

CAIR-NGA Inc.  
FIN: 27-0012471  
Person to Contact & Group #: Ms. Victoria Lahey – 7828  
ID# 31-03836

March 21, 2005

Internal Revenue Service  
Director, Exempt Organizations Rulings and Agreements  
Ms. Victoria Lahey

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
CINCINNATI, OHIO

MAR 23 2005

RECEIVED  
TEGE DIVISION

Dear Ms. Lahey,

We are in receipt of your letter dated March 3, 2005 in response to our application for tax-exempt 501c3 status that was received by your office on October 27, 2004. Please accept our response to your request for further information relating to our organization. It is important to note that there are at least 9 other CAIR Chapters that have received 501c3 tax-exempt status. The CAIR-NGA organization does basically the same work as these other chapters. We trust this response will answer all the questions you raised in your letter. Please contact us if you require further information. We look forward to a favorable response to our application.

Respectfully Yours,



Christopher Burke  
President – CAIR-NGA

**1. Details on the work we perform:**

Response to Questions raised:

Our organization does not provide legal services. We do attempt to connect members of the Georgia Muslim community to Lawyers who may be able to help them with legal issues.

Our services are made known to the community mainly through the reputation CAIR has established in the Muslim Community. We also have advertised through promotional calendars, outreach tables at Muslim Conferences organized by other groups, as well as by flyers and posters for our events and visits to Georgia Mosques.

We have included a number of brochures, newsletters, flyers, calendar advertisement and press releases as per your request.

**Civil Rights Activities:**

The civil rights work conducted by CAIR-NGA accounts for about 50% of our activities and is the main focus of our organization. The main categories of the civil rights cases are employment, government and law enforcement. We act as an advocacy group for the Muslim community to raise issues of concern in our community, work to understand differences between our community and America and to help resolve misunderstandings. We take in complaints from Georgia Muslims who feel they have been discriminated against. We accept cases where the discrimination is directly related to religion. As part of the handling of a civil rights case we attempt to investigate the allegations of discrimination and work with the 2 sides to come to a mutual understanding.

For employment cases we have found that many employers are not aware of the accommodations required by practicing Muslims or that a local branch of a company is not aware of the company guidelines relating to religious obligations. Our volunteers write letters to Employers advising them of the religious practices of Muslims and provide CAIR brochures we will also provide EEOC brochures as we have found that some employers are not aware of the EEOC regulations. We offer diversity training to employers and government organizations that want to get a better understanding on how to relate to the Muslim community. If there is no interest in a negotiated settlement then we refer the complainant to a Lawyer or to the EEOC and then will monitor the progress of the case.

For Law Enforcement issues mostly relate to sensitivity issues. We try to make the law enforcement community aware of the religious/cultural practices of Muslims and get them to understand their actions in this light.

For Government issues we have intervened with government agencies to clarify their policies as it relates to the Muslim Community such as driver's license photos for women who wear head scarves or building dress codes as it relates to men who wear head covers.

Our civil rights work has addressed over 50 cases. We conducted a civil rights/racial profiling rally on August 14, 2004 to protest the harassment of a local Police officer by members of the Police Department and the accusation by the TSA that a leader of the Muslim community was considered a threat to national security, a accusations that was later rescinded by the TSA. At this rally members of the Muslim community spoke as well as the local ACLU and NAACP chapters. Our civil rights volunteers have received training from the national CAIR office on how to deal with cases. We also discuss issues with other CAIR chapters to share lessons learned on the handling of civil rights issues.

**Educational Activities:**

The educational activities of our organization seek to help the Muslim community relate better to government agencies, employers and the American community in general. These activities consist of about 30% of our resources. Through these activities we strive to provide an open forum of understanding of Muslims and the topics of focus. As part of educating the Muslim community about being active in the political process we conducted voter registration drives this past summer and fall. As part of this effort we facilitated voter registration and provided literature on the importance of voting. We held 2 political forums (July 11, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Select Perimeter and October 10, 2004 at the White Hall on Emory University) to bring the candidates and Muslim community together to facilitate understanding on both sides. In 2003, when the INS alien registration process was established we held a seminar with the IRS, FBI and local Lawyers to explain the process to the Muslim community to help overcome some of the misunderstandings about this process. On February 19, 2005 we conducted a know your rights seminar at Dar Un Noor School. This seminar brought together the FBI, Atlanta Police, EEOC and an HR Manager to discuss rights and ways of dealing with violations of rights. In 2003 we conducted a dialog with the INS along with other organizations that represent immigrant communities. This dialog was started by the INS and last about 6 months and discussed issues relating to immigrant communities and how the INS could improve their service. We worked with a Georgia School District and a Muslim family who were looking for accommodation for the boys to attend the Friday communal prayers. We raised this issue with the school district and then met with them to discuss options. Through this the existing policies of the school district were used to accommodate time off to attend prayer while making up the missed class through religious instruction or on line courses. We have recently received 2 offers to conduct diversity training. One with a large Georgia private company and the other with a County District Attorney's office. These sessions will cover the basics about Islam, Cultural norms of Muslims and case studies designed to help improve the relations between Muslims and these organizations.

**Media Activities:**

The media activities of CAIR-NGA make up about 20% of our resources. We have conducted training workshops with print and TV journalists to help our organization understand the media business and how to better relate to them. We have built relationships with a variety of print, TV and radio news outlets to help cover issues of importance to the Muslim community and provide the Muslim perspective on news issues. We issue press releases on major Islamic Holidays and issues that affect our community such as an arson attack on a Georgia Mosque or an Islamic awareness program at a local university. We have compiled a list of news outlets in Georgia to help build these relationships. On September 11, 2004 CAIR-NGA and other Muslim organizations ran an advertisement in several Georgia newspapers condemning acts of terror done in the name of Islam. In the future we intend to conduct a media seminar to help further our relationship with the media as well as a Media day to help introduce the media world to Muslim grade school students. This will consist of studio tours and the making of a TV show by the students.

## **2. Full and Fair Exposition of Facts to the Public:**

CAIR-NGA presents educational material to the public in the following through the following means.

**Publications** – Our publications are purchased from the CAIR National organization. We sometimes sell these publications but mostly distribute them free of charge. CAIR Chapters receive a 50% discount from CAIR National for these publications. We generally sell them for the same price we buy them for. The publications deal with the basics requirements of Islam and Muslims. They touch on how these requirements relate to life in America. These publications have been researched by CAIR National's Research Department. Other publications we provide are directly from Government websites/publications like the EEOC material.

**Presentations** – When CAIR-NGA presents to the public we generally discuss the activities of CAIR. When we start conducting sensitivity training later this year we will discuss the basic of Islam, cultural norms of Muslims and how these relate to life in America. Our presentations are done by our Board Members or staff who are all educated and have studied about Islam. We do not go into scholarly issues but keep to the basics and present them as factual rather than attempting to persuade people. When presenting to the Muslim community to educate them about relating to various segments of America (i.e. media, or elected officials), we use information prepared by people who work in these fields and use our own experience to help our community better understand and relate to these groups. We often get professionals to conduct these presentations such as our "Know Your Rights" Seminar where we worked with the FBI, Atlanta Police, EEOC and a Human Resource Manager to provide information on their areas of expertise. This was the case with the Racial Profiling/Discrimination rally where we worked with the ACLU and NAACP. We strive to present fair and balanced information to the public in all our educational activities.

### **3&4. Government Relations Work:**

On July 13, 2004 we conducted a Political Seminar for the primary elections. This event was held at the Holiday Inn Select Perimeter Hotel and was intended to expose the Muslim Community to the political process and allow the candidates get a better understanding of the Muslim Community. A list of candidates who were invited and who attended is attached to this document. Candidates were selected using the list on the Georgia Secretary of State web site. We narrowed down the number of candidates by choosing districts around the Metro Atlanta area. Invitations were emailed to those candidates whose email address was on the Secretary of State web site. Along with the email was a candidate survey, we asked the candidates to return the survey so we could provide this information to the Muslim Community. A copy of the invitation and survey is attached. No distinction was made as to which party was invited or which candidate except for the email address and the districts around the Metro Atlanta area. Candidates for the federal, state and judicial elections took part in this seminar. Candidates were provided 5 minutes to talk about their platform and the audience was allowed to ask questions for an additional 5 minutes. The topics varied widely from international policy to domestic concerns such as the economy, budget deficit, education, and traffic. During this seminar we provided voter information packets to those in attendance. This packet provided details as to who was running for election in the various districts, where voting was taking place, returned candidate surveys and general voting information obtained from the Georgia Secretary of State website.

A general election Political Seminar was also held on October 10, 2005 at Emory University. We again used the Georgia Secretary of State web site for the list of Candidates and their contact information. We invited all candidates in the 4 major counties if Atlanta. The format was the same as the primary election seminar and voter information packets were also provided. A list of candidates who were invited and who attended is attached to this document.

**5. Government Relations – Legislation:**

At times CAIR-NGA will attempt to influence legislation. Recently we asked our members to write their Georgia elected officials to show their support for a Halal food bill. We expect this type of activity to amount to about 5% of our time resources and about 2 - 3% of our financial resources.

**6. Other Government Activism:**

Apart from legislation and voter education we will be trying to place interns in the local offices of some elected officials. We may also work with elected officials to get proclamations issued such as a proclamation against religious discrimination. We may protest against US government violations such as the torture in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay. There are no firm plans in place for these activities and will only be done if the need arises.

**7. Political Campaign/Candidate Intervention:**

CAIR-NGA will not intervene in any political campaign or on behalf of and candidate for public office. We are a politically neutral organization that focuses on building relationships and education between American Muslims and Americans.

**8. Web Designer:**

CAIR-NGA does not have a contract with a web designer. We host our web site and email server with Northeast Georgia Internet Access (NEGIA) and pay them a monthly service fee. They did help design our web site and it is now maintained by a Board Member.

**9. Web Site:**

Our current web site has about 25% of it content for our specific chapter. The remainder of the content is links to the CAIR National web site. Since we are a small chapter and operate on a modest budget we leverage the CAIR National content where it makes sense. We do plan to update our web site in the near future to contain more local chapter specific information. We choose the links to CAIR National based on the issues of importance to the local Georgia Muslim community. We do expect to provide links to other organization in the future including government agencies such as the EEOC, Georgia Government Agencies such as Georgia Secretary of State for voting issues, Georgia Mosques, and local community centers. Our intention for this is to provide information of interest to the Georgia Muslim community.

**10. CAIR-NGA Staff:**

In 2005 we hired a full time Operations Director, Ms. Mary Hixson. Mary is a researcher who has worked for the Moorehouse School of Medicine as a research coordinator and as a Project Manager for Sunquest Information Systems. Prior to this Mary worked as Executive Assistance for several companies. This position is our only full time staff position. We do have a part time office assistant, Ms. Yaqutullah Ibraheem, who works about 10 hrs/week. Yaqutullah is a Health and Human Service student at Georgia State University. Board members are volunteers and are not compensated for their time working on CAIR-NGA activities.

**11. Office Facilities:**

CAIR-NGA rents an office suite from Georgia Real Estate Investors Association (GA REIA). This suite is a single room and we have access to a shared conference room with other tenants in the building. We pay for this office space from donations we have received. Initially we had a lease but have not renewed it and are going on a month-to-month basis. A copy of the lease is attached to this document. GA REIA manages the building facilities. CAIR-NGA manages the suite, which includes general cleaning and small office management duties. The suite that we rent is only used for CAIR-NGA activities and none of our staff or board members resides at the facility. GA REIA is not affiliated with CAIR-NGA.

**12. Relationship with National Office:**

At this time CAIR-NGA does not have a formal contract with the national CAIR office. We do have a verbal agreement to allow us to use the CAIR brand and share some resources with CAIR National. We are required to submit all media statements to CAIR National for review. We leverage their email list to announce our events or other events happening in our area that are important to the Muslim Community and fit with the CAIR vision/mission statement. The national office has conducted some training for CAIR-NGA volunteers and has sent representatives to present at both of our fundraising dinners. The national office will issue directives from time to time on major issues of importance to the Muslim communities to get chapters involved. Chapters are not required to follow these directives but if they do get involved in the issue the spirit of the directive should be followed based on the community the chapter is serving. No fees are paid to the national office unless a service is provided such as publications or travel expenses for training.

**13. Board Member Biographical Information:**

Biographical information for each of the CAIR-NGA board members is attached to this document. There has been a recent change in the make of the board. Kafi Niambi left the board in December 2004 and has been replaced by Rashid Naim. This process was pursuant to the bylaws of CAIR-NGA.

## SUMMARY OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Brochures
  - a. CAIR Know Your Rights Pocket Guide
  - b. Welcome to Our Mosque
  - c. Mosque Open House Project
  - d. CAIR Across America
  - e. Bring Islam to Your Local Library
  - f. A Correctional Institution's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices
  - g. An Employer's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices
  - h. An Educator's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices
  - i. A Health Care Professional's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices
  - j. Law Enforcement Official's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices
  - k. Hajj and Eid ul-Adha Publicity Resource Kit 2003
  - l. Ramadan Publicity Kit 2004
2. Newsletters – March 2004 & July/August 2004
3. Flyers
  - a. Voting Flyer
  - b. Library Project Flyer
  - c. Political Seminar Flyer – Primary Election
  - d. Political Seminar Flyer – General Election
  - e. Not In The Name of Islam Petition
  - f. Racial & Religious Profiling
  - g. "Know Your Rights" Seminar Flyer
4. 2004 Calendar Advertisement
5. Press Releases
  - a. January 2003 Fundraiser
  - b. Georgia Perimeter College MSA US PATRIOTACT Presentation
  - c. Savannah Mosque Arson Attack
  - d. Mumbai India Bombings
  - e. Ramadan 2003
  - f. Hajj 2004
  - g. Political Seminar (2)
  - h. Racial & Religious Profiling Rally (2)
  - i. Know Your Rights Seminar
6. Political Seminar Information
  - a. List of invited candidates – Primary Election
  - b. List of candidates attending seminar – Primary Election
  - c. Candidates Invited/Attended seminar – General Election
  - d. Candidate Invitation/Survey
7. Not In The Name Of Islam Advertisement
8. Board Member Biographies
9. Copy of IRS Response Letter

Biography – Chris Burke President CAIR-NGA

Chris Burke was born on March 25, 1965 in Schenectady NY. Chris received his Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering Degree from Manhattan College in 1987. Chris was hired by General electric in 1990 and has worked for GE since then in the capacity of Field Engineer, Site Manager, Multi Site Lead and currently as Resource Director. Chris and his family have lived in the Metro Atlanta area since 2002 and are active members of Masjid Omar bin Abdul Aziz in Norcross GA. Chris joined CAIR-NGA in November 2002 and was initially in charge of the media relations committee and was then elected to the Board in December of 2003.

Biography – Amira Wazeer

Amira Wazeer is an active member of the Atlanta Masjid and currently volunteers as a fundraising coordinator. She is responsible for originating the Atlanta Masjid's largest fundraiser Celebration and their annual Interfaith Conference. She has worked in the community service arena for approximately 25 years. Amira's work has been featured several times in various print and other media .

Amira attended Cuyahoga Community College where she majored in business and public relations.. Amira has attended numerous business development classes and seminars, and holds a degree in spiritual aromatherapy from Christi Aromatherapy Institute. Amira is retired from Ohio Bell and currently runs her own at home Aromatherapy business

Amira is 57 years old and currently resides in Lithonia Georgia, mailing address 3799 Cumberland Way. She can be reached at 770 686 4421 or by email at a.d.wazeer@comcast.net or celebration.atl@comcast.net

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### Biography Amjad Taufique

Amjad Taufique was born in Karachi Pakistan on February 26, 1959. Amjad received his Bachelor degree in Computer Science from Lamar Univertisy. Amjad has been employed as a Programmer/Analyst for Restaurant Technology Inc. since 2001. Amjad is a very active in the Metro Atlanta community. He is a board member for Masjid Al-Hedaya Inc. in Marietta GA. He is a Chaplain for Cobb County Department of Corrections and a certified speaker for the Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta.

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Biography - Y. Khalid Siddiq M.D.

Dr. Khalid Siddiq has been a resident of Metro Atlanta since 1977. Dr. Khalid is a Physician specializing in Endocrinology; he was a Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at Emory University from 1978 – 1989. Dr. Khalid is a practicing Endocrinologist/Physician in Cobb County GA from 1989 until today. Dr. Khalid is the Director of Masjid Al Farooq and a member of the board of directors for Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta.

CAIR-NGA  
3920 N. Peachtree Rd. Suite 205  
Atlanta, GA 30341



# Fax

**To:** Ms. Victoria Lahey – IRS 7828      **From:** Chris Burke

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**Fax:** 513-263-5200      **Pages:** 4 Pages to Follow

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**Phone:** 513-263-3601      **Date:** 3/28/2005

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**Re:** CAIR-NGA 501c3 Application      **CC:**

FIN 27-0012471

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**Urgent**     **For Review**     **Please Comment**     **Please Reply**     **Please Recycle**

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● **Comments:**

Ms. Lahey,

Please find attached the final 3 biographies of the CAIR-NGA Board in response for more information to our 501c3 application.

Regards,

Chris Burke

CAIR-NGA Inc.

FIN: 27-0012471

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ID# 31-03836

**Biography – Anthony Kerlew**

Anthony Kerlew served his country as a United State Marine from 1974-1994. He attained the rank of Ensign grade 6 and was an Avionics Engineer and Instructor. Anthony attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and New Horizons Learning Center where he received certification as a Novell Engineer and Administrator. Anthony moved to the Atlanta area in 1996 and has been employed by the Georgia Department of Human Resources as a Network Engineer since 1998. Anthony is an active member of the community and serves on the CAIR-NGA Board as well as the Amana Academy Board a charter school in the Atlanta area. He also served as President of the Somali Refugee Family Foundation.

CAIR-NGA Inc.

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**Biography – Syed Rashid Naim**

Rashid Naim was born in New Delhi India on July 28, 1956. He received a Bachelors of Arts (History) degree Urbana-Champaign from Allgarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India in 1977 and a Master Degree in International Studies in 1979 from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi India. He then attended Australian National University in Canberra, Australia where he received another Master Degree in International Relations in 1981. Rashid then moved to the US and received a PhD in Political Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 1990. Dr. Naim is currently a Political Science Professor at Georgia State University since 1993. Rashid was the founding President of CAIR-NGA is very active in the Metro Atlanta area where he serves on the board of Dar Ul Ulom and Dar Un Noor Schools. He is also the Founder and President of the Ahad Foundation and a certified speaker for the Islamic Speakers Bureau.

CAIR-NGA Inc.  
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#### Biography – Wael Doukmak

Wael Doukmak was born in Syria on November 15, 1961. Wael attended the University of Georgia from 1996 – 2004 with degrees of B.Sc. Pharmacy, Diploma Computer Programming, and Ph.D. Candidate Pharmacy. Wael is a respected member of the Athens Georgia business community and an executive for North East Georgia Internet Access since 1995 as well as Arabic.com, a Arabic language services company. Wael is an active member in the Athens community; his involvement includes service on the local Chamber of Commerce Board, local Mosque Board and on the Board of the Young Women Christian Organization (YWCO). Wael is active in interfaith dialogue and contributes a monthly column to the local newspaper. He served on an advisory board of the local newspaper in 2003 and helped the city of Athens in its bicentennial celebration in 2001.

Internal Revenue Service  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

Department of the Treasury  
P.O. Box 2508 - Room 4504 (TE/GE)  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201

Date: April 29, 2005

CAIR-NGA, Inc  
3920 North Peachtree Road Ste 205  
Atlanta, GA 30341

**Employer Identification Number:**  
27-0012471

**Person to Contact - GROUP #:**  
Ms. Victoria Lahey - 7828  
ID# - 31-03834

**Contact Telephone Numbers:**  
513-263-3601 Phone  
513-263-5200 Fax

**Response Due Date:**  
May 13, 2005

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the information recently submitted regarding your application for exemption. Unfortunately, we need more information before we can complete our consideration of your application.

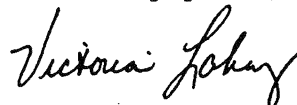
Please furnish the information requested on the enclosure by the response due date shown above. If you do not provide the requested information in a timely manner, we will consider that you have not taken all reasonable steps to secure the determination you requested and we will close your case.

Please return the copy of our letter along with your response. It will help us to identify your file.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, or you cannot meet the response due date, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown in the heading of this letter.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



Victoria Lahey  
Exempt Organizations Specialist

Enclosure:  
Website

CAIR-NGA, Inc  
FIN: 27-0012471

**PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THIS LETTER TO YOUR CORRESPONDENCE.**

1. In your reply, you indicated that 25% of your web site is for your specific chapter. A review of your web site indicated that you are soliciting donations over the Internet. However, if you click through to "Donate", the link exchange takes you to the National Headquarters site, CAIR National, which is a section 501(c)(4) organization. . Please see the enclosed copy of your "Home" page.

Per your response, your links go through to use CAIR National's content. In addition, you indicated that no more than 5% of your activities are directed to lobbying. Does this include the lobbying on your web site by CAIR?

Section 1.501(c)(3)-1(b)(1)(iii) of the Regulations states:

An organization is not organized exclusively for one or more exempt purposes if its articles expressly empower it to carry on, otherwise than as an insubstantial part of its activities, activities which are not in furtherance of one or more exempt purposes, even though such organization is, by the terms of such articles, created for a purpose that is no broader than the purposes specified in section 501(c)(3).

Per my conversation with Mr. Burke today, the web site appears to be misleading. The header indicates it is for your Chapter; however, more than an insubstantial amount of the web site benefits CAIR National, an advocacy organization under section 501(c)(4) of the Code.

Please explain how your web site is meeting the requirements of section 501(c)(3) of the Code?

2. You also indicated that you plan to raise funds over the Internet.

How much time do you plan to spend of this Internet activity?

What kind of contributions will you accept? Will you accept only cash contributions. If not, what real property will you accept? For example, will you accept real property; securities; intellectual property; boats, automobiles, etc. If so, please explain how you handle the receipt of real property.

How will you fulfill all state and local laws requiring registration before soliciting contributions over the Internet?

3. Will you make contributions to individuals and/or organizations? If so, please explain your criteria for assistance.

Is there a possibility contributions could be made overseas? If so, please provide a list of foreign recipients. Also, explain how you

CAIR-NGA, Inc  
FIN: 27-0012471

have control and discretion of donated funds to ensure they are use  
for an exempt purpose.

**Note: All information must be submitted over the signature of an  
officer or authorized representative.**

PLEASE DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING YOUR CASE TO:

US Mail:

Internal Revenue Service  
TE/GE Rm 4504 Group 7828  
P. O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201

ATT: Ms. V. Lahey

Express or Street Mail:

Internal Revenue Service  
TE/GE Rm 4504 Group 7828  
550 Main St, Federal Bldg.  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

ATT: Ms. V. Lahey



MAIN PAGE ABOUT ISLAM ABOUT CAIR COMMITTEES

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- NEWS RELEASES
- ACTION ALERTS
- NEWS BRIEFS
- CAIR MEMBERSHIP
- DONATE TO CAIR

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Name

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Special Features



The Status of Muslim Civil Rights in the United States [ More Info ]



A report from the Mosque study project [ Read More ]

CAIR Georgia Community Dinner

CAIR Georgia is hosting a Community Dinner on Saturday March 5, 2005. This event is designed to provide feedback to the Community on what CAIR is doing and provide an opportunity to understand the needs of the Community. Guest Speakers include Dr. Khalid Siddiq, Dr. Rashid Naim and Imam Plemon Al-Amin. What: CAIR Georgia Community Dinner When: Saturday March 5, 2005 @ 4:30 PM Where: Comfort Inn and Suites 5985 Oakbrook Parkway, Norcross (770) 662-8175 Contact: Br. Yusof 404-542-1209 or Mary Hixson 678-768-6641

Training Workshops

Civil Rights Violation Complaint handling Coalition Building

[ Click for more information ]

Library Project

CAIR-North Georgia has so far helped organize 55 contributions to CAIR National's Library Project. Please help us to do more on this. For the many positive reactions to this project please visit CAIR national's webpage.

[ Click for more information ]

TAKE ACTION



Contact Congress, your local representatives, and local media and let them know how you feel! Click **HERE** for more information.

Statements c

We condemn the strongest terms the vicious and acts of terrorism against innocent We join with all in calling for the apprehension of the perpetrator punishment cause could be assisted by immoral a

[ More State



SEARCH CAIR:

News Briefs

Friday, April

MAIN PAGE ABOUT ISLAM ABOUT CAIR CHAPTERS JOB

NEWS RELEASES

ACTION ALERTS

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MEMBERSHIP

DONATIONS

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Guide to the Media

Contact the media using your ZIP Code: enter ZIP Code and click "Go".

Or click [HERE](#) for other searches.

Civil Rights Department

Submit an Incident Report

Submit a report detailing a positive or negative experience or incident.

Negative Experience

Positive Experience

Governmental Affairs Department

Contact your Representative

Elected Officials

Enter your ZIP Code and click "Go" or click [HERE](#) for other searches.

Is this contribution your Zakat?

STEP 1: DONATION AMOUNT

I would like to contribute:

- Radio buttons for \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100, \$50, \$25, Other

STEP 2: CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Card Number, Type of Card (Visa), Expiration Date (01/2004), Name on Card

STEP 3: CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name, Last Name, CAIR Id #, Address 1-3, City, State (N/A), Zip Code, Country, Telephone

You can make a secure online donation with your credit card. If you would rather use your check, then please send it to...

Council on American-Islamic Relations, 453 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20003

Or call us to make a credit card contribution or pledge by dialing 202-488-8787; note that CAIR National is a non-profit (501(c)(4)) organization. Donations are tax-deductible. Thank you.

Click to verify



### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Enter your ZIP Code and click "Go" or [click here](#) for other searches.

**GO**



### ISSUES & LEGISLATION

Important issues, recent votes, current legislation, and more. [Click here](#).

**GO**



### GUIDE TO THE MEDIA

Enter your ZIP Code and click "Go" or [click here](#) for other searches.

**GO**

## CONGRESS TODAY - April 29, 2005

**Today's House Schedule** ([details](#))

**Today's Senate Schedule** ([details](#))

**Committee Hearings Search** ([details](#))

Search the House and Senate current committee schedules, projected schedule posted.

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**CAIR-NGA**

Council on American-Islamic Relations – North Georgia

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May 13, 2005

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Ms. Victoria Lahey

Dear Ms. Lahey,

We are in receipt of your letter dated April 29, 2005 in response to our application for tax-exempt 501c3 status that was received by your office on October 27, 2004. Please accept our response to your request for further information relating to our organization. We trust this response will answer all the questions you raised in your letter. Please contact us if you require further information. We look forward to a favorable response to our application.

Respectfully Yours,



Christopher Burke  
President – CAIR-NGA

# CAIR-NGA

Council on American-Islamic Relations – North Georgia

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CAIR-NGA Inc.

FIN: 27-0012471

ID# 31-03836

## 1. Website:

As we discussed in our conversation on April 29, 2005 we will be changing our website. We do plan to remove the donation link to the CAIR National website. As soon as the changes are made we will advise you in writing so that you may review the website to ensure it is meeting the requirements of the 501c3 code. As for the lobbying efforts done through the web site this is included in the 5% of our lobbying activities.

## 2. Fundraising over the Internet:

We expect that our fundraising over the Internet will be about 5% of the total time spent on fundraising. Only cash/credit card contributions will be accepted. In order to comply with state and local regulations we would contract a service such as PayPal to administer the on line donations.

## 3. Contributions to Individuals and/or Organizations:

There may be times when our organization would make small contributions to organizations but not to individuals. This would be strictly limited to further activities that we are directly involved in and only made to organizations that have exempt 501c3 status and are well known to the Georgia Muslim Community. Contributions from CAIR-NGA will not be made overseas.

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In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

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***Hajj and Eid ul-Adha***  
**Publicity Resource Kit**  
**2003**

## HAJJ Q&A

**Q: What does the Quran say about *Hajj*?**

**A:** In the Quran, Islam's revealed text, God says:

*"Thus We settled Abraham at the site of the House (the Ka'aba) [saying]: 'Do not associate anything with Me, and purify My house for those who walk around it, and those who stand there (praying), and those who bow down on their knees in worship. Proclaim the pilgrimage among mankind: they will come to you on foot and on every lean (beast of burden); Let them come from every deep ravine, to bear witness to the advantages they have, and to mention God's name on appointed days..."* Chapter 22, verses 26-28

**Q: What do Muslims believe they gain from *Hajj*?**

**A:** The main benefit of *Hajj* for many people is the sense of purification, repentance and spiritual renewal it instills. After his *Hajj*, Malcolm X wrote in his autobiography: *"...I have eaten from the same plate, drank from the same glass, and slept in the same bed (or on the same rug) - while praying to the same God - with fellow Muslims whose eyes were bluest of the blue, whose hair was blondest of the blonde and whose skin was whitest of the white. And in the words and in the actions and in the deeds of the white Muslims, I felt the same sincerity that I felt among black African Muslims of Nigeria, Sudan and Ghana...In the past I permitted myself to be used to make sweeping indictments of...the entire white race...Because of the spiritual enlightenment which I was blessed to receive as a result of my recent pilgrimage to the Holy City of Mecca, I no longer subscribe to the sweeping indictments of any one race. I am now striving to live the life of a true Muslim."*

**Q: Why does *Hajj* begin on a different day each year?**

**A:** Because *Dhul-Hijjah* is a lunar month, it begins about eleven days earlier each year.

**Q: Why do Muslims sacrifice a lamb or other animal during the festival of *Eid ul-Adha*?**

**A:** The sacrifice commemorates the Prophet Abraham's readiness to sacrifice his son, identified in Islam as Ishmael, at God's request. This is not a blood offering. In the Quran God states: *"Neither their meat nor their blood ever reaches God, but heedfulness on your part does reach Him."* (Chapter 22, verse 37) The meat is distributed to relatives and to the needy.

**Q: Is *Hajj* an obligation on all Muslims?**

**A:** Yes, but only for those who are physically and financially able to make the trip.

**Q: What are the most visually striking aspects of *Hajj*?**

**A:** All pilgrims must do *tawaf*, or circling the *Ka'aba*. This obligation creates a stunning scene as thousands of people circle the building at all times of the day and night. Also, the standing at *Arafah* on the 9th day of the Islamic month of *Dhul-Hijjah* presents a scene in which several million people all dressed alike and with the same intention to worship God, gather on a barren plain.

**Q: How should non-Muslim friends and co-workers interact with someone who is going on *Hajj* or celebrating at home?**

**A:** *Hajj* is a high point in a Muslim's life. Questions are welcome and congratulations are in order. Most communities welcome visitors at *Eid ul-Adha* prayers. Just ask a Muslim friend to act as an escort and guide.

## ISLAM IN AMERICA — THE FACTS

### **FACT 1**

There are an estimated 7 million Muslims in America. The Muslim community in America is made up of people from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds and national origins.

### **FACT 2**

The worldwide population of Muslims is 1.2 billion.

### **FACT 3**

Islam is one of the fastest growing religions in this country and around the world.

### **FACT 4**

Demographers say that Islam will soon be the number two religion in America. (This may have already occurred.)

### **FACT 5**

Demographers also say that by the year 2025, one in four people on earth will be a Muslim.

### **FACT 6**

There are almost 2,000 mosques, Islamic schools and Islamic centers in America. Muslims are active in all walks of life.

## TERMS AND CONCEPTS

**ALLAH** - Allah is the Arabic word for "God." It is the same word Arabic-speaking Christians use when referring to God. Allah is not the "Muslim God," but is the same God worshipped by Christians and Jews.

**FUNDAMENTALIST** - Muslims view the label "fundamentalist" as stereotypical and ill-defined. Muslims also object to the use of terms such as "radical" and "extremist." These terms lack definition and are seen as pejorative. More neutral and objective terms include "Islamist" or "Islamic activist."

**JIHAD** - "Jihad" does not mean "holy war." Literally, *jihad* means to strive, struggle and exert effort. It is a central and broad Islamic concept that includes struggle against evil inclinations within oneself, struggle to improve the quality of life in society, struggle in the battlefield for self-defense (e.g., - having a standing army for national defense), or fighting against tyranny or oppression. The equivalent of the term "holy war" in Arabic is "harb muqaddasah," a term that cannot be found in the Quran or the Prophet's sayings (hadith). There is no such thing as "holy war" in Islam, as some careless translators may imply. It is rather a loaded medieval concept that did not arise from within the Muslim community. Because of this myth's frequent repetition, most people in the West accept it as if it were a fact.

**MUSLIM/ARAB** - Not all Muslims are Arab, just as not all Arabs are Muslim. In fact, Arabs are a minority within the Islamic world. "Arab" is a linguistic, not an ethnic, designation. An Arab can be Christian or Jewish.

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS** - Under Islamic law, women have always had the right to own property, receive an education and otherwise take part in community life. Men and women are to be respected equally. The Islamic rules for modest dress apply to both women and men. (Men cannot expose certain parts of their bodies, wear gold or silk, etc.) If a particular society oppresses women, it does so in spite of Islam, not because of it.

**ARABIC NAMES** - Compound Arabic names, such as "Abd Al-Wahid," which often refer to attributes of God, should be used in full on second reference. If the second reference referred to "Al-Wahid," that person would be taking on an attribute of God ("the One"), something a Muslim would abhor.

## STEPS NECESSARY TO HOLD A MOSQUE OPEN HOUSE

1. **PREPARE** the members of your local community by explaining the necessity of building a positive image of the mosque in the surrounding area. Let them know that experience of other communities has shown that a positive neighborhood image offers many benefits. Ask for input concerning the details of when and at what time the open house should be held. There are no hard and fast rules for such things.
2. **INVITE** local community leaders, clergy, law enforcement officials, activists, and government officials. Remember to invite the mayor, congressional representatives, the chief of police and members of the city council. These people should all receive written invitations. Follow up with a personal phone call. Letters are not enough.
3. **PUBLICIZE** the event by sending a well-written news release (see sample) to the local media. You may also place paid advertisements in the local newspaper. Send the news release to the religion calendar editor, the city editor and the feature editor at the newspaper. Send a release to the assignment editor at the local television stations. Also send copies to news directors at the local radio stations. Send announcements to local churches.
4. **INFORM** your guests of mosque etiquette before they arrive (see "Welcome to Our Mosque" brochure). This will make them feel at ease and avoid embarrassment. Be ready to answer questions about prayer, separation of men and women and other common issues.
5. **CLEAN** the mosque. The first impression is one that will last. Make sure bathrooms are spotless. Have a mosque clean up day prior to the open house.
6. **SET UP** a reception area where guests can be received, told about mosque etiquette and served refreshments. Have greeters at the door to direct arriving guests. Have knowledgeable people conduct tours of the facility. Do not leave guests alone to wander about the mosque. Give each guest a name tag. Make sure sisters are available to make female guests feel welcome.
7. **SELECT** literature to be given to the guests. Avoid material with a strong political message. Do not push materials on guests. Let them select what they wish to read.
8. **POST** signs at appropriate locations in the facility.
9. **PRAY** that your efforts will open the hearts of your guests.

**NOTE** - The "Welcome to Our Mosque" brochures may be ordered from CAIR.

*God is most great, God is most great.  
I bear witness that there is no god but God.  
I bear witness that there is no god but God.  
I bear witness that Muhammad is a messenger of God.  
I bear witness that Muhammad is a messenger of God.  
Hasten to prayer, Hasten to prayer.  
Hasten to success, Hasten to success.  
God is most great, God is most great.  
There is no god but [the One] God.*

All Muslim prayers begin with recitation of *Al-Fatihah*, the opening chapter of the Qur'an:

*In the name of God, Most Compassionate, Most Merciful.*

*Praise be to God, Lord of the Worlds.*

*The Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.*

*Ruler of the Day of Judgment.*

*Only You do we worship, Only You we ask for help.*

*Show us the straight path.*

*The path of those whom You have favored,  
not that of those who earn Your anger, nor those who go astray.*

**Q: WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE BUILDING?**

A: Many mosques have a minaret, the large tower used to issue the call to prayer five times each day. In North America, the minaret is largely decorative. Facilities to perform *wudu*, or ablutions, can be found in all mosques. Muslims wash their hands, faces and feet before prayers as a way to purify and prepare themselves to stand before God. *Wudu* facilities range from wash basins to specially designed areas with built-in benches, floor drains and faucets.

Bookshelves are found in most mosques. They contain works of Islamic philosophy, theology and law, as well as collections of the traditions and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad. Copies of the *Quran*, Islam's revealed text, are always available to worshippers.

Calligraphy is used to decorate nearly every mosque. Arabic quotations from the *Quran* invite contemplation of the revealed Word of God. Other common features found in the mosque are clocks or schedules displaying the times of the five daily prayers and large rugs or carpets covering the *musalla* floor. Many American mosques also have administrative offices.

**Q: IS A MOSQUE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PRAYER?**

A: Though its main function is as a place of prayer, the mosque plays a variety of roles, especially in North America. Many mosques are associated with Islamic schools and day care centers. Mosques also provide diverse services such as Sunday schools, Arabic classes, Quranic instruction, and youth activities.

Marriages and funerals, potluck dinners during the fasting month of *Ramadan*, and *Eid* prayers and carnivals are all to be found in North American mosques. They are also sites for interfaith dialogues and community activism.

Many mosques serve as recreational centers for the Muslim community and may have a gymnasium, game room and weight equipment, as well as a library and classrooms.

**Q: DO MOSQUES HAVE SPECIAL RULES?**

A: Men and women should always dress conservatively when visiting a mosque, covering their arms and legs. Examples of inappropriate clothing would be shorts for men and short skirts for women.

Shoes are always left at the entrance to the prayer area so as not to soil the rugs or carpets. Shelves are usually provided to hold shoes. Women may be asked to cover their hair when visiting a mosque. Many mosques have scarves on hand for visitors to borrow, but it is better to bring a head covering in case none are available.