



CAIR
CHICAGO

2010 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 seventh year of operation.



Above:
Muslim youth participate in CAIR-Chicago's annual MYLS leadership conference

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.*

TESTIMONIALS

"CAIR-Chicago advances a greater understanding of the Muslim culture and serves as an essential thread in the multicultural fabric of our nation. Your efforts to advocate for tolerance promote the civil liberties of all communities."

-Richard Durbin, U.S. Senator

"I commend CAIR-Chicago for its efforts to promote cultural understanding and religious tolerance."

-Richard M. Daley, Mayor

"Your theme this year, 'Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide', stresses to us the importance of building true understanding among all communities, regardless of faith or creed."

-Lisa Madigan, Attorney General

"I congratulate CAIR-Chicago on another year of serving the needs of the Muslim population of Illinois... Your efforts to reach out to divergent faiths and build broad coalitions are truly commendable."

-Pat Quinn, Governor

"I applaud and commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations for its stellar efforts and commitment in helping to ensure justice, civil rights, and the ending of discriminatory practices throughout the communities you dutifully serve."

-Jesse White, Secretary of State

"We respect your mission, acknowledge your hard work and applaud your accomplishments."

-Danny K. Davis, U.S. Congressman

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	5
Financial Report	7
Civil Rights Department.	8
In Focus: Imam Kifah Mustapha	14
Government Affairs Department	16
In Focus: Irshad Learning Center	20
Outreach Department	22
Communications Department	28
In Focus: Swift Factory Workers.	34
Letters of Recognition	36
Staff & Board	47



*Above:
Executive Director
Ahmed Rehab speaks
to the media during a
rally condemning an
attack on an Assyrian
church in Iraq*

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 six years, CAIR-Chicago has been committed to the following ideals established on our first day:

Credibility: Gain the trust and respect of all involved.

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

Professionalism: Level-headed, objective, and presentable.

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

Omnipresence: 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 Scope: Well-defined problem areas and solutions.

Transparency: What you see is what you get.

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

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

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

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

Executive Summary

In its six years of service, CAIR-Chicago has resolved 1,875 cases of anti-Muslim discrimination, conducted nearly a thousand mainstream media interviews, and graduated 250 interns.

Since day one, CAIR-Chicago's guiding light has been our unique organizational model of Professional Muslim Activism. This model combines corporate standards in all aspects of our technical work with the Islamic values of human care and social justice in our treatment of the issues.

CAIR-Chicago is an autonomous, grassroots, community-based organization. We have grown from a two-person volunteer staff into an institution served by 11 staff members and dozens of interns, and fueled exclusively by local community donations.

2010 saw continued success for CAIR-Chicago. Our influence has expanded from the local scene into the national and international scene in terms of alliances, speaking tours, and media access. Our civil rights department has developed further as a legal clinic with in-staff attorneys able to fully litigate cases in court without external assistance or third-party costs. Our online presence has expanded with cutting-edge websites, blogs, and social media. The diversity of our interns is



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

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

a testament to the popularity of CAIR-Chicago as a destination for young activists eager to cut their teeth in serious civil rights work.

During this historic time in which Islam and Muslims often headline primetime news - whether in the context of Islamophobia, terrorism, political participation, or pro-democracy revolution in the Middle East - CAIR-



*Left: Ahmed Rehab
and Rev. Jesse Jackson
on a TV show*



*Above:
Volunteers from
Francis Parker School
monitor the media with
the Communications
Department*

Chicago's activists have been omnipresent presenting a courageous and clear voice that speaks faithfully to the ideas and emotions expressed in the American Muslim community.

In 2010, our representatives have been hosted dozens of times on networks such as CNN, FOX, MSNBC, Al Jazeera, NBC, ABC, CBS, WGN, NPR and others. Our Op-Eds have been published in the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, the Daily Herald, and the Huffington Post, among other newspapers and websites. Our staff members have spoken on the pressing issues facing the American Muslim community at universities and colleges in the Chicagoland area and beyond.

Most importantly, CAIR-Chicago continues to be a rising force in the realm of civil rights defense and advocacy both in terms of public opinion and legal representation.

Please continue to read through this annual report for a detailed synopsis of our work in the year 2010 and remember to visit: www.cairchicago.org. We hope that you will continue to support our services.

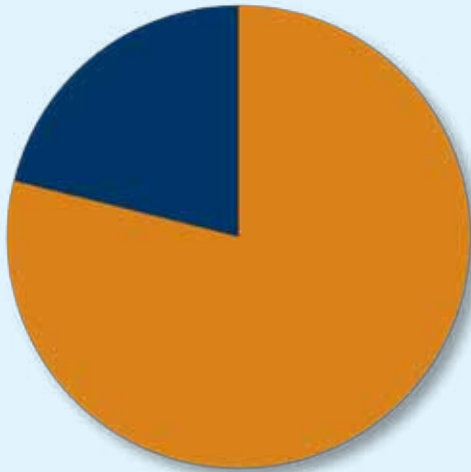
Ahmed Rehab

Executive Director



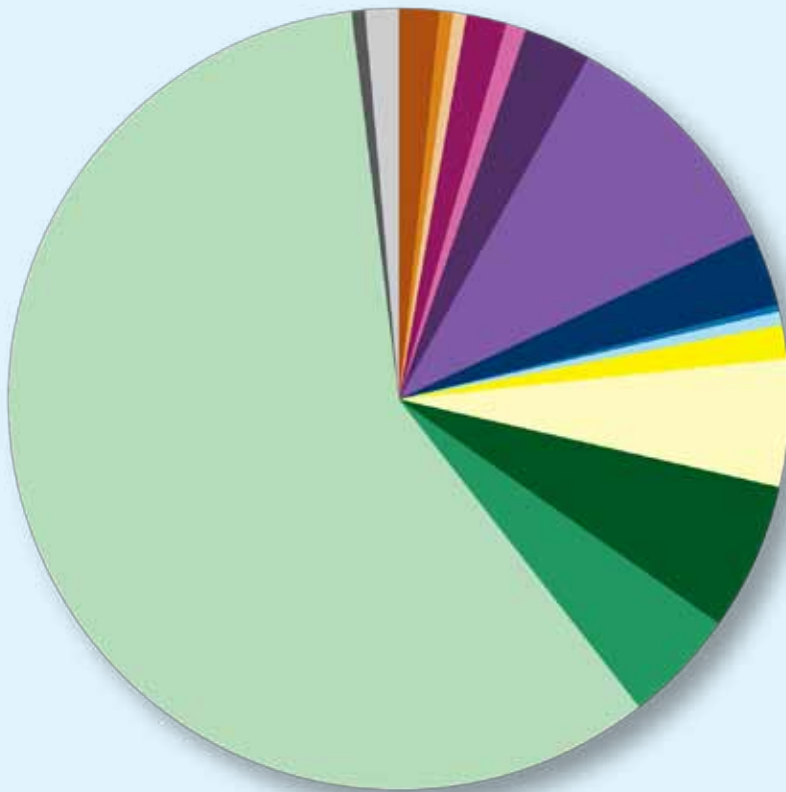
*Right:
Executive Director
Ahmed Rehab protests
during the Egyptian
Revolution. The masks
served as a shield from
tear-gas.*

2010 Financial Summary: Income



Direct Public Support	\$559,429.01
Settlement Proceeds	\$148,476.90
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$707,905.91</i>

2010 Financial Summary: Expenses



Accounting Fees	\$10,900.00
Bank Charges	\$3,535.59
Books & Supplies	\$3,156.00
Consulting Services	\$10,354.00
Contract Services	\$5,904.22
Employee Benefits	\$17,152.36
Events & Projects	\$61,504.88
Legal & Court	\$17,699.28
Liability Insurance	\$3,004.00
Meals & Entertainment	\$2,118.27
Media & Marketing	\$9,785.81
Office & Supplies	\$32,531.64
Office Lease & Utilities	\$37,609.00
Printing & Mailing	\$28,472.85
Salaries & Payroll	\$360,089.38
Travel & Meetings	\$3,562.05
General	\$8,228.22
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$615,607.55</i>

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 2010

The Civil Rights Department of CAIR-Chicago continued its important work in 2010, litigating cases that will shape case law involving discrimination against Muslims in America. We have seen a number of successes throughout the year through our various

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



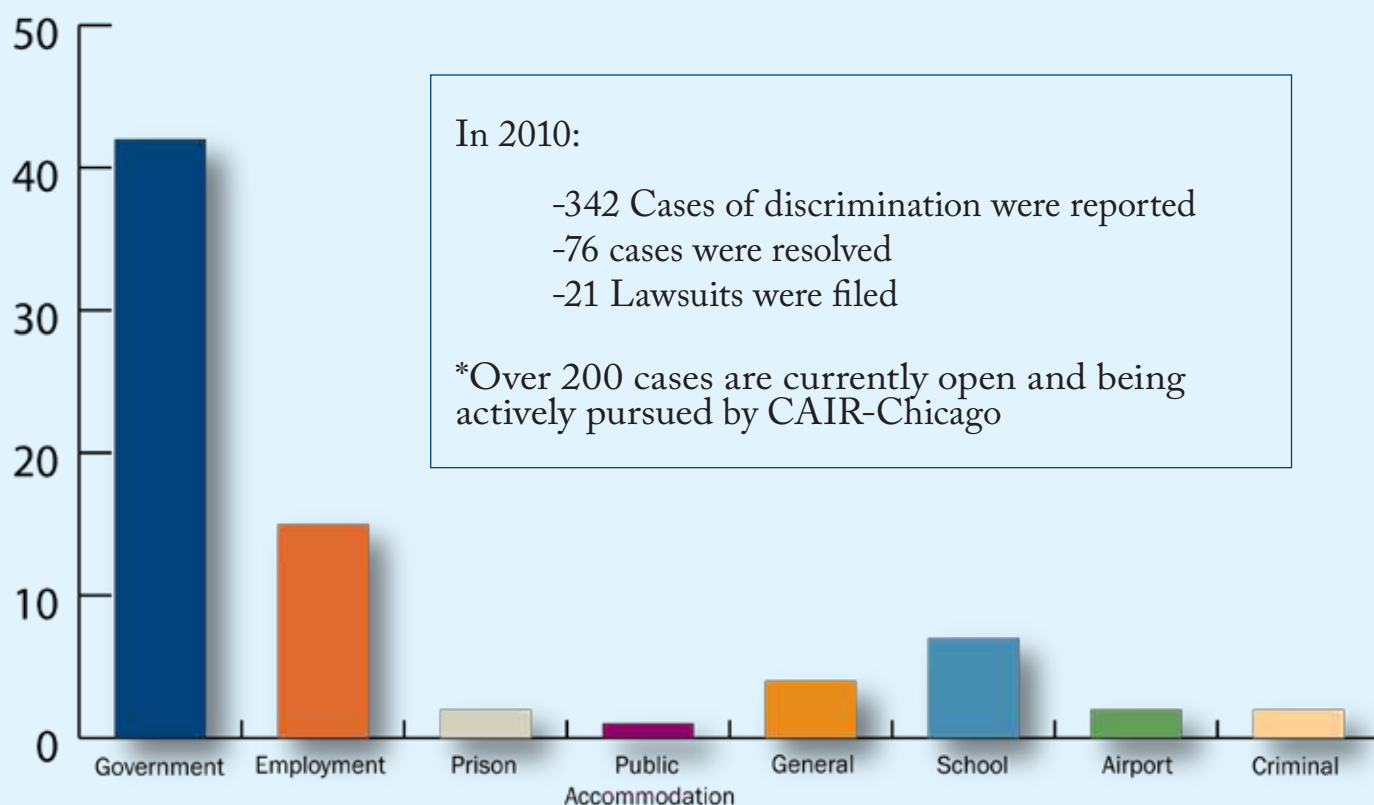
Kevin Vodak, CAIR-Chicago's Staff Attorney, joined the organization in 2008 and brought with him seven years of previous litigation experience.

casework. This year saw spikes in the number of cases reported involving the FBI as well as discrimination in schools. Our Civil Rights Director and Staff Attorney have worked tirelessly to resolve these and a number of other cases ranging from employment discrimination to immigration and public accommodation.

This year, the Department filed an intervenor's complaint on behalf of dozens of Somali Muslim factory workers in the class action lawsuit EEOC v. JBS Swift. CAIR-Chicago is also challenging the implications of the Department of Justice's designation of Muslim Americans as “unindicted co-conspirators” in its case, *Mustapha v. Illinois State Police*. In response to DuPage County's discriminatory denial of a special use permit for the *Irshad Learning Center*, a suburban mosque and Islamic school, CAIR-Chicago filed suit in federal court. Additionally, CAIR-Chicago is pleased to announce that it has helped 22 individuals become American citizens through the work of its Citizenship Delay Project.

The Civil Rights Department's goals for 2011 are bolder than ever. We hope to continue in the fight to protect the civil liberties guaranteed by this nation's Constitution and look forward to your continued support.

2010 Civil Rights Department Cases Resolved



Key Cases

The case of EEOC v. JBS Swift is a major class action lawsuit that has been filed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), a federal agency that investigates employment discrimination claims. In 2010, the EEOC found that JBS Swift had discriminated against its Somali Muslim factory workers at a plant in Grand Island, Nebraska when it refused to accommodate a prayer break for the employees during the month of Ramadan. Management of the company even went so far as to terminate employees that rallied for their rights, and used their personal break time to pray, and forced employees to sign written promises not to pray during work hours. CAIR-Chicago has filed an intervenor's complaint on behalf of dozens of the Somali workers, thereby participating in the litigation of this milestone case. (Read more details on page 34)

CAIR-Chicago is also challenging the Illinois State Police's (ISP) decision to revoke the chaplaincy of Imam Kifah Mustapha. Imam Mustapha applied to be a police chaplain, was accepted after undergoing standard background checks, and even underwent training for the program. His chaplaincy was revoked after members of the ISP read an article written by the Investigative Project on Terrorism, a group led by notorious anti-Muslim blogger Steven Emerson. The defamatory article argued that Imam Mustapha should not have been accepted as an ISP chaplain because of his designation as an "unindicted co-conspirator" in the Department of Justice's case against the Holy Land Foundation. Despite the fact that Imam Mustapha, along with the 300 plus other Muslim organizations and individuals named on the list, had never been charged with any criminal activity, the ISP revoked his chaplaincy. CAIR-Chicago filed suit alleging, among other things, that the ISP violated the First and Fourteenth Amendments in their actions. (Read more details on page 14)

Civil Rights



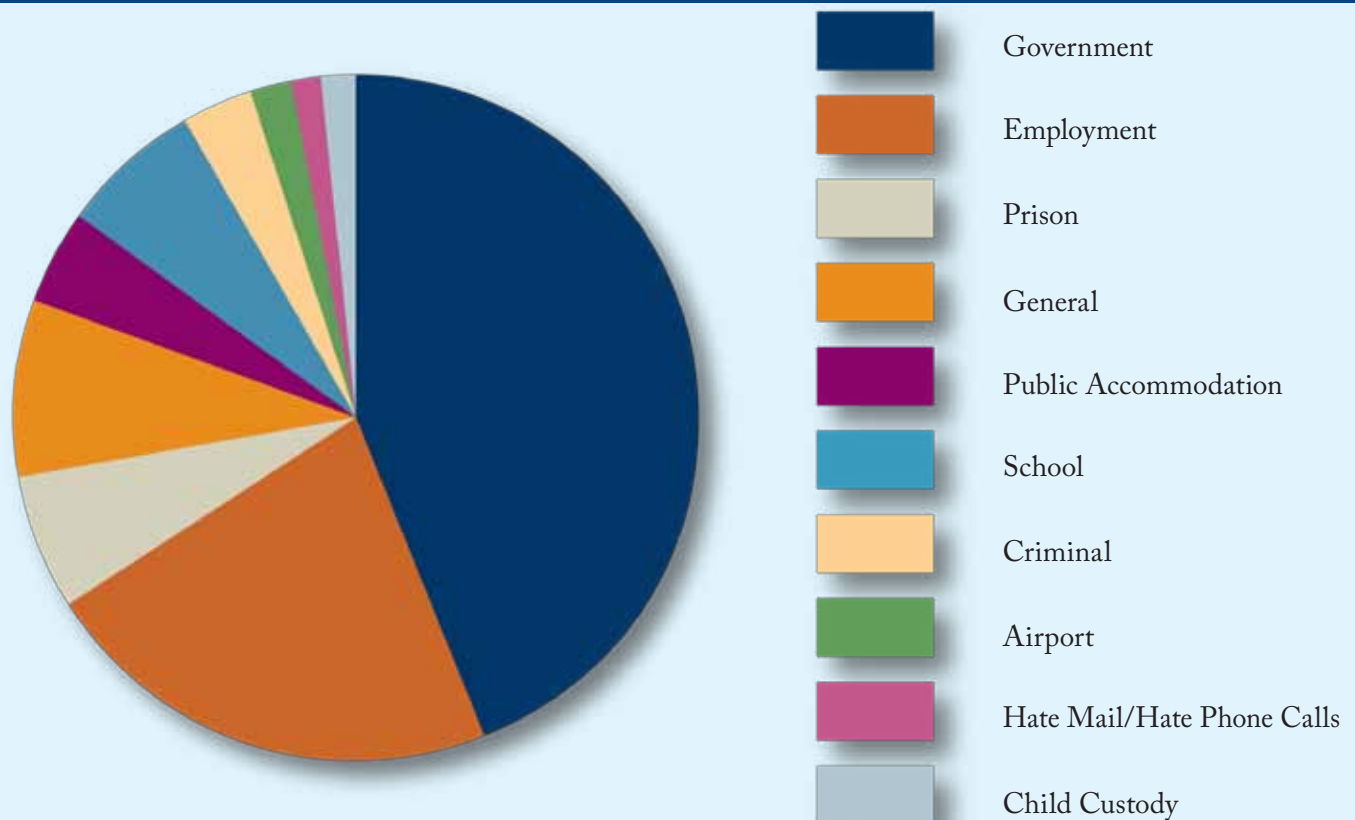
CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney Kevin Vodak speaks at a press conference.

In 2010, CAIR-Chicago was also active in challenging discrimination against religious institutions in DuPage County. The Department filed suit on behalf of the Irshad Learning Center against DuPage County for its denial of a special use permit for the center. The Irshad Learning Center is one of three Muslim religious institutions experiencing difficulty in obtaining special use permits to establish religious institutions in the county. We are also monitoring the application processes for the Muslim Educational and Cultural Center of America (MECCA) and the Islamic Center of the West Suburbs (ICWS). (Read more details on page 20)

FBI Interviews

This year saw a large number of Muslims reporting that they have been contacted by the FBI for interviews, some claiming that agents used intimidating and coercive tactics. 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.

Breakdown of Cases Reported in 2010





Above: Sen. Durbin speaks at an ICIRR immigration reform rally as ICIRR President Alie Kaba, Senate hopeful Alexi Giannoulias, Congressman Danny Davis, Congressman Luis Gutierrez and CAIR-Chicago Executive Director Ahmed Rehab look on.

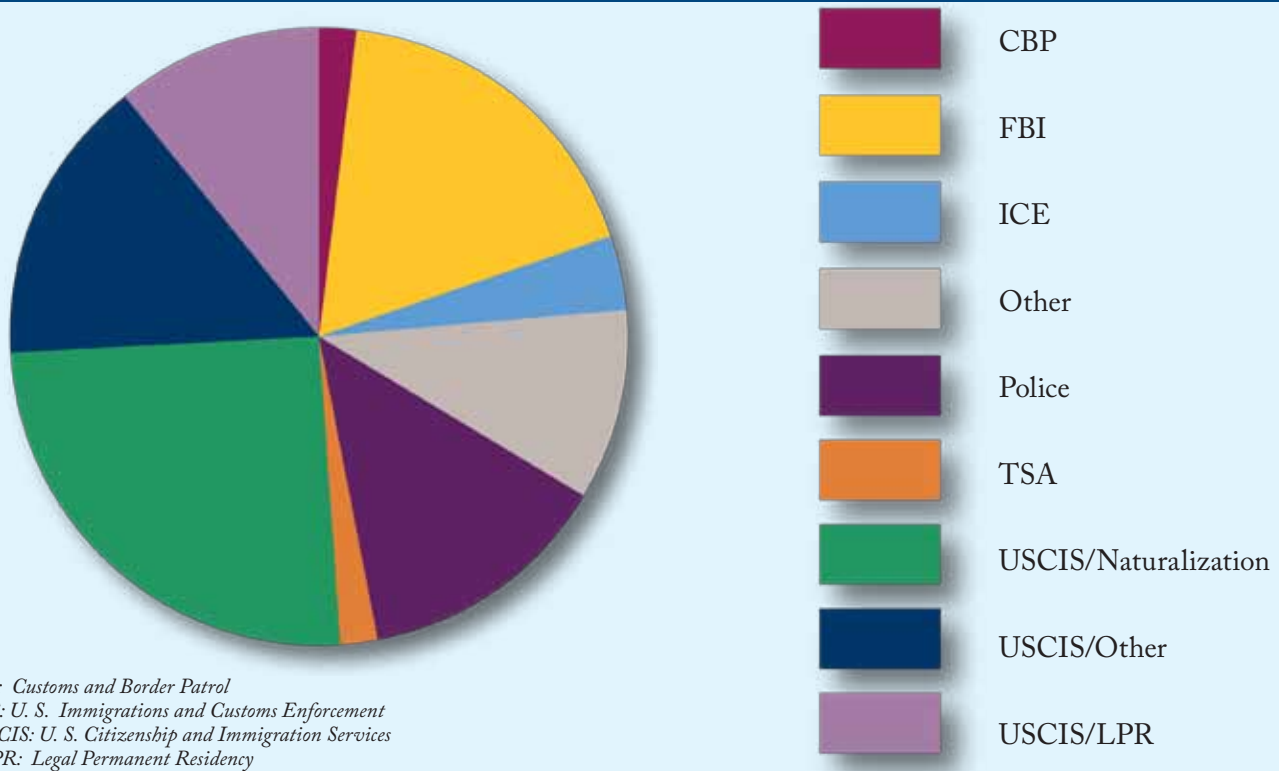
Citizenship Delay

CAIR-Chicago's Citizenship Delay Project has been working since 2006 to end lengthy, unlawful delays faced by Muslims applying for citizenship through political and legal means. In 2010, CAIR-Chicago helped 22 individuals attain citizenship after being subjected to years of unnecessary delay. Overall, CAIR-Chicago has received 494 reports of citizenship delay over the last four years. Of those cases, 317 have been resolved.

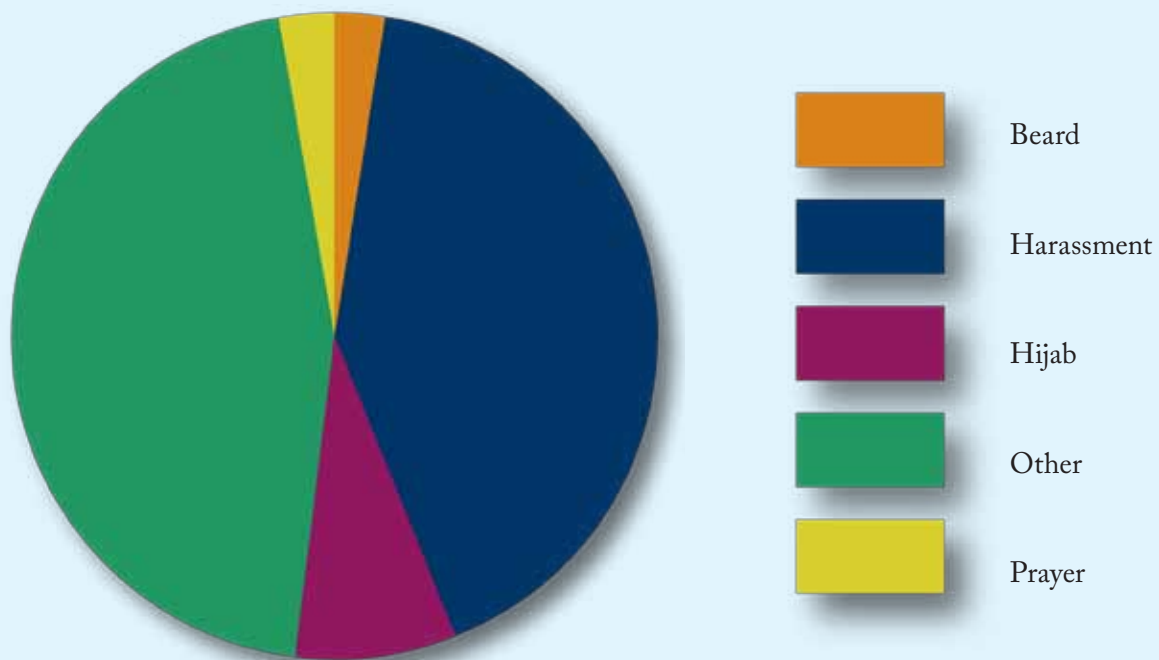
Representing YOU and the Community

- Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham spoke on panels at Northwestern Law School, DePaul University College of Law and John Marshall Law School on Muslim American civil liberties and Islam in America; as well as presented to Northwestern journalism students at Medill about the Patriot Act and civil liberties
- Staff attorney Kevin Vodak spoke on a panel at the 2010 ISNA Convention entitled "Seeking Justice through the Courts: A Multifaceted Approach to Enforcing Civil Rights," along with Christina Abraham
- Christina Abraham moderated an event at the American Islamic College for Rob Grant, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Chicago Field Office
- Since January 2010, Kevin Vodak has been actively supporting mosques in DuPage County seeking permits as well as challenging a proposed amendment seeking to exclude any new religious assembly in unincorporated residential areas
- Christina Abraham presented on the status of Muslims in America at the National Executive Council of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship
- Kevin Vodak and Ahmed Rehab participated in protests against FBI raids on the homes of anti-war activists
- Christina Abraham presented to the Council on American Muslim Professionals (CAMP) on employment discrimination

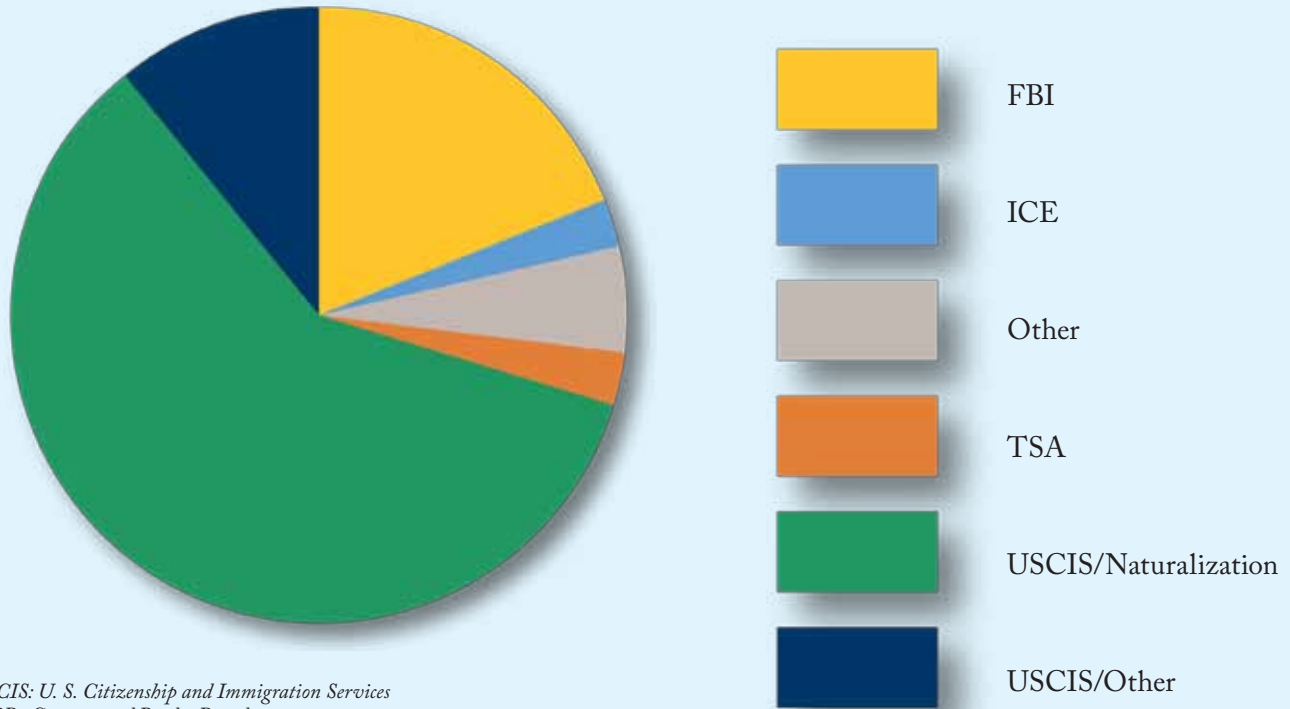
Government Cases Reported



Employment Cases Reported

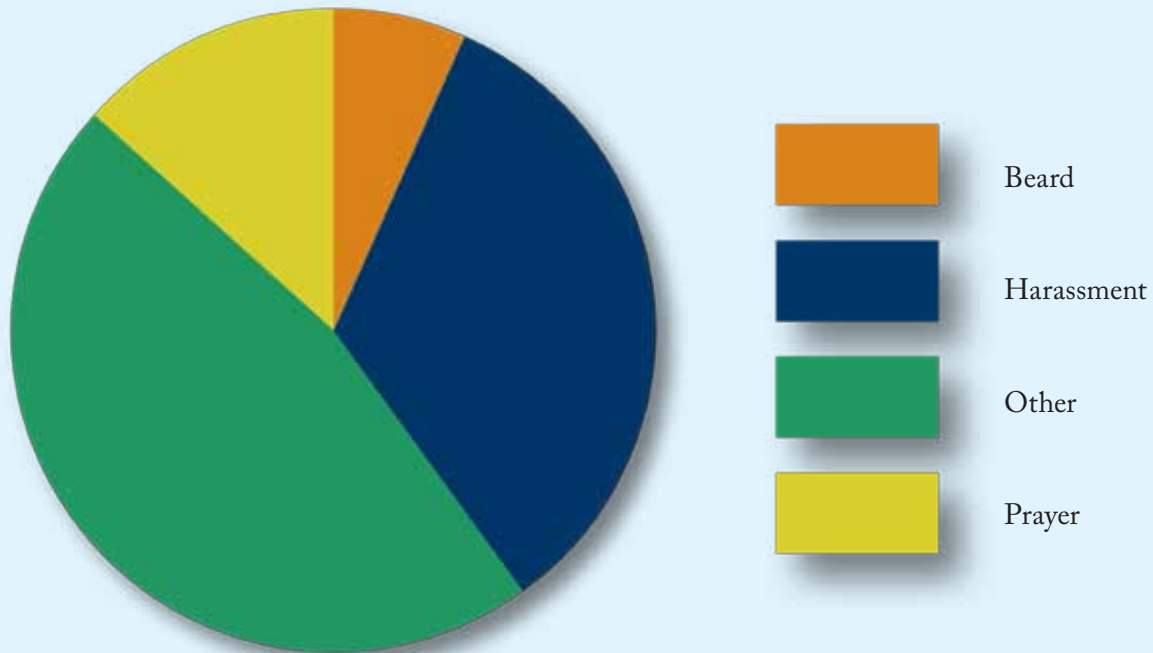


Government Cases Resolved



*USCIS: U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
 **CBP: Customs and Border Patrol
 ***ICE: U. S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement

Employment Cases Resolved



Imam Kifah Mustapha

“The ISP hired Imam Kifah, trained him, then terminated him due to the allegations of a blogger.”

In December 2009, the Illinois State Police (ISP) appointed Imam Kifah Mustapha to serve as a police chaplain and offer counseling to Muslim members of the police force. Imam Kifah, one of the most prominent Muslim leaders in the Chicago area, was to be the first and only Muslim appointed to the chaplaincy in ISP history.

After going through background checks, receiving official training and being confirmed for the position, the ISP suddenly informed Kifah in January 2010 that he needed to undergo another background check, with no official reason cited. However, Kifah later received information that the ISP had been alarmed by an internet report attacking him. In August, the ISP dismissed Kifah from the chaplaincy program, citing that he failed the background check.

“The ISP actually hired Imam Kifah Mustapha and trained him as a chaplain, and then, terminated him due to the allegations of anti-Muslim blogger Steven Emerson,” said CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham.

Emerson’s blog, the Investigative Project on Terrorism, criticizes Imam Kifah’s appointment as chaplain and accused Kifah of serving on the “Palestine Committee of the Muslim Brotherhood,” although no such committee exists.

Emerson, a known Islamophobe and self-proclaimed “expert on terrorism” has a mile-long track record of spreading anti-Muslim propaganda on his vitriolic blog. The so-called scholar has made a profession out of defaming Muslim activists and attacking American Muslim civic participation.

Emerson got himself blacklisted by CBS after the Oklahoma City bombing when he impulsively sounded the alarm that the attack must have been committed by Muslims; a declaration that was quickly proven to be completely false.

Despite his discredited reputation, Emerson is unfortunately still able to influence ignorant consumers of his hate campaign, as evidenced by the fact that the ISP let his rantings affect their decision about Kifah.

“The ISP’s decision to rebuke Imam Kifah’s chaplaincy position based on innuendo from a well-known Islamophobe is abominable. Unfortunately, this episode of exclusion is part of a larger trend of fear and smear campaigns against Muslim leaders seeking to be civically active in their communities,” said Ahmed Rehab, Executive Director of CAIR-Chicago.

“The ISP’s actions here are reminiscent of the Red Scare in the 1950s, when our nation smeared individuals based on suspicion and paranoia rather than evidence of wrongdoing,” said CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney Kevin Vodak. “The McCarthy era taught us that our government cannot engage in guilt by association.”

Indeed, CAIR-Chicago did not let this shameless act of discrimination go unchallenged. In September, CAIR-Chicago filed a lawsuit against the ISP on behalf of Kifah, alleging discrimination based on race, religion and national origin. The suit also cites the denial of Kifah’s First Amendment right to freedom of association, which bars the government from imposing guilt by association.



“Imam Kifah is an upstanding citizen who has **served this country** and his community time and again. It’s time to put an end to the fear-mongering that has senselessly **engulfed** our nation.”

—Christina Abraham, CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Director

Government Affairs



At the end of 2010, Government Affairs Coordinator Reema Ahmad left CAIR-Chicago to join Project Mobilize.

The Government Affairs Department is committed to the education, mobilization, and empowerment of 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 2010, the Government Affairs Department actively engaged elected officials across local, statewide, and national government. 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.

“CAIR-Chicago mobilizes the community around issues that affect American Muslims to make a quantifiable political imprint.”



Communications Coordinator Amina Sharif, with Interns Magda Mohamed and Linda Qatanani

Civic Engagement and Political Education

In 2010 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. The 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

- Created voter education guides to inform the community on where candidates stand on issues pertinent to the Muslim community
- Served as a Census field office to encourage Muslims to participate in the U.S. Census and reassure the community of the survey's confidentiality
- Worked with law enforcement agencies in order to maintain the safety of the Muslim community and communities at large
- Participated in community organizing trainings
- Participated in ICIRR rallies for the DREAM Act, including one hosted by Sen. Durbin, congressmen and other state legislators
- Helped organize and participate in Illinois Muslim Action Day, an event hosted by the Council on Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, which advocates issues pertinent to the Muslim community and enables Muslim voices to be heard

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.

NADP Fellowship

This year, CAIR-Chicago and CIOGC worked with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) to sponsor New Americans Democracy Project (NADP) Fellows. Fellows are trained as community organizers and are provided the skills to not only work effectively on issues of importance to their community, but to also create momentum around elections, including the November 2010 election. Each fellow is placed with an organization operating in a particular immigrant community. In 2010, CAIR-Chicago sponsored fellow Ali Malik who led voter registration drives at area mosques and universities. Malik also organized Get Out the Vote campaigns in three towns in DuPage County on election day.



Left: Interns Magda Mohamed and Momena Billah meet Gov. Quinn at a candidate forum.



*Above:
Executive Director
Ahmed Rehab, and
Outreach Coordina-
tor Gerald Hankerson,
with CAIR-Chicago
interns, participated in
a rally outside Con-
gressman (now Senator)
Kirk's office to protest his
lack of support on im-
migration reform.*

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. Legislative issues focused on in 2010 included the re-establishment of the End Racial Profiling Act (ERPA), comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) and the DREAM Act.

ERPA

Working towards the end of all forms of discrimination is a hallmark of CAIR-Chicago's efforts in the Muslim community. To this end, the Government Affairs department coordinated with efforts across the country to push Members of Congress to support the End Racial Profiling Act of 2010. Government Affairs Coordinator Reema Ahmad went further and met with the offices of Congressmen from both sides of the aisle in DC to ensure the Muslim communities' support of this legislation was firm.

CIR

CAIR-Chicago worked arduously to represent the Muslim community's interests in each 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 both locally and in Washington DC were also established to further push for a reform of immigration policies that will benefit the nation at large.

DREAM Act

CAIR-Chicago also lobbied to pass the DREAM Act which aims to create a pathway to citizenship for thousands of young students who were brought to the United States years ago as children. CAIR-Chicago participated in the Unity Rally hosted by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

Support from Public Officials

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, village presidents, aldermen, law enforcement representatives and members of Congress. This included:

- U.S. Senator Dick Durbin
- Governor Pat Quinn
- Chicago Mayor Richard Daley
- Attorney General Lisa Madigan
- Secretary of State Jesse White
- Congressman Danny Davis
- Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr.
- Congressman Bobby L. Rush
- Congressman Mike Quigley
- Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart
- State Rep. Mary E. Flowers
- State Senator Carole Pankau
- Lombard Village President Bill Mueller
- Clerk of Circuit Court of Cook County Dorothy Brown
- Rosemont Mayor Brad Stephens
- Palos Hills Mayor Gerald Bennett
- Des Plaines Mayor Martin Moylan



A Partial List of CAIR-Chicago's Community Partners

- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
- Interfaith Workers Justice
- Jewish Council on Urban Affairs (JCUA)
- ACLU Chicago
- Rainbow PUSH Coalition
- United African Organization
- The Mosque Foundation
- Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC)
- Zakat Foundation
- Muslim Advocates
- Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy program (CAPS)
- Union League Club of Chicago
- United States Census Bureau

Left: Government Relations Coordinator Reema Ahmad, with interns Magda Mohamed and Maryam Arfeen preparing for Census Day. CAIR-Chicago worked as a community partner with the Census Bureau and served as a census field office for several weeks.

“It’s not popular sentiment to support an application by Muslims, no matter how good that application is.”

Irshad Learning Center

At a church in suburban Chicago, parishioners are gathering to worship together.

The call to prayer is not for Christians, but for Muslims from the Irshad Learning Center (ILC) who temporarily use the church.

“Irshad Learning Center is a shelter for faith, for people who want to once in a while get together and pray together, worship, and perhaps help their kids get some acquaintance with their faith and cultural background,” said Mojtaba Noursalehi, a member of the Board of the ILC.

In early 2010 DuPage County rejected a permit for the ILC, and as a result CAIR-Chicago has filed a lawsuit on their behalf.

The suit was filed under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000, the First Amendment to the Constitution – affording the free exercise of religion, speech and assembly- and the Fourteenth Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause. State law bases include the Illinois Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

All zoning requirements were met by the ILC and no reasons were given by the County Board for the rejection. When the board denied the request, Muslim community members feared that Islamophobia influenced the decision. Anti-Muslim protests were taking place outside the County Board meeting, and false accusations against the ILC were made by representatives of the anti-Muslim group Act! For America during the meeting where the decision was made.

Mahmood Ghassemi, chairman of the Irshad Board, said the group did everything it was asked to do to meet county requirements and satisfy neighbors but, “our good will was not reciprocated by neighbors or by the officials.”

Board members clearly were not swayed by the concessions that the ILC made, including barring exterior sound amplification, prohibiting events and activities on the property after 10:30 p.m., allowing no more than one live-in caretaker and restricting the number of parking spaces.

“Based on the allegations and complaints, we believe the County Board and other zoning officials imposed a higher standard for the ILC as a Muslim religious institution,” said CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney Kevin Vodak. “The ILC is pursuing full recourse under federal and state law. We will do all we can to ensure the ILC is able to use the property as intended and recovers its losses.”

The Irshad Learning Center is one example of many Muslim religious institutions across the country that met resistance in 2010. In fact, it is one of three just in unincorporated DuPage County.

Even more disturbingly, DuPage officials recently proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that would ban any new religious institutions in residential areas, citing an “oversaturation of religious institutions” in the area.

CAIR-Chicago and other interfaith leaders held a press conference to condemn this action, as an encroachment on first amendment rights. The text amendments appear targeted at Islamic religious organizations, as Muslims are the predominant religious group currently seeking to establish assemblies in the county. “Places of worship for other religious groups have been built in the county without resistance for decades, and now that Muslims are building, all of a sudden county leaders are saying there are too many places of worship,” says Communications Coordinator Lyndsey Stemm.

“This is reminiscent of the rhetoric used to keep Jewish families out of certain neighborhoods in the fifties,” said Jane Ramsey, Executive Director of the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs (JCUA). “My family had to deal with those zoning ordinances back then and this is steeped in the same kind of rhetoric.”

CAIR-Chicago is currently still working on the case of the Irshad Learning Center, and along with other interfaith groups, we are doing everything we can to prevent the proposed ban on new religious institutions in DuPage County from passing.



“ We believe the County Board and other officials imposed a **higher standard** for the ILC as a Muslim religious institution.”

–Kevin Vodak, CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney

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 aims to educate and build bridges between Muslims and diverse communities in the greater Chicago metro region, establish partnerships with other civil rights and advocacy organizations, and bolster CAIR-Chicago's ability to serve its constituents in Chicago's Muslim communities. To this end, the Outreach Department leads CAIR-Chicago's youth leadership programs, internship and volunteer activist programs, interfaith and intercultural initiatives, and educational seminars.



"...embracing the cultural dynamics that define Chicago and the nation."



Above: Law Clerk Sufyan Sobel works on the class action JBS SWIFT lawsuit.

In 2010, the Outreach Department took advantage of opportunities to discredit Islamophobia, and embraced the cultural dynamics that define Chicago and the nation.

The following are key accomplishments of the Outreach Department throughout 2010:

Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS)

The Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium initiative (www.mykschicago.org) is a year-long leadership training program designed to provide young American Muslims with a proactive agenda for positive activism. MYLS aims to empower youth to guide their communities from the margin to the mainstream and foster a healthy American Muslim identity that fits comfortably within pluralistic American society. The program is focused on serving high school students and offers several after-school cohort workshops throughout the year designed to help students develop key leadership skills.

This year, MYLS sponsored its sixth symposium, "Jumpstart Your Future: Commit to Activism". The program focused on identity and community being key parts of solving issues within society.



MYLS was again invited to present to the Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP), an international exchange initiative and sister program through the Northern Illinois University International Training Office. Finally, MYLS alumni from Universal School met with a delegation from Morocco on youth leadership and civic engagement.

Above: Young minds learn to lead at the annual MYLS conference.

MYLS Highlights

MYLS participants had the privilege of meeting with the following distinguished speakers this year:

- Imam Abdullah Madyun, Masjid Al-Ihsan; Director, Islamic Institute of Urban Affairs—Chicago
- Reynaldo Ty, Associate Director, International Training Office, Northern Illinois University (NIU)
- Ahlam Jbara, Associate Director, Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC)

Former MYLS speakers include:

Congressman Keith Ellison, Imam Zaid Shakir, Rami Nashishibi (Executive Director of IMAN), Scott Alexander (Catholic Theological Seminary), Rummana Hussain (Chicago Sun-Times)

Other page / Top right: Board member Yaser Tabbara; Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham; Communications Coordinator Amina Sharif; Executive Director Ahmed Rehab; Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson

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 opportunities are offered through:

- University of Chicago
- Northwestern University
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
- University of Notre Dame
- DePaul University
- Loyola University
- Benedictine University
- Columbia College
- Illinois Wesleyan University

Clerkship opportunities are offered through:

- University of Chicago Law School
- Northwestern University School of Law
- University of Illinois College of Law
- University of Washington School of Law
- Case Western Reserve University School of Law
- Chicago-Kent College of Law (IIT)
- Loyola School of Law
- DePaul College of Law

Internship & Volunteer Activist Program

CAIR-Chicago is indebted to the interns and volunteer activists (VAs) who assist our staff to empower, mobilize, and engage our communities.

The Outreach Department recruited over 100 volunteer activists, utilizing uniquely varied backgrounds, skills and professional interests to serve the Chicagoland Muslim community. During Community Service Week in March 2010, CAIR-Chicago hosted over 50 students from Ohio Wesleyan University, Francis Parker School and Aqsa School in service projects focused on Islamophobia, immigration & refugee rights, and media matters.

In 2010, our internship program hosted 35 interns from across the United States, China and Egypt.



Mosque & Community Outreach

CAIR-Chicago staff delivered Friday sermons (*khutbahs*) at some of the largest mosques in the tri-state area in an effort to promote key civic and humanitarian ideals fostered in Islam's teachings, and to bridge the mosque audience with the resources that CAIR-Chicago offers.

For its second year CAIR-Chicago hosted its Taste of Ramadan iftar for 200 friends and supporters.

Public Education & Academia

CAIR-Chicago staff members from all departments were invited to speak at prominent Illinois universities that included University of Chicago, Northwestern University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Columbia College, DePaul University, Loyola University Chicago, Northern Illinois University, Saint Xavier University, and the





University of Illinois at Chicago. The staff also presented at St. Ignatius College Preparatory School and Francis Parker School, and hosted a class from DePaul University. The topics ranged from basic educational seminars to more nuanced issues such as the history and current landscape of Muslim activism in the U.S.

In addition, CAIR-Chicago serves as a resource to academic institutions and helps them connect with the Muslim community. The Outreach Department coordinated visits to Northwest Indiana mosques on behalf of Indiana University - Northwest. It also helped Wesleyan University (Connecticut) conduct surveys on the psychological affects of Islamophobia on Muslim Americans.

CAIR-Chicago representatives spoke in panel discussions at the 47th Annual ISNA Convention, the 2010 CIOGC-MPAC Conference, as well as the American Islamic College's inaugural Islam and Muslims in America Conference. In September 2010, CAIR-Chicago partnered with the American Library Association (ALA) to share the teachings of the Qur'an, which garnered the top ranking on the Banned Books Listing for 2010.

CAIR-Chicago presented workshops at area religious institutions, including the Beth Emet Free Synagogue in Evanston, the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, and St. James Episcopal Church in Chicago.



Above: Operations Coordinator Hiba Hammadi keeps everyone on task while planning events

Top: Staff gathers with family and friends at the CAIR-Chicago office for the second annual Taste of Ramadan Cook-off and Iftar



Above: Communications Intern Kelly Goodwin monitors daily newspapers

Right: Anshe Shalom Bnai Israel Congregation hosted "Iftar at the Synagogue" for local Muslim community members



CAIR-Chicago is also regularly invited to deliver cultural sensitivity training seminars to government agencies. One such workshop was presented to the Chicago Asylum Office of the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Interfaith Engagement

The Outreach department continues to hold educational lectures, workshops and dialogues with faith communities. CAIR-Chicago is an active partner of the Jewish-Muslim Community Building Initiative (JMCBI), which hosts community events and study sessions on holy texts. One of the initiative's most successful events is Café Finjan, which regularly draws hundreds for an evening of creative performance and presentation of visual arts.

CAIR-Chicago continued for a third year to be an active participant in a three-part interfaith forum on the Abrahamic traditions, entitled "In Good Faith." The forum is led by the Catholic Theological Union and steering committees representing Judaism, Catholicism and Islam.

Also for the third consecutive year, CAIR-Chicago presented at the annual Saint Xavier University Interfaith Expo.

International Outreach

CAIR-Chicago welcomed international delegations of civic leaders, scholars, activists, artists and law enforcement through partnerships with WorldChicago (formerly the International Visitors Center of Chicago) and Heartland International. All delegates were guests of the U.S. Department of State.

Delegations in 2010 included representatives from Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Indonesia, Israel, Latvia, Malta, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Turkey and the United Kingdom.



Above: CAIR-Chicago Board member Yaser Tabbara at a press conference for MECCA

Outreach Highlights

- Gerald Hankerson Presents at the Historic Fourth Presbyterian Church and St. James Episcopal Church.
- MYLS: Young Minds Learn to Lead at 6th Symposium
- Gerald Hankerson meets with Israeli-Palestinian Envoy
- Ahmed Rehab moderates speech by the Grand Mufti of Egypt at American Islamic College
- Gerald Hankerson presents to the Philippines Youth Leadership Program at Northern Illinois University
- CAIR-Chicago Responds to “Burn A Koran Day” and Islamophobia with Outreach and Education
- Gerald Hankerson and Amina Sharif present to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Ahmed Rehab speaks on Muslim American activism at DePaul University event hosted by UMMA
- Law Enforcement Delegation from European Union Visits CAIR-Chicago
- Gerald Hankerson Emcees the American Islamic College’s “Islam and Muslims in America” conference



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 work with news reporters, editors, and producers who are writing stories on Muslim issues by providing them with research and resources, and helping them understand the nuances and complexities of those topics. We also ensure that our clients are given a voice to discuss the discrimination that they have suffered. We monitor the local media on a daily basis and regularly write letters to the editor with the purpose of producing original commentary and analysis to reinforce accurate coverage of Muslims and Islam, and to correct imbalanced, simplistic, or biased reports. CAIR-Chicago's extensive relationship with media outlets allows us to ensure that Muslim perspectives on pressing issues are represented in the mainstream media. 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.

"We are regularly approached by reporters, news editors, and producers seeking expert analysis on civil rights issues and help writing stories on Muslim Americans."



Lyndsey Stemm, Communications Coordinator, joined CAIR-Chicago in 2010 and formerly served as a Communications intern.

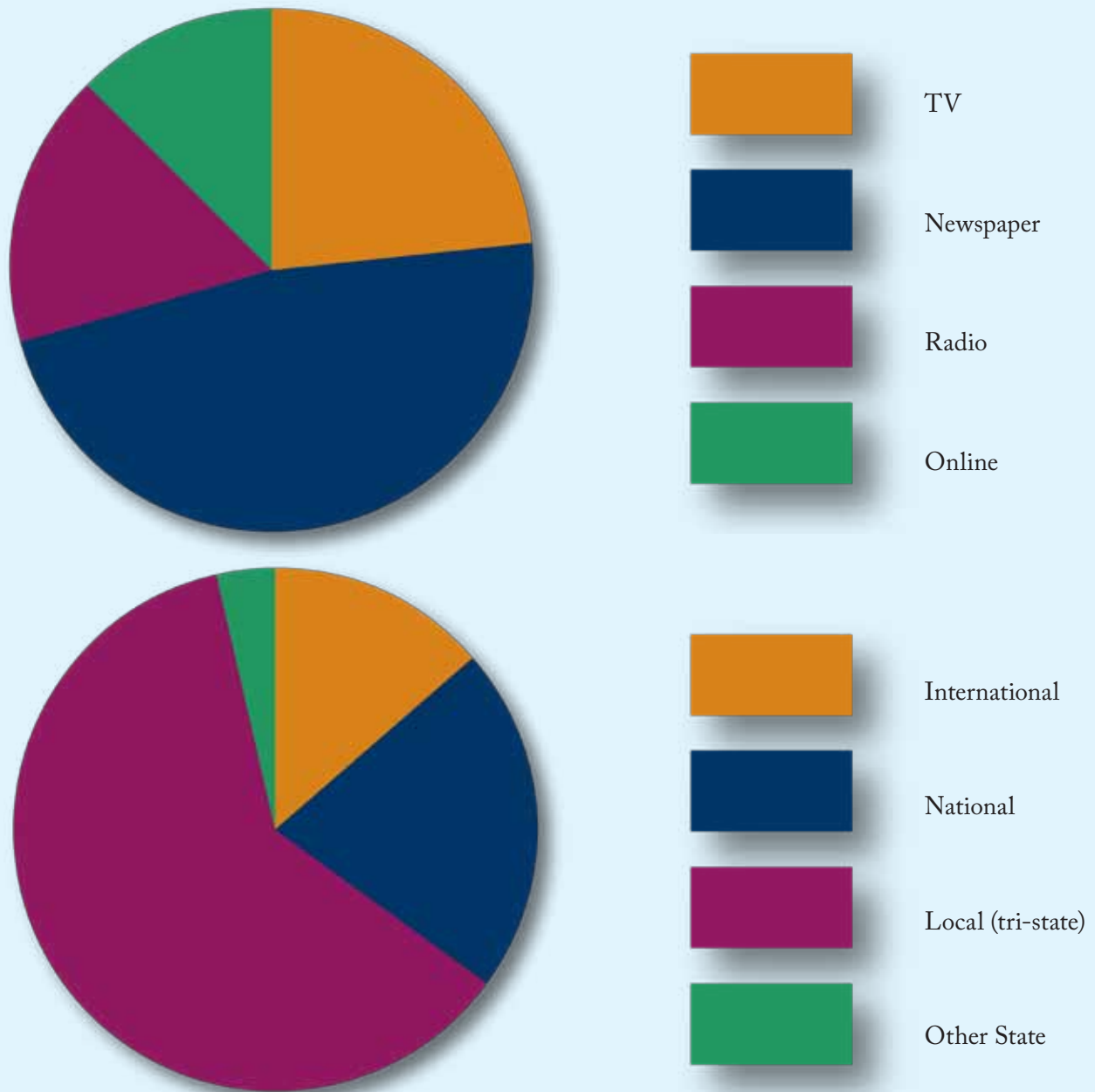
2010 Review

In 2010, the Communications Department's efforts resulted in CAIR-Chicago being featured in local and national press regularly, advocating for victims of discrimination and sharing expert analysis on civil rights issues and Islamophobia.

We launched the 6th edition of our website, www.cairchicago.org, to be more interactive and user-friendly, and to strengthen Muslim voices and perspectives in the public discourse.



CAIR-Chicago in the News Media



The communications department also presented at several colleges and conferences 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 in the media over 180 times locally, nationally, and globally. These included over 72 times in print media, 36 times on broadcast news (TV) and 26 times on radio, in addition to numerous references online. Over the last 6 years CAIR-Chicago has been in the news nearly a **thousand** times.

*Other Page / Bottom Right:
Communications Coordinator
Amina Sharif works
with intern Mohamed Abdelati
on media monitoring*

Communications

CAIR-Chicago organizes press conferences to inform the media of important civil rights issues.

Right: Executive Director Ahmed Rehab speaking at a press conference after CAIR-Chicago filed a lawsuit against the Illinois State Police for discrimination, on behalf of Sheikh Kifah.



Television Coverage

- FOX News
- FOX News Business
- CNN
- MSNBC
- NBC (national)
- Al Jazeera
- ABC 7
- WGN 9
- NBC 5
- CBS 2
- FOX Chicago
- WYCC

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 Islam, and challenging simplistic, inaccurate, or biased reports. Numerous articles, opinions and commentary pieces were written by CAIR-Chicago and printed in the mainstream press in 2010. Our staffers and interns saw over a dozen Letters-to-the-Editor published offering new perspectives on current events and countering bigoted or inaccurate portrayals of Muslims and Islam.

Communications Coordinators, with the tireless help of interns, devised a program to obtain and file every story about Muslim, minority and social justice issues from the Chicago area's major newspapers. This program includes extensive data collecting so that no article goes unnoticed, and thus we are better able to survey and assess how fair or poor each paper's reporting has been overall.

Media Outreach

CAIR-Chicago holds press conferences and regularly issues press releases and media advisories in order to ensure that Muslim perspectives on vital issues and current events are part of public discourse and conveyed to the masses.

CAIR-Chicago led an editorial board meeting with the editors of a major Chicago newspaper to critique and express concern over their coverage of human rights issues critical to Muslims. CAIR-Chicago's representatives presented a report on the paper's recent coverage based on research generated by the Communications Department's media monitoring program.

Communications Coordinator Amina Sharif also spoke with editors of several major U.S. newspapers throughout the year to discuss their coverage of culturally sensitive issues and demand corrections for misinformation.

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 community leaders, students, mosques, and organizations. These sessions trained participants on how to engage the media and become more effective activists and community spokespersons.



Radio Coverage

Fox News Radio

WBEZ

Chicago Public Radio

WBBM

WGN - Radio

WCPT

Chicago's Progressive Talk

WSBT

RedEye Radio

Rise Up Radio

The Michael Medved Show

The Roy Green Show

1100 AM
"The Flag"

Radio Islam

Newswire Coverage

Associated Press

Reuters

Agence France Presse

Chicago Breaking News

Medill News Service

Communications

The Communications Coordinators also deliver presentations to college students at numerous Chicago universities. These lectures are 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 has 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 and avoid generalizations and stereotypes.

Website

In 2010 the Communications Department redesigned the CAIR-Chicago website, releasing the 6th 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 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, and TV clips. Our website, cairchicago.org is now more interactive and its content is regularly shared on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr. 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, *The Chicago Activist*, at mosques and

venues around Chicago, 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.

Communications Department: Events and Outreach

Here is a list of some of the activities of Communications Coordinator Amina Sharif in 2010:

- Participated in a panel discussion at the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration on the advocacy work and services CAIR-Chicago provides to the Muslim community
- Lectured regularly at Columbia College to Journalism classes, presenting on media coverage of minorities and culturally sensitive reporting practices
- Lectured regularly at the University of Illinois - Chicago to Media Studies classes, presenting on media activism and advocacy
- Lectured regularly at DePaul University in Middle Eastern Studies classes, presenting on Muslims in America
- Spoke to students at St. Ignatius Catholic School on multiple occasions along with Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson to discuss the Muslim American experience
- Emceed a Northwest Suburban College banquet
- Spoke at a press conference condemning FBI raids on anti-war activists' homes
- Presented at numerous Churches on topics including: Islam, Muslims in America, and the rights of women in Islam

Newspaper Coverage

Chicago Tribune

Chicago Sun-Times

New York Times

Wall Street Journal

Washington Post

Washington Times

Christian Science Monitor

NY Daily News

The National

Daily Herald

Naperville Sun

Sydney Morning Herald

Hindustan Times

The Guardian

“You can hear the sadness in their voices as they retell stories of the harassment and discrimination they experienced.”

Swift Factory Workers

CAIR-Chicago filed a discrimination lawsuit in federal court in November of 2010 on behalf of 49 Muslims of Somali heritage who were fired from a JBS Swift meat packing plant in Nebraska. The lawsuit intervenes in a class action filed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in August.

In 2008, Muslim workers at the plant began facing harassment, and in some cases termination, after requesting that their break schedules be adjusted to allow them to perform their daily prayers. (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 mandates that employers must accommodate the religious practices of employees unless it causes the employer undue hardship.) The employees went on strike to demand their rights, but subsequently, over a hundred Muslim employees were fired.

After a yearlong investigation into the complaints, the EEOC determined “such accommodation would not have posed an undue hardship to [Swift]” and that the evidence further establishes that Swift’s supervisors “subjected Somali Muslim Employees to unlawful harassment, disparate treatment, and discrimination in terms and conditions of employment based on their religion, national origin, race, and color.” The EEOC also confirmed that some employees were unlawfully terminated in retaliation for their requests for religious accommodation.

Almost every day, former Swift employees contact CAIR-Chicago asking for updates on the progress of their case against their former employer. Since their termination from Swift, they have dispersed around the United States looking for new employment opportunities while retaining hope that they will receive justice for the harm done to them.

“These individuals have been dealing with this issue for well over two years. Some of them call multiple times a week, asking if there are any new developments in their case. You can hear the sadness in their voice as they retell stories of the harassment and discrimination they experienced while employed by JBS Swift,” said Civil Rights Law Clerk Sufyan Sohel.

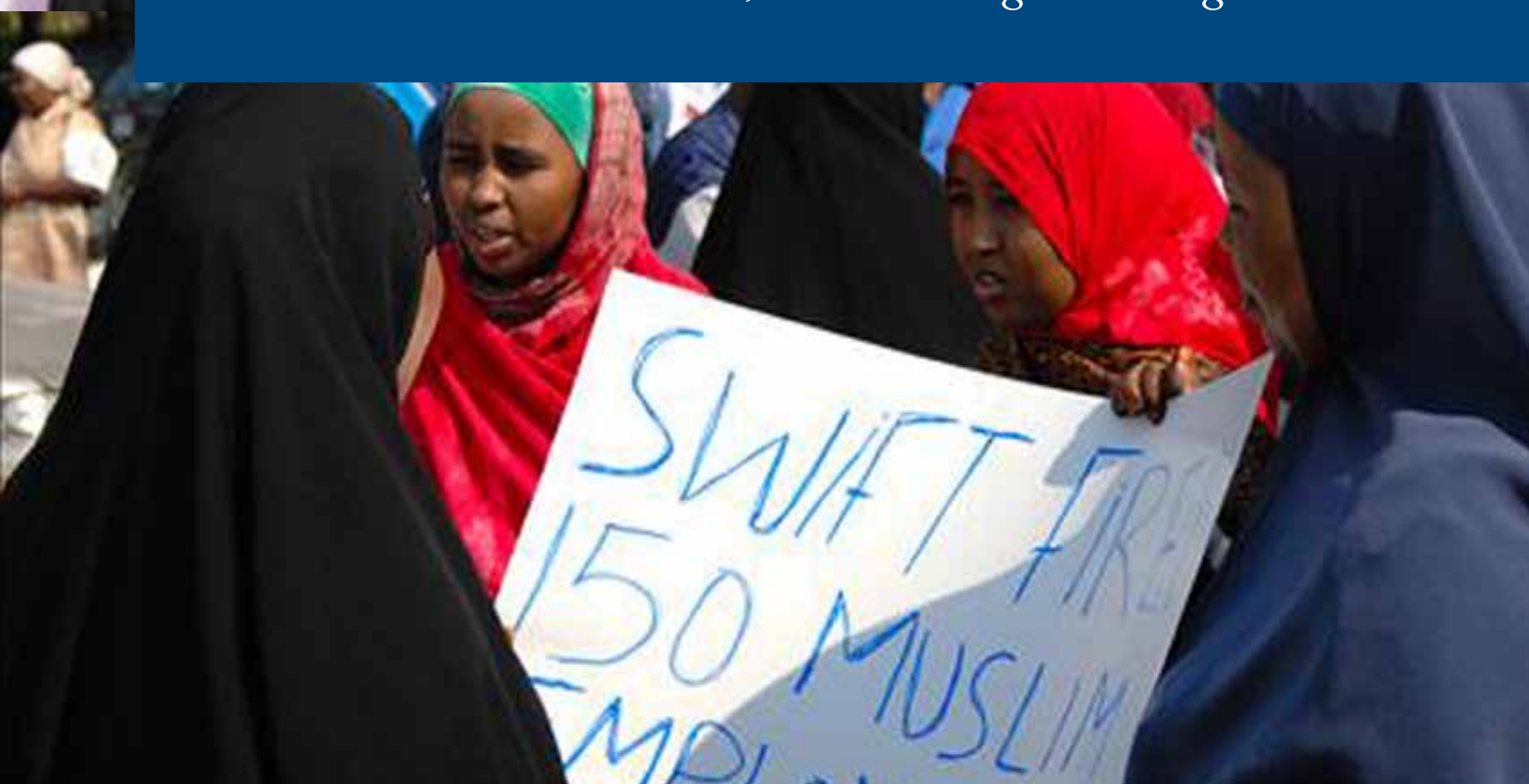
According to the narratives of these former Swift employees, they were not allowed to use their break times to perform their obligatory prayers. Despite warnings from their supervisors, some continued to attempt to pray, only to be stopped - mid prayer - and threatened to lose their jobs.

“These employees worked hard and did not ask for special treatment. All workers are granted short breaks. Supervisors at the plant, however, did not like that breaks were used to perform Islamic prayers,” said Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham. “Everyone deserves to be able to earn a living without sacrificing their beliefs to put food on the table.”

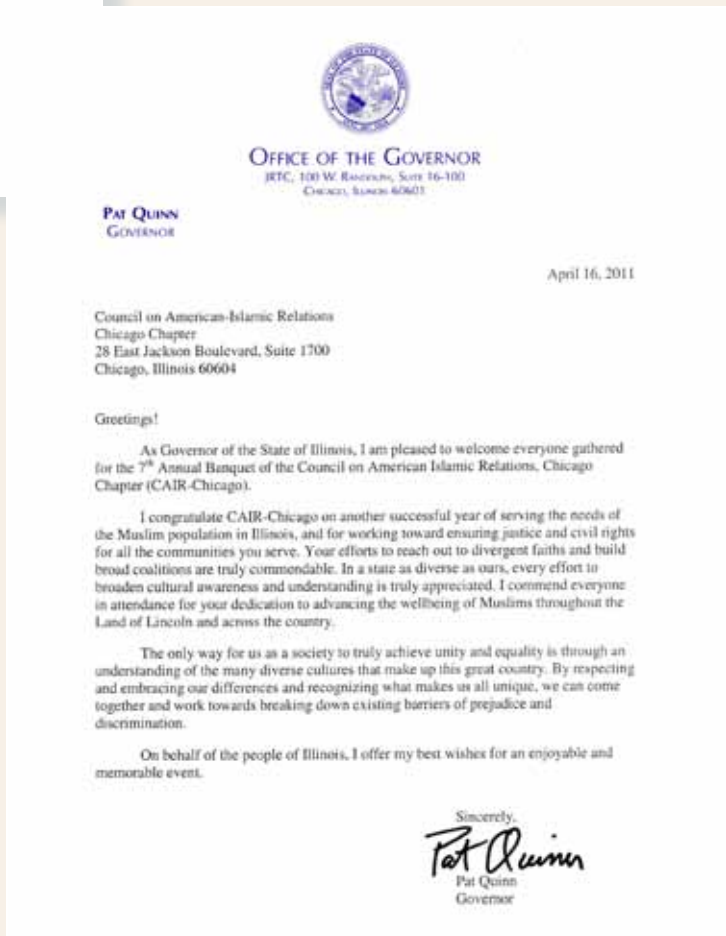


“Everyone deserves to be able to earn a living without **sacrificing their beliefs** to put food on the table.”

—Christina Abraham, CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Director



LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO
April 16, 2011

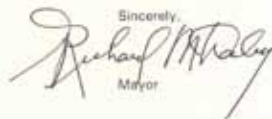
RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

GREETINGS

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I extend my warmest greetings to all those gathered for the Council on American-Islamic Relations - Chicago Chapter's (CAIR-Chicago) Seventh Annual Banquet.

With a theme of *Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide*, tonight's event highlights CAIR-Chicago's commitment to ensuring civil rights, diversity and freedom of religion for all of our residents. CAIR-Chicago works to present a balanced and accurate media portrayal of Islam and Muslims and makes our city a better place to live, work and raise families.

Chicago is the proud home of a strong Muslim American community that contributes greatly to the cultural, economic and social development of our city. 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 future success.

Sincerely,

Mayor



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 16, 2011

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 Seventh 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 2011.

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, "Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide," stresses to us the importance of building true understanding among all communities, regardless of faith or creed. Only through understand and valuing our diversity can we truly achieve our nation's full potential. Division weakens us; cooperation makes us stronger.

Again, welcome to all in attendance tonight, and may 2011 prove to be a wonderful and successful year for CAIR-Chicago and all those it serves.

Very truly yours,

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

300 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62766 • (217) 782-6800 • TTY: (217) 785-2771 • Fax: (217) 782-7946
100 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601 • (312) 814-3800 • TTY: (312) 814-3374 • Fax: (312) 814-3806
100 East Main, Carbondale, Illinois 62901 • (618) 529-4400 • TTY: (618) 529-4403 • Fax: (618) 529-4416

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.
2ND DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1302

SUBCOMMITTEES:
LABOR-HEALTH AND
EDUCATION SERVICES-EDUCATION
TOWNSHIP OPERATIONS, EXPORT PROMOTION
AND RELATED PROGRAMS

March 14, 2011

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

Dear Friends:

I greet you with the traditional Islamic greeting: *As-Salamu 'Alaykum*. I congratulate the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations on your 7th Annual Banquet and commend you on this year's theme, "Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide."

Throughout the years, CAIR-Chicago has been a leader in fostering better relationships between Muslim-Americans and non-Muslim-Americans. This year's focus, "Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide," is not only timely but significant for breaking down religious barriers and promoting greater understanding and tolerance. It is our hope that, with your hard work and a better knowledge of the Islamic faith, more Americans will move beyond their comfort zone.

I wish you and your members continued success and please send my best wishes to every person at the event.

Sincerely,



Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

JLJ Jr.:KG:kg

2415 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1302
(202) 225-0733

2120 EAST 78TH STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60649
(773) 241-6500

1750 E
WHEELER
EPO

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BOBBY L. RUSH
1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RAILROADS, MINING, ENERGY AND POWER
COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING AND TRADE
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

ASSISTANT WHIP
CO-CHAIR
AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH
CO-CHAIR
CONGRESSIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR
JUBILEE CAUCUS
STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

April 16, 2011

Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab:

It is both a pleasure and honor to extend my best wishes and warmest greetings to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and all those gathered for its 7th Annual Banquet. I trust it will be an informative, interesting and thought-provoking event for all.

This year's event, structured around the theme "Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide" should reassert CAIR's commitment to the principles of freedom and equality in a new and ever-changing era while engaging all communities in building mutual understanding and trust.

CAIR's leadership is to be congratulated for their outstanding and invaluable service they are providing to the people of the State of Illinois. Working with Muslim community has been my honor as you endeavor to bring greater awareness to the richness of Muslim traditions and heritage at the annual event. I applaud your efforts thus far and look forward to our united work in the future.

Please accept my sincere congratulations on tonight's celebration and my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Sincerely,



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

BLR: ys

WASHINGTON
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1301

www.house.gov/rush
CHICAGO
720 N. JOLLA EAST 78TH STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60619-3102

SPRINGFIELD
3228 West 147th Street
Morton, IL 60445-3856

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

March 22, 2011

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

Dear Friends:

As Illinois Secretary of State, I offer my heartiest congratulations to CAIR-Chicago as it conducts its 7th Annual Banquet. I am happy to extend my best wishes and warmest greetings to all who will gather to partake in this noteworthy event.

I applaud and commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations for its stellar efforts and commitment in helping to ensure justice, civil rights, and the ending of discriminatory practices throughout the communities you dutifully serve. Your dedication embodies the very essence of our society's steady pursuit of social, racial and economic equality for all. Not only are your efforts instrumental in helping individuals integrate into their communities and develop a sense of belonging, but also helping to empower them to have a voice in their communities and make a genuine difference in our ever-growing global society. Through the resilience of organizations such as yours, the message of peace, multiculturalism, equal opportunity and inclusion continues to have a meaningful and positive effect on our nation.

Again, welcome to this memorable and inspirational banquet. I know that you will continue to find generous support for your humanitarian and democratic endeavors which advance the ideals of peace and equality.

Sincerely,


Jesse White
Secretary of State

100 W. Randolph Street
James E. Thompson Center
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(312) 814-2262



Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C.

Danny K. Davis
7th District - Illinois

March 1, 2011

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

Dear Director Rehab:

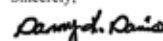
Thank you for offering this opportunity to greet and welcome attendees at the CAIR-Chicago 2011 annual Banquet, Saturday, April, 16, 2011. Illinois has one of the largest Muslim populations in the United States and I trust that this year's event, like events of past years, will be a great success.

The theme of this year's event *Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide* speaks to your tradition and ongoing commitment of struggle for justice not only for the Muslim community but for all of our society and reminds all Americans that we live in a multi-cultural nation and that, in the final analysis, the security and strength of our nation lies in our diversity and our unity. Our mutual commitment to those rights and responsibilities are set forth in our constitution, and they have been deepened, reconfirmed and reasserted over time so as to encompass every American. These are the true core principles of our democracy and these principles have been ratified at great cost so many times over our history.

I salute CAIR-Chicago for their commitment to justice and equality for Muslim Americans . . . and all Americans. CAIR understands that in defending Muslim Americans against employment discrimination, prison abuse, hate crimes and citizenship delays they are also defending our American values for every American.

Once again, welcome attendees, I am certain you are in for a highly worthwhile conference, and an unique opportunity to network with community members, leaders and activists from every sector of the Muslim American community in the highest tradition of our grassroots based and driven democracy.

Sincerely,


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

DKD:c

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

DOROTHY BROWN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT



Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, Illinois 60602, Room 1001
312-603-5030
FAX 312-603-4557
www.cookcountyclerkcourt.org

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

April 16, 2011

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Chicago Chapter
28 E. Jackson Blvd., Ste. 1410
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Mr. Rehab:

Greetings to you and everyone attending the 7th Annual banquet for the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations' (CAIR). I believe that your theme, "Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide," encourage CAIR endeavors to unite individuals from various backgrounds, in support of the Council's mission to enhance understanding of Islam and build coalitions that promote justice.

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.

It is also important to note that the Council seeks to empower the American Muslim community and encourage community members to participate in political and social activism.

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

Sincerely,

Dorothy Brown
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County



Maria Pappas
Cook County Treasurer

April 16, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Rehab:

I am glad to offer greetings to all attending the 7th Annual Banquet of the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Your theme of "Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide" is an appropriate one for an organization that is part of the nation's largest group working for civil rights for Muslims in America.

America is a land whose people have brought their various heritages with them but who work for social union and justice through equal treatment for all. It is gratifying to see CAIR working this way.

Best wishes to CAIR as it continues its very important work.

Sincerely,

Maria Pappas
Cook County Treasurer

:bb

118 North Clark Street • Room 212 • Chicago, Illinois 60602 • Telephone (312) 603-4203 • FAX (312) 603-2113



LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
RICHARD J. DALEY CENTER
COOK COUNTY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

THOMAS J. DART
SHERIFF

March 8, 2011

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

Dear Friends,

I would like to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations on another successful year here in Chicago!

I applaud your efforts to provide education, justice, outreach and empowerment to the hundreds of thousands of Muslim Americans in the Chicago area. I am impressed by your numerous success stories. I also admire the work you do for civil rights and advocacy. That work is critical in ensuring the rights guaranteed to all Americans in our Constitution.

While your organization serves an essential service to Muslim-Americans, it truly serves to better the Chicago community as a whole. Services such as education and community outreach benefit all citizens and your work helps everyone gain a greater understanding and appreciation of Muslim culture.

Congratulations again on your continued success. Please keep up the great work you are doing for all Chicagoans!

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Dart
Sheriff of Cook County



Office of the County Clerk

David Orr, Cook County Clerk

March, 2011

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

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations as you celebrate another year at your 7th Annual Banquet. Your work in protecting the civil rights of Muslim Americans along with your efforts to promote greater understanding between diverse communities benefit us all as citizens of Illinois and of this nation.

Best wishes to you as you gather to reflect on another year of achievements, and continued success to you in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

David Orr

89 West Washington, 5th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60602

Voice: Main Office 312-403-5656, Elections 312-403-0300, Ethics & Campaign Disclosure 312-403-0807
Fax: Main Office 312-403-4788, Elections 312-403-4796, Ethics & Campaign Disclosure 312-403-4787
TDD: 312-403-0802, E-Mail: dor@cookcountyil.gov, Web: www.cookcountyil.gov

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

CAPS Implementation Office
Board 200, Chicago
200 E. Madison Ave., 11th Fl.
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(312) 742-8882
(312) 742-8882 (fax)

www.capsoffice.org

April 18, 2011

Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
28 East Jackson Boulevard - Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab:

On behalf of the CAPS Implementation Office, I would like to extend our support to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). As you continue to move forward with your mission to defend the civil rights of all, and bigotry and promote tolerance and acceptance of our many differences we offer you our continued support and encouragement.

We commend CAIR's commitment to bridging similarities, understanding differences, and celebrating commonalities in Chicago and around the world. Therefore, as you gather to commemorate your 7th Annual Banquet to discuss this year's theme: "Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide" we wish you great success and we congratulate you on CAIR's contributions to the city of Chicago.

From our community partners to you, we extend our most sincere wishes to all the attendees at this year's banquet. It is our sincere hope that the achievements made this year will have continued success and sustainability for the years to come.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Holt
Director
CAPS Implementation Office



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY
118 NORTH CLARK STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
(312) 603-6400
TDD (312) 603-8288

TONI FRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT

April 1, 2011

GREETINGS

As President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of the more than five million residents of Cook County, I extend my warmest greetings to all of those gathered for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter (CAIR-Chicago), Seventh Annual Banquet.

CAIR's commitment to justice for all is captured in your theme of this year's event, *Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide*. I commend you for the vital work you do for the Muslim community in the areas of civil rights, media advocacy, media outreach and voter registration. You work tirelessly to promote religious tolerance and cultural understanding.

On behalf of the residents of Cook County, I wish you an enjoyable and memorable event and send my best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Toni Freckwinkle
President



LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF ILLINOIS

CHAIRPERSON
HEALTH CARE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS
MEMBER
AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION
APPROPRIATIONS-HIGHER EDUCATION
SOVI OVERSIGHT
DRIVERS EDUCATION & SAFETY
HEALTH & HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES
HIGHER EDUCATION
HUMAN SERVICES
INVESTIGATIVE
MEDICARE REFORM, FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES



Mary E. Flowers
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
11ST DISTRICT



CAPITOL OFFICE
201 S. STANTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62761
217/781-4827
217/781-1138 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE
1008 W. 79th STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60620
773/471-6266 FAX
E-MAIL ADDRESS:
mflowers@ira.sps.gov

February 9, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Rehab:

Congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago) for yet another year of outstanding service in the promotion of peace and justice and in encompassing the theme of this year's event "Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide."

I applaud CAIR for your efforts to allay the fears of those who may tend to allow their lack of understanding to cloud their opinions regarding a totality of people, organizations whom they have prejudged. CAIR's renowned impact on society generated by the Muslim community in Chicago and nationwide is one that should be respected and as cited in your subject matter this year, one which your organization is committed to the challenge of further emphasizing and promoting the goodwill of our Muslim neighbors in Chicago and Muslim communities worldwide.

It is my honor and pleasure to lend this letter of support for your annual banquet and offer my best wishes for the continual success of your wonderful organization, CAIR-Chicago.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Flowers
State Representative 31st District

RECEIVED DATE - 07/09/11 09:04

CAPITOL OFFICE
1008 CAPITOL BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62761
217/781-9461
FAX: 217/781-1008



Carole A. Pankau
STATE SENATOR - 23RD DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
ONE TIFFANY PORTE, SUITE 41
BLOOMINGDALE, ILLINOIS 60008
630/582-6290
FAX: 630/582-6291

February 8, 2011

CAIR-Chicago
28 E. Jackson Blvd.
Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear CAIR-Chicago and Friends,

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 Chicagoland 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. Indeed, CAIR-Chicago's commitment to engage all communities in building mutual understanding and trust is helping to improve human relations throughout the land.

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-Chicago 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 legal assistance, voter registration drives, community workshops, internships and community service opportunities, "know your rights" educational campaigns, and training of mosques and Muslim centers on how to contact local and national politicians.

Regardless of our differences, our nation is one that achieves greatness when we come together to appreciate the beauty of one another's ideas, voices, and experiences. CAIR-Chicago'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

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



VILLAGE OF
ROSEMONT

April 16, 2011

Dear Leaders, Members and Friends of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR),

Last year, I had the privilege of sending congratulations to you at your annual banquet for your noteworthy quest to improve and turn around embattled communities by promoting justice and tolerance through education.

But today, I have a larger and a better assignment: On behalf of all those who live and work in the Village of Rosemont, Illinois – a town whose residents understand and appreciate the value of creating a progressive and successful community – I welcome you, for the very first time, to our community and to the Donald E. Stephens Convention and Conference Center, for your annual banquet.

Tonight, we greet you warmly at the Stephens Convention Center. There is certainly no better or more appropriate venue for CAIR's annual celebration than the Stephens Center in Rosemont.

Thanks to the success of this convention, tradeshow and meeting center, and also due to Rosemont's central location for local travelers, as well as those using O'Hare International Airport, our residents and employees revel in welcoming and serving the most expansive array of individuals, families and groups imaginable. From having experiences that are new and fascinating to those that are just plain fun, our residents and employees enjoy rolling out the red carpet to people from all walks of life and from everywhere around the world.

We respect your mission, acknowledge your hard work and applaud your accomplishments.

Congratulations to all the executive leaders and planners who have worked so hard to create this evening's dynamic program: "Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide." We are delighted that you chose Rosemont for this year's banquet and look forward to welcoming you in the future.

Congratulations and best wishes for continued success.

Mayor John Stephens

6001 West Division Avenue
Rosemont, Illinois 60018
Phone: 630.220.4400
Fax: 630.220.2717



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

GERALD R. BENNETT
Mayor

February 17, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Rehab,

Once again it is my pleasure, as Mayor of the City of Palos Hills, to send my best wishes to everyone attending the 7th Annual Banquet of the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago).

I congratulate you and CAIR-Chicago on your continued efforts and strides in involving all communities in building a mutual understanding and trust. Your desire and drive to put aside differences in order to achieve a unity is truly what has made your organization so recognized by the many political leaders in the Metropolitan Chicago area.

As Mayor of my City, and along with mayors throughout the metropolitan area, please continue your efforts on behalf of the Arab and Muslim American citizens you represent.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Bennett
Mayor
City of Palos Hills

GRB/trh

18335 South Roberts Road • Palos Hills, Illinois 60465 • Telephone (708) 598-3480

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
VILLAGE OF OAK BROOK

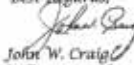
JOHN W. CRAIG
PRESIDENT

*Welcome to the
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter*

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the residents of the Village of Oak Brook, it is my pleasure to once again extend a hearty welcome to the members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Chicago Chapter to our fine community.

Your 7th Annual Banquet, themed "Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide", speaks to your commitment to engage all communities in building mutual understanding and trust. Your organization has annually held meaningful and successful events and this year promises to be just as successful.

We are pleased that you have chosen to return to the Oak Brook area for your annual banquet and thank you for your repeated interest in hosting your event in Oak Brook. We hope you have an enjoyable event and that you will have an opportunity to sample the many scenic, historical, culinary, sporting and shopping attractions that Oak Brook has to offer.

Best Regards,

John W. Craig
Village President



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Des Plaines

1420 Morse Street
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
Telephone: 847/391-5301
Fax: 847/391-5378

Martin J. Moylan

April 16, 2011

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

My Friends,

It is a pleasure to honor you as you celebrate your 7th Annual Banquet – "Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide." Your organization has done a great deal to foster mutual understanding and trust within our communities. The services you provide in the areas of civil rights, empowerment within the community and interfaith and intercultural initiatives are exemplary.

I salute you as you head into another year. May your success continue as you work to accomplish your mission.

Sincerely,


Martin J. Moylan
Mayor

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



VILLAGE OF LOMBARD

255 E. Wilson Ave.
Lombard, Illinois 60148-3926
(630) 620-5700 Fax (630) 620-8222
www.villageoflombard.org

February 7, 2011

Village President
William J. Mueller

Village Clerk
Brigitte O'Brien

Trustees
Greg Alan Geon, Dist. 1
Keith T. Giagnorio, Dist. 2
Zachary C. Wilson, Dist. 3
Dana L. Morris, Dist. 4
Laura A. Fitzpatrick, Dist. 5
William "Bill" Ware, Dist. 6

Village Manager
David A. Huisenberg

"Our shared Vision for Lombard is a community of excellence exemplified by its government working together with residents and businesses to create a distinctive sense of spirit and an outstanding quality of life."

"The Mission of the Village of Lombard is to provide superior and responsive governmental services to the people of Lombard."

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

Greetings,

As Lombard Village President, I extend greetings and best wishes to all attending the 7th Annual Banquet of Cair-Chicago.

As you gather to discuss this year's theme, "Beyond the Comfort Zone: Crossing the Divide", it will offer you the opportunity to continue your many services to the Chicagoland communities.

Best wishes on another year of success in making our communities a better place for all residents to live.

With Lombard Pride...

William "Bill" J. Mueller
Village President

WJM:cb

chicagocaimueller

VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG

PROGRESS THROUGH THOUGHTFUL PLANNING

Al Larson
Village President

April 16, 2011

Dear Friends:

Let me add my voice in recognizing the achievements of CAIR, the Council of American Islamic Relations.

It is in times like these that organizations such as yours play such an important role in breaking down the artificial barriers that oft times separate us. CAIR is to be congratulated for its role in fostering respect and understanding all across cultural lines.

I'm confident that your annual banquet in Chicago will be a great success and hope someday to welcome you to Schaumburg.

Sincerely,

VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG

Al Larson
Village President

101 Schaumburg Court • Schaumburg, Illinois 60193-1899 • 847/895-4500

Staff & Board

2010 Staff

Executive Director

Ahmed Rehab

Civil Rights Director

Christina Abraham, Esq.

Staff Attorney

Kevin Vodak, Esq.

Communications Coordinators

Amina Sharif

Lyndsey Stemm

Operations Coordinator

Hiba Hammadi

Outreach Coordinator

Gerald Hankerson

Government Affairs Coordinator

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Development Director

Dina Rehab

Development Coordinator

Ryan Hilliard

Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) Fellow

Ian Bushner

Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) Fellow

Ahmed Nofal

New American Democracy Project (NADP) Fellow

Ali Malik

Mazen Kudaimi, MD - Chairman

(Safaa Zarzour, Esq. - Ex-Officio)

Prof. M. Cherif Bassiouni - Honorary Chair



The Chicago Office
of the Council on
American-Islamic
Relations
Chicago Chapter

28 E. Jackson Blvd
Suite 1700
Chicago IL, 60604

t: 312.212.1520

f: 312.212.1530

info@cairchicago.org

www.cairchicago.org





CAIR
CHICAGO

www.cairchicago.org

28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700

Chicago, IL 60604

312 • 212 • 1520