



Thursday, 02.04.2010, 11:13am

[HOME](#)

[FAQ](#)

[RSS](#)

[LINKS](#)

[SITE MAP](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[النسخة العربية](#)

[Netanyahu digs into West Bank](#)

[Haiti: An unwelcome Katrina red](#)

Keyword:

[\[Advance Search\]](#)

**ALL NEWS**

**Community News**

- » Profile of Success
- » Sports Commentary
- » Sports
- » Business profile

**World**

**Arab World**

**U.S.A**

**Art & Culture**

**Opinions**

Call  
31 3.582.4888



**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**U.S. leaders asked to address growing Islamophobia**

Friday, 07.10.2009, 04:05pm



WASHINGTON — A prominent national Islamic civil rights and advocacy group this week cited recent anti-Muslim incidents nationwide in calling on American leaders to address what it said is a "growing level of anti-Muslim prejudice

and stereotyping" in American society.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) said opinion leaders, policymakers and law enforcement authorities should speak out against the type of Islamophobic rhetoric on Internet hate sites and on talk radio programs that may lead to bias-motivated attacks.

In making its appeal to local and national leaders, CAIR cited recent incidents targeting American Muslim individuals and institutions, including a bias-motivated attack on a Muslim woman and child in Seattle by a self-proclaimed white supremacist, vandalism of mosques in Florida and California, an anti-Islam sign outside a Florida church, racist fireworks sold in Wisconsin, the beating of a Muslim student in New York, and the death of a California Muslim leader in a "suspicious" fire.

In Florida, a Gainesville, Fla., church has a sign claiming "Islam is of the devil" on its property. The church's senior pastor has been quoted saying: "We actually posted the sign because there is a tremendous growth in Islam at this time. It is a violent and oppressive religion and does not have anything to do with the truth of the Bible."

In Seattle, a self-proclaimed white supremacist with a history of threats and harassment was charged this week under the state's hate crime statute after he allegedly threatened a young Muslim woman with a knife while she was waiting in line for services at the Seattle Indian Health Board.

**EVENTS**

February 2010

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

**Flash Newspaper**



[Browse Latest Issue](#)

**Anniversary Feature Video 79 04**

**Ramadan**



[Special Edition](#)

**Sahtak**



[Health and Fitness](#)

**NEWS IN PICTURES**



In another instance in Florida, Miami-Dade police have charged two teens in the latest vandalism of a West Kendall mosque and school that has been targeted twice this year.

Michael Derek Lobo and Juan Carlos Gonzalez-Vaca, both 17, were arrested at Killian Senior High School, according to a police affidavit. Gonzalez-Vaca told police that the vandalism had been planned for months. He said "all Muslims are terrorists," according to the report.



Imam Ali Mohammed

sent to prison in 2008.

Graffiti written on the walls inside the house prior to the fire stated: "F\*\*\* you Arab," "KKK, sand n\*\*ger," and "go home Arab." An American flag and a Nazi swastika were also drawn on the walls.

Local law enforcement authorities called the explosion and fire "suspicious" but have not yet made a determination as to the cause of the blaze. The results of an autopsy on the imam's body have not been released.

"We welcome the FBI's intervention in this case and hope that the cause of Imam Mohammed's death and of the fire can be determined quickly," said CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad. "The community needs to know whether or not anti-Muslim bias was a factor in the imam's death."

In June, a mosque in Cypress, Calif., was vandalized with graffiti, which stated: "F\*\*k You," "we're going to kill you," and "US Military is going to kill you all." Police are treating the vandalism at the Cypress mosque as a hate crime.

The Washington-based council also noted American Muslim concerns that government actions, such as sending agents provocateurs into mosques or targeting Muslims for deportation even after they are acquitted of criminal charges, can add to the growing level of anti-Muslim views by stereotyping Muslims as predisposed to terrorism.

CAIR called for swift government action to back up both President Obama's recent challenge to those who promote "negative stereotypes"

The home of Dearborn engineer Ali Ghossein on Oakman Boulevard, decorated with lights and crescent moons to celebrate the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. "Ramadan Kareem" is written on several of the decorations in Arabic. PHOTOS: Khalil AlHajal/TAAN



::| HOT NEWS



ICE responds to requests, grants Hamtramck family man more time before deportation



Hamtramck man to be deported, leaving behind six U.S.-born children



Last chance for MLK scholarship essay submissions



Renowned boxing trainer sees potential champions in Arab American community



2009 Year in Review



Locals headed for Gaza; Dearborn vigil supports march



With video: Santa Claus visits south-end school



Bilingual holiday banners posted in Dearborn



Smokers under siege, businesses will have to adjust to new

::| NEWSLETTER

--- Category ---

Your Name:

Your Email:

Submit

of Islam and the statement by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder committing the Obama administration to protecting the civil rights of American Muslims. [In his recent speech to the Muslim world in Cairo, President Obama said: "I consider it part of my responsibility as president of the United States to fight against negative stereotypes of Islam wherever they appear."]

"It is important that our nation's leaders speak out against the growing level of anti-Muslim prejudice and stereotyping in our society and support the American Muslim community when it is targeted by bigots," said CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad. "Education and mutual understanding are key to challenging those who would spread intolerance and hatred."

He said CAIR recently launched a major initiative, called "Share the Quran," to educate American leaders about Islam. In that initiative, American Muslims are being asked to sponsor distribution of free copies of the Qur'an, Islam's revealed text, to 100,000 local, state and national leaders.

Awad also said that CAIR offers a booklet, called the "Muslim Community Safety Kit," which offers advice for preventing and reacting to anti-Muslim hate crimes.

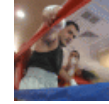
Meanwhile, about 500 people are expected to attend a conference sponsored by the International Museum of Muslim Cultures in Jackson, the nation's first museum dedicated to educating visitors about Islamic historical contributions.

The three-day event begins Friday, said Okolo Rashid, the museum's co-founder.

Mississippi has an estimated Muslim population of about 5,000, but Awad said the location's symbolism shouldn't be overlooked. Mississippi was a hotbed of civil-rights activity during the 1960s.

The museum is only a few miles from the home of Mississippi NAACP Field Secretary Medgar Evers, who was gunned down by self-proclaimed white supremacist Byron De La Beckwith in 1963.

law



WITH VIDEO:  
Boxing battles  
at Byblos

[Comments \(0\)](#)[Print](#)[Tell friend](#)[↑ Top](#)

---

### Related Articles:

- » 'Know your rights' forum planned
- » American prejudice against Muslims, Islam higher than bias against other major faiths
- » Suit alleges wage violations, discrimination
- » Community leaders meet with Sen. Levin, discuss immigration issues
- » Countries, rights groups protest new TSA directives
- » New TSA guidelines are ethnic profiling at its worst
- » ADC vows to fight on for civil liberties
- » ADC prepares for major fundraiser Dec. 11
- » Report shows jump in anti-Muslim bias incidents
- » Groups call for DOJ investigation of FBI raid

- » Affirmative action having its day in court
- » U.S. AG keynotes Detroit community-law enforcement banquet
- » Innocent post 9/11 detainees get \$1.26 million
- » Another legal setback for Arar torture case
- » Loosening of F.B.I. rules stir privacy concerns
- » WSU student group to host screening of documentary on film portrayals of Arabs
- » Judges Kelly and Keith honored with "Gaurdian of Justice" awards
- » Letters: Investigate the torture
- » State civil rights office urges school district to conduct cultural training in wake of assault
- » Former principal of Arabic language school loses case against NYC
- » Judge rules in favor of airline
- » This Ramadan, give without fear
- » Court reins in terror finance policy
- » Arab American group supports Sotomayor confirmation
- » Acquittal no guarantee of freedom
- » ACLU report blasts terror financing laws and investigations
- » CAIR holds civil rights townhall amid concerns

#### Other Articles:

- [Radio legend Casey Kasem retires](#) (07.10.2009)
- [Autism school gives hope](#) (07.10.2009)
- [Archbishop Hanna to tour U.S.](#) (07.10.2009)
- [Group golfs for scholarships](#) (07.10.2009)
- [Dearborn Heights man accused of plotting to have county prosecutor killed](#) (07.03.2009)
- [Arab American comedy night in Livonia](#) (07.03.2009)
- [Metro Detroit Youth Day July 8](#) (07.03.2009)
- [Yemen Nights Café serves unique flavors](#) (07.03.2009)
- [Conventions and festivals fill summer schedule](#) (07.03.2009)
- [Mother of hit-and-run victim dies in Lebanon](#) (06.26.2009)

**[Cheap International Calls](#)** - Start a \$2 account and get \$1 free  
Best rates quality and service [www.unitedglobalnet.com](http://www.unitedglobalnet.com)

[Ads by Google](#)

[About Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Distribution](#) | [About the Publisher](#) | [Flash Version](#)

Copyright © **The Arab American News**. All rights reserved.

[\[Top Page\]](#)