The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to presenting an Islamic perspective on issues of importance to the American public. CAIR is the largest American Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, serving the interests of more than seven million American Muslims through its 35 chapters and offices nationwide and in Canada.

The vision of CAIR is to be a leading advocate for social justice and mutual understanding.

CAIR’s mission is to enhance an understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

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Introduction

“Who cares if the Federal courthouse is secure (which it really is not). . .Do not worry. At a time of our choosing we will find you. And we will visit each and every one of your plaintiffs whom we have heard speak. They have been ranked in order of importance as targets. . .And finally let[sic] not forget about the families at home while you and your plaintiffs are away. . .women and children are fair game. . .you will be spared from an anonymous death.”

– Excerpt from a 2007 letter sent anonymously from Minnesota to attorney Omar T. Mohammedi, the New York lawyer for six imams, or Islamic religious leaders, suing US Airways over allegations of religious profiling during a 2006 incident in Minnesota.

Following the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, “media reports and self-proclaimed ‘terrorism experts’ linked Muslims, Arabs and ‘Middle Eastern-looking men’ to the blast. This unsubstantiated linkage prompted stereotyping, harassment and actual attacks on Muslims and Arab-Americans around America.”

In response, CAIR initiated the practice of documenting and publishing an annual report on the status of Muslim civil rights in the United States. The first such report, “The Price of Ignorance,” was published in 1996. An initial report detailing anti-Muslim incidents resulting from the Oklahoma City attacks was published in 1995.

The report, as is all of CAIR’s work, was “based on the premise that, like all Americans, Muslims must be able to express their religious beliefs and fulfill their religious requirements without fear of bias or discrimination.”

This report is a summation of incidents and experiences of anti-Muslim violence, discrimination and harassment reported to CAIR during the 2007 calendar year. It is likely that significantly more incidents occurred than are recorded here because of either lack of knowledge about reporting procedures or fear. Generally, more incidents are reported in areas which CAIR is active because the communities there may be more educated about their rights, as well as more aware of their ability to report discrimination.

1 “A Rush to Judgment: A Special Report on Arab, Muslim, Middle Eastern, and Arab-American Communities Following the Bombing of Oklahoma City’s Murrah Federal Building, April 19, 1995,” Council on American-Islamic Relations, September, 1995

For the 2007 calendar year, CAIR and its affiliate chapters processed a total of 2,652 civil rights complaints.\(^3\) Incidents of anti-Muslim hate crime complaints went down by 19 percent. Alleged incidents at schools or involving the police decreased 31 percent and 42 percent respectively.

**Discrimination in the workplace increased by 18 percent.** with 384 cases reported in 2006 and 452 cases reported in 2007.

Marked decreases in cases involving due process issues (45 percent), physical violence (24 percent), denials of service or access (48 percent), and verbal harassment (35 percent) were recorded.

Passenger profiling reports jumped from 32 in 2006 to 141 in 2007, a 340 percent increase. There were also increases in reports of employment discrimination, a 34 percent increase, and denied religious accommodation, an eight percent increase.

Overall, nine states and the District of Columbia accounted for more than 80 percent of all incidents reported to CAIR in 2007. These include: California (21 percent), the District of Columbia\(^4\) (19 percent), Illinois (11 percent), Florida (7 percent), New York (7 percent), Virginia (4 percent), New Jersey (4 percent), Texas (3 percent), Pennsylvania (3 percent) and Maryland (2 percent).

Consistent with previous years, an individual’s ethnicity/religion or a “Muslim name” remained the primary factors that triggered discrimination. These two factors are believed to have triggered 63 percent of the total cases reported to CAIR during the 2007 calendar year.

From the above information, past experience and observations made during the 2007 calendar year, CAIR makes the following conclusions:

1. The decrease in reports of hate crimes and reports of discrimination by police and in schools during 2007 allows us to sound a note of cautious optimism.
2. The Muslim community now has well-established organizations to advocate on its behalf. These institutions serve both to educate fellow Americans about our faith and to educate fellow Muslims about effective methods for redressing grievances through political, media and social activism.
3. Some government agencies appear to be benefiting from an emphasis on cultural proficiency for employees who may deal with Muslims.

**CAIR Recommends**

Based on this data and conclusions, CAIR makes the following recommendations:

1. Elected representatives, public officials and candidates for elected offices should clearly condemn anti-Islam bias in our society. Elected officials should also ensure that their respective parties similarly condemn such bias. Political strategists should avoid exploiting Islamophobic fears to gain votes.
2. Muslims and their institutions should continue to respond to negative incidents with positive educational campaigns.
3. Muslim groups should continue to maintain regular contacts with law enforcement agencies at the national, state and local levels.
4. Legislation banning racial, religious or ethnic profiling should be passed.
2007 CAIR Civil Rights Findings

“The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: “You [Muslims] do not do evil to those who do evil to you, but you deal with them with forgiveness and kindness.”

-Sahih Al-Bukhari

Statistical Highlights

For the 2007 calendar year, CAIR and its affiliate chapters processed a total of 2,652 civil rights complaints.

**Because of the significant jump in hate crimes and civil rights complaints after 9/11, CAIR issued a separate report, entitled “American Muslims: One Year After 9/11,” to analyze the 1,717 complaints CAIR received in the first six months after September 11, 2001. The report also reviews the 325 complaints CAIR received in the second six-month period after the attacks.**

Although CAIR received more than 3,398 reports of potential civil rights violations, it found that only 1,652 of these complaints warranted further investigation by CAIR.

Number of Civil Rights Complaints Reported to CAIR:

- 2007: 2,652
- 2006: 2,467
- 2005: 1,972

- Although CAIR received nearly 3,398 reports of potential civil rights violations, it found that only 1,652 of these complaints warranted further investigation by CAIR.
Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes

Incidents of anti-Muslim hate crime complaints went down by 19 percent this year, decreasing from 167 total complaints in 2006 to 135 in 2007.

Graph 2. Anti-Muslim Hate Crime Complaints by Year

Civil Rights Cases by State

Over the past year, CAIR has received complaints of potential civil rights violations from all 50 states.

Overall, nine states and the District of Columbia accounted for more than 80 percent of all reported incidents to CAIR in 2007. These locations (and their rounded respective percentages, see Table 1 for actual percentages) include: California (21 percent), the District of Columbia (19 percent), Illinois (11 percent), Florida (7 percent), New York (7 percent), Virginia (4 percent), New Jersey (4 percent), Texas (3 percent), Pennsylvania (3 percent) and Maryland (2 percent).

Table 1 Number of Civil Rights Reports by State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Case Count</th>
<th>Percentage Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>20.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>18.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>10.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>6.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>6.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>4.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>3.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>3.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>2.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>2.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>19.80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

California, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Florida, and New York represent the 5 locations with the highest number of CAIR civil rights complaints for 2007.

Washington, D.C. is the location of CAIR’s national headquarters. In 2006, CAIR reported hate mail and violent threats received only through the organization’s general e-mail account. In 2007, this tally also includes hate mail and violent threats sent directly to staff.
Civil Rights Cases by Place of Occurrence

In 2007, cases reported to have occurred in schools or by the police decreased. There were 171 reported cases of discrimination in schools in 2006, and 118 in 2007. This represents a 31 percent decrease. There were 106 cases of reported police discrimination in 2006 and 61 in 2007. This represents a 42 percent decrease.

Discrimination in the workplace increased by 18 percent, with 384 cases reported in 2006 and 452 cases reported in 2007.

Cases reported to have occurred in prisons remained relatively steady, increasing by 2 percent from 2006 to 2007.

The highest percentage of complaints again involves government agencies. Although government agency complaints constituted 19 percent of complaints for two years in a row (2004 and 2005), then jumped to 36 percent of complaints in 2006, the number declined to 30 percent in 2007. This drop may in part be explained by CAIR assigning some cases to the airport category in 2007 that would have received the government agency classification in 2006.7

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7 Generally, cases related to the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) occur in airports.
Table 2. Number of Civil Rights Cases by Place of Occurrence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE OF OCCURRENCE</th>
<th>CASE COUNT</th>
<th>PERCENT TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Agency</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>29.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim Organization/Mosque</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>21.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>17.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>5.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>4.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>4.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>2.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Accommodation</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Home/Property</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopping Center</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Institution</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>2.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim-owned Business</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2007, CAIR started to include threats made against the organization and its staff in the “Mosques and Muslim organizations” category. This likely resulted in the dramatic rise in incidents, 221 cases in 2006 and 564 cases in 2007.

In 2006, profiling complaints attributed to the TSA were counted as “government agency.” In 2007 they were classified by location of occurrence, primarily “airport.” In 2006, 80 airport cases were reported. In 2007, 135 airport cases were reported. This 41 percent increase is likely impacted by the change in how cases were classified.

In 2007, CAIR added Private Home/Property as a new place of occurrence to its classification system. Cases that occurred in the complainant’s home or on his or her personal property are given this classification. Prior to 2007, such cases were included in the “Housing” category. This change in reporting likely resulted in the significant drop in reported housing cases.

Civil Rights Cases by Type of Alleged Abuse

Marked decreases in the number of cases involving due process issues’ (45 percent), physical violence (24 percent), denials of service or access (48 percent),9 and verbal harassment (35 percent) were recorded.

The number of passenger profiling reports jumped from 32 in 2006 to 141 in 2007, a 340 percent increase. There were also increases in reports of employment discrimination (34 percent increase) and denial of religious accommodation (8 percent).

Legal/immigration cases were again the most common type of alleged abuse, with the number of reported cases showing a five percent increase.

Alleged hate mail/propaganda/internet abuse was the second most common type of report. However, in 2007 CAIR began classifying e-mails that contained threats as “threat” rather than “hate mail.” Despite this change in classification, the category saw a 98 percent increase.

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9 For purposes of this report, CAIR categorizes all complaints of unreasonable arrest, detention, surveillance, interrogation, seizure and accusations into one consolidated category of “Due Process Issues.”
10 In 2006, this category was listed as Service Denial/Public Facility.
11 Previously, profiling complaints attributed to the TSA were counted in “government agency.” In 2007 they were classified by location of occurrence, primarily “airport.”
12 This category also includes immigration issues (i.e. naturalization delays) and other civil domestic case complaints, which were reported separately in 2002. Also, the category “unequal treatment,” which appeared separately in previous reports, was consolidated within this category in 2003.
Legal/Immigration and Hate Mail/Propaganda/Internet complaints accounted for 52 percent of the total cases reported in 2007.
Islamic Factors that Trigger Discrimination

Consistent with previous years, an individual’s ethnicity/religion or a “Muslim name” remained the primary Islamic factors that triggered discrimination. These two factors are linked to **63 percent of the total** cases reported to CAIR during the 2007 calendar year.

It is important to note that many acts of discrimination occur due to the perceived ethnicity or religion of the victim. Many Sikh Americans, who are neither Muslim nor Arab, have been targets of anti-Muslim bias as a result of their appearance.

### TABLE 6: Identification Factors Triggering Discrimination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURE TRIGGER</th>
<th>CASE COUNT</th>
<th>PERCENT TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity/Religion</td>
<td>1,083</td>
<td>40.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization/Activist</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>23.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim Name</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>22.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hijab/Head Scarf</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>6.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>3.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qur'an or Other Islamic Literature</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beard</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramadan/Hajj</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eid/Religious Holiday</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halal Food</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niqab</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kufi</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.08%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of 2,652 complaints received by CAIR in 2007, 63 percent were triggered by the person’s ethnicity/religion or because the person had a “Muslim-sounding” name.
Sample Cases from 2007 CAIR Civil Rights Database

January 17, 2007 - An attack on a Muslim took place outside a Lackawanna, NY, restaurant. The victim, a 26-year-old man of Yemeni heritage, said one of the white male assailants called him a “F**king Arab” as the attack began. Another attacker allegedly picked the victim up from behind and threw him to the ground, rendering him unconscious. The victim suffered a fractured nose and a fracture under one eye. His medical treatment included staples on the back of his head and six stitches on his face.

February 1, 2007 - Threatening letters mailed to Muslim leaders targeted the imams of at least two New Jersey mosques. One of the letters stated in part: “Because you worship the devil ALLAH, who has brought death, destruction, and hatred upon my country, you must now DIE!! DEATH TO ALL OF YOU!!” The same mosque also received a phone call expressing similar views near the time the threatening letter was received.

May 1, 2007 - The Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MI) received a letter threatening Muslims in the Detroit area. The letter, which contained violent pro-Israel and Islamophobic rhetoric and imagery, stated in part: “Our goal is to terminate all Muslims (sic) in the greater Detroit area. . .and we will kill you first!” CAIR-MI Executive Director Dawud Walid reported the threat to the FBI.

May 17, 2007 - An alleged assault on a Muslim woman took place in Fairview, NJ by a man shouting Islamophobic slurs. The assailant reportedly shouted, “You (expletive) Muslims are here to bomb this country, you should all die. I want to kill all of you Muslims.”

June 25, 2007 - A Muslim man was allegedly attacked while leaving a St. Cloud, MN mosque. The 26-year-old victim was called a “Muslim terrorist” and then shoved and elbowed in the head by the perpetrator. Police called the attack a bias-motivated crime.13

July 12, 2007 - An arson attack on a Sarasota, FL Muslim family’s home was investigated by the FBI. “F*** Islam” was spray-painted on the garage door of the house, which is owned by a Muslim of Bosnian heritage. Neighbors told a local television station that “it sounded like a bomb exploded inside the house.” The station also reported that “there were 10 different spots inside the home where accelerants were used.” Fire officials told police that the blaze was an act of arson.14

July 26, 2007 - A mother and her children were eating at a Taco Bell in Lynn Haven, FL when a man began to scream religious slurs such as “you Muslim bast**ds.” The assailant then reportedly spit food on a five-year-old child and shoved his 11-year-old brother. When the mother asked why the man was acting in such an abusive manner, he allegedly replied: “My problem is that you are F**king Muslims.” The alleged assailant, who was at the time a Bay County school bus driver, was eventually arrested and charged with two counts of evidencing prejudice while committing an offense.15

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August 8, 2007 - An “acid bomb” was thrown out of a car window near worshipers outside an Arizona mosque. A container of acid and a reactant landed near an imam and another mosque official who were standing outside the Albanian-American Islamic Center of Arizona. The plastic bottle landed within 20-25 feet of the apparent targets, who reported a chemical smell after the container exploded. No one was injured in the attack.18

August 15, 2007 - A Muslim shopper of North African heritage alleged he was the victim of verbal abuse, threats and battery by another customer. During the incident, the assailant allegedly shouted “Go back to your country,” “terrorist,” and other anti-Muslim and racist slurs. The victim also alleges that security officers of the Prime Outlet Mall in Orlando, FL refused to come to his aid and keep witnesses from making statements to police. The victim also alleges that local police refused to arrest the assailant.19

September 16, 2007 - A New York Iranian-American salon owner was opening her shop when she was brutally beaten by two men. The perpetrators reportedly slammed her head on the counter, shoved a towel in her mouth, smashed her hand with a hammer, and slashed her face, chest, and back with a knife and box cutters. The men called her “terrorist” and scrawled anti-Muslim messages on a mirror on her shop.20

October 3, 2007 - WLW-AM host Bill “Willie” Cunningham said on air: “The great war of this generation’s time is the war against Islamic fascists…They do not live for life, they live for death. Only through death can they believe they can be with those 72 virgins in heaven and have sex with children for eternity, which is the goal of that religion.” 21

October 8, 2007 - An attack on the Islamic Center of San Joaquin Valley in Bakersfield, CA left windows broken, cars smashed, and two worshippers injured. It was reported that two inept men entered the women’s section of the mosque and disrupted the services taking place for Ramadan. Slurs such as “Arab terrorists” and “go home terrorists” were allegedly used by the perpetrators. They returned that night with a dozen people who verbally assaulted and threw rocks at the people leaving the mosque.22

Mosque Vandalism

January 22, 2007 - At the Islamic Center of America in Detroit, MI, vandals spray-painted “(RAH) You idol worship” and “Go home 9/11 murderers,” across an entire wall of the building. The graffiti was reported to CAIR-MI by a passing motorist.23

April 6, 2007 - A defaced Quran was found on the steps of the Islamic Center of Clarksville in Clarksville, TN two hours before Friday services. The vandal had written “Mohammad pedophile” on the cover and expletives on the inside. It was also smeared with two strips of bacon. The police contacted the FBI about the case.24

May 15, 2007 - Vandals broke into a mosque in Brentwood, NY and scrawled hateful messages such as “white power” “don’t bother calling 911” and swastikas on the walls and doors. Nothing was stolen. The Suffolk Police Hate Crime Unit investigated the incident.25

August 12, 2007 - The Islamic Center of the East Bay in Antioch, CA was set on fire in an arson attack only seven months after shots had been fired at the center. This was the sixth malicious incident that has occurred at the center. There was an estimated $200,000 in damage to the building. Mosque officials said there was also a break-in at the center several days previously. The police did not find any evidence of a hate crime, but were investigating the matter.26

September 14, 2007 - Bullets were fired through the doorway of the Islamic Center of South Texas. The shots were fired on a Friday afternoon during the month of Ramadan. The police did not determine whether the incident was a hate crime, but the FBI offered a $10,000 reward for information.27

Discrimination/Harassment in Schools

February 21, 2007 - A Muslim parent in Raleigh, NC reported that a ninth-grade social sciences teacher had invited a guest speaker from a local Christian missionary group who handed out anti-Islam literature to the class. The materials included a pamphlet called “Jesus Not Muhammad,” that labeled the Prophet Muhammad “a criminal,” “demon possessed,” and “inspired by satan.” Another document was titled “Do Not Marry a Muslim Man.” It stated: “His [Muhammad’s] militant commands and pagan beliefs are contained in the Koran, the book of Islam. The Koran is the book of Islam that Muhammad claimed was revealed to him by Allah, the moon god of Arabs.”28

June 19, 2007 - A 13-year-old Muslim student taking part in a summer algebra program at Seaside High School in Sea-side, CA was shouted at by a supervisor in front of more than 100 other students to remove her scarf, despite being told that it was worn for religious reasons. The supervisor screamed, “You have to take it off now,” while the girl broke down in tears. Despite the shouted demands of the school official, the girl refused to remove her scarf.29

July 2007 - A fourth grader of Yemeni descent was allegedly bound and locked in a closet by two Brooklyn classmates for eight minutes before a substitute teacher intervened. The girls hurled “racial and ethnic slurs to the effect -‘go back to your country, we don’t want you here.’”30

September 20, 2007 - At the Toledo Islamic Academy in Toledo, OH, vandals broke two school windows and spray-painted Nazi swastikas on doors, windows, trees, and a vehicle at the facility. “White power” was also sprayed on a vehicle.31

The Status of Muslim Civil Rights in the United States • 2008

28 Tips sought on vandalism at Islamic school,” Toledo Blade (Ohio), October 2, 2007.
Workplace Harassment

April 2, 2007 - A 66-year-old Muslim worker reported that fellow employees at a BMW Manufacturing Co. plant in Spartanburg, SC repeatedly made Islamophobic comments such as, “Muslims are no good. They should all be killed,” and, “We will F**k up your family, we’ll kill you all.” Other comments allegedly disparaged Islamic attire and suggested that Muslim women be raped. One of the abusive co-workers confronted the Muslim worker in a facility restroom on March 31st and put a box-cutter to his throat, saying, “I’ll slice your throat and kill you.” When the incident was first reported, company officials did not take appropriate action against the assailant. A report has been filed with the Spartanburg County Sheriff’s Office (case number 2007040040).10

April 2, 2007 - Two workers were fired and three others quit in protest at the Gold’n Plump Poultry plant in Arcadia, WI. The workers’ dispute centered on a “floating break” during which they prayed their break-of-dawn (fajr) prayer, one of five daily Islamic prayers. The company had accommodated the prayers with a floating break for several months, but issued a new policy that forced the workers to choose between their religious practices and their jobs. While the prayers took place, the Muslim workers had employees of other faiths fill in for them, and when those workers took their breaks, the Muslims kept working to keep the line moving.9

Unreasonable Arrest/Detention

December 30, 2006 - Sixty-two-year-old Majed Shehadeh was held and interrogated for more than 12 hours by officials with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the FBI after arriving at Las Vegas’ McCarran International Airport. He was allegedly placed in a cold cell with some 25 other people and a single toilet, and prevented from taking prescribed medication for 20 hours. Shehadeh, whose wife and three children are U.S. citizens, had planned to visit his daughter in the U.S. to meet his new grandson. The British Embassy confirmed to CAIR-LA that no arrest warrant had been filed.11

February 15, 2007 - In 2005, a Florida jury rejected federal charges that Dr. Sami Al-Arian, a former University of South Florida professor, operated a cell for the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Al-Arian later pleaded guilty to a lesser charge and was scheduled for release and deportation that April. He began a hunger strike after being given a sentence of up to 18 months for refusing to testify before a grand jury in Virginia, despite his attorneys saying his earlier plea agreement freed him from further cooperation with the government. The American Muslim Taskforce on Civil Rights and Elections (AMT), a national coalition of major American Muslim organizations, said the new prison sentence given to Al-Arian freed him from further cooperation with the government. The American Muslim Taskforce on Civil Rights and Elections (AMT), a national coalition of major American Muslim organizations, said the new prison sentence given to Al-Arian freed him from further cooperation with the government. The American Muslim Taskforce on Civil Rights and Elections (AMT), a national coalition of major American Muslim organizations, said the new prison sentence given to Al-Arian freed him from further cooperation with the government. The AMT also said that the new sentence amounted to unconstitutional “double jeopardy.”

Workplace Harassment

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Unreasonable Arrest/Detention

December 30, 2006 - Sixty-two-year-old Majed Shehadeh was held and interrogated for more than 12 hours by officials with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the FBI after arriving at Las Vegas’ McCarran International Airport. He was allegedly placed in a cold cell with some 25 other people and a single toilet, and prevented from taking prescribed medication for 20 hours. Shehadeh, whose wife and three children are U.S. citizens, had planned to visit his daughter in the U.S. to meet his new grandson. The British Embassy confirmed to CAIR-LA that no arrest warrant had been filed.

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to enter the court at any future date while wearing her scarf, the Muslim woman felt compelled to agree to a plea of nolo contendere and was fined $168. Through the clerk of court, the judge communicated an apology for the denial of entry, but was quoted as saying that “we have rules that everyone has to follow.”

July 12, 2007 - Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) employees insisted that two Muslim women remove their headscarves for their driver’s license photographs despite regulations stipulating an exemption for religious head coverings. Later, the two women were allowed to have driver’s license photographs retaken with their headscarves.

August 3, 2007 - A three-year-old Muslim child who had been denied entry to the U.S. since birth was re-united with his parents in Virginia. It is suspected that the denial may have been related to the child’s name, “Ahmedyassine,” which is similar to that of a Palestinian leader assassinated by Israel. The child had been living with an aunt in Morocco while the immigration approval process was stalled. Soon after being contacted by CAIR-MD/VA in June, immigration authorities said the child could join his family in Virginia.

August 28, 2007 - Bilal Mahmud, a US citizen and Vietnam war veteran, claimed that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) mistakenly labeled him a threat to national security and revoked his commercial hazardous driver’s license, thereby destroying his career. The DHS has since acknowledged its mistake, saying it had made an error in classifying Mahmud as a threat to national security. Before losing his commercial hazardous driver’s license, Mahmud was an employee of Old Dominion Freight Line for 20 years, during which time he was never disciplined or reprimanded in any manner. On June 19, 2007, the federal court dismissed the lawsuit Mahmud had filed, holding that the law did not provide any remedy for damages as a result of the action taken by the DHS.

October 29, 2007 - Michael Savage screamed attacks targeting Muslims, Islam and the Quran during “The Savage Nation,” his nationally-syndicated radio program that airs on more than 300 radio stations nationwide. Savage’s shouted anti-Muslim attacks included: “I’m not gonna put my wife in a hijab. And I’m not gonna put my daughter in a burqa. And I don’t wanna hear anymore about Islam. I don’t wanna hear one more word about Islam. Take your religion and shove it up your behind. I’m sick of you…. They need deportation. I don’t need reeducation. Deportation, not reeducation.”

In August, Republican presidential candidate Tom Tancredo defended his earlier comment that an attack on Muslim holy sites in Mecca and Medina is an appropriate response to a terrorist attack.

In October, Senator John McCain stated that he would prefer a Christian president and that the Constitution established America as a “Christian nation.” To his credit, McCain also said, “I admire the [sic] Islam” during the interview. He later contacted the source of the story and clarified his position saying, “I would vote for a Muslim if he or she was the candidate best able to lead the country and defend our political values.”

Another, Republican presidential candidate, Mitt Romney, released a campaign ad depicting a fictional terrorist attack. The ad uses imagery that seems intended to inspire fear in its viewers at the expense of Muslims. Later in the month, Tancredo said of Europe: “They’ve already become, to a large extent, Islamicized. And that is worrisome.”

Also that month, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney reportedly said he would decline to appoint an American Muslim to a cabinet position because of their low percentage of the U.S. population: “...based on the numbers of American Muslims [as a percentage] in our population, I cannot see that a cabinet position would be justified. But of course, I would imagine that Muslims could serve at lower levels of my administration.”

In December, the Concord Monitor reported that New Hampshire Veterans for Giuliani co-chair John Deady quit his position following reports that he told The Guardian of London, “[Giuliani’s] got I believe the knowledge and the judgment to attack one of the most difficult problems in current history and that is the rise of the Muslims, and make no mistake about it, this hasn’t happened for a thousand years. These people are very dedicated and they’re also very, very smart in their own way. We need to keep the feet to the fire and keep pressing these people until we defeat or chase them back to their caves or in other words get rid of them.” The Monitor added, “When asked if he was referring to all Muslims, Deady told the paper, ‘I don’t subscribe to the principle that there are good Muslims and bad Muslims.’”

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Special Section: Anti-Muslim Remarks and Acts on the Presidential Campaign Trail in 2007

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Conclusion

“...show forgiveness, speak for justice and avoid the ignorant.”
- The Holy Quran 7:199

The decrease of hate crime reports and reports of discrimination both in schools and by police during 2007 allows us to sound a note of cautious optimism. Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, American Muslims have engaged with and educated fellow Americans, at all levels of the society, about Islam and the American Muslim experience. Perhaps this engage-and-educate approach is showing positive results.

Given that incidents of reported discrimination at the workplace stayed level and that the number of reported civil rights complaints increased for the fourth year in a row, there is still work to be done.

According to the Pew Research Center, “A majority of Muslim Americans (53%) say it has become more difficult to be a Muslim in the U.S. since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Most also believe that the government singles out Muslims for increased surveillance and monitoring.”

A USA Today/Gallup Poll published in 2006 reports, “Nearly one quarter of Americans, 22%, say they would not like to have a Muslim as a neighbor” and “Nearly four in ten Americans (39%) say they do feel some prejudice” toward Muslims.

At the same time, polling data inspires optimism. Pew reports: “Overall, Muslim Americans have a generally positive view of the larger society. Most say their communities are excellent or good places to live.” USA today/Gallup notes, “Personally knowing someone who is Muslim – which 41% of Americans say they do -- corresponds with more favorable attitudes...” CAIR’s 2007 survey of registered American Muslim voters found that “87% said they vote regularly...and 45% had recently volunteered for an institution that serves the general public (not a religious institution).”

The Muslim community now has well-established organizations to advocate on its behalf. These institutions serve both to educate our fellow Americans about our faith and to educate our fellow Muslims in effective methods for redressing grievances through political, media and social activism. The Council on American-Islamic Relations has a track record of assisting Muslims and others who have been subjected to discrimination. After the Danish cartoon controversy and allegations of Quran desecration at Guantanamo Bay, CAIR initiated educational campaigns as a pro-active, constructive response. This is an approach that people of all faiths can appreciate, as it helps promote respect and religious tolerance. CAIR staff train Muslims nationwide in media engagement and participation in the political process.

The organization’s practice of engagement, while defending the community’s rights, is what led Pastor Warren Clark of Tampa, FL to write, “As a Christian pastor, I support of the work of CAIR, Council on American-Islamic Relations. This is a national group with a very balanced and effective voice that speaks up for the rights of all peoples, and especially Muslims in the United States.” Echoing this, an editorial in the New Jersey Star Ledger said, “The FBI and other agencies have repeatedly used CAIR to build bridges with the Muslim community.” The East Valley Tribune reported, “...[T]he Council on American-Islamic Relations has emerged as a vigilant force against discrimination against Muslims.”

Some government agencies appear to be benefiting from an emphasis on cultural proficiency for employees who interact with Muslims. In December 2006, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced that it had provided special training about Islamic traditions related to the Hajj to some 45,000 airport security officers in advance of the pilgrimage season that occurred in early 2007. Many Muslims returning from the once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage to Mecca bring large quantities of holy water. Knowledge of this and other aspects of the Hajj can help foster a hassle-free process for returning pilgrims.
CAIR Recommendations

“It may well be that God will bring about love (and friendship) between you and those with whom you are now at odds.”

• Quran, 60:7

1. Elected representatives, public officials, and candidates for elected office should clearly condemn anti-Islam bias. Elected officials should also ensure that their respective parties similarly condemn such bias. Political strategists should avoid exploiting Islamophobic fears to gain votes.

In 2008, CAIR applauded Republican presidential nominee John McCain’s decision to reject Ohio pastor Rod Parsley’s endorsement of his presidential bid.

Parsley, pastor of the World Harvest Church of Columbus, Ohio, has referred to Islam as an “anti-Christ religion” and has expressed support for “seeing this false religion [Islam] destroyed.” He also described Islam’s prophet Mohammed as “the mouthpiece of a conspiracy of spiritual evil.” McCain had previously praised Parsley, saying he is “one of the truly great leaders in America, a moral compass, a spiritual guide.”

Referring to Parsley’s anti-Muslim diatribes, McCain said, “I believe there is no place for that kind of dialogue in America, and I believe that even though he endorsed me, and I didn’t endorse him, the fact is that I repudiate such talk, and I reject his endorsement.”

Similarly, CAIR welcomed Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama’s decision to personally call and apologize to two Muslim women who were barred from sitting behind him at a Michigan rally. Media reports indicated the women were kept from the podium area because campaign volunteers did not want the candidate associated with the women’s Islamic scarves, or hijabs. Campaign officials later apologized to the women.

2. Muslims and their institutions should continue to respond to negative incidents with positive educational campaigns.

In 2006, CAIR reported, “America’s Muslims...are being praised in the media for their ‘tolerance’ and ‘deft diplomacy’ in responding to the publication of cartoons that insult the Prophet Muhammad. Building on our ‘Explore the Quran’ campaign success, CAIR launched a program to bring balanced information about Muhammad to America’s through a free book or DVD.”

Incidents of discrimination, profiling or bias should be reported to CAIR and the appropriate authorities. Experience shows that once this is done, negative experiences should be turned into teaching opportunities that will help prevent future incidents.

3. Muslim groups should continue to maintain regular contact with law enforcement agencies at the national, state and local levels.

Community policing, a relationship of community members and law enforcement as partners rather than mutually-suspicious adversaries, in controlling crime and security is recommended.

4. Legislation banning racial, religious or ethnic profiling should be passed

American Muslims and other people of conscience should advocate for legislation clearly prohibiting discriminatory practices like racial and religious profiling. If clear policies are created and fair treatment is institutionalized through legislation, the community would hopefully experience less discrimination due to the criminal implications of discriminatory practices.

In his 2001 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush stated “[Racial profiling is] wrong, and we will end it in America. In so doing, we will not hinder the work of our nation’s brave police officers. They protect us every day -- often at great risk. But by stopping the abuses of a few, we will add to the public confidence our police officers earn and deserve.”

In a 2003 advisory report, the Department of Justice stated that “[racial profiling in law enforcement is not merely wrong, but also ineffective. Race-based assumptions in law enforcement perpetuate negative racial stereotypes that are harmful to our rich and diverse democracy, and materially impair our efforts to maintain a fair and just society.”
Glossary of Islamic Terms

**Allah**  
The most commonly used linguistic term for “God” in Arabic. The term translates as “The One” and has no plural. Allah is the same monotheistic God of Abraham worshipped by Christians and Jews.

**Beard**  
Many devout Muslim men grow beards in observance of the tradition of the Prophet Muhammad. This tradition frequently involves allowing the bearding to grow long while keeping the moustache trimmed short.

**Eid**  
An Islamic holiday. There are two Eid celebrations each year. Eid al-Fitr is the holiday celebrating the end of the month of Ramadan. Eid al-Adha, the most important Islamic holiday, commemorates the end of Hajj in Mecca, Saudi Arabia every year.

**Hajj**  
A pilgrimage to Mecca is a once-in-a-lifetime obligation for Muslims who are physically and financially able to undertake the journey. The rituals of Hajj commemorate the sacrifices of Prophet Abraham, his son Prophet Ishmael and his wife Hagar.

**Halal**  
Permissible by Islamic law.

**Hijab**  
Modest clothing that many Muslim women choose to wear in public. Generally, it is loose-fitting clothes and includes a head covering.

**Imam**  
A prayer leader. Since Islam has no hierarchical authority or priesthood, a learned and respected Muslim chosen by each congregation leads the prayers.

**Kufi**  
A cap worn by some Muslim men.

**Masjid**  
The Arabic word for “mosque” - an Islamic house of worship. Plural: masaajid.

**Niqab**  
A face veil.

**Prayer**  
Muslims are commanded to perform five prayers each day at predetermined intervals. Muslims believe their prayers are a direct link with God. During the month of Ramadan, many devout Muslims also observe extended evening prayers.

**Quran**  
Islam’s revealed text. It is considered by Muslims to be the final and unchanged word of God.  

**Ramadan**  
Every year in the Islamic lunar month of Ramadan, Muslims who are physically able are commanded by God to fast from the break of dawn until sunset, abstaining from food, drink and other sensual pleasures.

Appendix

**CAIR Welcomes ‘Preliminary Victory’ in Imams’ Suit Against Airline**  
CAIR welcomed a ruling today by a federal judge in Minnesota that rejected almost all of the arguments made by U.S. Airways and the Metropolitan Airports Commission in the case of six imams, or Islamic religious leaders, removed from a 2006 flight in Minneapolis, then arrested and denied further service. In her 41-page ruling and order, U.S. District Judge Montgomery stated that the allegations that the imams were intent on interfering with the flight were “dubious.” Montgomery added that the plaintiffs did have a plausible claim that their constitutional rights were violated. An attorney in the case, Omar Mohammedi, stated: “This preliminary victory shows that any American can have a day in court. Our judicial system has always been, and will remain, the hope for all minorities who seek to redress civil rights violations.”

**“Beyond Stereotypes” Campaign Seeks to Combat Media Bias**  
To help combat media bias, CAIR launched the “Beyond Stereotypes” campaign in November 2007. The campaign was designed to help enhance understanding of Islam and Muslims in the news media. The centerpiece of the campaign was the planned distribution of the booklet “American Muslims: A Journalist’s Guide to Understanding Islam and Muslims” to some 40,000 media professionals nationwide. CAIR’s new guide offers journalists the tools needed to gain a better understanding of Islam and write more accurate and balanced stories about Muslims. In challenging common misconceptions about Islam and Muslims, the guide provides an Islamic perspective on hot-button issues such as Islam and democracy, freedom of religion, women’s rights, and interfaith relations. CAIR also offered a series of media relations training and access to an interactive website equipped with tools to better assist individuals.

**CAIR and Hate Hurts America vs. Michael Savage**  
On April 17, 2007, nationally syndicated radio host Michael Savage called for “kill[ing] 100 million“ Muslims. On his radio show, Savage told listeners that “intelligent people, wealthy people ... are very depressed by the weakness that America is showing to these psychotics in the Muslim world. They say, ‘Oh, there’s a billion of them.’” Savage continued: “I said, ‘So, kill 100 million of them, then there’d be 900 million of them.’ I mean ... would you rather us die than them?” He added: “Would you rather they disappear or we die? Or would you rather they disappear and they die? Because you’re going to have to make that choice sooner rather than later.” As a result of Savage’s rhetorical attacks on religious and ethnic minorities, the interfaith coalition Hate Hurts America (HHA) was formed. CAIR joined the coalition, which seeks to challenge hate speech on talk radio, to urge advertisers to stop airing commercials on Savage’s nationally syndicated show “The Savage Nation.” Due to the joint efforts of CAIR and HHA, a number of advertisers have refused or stopped airing...
their commercials during Savage’s radio show. Some of the advertisers include Choice Hotels International, Sam’s Club, ITT Technical Institute, Chattem, Inc. (owners of Gold Bond, Icy Hot, and Selsun Blue), Union Bank of California, Intuit (parent company of TurboTax and QuickBooks), GEICO Insurance, US Cellular, Sprint Nextel, Sears, Universal Orlando Resorts, AutoZone, Citrix, TrustedID, JCPenney, OfficeMax, Wal-Mart, and AT&T.

CAIR Joins Challenge of Los Angeles Police Department’s “Muslim Mapping” Initiative
In November 2007, CAIR joined with other civil liberties groups and Islamic institutions opposing a controversial project proposed by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to “map” Muslim communities in Southern California. The plan sought to map out Muslims according to factors such as which websites they visited, what mosques they attended, which Islamic schools of thought they followed, who they interacted with and their income levels. Police Chief William Bratton defended the LAPD idea by stating in the Los Angeles Times that the mapping initiative strived to better understand Muslim communities and did not constitute as racial profiling. CAIR, along with the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California, Muslim Advocates and the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, sent a letter to the LAPD expressing concerns over possible civil rights violations if “mapping” of Muslims were to move forward. CAIR and other organizations were able to successfully raise awareness on the issue through both local and national media outlets. As a result, the LAPD canceled its ill-advised “mapping” program and pledged to reach out to and work with the Muslim community, subsequently forming a Muslim Community Forum.

CAIR Tackles Islamophobia

CAIR Goes to Hollywood
In an effort to promote a positive change in Hollywood’s portrayal of Muslims and Arabs, CAIR and FOX Television co-hosted a “Hollywood 101” workshop and studio tour at FOX Studios in Century City. The workshop provided aspiring Muslim actors, writers, and directors exposure to the entertainment industry. Individuals taking part in the event included students and entry-level professionals hoping to build contacts in the industry and seek tips on advancing their careers.

Citizenship Delays
In the period from January 2007 until June 2008, CAIR conducted more than 160 meetings with congressional offices to discuss the problem of citizenship delays, in which a person’s application for citizenship has been on hold for months, maybe years. The citizenship delay problem is not merely a matter of some individuals being inconvenienced. Leaving people in a legal limbo for years is a sad return for the immigrant’s patriotism and belief in America’s democratic values. CAIR’s educational efforts, along with those of a number of other groups interested in ensuring that those who followed the rules in the application process were not left in a legal limbo, resulted in congressional pressure on the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service and the FBI. CAIR also pursues a legal strategy to resolve citizenship delays.
Islamophobia and Anti-Americanism Reinforce Each Other  
By Mohamed Nimer (7/02/2007)

[Mohamed Nimer is research director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and author of the forthcoming edited volume “Islamophobia and Anti-Americanism: Causes and Remedies.” He may be contacted at: mnimer@cair.com]

When we look at the twin phenomena of Islamophobia and anti-Americanism, we are forced into a kind of “chicken or egg” scenario in which cause and effect remain unclear.

There is a cause and effect correlation between anti-Muslim and anti-American sentiments. As Islamophobia increases, anti-Americanism is strengthened and as hostility to America grows, so does bitterness toward followers of Islam.

For those who seek to promote civilization reconciliation, it is pointless to ask which came first. Instead, we must end the downward spiral of mutual mistrust and begin the process of building bridges of understanding and respect for differences.

Critical study of and comment on Islam or Muslims is not necessarily Islamophobic, just as criticism of American foreign and domestic policies is not always anti-American. It is when these mutual critiques descend to hatred and bigotry that the problem occurs.

Unfortunately, both Islamophobic and anti-American trends are growing. In the U.S., the number of groups and commentators who spew hate against the Islamic faith is multiplying. One group is even calling for prison sentences for “adherence to Islam” in America.

Similarly, Muslim extremists blame America for all of the Islamic world’s problems, even in areas in which America is not a key player. But there is no link between the rise of American power and the sad state of Muslims in many parts of the world. In fact, the general weakness of Muslim-majority countries predated the rise of U.S. influence in global affairs.

Some of the mutual antagonism results from misconceptions on both sides. American media stereotypes of Muslims as billionaires, bombers and belly dancers are matched by popular Muslim stereotypes of Americans as rich, ruthless and raunchy.

Clearly such broad-brush generalizations reinforce misunderstanding and facilitate intolerance. Dialogue between civil society groups in America and Muslim majority states is one way to avoid these misconceptions and improve relations.

Islamophobia and anti-Americanism have often been fueled by real grievances. Every act of terrorism pushes Islamophobes to new extremes, just as American policies that devalue the lives and rights of Muslims leads to more anti-American feelings.

We must somehow communicate to the Muslim world that the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal, the treatment of detainees in Guantanamo Bay and support for authoritarian rulers contradict the American democratic tradition and our nation’s cherished value of self-determination. After all, Americans who believe in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness should not support denying those goals to others.

On this Fourth of July, Muslims should remind their fellow Americans that Islamic activists in America and across the globe have consistently condemned attacks on civilians – most notably the terror attacks of 9/11.

Hundreds of American Muslim leaders and major Islamic institutions signed on to a fatwa (religious opinion) repudiating terror and religious extremism. Millions of American television viewers have seen the “Not in the Name of Islam” public service announcement decrying the misuse of Islam by terrorism.

Furthermore, Muslim groups continue to maintain regular contacts with law enforcement agencies at the national, state and local levels to help strengthen our national security.

To help reverse the growing trend toward Islamophobia and anti-Americanism, we must address legitimate grievances, whether by calling for stepped up condemnation of terrorism on the part of Muslims, or for justice-based solutions to international conflicts.

Equally important, our government should live up to American ideals in practice. Lofty 4th of July rhetoric must be translated into actions worldwide that show people of all faiths that America is on their side, not against them.
What Would Muhammad Do? - Part 2
By Ibrahim Hooper (11/30/2007)

[Ibrahim Hooper is national communications director for the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation’s largest Muslim civil liberties group. He may be contacted at: ihooper@cair.com]

During last year’s protests over publication of the Danish cartoons designed to insult the Prophet Muhammad, I wrote a commentary called “What Would Muhammad Do?”

Given the ongoing controversy over the jailing of British teacher Gillian Gibbons in the Sudan for “insulting Islam,” perhaps it is time to remind us all how the Prophet himself reacted to insults, both real and perceived.

Even if Ms. Gibbons had the intent to cause insult, which does not seem to be the case, Islamic traditions include a number of instances in which the Prophet had the opportunity to retaliate against those who abused him, but refrained from doing so.

“You do not do evil to those who do evil to you, but you deal with them with forgiveness and kindness.” (Sahi Al-Bukhari)

That description of the Prophet Muhammad is a summary of how he reacted to personal attacks and abuse.

Muslims are taught the tradition of the woman who would regularly throw trash on the prophet as he walked down a particular path. The prophet never responded in kind to the woman’s abuse. Instead, when she one day failed to attack him, he went to her home to inquire about her condition.

In another tradition, the prophet was offered the opportunity to have God punish the people of a town near Mecca who refused the message of Islam and attacked him with stones. Again, the prophet did not choose to respond in kind to the abuse.

A companion of the prophet noted his forgiving disposition. He said: “I served the prophet for ten years, and he never said ‘uf’ (a word indicating impatience) to me and never blamed me by saying, ‘Why did you do so or why didn’t you do so?’” (Sahi Al-Bukhari)

Even when the prophet was in a position of power, he chose the path of kindness and reconciliation.

When he returned to Mecca after years of exile and personal attacks, he did not take revenge on the people of the city, but instead offered a general amnesty.

In the Quran, Islam’s revealed text, God states: “When (the righteous) hear vain talk, they withdraw from it saying: ‘Our deeds are for us and yours for you; peace be on to you. We do not desire the way of the ignorant’. …O Prophet (Muhammad), you cannot give guidance to whom you wish, it is God Who gives guidance to whom He pleases, and He is quite aware of those who are guided.” (28:55-56)

The Quran also says: “Invite (all) to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching, and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: for thy Lord knows best who have strayed from His Path and who receive guidance.” (16:125)

Another verse tells the prophet to “show forgiveness, speak for justice and avoid the ignorant.” (7:199)

These are the examples that Muslims should follow as they express concern at the publication of insulting cartoons or at misperceived actions of a well-meaning teacher.

After the Danish cartoon controversy and allegations of Quran desecration at Guantanamo Bay, CAIR initiated educational campaigns as a peaceful, constructive response. This is an approach that people of all faiths can appreciate, as it helps us move toward respect and religious tolerance.


This most recent episode can be used as a learning opportunity for people of all faiths who wish to promote mutual understanding. It can also be viewed as a “teaching moment” for Muslims who want to emulate the Prophet through the example of their good character and dignified behavior.

As the Quran states: “It may well be that God will bring about love (and friendship) between you and those with whom you are now at odds.” (60:7)

This week’s unfortunate incident in the Sudan points to the need for an increased level of dialogue between ordinary people in the Muslim world and the West.

The complaint brought against Gillian Gibbons was an inappropriate use of Sudan’s legal system to deal with what was in essence a disagreement between parents and a teacher. Ms. Gibbons should never have been charged. She should be released immediately.
Boca couple reunited after long immigration journey

By Lee Uramoto
Boca Raton Post Staff Writer

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MIAMI — Driving a tagalong cat, Maha Abbahubmer emerged from customs at Tampa International Airport.

"How do they treat you?" he asked.

"They treated me well," she answered. She went to 1,300 pounds of a man who had traveled farther than he ever expected.

After several rounds of curious about the workings of immigration regulations, they were greeted with hugs. Kathy and Dennis Abbahubmer were not too worried about human-trafficking questions. Their boys and girls finished the Boca Raton couple located for the long journey.

Her husband's prompt, Dennis Abbahubmer is preparing a Thanksgiving dinner today. He has been to 1,300 pounds of a man who has been living in a country, carrying a Palestinian passport and his papers to return to the United States was denied. With thousands still waiting at the border to leave, American citizens were first.

After this, only hardship cases were being allowed to leave at the border.

From a combination of stress and long-standing health problems, she was unable to work more than a couple of days a week. Family dinners were once a treat, but her arguments that this qualified her husband as a hardship case fell on deaf ears.

In September, she sought to the Immigration and Naturalization Services, an advocacy agency, with a call to the Democratic Party.

When it was, Abbahubmer was at the center of red tape. The Council's executive director kept a list for the last two months that contain letters to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the Israeli Consul General, U.S. Senators and Members of Congress and any other officials she thought might be able to intervene on Abbahubmer's behalf.


A Hastings aide called Dennis Abbahubmer to say both husband would be allowed to cross from Gaza to the West Bank and Jordan. But by then, the time-sensitive immigration documents had expired and he was turned back by Jordanian authorities.

On Nov 29, the day before Thanksgiving, Abbahubmer bought a plane ticket to Florida to reassure himself and Jordanian officials that he was in the United States.

Once in America, Abbahubmer was told U.S. immigration officials that he had to wait. His plea has been, he has been in Jordan, but he has never had a second place to call home, since the first he had enjoyed.

By the time he got home with his wife in Miami, the longest possible the Abbahubmers could be staying was two months.

"I would have been surprised," said Dennis Abbahubmer, hearing at her husband.

"Now I know somebody's got my back."
