

See more news releases in: [Religion](#), [Domestic Policy](#), [Public Safety](#)

# CAIR Seeks Hate Crime Probe of New Vandalism at Tenn. Mosque Site

*Sign marking site of proposed mosque broken in half, was replacement for previously-vandalized sign*

WASHINGTON, June 24 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- A prominent national Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization today called on local, state and national law enforcement agencies to investigate a new act of vandalism at the site of a proposed Tennessee mosque expansion as a hate crime.

SEE: Sign Vandalized at Future Mosque Site

<http://tinyurl.com/tennmosquesign>

Yesterday, a passing motorist reported that the sign marking the future site of the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro was broken in half. The sign was a replacement for one spray-painted with the words "not welcome" in January of this year.

SEE: Tenn. Muslims React to Vandalism (Video)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyEkVgla1r0>

A mosque official told CAIR that the latest incident of vandalism has been reported to local police and the FBI. That same official said local law enforcement authorities have been very supportive of the Muslim community and have stepped up police patrols in the area of the proposed mosque.

The planned expansion of the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro is being opposed by individuals who have made Islamophobic statements at recent public hearings.

SEE: Tenn. Mosque Targeted by Islamophobia (Video)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miAWDxkeZnc>

A candlelight vigil for peace, tolerance and freedom of religion is scheduled this evening in Murfreesboro.

SEE: Peace Vigil Scheduled

<http://tinyurl.com/tennpeacevigil>

"Because of the hate-filled and un-American rhetoric used by opponents of the planned mosque expansion, it is essential that a possible bias motive for this latest act of vandalism be investigated," said CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad. "The hostile sentiments expressed in a recent public hearing on the proposed mosque reflect ignorance of the basic tenets of Islam."

He urged people of all faiths to learn about Islam from its original source by requesting a Quran, Islam's revealed text, at the "Explore the Quran" web site.

SEE: Explore the Quran

<http://www.explorethequran.com/>

Awad noted that other efforts nationwide to build mosques or Islamic centers have been similarly targeted by anti-Islam extremists. He attributed the opposition to the mosques to an overall rise in Islamophobic sentiment in American society.

SEE: Hate Groups Promoting Islamophobia in America (Video)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0lejW1RstE>

CAIR-MN: Attorney to Hear Anti-Islamic Posters Case

<http://tinyurl.com/anti-islamposters>

Last November, a Tennessee man was sentenced to more than 14 years in prison for burning down the Islamic Center of Columbia, Tenn. Nazi swastikas and the phrase "White Power" were painted on the mosque's walls.

CAIR is urging American Muslim individuals and institutions to review advice on security procedures contained in its "Muslim Community Safety Kit."

SEE: Muslim Community Safety Kit

<http://www.cair.com/ActionCenter/CommunityToolkit.aspx>

Become a Fan of CAIR on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/CAIR/42590232694>

Subscribe to CAIR's E-Mail List

<http://tinyurl.com/cairsubscribe>

CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.



 RSS Feeds

 Print

 Email

 Share it ▾

 Blog it ▾

 Blog Search ▾

## Other News Releases in Religion

Free Audio Bible Podcasts in 400 Languages

Bishops Urge Senate to Remove Abortion Amendment From Defense Bill

Muslim and Jewish Social Entrepreneurs to Address Social Problems, Cross-Cultural Rifts at Columbia Business School Summer Program

## Journalists and Bloggers

Visit PR Newswire for Journalists for releases, photos, ProfNet experts, and customized feeds just for Media.

View and download **archived video** content distributed by MultiVu on The Digital Center.

Demo Version - ExpertPDF Software Components

CONTACT: CAIR National Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper, 202-744-7726, 202-488-8787, E-Mail: [ihooper@cair.com](mailto:ihooper@cair.com);  
CAIR Communications Coordinator Amina Rubin, 202-488-8787, 202-341-4171, E-Mail: [arubin@cair.com](mailto:arubin@cair.com)

SOURCE Council on American-Islamic Relations

[Back to top](#)

RELATED LINKS

<http://www.cair.com>

---

[About PR Newswire](#) | [Contact PR Newswire](#) | [PR Newswire's Terms of Use Apply](#) | [Careers](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Site Map](#) | [RSS Feeds](#)  
Copyright © 1996-2010 PR Newswire Association LLC. All Rights Reserved.  
A United Business Media company.

**Demo Version - ExpertPDF Software Components**