

The Status of Muslim Civil Rights in the United States 2006



THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY



Council on American-Islamic Relations

The Status of
Muslim Civil Rights
in the United States
2006

The Struggle for Equality



Council on American-Islamic Relations
453 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003
www.cair.com

The **Council on American-Islamic Relations** (CAIR) is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to presenting an Islamic perspective on issues of importance to the American public. CAIR is the largest American Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, serving the interests of more than seven million American Muslims with 32 chapters and offices nationwide and in Canada.

The vision of CAIR is to be a leading advocate for social justice and mutual understanding.

CAIR's mission is to enhance a general understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

CAIR would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs. Khadija Athman and Ms. Amina Rubin for their help in the compilation of the 2006 CAIR Civil Rights Report.

Questions about this report can be directed to:

Arsalan T. Iftikhar
National Legal Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
453 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003

Tel: 202/488-8787

Fax: 202/488-0833

Email: aiftikhar@cair.com

FAIR USE NOTICE: This report may contain copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. It is being made available in an effort to advance the understanding of political, human rights, democracy and social justice issues, and so on. It is believed that this constitutes a 'fair use' of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use,' you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

The material in this report is provided for educational and informational purposes only, and is not intended to be a substitute for an attorney's consultation. Please consult your own attorney in order to get counsel on your situation. The information in this report does not constitute legal advice.

No part of this publication may be stored in a retrieval system, transmitted or reproduced in any way, including but not limited to, photocopy, photograph and magnetic or other record, without the prior agreement and written approval of the publisher.

Table of Contents

Glossary.....	3
Executive Summary.....	4
2005 CAIR Civil Rights Findings.....	6
Sample Cases from 2005 CAIR Civil Rights Database.....	20
Conclusion.....	24
2005 CAIR Year in Review.....	25
Appendix.....	37

Glossary of Islamic Terms

Allah	The most commonly used linguistic term for 'God' in Arabic. Allah is the same monotheistic God worshipped by Christians and Jews.
Beards	Many devout Muslim men grow beards to follow the tradition of the Prophet Muhammad.
Eid	Islamic holiday which occurs twice a year. Eid al-Fitr is the holiday celebrating the end of Ramadan on the first day of the 10 th lunar month of the Islamic calendar. Eid al-Adha, the most important Islamic holiday, commemorates the end of Hajj in Mecca, Saudi Arabia every year.
Hajj	The fifth pillar of Islam. It is the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia that every able-bodied, financially capable Muslim must perform at least once in his/her lifetime.
Halal	Permissible by Islamic law.
Hijab	Modest clothing that many Muslim women choose to wear in public. Generally, it is loose-fitting clothes and includes a head covering.
Imam	A prayer leader.
Kufi	A cap worn by some Muslim men.
Masjid	The Arabic word for 'mosque' - an Islamic house of worship.
Niqab	A face veil.
Prayer	The second pillar of Islam. Islam mandates structured prayers five times a day. Muslim males are also required to attend a weekly congregational prayer on Fridays. During the month of Ramadan, devout Muslims also observe extended evening prayers.
Quran	Islam's revealed text.
Ramadan	The Islamic holy month of fasting and the ninth lunar month of the Islamic calendar.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"The most sacred of the duties of a government is to do equal and impartial justice to all its citizens."
- **Thomas Jefferson**

As America approaches the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks, our society finds itself at a historic crossroads. Like all watershed events that have occurred throughout American history, the laws, policies and sociopolitical climate that our nation adopts during times of war has a long-lasting impact on all aspects of our society. At a time in which people of all faiths and races reflect on the enormity of 9/11 and honor the legacy of the victims of those tragic attacks, we must make certain that our government remains committed to the more than 200 years of American democratic ideals and constitutional principles. At the heart of these democratic ideals is the idea that all Americans are to be treated equally under the law regardless of race, religion or socioeconomic status.

In 2005, CAIR processed a total of **1,972** civil rights complaints, compared to 1,522 cases reported to CAIR in 2004. This constitutes a **29.6 percent increase** in the total number of complaints of anti-Muslim harassment, violence and discriminatory treatment from 2004. For the second straight year, the 1,972 reports also marks the highest number of Muslim civil rights complaints ever reported to CAIR in its twelve-year history.

In addition, CAIR received **153 reports of anti-Muslim hate crime complaints**, an 8.6 percent increase from the 141 complaints received in 2004.

Overall, **nine states and the District of Columbia** accounted for **almost 79 percent** of all civil rights complaints to CAIR in 2005. These ten states are (in descending order): **California (19%), Illinois (13%), New York (9%), Texas (8%), Virginia (7%), Florida (6%), District of Columbia (5%), Maryland (4%), Ohio (4%) and New Jersey (4%)**.

Although most categories either remained at the same levels or increased in frequency from last year's report, there have also been a few decreases, both in real and proportional terms, in certain categories from the previous year. For example, civil rights complaints involving Muslim-owned business declined from 6.50 percent in 2004 to 1.57 percent in 2005.

Another notable decrease from last year, in both real and proportional terms, is in the realm of 'due process' issues. Although this category decreased in proportional terms from 25% in 2004 to 17% in 2005, it still continues to represent the highest percentage of category type of alleged abuse

¹ Thomas Jefferson: Note in Destutt de Tracy, "Political Economy," 1816. ME 14:465 available at <http://etext.virginia.edu/jefferson/quotations/jeff0100.htm>

affecting the civil rights of the American Muslim community. With almost five years of data at our disposal, it is clear that there remains a growing atmosphere of fear and hostility toward American Muslims, Arab-Americans and South Asians. Two recent polls indicate that almost half of Americans have a negative perception of Islam and that one in four of those surveyed have "extreme" anti-Muslim views.

An independent survey by CAIR showed that one-fourth (23 to 27 percent) of Americans consistently believe stereotypes such as: "Muslims value life less than other people" and "The Muslim religion teaches violence and hatred." Those with the most negative attitudes toward Islam tended to be older, less-educated and politically conservative.

A similar poll by the Washington Post and ABC News also found that one in four Americans "admitted to harboring prejudice toward Muslims." That survey indicated that 46 percent of Americans have a negative view of Islam, a seven percent jump since the months following the 9/11 terror attacks. The Post-ABC poll also showed that the number of Americans who believe that Islam promotes violence has more than doubled since 2002. Along with the rise of Islamophobia, we have witnessed an increased demand by everyday Americans for information about Islam and the contributions of their American Muslim neighbors.

In response to global controversies like the Quran desecration story and Danish cartoon controversy, CAIR launched the 'Explore the Quran' and 'Explore Muhammad' campaigns in which we offered to distribute **free** copies of the Quran and DVDs of a PBS documentary on the life of Prophet Muhammad. Because of our proactive and positive campaigns, some **30,000 copies** of the Quran were requested and **over 14,500 copies** of the DVD will be distributed to the general public.

CAIR continues to be encouraged to see that congressional inquiries, inspector general reports from federal agencies and impact litigation cases are used to ensure that the civil and legal rights of all Americans are protected and that every American is treated equally under the law, regardless of race, religion or socioeconomic status.

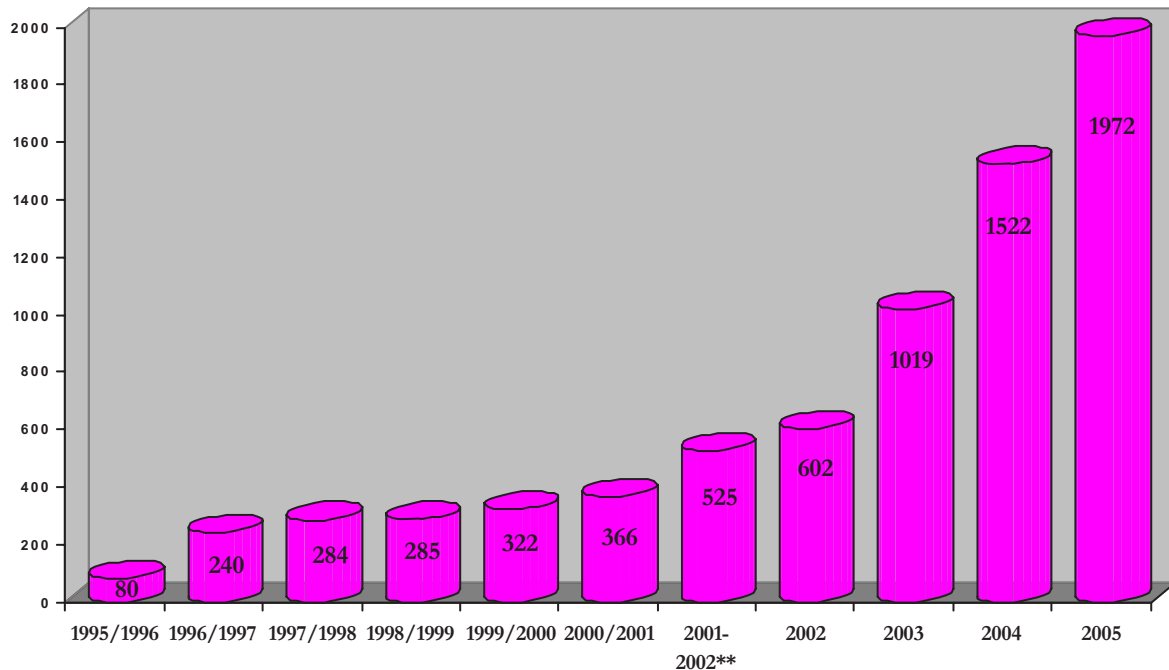
2005 CAIR CIVIL RIGHTS FINDINGS

Statistical Highlights

For the 2005 calendar year, CAIR and its affiliate chapters processed a grand total of **1,972²** complaints³ of civil rights violations. This was a **29.6 percent increase** (see Graph 1) in reported cases of harassment, violence and discriminatory treatment from 2004 (1,522). It also marks the highest number of Muslim civil rights cases ever reported to CAIR in its twelve-year history.

Number of civil rights cases reported to CAIR:
2005: 1,972
2004: 1,522
2003: 1,019

Graph 1: Total Number of Civil Rights Complaints by Year



**** Because of the significant jump in hate crimes and civil rights complaints after 9/11, CAIR issued a separate report entitled “American Muslims: One Year After 9/11” to analyze the 1,717 complaints received to CAIR in the first six months after September 11, 2001.**

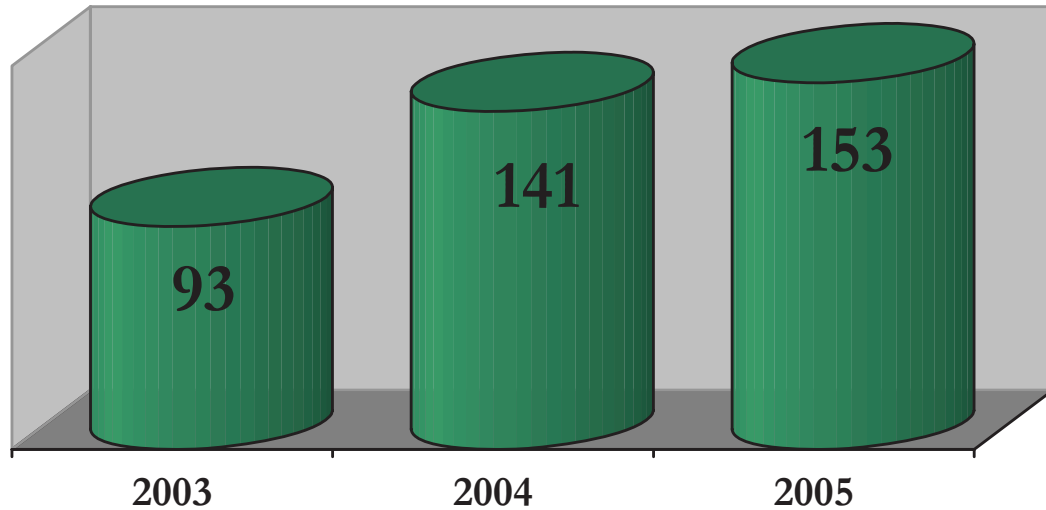
² Although CAIR received over 2,324 reports of potential civil rights violations, CAIR found that only 1,972 of these ‘reports’ warranted further investigation by CAIR.

³ See Graph 1.

Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes

Incidents of anti-Muslim hate crime complaints have also **gone up by 8.6 percent**, increasing from 141 in 2004 to 153 in 2005. (See Graph 2)

Graph 2: Anti-Muslim Hate Crime Complaints by Year



Anti-Muslim Hate Crime Complaints by Year:

2005: 153 cases

2004: 141 cases

2003: 93 cases

Some examples of anti-Muslim hate crime complaints received by CAIR in 2005:

- In December 2005, CAIR-Cincinnati and other American Muslims in Ohio called on law enforcement agencies to investigate as a hate crime the **double pipe-bombing of a Cincinnati area mosque**.
 - "One of the explosions blasted a hole through the ceiling and the roof of the porch and then struck the soffit then blew out the glass," **Cincinnati Police Chief Tom Streicher** said. "If people had been there...it could have resulted in death."



- "This community must come together. This kind of criminal activity cannot be tolerated in this community. That must be made clear," **Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory** said during the press conference.



Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory Speaks at CAIR-
Ohio Mosque Bombing Press Conference

- On October 9, 2005, according to KPHO-TV in Arizona, an elderly man was assaulted by a group of teenagers after leaving a mosque. The victim had his arm broken after being attacked by four teenagers. CBS 5 News was told the teens **“also threw beer bottles at others near the mosque.”**⁴
- On October 5, 2005, an Iowa man shouted a racial slur at a woman of Middle Eastern descent before **punching her in the face** at an Iowa City tavern restaurant. Authorities say that the man allegedly called the woman a **‘sand nigger’** and punched her in her left eye, knocking her to the ground. The woman sustained a variety of injuries, including a chipped tooth, black eye, and a cut nose, police officials said.⁵
- On August 10, 2005, a 23-year old pregnant Virginia woman **“was attacked by three men who shouted anti-Muslim slurs and called her a terrorist.”**⁶ According to news outlets, when the woman was being assaulted by one of the men, **“The other two guys were just laughing and screaming at the top of their lungs like it was a joke.”**⁷
- On August 5, 2005, Max L. Oakley, 50, of Toledo, Illinois was arrested for making **bomb threats on the national headquarters of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)**. According to Religion News Service, Oakley was **“accused of sending multiple email threats to CAIR's headquarters in Washington during the early morning hours of July 29. Officers of Washington's Metropolitan Police Department's Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit searched CAIR's headquarters with bomb-sniffing dogs but discovered no explosives.”**⁸
 - Agents of the FBI quickly determined that the person sending these e-mails was Oakley and when FBI agents interviewed Oakley prior to his ‘bomb threat’ deadline, he admitted that he had sent e-mails to CAIR and that the email address from which the emails were sent belonged to him. He was subsequently arrested, has pled guilty to making a hoax bomb threat and was sentenced on July 20, 2006.
 - In announcing the arrest, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia Kenneth Wainstein stated, **“As today’s arrest demonstrates, law enforcement shows no**

⁴ “Elderly Man Assaulted Outside Mosque,” *KPHO-TV*, October 9, 2005 available at <http://www.kpho.com/Global/story.asp?S=3957310>

⁵ Mark Bosworth, “Rights crime alleged,” *The Daily Iowan*, October 6, 2005 available at <http://www.dailyiowan.com/media/paper599/news/2005/10/05/Metro/Rights.Crime.Alleged-1009492.shtml>

⁶ “Police investigate attack on Muslim woman,” *WRC-TV*, August 10 2005 available at <http://www.nbc4.com/news/4830091/detail.html>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Religion News Service (RNS) Daily Digest, “CAIR Thankful for Arrest of Man Who Threatened Bombing,” August 8, 2005.

tolerance for those who use e-mail to spread hateful anti-Islamic rhetoric and threaten violence against innocent persons and organizations.”⁹

- On November 9, 2005, 53-year-old Robert Blackburn allegedly **fired more than 50 shots** at two cars parked at a Philadelphia-area mosque¹⁰. When police caught up with him he was dressed in his hunting gear with a .22 -caliber rifle in his car along with several rounds of ammunition.
 - **“We’re very glad that the ethnic intimidation charge was held. That’s the main charge that we were most concerned about,”** stated Montgomery County Assistant District Attorney Carolyn Flannery. **“These people were being targeted because of their religion and that’s something we just cannot stand for...”¹¹**
- On September 22, 2005, Montgomery County (MD) police said that **“...a Star of David was painted...next to the sign of the Muslim Community Center”** in suburban Washington, DC. A line was also spray-painted across the word ‘Muslim’.¹²
- On February 10, 2005, the front sign for a Boca Raton, Florida **mosque was vandalized to read ‘F--- all Moslems’**. This was the first reported hate crime at the Assalam Center construction site since the same sign was burned repeatedly in 2003, according to police.¹³
 - **“It’s a crime that we take very seriously,” Sergeant Robert DeNeve, public information officer, told the Boca Raton (FL) News. “The investigation is ongoing...”**

⁹ See Press Release “Illinois Man Arrested For Hoax Bomb Threat,” Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), August 5, 2005 available at <http://www.cair.com/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=1690&theType=NR>

¹⁰ Lesley Van Arsdall, “Montgomery County Man Charged In Mosque Shooting,” *KYW-3 TV*, November 29, 2005 available at http://cbs3.com/topstories/local_story_333161940.html

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² “Muslim Center Vandalism,” *Washington Post*, October 11, 2005 at B02 available at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/10/10/AR2005101001467.html>

¹³ Sean Salai, “Boca mosque sign vandalized again,” *Boca Raton (FL) News*, February 10, 2005 available at <http://www.bocaratonnews.com/index.php?src=news&category=Local%20News&prid=10814>

Civil Rights Cases by State

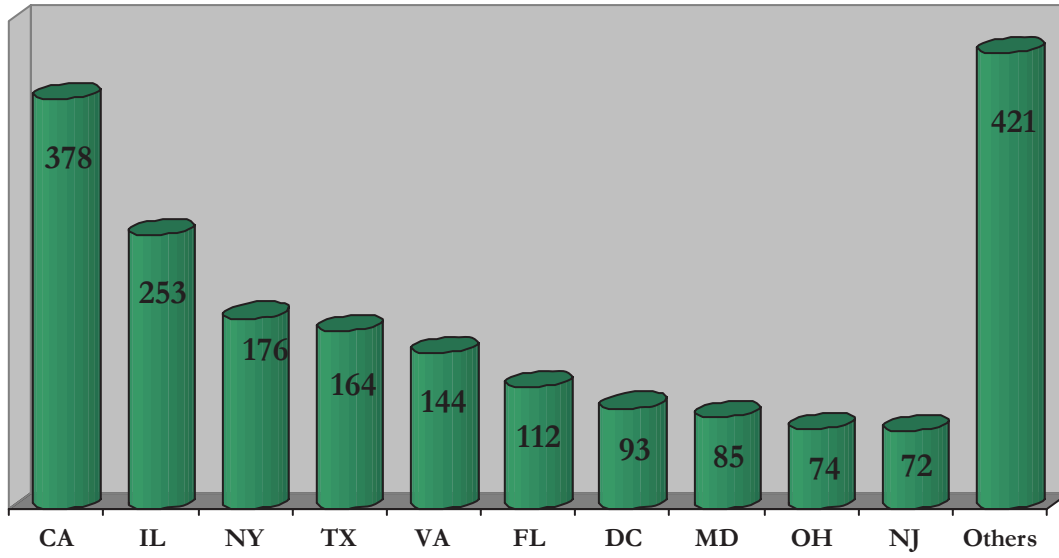
Over the past year, CAIR received complaints of potential civil rights violations from all 50 states. Overall, **nine states and the District of Columbia** alone accounted for **nearly 79 percent** of all reported incidents to CAIR in 2004. These ten states (See Table 1) include: **California (19%), Illinois (13%), New York (9%), Texas (8%), Virginia (7%), Florida (6%), District of Columbia (5%), Maryland (4%), Ohio (4%) and New Jersey (4%)**.

Table 1: Number of Civil Rights Reports by State

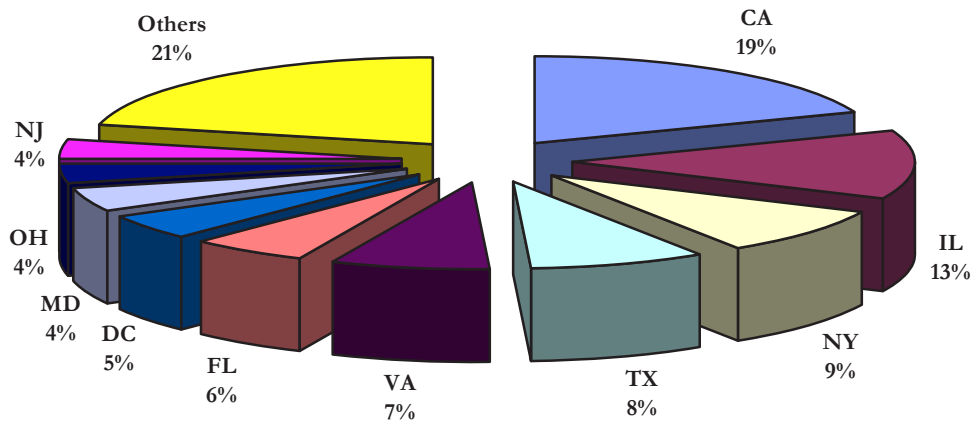
<u>State</u>	<u>Case Count</u>	<u>Percentage Total</u>
CA	378	19.17
IL	253	12.83
NY	176	8.92
TX	164	8.32
VA	144	7.30
FL	112	5.68
DC	93	4.72
MD	85	4.31
OH	74	3.75
NJ	72	3.65
All Others	421	21.35

California, Illinois, New York, Texas and Virginia represent the top 5 states with the largest number of CAIR civil rights incident reports for 2005.

Graph 3: Civil Rights Complaints by State



Graph 4: Percentage of Total Complaints by State



Civil Rights Cases by Place of Occurrence

Whether harassment in the workplace or a hate crime against a mosque, complaints of civil rights discrimination range in diversity, degree and place of occurrence. Understanding the need to combat hate crimes and civil rights discrimination, it is equally important to analyze where these complaints take place.

Of the 1,972 reports that CAIR received this past year, the most common places of occurrence for civil rights violations were the following (in descending order): **workplaces, governmental agencies, prisons, schools and the Internet**. These five categories alone constituted nearly **68 percent** of all of CAIR's received complaints in 2004.

Table 2: Number of Civil Rights Cases by Place of Occurrence

<u>Place of Occurrence</u>	<u>Case Count</u>	<u>Percent Total</u>
Workplace	501	25.41
Government Agencies	379	19.22
Prisons	175	8.87
Schools	162	8.22
Internet/Mail/Phone/Fax	115	5.83
Housing	86	4.36
Public Accommodation	86	4.36
Mosque/Community Orgs.	75	3.80
Airports	67	3.40
Police	65	3.30
Media	65	3.30
Public Street	53	2.69
Courts	50	2.54
Muslim-Owned Businesses	31	1.57
Shopping Centers	25	1.27
Financial Institution	15	0.76
Other	14	0.71
Military	8	0.41

Although workplaces and governmental agencies still represent the places where civil rights violations against American Muslims are the highest, if we look closely, one will notice interesting trends in terms of where acts of discrimination against American Muslims are occurring.

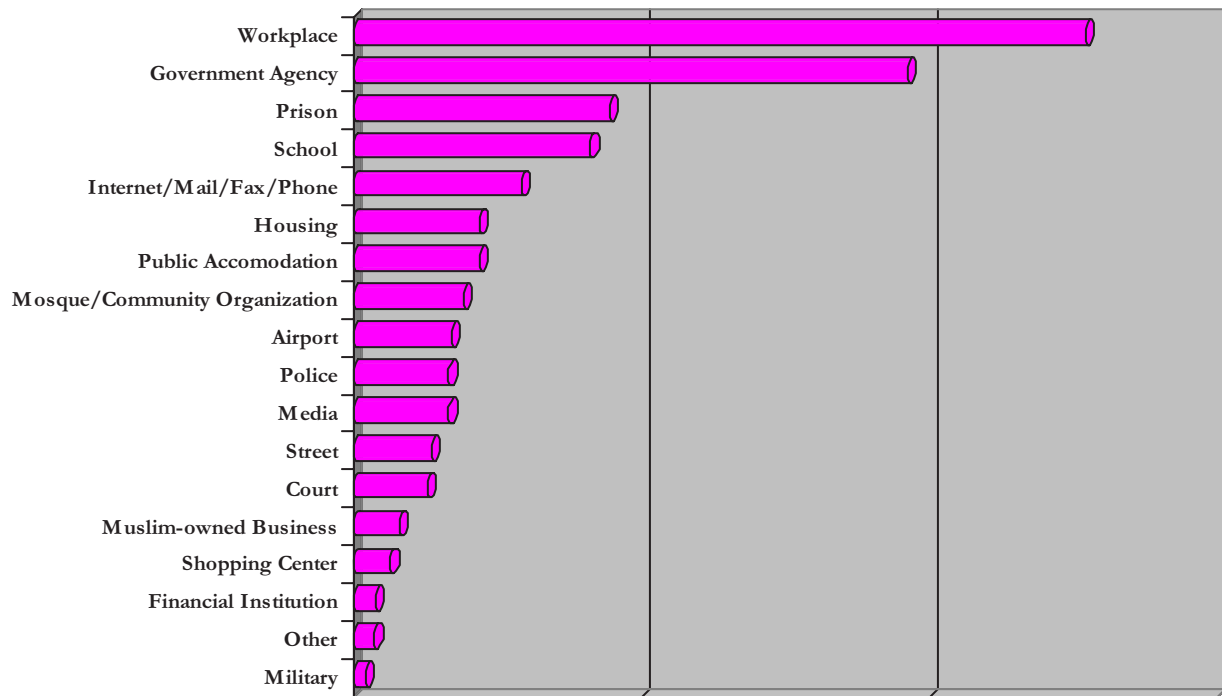
For example, **discrimination in the workplace** increased from 18 percent in 2004 to more than 25 percent in 2005 (see Table 2). This is an increase in proportional terms of seven percent from last year. It is also interesting to note that out of the nearly 2,000 complaints received by CAIR during calendar year 2005, **over one-quarter of these reports originate in the workplace.**

Although government agencies still constitute the second-highest frequency of discrimination in both real and proportional terms, it remained at nearly the same proportional level (19 percent) as it did one year prior in 2004. (see Table 3)

Table 3: Percentage of Complaints by Place of Occurrence

<u>Setting</u>	<u>98/99</u>	<u>99/00</u>	<u>00/01</u>	<u>01/02</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Workplace	47	42	48	26	23	23	18.27	25.41
Government Agency	8	11	10	19	23	29	19.25	19.22
Police*	-	-	-	-	-	4	2.43	3.30
Airport	3	3	2	26	14	4	5.78	3.40
School	8	13	15	8	7	7	6.24	8.22
Public Accommodation	10	8	9	7	6	4	2.69	4.36
Mosque/Community	2	2	1	3	4	2	2.56	3.80
Prisons	17	13	9	3	6	6	7.69	8.87
Internet/Email/Mail	0	0	0	3	6	7	3.88	5.83
Court	2	3	1	0	3	1	1.97	2.54
Military	1	0	1	0	1	1	0.20	0.41
Housing	0	0	0	0	4	1	7.56	4.36
Shopping Center	0	0	0	0	2	2	2.23	1.27
Financial Institution	-	-	-	-	-	3	1.64	0.76
Muslim-owned Business	-	-	-	-	-	1	6.50	1.57
Street	-	-	-	-	-	4	3.68	2.69
Other	1	3	2	5	1	1	5.32	0.71
Media	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.30

Graph 5: Civil Rights Complaints by Place of Occurrence



Civil Rights Cases by Types of Alleged Abuse

Equally as important as the place where discrimination occurs is the type of alleged abuse involved in every case. In order to comprehensively grasp the full scope of Muslim civil rights in America, it is essential to analyze the types of alleged abuse and any trends which can be ascertained from the compilation of this data.

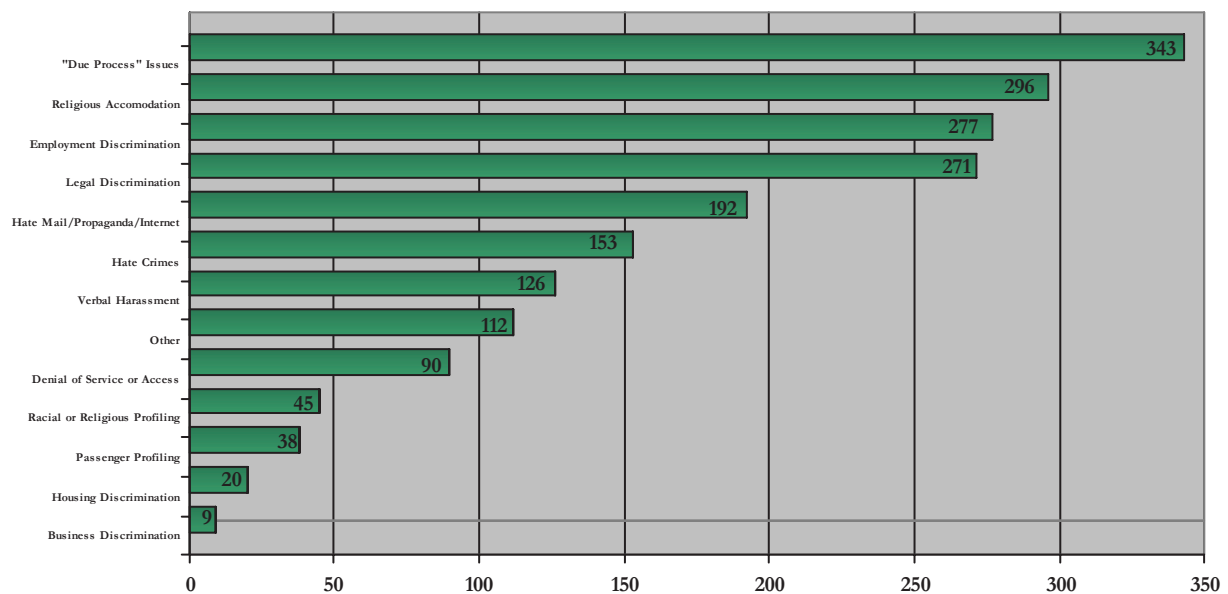
Regardless of whether it is a potential hate crime, employment discrimination, racial profiling, unreasonable arrest or Islamophobic public statements, not only is the physical location of the alleged civil rights complaint important, but it is also essential to distinguish and analyze the different categories of alleged civil rights abuse against the American Muslim community.

Out of 1,972 complaints received by CAIR in 2005, nearly 65% of these cases were triggered because of the person's ethnicity/religion.

Table 4: Case Reports by Type of Alleged Abuse

<u>Type of Alleged Abuse</u>	<u>Case Count</u>	<u>Percent Total</u>
'Due Process' Issues	343	17.39
Religious Accommodation	296	15.01
Employment Discrimination	277	14.05
Legal Discrimination	271	13.74
Hate Mail/Propaganda/Internet	192	9.74
Physical Violence	153	6.54
Verbal Harassment	126	6.39
Other	112	5.68
Service Denial/Public Facility	90	4.56
Racial/Religious Profiling	45	2.28
Passenger Profiling	38	1.93
Violent Threat	24	1.22
Housing Discrimination	20	1.01
Business Discrimination	9	0.46

Graph 6: Complaints by Type of Alleged Abuse



From Graph 6 above, it is quite clear that the highest type of alleged abuse, in both real and proportional terms, involved ‘due process’ issues. For purposes of this report, we categorized all complaints of unreasonable arrest, detention, surveillance, interrogation, seizure and accusations into one consolidated category of ‘unreasonable arrest’.

‘Due Process’ issues, religious accommodation denial, employment discrimination and legal discrimination made up more than 60% of all alleged abuse reports in 2005.

The top five types¹⁴ of alleged abuse made up **almost 70 percent** of all civil rights incident reports received by CAIR in 2005. (See Table 5) Of the 1,522 total reports received by CAIR in 2004, these five categories alone accounted for more than 1,100 of total reports.

Table 5: Percentage of Complaints by Type of Alleged Abuse

<i>Incident Type</i>	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	2002	2003	2004	2005
Employment discrimination	18	22	27	17	17	16	12.73	14.05
Verbal harassment	10	9	8	14	15	13	12.53	6.39
Denial of religious accommodation	49	31	37	12	13	15	14.84	15.01
Passenger profiling	2	1	2	24	12	4	2.64	1.93
Racial/religious profiling	-	-	-	-	-	13	4.02	2.28
Legal discrimination*	7	20	10	2	9	13	7.45	13.74
Due Process issues	7	5	6	19	12	4	25.40	17.39
Hate crimes	4	7	4	6	7	9	7.98	6.54
Denial of service/Access to public facility	3	5	5	5	6	3	2.44	4.56
Attack threat	-	-	1	1	2	1	1.12	1.22
Hate mail/Propaganda/Internet	-	-	-	-	4	7	0.26	9.74
Business discrimination	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.45	0.46
Housing discrimination	0	0	0	0	3	1	0.92	1.01
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.68

*This category also includes discrimination in child custody and other civil domestic cases, which were reported separately in 2002. Also, the category “Unequal treatment,” which appeared separately in previous reports, was consolidated within this category in 2003.

¹⁴ The top five types of alleged abuse in CAIR cases were: ‘Due Process’ issues, religious accommodation denial, employment discrimination, legal discrimination and hate mail. *See also* Table 4 and Graph 5.

Islamic Features That Trigger Discrimination

Regardless of the situation, when a Muslim is discriminated against, there is usually a tangible identifying feature or factor the individual possesses that motivates the bias discrimination. Whether it is a Muslim woman in *hijab*¹⁵ in the workplace or other Muslims who are discriminated against solely based on their national origin, it is important to acknowledge which Islamic features in today's society tend to trigger the most acts of discrimination against American Muslims.

Out of the 1,972 complaints of civil rights violations received by CAIR in 2005, **nearly 1,300 (64.86 percent)** of those complaints seemed to be based on the perceived ethnicity or religion of the victim. (see Table 6) For the purposes of this Report, if a Sikh-American (who is neither Muslim nor Arab) is physically assaulted while the assailant yells 'Go home, terrorist!' and it is reported to CAIR, that would be categorized as being motivated by the *perceived* ethnicity or religion of the victim.

Although both of these factors could legitimately be categorized in the Ethnicity/Religion category, the two other notable identification features which triggered significant discrimination were the categories of American Muslim women who choose to wear **hijab** (headscarf) and American Muslim men who wear **beards** as part of their religious observance.

“Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all.”

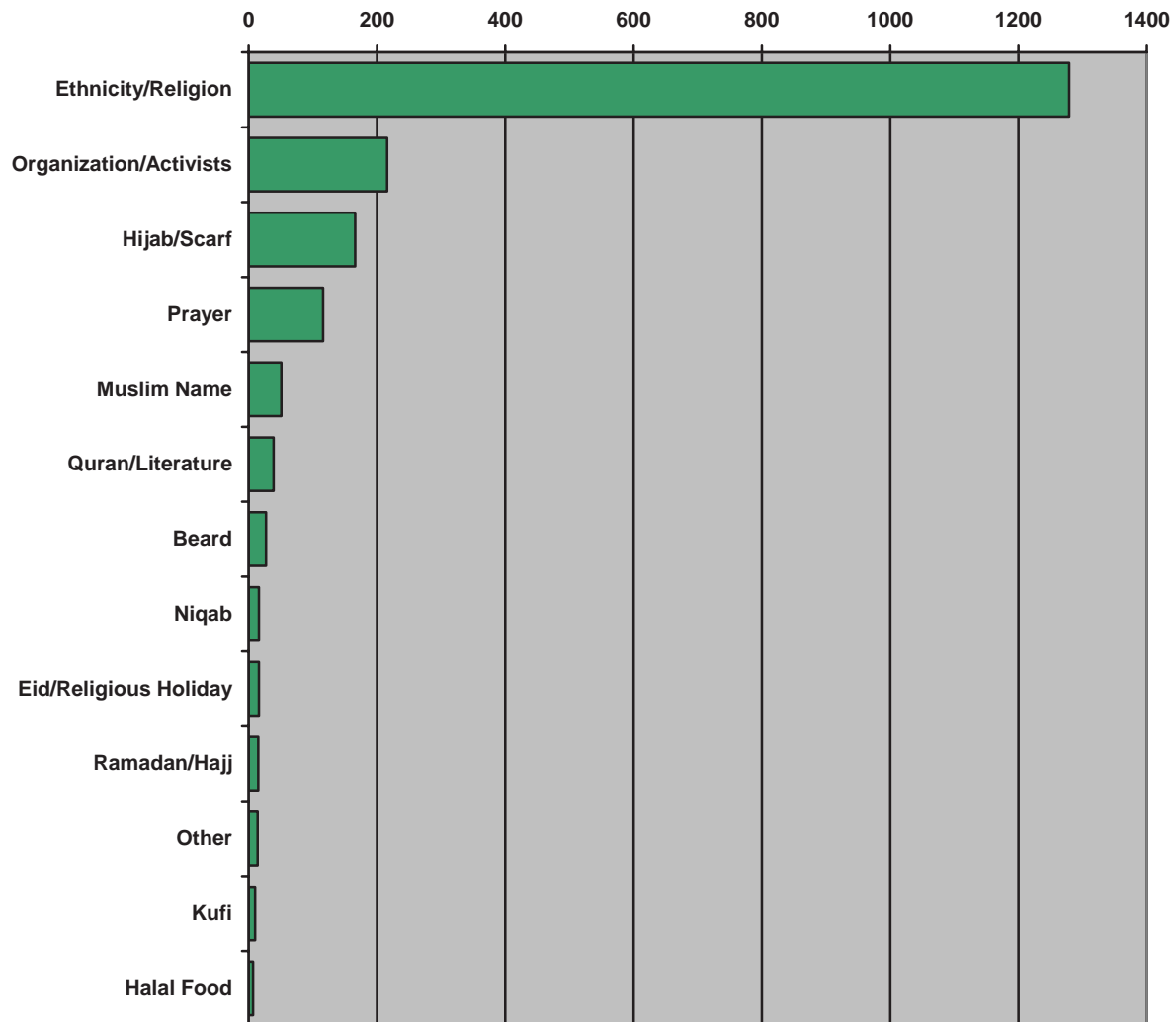
-George Washington

¹⁵ *Hijab* is a Muslim headscarf for women. See also p.1.

TABLE 6: Identification Factors Triggering Discrimination

<u>Feature Trigger</u>	<u>Case Count</u>	<u>Percent Total</u>
Ethnicity/Religion	1279	64.86
Organizations/Activists	216	10.95
Hijab/Scarf	166	8.42
Prayer	116	5.88
Muslim Name	51	2.59
Quran/Literature	39	1.98
Beard	27	1.37
Niqab	16	0.81
Eid/Religious Holiday	16	0.81
Ramadan/Hajj	15	0.76
Other	14	0.71
Kufi	10	0.51
Halal Food	7	0.35

Graph 7: Identification Factors Triggering Discrimination



“The most sacred of the duties of a government is to do equal and impartial justice to all its citizens.”

– **Thomas Jefferson**

SAMPLE CASES

Hate Crimes:

- **September 14, 2005** – While driving in Bluebell, Pennsylvania, a Muslim American family of Syrian descent were forced off the road by another driver who shouted racial slurs at them. When their car stopped at the side of the road, the other driver approached their car and banged on the hood and the window near their daughter.
- **May 22, 2004** – A Muslim cab driver in Huntington Beach, California was threatened and assaulted by a man in his cab. The man began talking about beheadings in Iraq, saying: “You enjoyed it! You saw it and you enjoyed it! Your brother killed my homeboy! I am going to kill you! I am going to behead you!” He began choking the driver, at which point an observer called 911. This incident was reported to CAIR on January 27, 2005.
- **September 19, 2005** – A Turkish Muslim man was verbally harassed and threatened in a park near his home in San Francisco. Another man approached him and initiated a friendly conversation about playing baseball, but when he learned that the Turkish man was Muslim, he began to use abusive language and threatened him with a baseball bat, warning him not to return to the park.
- **December 13, 2005** – A Muslim family was the victim of a racially-motivated burglary and vandalism of their home in Columbus, Ohio; their car was also stolen. According to news reports, “Police investigated the incident as a hate crime.”¹⁶
- **September 28, 2005** – A Muslim Somali family moved from their home in Winthrop, Massachusetts after experiencing racially-motivated harassment and assault. Two members of the Winthrop High School football team were each charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and intimidation of a witness.¹⁷
- **November 30, 2005** – A Muslim senior at Harvard was walking past the library when a group of women across the street from her began screaming insults and racial slurs at her, calling her a ‘filthy Jew-hater’ among other things. One of the women even began to chase her. The student felt that the attack was triggered by her headscarf, which visibly identifies her as a Muslim¹⁸.
- **June 28, 2004** – A Muslim woman in Freeport, Illinois was driving with a friend. When she stopped at a red light, three people approached her and asked her for a light. She replied that she didn’t have one, and they began to kick her car while making derogatory statements about Muslims. When the woman went to check the damage to her car, the three men brutally attacked her. This incident was reported to CAIR on February 22, 2005.

¹⁶ “Woman Claims Burglary Was Hate Crime,” *WCMH-TV*, December 12, 2005 available at <http://www.nbc4i.com/news/5518013/detail.html>

¹⁷ Brian Ballou, “Slurs, Assault Force Somali Family to Leave,” *Boston Herald*, September 28, 2005 available at <http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=104545>

¹⁸ Reed Rayman, “Student Reports Verbal Attack,” *The Harvard Crimson*, November 28, 2005 available at <http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=510136>

Discrimination in Schools:

- **January 13, 2005** – A female Muslim senior at a Chattanooga, Tennessee public high school was informed that she would not be permitted to wear her religiously-mandated headscarf on campus. The school later changed its dress code policy after receiving a letter from CAIR.¹⁹
- **October 28, 2005** – Muslim students at a Bridgeport, Connecticut elementary school were required to spend lunchtime in the school cafeteria during Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting. Following a letter from CAIR, an agreement was arranged whereby the children were allowed to study in a separate room under a teacher's supervision.²⁰
- **May 23, 2005** – A Muslim seventh-grader at a private school in New York was beaten by another student.²¹ CAIR called on the FBI to determine whether or not a bias motive was involved. This incident followed a similar attack on a Muslim in the Staten Island area by a gang of teenagers. The 53-year-old victim in that case, a father of four, later died of his injuries.
- **May 10, 2005** – The Baltimore County school system proposed a calendar for the 2006-2007 academic year that did not include days off for the two Islamic holidays of *Eid*, despite more than a year of lobbying by the Muslim community. The proposed calendar, which did include a day off for the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, had prompted Muslim parents, students, and community activists to lobby at every county school board meeting starting as early as 2004.
- **November 3, 2005** – Muslims in Hillsborough County, Florida were denied a holiday on the school calendar that would coincide with the Islamic holiday marking the end of Ramadan. The county commissioner said the Muslim holiday should not be recognized, and those who do not like “American” holidays should find another place to live.²²

Unreasonable Arrest:

- **June 7, 2005** – Two Muslim men in Chicago were stopped by local police officers, harassed, and arrested without being made aware of the reason they were being arrested. The officers allegedly used excessive force on the men, punching one in the face several times after he had been handcuffed. They also made offensive comments to the men about their culture and religion, calling them “Bin Laden” and “terrorist.”

¹⁹ Bill Poovey, “Tenn. school alters dress code to allow Muslim headscarf,” *Associated Press*, January 13, 2005 available at <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/news.aspx?id=14697>

²⁰ Frances Grandy Taylor, “School Accommodates Fasting Muslim Students,” *Hartford (CT) Courant*, October 28, 2005 available at <http://www.cair-ct.com/links/pressreleases.asp>

²¹ “Group Calls on FBI to Probe School Incident,” *Staten Island (NY) Advance*, May 23, 2005.

²² Editorial, “School Holiday Decision Sparks Hateful Grandstanding,” *Tampa Tribune*, November 3, 2005 available at <http://www.tampatrib.com/News/MGB9ISMBKFE.html>

Workplace Harassment:

- **February 6, 2005** – A Muslim employee at a Dunkin' Donuts franchise in Wilmington, Delaware was told not to report to work wearing her religiously-mandated headscarf, or *hijab*. Forced to choose between providing for her eight year-old son and practicing her faith, the 28 year-old single mother contacted CAIR to intervene on her behalf.²³
- **January 16, 2005** – A Muslim former employee sued Miller Company for wrongful dismissal after his supervisor at Miller confronted him following the 9/11 attacks and asked him if he sympathized with the attackers²⁴.
- **March 26, 2005** – Three Muslim employees at a factory in Groveport, Ohio received discriminatory treatment in their workplace, including increased workload, inappropriate comments by management regarding their accents and manner of dress, and denial of time off for Islamic holidays.
- **February 16, 2005** – Two employees in Cincinnati were refused time off for Friday Prayer. When they continued to attend Friday Prayer anyway, they were demoted to part-time status and lost their health insurance and other benefits.

Mosque Vandalism:

- **June 1, 2005** – A Miami mosque was vandalized by rock-throwers in an evening incident that shattered the main entrance. The incident followed another that occurred a year ago at the same mosque. At that time, a Nazi swastika patch was attached to and the f-word painted on the school's sign.
- **September 15, 2005** – In an apparently bias-motivated vandalism at the Boca Raton Islamic Center, vandals threw several rocks through glass doors of the Assidiq Islamic Educational Foundation (AIEF). The perpetrators also spray-painted a reference to a speaker whose appearance at an AIEF event earlier that year that sparked protests from local anti-Muslim extremists.
- **April 20, 2005** – Vandals tossed a brick through the window of a Colorado Islamic Center. The timing of the incident was suspicious, coming on the heels of a forum, which addressed the causes and effects of bias, discrimination and hate in the community. Glass covered the floor of the prayer room where the brick was thrown²⁵.

²³ Robin Brown, "Head-wrap dispute has happy ending," *The News Journal (DE)*, February 6, 2005 available at <http://www.cair-net.org/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=35976&theType=NB>

²⁴ Associated Press, "Muslim Man Sues Miller Brewing After 9/11 Remark," January 15, 2005.

²⁵ Sara Reed, "Islamic Center Vandalized," *The Coloradoan*, April 19, 2005 available at <http://www.coloradoan.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050419/NEWS01/504190340/1002>

- **December 6, 2005** – A Chicago mosque and restaurant was vandalized with hate speech written in red marker more than 30 times on the walls. The mosque in the restaurant's basement is popular with cabdrivers. The owner said that copies of the Quran were also placed in trash bags, and the pulpit where sermons are delivered was turned on its side²⁶.

The Justice Department says it has investigated more than 600 incidents of backlash since the September 11 attacks and that it has won convictions against 22 of the 27 defendants that it chose to prosecute.

²⁶ “Mosque Near Loop Defaced,” *Chicago Tribune*, December 6, 2005 available at <http://www.cair-net.org/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=38330&theType=NB>

CONCLUSION

"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves."²⁷

-Abraham Lincoln

The American Muslim community has always strongly supported national security efforts and understands the need to balance these efforts with hallmark constitutional and legal protections for all Americans, regardless of race, religion, gender or socioeconomic status.

With over 1,900 reports of civil rights violations against the American Muslim community in the last calendar year, it is apparent that post-9/11 backlash against Muslims, Arabs and South Asians continues to be a societal problem which needs to be redressed accordingly.

In addition, with the recent renewal of most of the controversial provisions of the infamous USA PATRIOT Act, it is imperative for our society to ensure that all Americans are treated equally under the law.

It is also essential for federal law enforcement agencies to continue to vigorously investigate and prosecute anti-Muslim hate crimes. Just as anti-Semitic and anti-African American hate crimes are rightfully prosecuted to fruition, it is equally imperative that hate crimes based on racist motivations against American Muslims, Arab Americans and South Asians be as forcefully prosecuted.

Civil and constitutional rights are non-partisan issues. Regardless of whether one is a Republican, Democrat or Independent, all Americans should be as vocal in demanding their legal, civil and constitutional rights as they are dedicated to protecting the homeland from threats, both foreign and domestic.

²⁷ *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* edited by Roy P. Basler, Volume III, "Letter To Henry L. Pierce and Others" (April 6, 1859), p. 376.

2005 CAIR YEAR IN REVIEW

In its eleventh year, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) experienced tremendous growth and success. For over a decade, CAIR has been at the forefront of defending the civil rights of American Muslims and advocating for their interests in the public sphere.

In 2005, CAIR hosted a conference to examine the causes and remedies of anti-Americanism and Islamophobia, two compelling phenomena that impact today's world.

Also in 2005, CAIR helped coordinate the first ever American *fatwa* (Islamic religious decree) against terrorism and extremism. Issued by the Fiqh Council of North America, the fatwa was endorsed by more than 300 American Muslim groups, leaders and institutions.

As the leading American Muslim organization countering Islamophobia, CAIR continues to challenge hate and negative portrayals of Islam in the media and entertainment industry. Working with FOX, ABC and others, CAIR took proactive measures to balance media portrayals and encourage Muslims to enter the fields of writing, producing and acting.

In addition, CAIR's civil rights department documented more anti-Muslim incidents than ever and helped in resolving many cases of discrimination and hate crimes.

Examining Key Issues in the World Today

In May 2005, CAIR hosted its first annual conference, "Islamophobia and Anti-Americanism: Causes and Remedies," in Washington, D.C. More than 300 people attended the conference, which brought together scholars, researchers, religious leaders, and community activists to discuss the twin phenomena of growing anti-Muslim bigotry in the West and increasing anti-Americanism in the Islamic world. Speakers included: Amnesty International USA Board Chair, Chip Pitts; Gerald Michael Feierstein, US State Department's Bureau of Near East Affairs; and Cherif Bassiouni, DePaul University law professor. Former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim gave the keynote address on the final day of the conference.

In a statement about the CAIR conference, Amnesty International USA Chairman Chip Pitts said, “There's no question that Muslims in the United States and around the world have borne the brunt of the latest war-on-terror measures. Although the Patriot Act had some soft language at one point saying that Muslims shouldn't have their rights violated, the truth is that Muslims have been US society's latest scapegoats in the current environment of fear.”²⁸

In September 2005, CAIR hosted a special address by Seyyed Hossein Nasr, George Washington University Professor of Islamic Studies, on “Shias, Sunnis, and the Future of U.S. Relations with the Muslim World” at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

CAIR also helped distribute, “Women Friendly Mosques and Community Centers: Working Together to Reclaim Our Heritage,” a brochure designed to help promote the rights of Muslim women and improve their status at Islamic centers, and hosted a panel on “Muslim Women Leaders in Public Life.”

Making Clear Islam’s Stand on Terrorism

In July 2005, CAIR coordinated the release of a fatwa, or Islamic religious ruling, against terrorism and extremism issued by the Fiqh Council of North America (FCNA) and endorsed by more than 300 U.S. Muslim groups, leaders, and institutions. The fatwa, released during a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., states in part:

“Islam strictly condemns religious extremism and the use of violence against innocent lives. There is no justification in Islam for extremism or terrorism. Targeting civilians’ lives and property through suicide bombings or any other method of attack is *haram* – or forbidden – and those who commit these barbaric acts are criminals, not martyrs ... In the light of the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah (prophetic tradition), we clearly and strongly state: 1. All acts of terrorism targeting civilians are *haram* (forbidden) in Islam. 2. It is *haram* (forbidden) for a Muslim to cooperate with any individual or group that is involved in any act of terrorism or violence. 3. It is the civic and religious duty of Muslims to cooperate with law enforcement authorities to protect the lives of all civilians. We issue this

²⁸ Press Release, “AIUSA Chairman to Discuss Anti-Muslim Bigotry, Increasing Anti-American Sentiment in the Islamic World, at CAIR Conference,” May 10, 2005 available at <http://www.commondreams.org/news2005/0510-03.htm>

fatwa following the guidance of our scripture, the Quran, and the teachings of our Prophet Muhammad – peace be upon him.”

CAIR also announced the release of its radio and television “Not in the Name of Islam” public service announcement (PSA) in English, Arabic and Urdu. The PSA ties into CAIR’s “Not in the Name of Islam” online petition drive designed to disassociate the faith of Islam from the violent acts of a few Muslims. More than 10 million American TV viewers have already seen the PSA.

CAIR’s 30-second PSA features American Muslims stating:

“We often hear claims Muslims don’t condemn terrorism and that Islam condones violence. As Muslims, we want to state clearly that those who commit acts of terror in the name of Islam are betraying the teachings of the Quran and the Prophet Muhammad. We reject anyone of any faith who commits such brutal acts and will not allow our faith to be hijacked by criminals. Islam is not about hatred and violence. It’s about peace and justice.”

Promoting an Accurate Image of Islam in the Media

Early in 2005, CAIR met with representatives of the FOX television network and producers of the hit drama “24” to discuss concerns about the depiction of a “Muslim” family at the heart of a terror plot on that popular program.

CAIR was concerned that the portrayal of the family as a terrorist “sleeper cell” would cast suspicion over ordinary American Muslims and increase Islamophobia.

Rabiah Ahmed, spokeswoman for CAIR, said that the show was "taking everyday American Muslim families and making them suspects ... it's very dangerous and very disturbing."²⁹

²⁹ “Media’s Muslims Bear Little Resemblance to Reality,” *The Montgomery (AL) Advertiser*, February 21, 2005 available at <http://www.cair-net.org/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=36124&theType=NB>

The FOX series stars Kiefer Sutherland as a U.S. counterterrorism agent based in Los Angeles. At the beginning of the fourth season, the storyline found Sutherland battling a Muslim terror cell with members including a married couple and their teenage son.

CAIR officials requested the meeting with FOX after viewing the first four "24" episodes, which "confirmed our concerns that the story was going in a dangerous direction: casting a shadow of suspicion on ordinary American Muslims."³⁰

At the meeting, which included CAIR and Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) representatives, FOX officials agreed to distribute a CAIR public service announcement to network affiliates and ask that it be aired in proximity to "24." Network officials also agreed to air a disclaimer stating that American Muslims reject terrorism. FOX's disclaimer, read by actor Kiefer Sutherland, stated:

"Hi. My name is Kiefer Sutherland, and I play counter-terrorist agent Jack Bauer on Fox's '24'. I would like to take a moment to talk to you about something that I think is very important. Now while terrorism is obviously one of the most critical challenges facing our nation and the world, it is important to recognize that the American Muslim community stands firmly beside their fellow Americans in denouncing and resisting all forms of terrorism. So in watching '24', please, bear that in mind."



© 24weblog.com

In addition, when a Boeing ad in the *National Journal* depicted soldiers rappelling off an aircraft onto the roof of a building labeled "Muhammad's Mosque" in Arabic, CAIR wrote to top officials at the corporation and its affiliates, demanding that they withdraw the advertisement and investigate how it was approved for publication.

The ad read, in part, **"It descends from the heavens. Ironically, it unleashes hell [...]** Consider **it a gift from above."** It ran in the *National Journal* and earlier in the *Armed Forces Journal*, which has an audience that includes Pentagon officials and contractors.³¹

³⁰ "FOX to Air Muslim PSAs to Balance '24' Portrayal," *FOX News Channel*, January 14, 2005 available at <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,144439,00.html>

In response to CAIR’s letter, Boeing Co., Bell Helicopter, Textron and the *National Journal* magazine apologized and withdrew the ad.

Boeing wrote: **“The CV-22 advertisement that appeared in the *National Journal* is clearly offensive, and did not proceed through the normal channels within Boeing before production.”**

“We consider the ad offensive, regret its publication, and apologize to those who, like us, are dismayed with its contents,” said Mary Foerster, Vice President of Boeing Integrated Defense Systems Communications.

“The ad may deepen concern overseas that the war on extremists is a war on Islam,” said Corey Saylor, CAIR’s Government Affairs Director. “This can be used by the extremists to reinforce that — and we certainly don't want that.”



© Boeing/Seattle Times

Challenging Hate on the Airwaves

When a Washington, D.C. radio host refused to apologize for his on-air Islamophobic comments, CAIR initiated a campaign against the station’s advertisers.

WMAL-AM host Michael Graham had stated on air that: 1. “Islam is a terrorist organization.” 2. “Islam is at war with America.” 3. “The problem is not extremism. The problem is Islam.” and 4. “We are at war with a terrorist organization named Islam.” Other listeners said that Graham even encouraged a public “backlash” against Muslims.

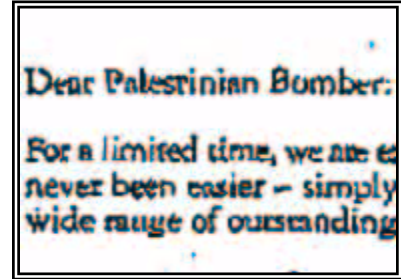
After hundreds of complaints, WMAL finally decided to fire Graham because he refused to retract his anti-Islamic statements, make an on-air apology and conduct outreach efforts to the Muslim community and others who were offended.

³¹ Hal Bernton, “Magazine ad ‘unleashes hell’ for Boeing and Bell,” *Seattle Times*, October 1, 2005 available at http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2002532657_boeingad1m.html

Defending American Muslims' Civil Rights

As per its mission, CAIR represented the interests of a group of Muslim workers of Somali heritage who walked off the job at a Dell, Inc. plant in Nashville, Tennessee. The workers believed that they were being forced to choose between their prayers and keeping their jobs.

After CAIR intervened, the Muslim workers were allowed to return, given back pay, and Dell provided them with religious accommodation. The settlement with the workers also required managers to undergo further training on religious accommodation.



© ABC News

When an **American Muslim received a credit card solicitation letter from Chase Bank addressed to 'Palestinian Bomber,'** CAIR immediately called on JPMorgan Chase to investigate. The recipient, a 54-year-old American citizen, has lived in this country for 51 years and served in the United States Army.

The company said it was "appalled and shocked" by the incident.³²

In continuing its proactive stance on being a national civil rights leader, CAIR also announced the "2005 Rosa Parks Civil Liberties Award," to be offered in honor of the legacy of civil rights hero Rosa Parks to students studying in fields that promote civil rights, social justice, and conflict resolution.

Encouraging Civic Participation

In addition to CAIR's daily activities aimed at politically empowering the American Muslim community, in October 2005, CAIR held its third annual Ramadan Iftar (fast-breaking) on Capitol Hill. Some 100 congressional staffers, community leaders, and

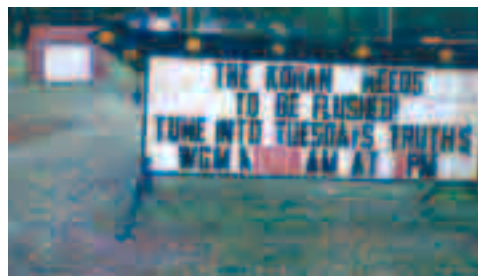
³² Clayton Sandell, "Credit Card Letter Addressed to 'Dear Palestinian Bomber'" *ABC News*, August 22, 2005 available at <http://abcnews.go.com/US/Business/story?id=1059341&business=true&business=true>

diplomats from Islamic-majority nations attended. The iftar, held in the Rayburn House Office Building, was co-sponsored by 11 House members.

Promoting Outreach to the Wider Community

CAIR initiated its “Explore the Quran” campaign in response to allegations that American military personnel desecrated the Quran at Camp X-Ray in Guantanamo Bay. The campaign promotes understanding and appreciation of Islam by offering the Quran, free of charge, to people of all faiths. To date, some 30,000 people have requested free copies of Islam’s holy text, including law enforcement officials, students, religious leaders, and ordinary people of all faiths.

A North Carolina physician wrote: “I appreciate what your group is doing to foster better understanding between the Muslim and non-Muslim communities. I look forward to reading the Quran and learning more about Islam.”



April 2005: Sign in front of Baptist church in NC

Another recipient from California wrote: “It just arrived today and I’ve only read the intro and forward and started reading the verses. My reaction surprises me: I feel an attraction to the words that I never expected. No matter what, I will learn so much about Islam thanks to your generosity.”

In the summer of 2005, CAIR launched an initiative called “Muslims Care” to promote volunteerism. The summer-long, nationwide campaign offered resources to help Muslims improve their neighborhoods and communities. “Muslims Care” is designed as an annual effort, with this year’s focus on health awareness, helping the needy, and activities for youth.

A new website, www.muslims-care.org, contains a downloadable toolkit with information about volunteerism and suggestions for activities such as blood drives, health awareness fairs and student tutoring. The “Muslims Care” kit also provides advice to Muslim leaders on promoting volunteerism in mosques. It also suggests establishing partnerships with groups such as the American Cancer Society and Habitat for Humanity.

CAIR Chapter Highlights from 2005

CAIR-Arizona: The Arizona chapter took a stand against infringements and attacks on the civil rights of Muslims across the state. When an elderly Phoenix Muslim of Somali heritage wearing Islamic attire was attacked during Ramadan by teenagers shouting racial slurs, CAIR called on law enforcement authorities to investigate bias as a possible motive.

CAIR-AZ took the lead in education, hosting “Explore the Quran” open houses. Designed to acquaint people of all faiths with Islam’s holy text, the events provided an insight into the Quran and its significance in the lives of American Muslims, followed by open dialogue. Free copies of the Quran were distributed.

CAIR-Southern California: CAIR-LA helped organize one of the year’s biggest media highlights for California Muslims, the first-ever live American radio talk show broadcast from a mosque³³. CAIR-LA coordinated the broadcast of the four-hour “John and Ken Show” of KFI 640 AM radio from the Orange County Islamic Foundation in Mission Viejo. The show aired live on 640 AM radio and made available online at www.kfi640.com.

Scores of Muslims and members of the wider public came to watch the live program. Not only did visitors gain a better understanding of the Muslim community, but tens of thousands of listeners were educated on topics ranging from women’s rights in Islam to Islam’s stance against terrorism. The broadcast was prompted by an hour-long interview in which CAIR invited the show to visit a mosque and hear from the Muslim community directly.

CAIR-Sacramento Valley: In a milestone for the California Muslim community, CAIR-SV held its first Muslim Youth Leadership Program. Thirty Muslim high school students from around the state were sponsored for a four-day training program held at the state capitol. The program featured workshops on organizing and advocacy, public speaking and effective use of the media. Highlights included a ‘mock legislature’ session on the Senate floor, during which participants debated policy and passed legislation.

³³ Officialwire Newsdesk, “First Ever Live Broadcast from U.S. Mosque” July 22, 2005 *available at* <http://officialspin.com/main.php?action=recent&rid=20355>

When the Muslims of Lodi, California felt besieged after several community members were detained on alleged terrorism-related charges, CAIR-SV stepped in to advocate for civil rights. After receiving reports of harassment and constant surveillance by the authorities, including the FBI, CAIR quickly engaged with law enforcement and held a press conference with the ACLU, the Bay Area Association of Muslim Lawyers, and the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights to make public the civil rights abuses in Lodi. CAIR also held several “Know Your Rights” forums including an all-women forum with Urdu, Farsi, and Spanish translation.

Also, the 2nd Annual Capitol Ramadan Iftar hosted by CAIR and 10 legislative co-hosts from the State Senate and State Assembly showed the prominent role Muslims play in California’s political process.

CAIR-San Diego: The San Diego chapter hosted a series of “Know Your Rights” and media workshops in mosques throughout the area. Working with a prominent non-profit employee rights organization, CAIR offered legal help and educated Muslims on their workplace rights, explaining the importance of being well informed on their rights in order to better serve the public and defend themselves. Lawyer Randy Hamud gave a presentation that detailed how to deal with issues that have come to light since 9/11. Specifically, he discussed how Muslims should not be afraid of the government, but should instead speak up and allow themselves to be heard. Advice was given on several topics, including what to do when approached by law enforcement officials for interviews.

CAIR-Florida: CAIR-FL and leaders of 15 Islamic centers in South Florida met with the FBI’s Miami Division of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to discuss ways to promote better relations between law enforcement and the state’s Muslim communities.



CAIR-FL Billboard on Interstate 595

CAIR-FL also launched its **anti-terror billboard project**. The billboard, located on the Florida Turnpike Northbound near the I-595 interchange, read: “Islam Condemns Terrorism/ Islam Stands for Peace & Justice/ Explore the Qur’an.”³⁴

³⁴ http://www.cairfl.org/images/sofla_billboard_w.jpg

CAIR-Chicago: In a concerted effort to dispel negative stereotypes of Islam and Muslims, the Chicago chapter coordinated a series of introductory-level lectures in early 2005. This initial 4-week program was so popular it had to be expanded to accommodate the influx of people on the waiting list. Each week's program hosted 75-80 people of different faiths, with a total of more than 600 participants. The goal was to offer citizens of the Chicagoland area an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and interact with members of the Muslim community.

The day-long program explored Islam and misconceptions about it. It also highlighted the history and struggles of American Muslims and discussed the commonalities among Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. A panel discussion helped clarify the commonly misunderstood aspects of Islam, such as the rights of women, jihad, and democracy. Guests had the opportunity to tour a mosque, observe noon prayer, and enjoy a Middle Eastern meal.

As part of its Ramadan Outreach Program, CAIR-Chicago held several community outreach sessions at local mosques to increase awareness of the services available to Muslims through CAIR-Chicago. The sessions targeted mosques in geographically diverse areas as well as those with racially diverse congregations.

CAIR-Ohio: The Columbus office hosted feed-the-needy campaigns to provide meals to the homeless and hungry. Another project brought much-needed school supplies to Columbus's Mifflin Elementary School. The summer-long drive culminated in hundreds of smiling children delighting over colorful bags full of new supplies.

CAIR-Ohio hosted its annual Leadership Conference, drawing more than 50 attendees statewide. The event featured distinguished speakers from the media, academia, and the civil rights field. Participants were given tools for communicating effectively with public officials and the media, building and organizing coalitions, and gaining an understanding of civil rights.

CAIR-Cincinnati: The Cincinnati office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Ohio (CAIR-Ohio) and Malik Islamic Center marked the Muslim fast of Ramadan by **providing hot**

meals to 500 residents of the poorest of Cincinnati's inner city neighborhoods.³⁵ Caring for the less fortunate in the community is an important and rewarding experience, an ethic emphasized in the Islamic faith. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said "Ramadan is the month of sharing with others," and this was the subject explored that night.

CAIR-Cincinnati also held a community cookout attended by 200 members of the local Muslim and interfaith communities. Students from a local Catholic boys' high school attended the event in an effort to get to know the local Muslim community. There were games and prizes for the children, and a visit from a park ranger. Attendees enjoyed the picnic fare and received CAIR civil rights and events literature.

CAIR-Cleveland: For the first time in Cleveland's history, the *adhan* (call to prayer) opened an official city-wide prayer service. CAIR coordinated the Muslim component of this multi-faith gathering held in downtown Cleveland in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The office expanded its Leadership Roundtable/Muslim Advocacy Committee Meetings with top-level federal law enforcement and conducted a year-long pilot sensitivity training series for the Cleveland Police Department. After the pilot's success, CAIR was asked to design the 2006 curriculum for the mandatory training of 1,600 police officers. In support of the Anti-Terrorism Fatwa, the Cleveland office coordinated local signatories and media coverage, securing 15 endorsements and holding a widely-covered press conference.

CAIR mobilized almost 100 community members to attend a Cleveland Public School Board of Education meeting as part of a campaign to help acquire a closing public school facility for the area's Muslim children. CAIR also launched the annual Muslims Care: Health, Safety, and Fitness Day at Al-Ihsan School, an event which brought together police and fire officials, public health educators, teachers, and families to promote community well-being.

CAIR-Texas: CAIR-Dallas/Fort Worth, CAIR-Houston, and CAIR-San Antonio met with the Texas Conference of Churches to establish annual statewide Muslim-Christian dialogues. Muslims

³⁵<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2005/10/12/American-Muslim-Briefs-October-2012-2005.htm>

and Christians from across Texas met in Austin to begin planning this long-term project; CAIR-DFW is a lead organizer.

CAIR-DFW and CAIR-San Antonio offered diversity training to Texas law enforcement officials from across the state, including the State Highway Patrol. Officers gained insight into Islamic practices as outlined in CAIR's *Law Enforcement Official's Guide to the Muslim Community*.

CAIR-DFW staff joined the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) director on a panel discussion about religious accommodation in the workplace. The panel was part of the South West Conference of Human Resource Managers, which was attended by over 3,000 HR managers.

In over twelve years of service, CAIR continues to be the largest American Muslim advocacy organization with 32 offices nationwide and in Canada.

APPENDIX



THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

and the Tampa Times

Muslim Woman's Suit Claims Bias

Muslim woman claims bias in court case over her wearing a hijab

SHE SAYS BIAS HELPED TO GET HER FIRED

A Muslim woman has filed a lawsuit with the U.S. District Court in Tampa, claiming she was fired from her job because of her religious beliefs and her wearing of a hijab. The woman, who is a member of the Islamic Center of Tampa, says she was hired by a company in 2011 and worked there for several years. She claims that her supervisor, who is a non-Muslim, made several derogatory comments about her religion and her wearing of a hijab. She says that she was eventually fired from her job because of her religious beliefs and her wearing of a hijab. She is seeking damages and an injunction against the company.



A Muslim woman has filed a lawsuit with the U.S. District Court in Tampa, claiming she was fired from her job because of her religious beliefs and her wearing of a hijab.

The woman, who is a member of the Islamic Center of Tampa, says she was hired by a company in 2011 and worked there for several years. She claims that her supervisor, who is a non-Muslim, made several derogatory comments about her religion and her wearing of a hijab. She says that she was eventually fired from her job because of her religious beliefs and her wearing of a hijab. She is seeking damages and an injunction against the company.

OTHER CASES

Other cases involving religious discrimination in the workplace are also being tracked. In a recent case, a woman who wears a headscarf was fired from her job because of her religious beliefs. She is seeking damages and an injunction against the company. In another case, a man who is a member of a religious group was fired from his job because of his religious beliefs. He is seeking damages and an injunction against the company.



Restaurant, Mosque Near Loop Defaced Chicago Tribune December 06, 2005

By Jason George
Staff Reporter

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/north/chi-0512060181dec06,1,5276105.story?coll=chi-newslocalnorth-hed>

A Greektown mosque and restaurant was vandalized during the weekend, leaving worshipers wondering why their house of worship was targeted.

"Viva Mexican. Isan Diablo," was written in red marker more than 30 times Saturday morning on the walls of Kabab Corner, 760 W. Jackson Blvd., and of the mosque in the restaurant's basement that is popular with cabdrivers.

Copies of the Koran were also placed in trash bags, and the pulpit where sermons are delivered was turned on its side, said Mohamed Addelrahim, the owner.

"This could be an issue of a disgruntled employee. But seeing as how they wrote `diablo' in a mosque, it could very well be a hate crime too," said **Ahmed Rehab**, a **spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations** in Chicago, a Muslim advocacy group. **Rehab** is Addelrahim's cousin.

"Diablo" is Spanish for "devil. . ."

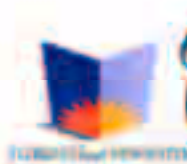
The vandalism is being investigated as a criminal defacement of property, not as a hate crime, said John Mirabelli, a Chicago police spokesman.

He added that he does not suspect a current or former employee. "I don't have a employee who does this," Addelrahim said.

He's worried that "Isan"--not a relevant word in either Spanish or English--is a misspelling of "Islam."

"I think they didn't know how to spell Islam," he said Monday. "I haven't threatened anyone. I just want to have a nice place the cabdrivers can come to. I want it to be a home for them."

copyright © 2005, Chicago Tribune



A COLLISION BETWEEN RELIGION AND SPORTS



Two young girls, one wearing a headscarf, are seen in a classroom setting. The girl on the left is looking towards the girl on the right.

Muslim head scarf debated

■ The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is debating whether to allow Muslim students to wear headscarves on college campuses. The debate is part of a larger discussion about religious freedom and the rights of minority groups in public institutions.

Some opponents of the headscarf argue that it is a form of religious discrimination and that it is not a neutral religious symbol. They argue that the headscarf is a symbol of oppression and that it is not a neutral religious symbol.

Other opponents argue that the headscarf is a form of religious discrimination and that it is not a neutral religious symbol. They argue that the headscarf is a symbol of oppression and that it is not a neutral religious symbol.

Religion

Several members of Congress have introduced legislation to allow Muslim students to wear headscarves on college campuses. The legislation is part of a larger discussion about religious freedom and the rights of minority groups in public institutions.

Arizona Daily Star

<http://www.azstarnet.com/metro/127787>

Tucson Region: Muslims worried by tirade after film

By Stephanie Innes

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Tucson, Arizona | Published: 05.05.2006

The verbal abuse of three young Muslim women in Scottsdale by a couple who had just seen "United 93" is stirring concern among the Arizona Islamic community that the film will reignite furor at their faith.

"Generally, what we try to do is turn a negative into a positive, so if there's a good initiative to take to educate people to show we're not responsible for violence or terrorism, that's what we will be looking at doing," said Bushra Khan, office manager of the Council on American-Islamic Relations' Arizona chapter, based in Phoenix. About 60,000 Muslims live in Arizona — about 8,000 of them in the Tucson area.

Khan, 24, was one of the three young women who say they were shopping at the Desert Ridge Marketplace in Scottsdale on April 29 — all of them wearing burqas, or head scarves — when they were approached by a middle-aged couple who asked if they were Muslim.

Khan said she always welcomes inquiries about her faith and was happy to tell the couple yes. But what happened next was a shock, she said.

According to Khan, the couple said they'd seen the movie "United 93" and then told the women to take off their burqas, swore at them, and told them to get out of the country. The couple quickly left and the women did not file a police report.

"United 93," released last week, re-creates the flight of the fourth and final plane hijacked by Islamist terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001.

"The couple's verbal abuse had obviously been prompted by their associating all Muslims with those who took part in the 9/11 terror attacks," Khan said. "The best way to prevent this type of stereotyping and intolerance is to educate ordinary Americans of all faiths about Islam and Muslims."

Khan said the council could reignite campaigns similar to those it sponsored post-9/11, among them "Not in the Name of Islam" public service announcements rejecting terrorism and religious extremism, and the ongoing "Explore the Life of Muhammad" initiative, which offers free DVDs and books on the life and legacy of Islam's prophet and founder. The council also continues to offer free copies of its holy book, the Quran.

"Hopefully, a lot of Muslim and diversity organizations will be holding information sessions and education sessions to let people know Muslims are just like everyone else — we want peace and happiness," said Sarah Dehaybi, president of the Muslim Students Association at the University of Arizona, which has a listserv of 300 and staffs a Muslim information table on the UA Mall every week. "Sept. 11 was a horrible event, but since then a lot of people have been getting an education about Islam, so I'm hoping the reaction to the movie overall will not be bad."

Na'eem Abdul Wali, imam of the Al Kawthar Institute, an Islamic education center on the Northwest Side, had not heard of any adverse local reaction to the film, which he expects to see in the next day or two.

"I'm going to go with my turban on. I am interested to see what happens," he said. "I don't know how well the movie represents the truth, but at the end of the day I would think it's going to have some effect on people and how they view the Muslim community."

• *Contact reporter Stephanie Innes at 573-4134 or at sinnes@azstarnet.com. Go to www.azstarnet.com/faith for other recent religion coverage.*

Man faces new charges in 2003 van explosion

By Tom Rybarczyk

Tribune staff reporter

A Burbank man was arrested Monday on federal charges he violated the civil rights of a Muslim family when he allegedly tossed a fireworks explosive into their unoccupied van.

Eric K. Nix, 26, has been convicted in Cook County of misdemeanor charges stemming from the same 2003 incident.

Shortly after his arrest at 8:30 a.m. Monday, he pleaded not guilty to the federal charges before U.S. Magistrate Judge Ian Levin.

Nix was performing community service as part of his sentence for the misdemeanor conviction when U.S. deputy marshals arrested him.

His punishment in September 2003 in Cook County Circuit Court, 200 hours community service and two years' probation, was criticized as a "a slap on the wrist" by Muslim civil rights groups and the victim, Abbas Salmi.

"We are definitely pleased with the fact that justice is taking its due course," said Fadi Farhan, director of governmental relations for the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

"The punishment in any case should fit the crime, and this charge fits the act more than the previous [charges]."

If convicted of the federal charges, Nix faces a maximum prison term of 10 years and a fine of \$250,000.

Nix's defense attorney could not be reached for comment.

The new charges against Nix

represent an unusual case of the federal government charging a defendant under a different statute for the same incident for which he was tried at the state level, officials said.

Asked what led to the new charge against Nix, Assistant U.S. Atty. Sergio Acosta said it would be inappropriate to comment.

Daniel R. Alba, 31, was also charged federally in connection with the incident for allegedly making false statements to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm agents.

Prosecutors alleged that Alba of Burbank told ATF agents he did not know who caused the explosion. He also pleaded not guilty and faces a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Both men were released on their own recognizance.

Nix pleaded guilty to arson, criminal damage to property and committing a hate crime for the March 2003 attack, just days after the U.S. invaded Iraq.

He was convicted for throwing a brick through a window of a Muslim-owned furniture store in 2001, officials said. He spent 30 days in jail.

The "large, mortar-type firework" exploded and caused irreparable damage to the van and terrified Salmi's family, said Salmi's attorney, Betsy Shuman-Moore of Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Tribune staff reporter Rudolph Bush contributed to this report.

trybarczyk@tribune.com

Chicago Tribune
July 15, 2005

CAIR
Council on American-Islamic Relations
National Headquarters
453 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
Telephone: 202.488.8787 • FAX: 202.488.0833
URL: www.cair.com • Email: cair@cair.com

CAIR
CHAPTERS

CAIR – Arizona
Main Telephone: 602.262.2247
Email: Director@cairaz.org

CAIR – N. California
Main Telephone: 408.986.9874
Email: nocal@cair.com

CAIR – S. California
Main Telephone: 714.776.1847
Email: cair_sca@cair-california.org

CAIR – Canada
Main Telephone: 866.524.0004
Email: canada@cair-net.org

CAIR – Central PA
Main Telephone: 717.732.3330
Email: samalik1@aol.com

CAIR – Chicago
Main Telephone: 312.212.1520
Email: info@cairchicago.org

CAIR – Cincinnati
Main Telephone: 513.281.8200
Email: Cincinnati@cair-ohio.com

CAIR – Cleveland
Main Telephone: 216.830.2247
Email: cleveland@cair-ohio.com

CAIR – Connecticut
Main Telephone: 860.995.6628
Email: cair-ct@cair-net.org

CAIR – Dallas/FW
Main Telephone: 972.241.7233
Email: info@cairfw.org

CAIR – S. Florida
Main Telephone: 954.272.0490
Email: info@cair-florida.org

CAIR – Houston
Main Telephone: 713.838.2247
Email: cair@cairhouston.org

CAIR – Kentucky
Main Telephone: 859.221.9081
Email: cairky@cairky.org

CAIR – Maryland/Virginia
Main Telephone: 703.689.3100
Email: info@cairmd.org

CAIR – Michigan
Main Telephone: 248.569.2203
Email: cair@cairmichigan.org

CAIR – New Jersey
Main Telephone: 908.209.7440
Email: cair@cair-nj.org

CAIR – New York
Main Telephone: 212.870.2002
Email: cair-ny@cair-ny.com

CAIR – N. Georgia
Main Telephone: 770.220.0082
Email: cair@cair-northgeorgia.org

CAIR – Ohio
Main Telephone: 614.451.3232
Email: ohio@cair-net.org

CAIR – Philadelphia
Main Telephone: 215.592.0509
Email: cairphilly@cairphilly.com

CAIR – Sacramento Valley
Main Telephone: 916.441.6269
Email: sacval@cair.com

CAIR – San Antonio
Main Telephone: 210.378.9528
Email: sanantonio@cair-net.org

CAIR – San Diego
Main Telephone: 858.278.4547
Email: sandiego@cair.com

CAIR – Seattle
Main Telephone: 206.367.4081
Email: info@cair-seattle.org

CAIR – S. Carolina
Main Telephone: 803.233.1809
Email: cair-sc@cair-net.org

CAIR – St. Louis
Main Telephone: 636.207.8882
Email: admin@cair-stl.org

CAIR – Tampa
Main Telephone: 813.514.1414
Email: tampa@cair-florida.org



Council on American-Islamic Relations

453 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003
www.cair.com