

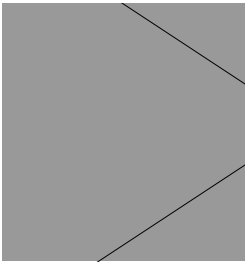


CAIR
CHICAGO

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

www.cairchicago.org

CAIR-Chicago



CAIR (the Council on American-Islamic Relations) was founded in 1994 and is a Muslim civil rights organization based in Washington, DC. CAIR-Chicago is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization registered independently in Illinois. CAIR-Chicago raises its own funds from its local constituency and sets its own operational and strategic agenda. Our office, located in the heart of Chicago's downtown business district, is currently in its fifth year of operation.

Our Vision

To attain equal opportunity for - and normalize the image of - Muslims in America.

Our Mission: *To defend civil rights, fight bigotry, and promote tolerance.*

"CAIR-Chicago's efforts to ensure justice and equality demonstrate that working for greater civil liberties of one communities advances the civil liberties of all communities."

-Richard J. Durbin, United States Senator

"I congratulate CAIR-Chicago on another successful year of serving the needs of the Muslim population in Illinois, and for working toward ensuring justice and civil rights for all the communities you serve."

-Pat Quinn, Governor

"I commend CAIR-Chicago for its efforts to promote cultural understanding and religious tolerance and offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event and much continued success."

-Richard M. Daley, Mayor

"The strength in America lies in its diversity. More than most any nation on Earth, America is truly a melting pot where people of all creeds, colors and religions come, drawn by our collective commitment to the value of human rights, democracy and equality. Trying times can challenge that commitment. This is one reason why civil rights organizations, such as CAIR, are so important."

-Lisa Madigan, Attorney General

"This year's theme, 'Unapologetic Activism: Our Legacy, Our Promise,' offers another wonderful opportunity to join family and friends in support of a great cause."

-Jesse White, Secretary of State

"I commend the goals of CAIR-Chicago for dealing with civil rights issues from discrimination of Muslims as well as getting involved in the political process."

-Roland W. Burris, United States Senator

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CAIR-Chicago’s Core Values

CAIR-Chicago is a Muslim organization that employs a trademark “professional activism” model in pursuit of its simple but important mission, “to defend civil rights, fight bigotry, and promote tolerance”. For five years, CAIR-Chicago has been committed to the following ideals established on our first day:

Credible: Gain the trust and respect of all involved.

Consistent: Our level of motivation and productivity should not waiver with time. The attention given to the various areas of our work should be even.

Professional: Level-headed, objective, and presentable.

Proactive: Create programs that predict and preemptively challenge potential problems.

Omnipresent: Our presence and our programs should enjoy high exposure both with members of the Muslim community, the general public, the media, and government.

Targeted/Focused: Well-defined problem areas and solutions.

Transparent: What you see is what you get.

Efficient: No redundancies. Putting the right people in the right place at the right time.

Egalitarian/Fair-minded: Reach out to support non-Muslims who face similar grievances as our own, or who see similar values to our own being challenged.

Accessible: Easy to find and reach whether by members of our community, or by members of the media.

Sincere: What fuels our work is not personal ego or a hidden agenda, but a genuine desire to effect positive change.



Executive Summary



*Ahmed Rehab,
Executive Director,
helped found the new
CAIR-Chicago in 2004
and initially served as
the Communications
Director*

CAIR-Chicago's services to the Chicagoland community saw historic achievements in 2009, its fifth year of operation. Over these last five years the organization developed from a two-person staff in a small suburban office, to a staff of ten with a team of dozens of interns and legal clerks, located in the heart of downtown Chicago.

The year began with the relocation of CAIR-Chicago into its fifth office space since its inception. The new space is three times the size of the former but rents for only double the cost, while furnishing us with a more professional layout that includes a lobby area, departmental offices, a conference room, two spacious intern centers and a kitchen.

In 2009, our Civil Rights Department, newly fortified with two staff attorneys along with a strong selection of law clerks, PILI fellows, and pro bono attorneys, fought and won a landmark employment discrimination case in *Yasin v. Cook County Sheriff*. This case was notable in that it was the first ever fully litigated case by a Muslim civil rights organization; our staff attorneys litigated the proceedings with no external assistance. More importantly, the case was a resounding victory for Officer Yasin, who was awarded full damages, and for all Muslim

“If you wish to fix your image, start by changing your reality.”

Americans who suffer from discrimination. This victory puts CAIR-Chicago on the map as a credible civil rights organization that works beyond advocacy and defense to prove itself as a serious contender in the courts. CAIR-Chicago also made major gains in the case of over 200 Somali meatpacking plant workers who alleged discrimination, as well as many other cases ranging from employment discrimination to public accommodation and discrimination at schools.

We also helped 47 Muslims become American citizens in 2009 through our work on the Citizenship Delay Project. Overall, a staggering 305 cases of discrimination were reported in which 77 cases were resolved, 19 settlements were reached, and 20 lawsuits were filed. 248 cases are currently open and being actively pursued. Since 2005, CAIR-Chicago has worked to resolve 1800 cases of discrimination.

Under the auspices of our Outreach Department, 2009 saw CAIR-Chicago extended to the world, and the world to CAIR-Chicago. Staff members toured and held speaking engagements in the Philippines, Turkey, and Australia. In turn, our office hosted civic and religious leaders from nearly 30 nations in four continents. In 2009, our acclaimed internship program matured in its diversity of opportunities, expanding the number of positions from 18 to 26. We were happy to welcome 46 new interns from across the United States, New Zealand and Argentina. Over

the last five years CAIR-Chicago has harnessed the talent of 214 hard-working interns who have contributed passionately to our work. CAIR-Chicago is also indebted to the over 500 hundred volunteer activists who have helped support our mission over the years.

Our outreach department continued to administer MYLS, the Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (www.mylschicago.org) and to coordinate various important interfaith meetings, community outreach programs, and civic service opportunities for community members.

Throughout 2009, CAIR-Chicago's Government Affairs Department actively engaged elected officials across local, statewide, and national government. After great achievements in 2008, such as registering thousands of new Muslim voters, and getting local Muslims to the polls in record numbers on November 4th – this year's focus has been to ensure elected officials act on the commitments they made during their campaigns. We continued our outreach to Muslims and other communities with shared interests to act on causes of particular importance, such as racial profiling policies, immigration reform, and employee rights.



Below:
Yaser Tabbara, former
Executive Director,
and Safaa Zarzour,
Ex-Officio





Through each area of involvement, the Government Affairs Department remained concentrated on advancing the Muslim communities' political clout, increasing civic participation, and further developing a Muslim political identity.

Again this year, CAIR-Chicago has received over 20 letters of commendation from the Governor of Illinois, the Mayor of Chicago, both Illinois Senators, and over a dozen congressmen and various other public officials with whom we have built positive community relations over the last five years.

2009 was yet another accomplished year for the Communication Department. It launched the 5th generation of our Web 2.0 site that completely revamped our online presence and incorporated all relevant social networking tools. CAIR-Chicago was featured, quoted or reported on over 130 times locally, nationally, and globally this year. The last five years have seen CAIR-Chicago in the press nearly 700 hundred times. 2009 witnessed an expansion

in the diversity of our spokespersons with Amina Sharif and Christina Abraham making numerous media appearances. From FOX News and right-wing radio stations to CNN, ABC, Al Jazeera's Riz Khan, and beyond, our staff worked to ensure that a positive and accurate representation of Muslim Americans was portrayed to millions nationally and around the globe. 2009 saw an increase in our number of published Op-Ed's in mainstream news publications. CAIR-Chicago also intensified our anti-Islamophobia work with significant research and contribution to anti-hate websites. The Communications Department continued to actively monitor the local media for fairness and accuracy in reporting, and write letters with valued feedback where merited.

CAIR-Chicago also celebrated the addition of a sixth department to its operations in 2009. Our new Development Department works to institutionalize the successes of the organization's processes by documenting them into our organizational manuals and databases in order to ensure both sustainability and efficiency. Furthermore, the department is responsible for continuously evaluating our current programs and strategizing ways to enhance them in order to ensure effectiveness and productivity. The Development Department is also committed to evaluating the needs of our growing community and working to meet those needs via innovative solutions. The Development Department serves as a resource to all CAIR-Chicago departments and works to secure the appropriate funds for the organization via grant research, writing and fundraising efforts.

In summary, 2009 saw CAIR-Chicago expand its effective, professional civil rights and media work on behalf of a community that trusts in us and deserves the best in return. I look back proudly on these first five years of CAIR-Chicago's mission. Due to the grace of God and the support of our community, we are consistently building momentum and increasing our expertise in the field. May each year's accomplishments be greater than the year before.

For more detailed updates on our work and progress, please read the rest of the report and be sure to visit: www.cairchicago.org. We hope that you will continue to support our services.

Ahmed Rehab

Executive Director



Civil Rights



Christina Abraham, Civil Rights Director, helped found the Civil Rights Department in 2005 when she began working for CAIR-Chicago as a volunteer.

CAIR-Chicago's Civil Rights Department fights to protect the civil liberties and equal rights of American Muslims. The department provides legal representation to victims of various forms of discrimination. Our expertise in the area of civil liberties affords us the ability to resolve incidents including hate crimes, employment discrimination, immigration and citizenship delays, religious bias in public schools and institutions, and banking, lending and housing discrimination. We pursue the appropriate remedying measures ranging from cultural sensitivity training for the perpetrating party to full litigation.

CAIR-Chicago ensures that every incident is also logged and recorded. This research is subsequently published by CAIR-Chicago in reports that aim to educate the public on the plight of American Muslims' civil rights.

Civil Rights Department Recap of 2009

In 2009, the Civil Rights Department at CAIR-Chicago met major milestones in its important work to defend the civil rights of American Muslims. CAIR-Chicago was the first Muslim civil rights organization ever to fully and successfully litigate a case of discrimination

“We legally advocate on behalf of those who have been victims of discrimination and hate crimes.”



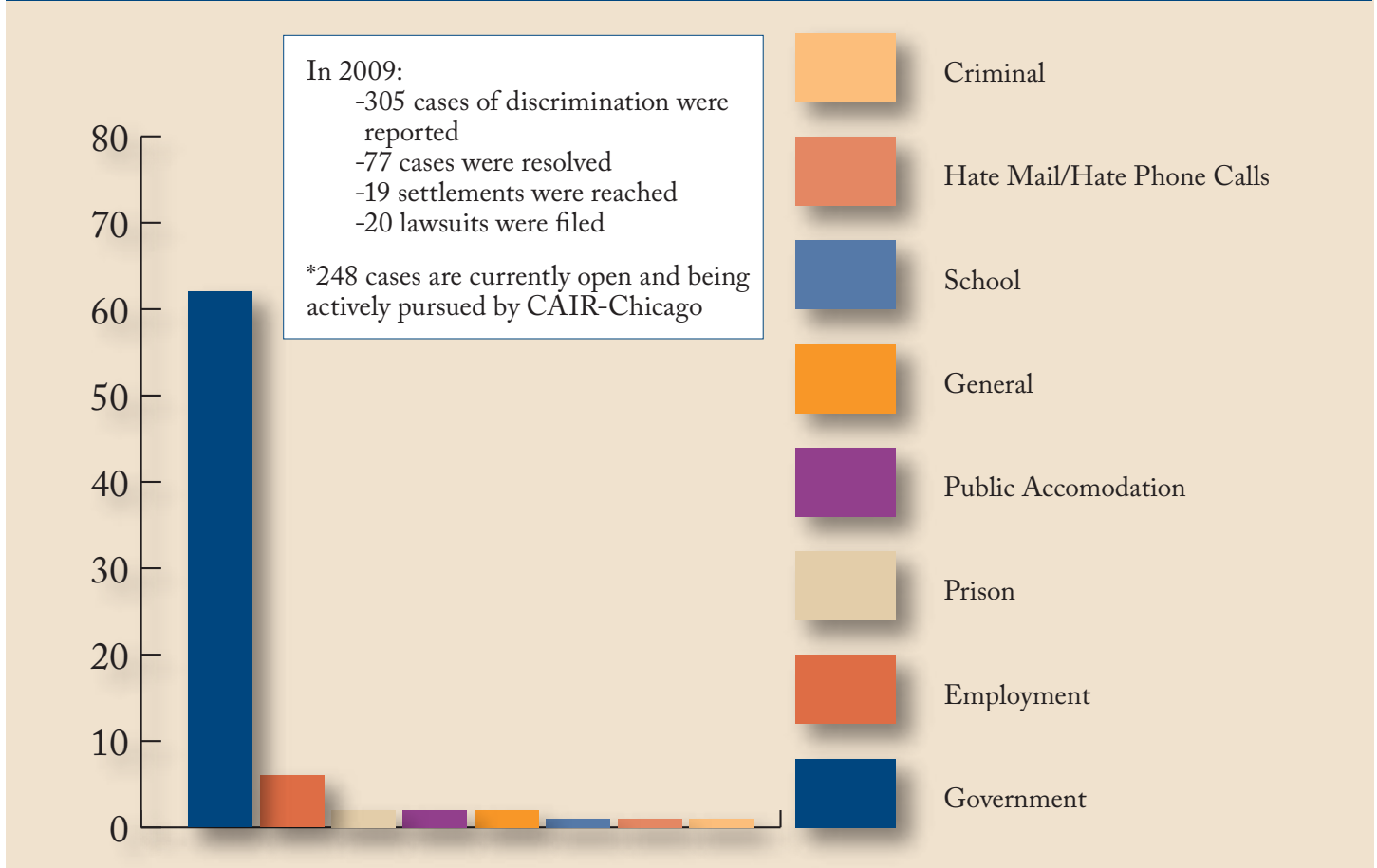
Kevin Vodak, CAIR-Chicago's Staff Attorney, joined the organization in 2008 and brought with him seven years of previous litigation experience.

in *Yasin v. Sheriff of Cook County*. The verdict granted Officer Yasin compensatory damages of \$200,000. CAIR-Chicago's Civil Rights Department is also pleased to say that it helped 47 Muslims become American citizens in 2009 through its work on the Citizenship Delay Project. In addition, we have seen a number of successes throughout the year in our various other casework. The Civil Rights Department has tirelessly worked to resolve a number of cases ranging from employment discrimination to public accommodation and discrimination at schools.

In 2009: 305 cases of discrimination were reported, 77 cases were resolved, 19 settlements were reached, and 20 lawsuits were filed. 248 cases are currently open and being actively pursued by CAIR-Chicago

The successes of the Civil Rights Department have been recognized both nationally and internationally. In 2009, Chicago-area law schools sought out CAIR-Chicago staff to speak to law students and lawyers on various issues such as constitutional law, and civil and human rights. CAIR-Chicago's Civil Rights Director, Christina Abraham, accepted an appointment to the advisory board of the BRussell's Tribunal, an international organization that seeks to prosecute war criminals. Ms. Abraham was invited to participate in a U.S. State Department delegation to the Philippines to discuss CAIR-Chicago's work with similar

2009 Civil Rights Department Cases Resolved



Filipino NGO's. In addition, Staff Attorney Kevin Vodak and Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham have conducted interviews and published articles on important legal issues.

Citizenship Delay

CAIR-Chicago's Citizenship Delay Project has been working since 2006 to end lengthy delays faced by Muslims applying for citizenship through political and legal means. This initiative also made its mark in 2009 by helping 47 individuals attain citizenship after being subjected to years of unnecessary delay. In total, CAIR-Chicago has received 454 reports of citizenship delay over the last four years, and of those cases, 367 have been resolved.

In 2006, CAIR-Chicago filed a class action lawsuit with the National Immigrant Justice Center and Competition Law Group, and as a result of the class action and dozens of individual lawsuits filed each year, many delayed citizenship applications have been granted. CAIR-Chicago's Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham continues to file complaints on behalf of individuals facing delays. Due to the growing amount of litigation regarding this matter, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has taken measures to decrease the wait time for individuals applying for citizenship; as a result, less people are now caught in unreasonably lengthy delays in becoming American citizens.

Discrimination in Educational Institutions

CAIR-Chicago has taken up several complaints regarding discrimination in schools and universities. Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham was actively involved in protesting the University of Chicago's invitation of former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to speak at the school. She legally represented a protester who was arrested at the event and spoke

Civil Rights



out against the University's decision to invite a contentious speaker accused of committing brutal war crimes.

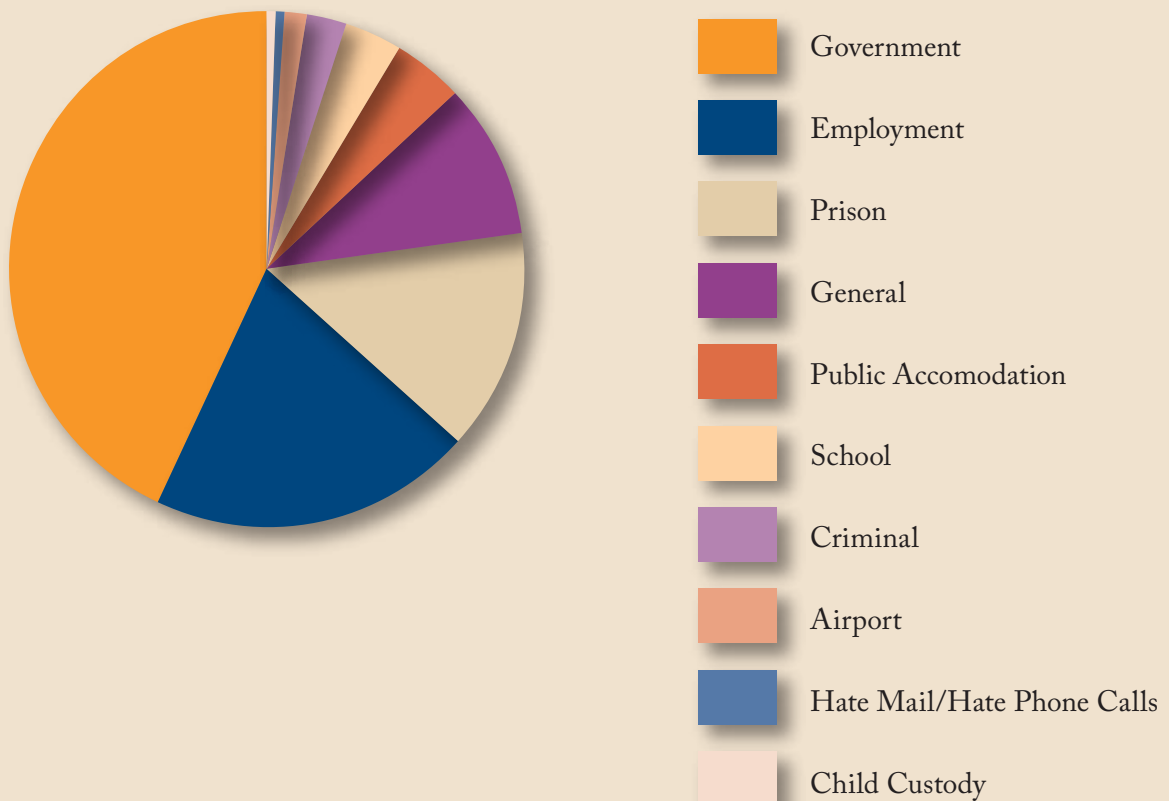
In addition, Civil Rights Department personnel actively worked to reinstate a suburban high school student who was indefinitely suspended by school administrators shortly after the attack on Fort Hood. CAIR-Chicago met with the school's administration and the student's parents and negotiated his reinstatement.

Staff Attorney Kevin Vodak represented a young student who was expelled from school after an altercation with other boys who had been harassing the student because of his religion and national origin. CAIR-Chicago assisted in filing a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education regarding the discriminatory treatment of the young boy and continues to represent him in the matter.

Employment Discrimination

The Civil Rights Department pursues resolutions to incidents of discrimination committed in the workplace against employees due to their Islamic faith affiliation, or in some cases, because they are thought to be Muslim. It receives numerous such reports each year.

Breakdown of Cases Reported in 2009





2009 saw a historic victory for CAIR-Chicago and the Muslim community in the employment discrimination case of *Yasin v. Cook County Sheriff's Department*. CAIR-Chicago's Civil Rights team litigated on behalf of Officer Abraham Yasin, a Palestinian American, who was harassed by fellow officers for years with racial slurs such as "terrorist," "Hussein," "sand ni**er," "bin Laden," "shoe bomber," and "camel jockey". Despite repeatedly reporting the incidents, multiple supervisors and the Internal Affairs Division failed to take adequate corrective action. The jury awarded Officer Abraham Yasin \$200,000 in damages for the harassment, confirming that he suffered from a hostile and abusive work environment. (read more on page X)

CAIR-Chicago also made major gains in 2009 in the case of over 200 Somali meatpacking plant workers who alleged discrimination. In 2008 Muslim workers at the Swift Co. plant in Grand Island, Nebraska, began facing harassment, and in many cases termination, after requesting that their break schedules be adjusted to allow them to perform their daily prayers. After a year-long investigation the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) determined that "such accommodation would not have posed an undue hardship to [Swift]" and that the evidence establishes that Swift's supervisors "subjected Somali Muslim Employees to unlawful harassment, disparate treatment, and discrimination ... based on their religion, national origin, race, and color." CAIR-Chicago is now in communication with the EEOC to prepare for litigation against the company.



Civil Rights



CAIR-Chicago filed action in federal court against Columbia College in 2009 on behalf of a Palestinian Muslim instructor who claims to have suffered wrongful termination after a student falsely reported that she made an anti-Semitic comment in class. CAIR-Chicago maintains that the College failed to conduct a thorough investigation into the claims or question witnesses before firing the instructor. This case is currently ongoing.

A complaint was also filed in federal court alleging that the trucking company USF Holland and YRC Worldwide Inc. discriminated against an African-American Muslim employee. The man reported to CAIR-Chicago that he was verbally abused based on his race, religion and disability and that the trucking company also refused to compensate him for an on-the-job injury that ended his career. This case is also in progress.

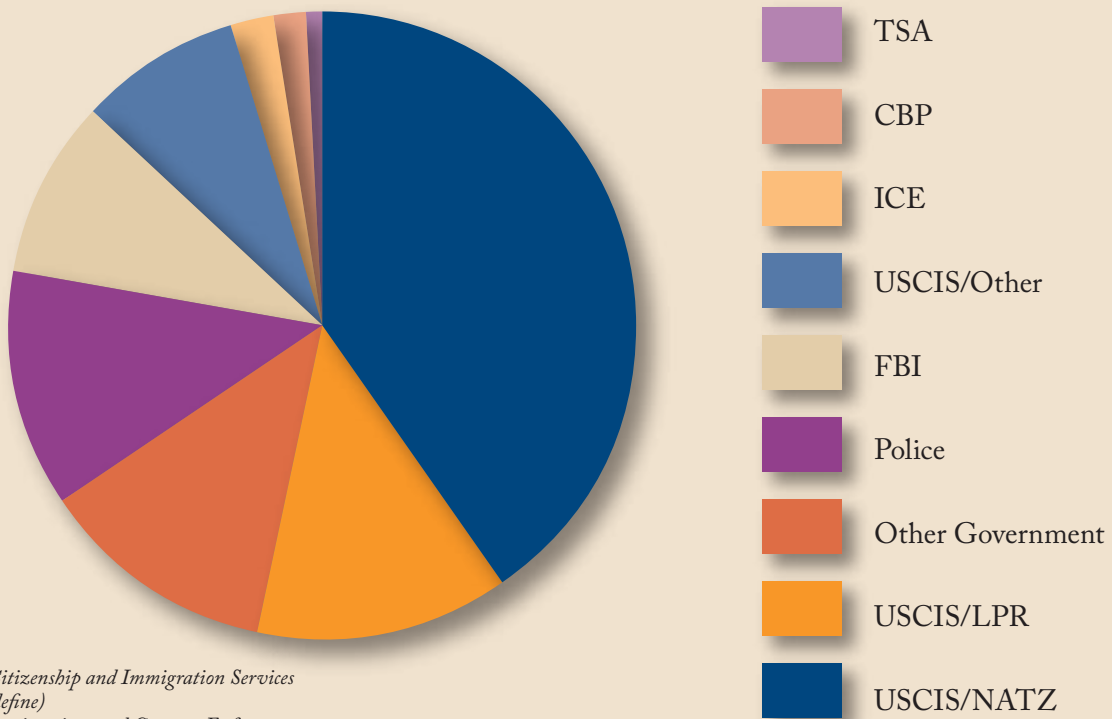
FBI Interviews

2009 saw a large number of Muslims reporting that they have been contacted by the FBI for interviews, some claiming that agents used intimidating tactics to coerce them into speaking without an attorney present. Our Civil Rights Department represented these individuals during their interviews to ensure that none of their rights were violated. CAIR-Chicago remains in communication with the FBI regarding any possible misconduct by agents.

Representing YOU and the Community

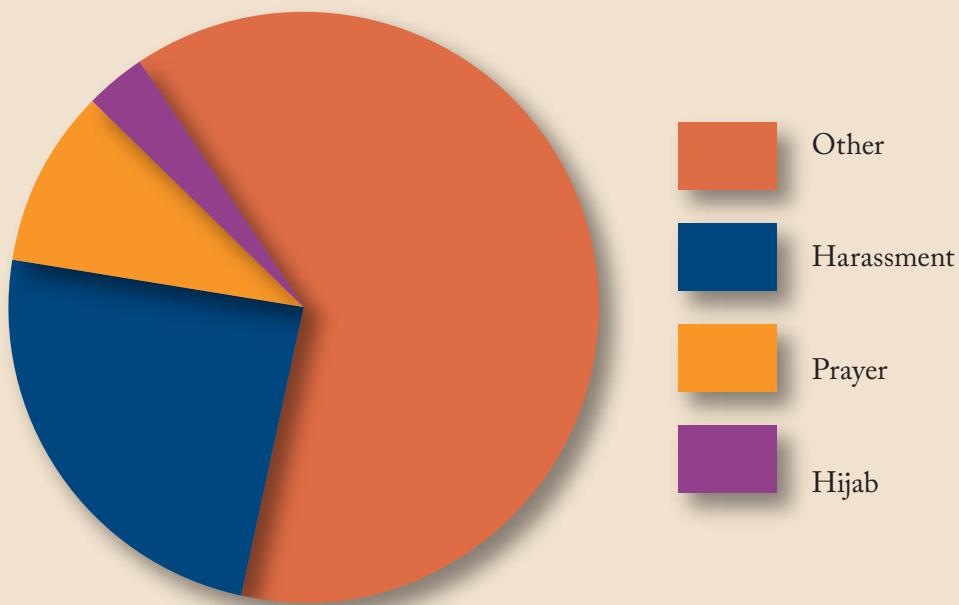
- Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham participates in State Department Delegation to the Philippines.
- Staff Attorney Kevin Vodak presents Know Your Rights lecture at the Muslim Community Center(MCC) in Chicago.
- Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham participates in panel discussion on Gaza at Kent Law School.
- Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham presents to Senn High School students on constitutional rights as part of the “Acting Free Program” sponsored by Pegasus Players and the Chicago Coalition to Defend the Bill of Rights.
- Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham speaks on panel entitled “Lessons from History: Japanese-American Internment and the War on Terror” at Northwestern Law School.
- Staff Attorney Kevin Vodak participates in panel discussion at Northwestern Law School on Chicago area surveillance issues.
- Staff Attorney Kevin Vodak and Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham present at event entitled “The War on Terror and the Rights of Muslims,” sponsored by the American Constitutional Society.

Civil Rights Dept. Government Cases in Focus



*USCIS: U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
 **LPR: (Please define)
 ***ICE: U. S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement

Civil Rights Dept. Employment Cases in Focus



Officer Abraham Yasin

“Today’s victory is not only for me, but for justice, fair play, and equality regardless of race, gender, or creed.”

CAIR-Chicago made civil rights history in July 2009 when it won the legal case *Yasin v. Sheriff of Cook County*. The jury verdict favored an Arab-American correctional officer in a discrimination case. The verdict awarded Officer Abraham Yasin \$200,000 in damages for harassment that created a hostile and abusive work environment. This was the first major jury litigated case on which a Muslim not-for-profit organization was the primary attorney – a first not only for CAIR-Chicago, but also for any Muslim organization in the U.S.

CAIR-Chicago began pro-bono litigation on behalf of Officer Yasin in 2007 after he reported experiencing harassment by other correctional officers starting in December 2004. Cook County officers continuously and anonymously targeted Yasin with racial slurs such as “terrorist,” “Hussein,” “sand ni*er,” “bin Laden,” “shoe bomber,” and “camel jockey” verbally and via graffiti on his locker. Yasin testified that his co-workers made calls over the radio and telephone about his ancestry and national origin as many as ten times a day and countless times for over a one-year period. Despite repeatedly reporting the incidents, the Cook County Sheriff’s department told him that if he could not handle it, he should get a civilian job. Multiple supervisors and the Internal Affairs Division failed to take adequate corrective action.

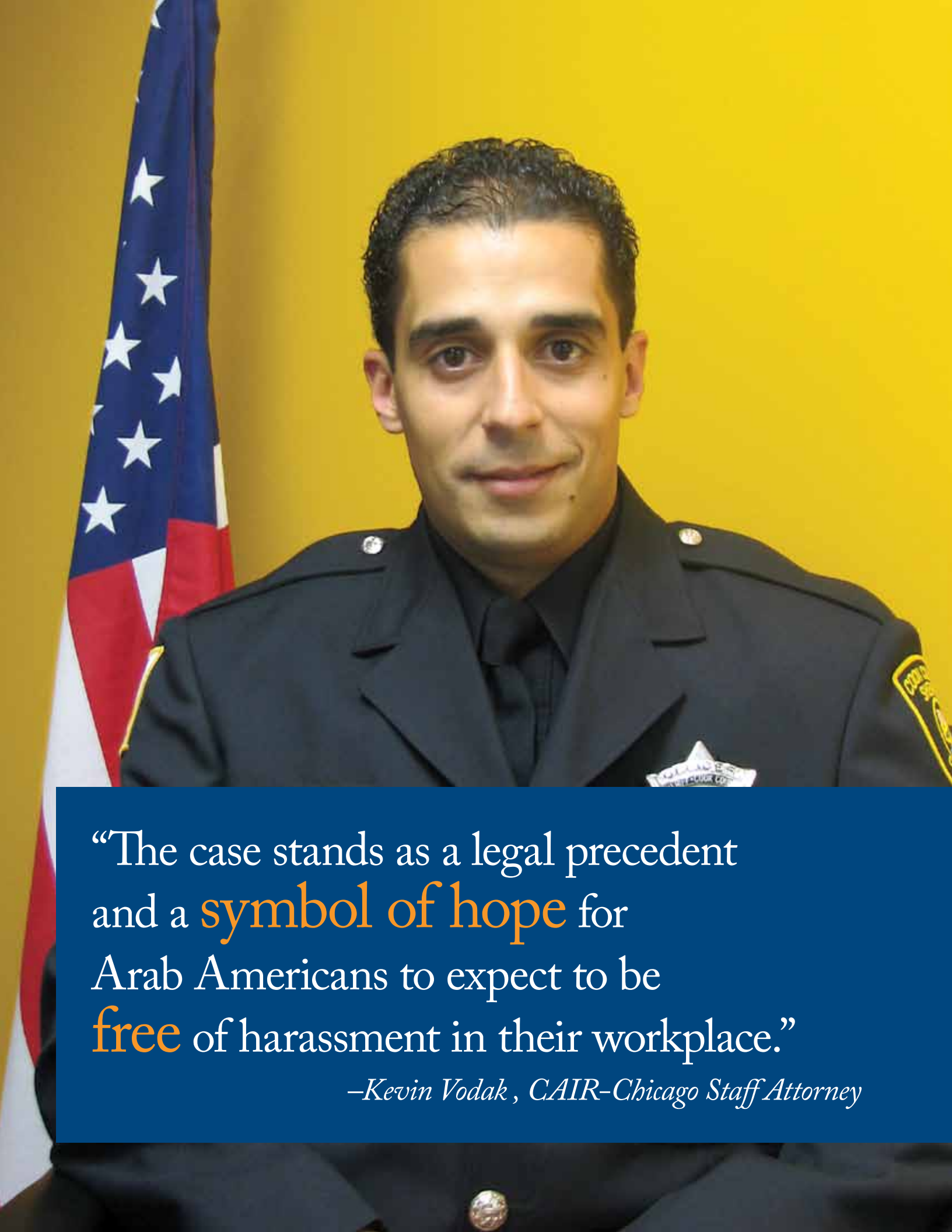
Yasin contacted 12 private attorneys who, reluctant to go up against the Cook County’s Sheriff’s Department, all declined to represent him. He then came to CAIR-Chicago,

and upon reviewing the facts, the Civil Rights Department took on his case. Following months of preparation, the case went before a jury in July of 2009. After a three-day trial, the verdict was read in Officer Yasin’s favor, awarding him the full \$200,000 demanded. Officer Yasin, who had suffered severe emotional distress, was vindicated, and a precedent was set for others like him.

In a statement Officer Yasin said, “After having agonized for so long, I can finally feel a sense of relief and vindication. I served my country in uniform with dignity and honor and felt betrayed that my service would be met by some of my fellows with racial slurs, harassment, and ridicule. This is not what our country is about. Today’s victory is not only for me, but for justice, fair play, and equality regardless of race, gender, or creed.”

“This was an unprecedented decision by jury-trial in the state of Illinois,” said CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney Kevin Vodak. “The case stands as a legal precedent and a symbol of hope for Arab-Americans to expect to be free of harassment in their workplace. The jury sent a clear message that no one is above the law in this matter, including the Cook County Sheriff.”

Yasin v. Sheriff of Cook County represents yet another notable milestone in CAIR-Chicago’s growth and progress as an organization sworn to serve Muslim Americans with professionalism and efficiency within the areas of its mission statement: defending civil rights, fighting bigotry, and promoting tolerance.



“The case stands as a legal precedent and a **symbol of hope** for Arab Americans to expect to be **free** of harassment in their workplace.”

–Kevin Vodak, CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney

Government Affairs



Government Affairs Coordinator Reema Ahmad has been with CAIR-Chicago since 2009. She previously interned at the office of U.S. Congresswoman Gwen Moore.

The Government Affairs Department is committed to the education, mobilization, and empowerment of the Muslim communities throughout the Chicago area. The department serves as a resource for local mosques and community centers, providing support to better enable Muslims to assume a strong political identity and actively engage representatives in positions of power and influence. CAIR-Chicago mobilizes the community around issues that affect American Muslims and reaches out to other groups and individuals through coalitions to make a quantifiable political imprint.

Throughout 2009, the Government Affairs Department actively engaged elected officials across local, statewide, and national government. After great achievements in 2008, such as registering thousands of new Muslim voters and getting local Muslims to the polls in record numbers on November 4th – this year’s focus has been to ensure elected officials act on the commitments they made during their campaigns. It continued its outreach to Muslims and other communities with shared interests to act on causes of particular importance, such as racial profiling policies, immigration reform, and employee rights. Through each area of involvement, the Government Affairs Department remained concentrated on advancing the Muslim communities’ political clout, increasing civic participation, and further developing a Muslim political identity.

“...this year’s focus has been to ensure elected officials act on the commitments they made during their campaigns.”



Civic Engagement and Political Education

In 2009 the Government Affairs Department stressed civic engagement and led the way for Chicago area Muslims to hold their elected officials accountable, frequently reaching out to representatives when issues or events mandated communication, and providing the information and resources for communities to become more involved in the decisions that affect them.

Coalition Building and Community Outreach

As a representative organization that operates on behalf of Muslims in the greater Chicago area, CAIR-Chicago reaches out to the community at large. One primary responsibility of the Government Affairs Department is fusing partnerships with other organizations that hold similar interests as the Muslim community.

Efforts That Increased Civic Participation and Political Education

- Compiling a database of polling locations in previous elections to increase the use of mosques and Muslim community centers as polling sites in future elections
- Providing information on candidates running for local and statewide offices
- Participating in community organizing trainings
- Educating the Muslim community on the local impact of the Illinois State Budget
- Partnering with the U.S. Census to disperse information to the Muslim community
- Organizing community conference calls on immigration reform to secure a Muslim voice in the larger debate

The Employee Free Choice Act campaign represented a cause CAIR-Chicago joined with the nationwide organization Interfaith Worker Justice as well as local labor unions, and CAIR chapters across the country. Volunteers sent postcards to Senator Durbin and other elected officials asking for support of this vital legislation that protects the rights of Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Religious and minority community organizations also came together in early 2009 to condemn racist hate speech by Congressional Candidate Rosanna Pulido. CAIR-Chicago was joined by Priests For Justice, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs (JCUA), and Equality Illinois – among others – in denouncing this candidate’s bigoted remarks and calling on elected officials to publicly condemn her comments.

Likewise, when the Illinois Republican Party attacked CAIR-Chicago and attempted to vilify the Muslim community, the strong partnerships built and maintained by our Government Affairs Department supplied enough support to refute the Islamophobic allegations and send a strong message to the Illinois GOP. The United African Organization, the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC), Universidad Popular and the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs (JCUA) – along with more than 10



Left: CAIR-Chicago Chairman, Safaa Zarzour accepting Community Service Award from Chicago Mayor, Richard Daley.



Government Affairs Coordinator Reema Ahmad speaking at a press conference hosted by ICIRR to announce upcoming meetings in the wake of Congressman Gutierrez's introduction of a Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill in Congress.

other organizations – publicly condemned the Illinois Republican party for its futile effort to marginalize the American Muslim community and CAIR-Chicago.

From establishing partnerships in more than eight congressional districts across the state to participating in multicultural forums with local law enforcement, CAIR-Chicago's Government Affairs Department continues to work in coalitions to address common causes, build support networks, and ensure that the many facets of Chicagoland's Muslim community are represented.

Issues Advocacy and Muslim Representation

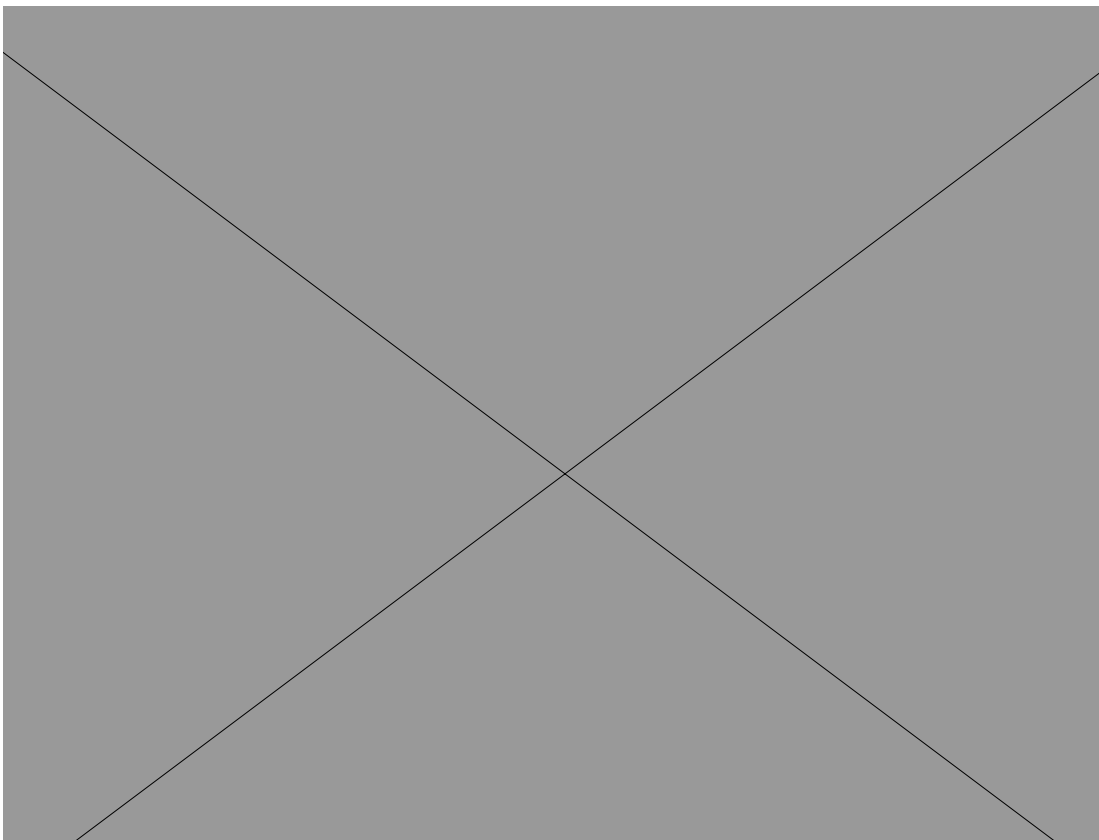
At the core of our Government Affairs Department is a commitment to the Muslim community to bridge the gap that exists with elected officials. It actively works on conveying concerns and engaging government representatives on vital issues through campaigns, written correspondences, and meetings with officials capable of enacting real change.

Comprehensive immigration reform was at the forefront of this cause during 2009 and CAIR-Chicago worked arduously to represent the Muslim community's interests in the

debate. Along with groups across the city and suburbs, CAIR-Chicago organized vigils and rallies, provided information and updates on the campaign, and involved elected officials on the issue. Meetings with Congressional Representatives and Senators were also established to further push for a reform of immigration policies that will benefit the Muslim community and nation at large.

Other causes advocated by CAIR-Chicago this year include the “Face The Truth” campaign, a nationwide program whose intention is to educate and mobilize broad support for legislative and policy reforms against all forms of racial profiling. Congressman Mark Kirk has been a particularly vocal proponent of Arab and Muslim profiling and thus CAIR-Chicago organized weekly vigils outside the Congressman’s district office demanding a meeting to hear Muslim and other minority community concerns regarding his stance on comprehensive immigration reform. Congressman Kirk finally did agree to a meeting in the immediate future.

Each year CAIR-Chicago receives over 20 letters of recognition from elected officials across all levels of government as well as government agencies throughout the state. This year CAIR-Chicago received letters of support from Mayors, Aldermen, law enforcement representatives, Members of Congress and Senators. This included Illinois Senators Dick Durbin and Roland Burris, Governor Pat Quinn, Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Secretary of State Jesse White, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, and Congressman Danny Davis, among many other notable leaders. (See letters at the end of the report.)



CAIR-Chicago’s Community Partners

- *Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)*
- *The Mosque Foundation*
- *Illinois Committee for Honest Government*
- *Rights Working Group*
- *Interfaith Workers Justice*
- *Jewish Council on Urban Affairs (JCUA)*
- *ACLU Chicago*
- *Rainbow PUSH Coalition*
- *The Chicago New Sanctuary Coalition*
- *Illinois Chapter of Americans For Democratic Action*
- *Reform Immigration FOR America*
- *United African Organization*
- *Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC)*
- *Universidad Popular*

Left: Rehab, a board member of ICIRR, with congressmen Gutierrez, Quigley, Davis, and Josh Hoyt.

CAIR-Chicago Helps Hundreds of Muslims Become U.S. Citizens

U.S. Naturalization

On July 23, 2009 Naim Zaita raised his hand, recited the Oath of Allegiance, and was sworn in as a United States citizen. After attempting to gain citizenship for nearly 4 years, this was a triumphant day for Zaita.

“I felt so good, and my family was very excited,” says Zaita. “I was so happy to finally have all those years of waiting behind me.”

Mr. Zaita is one of 367 individuals CAIR-Chicago’s Citizenship Delay Project has successfully helped in obtaining U.S. citizenship. CAIR-Chicago has been working since 2006 to end lengthy delays faced by Muslims stuck in the citizenship and naturalization process. In 2009 alone CAIR-Chicago received 81 complaints of unusual delays.

According to United States law an applicant must receive a decision about his citizenship within 120 days of the interview, but for hundreds of Muslims, as well as people with Arabic names, this process is prolonged for years. CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham says that delays are due to inefficiencies in the administrative process such as background checks and the post-interview adjudication process.

When a name is searched in the government’s name-check database, Abraham explains, every spelling variation of the name, and every name combination, is searched.

Another client passed his citizenship test in 2005, but for four years his application was pending a background check. Later, USCIS sent a letter rejecting his citizenship, claiming he missed a scheduled interview date allegedly sent in writing. Neither the man nor his representatives ever received

any such interview notice. As a result, CAIR-Chicago appealed his case and was granted a hearing.

“It shouldn’t take years for an applicant to receive a response,” Abraham says. “People are stuck in limbo and do not know their status. They have family members they want to bring to the United States and jobs waiting for them. Their future plans are hinging on whether they get this citizenship or not. Even if the application is going to be rejected, these individuals deserve to know within a reasonable period of time so that they can begin to plan their futures accordingly.”

In 2006, CAIR-Chicago filed a class action lawsuit with the National Immigrant Justice Center and Competition Law Group, and as a result of the class action and dozens of individual lawsuits filed each year, many delayed citizenship applications have been granted.

CAIR-Chicago’s Civil Rights Department continues to file complaints on a regular basis on behalf of individuals facing delays. Due to the growing amount of litigation regarding this matter, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has taken measures to decrease the wait time for individuals applying for citizenship; subsequently less people are now caught in unreasonably lengthy delays in becoming American citizens.

“We will continue to fight for those who are unreasonably delayed because of their ethnic backgrounds or religious affiliation” says Abraham.



“ We will continue to **fight** for those who are unreasonably delayed because of their ethnic backgrounds and religious affiliation”

Outreach



Outreach Coordinator, Gerald Hankerson, joined CAIR-Chicago in 2007. He has over ten years of experience working in youth development and intercultural engagement.

The Outreach Department works to educate and build bridges between Muslims and the diverse communities in Chicago. We establish partnerships with other civil rights and advocacy organizations, and bolster CAIR-Chicago's ability to serve its constituents in the Muslim community. The Outreach Department leads CAIR-Chicago's youth leadership, internship and volunteer activist programs, interfaith and intercultural dialogues, and educational seminars.

In 2009, the Outreach Department welcomed hundreds of supporters and partners into our new office, and invited the world to CAIR-Chicago's new Web 2.0 website. The internship program matured in its diversity of opportunities, expanding the number of positions from 18 to 26. Our Muslims Care initiative also broke new ground by joining efforts with national initiatives and causes. Furthermore, the Outreach Department met with civic and religious leaders from nearly 30 nations in four continents.

"...building bridges between Muslims and the diverse communities in Chicago."



The Outreach Department was invited to tour Turkey on a friendship and intercultural tour. We also were invited to visit the Philippines to present our best practices and perspectives on leadership, community service, youth development, and intercultural exchanges.

Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS)

The Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium initiative (www.mylschicago.org) is a one year leadership-training program designed to provide young American Muslims with a proactive agenda for positive activism. This year MYLS sponsored a summer fellowship entitled "Breakin' Out: Implementing Proactive Change", that taught future Muslim leaders how to design and develop service projects for implementation in their own communities. Participants were challenged to think of ways their religious values could be successfully leveraged to benefit self, community, and country. Every week, students contributed to the MYLS blog and shared their reflections on youth activism. Field trips to city festivals and landmarks highlighted how Chicago's social and civic culture manifests through the services provided to its citizens.



In 2009, MYLS co-founded the Chicago Youth Exchange (CYE). This one-year initiative brought together young leaders from diverse communities to foster intercultural dialogue and awareness, commu-



nity engagement, and the development of leadership skills. Young adults of African American, Caribbean, Jewish, Latino, Middle Eastern, and South Asian backgrounds came from across the metro area to share ideas and forge them into plans of action within their communities.

MYLS leaders also led youth leadership trainings outside Chicago. CAIR-Chicago Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson presented at CAIR-California's 5th Annual Muslim Youth Leadership Program Conference in the California State Capitol, where students learned about civic engagement and the political process. CAIR-Chicago's Youth Coordinator, Mokaram Rauf, was invited to join a U.S. State Department sponsored trip to the Philippines through Northern Illinois University's initiative, the Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP). Rauf spoke on the importance of faith-based activism and facilitating youth movements.



Outreach



CAIR-Chicago's internship program is promoted by over 120 universities across the nation who offer credit for working in our downtown office.

Internship programs are available through:

- University of Chicago
- Boston College
- Northwestern University
- Michigan State University
- St. Louis University
- Purdue University
- Loyola University Chicago
- DePaul University
- University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

Externship programs are available through:

- University of Chicago Law School
- Northwestern University School of Law
- DePaul University College of Law
- Indiana University School of Law
- Loyola University Chicago School of Law
- Valparaiso University School of Law
- University of Illinois College of Law



Internship & Volunteer Activist Program

CAIR-Chicago welcomes dozens of interns and volunteer activists each year who assist our staff in the daily activities that serve to build bridges of understanding and recognition of the Muslim community throughout the Chicago metropolitan region.

In 2009, over 100 volunteer activists were recruited, while our internship program hosted 46 interns from New Zealand, Argentina and across the United States.



Muslims Care

The Outreach Department expanded its Muslims Care campaign, a national program promoting community service (muslimscare.com), to be year round. This year's new endeavor began with the Martin Luther King National Day of Service and raised \$1,200. For the first time, CAIR-Chicago participated in the annual March for Babies charity walk. We held our perennial blood drive with the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago hosted at the Downtown Islamic Center. CAIR-Chicago also supported President Obama's national community service initiative, "United We Serve".

Mosque & Community Outreach

CAIR-Chicago delivered Friday sermons (*khutbahs*) across Chicagoland in an effort to promote key civic and humanitarian ideals fostered in Islam's teachings, and to connect the mosque communities with the resources that CAIR-Chicago offers.



Public Education & Academia

CAIR-Chicago staff spoke at prominent universities across the country, including University of Arizona, Northwestern, DePaul, Loyola, Saint Xavier University and the University of Illinois. Topics ranged from professional seminars to more nuanced issues related to Muslim American life.

We partnered with Chicago radio's Progressive Talk (WCPT 820 AM) in support of urban renewal efforts in the Austin neighborhood and the Employee Free Choice Act. With Elderhostel, an intercultural immersion program for senior citizens, we led interactive sessions on Islam and Muslims in the United States at the Prayer Center of Orland Park.

CAIR-Chicago hosted dozens of international diplomats from the U.S. State Department and was honored to meet internationally renowned leaders including esteemed South African anti-apartheid hero, Ahmed Kathrada, and President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed of Somalia.

Interfaith Engagement

CAIR-Chicago continues to be a partner in the Jewish-Muslim Community Building Initiative (JMCBI), an anchor of our interfaith events: Café Finjan, interfaith vigils and group discussions over contemporary issues and sacred texts.

For a second year, we engaged in the three-part interfaith forum of the Abrahamic traditions led by the Catholic Theological Union, entitled "In Good Faith."

A major milestone for CAIR-Chicago was presenting at the largest international gathering for interfaith engagement and dialogue, the Parliament of World Religions in Melbourne, Australia. Over 250 belief traditions were represented by over 10,000 attendees.



Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson with the Café Finjan planning committee, apart of the Jewish-Muslim Community Building Initiative (JMCBI) in March 2009.



Above: MYLS Mobilizes Youth for Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service

International Outreach

Through partnerships with the International Visitors Center of Chicago and Interfaith Youth Core, CAIR-Chicago welcomed international delegations of professionals, scholars, educators and civic leaders from Algeria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Colombia, Haiti, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Kosovo, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and the West Bank.

The year was capped with presentations and tours abroad in Turkey, the United Kingdom, Egypt, the Philippines, and Australia.

Outreach Highlights



Outreach Coordinator Visits Turkey on friendship and intercultural tour

Youth Coordinator Presents in the Philippines as U.S. State Department Delegate

Outreach Coordinator Presents at CAIR-California's 5th Annual Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP) in the California State Capitol



Filmmakers from the West Bank in conjunction with a U.S. State Department supported film project visit CAIR-Chicago

CAIR-Chicago's Volunteer Activists Fundraised for Infant Health

CAIR-Chicago presents at Saint Xavier University's 3rd Annual Interfaith Expo



Communications



Amina Sharif, Communications Coordinator, has been with CAIR-Chicago as staff since 2008 and formerly served as a Communications intern.

The Communications Department's mission is to help project a fair and accurate image of Islam and Muslims in the media and to challenge bias, bigotry, and prejudice in America's public discourse. We monitor the local media on a daily basis with the purpose of producing original commentary and analysis to reinforce positive coverage of Muslims and Islam, and correct imbalanced, simplistic, or biased reports. CAIR-Chicago serves as a resource for journalists to ensure that Muslim perspectives on pressing issues and current events are represented in the mainstream media. Covering a wide range of topics and issues, the CAIR-Chicago Communications Department conducts original research, releases public reports, delivers presentations on the state of media coverage, and produces the latest in new media including audio, video, graphics, web design, and blogs.

2009 Review

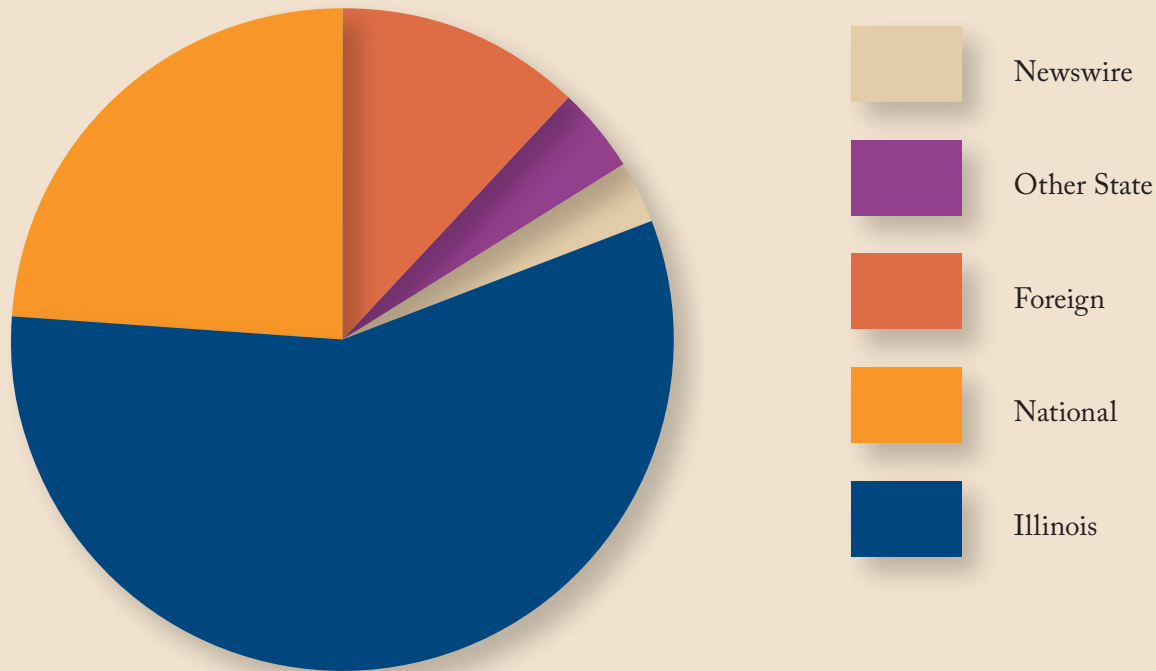
In 2009, the Communications Department's efforts resulted in CAIR-Chicago being featured in the press over 130 times. Over the last 5 years the organization has been in the media over 700 times.

Last year CAIR-Chicago was featured, quoted, or reported in the local, national and international media over 130 times.

2009 also saw the launching of the 5th edition of our Web 2.0 site, www.cair-chicago.org. The site was revamped to be more interactive and user-friendly, and to strengthen Muslim voices and perspectives in public discourse. The Communications Department also presented at several colleges and confer-



CAIR-Chicago in the News Media



ences this year to educate the public, clear-up misconceptions of Islam, and provide analysis on news media.

CAIR-Chicago in the News

CAIR-Chicago was featured, quoted or reported on in local, national and international media over 130 times. These included over 67 times in print media, 24 times on broadcast news (TV) and 15 times on radio, in addition to numerous references online. Over the last 5 years CAIR-Chicago has been in the news nearly 700 times.

Media Monitoring

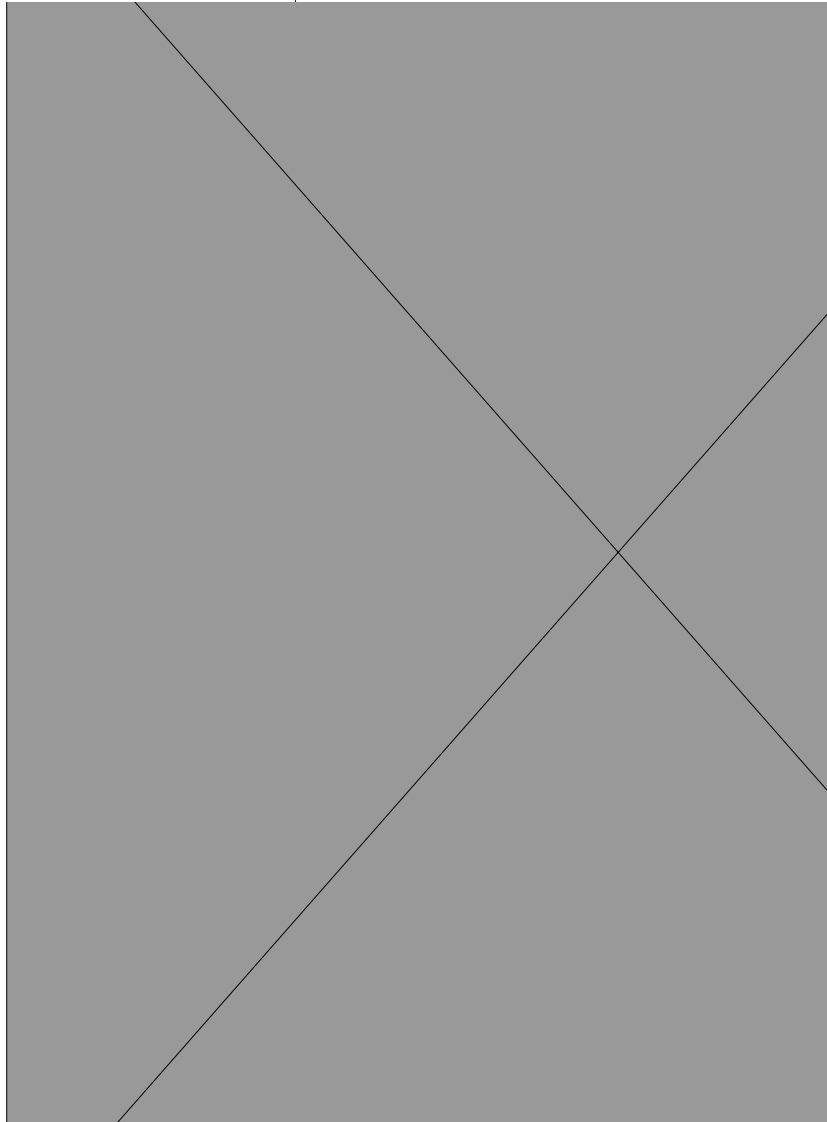
CAIR-Chicago continues to monitor the local media on a daily basis with the purpose of reinforcing positive and accurate coverage of Muslims and



Television Coverage

- FOX News
- ABC 7
- CBS 2
- NBC 5
- WGN
- CLTV
- WYCC TV
- Al Jazeera

Communications



CAIR-Chicago organizes press conferences to inform the media of important civil rights issues. One such press conference was held immediately after the winning verdict in the Abraham Yasin case (opposite page) was announced. All major media outlets were in attendance.

Islam, and challenging simplistic, inaccurate, or biased reports. Numerous articles, opinions and commentary pieces written by CAIR-Chicago were printed in mainstream press in 2009. Last year our staff and interns saw over a dozen Letters-to-the-Editor published countering bigoted or inaccurate portrayals of Muslims and Islam by Chicago newspapers.

Media Outreach

CAIR-Chicago holds press conferences and issues dozens of press releases and media advisories in order to ensure that Muslim perspectives on vital issues and current events are represented in the mainstream media. We also work closely with journalists to support positive, balanced stories on Islam and Muslims, providing feedback to major Chicago newspaper editors on their coverage. CAIR-Chicago has developed such a strong reputation with local media that journalists now come to us regularly seeking story ideas and news leads. This allows us to give the general public a better understanding of the American Muslim community.



Workshops and Training Sessions

The Communications Department led numerous lectures and workshops for journalists, community leaders, students, mosques, and organizations. These sessions trained participants on how to engage the media and become better activists and community spokespersons.

CAIR-Chicago delivered a media seminar at the Mosque Cares Annual Convention in 2009 to train activists from Muslim organizations and mosques around the country on cultivating strong media relations. The presentations offered practical tips on how to communicate with the media effectively, send clear messages to the public, and produce stories relating to Muslims in America.

Communications Coordinators from CAIR-Chicago also delivered numerous presentations to college students at various Chicago universities. These lectures were usually provided to journalism and media studies classes where students are asked to discuss the media and its portrayal of minorities. Communications Coordinator Amina Sharif developed in-class exercises to engage students in critical analysis of news reports. CAIR-Chicago teaches future journalists and news producers how to report on culturally sensitive issues, conduct credible research, and avoid generalizations and stereotypes.

Website

In 2009 the Communications Department redesigned the CAIR-Chicago website, releasing the 5th edition of www.cairchicago.org. Along with being more visually appealing, the website is easier to navigate and packs more information on each webpage. The website's sections have been designed to re-



Radio Coverage

WBEZ Chicago
Public Radio

FOX News
Radio

WGN

WBBM

WCPT

WVON

Radio Islam

Newswire Coverage

Associated Press

Agence France
Presse

Chicago
Breaking News

Medill News
Service

Communications



reflect the wide breadth of work performed by all CAIR-Chicago departments. The new Multimedia page allows users to see a selection of our photos, films, radio podcasts, and TV clips.

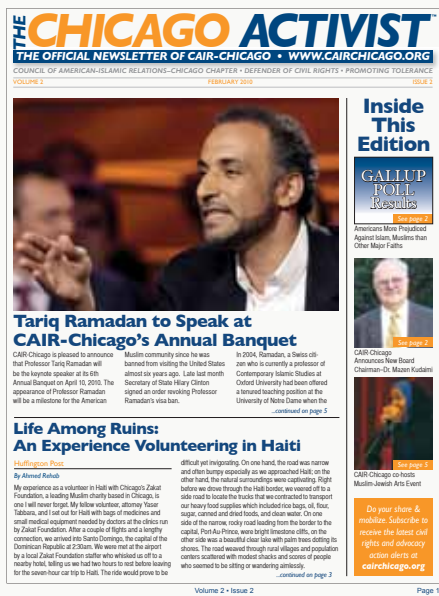
Cairchicago.org is now more interactive and allows users to leave comments, rank articles, search by different criteria, and share articles across the web. This vital content can be easily e-mailed, printed, or shared at a click of a mouse and is wired to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, LinkedIn, Digg, as well as Google. Users and CAIR-Chicago supporters can also now receive our RSS Feed. Together with the professional aesthetics, functionality, and cutting edge technology of the site, cairchicago.org is one of the largest and most tech-savvy not-for-profit websites in the United States.

Whether providing incident report forms for victims of discrimination or sharing the latest media and voter education guides, the improved functionality of the new website amplifies CAIR-Chicago's ability to serve the Chicago community.

Multimedia

The Communications Department continues to use new and innovative media and the latest technology to balance the public discourse on Muslims. This includes an in-house studio capable of capturing and producing original audio, video, blogs, graphics, and other web content.





Publications

The Communications Department continued to distribute its regular print newsletter at mosques and venues around the Chicago area, along with sending bi-weekly e-newsletters. Alongside reports and pamphlets, these publications showcase important updates on the organization’s work and provide information and analysis on the latest issues affecting American Muslims. Both forms of the newsletter include a Civil Rights Digest detailing CAIR-Chicago’s work on behalf of victims of hate-crimes and discrimination.

Newspaper Coverage

- Chicago Tribune
- Chicago Sun-Times
- Daily Herald
- Washington Times
- Huffington Post
- Orlando Sentinel
- Southtown Star
- The National
- Le Journal du Dimanche
- El Dia News
- Correio Braziliense
- The World Today (Australia)
- Brisbane Times

Communications Department: Events and Outreach

Here is a list of some of the activities of Communications Coordinators Amina Sharif and Reem Rahman in 2009:

- Amina Sharif and Reem Rahman conducted a workshop on cultivating positive media relations at the Mosque Cares Annual Convention
- Amina Sharif and CAIR-Oklahoma Director Razi Hashmi conducted an introduction to Islam presentation at the Interfaith Youth Core’s 6th Annual Conference
- Reem Rahman presented on “Islam’s presence in early America, 15th Century-1960” at Loyola University’s Islamic Awareness Week
- Amina Sharif presented a case study on biased news stories to journalism classes at Loyola University and Columbia College, and also discussed culturally sensitive reporting practices
- Amina Sharif presented to a Media Relations class at the University of Illinois in Chicago
- Amina Sharif spoke to a DePaul University class on Middle-East Communities in the U. S.
- Amina Sharif & Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham presented on CAIR-Chicago’s mission to promote and protect civil liberties to members of the Illinois Society for International Development at DePaul University
- Reem Rahman and Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson delivered presentation on Muslims in America and Women in Islam for the Elderhostel’s Days of Discovery “Building Bridges to Islam” program
- Amina Sharif and Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson conducted an introduction to Islam presentation at the Elderhostel’s Days of Discovery “Building Bridges to Islam” program
- Reem Rahman spoke on the crisis in Gaza at Aqsa School’s Annual Dinner
- Amina Sharif spoke on the crisis in Gaza at “The Change We Need” Rally for Palestine

Muslim Woman Attacked for Wearing Headscarf, Speaks out and Fights Back

Amal Abusumayah

Days after the Fort Hood shooting in November, 2009, Amal Abusumayah of Tinley Park, IL was shopping at a Jewel grocery store when a woman standing near her began shouting negative comments about Muslims in regard to the incident. Amal ignored the comments and continued her shopping. Later, as she was checking out, the same woman came from behind her and tightly pulled on her scarf in an attempt to pull it off.

Amal, a stay-at-home mother of four children, said she was “shaken up”, but immediately called Tinley Park police who came to the scene and detained the attacker, 54-year-old bank teller Valerie Kenney. Police officers encouraged her to press charges, but instead she told police to let Kenney go.

“I just wanted to forget about the whole thing. These things are quite common. I thought telling the police was enough,” said Amal.

After coming home and talking to her family about the incident she began to think about the implications of her decision.

“Women usually won’t report it because they see no point,” said Amal. “Another Muslim woman in Tinley Park had her headscarf completely pulled off at the mall just a year earlier, and security guards did nothing.”

Amal realized that she needed to challenge these crimes, and decided to press charges as an example for other Muslim women while sending a clear message to those individuals who harbor aggression toward Muslim Americans.

“I wanted to show other racist people who might think of putting their hands on a Muslim woman that if they do this they’ll have to face consequences.”

Amal also contacted CAIR-Chicago who began to advocate on her behalf and reached out to the FBI to involve them in the matter, (certain hate crimes can be prosecuted as federal crimes).

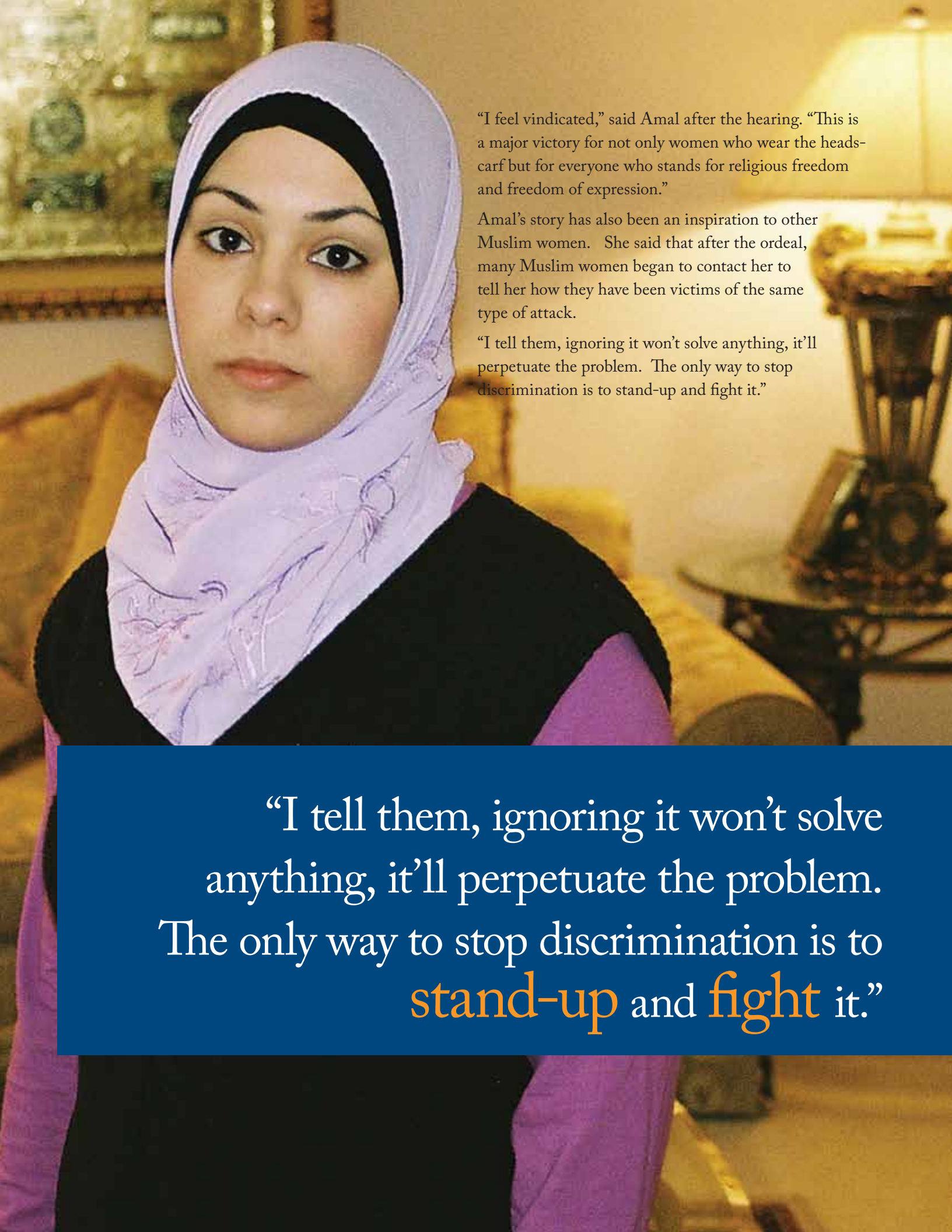
“In other countries, like in France and Turkey, Muslim women don’t have as many rights and when they’re harassed, no one helps them. But here in America we have rights; we have a supportive government, so we should be the ones standing up for Muslim women,” said Amal.

CAIR-Chicago also generated media coverage on Amal’s behalf to make sure she could get her message across to the general public. The story was covered by every major news service in Chicago, including TV stations, radio stations, and newspapers. The incident was also reported on by national and international media outlets.

On January 5, 2010, a plea agreement was reached between state prosecutors and Kenney. Prosecutors said as part of the plea deal, the charges were changed to battery and parts of the Hate Crimes Law sentencing guidelines were applied. Kenney was sentenced to 2 years probation, 200 hours of community service, and a \$2,500 dollar fine.

Kenney apologized openly in court to Amal, her family, and the Muslim community.

“We are happy with the decision and we hope this sends a message to the public that this sort of behavior should not be tolerated by a fair and just society,” said Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham, who attended the hearing with Amal. “I think the terms of the plea agreement adequately address the issue and gave the defendant an opportunity to learn from her mistake.”



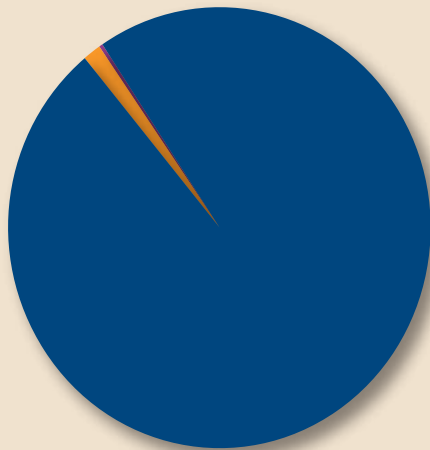
“I feel vindicated,” said Amal after the hearing. “This is a major victory for not only women who wear the headscarf but for everyone who stands for religious freedom and freedom of expression.”

Amal’s story has also been an inspiration to other Muslim women. She said that after the ordeal, many Muslim women began to contact her to tell her how they have been victims of the same type of attack.

“I tell them, ignoring it won’t solve anything, it’ll perpetuate the problem. The only way to stop discrimination is to stand-up and fight it.”

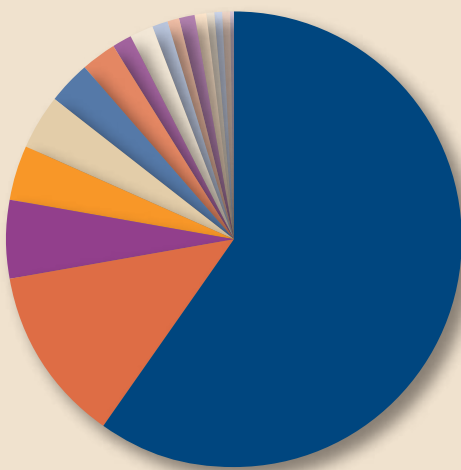
“I tell them, ignoring it won’t solve anything, it’ll perpetuate the problem. The only way to stop discrimination is to **stand-up** and **fight** it.”

2009 Financial Summary: Income



Direct Public Support	\$517,715.50
Legal Services	\$7,808.32
Grant: Development	\$1,572.72
Total:	\$527,096.54

2009 Financial Summary: Expenses



Accounting Fees	\$4,899.27
Bank Charges	\$2,945.09
Books & Subscriptions	\$932.33
Consulting Services	\$4,867.00
Contract Services	\$7,610.00
Employee Benefits	\$15,931.90
Events & Projects	\$64,891.74
Legal & Court	\$20,152.00
Liability Insurance	\$4,312.13
Meals & Entertainment	\$2,992.04
Media & Marketing	\$6,332.32
Office & Supplies	\$20,657.12
Office Lease & Utilities	\$30,237.40
Printing & Mailing	\$12,858.39
Salaries & Payroll	\$315,800.52
Travel & Meetings	\$3,244.69
Other	\$8,228.22
Total:	\$526,892.16

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR

April 10, 2010

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Greetings!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 4th Annual Banquet of the Council on American Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter (CAIR-Chicago).

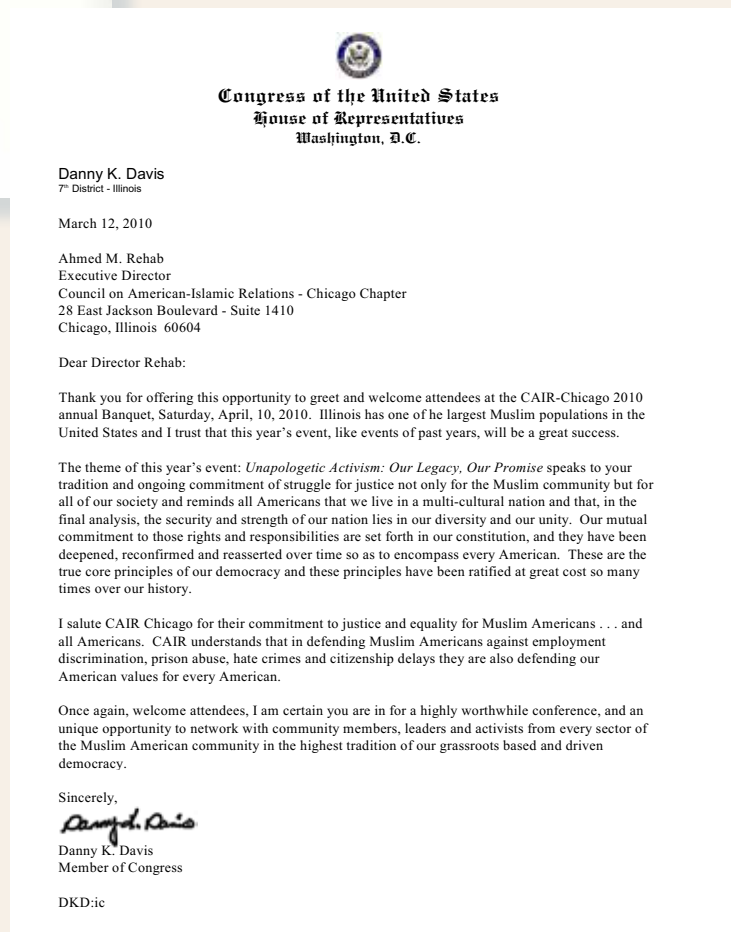
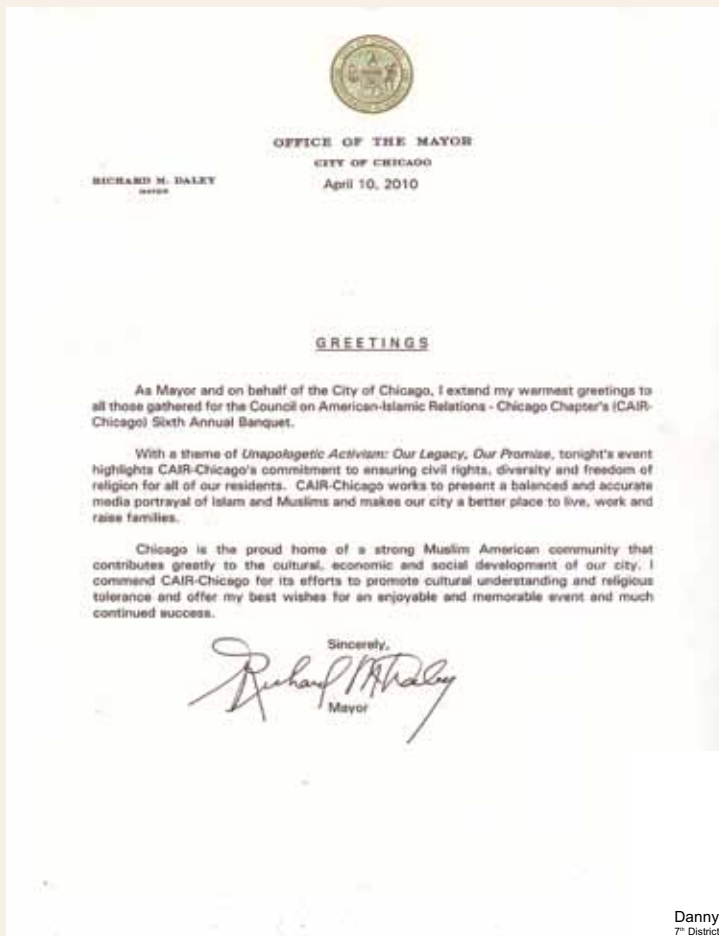
I congratulate CAIR-Chicago on another successful year of serving the needs of the Muslim population in Illinois, and for working toward ensuring justice and civil rights for all the communities you serve. Your efforts to reach out to divergent faiths and build broad coalitions are truly commendable. In a state as diverse as ours, every effort to broaden cultural awareness and understanding is truly appreciated. I commend everyone in attendance for your dedication to advancing the wellbeing of Muslims throughout the Land of Lincoln and across the country.

The only way for us as a society to truly achieve unity and equality is through an understanding of the many diverse cultures that make up this great country. By respecting and embracing our differences and recognizing what makes us all unique, we can come together and work towards breaking down existing barriers of prejudice and discrimination.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,
Pat Quinn
Pat Quinn
Governor

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC WHIP
REGIONAL DEMOCRATIC WHIP
CONGRESSIONAL BIOTECH CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR
ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
Subcommittee on Health
Subcommittee on Telecommunication & the Internet
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection



BOBBY L. RUSH
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

April 10, 2010

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(708) 985-3865 (fax)

WEBSITE: <http://www.koons.gov/rd>

Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1410
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab:

Thank you so much for your gracious invitation to the 6th Annual Banquet being held this weekend. It is my pleasure to extend my best wishes and warmest greetings to everyone gathered for the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) of Chicago's special event.

The Muslim community plays a critical role in Illinois's economy and an invaluable cultural asset to the Chicago community. Under your leadership, CAIR-Chicago has continued to grow numerically, as well as spiritually. You have worked tirelessly to enhance the lives of others by providing opportunities for families and communities to make a difference in the quality of their lives. I am encouraged by the dedication and the commitment that you have demonstrated in highlighting the richness of Muslim traditions and heritage. The example that you have and are continuing to set forth in the Muslim community is to be commended.

On behalf of the people of the First Congressional District of Illinois, I am privileged to salute you on your six years Anniversary. I pray God's rich blessings upon you as you continue to lead CAIR-Chicago forward into this new millennium.

I wish all of you a very successful evening.

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

BLR: ys

0-55711



March 23, 2010

Dear Friends:

I would like to extend my welcome to everyone gathered today. The Council on American-Islamic Relations has done tremendous work in the past year and the 6th annual banquet is a great way to celebrate the achievements of this organization.

I encourage all of you to take a moment and recognize all of CAIR-Chicago's hard work in promoting justice, protecting civil liberties, and encouraging dialogue between different cultures and religions. All of these honorable endeavors help to enhance not only the Muslim community, but our global understanding of each other and pave the way for peaceful and substantive dialogue. I congratulate them for their efforts.

Sincerely,

Rep. Mike Quigley

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

LISA MADIGAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 10, 2010

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Boulevard – Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Friends,

As Illinois Attorney General, I am honored to welcome you to CAIR-Chicago's Sixth Annual Banquet. The Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations is one of the most vibrant and dynamic chapters in the country and has much to celebrate in 2010.

The strength of America lies in its diversity. More than most any nation on Earth, America is truly a melting pot where people of all creeds, colors and religions come, drawn by our collective commitment to the value of human rights, democracy and equality. Trying times can challenge that commitment. That is one reason civil rights organizations, such as CAIR, are so important.

Your theme this year, "Unapologetic Activism, Our Legacy, Our Promise," reminds us that despite fear and apprehension, we must never turn away from our dedication to human rights for all. Building on a legacy of true justice assures a brighter, more peaceful and prosperous future for everyone.

Again, welcome to all in attendance tonight, and may 2010 prove to be a wonderful and successful year for CAIR-Chicago and all those it serves.

Very truly yours,

Lisa Madigan
Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

ROLAND W. BURRIS
SENATOR

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE ON HOME AND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 10, 2010

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Chicago Chapter as you celebrate your 6th Annual Banquet. With this year's theme being "Unapologetic Activism: Our Legacy, Our Promise", this celebration will be a great testament to the unwavering spirit of the Islamic community to be an integral part of this country and the state of Illinois.

I commend the goals of CAIR-Chicago for dealing with civil rights issues from discrimination of Muslim as well as getting involved in the political process. Helping community members understand and utilize the political system will ensure that the government is working for the people. Most importantly, I truly admire your dedication to empowering the Muslim community and to foster understanding between Chicago's Muslim and non-Muslim communities through public education. This important dialogue will only serve to strengthen the bonds of all Americans, regardless of their religious beliefs.

Once again, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter. I am certain that the hard work and planning put into this event will give everyone in attendance a truly exciting and enriching experience. I wish you continued success and good luck with your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Roland W. Burris

Roland W. Burris
United States Senator

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LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
Springfield, Illinois 62756

Jesse White
Secretary of State

April 10, 2010

Council on American-Islamic Relations,
Chicago Chapter (CAIR-Chicago)
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Greetings:

As Secretary of State, it is my great pleasure to welcome each of you to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter's 6th Annual Banquet.

This year's theme, "Unapologetic Activism: Our Legacy, Our Promise," offers another wonderful opportunity to join family and friends in support of a great cause. For numerous years, CAIR-Chicago has remained dedicated to defending civil rights, fighting bigotry and promoting tolerance. It is great to see that you continue to inspire the community and improve the lives of those living within it.

As you reflect upon the past accomplishments of 2009, know that the people of Illinois join me in offering our thanks for your commitment to the Muslim community.

Again, congratulations on a wonderful year and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE
JULIE CAPRONI BUILDING
1200 NORTH LAUREL STREET
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62762
TEL: 217/243-3000
FAX: 217/243-3008



LEGISLATIVE OFFICE
ONE TRINITY CENTER, SUITE 100
100 N. LAUREL STREET, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62762
TEL: 217/243-3000
FAX: 217/243-3001

Carole A. Pankau
STATE SENATOR - 23RD DISTRICT

CAIR Illinois
Chicago Chapter
28 E. Jackson Blvd.
Suite 1410
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear CAIR-Chicago chapter members,

It is my great honor to bestow upon you and your council my sincerest congratulations for your outstanding advocacy work on behalf of the Muslim Community in Chicago and Illinois.

Your goal of ensuring justice for embattled Muslims who face ignorance and intolerance because of their religious beliefs is laudable. And your work to advance the civil rights of Muslims is a shining example for all of us, no matter our religious beliefs or our race or background.

Violence, racism and hate are never the solutions to the world's problems. Your efforts to identify and eradicate discrimination against Muslims and all people should be rewarded and recognized. I know as a state Senator that people should use the political system to work for them and CAIR has a record of achievement in teaching Muslims to stay politically active and positively engaged in government. I commend your organization for the excellent work you perform for the public including voter registration drives, community workshops, "know your rights" educational campaigns, and training of mosques and Muslim centers on how to contact local and national politicians.

CAIR's work to empower the Muslim community and to foster an understanding between Chicago's Muslim and non-Muslim communities should serve as a model for the rest of the world to learn how to live together in peace and harmony.

Thank you for the opportunity to dialogue with the Muslim community and congratulations for the fine public service you provide.

Sincerely,

CAROLE PANKAU
State Senator
23rd Senate District

RECEIVED: APRIL 10, 2010

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

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309A STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
PHONE: 217/782-9407
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ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
CHRISTINE RADOGNO
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER
41ST SENATE DISTRICT

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1011 STATE STREET, SUITE 210
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CRADOGNO@SBCGLOBAL.NET

March 26, 2010

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60604

My Friends:

Once again, it is time to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations – Chicago on another successful year.

Your organization has made significant contributions to the city of Chicago and the surrounding communities. I particularly applaud your efforts to educate the public and to foster understanding of the diversity in our communities.

In addition, your advocacy work has had a positive impact on the lives of many Illinois resident. Your work to protect the rights of Muslim Americans – and fight against persecution and injustice – can benefit all Americans.

Congratulations on another year of working together to make Illinois a better place to live. I wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

Christine Radogno
Illinois Senate Republican Leader
41st District

CR:ps/mif

DOROTHY BROWN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT



Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, Illinois 60602, Room 1001
312-603-6030
FAX 312-603-4557
www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

April 10, 2010

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter
28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Mr. Rehab:

Greetings to you and everyone attending the 6th Annual banquet for the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). The selected theme, "Unapologetic Activism: Our Legacy, Our Promise," is inspirational, and echoes the American tradition of noble struggles to maintain the rights of all citizens under the Constitution.

Each year, I welcome the opportunity to commend CAIR-Chicago for its commitment to ending practices of defamation and discrimination in our communities, and its efforts to unite individuals from various backgrounds in support of its mission to ensure justice for all. The CAIR organization works tirelessly to promote understanding across racial, religious and cultural lines, and thereby serves to enhance the quality of life for all Americans.

I applaud CAIR for its statement of "unapologetic activism," and offer the sage words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said, "We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline."

For its dedication to inclusiveness, civic responsibility, human rights and public safety, I extend best wishes for continued success to the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Dorothy Brown
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

Staff & Board

Staff

Executive Director
Ahmed Rehab

Civil Rights Director
Christina Abraham

Staff Attorney
Kevin Vodak, Esq.

Communications Coordinators
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Youth Coordinator
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Cultural Sensitivity Speaker
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(Safaa Zarzour, Esq. - Ex-Officio)

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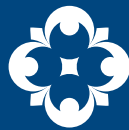


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