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Council on American-Islamic Relations PHILADELPHIA

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A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters, As Salaam Alaikum (Peace be unto you):

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Staff of CAIR-Philadelphia, I wish you a belated Eid Mubarak. As we move towards the end of 2009, I am pleased to report that CAIR-Philadelphia has experienced encouraging growth in many of the programs we initiated during the past year.

After much planning and hard work we have just completed the 1st session of our flagship Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP); by all accounts, it was a success. You can read more about this exciting and unique program in the pages to follow. Planning is underway for the 2nd session which focuses on Media Relations and Communications to be held in December.

I would like to welcome aboard Moein Khawaja as our new Civil Rights Director. He replaces Marwa El-Turky who has moved on to pursue a career in Education. We welcome Moein to the CAIR-Philadelphia team and wish Marwa all the best in her new field. Moein brings great experience to our team having worked as an intern at CAIR-Chicago and having started the first University campus CAIR chapter at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Please visit our website at <http://pa.cair.com> and sign up for our listserv to receive weekly electronic updates of our activities, events, and progress.

Thank you and may the Creator bless you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Q. Amin Nathari



SAVE THE DATE

PRACTICAL APPLICATION
WORKSHOPS

CAREER
EXPLORATION

**Muslim Youth
Leadership Program**
Winter 2009 Conference
Media and Communications

INTERACTIVE PANEL
DISCUSSIONS

COMMUNITY SERVICE
OPPORTUNITIES

Dates: Saturday, December 19 & Sunday, December 20

Times: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (Sat)
9:00 am - 12Noon (Sun)

Philadelphia Masjid—Sister Clara Muhammad School
4700 Wyalusing Avenue, Philadelphia, PA

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 19, 2009

CAIR-Philadelphia's 2nd semester Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP) Conference will focus on Media Relations and Communications and teach local high school students how to understand and more effectively deal with the media; explore media rights career fields and provide volunteer opportunities conducive to utilizing their newfound skills.

For more information or to download an application form, please visit our website:

<http://pa.cair.com/activism/mylp>

To advertise in our next news letter, contact our office at 215-592-0509

ADVOCATING AGAINST WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION AND WRONGFUL TERMINATION

A Muslim woman in Philadelphia was fired from her job at a nursing home for wearing the hijab. She came to CAIR-Philadelphia immediately for assistance. CAIR-Philadelphia's Civil Rights Director wrote a letter to her then former employer firmly stating the woman's religious rights in the workplace. Additionally, that her right to wear the hijab is protected by the constitution of the United States and by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, and her firing was unjust. After negotiations, the employer has agreed to allow the sister to return to work with the hijab. She will receive fair compensation for all lost wages. This case was handled without any involvement of a government agency or litigation and resolved within 3 weeks of the initial complaint. This demonstrates CAIR-Philadelphia's ability to protect the rights of Muslims swiftly

ANTI-ISLAM PROPAGANDA

CAIR-Philadelphia was informed by a former local area High School Student that the anti-Muslim film, *Obsession*, was in a course syllabus for a Social Studies class. CAIR-Philadelphia sent out a letter immediately explaining the contents of the film and how the film promoted hate and fear against Muslims. The Civil Rights Director suggested that the class bring in Muslim guest speakers to inform the students on Islam and Muslims. The school responded promptly and informed CAIR-Philadelphia that the specific course has not been offered for a few years and the school administration vowed that they would not show this film under any circumstances.

QUARTERLY CASE FLOW:

Open Cases: 44
New Cases: 26
Closed Cases: 27

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

CAIR-Philadelphia will initiate Civic Participation Workshops, emphasizing government engagement and education. Our society has many layers of government, from the President of the United States and Congress, to local county boards, mayors, and superintendents. It is important for the Muslim community to learn how to engage at all levels of government so that when policy decisions that impact the community are made, they are done so with consideration of the Muslim American point of view. These new workshops from CAIR-Philadelphia will explain who our local, state, and federal officials are, how to contact their offices, and how to proactively participate in the democratic process. In particular cases, we will conduct letter writing campaigns and phone banks regarding specific issues such as foreign policy, local PA issues, as well as nationwide issues such as the current

health care debate. To provide our youth with work experience, interns are preparing course material under the supervision of our Civil Rights Director. We anticipate launching this program within a quarter.

To address religious discrimination, call CAIR-PA at 215-592-0509

EMPOWERING AMERICAN MUSLIMS

MUSLIM YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (MYLP)

CAIR-Philadelphia completed the Fall 2009 Conference of the Muslim Youth Leadership Program, which focused on Civil Rights and Advocacy. 15 students, both male and female, from grades 9-12 participated in the two days of activities, and were engaged in the training and information sessions provided.

The program, the first of its kind in the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley area, received mainstream media coverage in the Philadelphia Tribune. (Visit the Media section of our website (In the News) for the complete article.)

Presenters included the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project, in addition to staff from CAIR-Philadelphia and others. Workshops and interactive presentations covered a wealth of information crucial to the development of the next generation of activists, advocates and community leaders.

Our youth were enthusiastically engaged and already looking forward to the upcoming Winter 2009 session in December.

**SPRING 2010
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Media/Communications
Community Outreach
Government Relations

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Apply for the Winter 2009 MYLP now online at <http://pa.cair.com/mylp>



Role playing activities in morning session



Group photo of happy participants and a few of our staff and volunteers—closing session.



Listening to one of our guest speakers

ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF ISLAM

COURSES AND PRESENTATIONS

During the past quarter, CAIR-Philadelphia continued to be consistently active and engaged in presenting Islam in a accurate, balanced and fair manner.

In August, CAIR-Philadelphia presented Tell Me About Islam at the Free Public Library, Central Branch in Center City Philadelphia; this was the first program of it's kind held by CAIR at a public library.

CAIR-Philadelphia also continued offering an ongoing series courses, including weekly classes on Understanding Islamic Jurisprudence at the Foundation for Islamic Education in addition a 10-week course titled Political Islam at the Grove Methodist Church West Chester and another just completed at Lutheran Seminary titled Islam & Muslims.

In September, CAIR-Philadelphia helped organize Sharing Ramadan events at the Zubaida Foundation, Yardley, PA and the Foundation for Islamic Education, Villanova, PA, in addition to giving a presentation at the Devon Mosque, Devon, PA.

Courses Offered

- Introduction to Islam
- Understanding Islam in a Modern World: A Comparative Perspective
- Understanding Islam & Muslims Through History and Jurisprudence
- Understanding Political Islam
- Jesus in the Islamic Tradition

BUILDING COALITIONS

MOSQUE/CENTER OUTREACH

In August and September, CAIR-Philadelphia's Executive Director visited more than half a dozen mosques in the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley area. CAIR-Philadelphia is actively engaging the administration/leadership of area institutions, both to offer the programs and services of CAIR, as well as discussing ways to collaborate in the shared mission of empowering Islam and Muslims in America. We will be presenting more programs and presentations at masajid and centers throughout the area in the months ahead.

ORGANIZATION OUTREACH AND COLLABORATION

Over the past few months, CAIR-Philadelphia began strengthening it's relationship with the Philadelphia Chapter of the Council for the Advancement of Muslim Professionals (CAMP), an active and engaged coalition of Muslims from an impressive variety of career and educational backgrounds. One result is the formation of the CAIR-CAMP Mentor/Mentee Program, which is particularly important in our responsibility of preparing the next generation of leaders. This collaboration will directly support CAIR's MYLP initiative, pairing participants with a suitable career mentor from CAMP's membership. For more information on the Council for Advancement of Muslim Professionals, visit the website at: www.campnet.net./philadelphia



To schedule presentations, call CAIR-PA at 215-592-0509

To partner with CAIR-PA, call 215-592-0509

To contribute content, email CAIR-PA at cairphilly@gmail.com

ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF ISLAM (continued)

In addition to the Sharing Ramadan events, CAIR-Philadelphia continues to build bridges with other faith traditions in areas of collaboration and common interest.

Our Outreach Chairperson participated in the local observance of the UN International Day of Peace local observance, distributing information about Islam, as well as serving as the Mistress of Ceremonies. Also participated in monthly meetings with interfaith peace group in Lower Buck County, PA.

CAIR-Philadelphia also participated in several meetings with a local area minister and rabbi, to develop and implement interfaith events for respective congregations and the general public. Also involved with coordinating interfaith events in conjunction with the Children's Defense Fund; a national organization dedicated to eradicating poverty for children, as well as protecting them from abuse and neglect and ensuring access to healthcare, education and a moral, spiritual foundation.

BUILDING COALITIONS (continued)

Planning to buy a home or help someone else buy a home? Don't miss these important free seminars:

Lending Discrimination—October 26-27

Financial Aspects of Lending—October 28-30

Held at PA Human Relations Commission,
110 N. 8th St., Suite 501, Philadelphia, PA

Buyer Beware—November 30-December 1

Preventing Foreclosure—December 2-4

Held at 801 Market St., Betsy Ross Room,
Philadelphia, PA

Seminars run from 8:30am to 4:15pm

For more information or to register,
call (215) 965-7739 or (202) 314-3422,
or register online at www.nfhta.org.

Sponsored by the National Fair Housing Training Academy and the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development in partnership with the PA Human Relations Commission.



CHAPTER SUPPORT

ABOUT CAIR

CAIR-Philadelphia is a non-profit 501(c)(3), grassroots civil rights and advocacy group. CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties group, with regional offices nationwide and in Canada. The national headquarters is located on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

WHY SUPPORT CAIR-PHILADELPHIA?

Since our establishment in 2004, CAIR-Philadelphia has worked to empower the American Muslim community at the local level and encourage our participation in political and social activism. CAIR-Philadelphia also seeks to promote a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America through media relations, advocacy and education.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT CAIR-PHILADELPHIA?

Your financial support is invaluable in helping CAIR-Philadelphia continue our operations in service of the Muslim community. You can send us a one-time donation via check/money order, donate via credit card on our website, or establish monthly automatic deductions from your bank account by sending us a voided check. We ask Allah (SWT) to accept your charity and multiply your rewards.

DONATION METHODS

1. Check/Money Order
2. Credit Card
3. Automatic Deduction

BENEFITS OF SUPPORTING CAIR-PHILADELPHIA

Contributions to CAIR-Philadelphia are tax-deductible and Zakat-eligible. Our Tax ID number is 542174614. In addition, numerous Muslim scholars have confirmed that Zakat is payable to organizations that exist to serve the Muslim community by protecting their rights. This is because the work done by CAIR (and other such organizations) can be classified as fi-sabilillah, which is one of the eight categories of Zakat recipients detailed in the Qur'an (Chapter 9, Verse 60). For more information go to :

<http://www.cair.com/Zakat.aspx>



For more information visit our website at <http://pa.cair.com> or contact our office at 215-592-0509