslim public school student in that state was suspended twice for wearing a religiously-mandated headscarf, or hijab. School officials in Muskogee, Oklahoma, told the sixth-grader at Benjamin Franklin Science Academy that her headscarf violated their dress code policy. The policy prohibited hats, caps, bandannas or other headwear.

CAIR officials advocated on the

Muslim family's behalf, negotiating with the school's attorney to secure the student's return to school pending a review of the dress code policy. CAIR's appearances on TV and radio talk shows brought national and international awareness and sympathy for her case.

On the second anniversary of the September 11 attacks, American Muslims organized an interfaith candlelight vigil at the U.S. Capitol Reflecting Pool in Washington D.C. The vigil was designed to mark the second anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks and to challenge those who seek to divide America along religious or ethnic lines. CAIR also worked with Mayor Anthony Williams to

**"Now more than ever, we must come together as one nation to challenge the voices of division in our society," said CAIR . "This is a test we must pass if America is to maintain the values of religious tolerance we all hold dear."**

issue a mayor proclamation marking the day as a "Day of Unity" in the District of Columbia.

The event included songs by a children's choir, speeches from local and national community and religious leaders and a candlelight vigil in memory of those who died in the attacks. The event also included a presentation of the first annual "Voice of Unity Award" to the Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington, an organization founded in response to the post-9/11 backlash against American Muslims, Arab-Americans and those perceived to be Middle Eastern.

CAIR noted that the threat of terrorism, and America's response to it, continued to test the nation's ability to live together in a spirit of interfaith harmony and inclusion.

"Now more than ever, we must come together as one nation to challenge the voices of division in our society. This is a test we must pass if America is to maintain the values of religious tolerance we all hold dear," said CAIR officials.

Shortly afterwards, Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) hosted a Ramadan iftar, or fast breaking, on Capitol Hill attended by more than 130 elected officials, congressional staffers, American Muslim leaders, and ambassadors from Islamic-majority nations.

The iftar, held in the House Judiciary Committee Hearing Room, was co-sponsored by Reps. Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), and Barbara Lee (D-CA). It featured the breaking of the fast, the sunset prayer, an ecumenical prayer, and remarks by Rep. Conyers.

In his remarks, Rep. Conyers announced that the iftar will be an

annual event, and said: "By partaking in this religious tradition, we hope to promote the toleration, understanding, and acceptance of all religions and religious cultures and to celebrate religious diversity, one of the many great principles that our country was founded upon."

In November 2003, more than 1,000 turned out for CAIR's fundraiser in Washington. The group topped its goal of "\$1 Million Dollars in Ramadan" campaign. Presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich and Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) were in attendance and encouraged American Muslims to participate in the political process. Kucinich said America and the world are currently at "a defining moment," the theme of CAIR's banquet. A number of elected officials sent letters of support for the dinner.



CAIR organized a "National Call-in Day" to oppose the appointment of Daniel Pipes, one of the nation's leading Islamophobes, to the United States Institute of Peace.

Representative John Conyers of Michigan speaking at the Congressional Iftar he hosted on Capitol Hill.



*As CAIR celebrates 10 years of service, it reflects  
on lessons of the past and visions of the future*

# BUILDING *a* BETTER

# *Ame*

One of the main lessons learned from the September 11 attacks was that Americans could not live in isolation. Americans better realized that issues overseas impacted their lives and started to take on a greater interest in world issues. As leaders of the American Muslim community, CAIR too, intensified its diplomatic efforts with the international community, including attending conferences overseas, meeting with U.S. government officials and ambassadors from

Belgium, Germany, France, Morocco, Indonesia, Malaysia and many others.

In October, CAIR participated in a conference sponsored by the Brookings Institute, titled "U.S. Policy Toward the Islamic World." With the mission of promoting positive relations between the U.S. and Muslim countries and movements, the conference in Doha, Qatar examined the political, cultural, social, religious, and economic dynamics shaping relations between the Islamic world and the

U.S. Leading scholars and practitioners from across the Islamic world and the United States were invited to exchange ideas and perspectives and to inform the wider policy debate; among them was CAIR's Executive Director Nihad Awad.

In June, U.S. Muslims met with Secretary of State Colin Powell to discuss issues relating to American foreign policy. The discussion focused on topics such as the Middle East peace process, the war in Iraq, efforts to pro-



Muslims from a variety of backgrounds are featured here in CAIR's PSA shoot.



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mote democratization and reform, America's image in the Muslim world, and the role American Muslims can play in helping to formulate policies that will improve that image.

"We appreciate Secretary Powell's willingness to hear what American Muslims have to say about foreign policy issues and to learn more about how we can serve as a bridge of understanding to the Islamic world," said CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad, who participated in the meet-

ing. "America's international image can only benefit from public dialogue with American Muslims and from the implementation of domestic policies that protect civil liberties."

Early in the year, CAIR representatives met with French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte to deliver a letter for French President Jacques Chirac opposing his call to ban Islamic headscarves, or hijab, in public schools.

CAIR's letter read in part:

"Unlike a cross, which is not an

obligation for Christians to wear, hijabs, yarmulkes and turbans are not symbols that can be removed without abandoning religious responsibilities. Rather, hijab is a religious obligation and for many French women, any ban on a woman's right to freely exercise her faith by wearing hijab may be seen as an indirect prohibition of Islam in France..."

A delegation of American Muslim leaders also met with the Spanish ambassador in Washington, D.C., to



Director of Operations Khalid Iqbal hosts a delegation of scholars and journalists from Uzbekistan, as part of CAIR's work with the Department of Justice International Visitors Program.

offer condolences for the more than 200 people killed in the terror attacks on the Madrid train system in March.

The delegation, organized by CAIR, expressed the American Islamic community's condemnation of the bombings and told Ambassador Javier Ruperez that Muslims grieved for all those who died.

In April, CAIR called for the release of international civilian hostages by Iraqi insurgents and a complete re-evaluation of American foreign and military policy in Iraq. It also condemned the attack on four American civilian contractors who were ambushed in their SUV's, burned, mutilated, and then hung from a bridge spanning the Euphrates River.

Despite the Muslim leadership's many condemnations of terror, the rise in violence in the Muslim world was negatively impacting the lives of American Muslims in many ways. The images of Muslims committing horrific acts of terror in the name of Islam led many in America to associate terrorism with Islam and question

Muslim's commitment to the war on terror.

In March, Ann Coulter, a controversial conservative pundit, wrote: "Being nice to people is, in fact, one of the incidental tenets of Christianity (as opposed to other religions whose tenets are more along the lines of 'kill everyone who doesn't smell bad and doesn't answer to the name Mohammed')."

She also subsequently referred to: "(The Prophet) Muhammad's many specific instructions to kill non-believers whenever possible."

CAIR called on major media outlets to end their association with Coulter for defaming Islam and its followers.

On the air waves, the California-based Bill Handel show on KFI AM 640 aired an Islamophobic radio skit that claimed Muslims have sex with animals, avoid bathing and are obsessed with killing Jews. Throughout the skit, called "The New Iraq Constitution - Handelized," a mock-Muslim repeatedly stated "Allah be praised," "death to the Jews"

and "kill all Jews."

Although an initial request for an apology was denied, the California-based station relented after receiving hundreds of calls, faxes and e-mails from concerned Muslims and people of other faiths who responded to a CAIR action alert.

The apology also came a day after the Southern California office of CAIR filed complaints with both the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Clear Channel Communications about the highly offensive skit.

In the on-air apology, KFI Program Director Robin Bertolucci stated: "Last Wednesday, we aired a satirical skit that was offensive to some members of the Muslim community, for that we are sorry. KFI is committed to all of its Southern California listeners, including those in the Muslim community."

In the summer, Rep Peter T. King (R-NY) characterized U.S. mosque leaders as "an enemy amongst us" and claimed "no (American) Muslims" were cooperating with law enforcement officials in the war on terror, while appearing on Sean Hannity's nationally-syndicated radio show.

In response, CAIR called on the President and other political and religious leaders to repudiate King's remarks. Sen. Jon Corzine (D-NJ) and Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) rejected King's claims.

"In town after town, we know that Muslims are great Americans," said Pascrell.

Sen. Corzine said: "It is outrageous to believe that 80 to 85 percent of mosques are [run by extremists]. This is just not representative of what we see."

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) also called King's statements "hate-filled," while the Interfaith Alliance termed them "inflammatory" and "outrageous."

Even FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III discredited King's claim in a Foreign Press Center briefing, praising the American Muslim community for its cooperation.

Mueller said: "Since September 11th, we have had substantial assis-

tance and cooperation from the Muslim-American community, the Arab-American community, [and] the Sikh-American community within the United States. And for that all of us are tremendously thankful. Special Agents in charge around the country meet often with the leaders of the Muslim-American communities. I periodically meet with the leadership here in Washington.

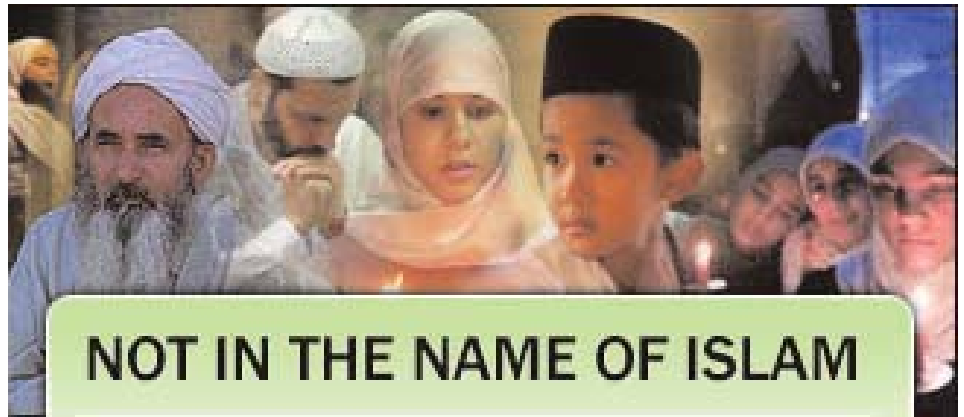
And I want to add that from my view that 99.9 percent of Muslim-Americans, Arab Americans, Sikh-Americans are every bit as patriotic and supportive of the United States as any of us here in the United States, and that has come out since September 11th..."

In June, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a Jewish advocacy group, made offensive statements in reference to a controversy started by right-wing and pro-Israel groups over the decision by Muslim students at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) to wear stoles bearing the shahada at weekend graduation ceremonies. The stoles in question also said in Arabic: "God, increase my knowledge." Opponents falsely claimed that the stoles are an expression of support for terrorism.

After CAIR demanded the ADL apologize to Muslims for "hate-filled Islamophobic rhetoric" distributed by one of its California offices, the Jewish advocacy group issued an apology for remarks in a news release that seemed to link the Islamic declaration of faith, or "shahada," with terrorism.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) statement said: "(The ADL) is respectful of the Shahada, the Muslim Declaration of Faith, which is expressed by millions of Muslims around the world...It was never our intent to offend anyone and we apologize to those who took offense."

To counter the negative associations with Islam and the Muslim community, CAIR launched numerous campaigns designed to expose the general public to the true face of Islam and Muslims and disassociate the faith of Islam from the violent acts of



CAIR launches an online petition to encourage Muslims worldwide to take a public stand on religiously-motivated terror.

a few.

The "Not in the Name of Islam" online petition encouraged Muslims around the world to help correct misconceptions of Islam and to take a public stand on religiously motivated terror. To date, over 700,000 individuals and signatory organizations have signed the petition.

It states: "We, the undersigned Muslims, wish to state clearly that those who commit acts of terror, murder and cruelty in the name of Islam are not only destroying innocent lives, but are also betraying the values of the faith they claim to represent. No injustice done to Muslims can ever justify the massacre of innocent people, and no act of terror will ever serve the cause of Islam. We repudiate and dissociate ourselves from any Muslim group or individual who commits such brutal and un-Islamic acts. We refuse to allow our faith to be held hostage by the criminal actions of a tiny minority acting outside the teachings of both the Quran and the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him.

"We hope this effort will demonstrate once and for all that Muslims in America and throughout the Islamic world reject violence committed in the name of Islam," said CAIR Board Chairman Omar Ahmad. "People of all faiths must do whatever they can to help end the downward spiral of mutual hostility and hatred that is engulfing our world."

CAIR's "Hate Hurts America" campaign is designed to counter anti-Muslim hate on radio talk shows. The campaign, which encourages American Muslims to monitor the media for hate speech, is based on the premise that the increasing attacks on Islam by conservative talk show hosts nationwide is not only offensive to Muslims and other people of conscience, but also harms the United States by creating a downward spiral of interfaith mistrust and hostility.

In March, the Southern California office of CAIR announced the publication of an advertisement in local newspapers highlighting Muslim respect for the Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him). The ad, headlined "More In Common Than You Think," featured a photograph of the Old City of Jerusalem and text reading:

"Like Christians, Muslims respect and revere Jesus. Islam teaches that Jesus is one of the greatest of God's prophets and messengers to humankind.

"Like Christians, every day, over 1.3 billion Muslims strive to live by his teachings of love, peace, and forgiveness. Those teachings, which have become universal values, remind us that all of us, Christians, Muslims, Jews, and all others have more in common than we think."

The ad was published in five Orange County, Los Angeles-area and Northern California community newspapers.

In June, CAIR launched a nationwide television and radio public service announcement (PSA) campaign that highlighted the Muslim community's support for religious diversity and service to the nation. The PSAs, titled, "I am an American Muslim," feature American Muslims of European, African-American, Hispanic and Native American heritage. Each person in the PSAs states how they and their families have served America and ends by saying, "I am an American Muslim." To date, the PSA has been placed in four major markets in the country and has been seen by over 2 million viewers.

The PSA launch came following the release of CAIR's annual report on the status of American Muslim civil rights that revealed a disturbing 70 percent increase in anti-Muslim incidents nationwide during 2003. That report blamed Islamophobic stereotyping for much of the sharp jump in discrimination cases.

"American Muslims celebrate our nation's rich ethnic and religious heritage and its tradition of service," said CAIR Board Chairman Omar Ahmad. "We believe Islamophobic stereotyping and bias will decrease when ordinary Americans of all faiths learn more about their American Muslim neighbors."

The mistaken association of Islam and the Muslim community with wrongdoing was not only seen in rhetoric and hate crimes, it was also seen on a law enforcement level.

CAIR also accused a Senate committee of engaging in a "McCarthyite witch hunt" by seeking the IRS tax and donor records of 24 American Muslim charitable, youth and civic organizations. The Washington Post reported that the request "marks a rare and unusually broad use of the Finance Committee's power to obtain private financial records held by the government."

In a statement, the Washington-based civil rights and advocacy group said:

"The Senate Finance Committee's investigative net has been cast so wide

that it seems to target all American Muslims as terrorism suspects. Its indiscriminate scope smacks of a McCarthyite witch hunt and creates the impression that the presumption of innocence no longer applies to Muslims.

"As in the past, the real test of America's commitment to equality before the law comes at times of national insecurity. We will pass that test if we reject demands, from any source, to single out Americans based on their race, religion or national origin."

CAIR also issued a community advisory outlining the rights and responsibilities of individual Muslims who are approached by law enforcement authorities during the counterterrorism interviews announced in May by the Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller.

CAIR said it has received a number of complaints from American Muslims who felt intimidated or coerced by officials seeking interviews and wanted to know more about their legal rights. A United States General Accounting Office report on similar post-9/11 interviews showed that those approached "did not perceive the interviews to be truly voluntary."

CAIR's community advisory, in part, also stated:

"American Muslims must do their part to ensure the safety and security of our nation. If you are aware of suspicious persons or activities in your community, you should report it immediately to the local Field Office of the FBI."

While some government officials worked to isolate and intimidate the Muslim community, others worked valiantly to protect American Muslims from politically and discriminatory law enforcement. Senators DeWine, Voinovich, and Presidential Candidate Dennis Kucinich called for the immediate release of a Muslim mother facing deportation. Amina Silmi, a Venezuelan citizen of Palestinian origin and mother to three US-citizen children, was being detained in



CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad is identified by the *National Journal* as one of America's leading experts whom D.C. policy-makers look to in shaping the nation's major policy debates.

Georgia in the City of Atlanta Department of Corrections and faced deportation from the United States.

Congressman Dennis Kucinich, an early supporter, took up Silmi's cause in a New Year's Day press conference. Kucinich, in Cleveland for a national fundraising webcast, became aware of Amina's plight when he was shown an article that CAIR helped launch in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. With Silmi and her children at his side, Kucinich said, "We are not going to stand by and watch these children become orphans because of some bureaucratic process." With the audience in tears, he said, "There's a higher law at work here---it's the law of the heart." He has written directly to Tom Ridge, Director of Homeland Security, signing his first letter with the words, "Her children are US citizens, for God's sake!"

Kucinich's second letter to Ridge, sent Friday, Feb. 6, 2004, respectfully requested that Silmi be released from detention in Atlanta pending the outcome of her appeal so she could rejoin with her children who "need their mother." He said releasing Silmi "will have a tremendous positive impact on her family."

"This is far from over." said CAIR Cleveland Executive Director Julia Shearson. "This has become a test case in the national fight to preserve civil rights post 9/11."

On the political front, to encourage community-based Muslim political participation and to defend against the erosion of civil liberties in a post-9/11 social environment, a nationwide coalition of Islamic organizations announced the formation of a task force.

The group, called the "American Muslim Taskforce on Civil Rights and Elections (AMT)," concentrated on helping Muslims become "full partners in the development and prosperity of our homeland," defending the civil rights of all Americans and developing alliances "on a wide variety of social, political, economic, and moral issues."

Task force organizers said they had

put forth a "civil rights plus" agenda for the 2004 election cycle in which civil rights were the most important issue, but not the only issue. The AMT election plan stated: "We remain equally committed to (the issues of) education, homelessness, economic recovery, environmental and ecological safety, electoral reform, crime and global peace and justice."

CAIR, one of the organizations represented under AMT, mobilized its members to organize voter education and registration drives, encouraged Muslims to work in political campaigns, host candidates' town hall meetings, issue candidate scorecards on issues of importance to the Muslim community, and to form coalitions with like-minded groups.

One of CAIR's major voter regis-

tration drive efforts coincided with the Muslim holiday, Eid ul-Adha which comes at the end of the pilgrimage to Mecca. CAIR officials called on Islamic communities nationwide to register Muslim voters at the festivals commonly held following Eid ul-Adha prayers. These festivals typically draw thousands of Muslims in each community and offer an excellent opportunity to distribute voter registration materials.

"Active political participation by American Muslims is no longer an option, it is a necessity. It is only through the power of the vote that Muslims will have their concerns addressed by political candidates and elected representatives," said CAIR in a statement.

**"Active political participation by American Muslims is no longer an option, it is a necessity..."**  
said CAIR in a statement.

Dr. Mohamed Nimer of the CAIR Research Department announces the findings of the 2004 civil rights report. The report shows a 70 percent increase in incidents from the previous year.



*In this year, 2004, CAIR celebrates ten years of existence, service, and increased influence. CAIR's reputation among Muslims and the society at large continues to grow. CAIR enjoys strong financial support, along with the expansion of offices and chapters nationwide. Its size, budget, and infrastructure makes it America's largest Muslim grassroots organization.*

*Projects (old and new), campaigns and communications are an indication of CAIR's stature and prominence in the Muslim community. The library project has reached the halfway point. Ninety million Americans now benefit from the assortment of books and audiovisual materials at their disposal. Voter education, registration, and participation – in addition to informational initiatives like the public service announcement (PSA) project – are intended to establish the American Muslim community as a political and social presence in America on a scale much broader than previously planned. The PSA project aims to further sensitize everyday Americans to the positive and life-enhancing presence of Muslims. More proactive initiatives are needed for the next phase to help America understand Islam and help Muslims participate in bettering their status as a minority.*

*With a record fundraising figure in November of last year and a membership increase of 40 percent, CAIR is confident that it can rely on continued community support for the foreseeable future. But these facts are not an excuse for CAIR to fall into complacency. More work is needed and will be done, with God's support. As CAIR pushes ahead into another decade of service to the American Muslim community, the Islamic principles of justice and equality will continue to guide the organization to its ultimate goal: an understanding and appreciation of Islam in American society.*