



CAIR OPENS UP FOR BUSINESS IN PHILADELPHIA!

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PEARLS OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMED (PBUH)

The Prophet PBUH once said, "Should you wish to act, ponder well the consequences. If good, carry on; if not, desist." Ibn al-Mubarak.

The Prophet PBUH once said, "Practice humility until no one oppresses or belittles another."
Muslim

Assalamu A'laikum greater Philadelphia community!

It is with great pleasure that CAIR-Philadelphia (CAIR Philly) would like to announce the release of the first edition of our monthly newsletter *The Informed* (Al-Mutalaqi). It is the goal of this monthly publication to inform the local community of the goings-on with CAIR-Philly and the various communities within our diverse area, as well as bringing out the spirit of activism in everyone for the betterment of American-Muslims.

CAIR-Philly was launched in December 2004 with the goal of serving the greater Philadelphia area to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding. Our board of directors is a diverse group of community activists dedicated to these principles.

Throughout our short existence as a local chapter of America's largest Muslim civil rights organizations we have made a few very notable accomplishments:

- Establishment of a center city office run by full time Communications Director Aadeeba Al-Zaman.
- Establishment of a 10- part course called, "Understanding Islam and Muslims through History and Jurisprudence," taught on a regular basis by CAIR-Philly board members in local educational institutions. (Currently being taught at Paoli Presbyterian Church.)

- Regular appearances on local media outlets including conservative radio station 1210AM WPHT, WHYI, KYW, CN8 News, Fox29, CBS3 and NBC10.
- Conducted meeting with the Philadelphia Inquirer editorial board.
- Conducted Kickoff Event- Temple University, *Civil Rights to Human Rights: From Guantanamo to Abu Ghuraib*.
- Conducted Town Hall Meeting and two film screenings to discuss the legacy of Muhammad (peace be upon him) and the cartoon controversy.
- Conducted (4) "Know your Rights" seminars at Masjid al-Jamiah, Chester Masjid, Foundation for Islamic Education, and the Turkish American Islamic Center in Levittown.
- Utilized the expertise of our attorneys to defend and refer civil rights cases.
- Partnered with the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia in presenting the mini-conference entitled "The Veil."

It is our hope that through growing partnerships with area Muslims, organizational partners and team members CAIR Philly can continue this critical work to advance the cause of Muslim civil liberties and understanding of Islam in this area.

CAIR-PHILLY CARTOON FLAP RESPONSE: EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN: EXPLORE THE LIFE OF MUHAMMED (PEACE BE UPON HIM)

There is hope that **education** and **understanding** are the keys to bringing some peace and stability to our world. Thankfully many in the American media have refrained from publishing these offensive and deeply hurtful cartoons; and for that, the Muslim community is grateful to the media. But also, this is due in large part to the fact that since 9/11, Muslim communities and major media across the country have interacted with each other, learning from and about each other.

In this same spirit – a spirit of education and betterment of our society – CAIR-Philly on the 14th of February launched a major educational effort called "Explore the Life of Muhammad" as a positive response to the worldwide controversy over caricatures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad. This campaign is designed to answer the question that many in the West have, "Who is Muhammad?"

The year-long initiative will begin by offering people of all faiths a free book or DVD about the life and legacy of the Prophet Muhammad. Visitors

can request these materials from <http://www.cair.com/muhammad/>

CAIR-Philly will work with Muslim organizations, ICNA-Philly and MAS-Philly, to implement the campaign. Together, we will offer materials to help local Muslim communities hold public screenings of the DVD, mosque open houses, panel discussions, essay contests, interfaith events, and other educational grass roots activities focused on the legacy of the Prophet Muhammad.

Keep checking our weblog for program announcements and updates!

CAIR-PHILLY HOLDS 4TH "KNOW-YOUR-RIGHTS" SEMINAR

CAIR-Philadelphia recently held its 4th "Know-Your-Rights" seminar at the Turkish American Muslim Cultural Center in Levittown PA in the beginning of February. Previous seminars had been held at the Foundation for Islamic Education, Masjid al-Jamia and the Islamic Society of Chester County.

Attorney John Vandenberg, CAIR-Philly's Civil Rights Committee Chair person conducted the seminar.

During the seminar which was attended by over 50 community members, John highlighted five (5) key areas and our rights as citizens/ residents of the United States as outlined in the U.S. Constitution.

These areas were:

- if stopped or questioned by Police,
- the FBI,
- other law enforcement officials,
- as an employee of a company,
- as a student in an educational institution.

The session was concluded with a question and answer session and a discussion on how everyone can become involved.

CAIR-PHILLY SEEKS REGIONAL MEDIA COMMITTEE TEAM MEMBERS

CAIR-Philly is reaching out to the greater Delaware Valley seeking inspired activists to join our Media Committee team. Team members would be responsible for the following:

- Monitor a local newspaper for all stories regarding Islam and Muslims. Many of the smaller local newspapers have coverage and editorial sections which tend to print known Islamophobic columnists and blatantly racist letters to the editors. These need to be followed up with upbeat portrayals of Muslim media interaction. Further, these papers need to hear positive feedback from the Muslim community when it prints a constructive or helpful story/editorial concerning Muslims and Islam. Far too often the community is willing

to blast the media for irresponsibility and we need to pat it on the back when a fair job is done.

- Talented writers would be responsible for writing op-eds 2-3 times per year to be submitted to local newspapers concerning some predetermined topic. This will be part of a proactive approach to educating the greater Delaware Valley general community to the true nature of Islam and Muslims as genuine, responsible and active community workers determined to contribute in positive ways.

To become a team member, please contact Media Committee Chairperson Kareem Afzal @ 267-808-4906 or keembo6@yahoo.com.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT:

Along with these much needed positions, CAIR-Philly is always looking for committed community members, young and old to aid us in our mission to educate and inform the general public about Islam. Join us for a CAIR-Philly **New Volunteer Orientation Meeting**. (Refreshments will be served)

What: Volunteer Orientation Meeting

When: Thursday, March 23, 7:30PM

Where: CAIR-Philly offices; 1218 Chestnut Street; Ste 510-11, Philadelphia, PA 19107

If you or someone you know would like to participate, please contact CAIR-Philly Volunteer Coordinator, Musa Furfari at kfurfari@gmail.com.

"I saw a need for moderate Muslims to stand up and be engaged in the process and represent the real Islam, which is about peace..." —
Adeeba Al-Zaman

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER PROFILES ONE OF OUR OWN

Philadelphia Inquirer staff writer, Kristen Holmes, recently wrote a short expose on our own Adeeba Al-Zaman.

In the article she gave an excellent look into our solitary employee's busy, fast-paced and impactful day. Due to recent events, the Danish cartoon was also a focus of the article.

"...The publication of cartoons, first in a Danish newspaper, has angered Muslims around the world, prompting protests that in some cases have turned violent. That issue touched even closer to home for local Muslims on Feb. 4, when The Inquirer published one of the cartoons, a caricature that shows Muhammad with a bomb in his turban.

Since then, Al-Zaman has been at the forefront of much of the local Muslim community's response to the issue. Al-Zaman has set up news conferences and film screenings. She has moder-

ated panel discussions, met with Inquirer, editors and written an op-ed piece for the newspaper... Since the publication, CAIR Philadelphia has been working toward "building bridges" with local media and becoming a resource for information, Al-Zaman said. The work has also helped trigger a personal transformation. "You can't defend someone else's rights if you don't do it for yourself, know yourself and know God," Al-Zaman said. "I've been developing a relationship with God and I do it by reading the text." "...I saw a need for moderate Muslims to stand up and be engaged in the process and represent the real Islam, which is about peace and has a rich history and culture," Al-Zaman said. Her opinion piece about the cartoons said the same... At a recent panel discussion, she was poised as she greeted panelists and was interviewed by

television reporters. She kept a firm handle on the panel discussion as diverse opinions about the overseas protests and media intent were at times forcefully expressed... Al-Zaman is not sure that nonprofit groups will be her life's work, but she is sure that she will always be involved with Muslim causes. For now, she is touting CAIR Philadelphia's education initiative on Islam and the life of the prophet. Al-Zaman will teach in a series of classes which will begin Thursday at the Paoli Presbyterian Church.... Before she joined CAIR, Al-Zaman said she did not know whether she was a leader. "As a communications director, I could be a leader," Al-Zaman said. Then, after a second, she added, "Yes, I guess I am." —the Philadelphia Inquirer, February 26, 2006.