

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

CAIR Action Alert - Update

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Alert #39
1511 K Street N.W., Suite 807, Washington, D.C. 20005 Tel: (202) 638-6340 Fax: (202) 638-6412

NOW is the Time to Send Out Hajj News Releases

WASHINGTON, DC (4/17/95) -- As *hajj* season approaches, Muslim communities around North America are being asked to send out news releases to local media outlets. The sample news release shown below should be copied on local letterhead, modified to reflect local details, and sent (preferably faxed at this point) to 1) religion and feature editors at newspapers, 2) news directors and talk show hosts at radio stations and 3) news assignment editors at TV stations. Also, if there is a local wire service bureau (Associated Press, etc.) send a copy of the news release to the news editor and "daybook editor." To obtain names, addresses and fax numbers of media representatives, call the newspapers, radio stations and TV stations in your area, or call CAIR at 202-638-6140. (A sample news release for *eid ul-adha* will be sent at a later date. CAIR distributed *hajj* materials to the national media.)

---- MEDIA ADVISORY ----

Local Muslims Begin Pilgrimage Season

On May 1st, Muslims in _____, America and around the world will begin observing activities associated with the annual *hajj*, or pilgrimage to Mecca.

Hajj is the fifth of the "five pillars" of the Islamic faith. (The other "pillars" include a declaration of faith, daily prayer, providing for the needy, and fasting during the month of Ramadan.) Most *hajj* activities occur during the first nine days of the Islamic lunar month of *Dhu-Hijjah*. *Hajj* is a once-in-a-lifetime obligation for those Muslims who have the physical and financial ability to undertake the journey. It is also a form of worship that involves the entire being: body, mind and soul.

The obligatory and optional activities of *hajj* include:

- entrance into a state of ritual purity called *ihram*, during which pilgrims are forbidden to disturb living creatures or even raise the voice in anger. The state of *ihram* is signified (for men) by the wearing of two pieces of white, unsewn cloth. (No specific clothing is prescribed for female pilgrims.)
- circling of the *ka'aba*, the stone building Muslims believe was originally built by Abraham and his son Ishmael. The *ka'aba* is viewed as the first sanctuary on earth dedicated to the worship of the One God. It is a symbol of unity for Muslims because all prayers, wherever they are performed, are oriented in the direction of the *ka'aba*.
- drinking from the spring of *zamzam* located near the *ka'aba*.
- the *sai*, or "hastening" between two small hills near the *ka'aba*, to commemorate Hagar's search for water to offer her son Ishmael.
- the "Day of Arafah" on the 9th day of *Dhu-Hijjah*. Arafah is the empty plain near the city of Mecca. On this day, the climax of the *hajj* season, pilgrims assemble for supplication to God.
- the stoning of three pillars representing Satan's temptation of Abraham. The stoning indicates the pilgrim's rejection of this temptation.
- cutting the hair to symbolize the completion of *hajj*.
- sacrifice of an animal to commemorate Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael at God's command. The meat is distributed to the needy.
- a visit to the Prophet Muhammad's mosque in the city of Medina.

When the pilgrimage is completed, Muslims worldwide gather for communal prayers on the first day (May 10) of *Eid ul-Adha* (eed-al-odd-ha), the second of the two major Muslim holidays. Locally, *Eid ul-Adha* prayers are tentatively scheduled to take place _____ a.m. at _____.

-END-

* Notes - Because the beginning of Islamic lunar months depends on the actual sighting of the new moon, the start date for the beginning of *hajj* may vary by one day. Each year, more than two million pilgrims travel to Mecca for *hajj*. Demographers say Islam is the world's fastest growing religion. There are some _____ Muslims in _____, an estimated 6 million in America and more than one billion worldwide.

Contact: For more information, call _____.

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Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

Alert #60

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E-Mail: cair1@ix.netcom.com

Muslim Children Taken From Home - Forced to Convert

Washington, DC - On Friday, August 18, ABC television's "20/20" program featured a story about a Muslim family in Texas whose children were taken away after the father was falsely accused of abusing his daughter. The Albanian Muslim father (Sadri Krasniqi) was accused of sexually abusing his 4-year-old daughter at a public sporting event in which his son was competing. Two doctors who examined the girl said there was no evidence of abuse. Experts testified that the man's actions were entirely appropriate in the Albanian culture and that there was no abuse. The man was later found innocent of this charge, but not before both of his children were taken from the home and offered for adoption to a family who forced the children to eat pork, wear crosses and convert to Christianity. The mother (Sebhate Krasniqi) was never accused of abusing the children, but her parental rights were terminated along with those of the father.

Throughout this legal process, the Texas department of Child Protective Services failed to take into account its own guidelines to seek placement of the children with the closest ethnic and religious match. The family's attorney says this was due to the bias of case workers involved in investigating the case.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS REQUESTED: (CAIR will issue updates as the case develops.)

A) Offer du'a for the family. B) Contact the individuals and organizations in the list below. Demand that this case be reviewed and the children returned to their parents. C) Donate funds to help the family. Donations may be sent to: **Krasniqi Children Defense Fund (Acct. # - 34202828788), c/o Texas Commerce Bank, 2325 Gus Thomasson, Dallas, TX, 75228.** The family's attorney can be reached at: Khalid Hamideh, Attorney at Law, 1301 Northwest Highway, Suite 212, Garland, TX 75041, Tel: (214) 271-4007. Before this all began, the family owned four restaurants. They had to sell all this property to pay legal bills and living expenses.

CONTACT LIST (Send one copy of your letter to each address below.)

- 1) U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Secretary Donna Shalala, 200 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20201, Tel: (202) 690-7000
- 2) Governor George W. Bush, P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711-2428
- 3) The Honorable Bob Bullock, Lt. Governor, P.O. Box 12068 - Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711-2068
- 4) The Honorable Florence Shapiro, Texas Senate, P.O. Box 12068 - Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711-2068
- 5) Child Protective Services, Mart Hoffman, 701 W. 51st, Austin, TX 78714, Tel: (512) 450-3313
- 6) The Honorable John Bryant, U.S. House of Representatives, Dist. 5, 8035 E. R.L. Thornton Fwy., Suite 518, Dallas, TX 75228, Tel: (214) 767-6554
- 7) The Honorable Sam Johnson, U.S. House of Representative, Dist. 3, 9400 N. Central Expressway, Suite 610, Dallas, TX 75231, Tel: (214) 739-0182
- 8) The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchinson, U.S. Senate, 10440 N. Central Expressway, Suite 1160, Dallas, TX 75231, Tel: (214) 361-3500
- 9) The Honorable Phil Gramm, U.S. Senate, 2323 Bryan, Suite 1500, Dallas, TX 75201, Tel: (214) 767-3000
- 10) Thank you letters may be sent to: Bill Wilson, Executive Producer, ABC News "20/20," 147 Columbus Ave., New York, NY, 10023, Tel: 212-456-6585 Fax: 212-456-2969

Yes, I would like to help defend this family and support Muslim civil rights by joining CAIR.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership Fees:

Student/Low Income	\$10
Individual	\$25
Family	\$50
Institution	\$100

Clip and return to: CAIR, 1511 K St., NW, Suite 807, Washington, DC 20005

- PLEASE COPY, POST AND DISTRIBUTE -

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CAIR

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A RUSH TO JUDGMENT

**A Special Report on Anti-Muslim Stereotyping, Harassment and
Hate Crimes Following the Bombing of Oklahoma City's Murrah
Federal Building, April 19, 1995**

**Council on American-Islamic Relations
September, 1995**

00 12 0085

Blaming bombing on Muslims shows prevalence of prejudice



**GHASSAN
SALEH AND
TOM QUIGLE**

**GUEST
COLUMN**

Less than a week after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, leaders of the Muslim and Christian communities of the Dallas area met to listen and respond to each other's experiences during those terrible days.

Our group of 30 persons representing two mosques and a number of Christian congregations has been meeting regularly for about 18 months, gradually becoming acquainted with each other as persons and growing in our understanding of our respective

faith traditions and cultures. Our Muslim-Christian Dialogue Group was convened by the Muslim Community of North Texas and the Greater Dallas Community of Churches.

We knew each other well enough that the Muslim members were willing to share something of the hurt which they felt immediately after the bombing.

Within 20 minutes of the first announcement that "Middle Eastern men" had been seen outside of the federal building, the Dallas mosques began to receive threats. Hateful messages were left on the Islamic Association's answering machine. Someone threw a bag into the child-care center operated by a mosque and hollered "Bomb!"

There was a quick and thoughtful response by the Muslim community. Instead of righteous anger, they went to work. A blood drive was organized the day after the bombing. A collection in all of the mosques was held, and a check was delivered to Oklahoma City officials. Later, a delegation traveled to Oklahoma City to help with a children's center and a feeding center and to participate in the memorial service.

When it became fairly clear that the bombing was not the work of "Middle Eastern terrorists," several unknown persons called or came to the mosque to apologize for having jumped to hurtful conclusions.

Our group decided to share our thoughts about these events with members of our respective communities. We also share them with our fellow citizens through this column.

It is time for public reaffirmation that we have all been created by the one God, that we are members of one human family and that we seek to live with one another in peace and to treat one another justly.

We all need to remember that we are a nation of

many peoples. Together we are the unique cultural mosaic that is the United States of America. Through our diversity we strengthen and enrich one another.

In the aftermath of this great tragedy that has touched all our lives and hearts, we need to recognize and deal with the prejudice which permeates our culture. It was reflected in some of the media reports which from the beginning — and even after emerging evidence pointed in other directions — made references to "Middle-Eastern men" and "Islamic terrorism." Those reports created a climate of fear and hysteria regarding recent immigrants, especially those from the Middle East and persons of the Muslim faith, making them an easy scapegoat when a villain was needed.

Islam is a religion which seeks peace, as does Christianity and all other genuine world religions. Religious names should not be used to describe terrorism. The word "terrorism" is too often used exclusively with respect to actions by persons or groups from other nations, while it is seldom used to refer to groups or individuals in our own nation who use force.

The media, government officials and all of us as citizens need to make a commitment to be slow in placing blame. Had our law enforcement agencies not been able to work as quickly as they did in this case, we fear that mosques all over the nation would have been vandalized and that persons who looked "Middle Eastern" would have been harassed in a frenzy of hatred.

If this tragedy has taught us anything, it is that we must come together in a spirit of love and support, without regard to national origin or religion. The rescue personnel and support groups from our own religious communities and elsewhere who traveled to Oklahoma City to offer their services to the wounded and bereaved set an example for all of us and demonstrated what can be achieved by good neighbors working together.

We are especially grateful for the large group of persons of the Islamic faith, many of Middle Eastern origin, who went from Dallas with willing hands and generous financial assistance for those in need. They helped us remember that in a time of tragedy like this, it is important to focus on the needs of the victims and their families.

We do regret that Muslim representatives were not included in the official memorial service in Oklahoma City, for whatever reason, and commend the citizens of Oklahoma City and Dallas who expressed their gratitude and apologies to the members of the Islamic community who offered their assistance to those in need.

Ghassan Saleh is general manager of the Islamic Association of North Texas. The Rev. Tom Quigley is executive director of the Greater Dallas Community of Churches.

0042-0124

Duluth News-Tribune

Opinion

Monday
May 29, 1995
11A

Muslim community felt hatred

Pain is still being suffered by those who lost relatives and friends in the Oklahoma City bombing. Although the event took place more than five weeks ago, we hope the perpetrators will be located and brought to justice.

Meanwhile, there is also pain suffered by people of the Muslim faith, all of whom are not in the Middle East but are many nationalities across the world, including in Duluth. They are families with children who felt ostracized when accusations of Muslim terrorism were immediately made.

Jumping to conclusions is something many of us do well. After the Oklahoma City bombing, which followed the World Trade Center bombing, an immediate assumption that Islam, too, was perpetuated by "Arab-Muslim terrorists" was inaccurately formed.

How easily the seed of hostility can grow when there is little knowledge of people who are different!

However, through education and interacting with each other on many levels, we have learned the negative effects of generalizing. As a community concerned with quality of life, we are challenged to be sensitive to those around us, avoiding an attitude of guilt by association of race, nationality or faith tradition.

We apologize to any member of our Muslim community who felt the pain of such insensitivity.

AVA CALBREATH, executive director
REV. JOHN H. KEMP, president
Arrowhead Interfaith Council
Duluth

0012-B/25