

Newsflash

This summer, students and young professionals across the state of Oklahoma attended the first ever Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS) on August 7-8, 2009. MYLS was launched by CAIR-Oklahoma to help young Muslims develop leadership skills and work towards social justice by getting involved in their communities. The symposium took place at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK. The conference provided 38 college students and young professionals throughout Oklahoma with an opportunity to explore their leadership. Over one and a half days, the students learned about [civic engagement](#), [civil rights](#), public speaking and communications, trained on leadership and community advocacy skills, and were able to rub elbows with elected officials, media professionals, community activists, leaders and members.

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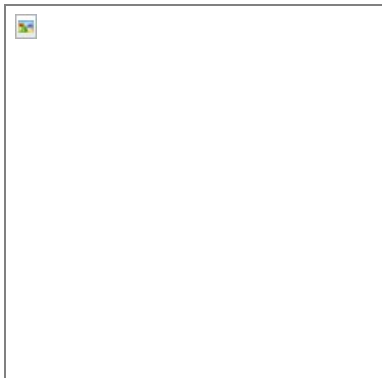
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CAIR: Anti-Muslim Okla. Lawn Signs Show Growing Islamophobia



Lawmaker with 'vendetta' against Islam challenged to repudiate intolerance

(OKLAHOMA CITY, OK, 6/27/10) -- The Oklahoma chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-OK) today called on the sponsor of an anti-Islam ballot measure to repudiate the targeting of a Muslim family in that state by Islamophobic lawn signs.

The signs were placed facing the new home of a Muslim family of Indian heritage moving into an Edmond, Okla., neighborhood.

CAIR Video: [Okla. Neighbor Posts Yard Signs Opposing New Residents](#)

CAIR-OK said State Representative Rex Duncan (R-Sand Springs), the sponsor a November ballot measure that would ban local courts from considering Islamic law, should acknowledge that his actions have contributed to a growing level of Islamophobia in Oklahoma and nationwide.

SEE: [Sharia \(Islamic Law\) Not O.K. in Oklahoma](#) (Fox News)

Duncan has in the past proposed legislation prohibiting Muslim women from wearing religious head scarves (hijab) in driver's license photos and refused to accept a Quran, Islam's revealed text, from a Muslim advisory council.

SEE: [Ignorance is the Enemy](#) (Tulsa World)

Duncan said [he refused to accept the Quran](#) because, "Most Oklahomans do not endorse the idea of killing innocent women and children in the name of ideology."

"Representative Duncan's bizarre vendetta against Islam will inevitably have a negative impact on the lives of ordinary Muslims and sends the false message that our great state is intolerant of minorities," said CAIR-OK Executive Director Razi Hashmi. "I urge Representative Duncan to acknowledge the harm he is doing to interfaith relations in our state and to meet with Oklahoma Muslim leaders."

Hashmi noted that CAIR offices nationwide are reporting a rise in anti-Muslim incidents.

CAIR Video: [Hate Groups Promoting Islamophobia in America](#)

He said CAIR's Washington State chapter on Thursday called for an FBI hate crime investigation into [vandalism of a van with advertisements about Islam](#) on its exterior and parked near a mosque that was smeared with feces.

Yesterday, CAIR called on Republican Party leaders to [repudiate Islamophobic remarks by a GOP congressional candidate in Tennessee](#) who claims the construction of a new mosque poses a threat to that state's "moral and political foundation."

The planned mosque has been targeted by extremists who have made a number of bigoted comments about Islam and Muslims. Earlier this week, CAIR called on law enforcement authorities to investigate a second incident of vandalism at the mosque site as a possible hate crime.

SEE: [CAIR Reacts to Mosque Sign Vandalism Tenn. Mosque Targeted by Islamophobia](#) (Video)

In May, CAIR offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator of a [bomb attack on a Florida mosque](#).

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.

- END -

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Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS) is a three-day program in Oklahoma City that trains college students and young professionals in civic leadership, media and community activism.

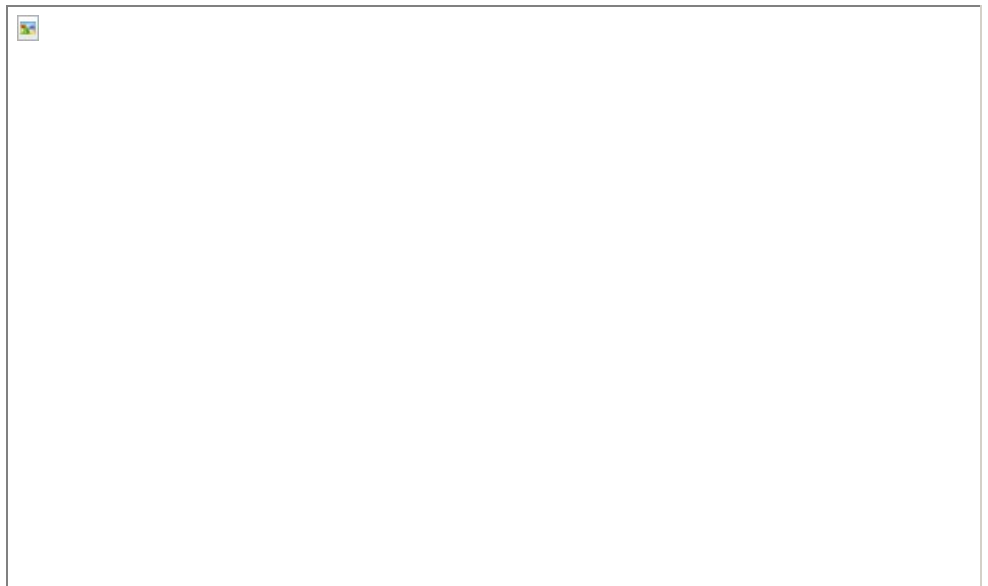
Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium 2010: July 30 to August 1 at the Oklahoma City University.
Deadline to Apply: June 30, 2010

Students are supervised by adults at all times.

Please complete this application and send it back to This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it by June 30, 2010.

[Click to Download MYLS Application](#) (PDF)

[Click to Download MYLS Application](#) (Word Document)



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CAIR-Oklahoma Receives 2010 Census Partner Appreciation Award



(OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – 6/16/10) On Saturday June 12th, the U.S. Census Bureau recognized CAIR-Oklahoma with the 2010 Census Partner Appreciation Award.

In an award ceremony at the Oklahoma State Capitol in the Governor's Blue Room, diverse partners from Oklahoma's interfaith, ethnic and civic communities were recognized for support in raising awareness of and inspiring participation in the 2010 Census.

CAIR-OK Executive Director Razi Hashmi received the award from Dr. Robert Groves, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, on Saturday on behalf of CAIR-Oklahoma .

"We were humbled to be recognized for this award, and believe it is the civic responsibility of every American to partake in the census so that everyone is counted," stated Hashmi. "It is especially important in an economic crisis that we can guarantee that funding is allocated equitably nationally and within our state."

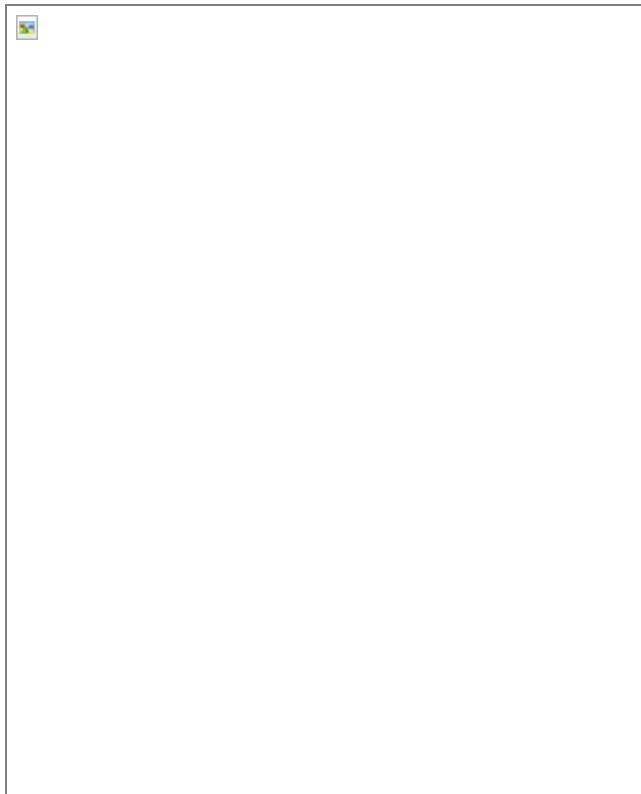
CAIR chapters nationwide were actively involved as partners in the 2010 Census.

See: [Action: CAIR Asks Muslims to Participate in 'Census Day'](#)

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