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CAIR

Council on American-Islamic Relations

1511 K Street, N.W., Suite 807

Washington, D.C. 20077-1782

- The president of the Islamic Unity Club at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland, reported that club flyers had been marked with the words: "Stop the Bombing" on April 20.

- A Muslim woman from Melbourne Beach, Florida, stated: "I was verbally attacked on my way to the grocery store by a teenager." The incident occurred on April 19. While she was dumping her trash in the neighborhood dumpsite, the Caucasian teenager (around 18 or 19) shouted: "This isn't f------ Saudi Arabia. Why don't you go back to your f------ country?"

- A Muslim student at Oklahoma City Community College reported being called "sand n--ger" and "camel jockey."

- A Muslim parent in Oklahoma reported that schoolmates called his son a "terrorist" and that the boy's teacher did not come to his defense.

- A Muslim woman in Tulsa, Oklahoma, reported being mocked in public following the Oklahoma bombing because she wore Islamic dress.

- The Islamic community in Houston, Texas, reported a Pakistani woman being harassed at work. When the woman complained to her supervisor, she was told, "Well, it [i.e., the World Trade Center bombing] happened in New York."

- The director of the Mosque of Riverside, California, reported: "A Muslim woman was booed in a shopping mall. Another was spat at in a Burger King restaurant. A third was verbally attacked by two men; one said. 'I hate these people'."

- The Islamic Center of Central Missouri, located in Columbia, Missouri, reported one threat and two acts of harassment. On April 19, a Muslim man received a call to his home. The caller said: "If it happened to be your people who did it, then you will not be safe tonight at your home." In addition, a Muslim family was harassed at the Megamarket grocery store on the early evening hours of April 20. Individuals shouted at them: "See the bombers." The next day a man in a car driving by the Islamic Center shouted "You the bombers" to Muslim children playing in the center's playground.

Harassing Call

- A Muslim man from San Francisco, California, received a phone call on April 19. The caller informed him that Muslims would not get away with the bombing, and that "you will pay for this."

- On April 19, the Islamic Society of Greater Houston reported receiving three harassing phone calls.

- The Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) reported a threatening call to the head of the Islamic Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and three dozen threatening calls to a New York Islamic advocacy group.

- The office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) in Northern California received six abusive and threatening phone calls. The organization states:

0012 0108

"We received half a dozen unidentified phone calls that were cursing and abusing our faith and values and blaming us for the bombing. A very abusive phone caller told us to 'go to hell' and 'take your f------ religion' out of the States."

- The Islamic Association of North Texas received seventeen harassing phone calls.

- The Islamic Cultural Center, the main mosque in Tempe, Arizona, reported four threatening phone calls. The answering machine tape has been handed over to the local authorities. The center also reported that the Islamic Community Center in Phoenix, Arizona, received four phone threats. The messages carried the following theme: "We know where you are. We will destroy the mosque. We will get you."
- The Islamic Society of Tulsa, Oklahoma, transcribed the calls they received:

  Wednesday, 5:14 p.m.

  "You baby killers, wife beaters, and little boy molesters. Be careful Friday crossing the street. You don't own that public street, and if I'm there in my car, I'll run your asses down. You need to get the f--- out of this country, now."

  Thursday, 7:27 a.m.

  "Yes, I'd like to know what the Islamic Society is and why you're here, and I think you need to take yourself and all your people and go back to where you belong, 'cause you've done nothing but cause trouble in my country."

- A Caucasian Muslim woman from Tulsa, Oklahoma, who serves as president of the Islamic Elementary School in the city received more than twenty crank phone calls during the first forty-eight hours of the bombing. A person/persons would call every five minutes, stay quiet, and then hang up. Other unknown individuals placed five calls telling the Muslim family to go home. (The woman's family came to the Boston area in the 1640s.)

- A Muslim activist in Carmel, California, reported receiving two threatening phone calls referring to her "terrorist friends."

- The Islamic Center in Lafayette, Louisiana, reported receiving a "vulgar and threatening" phone call. In addition, leaders of this Muslim community center reported three other similar phone calls to individuals members of the center.

Bias

- A Muslim in Palo Alto, California, reported that a person or persons yelled: "Those Islamic people should go back where they came from."

- The Muslim Community Center in San Francisco, California, received a disturbing message on its answering machine from a concerned mother, who angrily implored them to condemn those of the Islamic faith who would kill innocent people. In addition, she accused the Islamic religion of being a religion of "baby killers." The call was received around 6:45 p.m. on April 19.

- A Muslim in Seattle, Washington, reported that he felt the discomfort of co-workers, and heard anti-Muslim and anti-Arab statements and remarks.

- A person from North Tonington, Connecticut, reported that unfounded assumptions were verbalized in his/her presence that the perpetrators were Arab/Islamic.

- An American Muslim from Indianapolis, Indiana, was intimidated when individuals said "bad words about Muslims and Arabs."

- The Council on Islamic Education, located in Fountain Valley, California, received the following calls on April 19:
  Caller: "Do you like being baby-killers?"
  Caller: "Did you guys do it?"
  The third caller mentioned that she called her Congressman and demanded that all non-Christians be deported from the United States.

- An American Muslim CEO/President of his company from Mt. Vernon, New York, reported that he was met with hostility by his own staff. He stated:
  "My purchasing manager, who works for me, refused to talk to me on Wednesday and Thursday (April 19 and 20), because she held me personally responsible for the bombing -- she risked being fired and was plainly mad at me! I was also thoroughly searched and questioned at the airport upon my return from Europe."

- A Muslim man from Burtonsville, Maryland, said that co-workers and neighbors looked at him "with dirty looks" after the bombing.

Summary of the Incident Data

The following data tables summarize the incident reports in terms of frequency and percentage. In order to capture the magnitude and severity of the incidents, the summary focuses on the type of incident and victim, and the location and state of incident occurrence.

Table 1
Incidents by Type and Frequency

Type of incident	Number of incidents	Percentage of incident	Number of incidents reported to authorities	Percentage of incidents reported to authorities
Shooting	4	2	4	100
Beating and physical assault	5	2	1	20
Robbery	1	0.5	0	0
Property damage	3	1	2	67
Stalking	1	1	1	100
Police abuse	4	2	2	50
Bomb threat	28	13	7	25
Death threat	27	12	8	30
Intimidation	42	19	0	0
Harassing call	92	41	4	4
Bias	15	7	0	0
Total	222	100.5*	29	13

Note:
*Percentages are rounded off.

Table 2
Incidents by Type of Victim

Victim Type	Number of offenses	Percentage
1. Organization	149	67
1.1 Mosque/Islamic center	94	63
1.2 Other institution	55	37
2. Individual	62	28
2.1 Women wearing *hijab*	14	22
3. Family	11	5
Total	222	100*

Table 3
Incidents by Place of Occurrence

Place	Number of offenses	Percentage
Mosque/Islamic Center	100	45
Other organization owned or managed by Muslim	58	26
Home	13	6
Street	6	3
Workplace	5	2
School	4	2
Neighborhood	3	1
Airport	1	0.5
Other common place	32	14
Total	222	99.5

Note:
*Percentages are rounded off.

Table 4
Incidents by State

State	Shooting	Beating and physical assault	Robbery	Property damage and vandalism	Stalking	Police abuse	Bomb threat	Death threat	Intimidation	Hate calls	Bias	Total	%
California	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	17	10	9	6	50	23
New York	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	36	1	39	18
Texas	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	20	0	24	11
Oklahoma	2	3	-	-	1	2	-	1	3	8	-	20	9
Wisconsin	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	5	13	-	18	8
Washington	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	10	-	1	17	8
Arizona	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	4	-	10	5
Nebraska	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	7	3
Maryland	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	7	3
Florida	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	5	2
Louisiana	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	-	-	1	4	5	2
Missouri	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	1
Illinois	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1		-	3	1
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	1
Indiana	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
Michigan	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	1
Ohio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1
Connecticut	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.5
Oregon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.5
North Carolina	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.5
Iowa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	0.5
Delaware	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.5
Massachusetts	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.5
Total	4	5	1	3	1	4	28	27	42	92	15	222	101*

Note:
*Percentages are rounded off.

Findings

- About two-thirds of the incidents took the form of bias, harassment, and intimidation. However, one-third of the incidents were much more serious. 28 percent took the form of stalking, police abuse, and bomb and death threat; and 6 percent, including shooting, beating, robbery and arson, resulted in physical injuries (See Table 1) Incidents of shooting and arson were reported to the police, but verbal threats and harassing remarks were not.

- Victims came from different backgrounds. Two-thirds of the victims are Muslim institutions, mosques in particular. About a quarter of the rest were individuals easily recognizable for their religious dress, i.e., Muslim women who wear the *hijab* (See Table 2).

- Seventy-seven percent of the offenses occurred in mosques, other Muslim-operated institutions, and homes (See Table 3). Muslims were pursued by their attackers in the sanctuary of their homes and places of worship rather than attacked at random during casual encounters.

- About two-thirds of the offenses occurred in four states: California, New York, Texas and Oklahoma (See Table 4). The first three states are home to publicly-felt Muslim presence. The disproportionate percentage of incidents that occurred in Oklahoma, a home to a small Muslim community of some 5,000 individuals, is explainable by the fact that the state is the site of the blast

- Most attacks occurred within forty-eight hours of the blast in Oklahoma. Offenses dissipated after the authorities announced that the suspects were two Caucasian males. However, some of the most serious offenses took place weeks after the bombing. These include a suspected arson in High Point, North Carolina, and a confirmed arson attack in Springfield, Illinois, and a shooting in Chicago.

Comparison helps understand the extent of the anti-Arab, anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. In all of 1991, just 119 bias-motivated offenses against Arabs were recorded, even though the Gulf War occurred during this period.[10] In the two days following the bombing in Oklahoma City, more than 220 offenses occurred against Arabs and Muslims (notwithstanding the fact that U.S. Muslims are approximately three times as many as Arab Americans)

[10] American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, *1991 Report on Anti-Arab Hate Crimes: Political and Hate Violence against Arab-Americans* (Washington, DC.: n.p., 1992), 5.

MUSLIM RESPONSES

Fear

The initial reaction among Muslims in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing was pain and fear. Approximately one-in-four respondents reported that female family members were afraid to appear in public during the crisis. Another one-forth of the respondents said they feared for their children's safety (See Table 5).

Table 5
Reported Fear that Disrupted Daily Life of Muslims Following Media Speculation of Muslim Involvement in the Oklahoma City Bombing*

Effect on daily life	Number	Percentage
Felt afraid to go outside wearing *hijab* (for women)	39	27
Felt afraid for children at school	39	27
Felt going to the mosque or Islamic center might be dangerous	28	19
Mosque leader noticed a decrease in the number of people coming to the mosque.	16	11
Other	16	11
Noticed a decrease in the number of customers at business	8	5
Total	146	100

Note:
*This is a multiple choice question. Responses with more than one choice marked were excluded. CAIR sent out 1,600 questionnaires asking a non-random sample of Muslims throughout the country about the impact that media coverage of the Oklahoma City bombing had on their lives. As of June 15, 1995, 162 responses had been received.

Activism

Within hours of the first reports of the Oklahoma City blast, twelve Muslim organizations issued a joint statement condemning the bombing and asking for media restraint in reporting Muslim links to the incident. Other Arab and Muslim national and local organizations issued separate and/or joint statements condemning the bombing. The *Shura* Council (which consists of the Islamic Society of North America, the Islamic Circle of North America, The Ministry of Warith Deen Muhammad, and the National Community of Imam Jamil al-Amin) called on Muslims to offer supplication prayers during their weekly services on Friday April 21 (See a selection of such statements in the Appendix). Although Muslim leaders were not included in the official memorial service, Muslim delegations from around the country, especially from the South

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Central region, attended the special memorial service organized by the Oklahoma Governor and his wife.

Material help followed words of condolences. Many of Oklahoma City's estimated 5,000 Muslims took part in the relief effort. The president of the city's American Muslim Association and his wife - a cardiologist and anesthesiologist - both volunteered at area hospitals the day of the explosion. From nearby Texas, Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, a national Muslim group based in Dallas, held a blood drive for explosion victims, donated $2,500 to the Red Cross and $5,000 to Oklahoma City's Disaster Recovery Scene. On April 23, some fifty foundation volunteers from different ethnic backgrounds flew to Oklahoma City to work with the Oklahoma City Food Bank and Feed the Children organization who accommodated families affected by the bombing.

Muslim contributions to the relief effort came from around the country. The International Islamic Relief Organization, headquartered in Washington, DC, opened a special fund for the bombing victims. A Muslim delegation met with the governor of Oklahoma and presented him with checks totaling $21,000 for the Victims Relief Fund. Islamic community centers nationwide (Dar al-Hijrah, Falls Church, Virginia; Dar al-Fitrah, North Texas, among many others) organized blood drives on April 20 and April 21.

Some observers felt pity for Muslims who rushed to offer their blood after media reports blamed Middle Easterners for the bombing.[11] Muslims, however, have far greater concerns than defensive reactions. Condemning the bombing and praying for the innocent victims, Muslims wanted to participate in the public move to ostracize extremist elements from all backgrounds and to reaffirm their commitment to the path of peaceful reform. Participating in the relief effort, the Muslim community leaders reacted in a way similar to leaders of other communities who were horrified by the bombing. In other words, Muslim organizations wanted to guide members of their community toward mainstream social action.

The Muslim response to the Oklahoma crisis did not go unrecognized. Frank Keating, the Governor of Oklahoma, in a letter thanking Muslim groups for their efforts on behalf of bombing victims, said: "I am immensely proud of Oklahomans of all races, creeds and faiths. They have come together in shared anguish and shared pride...May Allah bless you always." (See copy of the letter in the Appendix.) The governor also apologized in a CNN interview to Abraham Ahmad, the American Muslim Oklahoman who was initially and irrationally treated as a bombing suspect. Other American leaders and citizens, some in conjunction with Muslims, sent letters to the editor in a number of cities publicly apologizing to Muslims for the early suspicions and hate crimes Muslims endured in wake of the bombing (See selected examples of such responses in the Appendix).

When the burden of blame was lifted, Muslims sought to learn from the experience. Their awareness of television coverage was heightened considerably. Muslims also started becoming

[11] See for example Lori Rodriguez, "Americans should never be enemies," *Houston Chronicle*, April 29, 1995. The reporter, commenting on a local Muslim organization's announcement of blood drive to bombing survivors, writes: "I felt pity. And I felt sorrow. It was a beautiful gesture, but that Muslims felt compelled to make it seemed just another tragedy in a season that already has seen far too much suffering."

0012 0115

openly critical of media portrayal of Arabs and Muslims. Questionnaire data reveal such openness. Those Muslims who responded to CAIR's questionnaire believed that:

1) CBS News offered the most biased coverage.
2) ABC News offered the most balanced coverage.
3) Steven Emerson made the most irresponsible statements.
4) Ignorance of Islam is a root cause of stereotyping (See Table 6).

Table 6
Muslim Grassroots Evaluation of Reasons for Hostile Atmosphere

The main cause of anti-Muslim/Arab feelings	Responses	Percentage
1. Unfounded media accusations against Muslims and Arabs	55	38
1.1 Name of most biased media outlet (open-ended)		
1.1.1 ABC	2	6
1.1.2 NBC	1	3
1.1.3 CBS	25	69
1.1.4 CNN	8	22
1.2 Name of the fairest media outlet (open-ended)		
1.2.1 ABC	14	
1.2.2 NBC	3	
2. Reckless statement by "terrorism experts"	36	25
2.1 Name of "terrorism expert" who made most irresponsible statements or allegations (open-ended)		
2.1.1 Steven Emerson	29	71
2.1.2 Fouad Ajami	3	7
2.1.3 Others*	9	22
3. General ignorance of Islam	38	26
4. Other	15	10
Total	144	99

Notes:
Percentages are rounded off.
* Seven others, mostly journalists, were named by respondents including Wolf Blitzer, Mortimer Zuckerman, Lisa Hoffman, Avi Lipkins, and David McCurdy.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At a time when Muslims and Arab-Americans believe they are being stereotyped and intimidated, research indicates that these same people give the benefit of the doubt to those who caused the damage to their communities. When asked what caused the climate of fear in the days after the Oklahoma bombing, a large segment of the Muslim and Arab communities blamed ignorance of Islam and Muslims. This fact offers an opportunity to use education and understanding to help prevent similar occurrences in the future. CAIR recommends the following actions:

1. Because the media played a role in fanning the flames of anti-Muslim bias, media sources are urged:
   a. To use restraint in reporting unsubstantiated allegations.
   b. To avoid the tendency to link criminal actions of individuals to a particular culture or religion.
   c. To increase awareness of Islam and Islamic culture through education.
   d. To seek advice from recognized Muslim and Arab-American leaders when reporting on those communities.
   e. To avoid ill-defined terms such as "Muslim fundamentalist."

2. Because one-third of individuals subjected to offenses are women with *hijab*, Congress and legislative bodies in states that experienced the greatest number of incidents should add "persons targeted for their religious and/or ethnic attire" to the categories of persons and activities protected by the Civil Rights Statute.

3. Because the Justice Department appears to lack the benefit of officers who are well trained to deal the concerns of the Arab and Muslim community, and as a result, law enforcement agents who deal with members of the Arab and Muslim community are influenced by the same negative stereotypical notions portrayed by the media, the Justice Department should conduct sensitivity workshops and educational sessions at state and national levels. Such educational programs may be coordinated with Muslim community institutions and must aim to introduce Muslim culture and practices to law enforcement personnel. This would help to avoid participation by law enforcement agents in future anti-Arab, Anti-Muslim frenzies.

4. Because few incidents have been reported to the authorities and because the problem of anti-Muslim bias seems to be serious, state and city law enforcement officials, in conjunction with local community leaders, should make the collection and reporting of hate crimes a priority of high order. Outreach programs should be coordinated so that all citizens and residents can come forward to report their experiences of bias and hate crimes without fear for their safety or other forms of reprisals.

0012 0117

APPENDIX

0012 0118

State of Oklahoma
Frank Keating
Governor

April 26, 1995

Mr. Nihad Awad
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
1511 K Street NW, Suite 807
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Awad,

On behalf of the people of Oklahoma, let me again thank you for the most generous contribution to the Victims and Families Relief Fund. I have this morning returned from the bombing site, where rescue workers continue to excavate the dead. On this sad day they are removing the bodies of children from the wreckage of the building's day care center -- and no one knows or cares what religion those children, or those rescuers, practiced.

I am immensely proud of Oklahomans of all races, creeds and faiths. They have come together in shared anguish and shared pride -- a togetherness your gift helped symbolize. I pledge its use for the benefit of the families of our victims in the same spirit.

May Allah bless you always.

Sincerely,

Frank Keating

State Capitol Building • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma • 73105 • (405) 521-2342 • FAX (405) 521-3353

0012 0119

----- JOINT STATEMENT-----

American Muslim Leaders Ask Media to Exercise Restraint in Bomb Reporting

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 19, 1995) - We the undersigned American Muslim organizations condemn the criminal and immoral Oklahoma City terrorist attack in the strongest terms possible.

American Muslim leaders also ask media professionals to exercise restraint and to act responsibly when reporting on today's bombing in Oklahoma City.

In early media reports, unsubstantiated accusations were made against Muslims. To link this attack with the religion of Islam places millions of responsible American Muslims at risk. In the past, American Muslims have been the target of hate crimes each time their faith or culture was unfairly associated with criminal activity.

Until hard facts are available about the perpetrators of this horrible attack, it would be irresponsible for media outlets to apportion blame, even by quoting unofficial sources. Criminal acts by Christians, Jews, Buddhists, or members of any other religion are not blamed on those faiths. This is the accepted journalistic standard used when reporting on all types of crime. American Muslims ask that they receive the same consideration.

We ask law enforcement agencies to do their best to bring the perpetrators of this crime to justice. Until then, all reports about the incident should be accurate, restrained and non-sensational.

-END-

List of Endorsing Organizations

Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)	317-839-1812
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)	202-638-6340
American Council for Public Affairs (ACPA)	708-839-2200
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)	213-283-3443
National Community of Imam Jamil Al-Amin	
Islamic Public Affairs Council (IPAC)	
Muslim Student Association of USA and Canada	
Muslim American Alliance	
Muslim Arab Youth Association (MAYA)	
Muslim American Voter's Association	
International Union of Muslim Women	
Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP)	

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Islamic Shura Council of North America

April 20, 1995

The Oklahoma City bombing has stunned and distressed people of conscience all over the world. All Muslims of North America join other Americans in condemning this evil act of violence. We extend our heartfelt sympathy and support for the victims and their families. Islam stands against all such acts of violence against humanity. We hope the perpetrators of this act will be exposed and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

The magnitude of this tragedy necessitates prudence. Unsubstantiated reports that link this attack with Islam could place millions of innocent and responsible Americans at risk. This past year, American Muslims have had their houses of worship fire bombed and their institutions vandalized when Islam was unfairly associated with criminal activity.

Additional lives should not be put in danger by media outlets that directly or indirectly apportion blame without evidence. The crime of any individual or group cannot be transferred to an entire racial or religious community. This is a universal journalistic standard that is practiced whenever crimes of any sort are reported. American Muslims ask that we receive the same consideration.

We are asking Muslims all over North America to make special supplications on **Friday, April 21, 1995** for the victims of this catastrophe. We pray that Almighty God bestows His healing upon all those whose lives that have been changed forever by this act of cowardice. We also pray that He safeguards the citizens of our nation from such violence in the future. Amen.

Abdalla Idris Ali
President Islamic Society of North America

Jamil Al-amin
Imam National Community

Abdul Malik Mujahid
President Islamic Circle of North America

Imam W. Deen Mohammed
Ministry of W. Deen Mohammed

The Ministry of Imam W. Deen Mohammed, P. O. Box 1051, Calumet City, IL. 60409, 708-862-5228, Fax: 708-862-9765
Imam Jamil Al-Amin, Jamaat (Community), 1120 Oak St., Atlanta, GA. 30310, 404-758-7016, Fax: 404-752-6832
Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), P. O. Box 38, Plainfield, IN. 46168, 317-839-8157, Fax: 317-839-1840
Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), 166-26 89th Ave., Jamaica, NY. 11432, 718-658-1199, Fax: 718-658-1255

0012 0121

Newspaper clips about HLF response to the Oklahoma tragedy

a Daily Oklahoman, 4-24-95

b Dallas Morning News, 4-23-95.

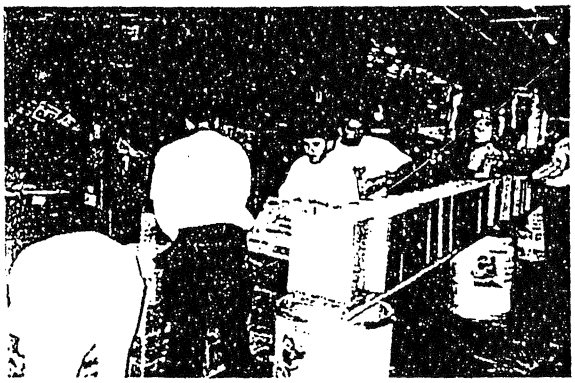
c Dallas Morning News, 4-24-95

Photo - HLF Volunteers at Feed The Children Site

a

the calls but employees told him orders have come from several of the 22 states in which the firm operates.

✓ The Holy Land Foundation in Dallas has donated blood and money to the disaster relief effort. Sunday, they sent 50 volunteers to help at the Oklahoma City Food Bank and Feed the Children.



b

H Sunday, April 23, 1995

DALLAS-FORT WORTH RESPONDS

Donations

■ The Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, a national Muslim group based in Dallas, has held a blood drive for explosion victims, donated $2,500 to the Red Cross and $5,000 to Oklahoma City's Disaster Recovery Scene. On Sunday, about 50 foundation members will fly to Oklahoma City to attend the special memorial service. They also will work as volunteers with the Oklahoma City Food Bank and Feed the Children.

■ The Texas Baptist Single Adult Conference raised $3,600 Saturday in a special offering at Park Cities Baptist Church.

Religious observances

■ Christ Episcopal Church will hold a prayer service at 4 p.m. Sunday. The address is 4550 Legacy Drive in Plano.

■ The Chancel Choir of the First Presbyterian Church of Arlington will dedicate its Sunday concert to the memory of those who died in the Oklahoma City bombing. The concert, "Lord, Listen to Your Children," is scheduled for 3 p.m. at the church, 1200 S. Collins St.

■ Dallas' Roman Catholic bishop, Charles Grahmann, has asked that all pastors and parishioners join him in a day of prayer on Sunday. "Pray especially for the children who died so innocently," he said.

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Dallas Muslim community travels to Oklahoma City to aid victims

Continued from Page 13A

er countries for years.

"Let us also be mindful that there are thousands dying senseless deaths throughout the world," Mr DeYoung said. "In the worldwide sense, this is an ongoing thing. This is really nothing compared to the senseless deaths around the world."

Mr DeYoung added that such tragedies inevitably lead to religious doubts. "It makes you think: How can these sort of things happen? How can you believe in a merciful God?," Mr DeYoung said. "I really don't know if I have the answer to that question."

Thomas Quigley, who is executive director of Greater Dallas Community of Churches and belongs to East Dallas Christian Church, said members were encouraged to pray for forgiveness because they helped create a society that breeds violence. Mr Quigley also said Americans should question why so many people were so quick to blame Middle Eastern terrorists for the bombing.

Area Muslims held special services for the bomb victims on Friday, the Islamic Sabbath.

"But it's about time to reconsider the way they (the media) portray this community. The first few days were hell. We received a lot of threatening telephone calls and threatening letters."

— Shakir A. Baker, Holy Land Foundation executive director

"We said the teachings of Islam do not teach this even though we were stereotyped in the beginning," said Gulam Bakali, chairman of the Islamic Association of North Texas. "The theme was, the lives are gone, what can we do now to help the families put their lives back together."

On Sunday, 50 members of the Dallas-based Holy Land Foundation flew into Oklahoma City to do volunteer work and attend an afternoon prayer service for bombing victims.

The volunteers of the pro-humanitarian Muslim relief and development organization were planning to relieve workers at Feed the Children and at the local food bank, said executive director Shakir A. Baker.

Mr Baker said that he and others in the group were not angry that initial reports about bombing suspects focused on people from the Middle East.

"But it's about time to reconsider the way they (the media) portray this community," he said. "The first few days were hell. We received a lot of threatening telephone calls and threatening letters."

Mr Roseberry, of Plano's Christ Episcopal Church, said Americans should deal with the tragedy through prayer.

"My hope is that the nation will not forget this," he said. "Hopefully we will learn from it, grow from it. The human spirit has been broken, but it is not crushed.

"That's how I know there's a God."

Staff writers Eric Garcia and Al Brumley contributed to this report.

0012 0122

FEED THE CHILDREN

LARRY JONES INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES, INC.

Post Office Box 36, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0036 • 405/942-0228 • Larry Jones, President

May 8, 1995

Mohammad Ibrahim
Holy Land Foundation
P. O. Box 832390
Richardson, Texas 75083

Dear Mohammad:

I want to thank you for bringing a number of your colleagues to Oklahoma City during a time of great crisis and grieving. We appreciate you coming and helping us at Feed The Children.

It was a great disservice to you and to your people when word was first announced that it was possibly someone from the Middle East who had bombed the Federal Building. As you know, we Americans are sometimes too quick to judge. Forgive us!

If we can further work together on different projects, please give Feed The Children a call. Our world has become a very small place to live and life is too short to entertain judgement on groups whether it be from an ethnic, political, religious or racial point of view.

May we work together to make no only the world a better place ... but a safe place.

For the children,

Larry

Larry Jones

LJ: my

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