

# The Status of Muslim Civil Rights in the United States

2007



PRESUMPTION OF GUILT



Council on American-Islamic Relations

**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 over 32 chapters and offices nationwide and 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.

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**Questions about this report can be directed to:**

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
453 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC 20003

Tel: 202/488-8787

Fax: 202/488-0833

E-Mail: [info@cair.com](mailto:info@cair.com)

**To obtain copies of this report, please email [civilrights@cair.com](mailto:civilrights@cair.com)**

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# Glossary of Islamic Terms

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

# Executive Summary



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## *“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”<sup>1</sup>*

-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Since 1996, prompted by the anti-Muslim backlash that followed the 1995 attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has issued an annual report on the status of American Muslim civil rights.

Each year, CAIR's civil rights report has shown an increase in the number of total reported incidents and experiences of anti-Muslim bias, discrimination, harassment, threats, and physical attacks. Unfortunately, CAIR's 2007 report continues that disturbing trend.

In 2006, CAIR processed a total of **2,467** civil rights complaints, compared to 1,972 cases reported to CAIR in 2005. This constitutes a **25.1 percent increase** in the total number of complaints from 2005.

CAIR received **167 reports of anti-Muslim hate crimes**, a 9.2 percent increase from the 153 complaints received in 2005.

Overall, **10 states accounted for almost 81 percent** of all civil rights complaints to CAIR in 2006. These states include (in descending order): **California** (29 percent), **Illinois** (13 percent), **District of Columbia** (7 percent), **Florida** (7 percent), Texas (6 percent), **New York** (5 percent), **Virginia** (4 percent), **Michigan** (3 percent), **New Jersey** (3 percent) and **Ohio** (3 percent).

This year, most categories of reported cases remained relatively unchanged from last year's report. There were however a few decreases, both in real and proportional terms, in certain categories from the previous year.

For example, civil rights complaints involving the **workplace** declined significantly from 25.41 percent in 2005 to 15.57 percent in 2006.

One of the most significant increases involved the category dealing with **government agencies**, which rose sharply from 19.22 percent in 2005 to 36.32 percent in 2006. This increase was due primarily to the number of cases related to major immigration issues such as citizenship and naturalization delays.

The depth of the **citizenship delay** problem was recently highlighted by the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHR&GJ) at the New York University School of Law<sup>2</sup>. The NYU report states that, “Delays in the citizenship process implicate discrimination on grounds that are prohibited under international law.”<sup>3</sup>

CAIR has joined with several national human rights organizations to help litigate these citizenship delay cases to ensure that the legal rights of all Americans are protected. From cases nationwide, CAIR is helping to ensure that those who have honored the legal process to become Americans are afforded the right to ensure the expediting of this process.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.quotedb.com/quotes/47>

<sup>2</sup> Full report available at <http://www.chrgj.org/docs/AOH/AmericansonHoldReport.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Id. at 4

American citizens have also been victims of overzealous governmental actions in regard to **border crossings and terrorism ‘watch lists’**. According to *The New York Times*, in response to American Muslim citizens desire to see an efficient system, many Americans “...want increased Congressional oversight of the terrorist watch list system to insure that the [government] is not abusing the basic civil rights of United States citizens at the borders.”<sup>4</sup>

Also in 2006, several key polls indicated that the level of Islamophobia continues to rise today in American society. **An August 2006 USA Today/Gallup poll showed that 39 percent of Americans felt at least some prejudice against Muslims.**<sup>5</sup> The same percentage favored requiring Muslims, including American citizens, to carry a special ID “as a means of preventing terrorist attacks in the United States.” **Most surprising was the fact that 22 percent of those polled for the USA Today/Gallup poll said they would not want American Muslims as neighbors.**<sup>6</sup>

## CAIR Recommendations

These troubling figures, coupled with the results of CAIR’s annual civil rights report, demonstrate a need for concrete actions to address anti-Muslim discrimination in our society.

CAIR therefore recommends the following:

1. Elected representatives, interfaith religious and community leaders must speak out more vocally against Islamophobia, particularly when there is a reported anti-Muslim incident in their local areas. Those people, who promote bigotry targeting any faith or minority group, should be repudiated by all Americans.
2. American Muslims should increase efforts to reach out to their fellow citizens to educate them about Islam and to create opportunities for interaction with ordinary American Muslims. CAIR’s research has found that prejudice decreases when people know more about Islam and when they personally interact with ordinary Muslims.
3. Congress should hold hearings on the rising level of Islamophobia in America and its negative impact on our society and on our nation’s image and policy interests worldwide.
4. Federal agencies should expedite the processing of citizenship/naturalization applications that have far exceeded the amount of time allowed by federal law.
5. Because much of the Islamophobia in our society is a byproduct of international events, our government should work in cooperation with the American Muslim community to implement domestic and foreign policies that reflect American traditions of justice and respect for the human dignity for all people.

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<sup>4</sup> Neil MacFarquhar, “Borders Spell Trouble for Arab-American,” *The New York Times*, April 29, 2007 at A25.

<sup>5</sup> Marilyn Elias, “USA’s Muslims under a cloud,” *USA Today*, August 10, 2006 available at [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-08-09-muslim-american-cover\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-08-09-muslim-american-cover_x.htm)

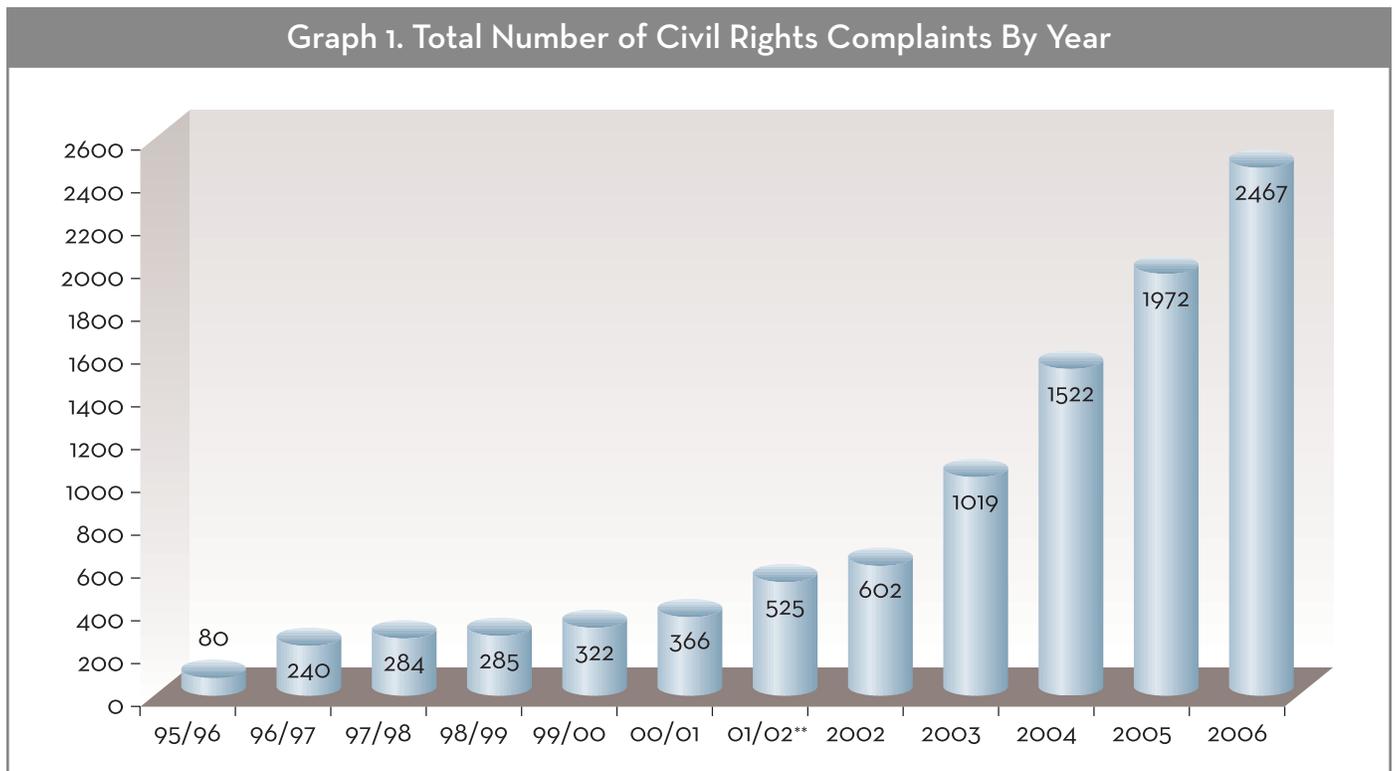
<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

# 2006 CAIR Civil Rights Findings



## Statistical Highlights

For the 2006 calendar year, CAIR and its affiliate chapters processed a grand total of **2,467**<sup>7</sup> civil rights complaints.<sup>8</sup> This number represents a **25.1 percent increase** in reported cases from 2005 (1,972 reports). For the third year in a row, this figure also marks the highest number of Muslim civil rights complaints ever reported to CAIR.



\*\* 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 alone.

**Number of Civil Rights Complaints Reported to CAIR:**

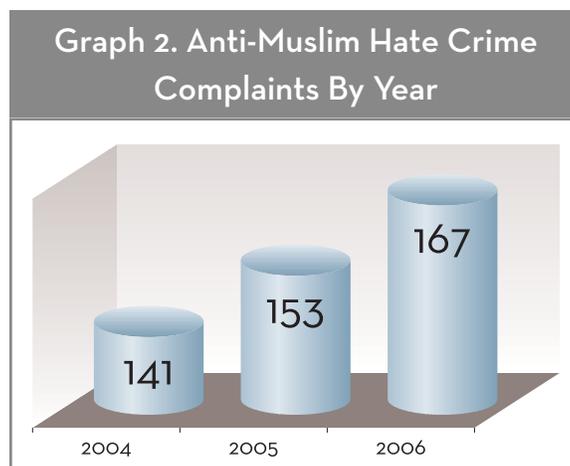
**2006: 2,467**  
**2005: 1,972**  
**2004: 1,522**

<sup>7</sup> Although CAIR received more than 2,970 reports of potential civil rights violations, CAIR found that only 2,467 of these complaints warranted further investigation by CAIR.

<sup>8</sup> See Graph 1.

## Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes

Incidents of anti-Muslim hate crime complaints went up by **9.2 percent** this year, increasing from 153 in 2005 to 167 total complaints in 2006.<sup>9</sup>



Some examples of anti-Muslim hate crime complaints received by CAIR in 2006:

■ February 16, 2006 – **An Imam at a Michigan mosque was assaulted and the mosque was vandalized.** Objects were thrown through the windows of the mosque twice in the weeks before the attack. On another occasion, a group of youths entered and threw shoes at the congregation as they prayed.<sup>10</sup> **According to *The Detroit News*, the FBI was involved in the case and Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm has offered state aid, if needed.**<sup>11</sup>

■ April 5, 2006 – **A female Muslim college senior at Baylor University in Texas was attacked** while walking through the university’s campus. The assailant, a white man thought to be in his 30s, attacked her from behind. **He pushed, slapped, and kicked her while using racial and anti-Muslim slurs and pulled off her headscarf.** The woman was treated at the hospital for contusions and a dislocated shoulder. CAIR called on the FBI to investigate the incident and announced a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator.<sup>12</sup>

■ April 28, 2006 – A Muslim family in Georgia was the victim of vandalism at their home. **Their family van was torched, and the phrase “Killers Go Home!” was spray-painted on a wall.** CAIR called on the FBI to investigate and also announced a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators.<sup>13</sup>

■ September 5, 2006 – A group of people were praying in an Islamic Center in Maine **when the frozen head of a pig was rolled in across the mosque floor.** The incident caused some to flee in fear and a child subsequently fainted.<sup>14</sup> The suspect was charged with the misdemeanor charge of defacement and desecration of a place of worship.

<sup>9</sup> See Graph 2.

<sup>10</sup> “FBI Investigating Mich. Mosque Attacks,” USA Today, February 26, 2006 available at [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-02-16-michigan-mosque\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-02-16-michigan-mosque_x.htm)

<sup>11</sup> Id.

<sup>12</sup> Press Release, “CAIR Offers Reward for Info on Baylor U Assault,” April 7, 2006 available at <http://www.cair-net.org/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=2094&theType=NR>

<sup>13</sup> Associated Press, “FBI asked to look into Georgia vandalism at Muslim home,” April 28, 2006 available at [http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/ap\\_newfullstory.asp?ID=74556](http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/ap_newfullstory.asp?ID=74556)

<sup>14</sup> “A Lone Man’s Stunt Raises Border Issues,” The New York Times, September 5, 2006 available at <http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F30D14FC3D550C768CDDA00894DE404482>

## Anti-Muslim Hate Crime Complaints By Year:

2006: 167 cases

2005: 153 cases

2004: 141 cases

■ On April 22, 2007, Brent Matthews, the Lewiston, Maine man who became embroiled in controversy after he rolled a pig's head into a city mosque, committed suicide in a shopping center parking lot minutes after calling police.<sup>15</sup> He was charged with the misdemeanor of defacement and desecration of a place of worship. Authorities had considered filing federal hate-crime

charges against Matthews, but ultimately chose not to;<sup>16</sup> much to the dismay of the Maine Muslim community.

■ September 23, 2006 – **A Florida mosque was targeted in a sniper attack during Ramadan evening prayers.** When a man exited the mosque, several rounds were shot, hitting the building. There were no injuries in the sniper attack.<sup>17</sup>

■ October 29, 2006 – **A 24-year-old Pakistani-American Muslim man was attacked and beaten with brass knuckles by a group of five teenagers in New York.** The man said he was eating ice cream one evening near a Dunkin' Donuts when he was approached by the teenagers. They knocked the ice cream out of his hands and **called him a “terrorist,” and told him to “go back to your country.”** The teenagers then held his arms and beat him with a pair of brass knuckles, breaking his nose and covering his torso with bruises. A doctor reported that surgery would be needed to correct the damage to his face.<sup>18</sup> According to news reports, police are calling it a “vicious hate crime.”<sup>19</sup> Furthermore, reports say that those responsible will face hate crime charges.

■ On November 1, 2006, the Brooklyn (NY) District Attorney's office told WABC-7 Television in New York that there have already been five arrests and say there may be more ahead.<sup>20</sup>

“I hate racial  
discrimination most  
intensely and all its  
manifestations.”

-Nelson Mandela

<sup>15</sup> Mark LaFlamme and Kathryn Skelton, “Man kills self outside Marden's,” The Sun Journal (ME), April 22, 2007 available at [http://www.sunjournal.com/story/208827-3/LewistonAuburn/Man\\_kills\\_self\\_outside\\_Mardens/](http://www.sunjournal.com/story/208827-3/LewistonAuburn/Man_kills_self_outside_Mardens/)

<sup>16</sup> See Id.

<sup>17</sup> Press Release, “CAIR FL: Muslims Increase Security After Sniper Attack,” September 25, 2006 available at <http://www.cair.com/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=41072&theType=NB>

<sup>18</sup> “Hate Crime Charges Filed Against Five Jewish Teenagers in Brooklyn,” The New York Sun, November 3, 2006, available at <http://www.nysun.com/article/42836>

<sup>19</sup> Jeff Pegues, “Brooklyn attack victim speaks out,” WABC-TV, November 1 2006 available at <http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=local&id=4719041>

<sup>20</sup> Id.

## Civil Rights Cases by State

Over the past year, CAIR has received complaints of potential civil rights violations from all 50 states.

Overall, 10 states alone accounted for **nearly 81 percent** of all reported incidents to CAIR in 2006. These ten states (and their respective percentages) include: **California (29 percent), Illinois (13 percent), District of Columbia (7 percent), Florida (7 percent), Texas (6 percent), New York (5 percent), Virginia (4 percent), Michigan (3 percent), New Jersey (3 percent) and Ohio (3 percent).**

State	Case Count	Percentage Total
CA	709	28.74%
IL	319	12.93%
DC	172	6.97%
FL	168	6.81%
TX	157	6.36%
NY	134	5.43%
VA	109	4.42%
MI	84	3.40%
NJ	73	2.96%
OH	72	2.92%
Other	470	19.05%

**California, Illinois, District of Columbia (DC), Florida and Texas**  
 Represent the Top 5 States with  
 the Highest Number of CAIR Civil  
 Rights Complaints for 2006.

## Civil Rights Cases by Place of Occurrence

Complaints of civil rights discrimination always range in diversity, degree and place of occurrence. Understanding the need to combat hate crimes and discrimination, it is important to analyze where these complaints of civil rights discrimination are physically occurring.

Of the 2,467 total reports processed by CAIR this past year, the most common places of occurrence for civil rights violations were the following (in descending order): **government agencies, workplace, mosques/community organizations, schools and prison.** These five categories together constituted nearly **73 percent** of all received complaints in 2006.

Graph 3: Civil Rights Complaints by State

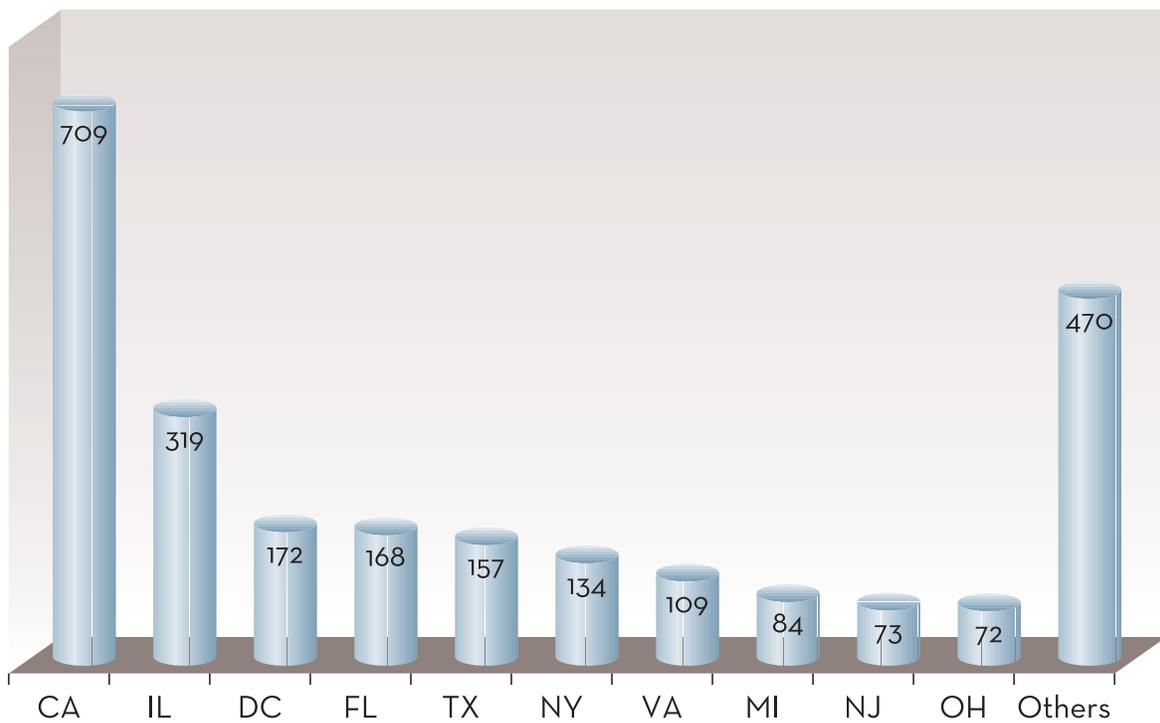


Table 2. Number of Civil Rights Cases by Place of Occurrence		
PLACE OF OCCURRENCE	CASE COUNT	PERCENT TOTAL
Government Agency	896	36.32%
Workplace	384	15.57%
Mosque/Community Organization	221	8.96%
School	171	6.93%
Prison	127	5.15%
Police	106	4.30%
Airport	80	3.24%
Housing	78	3.16%
Media	63	2.55%
Street	59	2.39%
Muslim-owned Business	56	2.27%
Public Accommodation	47	1.91%
Court	39	1.58%
Shopping Center	36	1.46%
Internet/Email/Mail/Phone	35	1.42%
Financial Institution	34	1.38%
Other	33	1.34%
Military	2	0.08%

Discrimination in the workplace **decreased** significantly from 25 percent of total complaints in 2005 to about 16 percent in 2006. This is a decrease in proportional terms of about nine percent from 2005.

The highest percentage of complaints involves government agencies. Although government agency complaints constituted 19 percent of complaints for two years in a row (2004 and 2005), there was a significant **increase** to 36 percent of complaints in 2006. This is the first time since 2004 that government agencies represented the highest percentage of complaints in terms of place of occurrence; most likely because of immigration/citizenship delay issues affecting hundreds of thousands of people in America today.

Graph 4: Percentage of Total Complaints by State

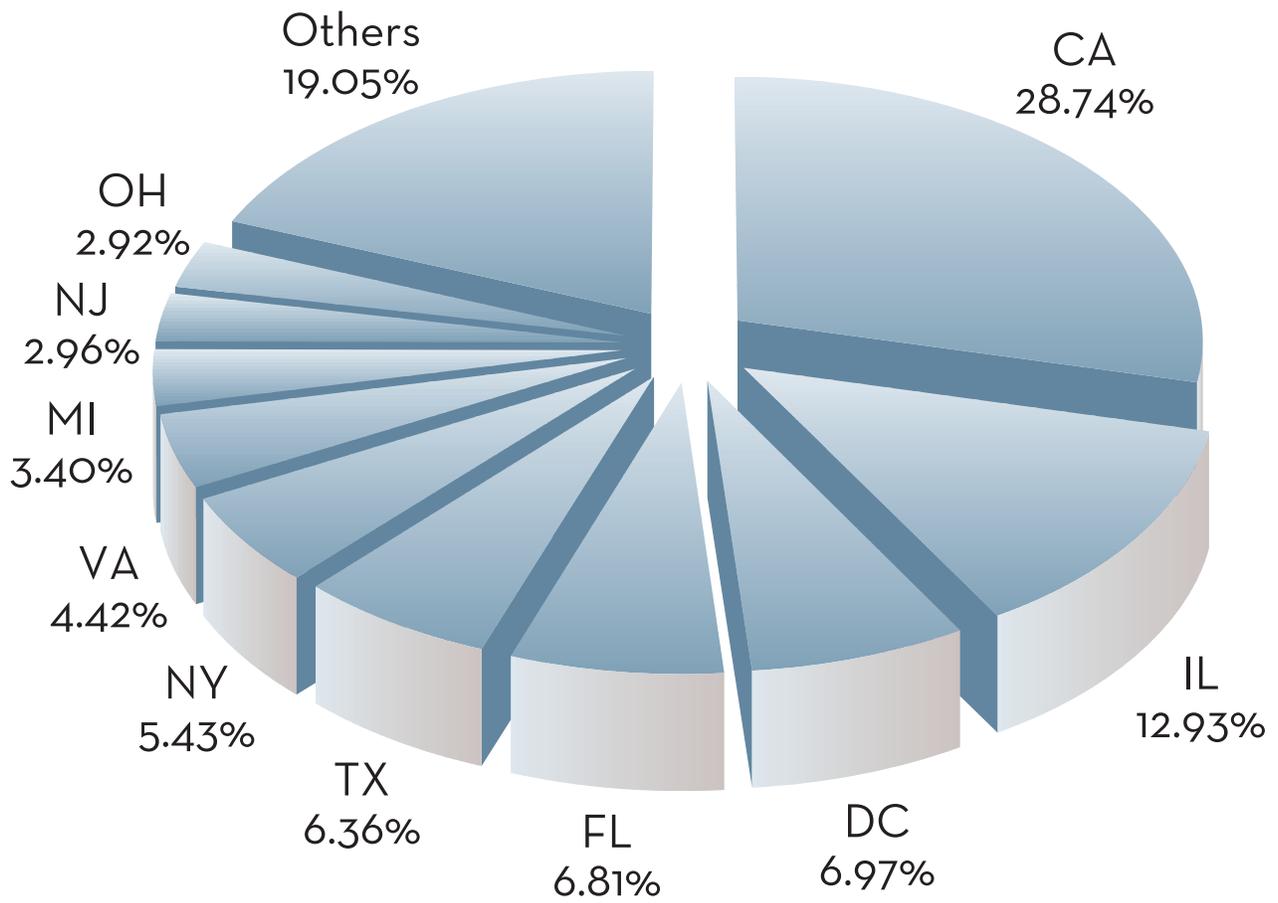
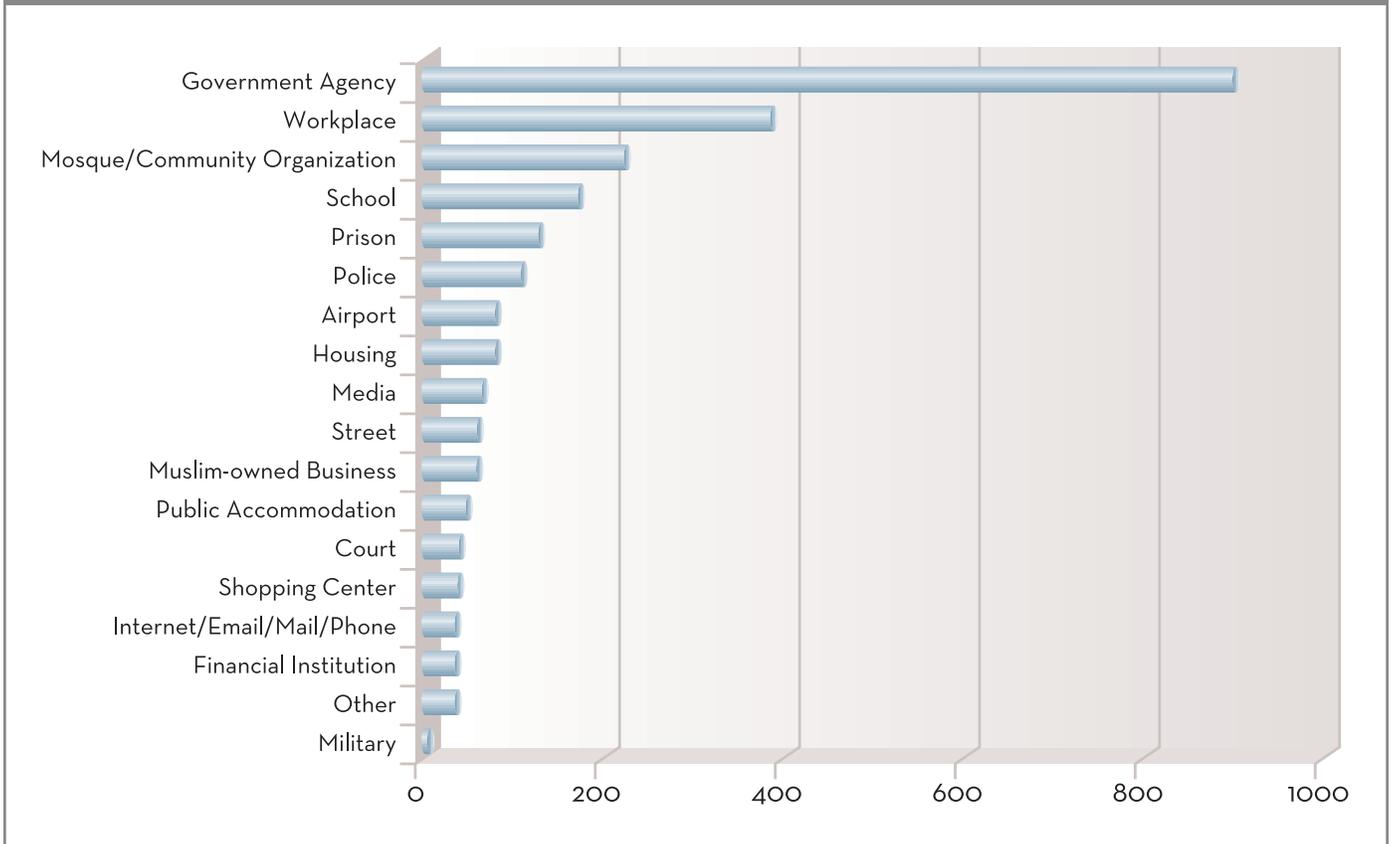


Table 3. Percentage of Complaints by Place of Occurrence

SETTING	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Workplace	47	42	48	26	23	23	18.27	25.41	<b>15.57</b>
Government Agency	8	11	10	19	23	29	19.25	19.22	<b>36.32</b>
Police*	-	-	-	-	-	4	2.43	3.30	<b>4.30</b>
Airport	3	3	2	26	14	4	5.78	3.40	<b>3.24</b>
School	8	13	15	8	7	7	6.24	8.22	<b>6.93</b>
Public Accommodation	10	8	9	7	6	4	2.69	4.36	<b>1.91</b>
Mosque/Community Organization	2	2	1	3	4	2	2.56	3.80	<b>8.96</b>
Prisons	17	13	9	3	6	6	7.69	8.87	<b>5.15</b>
Internet/Email/Mail	0	0	0	3	6	7	3.88	5.83	<b>1.42</b>
Court	2	3	1	0	3	1	1.97	2.54	<b>1.58</b>
Military	1	0	1	0	1	1	0.20	0.41	<b>0.08</b>
Housing	0	0	0	0	4	1	7.56	4.36	<b>3.16</b>
Shopping Center	0	0	0	0	2	2	2.23	1.27	<b>1.46</b>
Financial Institution	-	-	-	-	-	3	1.64	0.76	<b>1.38</b>
Muslim-owned Business	-	-	-	-	-	1	6.50	1.57	<b>2.27</b>
Street	-	-	-	-	-	4	3.68	2.69	<b>2.39</b>
Other	1	3	2	5	1	1	5.32	0.71	<b>1.34</b>
Media	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.30	<b>2.55</b>

Graph 5: Civil Rights Complaints by Place of Occurrence



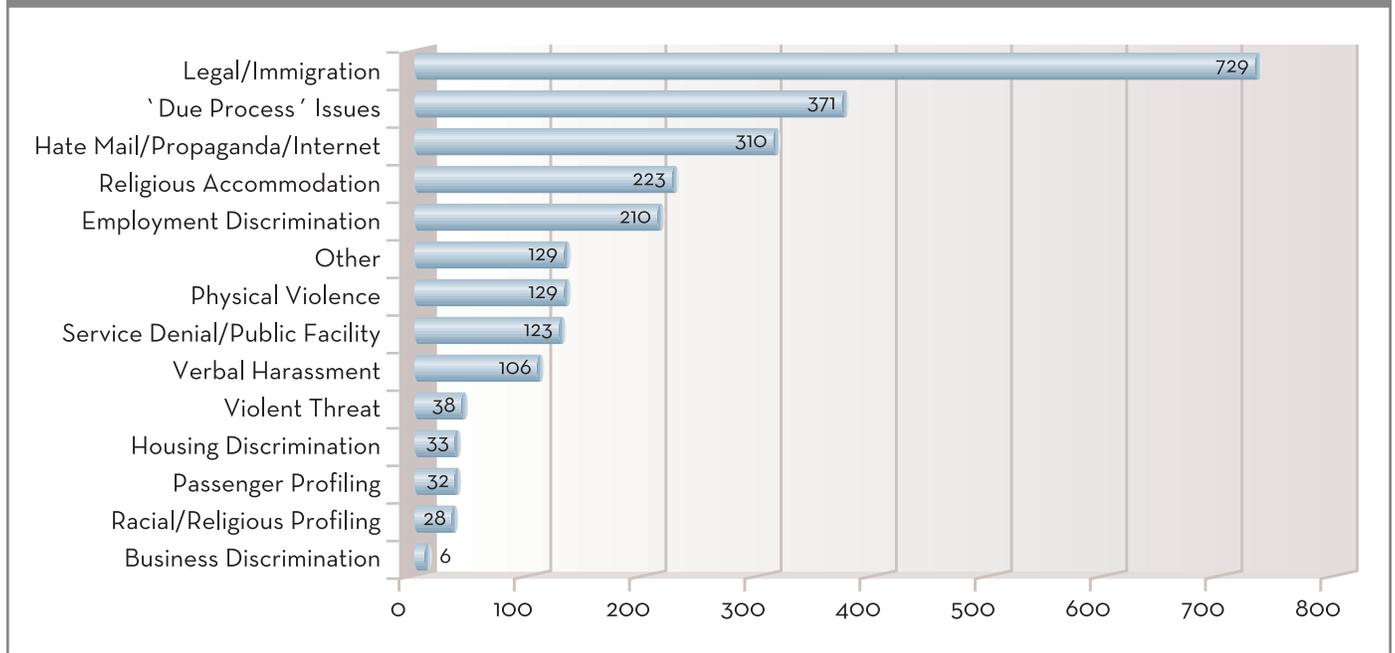
## Civil Rights Cases By Types of Alleged Abuse

Equally as important as the location in which discrimination occurs is the type of alleged abuse involved in every complaint. In order to comprehensively grasp the full scope of Muslim civil rights in America today, it is essential to analyze the types of alleged abuse and any trends which can be ascertained from the extrapolation 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 abuses against the American Muslim community.

Type of Alleged Abuse	Case Total	Percent Count
Legal/Immigration	729	29.55%
Due Process Issues'	371	15.04%
Hate Mail/Propaganda/Internet	310	12.57%
Religious Accommodation	223	9.04%
Employment Discrimination	210	8.51%
Physical Violence	129	5.23%
Other	129	5.23%
Service Denial/Public Facility	123	4.99%
Verbal Harassment	106	4.30%
Violent Threat	38	1.54%
Housing Discrimination	33	1.34%
Passenger Profiling	32	1.30%
Racial/Religious Profiling	28	1.13%
Business Discrimination	6	0.24%

Out of 2,467 Complaints Received By CAIR in 2006, Nearly **52 Percent** of These Cases Were Triggered By the Person's Ethnicity/Religion.

Graph 6: Civil Rights Complaints by Type of Alleged Abuse



From the graph above, it is quite clear that the most frequent type of alleged abuse this year, in both real and proportional terms, involved 'Legal/Immigration' issues primarily involving government agencies and citizenship/naturalization delays.

As stated in the executive summary, the depth of the **citizenship delay problem** was recently highlighted by the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHR&GJ) at the New York University School of Law. The NYU report states that, "Delays in the citizenship process implicate discrimination on grounds that are prohibited under international law."<sup>21</sup>

CAIR has joined with several national human rights organizations to help litigate these citizenship delay cases to ensure that the legal rights of all people are protected.

American citizens have also been victims of overzealous governmental actions in regards to **border crossings** and **terrorism 'watch lists'**. According to *The New York Times*, in response to American Muslim citizens desire to see an efficient system, many Americans "...want increased Congressional oversight of the terrorist watch list system to insure that the security agency is not abusing the basic civil rights of United States citizens at the borders."<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> See note 1 at 4

<sup>22</sup> Neil MacFarquhar, "Borders Spell Trouble for Arab-American," *The New York Times*, April 29, 2007 at A25.

Table 5: Percentage of Complaints By Type of Alleged Abuse

INCIDENT TYPE	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Employment discrimination	18	22	27	17	17	16	12.73	14.05	8.51
Verbal harassment	10	9	8	14	15	13	12.53	6.39	4.30
Denial of religious accommodation	49	31	37	12	13	15	14.84	15.01	9.04
Passenger profiling	2	1	2	24	12	4	2.64	1.93	1.30
Racial/religious profiling	-	-	-	-	-	13	4.02	2.28	1.13
Legal/Immigration*	7	20	10	2	9	13	7.45	13.74	29.55
Due Process Issues <sup>23</sup>	7	5	6	19	12	4	25.4	17.39	15.04
Hate crime	4	7	4	6	7	9	7.98	6.54	5.23
Denial of service/Access to public facility	3	5	5	5	6	3	2.44	4.56	4.99
Attack threat	-	-	1	1	2	1	1.12	1.22	1.54
Hate mail/Propaganda/Internet	-	-	-	-	4	7	0.26	9.74	12.57
Business discrimination	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.45	0.46	0.24
Housing discrimination	0	0	0	0	3	1	0.92	1.01	1.34
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.68	5.23

\*This category also includes immigration issues (i.e. naturalization delays) and other civil domestic case complaints, which were reported separately in 2002. Also, the category "Unequal treatment" which appeared separately in previous reports was consolidated within this category in 2003.

<sup>23</sup> For purposes of this report, we categorized all complaints of unreasonable arrest, detention, surveillance, interrogation, seizure and accusations into one consolidated category of 'Due Process Issues'.

## Islamic Features That Trigger Discrimination

When a Muslim (or someone perceived to be Muslim) is discriminated against, there is usually a tangible identifying feature or factor which the individual possesses which triggers the bias discrimination. Whether it is a Muslim woman in *hijab*<sup>24</sup> in the workplace or other people 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 2,467 complaints received by CAIR in 2006, **almost 1300 (51.88 percent)** of these complaints of civil rights violations seemed to have stemmed from the perceived ethnicity or religion of the victim. For purposes of our annual report, if a Sikh-American (who is neither Muslim nor Arab) is physically assaulted while the assailant yells ‘Go home, terrorist!’ that would be categorized as being motivated by the *perceived* ethnicity or religion of the victim.

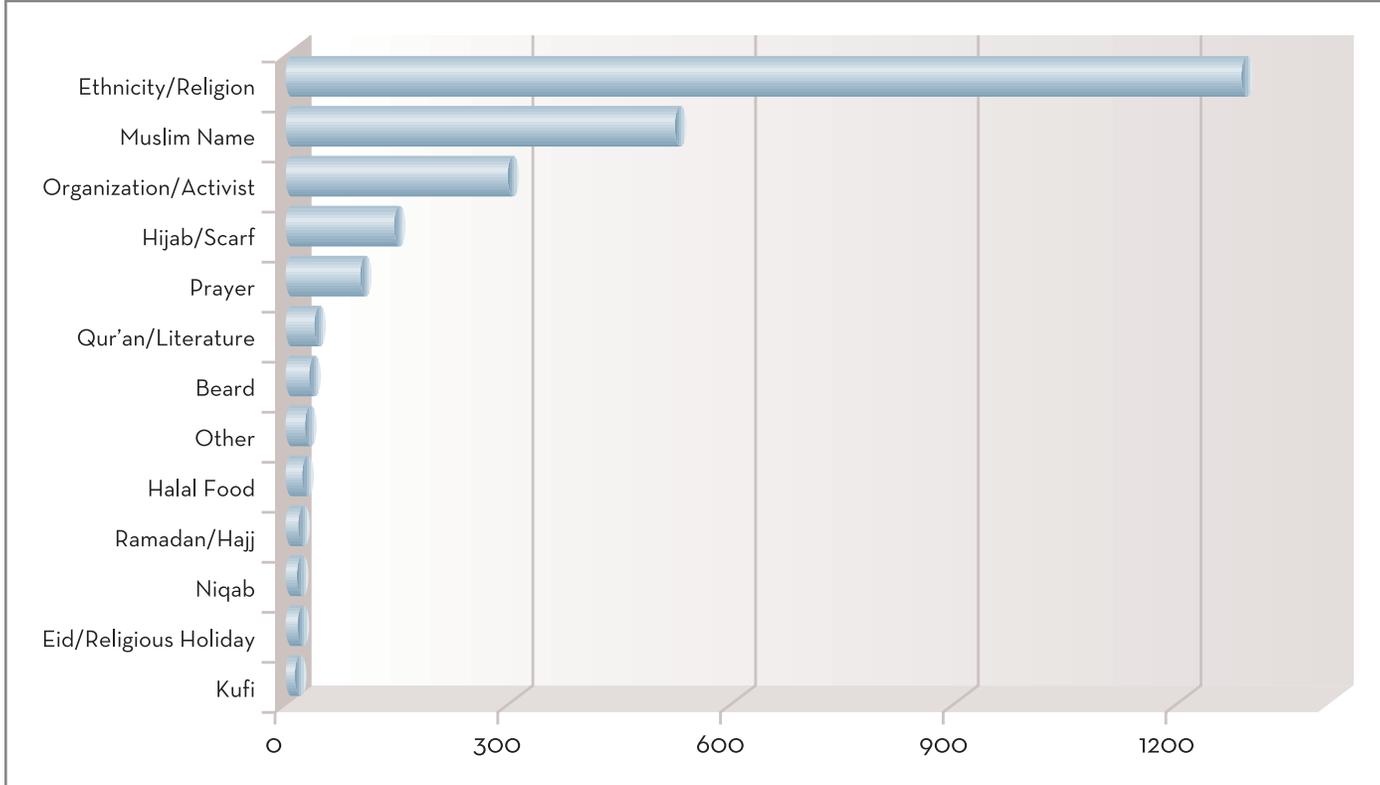
Although both of these factors could legitimately be categorized in the Ethnicity/Religion category, the two other notable identification features which triggered significant discrimination were the categories of "Muslim-sounding names" and the targeting of American Muslim activists and organizations.

**TABLE 6. Identification Factors Triggering Discrimination**

Feature Trigger	Case Count	Percent Total
Ethnicity/Religion	1280	51.88
Muslim Name	518	21.00
Organization/Activist	294	11.92
Hijab/Scarf	143	5.80
Prayer	95	3.85
Qur'an/Literature	34	1.38
Beard	28	1.13
Other	20	0.81
Halal Food	15	0.61
Niqab	11	0.45
Ramadan/Hajj	11	0.45
Eid/Religious Holiday	10	0.41
Kufi	8	0.32

<sup>24</sup> Hijab is a Muslim headscarf for women. See also p.1.

Graph 7: Identification Factors Triggering Discrimination



Legal/Immigration, Due Process Issues, Hate Mail, Religious Accommodation and Employment Discrimination Made Up More Than 74 Percent of All Alleged Abuse Reports in 2006.

# Sample Cases



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## Hate Crimes:

■ **September 20, 2006** – A copy of the Quran was found in a toilet at the library of Pace University in New York. Initially, Pace University administration called the desecration ‘vandalism’, but with the collaborative efforts of CAIR-NY, the Association of Muslim American Lawyers (AMAL), the New York Police Department (NYPD) Hate Crimes Task Force, the NYPD Community Affairs Bureau, and the Muslim Students Association at Pace, university administrators now recognized the incident as a hate crime.<sup>25</sup>

## Mosque Vandalism:

■ **April 3, 2006** – According to WTVJ-TV in Miami, the Islamic Center of South Florida (ICSF) reported that vandals spray-painted the walls of a mosque under construction in Sunrise, Florida with the words "Osama Binliden."<sup>26</sup>

■ **October 26, 2006** – A Texas Islamic Center was the target of three incidents of vandalism within a two-week period. The damage first started when the mosque’s flower bed was destroyed and later when exterior lights were smashed. The final incident was hateful graffiti, as the word "Redemption" was spray painted on one of the mosque’s newly painted walls.<sup>27</sup>

## Discrimination/Harassment in Schools:

■ **February 28, 2006** – A Michigan State University engineering professor sent a hateful e-mail to the university’s Muslim Students Association (MSA). The professor used his official faculty e-mail account to send the message, which phrases such as, "aggressive, brutal and uncivilized slave-trading Moslems." The e-mail further went on to state, "You are free to leave. I hope for God's sake that most of you choose that option."<sup>28</sup>

■ **June 1, 2006** – A 10-year-old female Muslim student at a Jacksonville, Florida elementary school was discriminated against by her teacher for merely wearing a headscarf. The cello instructor reportedly asked mocking questions, such as asking her why she wore that "nun thing." The teacher also refused to let her play in a school concert.<sup>29</sup>

■ **September 13, 2006** – A substitute teacher at a Maryland public high school was charged with disorderly conduct after yelling at a group of students for using Arabic words in a presentation. The students were practicing a speech commemorating the events of 9/11. The teacher began to berate them after they used the words of the Islamic greeting of peace: "Assalamu alaikum." The substitute teacher’s outburst even caused students and other teachers to leave the classroom in fear.<sup>30</sup> According to the *Washington Post*, the teacher was charged with disorderly conduct.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Press Release, "CAIR-NY: Pace U. Quran Desecration Recognized as Hate Crime," October 10, 2006 available at <http://www.cair-net.org/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=2283&theType=NR>

<sup>26</sup> "Vandals Scrawl 'Osama Binliden' On Sunrise Mosque," WTVJ-TV, April 3 2006 available at <http://www.nbc6.net/news/8462654/detail.html>

<sup>27</sup> "Local Islamic Center Vandalized," News Channel 11, October 25, 2006 available at <http://www.kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=5588852&nav=3w6y>

<sup>28</sup> Press Release, "Michigan Prof Tells Muslim Students to Leave America," April 24, 2006 available at <http://www.cair-net.org/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=2115&theType=NR>

<sup>29</sup> "Southside Schoolteacher Discriminates Against Muslim Girl," News-4 JAX, May 31, 2006 available at <http://www.news4jax.com/news/9300683/detail.html>

<sup>30</sup> "Teacher Charged After Uproar Over Arabic," *Washington Post*, September 13, 2006 available at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/12/AR2006091201401.html>

<sup>31</sup> Id.

## Workplace Harassment:

■ **March 9, 2006** – A male Muslim employee of Iranian descent at a Subaru dealership in Oregon was subjected to harassment at work, forcing him to quit. The management team at the dealership regularly used racial slurs, such as "terrorist" and "camel jockey." He was also physically harassed, by being intentionally tripped, causing a broken nose and a knee surgery. The man was given monetary relief and the company agreed to review its policies in order to protect employees from further workplace discrimination.<sup>32</sup>

■ **April 13, 2006** – A female Muslim employee at a Jiffy Lube store in Virginia was told that she could not wear her headscarf due to a "no hats" policy. Following CAIR's intervention, company officials agreed to allow the headscarf and apologized to the Muslim employee for the denial of her constitutionally protected religious accommodation.<sup>33</sup>

■ **December 5, 2006** – A female Muslim employee at a Belk department store in North Carolina was sent home because she had applied henna to her hands in celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr. After CAIR's intervention, Belk reviewed the incident and the woman received an apology and back pay for the time she missed. The company also reaffirmed its policy supporting religious accommodation in the workplace.<sup>34</sup>

■ **December 14, 2006** – A female Muslim employee at an international hotel chain in Ohio was denied the right to pray during her break periods. Following intervention from the Cincinnati, Ohio chapter of CAIR, the situation was amicably resolved and the woman was given her religious accommodation.<sup>35</sup>

## Unreasonable Arrest:

■ **April 11, 2006** – A Muslim woman of Spanish citizenship was traveling at the Tampa, Florida airport on her way to visit her son. At the airport, she was taken to a room and questioned for six hours before being jailed for two days and then deported to England. The woman was strip-searched and some of her personal possessions, including her copy of the Quran, were taken from her. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) later sent a letter apologizing to the woman for being forced to undergo a strip search.<sup>36</sup>

**"If you judge people,  
you have no time  
to love them."**

**-Mother Teresa**

<sup>32</sup> "OR: \$360K Settlement for Harassment of Muslim Worker," March 9, 2006 available at <http://www.cair.com/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=39139&theType=NB>

<sup>33</sup> Press Release, "CAIR: VA Muslim Jiffy Lube Employee Allowed to Wear Hijab," April 13, 2006 available at <http://www.cair-net.org/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=2101&theType=NR>

<sup>34</sup> Press Release, "CAIR: NC Muslim Worker to Receive Apology, Back Pay," December 5, 2006 available at <http://www.cair-net.org/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=2430&theType=NR>

<sup>35</sup> Press Release, "CAIR-Ohio Wins Prayer Accommodation for Hotel Employee," December 14, 2006 available at <http://www.cair-net.org/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=2456&theType=NR>

<sup>36</sup> "Strip-Search Muslim Woman Gets Apology," CBS News, December 28, 2006 available at <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/12/28/national/main2307338.shtml>

# Conclusion



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*"If we cannot now end our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity."*

*-President John F. Kennedy<sup>37</sup>*

Like the civil rights history of other minority groups in America, the experience of the American Muslim community after the tragedy of the 9/11 terrorist attacks is seen by many as the next chapter in the continuing civil rights history of America.

With more than 2,400 reports of civil rights discrimination against the American Muslim community in 2006, this report should serve as a reminder that discrimination is still a major sociopolitical issue affecting all Americans today.

Legal/Immigration issues, particularly citizenship delays, are one of the major areas in which our government needs to remedy its current procedures.

According to the New York University School of Law's Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHRGJ), the government is illegally delaying the naturalization applications of immigrants by profiling individuals it perceives to be Muslim and subjecting them to an indefinite series of security checks.<sup>38</sup>

"Discriminatory profiling is illegal under international law and is a poor substitute for real intelligence work," said Jayne Huckerby, CHRGJ research director at NYU. "Taking years to identify individuals who are security threats does not make us safer. Ensuring timely and good faith completions of background checks will help the U.S. advance its national security goals," she said.

We hope that federal agencies like the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Justice (DOJ) and both houses of Congress will come to understand the full scope of anti-Muslim discrimination and rising Islamophobia in our nation today.

Just as anti-Semitic and anti-African American hate crimes and discrimination cases are vigorously investigated and prosecuted; it is also equally important for federal law enforcement agencies to continue to focus on protecting the civil rights of American Muslims, Arab and South Asian Americans.

The American Muslim community will continue to be a growing and vibrant segment of the social fabric of America for generations to come and help to continue to be a central voice on the status of American civil rights in a post-9/11 America.

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<sup>37</sup> See [http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/j/john\\_f\\_kennedy.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/j/john_f_kennedy.html)

<sup>38</sup> See Emad Mekay, "U.S. Gov't Discriminates Against Muslim Immigrants - Study" Inter Press News Agency, April 24 2007 available at <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=37478>

# Appendix

## CAIR 2006 Year in Review

In 2006, CAIR continued to serve as the nation's largest Islamic civil rights and advocacy group. From outreach efforts aimed at educating others about Islam to continuing to offer an American Muslim perspective on important issues, CAIR was at the forefront of giving a voice to the American Muslim community.

CAIR continued to launch positive initiatives aimed at helping build bridges of mutual understanding between Americans of all faiths and races. Those initiatives included sending CAIR officials to Iraq to help call for the release of an American journalist and a pro-active educational campaign in response to the Danish cartoon controversy.

Some of CAIR's major accomplishments in 2006 included:

### CAIR'S Peace Delegation to Iraq

On January 7, 2006, Jill Carroll, a freelance reporter for the Christian Science Monitor, was kidnapped while on assignment in Iraq. On behalf of dozens of American Muslim leaders, scholars and organizations, CAIR issued a statement to demand her immediate and unconditional release.



CAIR's statement said in part: *"We ask that her captors show mercy and compassion by releasing her so that she may return to her family. Certainly, no cause can be advanced by harming a person who only sought to let the world know about the human suffering caused by the conflict in Iraq."*

CAIR chapters nationwide held multiple press conferences, including in Jill Carroll's home state of Michigan and also translated their public statements into Arabic. Through its worldwide credibility and access to international television audiences, it was CAIR's hope that these efforts could help convince Ms. Carroll's captors to release her.

### **CAIR even sent a delegation of its top officials to Baghdad, Iraq to personally appeal for Ms. Carroll's release.**

On January 22, 2006, CNN reported that, "Representatives from the Council on American-Islamic Relations arrived in Baghdad to urge kidnappers to release U.S. journalist Jill Carroll..."<sup>39</sup>

Fortunately, through the combined efforts of everyone involved, Jill Carroll was released safely to her family after 82 days in captivity.

### Dubai Ports World Controversy

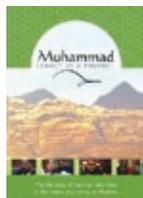
In February 2006, the Dubai Ports World controversy began and quickly rose to become one of the most widely-covered debates in American media and politics. At issue was the sale of a port management business to a company based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and whether such a sale would compromise America's national security.



<sup>39</sup> "U.S. Muslim group in Baghdad to plead for hostage," CNN, January 22 2006 available at <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/meast/01/21/iraq.journalist/index.html>

In addition to appearances on CNN and MSNBC, CAIR representatives were called on by national and international news networks to debate the issue. While politicians on both sides of the political aisle cited security concerns, CAIR officials were among the few voices to point out that in reality, bigotry and fear were driving the debates.

In addition to publications like *The Wall Street Journal*, the editorial board of the *Los Angeles Times* took opponents of the Dubai Ports deal to task by saying that, "**...the notion that the Bush administration is farming out port 'security' to hostile Arab nations is alarmist nonsense...**"<sup>40</sup>



### [CAIR Launches 'Explore the Life of Muhammad' Campaign](#)

When a Danish newspaper printed offensive cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) depicting him as a terrorist with a bomb in his turban, many in the Muslim world expressed outrage and threatened to boycotts Danish goods.

CAIR seized the opportunity to turn a negative incident into a positive teaching moment by decrying the violence and encouraging education about the life and legacy of Prophet Muhammad.

CAIR declared 2006 the "Year of the Prophet Muhammad" and launched the "Explore the Life of Muhammad" campaign, a major educational effort that offered people of all faiths a free book or DVD about the Prophet.

**To date, more than 18,000 people have requested books and DVDs through this campaign, which is available at [www.cair.com/muhammad](http://www.cair.com/muhammad)**

### [CAIR Mobilizes U.S. Muslim Voters By 'Getting Out The Vote'](#)

In November 2006, the American Muslim community witnessed a historic moment when Minnesota Democrat Keith Ellison was elected to be the first-ever Muslim in the halls of Congress.

"Tonight, we made history," Mr Ellison said in a victory speech to supporters. "We won a key election, but we did much more than that. We showed that a candidate can run a 100 percent positive campaign and prevail, even against tough opposition."<sup>41</sup>

Many commentators believed that Ellison's election victory reflected a larger trend: a greater turnout of the American Muslim voters to make their voices heard.

Also, CAIR had acquired a list of **400,000 registered**



U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN)

<sup>40</sup> See also Arsalan Iftikhar, "At Issue: Is it racist to ban Arab companies from operating U.S. ports," Congressional Quarterly (CQ) Researcher, April 21 2006 at 353.

<sup>41</sup> "First Muslim congressman elected," British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), November 8 2006 available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6127234.stm>

**American Muslim voters** helped to get out the vote nationwide in the mid-term elections and encourage increased political participation within the Muslim community.

CAIR chapters throughout the country organized massive voter registration drives and this was aimed at empowering the American Muslim community by helping build a stronger political presence as well as to encourage active civic participation. [CAIR Conducts Polls of American Muslims](#)

Over the past decade, CAIR's research and civil rights departments published studies of the American Muslim community not found elsewhere. Public officials, researchers, students and journalists all rely on CAIR reports as an important resource for their own work regarding the American Muslim community.

This year was no different. In March 2006, CAIR released the results of its second independent poll on American attitudes toward Islam and Muslims. The survey confirmed the findings of a similar CAIR poll taken in 2004 indicating that about one in four Americans consistently believe such stereotypes as: "Muslims value life less than other people," and "The Muslim religion teaches violence and hatred." Many also admitted they knew very little of Islam.

**A similar poll released by the *Washington Post* and ABC News also found that one in four Americans "admitted to harboring prejudice toward Muslims."**<sup>42</sup>

### [2006 War in Lebanon](#)

When Israel undertook its bombardment of southern Lebanon in July 2006, many in the international community condemned the military action and unanimously approved a UN Resolution to end the hostilities.

Similarly, CAIR called on the Bush administration to demand an end to Israel's military campaign and to protect the lives of American citizens trapped in areas under Israeli attack. CAIR used polling data to show that a cease-fire was supported by the majority of Americans of all faiths.<sup>43</sup>

On national television, CAIR representatives urged the U.S. government to end American arms shipments to Israel and to actively support a comprehensive and just resolution to the Middle East crisis.

CAIR followed its media efforts with a panel discussion on "The Israel Lobby and the U.S. Response to the War in Lebanon" at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The panel, which aired live nationwide on C-SPAN, featured distinguished professors John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, authors of a recent Harvard University paper, "The Israel Lobby."

### [Pope Benedict XVI's Comments About Islam](#)

CAIR also urged restraint and called for interfaith outreach when Pope Benedict XVI's controversial remarks on Islam and the Prophet caused offense worldwide to Muslims in September 2006.

CAIR national and chapter officials immediately called for increased dialogue between Muslims and Catholics.

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<sup>42</sup> See also <http://www.cair.com/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=2047&theType=NR>

<sup>43</sup> See <http://www.cair.com/default.asp?Page=articleView&id=2246&theType=NR>



Along with other national American Muslim leaders, CAIR representatives met with the Vatican Ambassador in Washington, D.C., to discuss the remarks. CAIR-Florida even raised money to pay for the rebuilding of churches destroyed in response to the Pope's remarks.

**According to the Washington Post, the Tampa, Florida branch of the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations "gave \$5,000 to help repair the churches in the West Bank and Gaza..." in response to the aftermath of the Pope's comments.**

"We want to build on the legacy of John Paul II and use this opportunity to encourage dialogue and not divisiveness," said Arsalan Iftikhar, CAIR's legal director on the meeting with Archbishop Pietro Sambi at the Vatican Embassy to the United States in Washington DC.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>44</sup> "Nation in Brief: Muslims raise funds for Catholic Churches," Washington Post, September 22 2006 at A9 available at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/21/AR2006092101603.html>



## Dialogue of Civilizations

In September 2006, CAIR hosted a banquet dinner for former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami to underscore the need for increased dialogue between the West and the Muslim world.

**The theme of his address was "Dialogue of Civilizations: Five Years After 9/11,"** in which the reformist president called for respect and dialogue between followers of the three Abrahamic faiths.

Also in 2006, CAIR hosted a panel discussion at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., to offer the Arab and Muslim perspective on the findings of the Iraq Study Group report. The panel discussion included remarks by the Syrian Ambassador to the United States, as well as comments from Middle East expert Shibley Telhami and was aired live on C-SPAN.

## CAIR Defends Civil Rights By Taking Legal Action

CAIR and other civil rights groups scored a major victory in 2006 when a federal judge in Michigan ruled that the U.S. government's domestic eavesdropping program violated freedom of speech and privacy rights. The judge also ruled that the wiretapping violated the separation of powers doctrine mandated by the Constitution and ordered an immediate halt to the program. CAIR had previously joined an ACLU lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the wiretapping program against the National Security Agency (NSA).

In May 2006, CAIR also called for the appointment of a special counsel to investigate revelations that the National Security Agency (NSA) had built a giant database of Americans' phone records. The phone records monitoring program, reportedly authorized numerous times by the president shortly after the 9/11 terror attacks, authorizes the NSA to bypass a secret court set up to provide warrants for such surveillance.

In November 2006, when six Imams were taken off a flight at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport because of "suspicious activity," the American Muslim community was reminded yet again that often times, "Flying While Muslim" in the post-9/11 era can become an enforceable offense.

The Imams told CAIR that they were removed from the US Airways flight "for no reason" and were "humiliated" by being handcuffed and taken off the plane in the view of other passengers. They suspect the "suspicious activity" cited by authorities was the performance of normal evening prayers offered by some members of the group.

## CAIR Challenges Islamophobia

When Rep. Virgil Goode (R-VA) slammed the planned use of a Quran for the congressional swearing-in ceremony of Keith Ellison, the first Muslim elected to Congress, CAIR called for an apology. *The Washington Post* and the *New York Times* both published editorials supporting CAIR's condemnation of Goode's bigotry.



In response to the Islamophobia displayed by Rep. Goode, the Washington Post editorial board said that, **"Bigotry comes in various guises -- some coded, some closeted, some colossally stupid. The bigotry displayed recently by Rep. Virgil H. Goode Jr...falls squarely in the third category."** <sup>45</sup>

### [CAIR Empowers U.S. Muslims By Training Students, Imams and Community Activists](#)

Throughout 2006, CAIR continued to train the future leaders of the American Muslim community by inviting students from across the country to apply for its annual internship program, one of the most competitive and sought-after internships in Washington, D.C. While at CAIR, college students from a variety of backgrounds gain invaluable skills in advocacy work that they take back to benefit their respective communities.

CAIR interns receive practical training in the fields of law, civil rights, public and media relations, research and leadership training, community outreach and chapter development.

In December 2006, CAIR also helped organize an Imams' media training conference. Nearly fifty imams, community leaders and activists joined the one-day conference, which was designed to teach them how to interact effectively with media professionals.

<sup>45</sup> Editorial, "A Bigot in Congress," The Washington Post, December 22 2006 at A32 available at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/21/AR2006122101612.html> See also "Fear and Bigotry in Congress," The New York times, December 23 2006 available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/23/opinion/23sat3.html?ex=1180756800&en=e094d891ce37e472&ei=5070>

## CAIR Chapter Highlights

CAIR relies on representatives, volunteers and community activists from its 32 chapters nationwide to successfully represent its national strategies to fit the needs of cities and towns across the country. CAIR's success at the grassroots level has helped secure its long-term stability and future success for generations to come.

For example, by the year 2010, CAIR hopes to have a chapter in every state in the country.

Below is just a sampling of some of the activities that CAIR chapters were involved in 2006.

In 2006, **CAIR-Ohio** reacted quickly to a proposed 'jihad-themed' radio ad for a local car dealership. The ads reportedly would have proclaimed a "jihad" on the U.S. auto market and offered "Fatwa Fridays" with sales representatives in "burqas" giving free swords to children.

After CAIR intervened, an official with the Mitsubishi dealership offered an apology for any misunderstanding caused by "an attempt at humor that fell short" and decided not to air the spots.

In Florida, when a local pastor, Rev. O'Neill Dozier, opposed the building of a mosque in his community on the grounds that he feared it would be a breeding ground for terrorists, CAIR-Florida was there to set the record straight.

Through **CAIR-Florida's** work, the Governor of Florida removed Dozier from the Judicial Nominating Committee and Attorney General Charlie Crist removed Dozier from his Strengthening Florida's Families Council.

The **CAIR-Orlando** office hosted a press conference with law enforcement officials to express solidarity and concern for the community's safety after snipers shot at a worshipper outside a Melbourne, Fl. mosque,

Both **CAIR-California** and **CAIR-Chicago** offices joined other civil rights groups in filing a class-action lawsuit against the federal government for its practice of indefinitely delaying citizenship applications in violation of immigration laws. The reported reason for the excessive delays: FBI background checks that take up to several years to clear an applicant.

**CAIR-Michigan's** chapter yielded successful results when a Michigan State University professor offered an apology for an Islamophobic e-mail he had sent to Muslim students.

In an e-mail reply to a person expressing concern over his offensive remarks, MSU engineering professor Indrek Wichman said: "I wrote my comments in haste to what I thought was a private organization and I used intemperate language. My apologies to you and other [sic] whom I have offended. I regret this very much and my comments have nothing to do with my classes or any research."

CAIR-Michigan also organized educational initiatives on the campus to foster better understanding of Islam and Muslims.

In 2006, **CAIR-Maryland/Virginia** implemented many projects to help empower the local Muslim community. Some of these highlights include an Imams media training seminar, townhall meetings on airport profiling. CAIR-MD/VA also hosted several presentations on Islam for schools, colleges and organizations, including local chapters of the Kiwanis Club.

**“The Washington Field Office of the FBI praises CAIR’s dedication in representing the heart of the Muslim American community We look forward to continued dialogue and communication with CAIR in the future.”**

**-FBI Proclamation Letter, October 30, 2006**

## News Clippings

# THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

| TUESDAY, May 16, 2006 |

## ACLU seeks FBI records on monitoring of Islamic groups

Muslim leaders concerned they're being watched for no good reason.

By ANN PEPPER  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Six groups, including the Anaheim-based Council on American Islamic Relations in Southern California, filed a Freedom of Information Act request Monday asking about suspected law enforcement monitoring of Islamic religious institutions.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California filed the request on behalf of CAIR, the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California, area mosques and six leaders in the Muslim community. Four from Orange County include:

- Muzammil Siddiqi, imam of the Islamic Society of Orange County in Garden Grove.
- Hussam Ayloush, executive director at CAIR.
- Sabiha Khan, CAIR spokeswoman.
- Shakeel Syed, executive director of the Islamic Shura

Council of Southern California.

The federal government has 20 days to respond to the public-records request, which seeks to learn whether area mosques and community leaders are being monitored and, if so, why, said Ranjana Natarajan, the attorney handling the matter.

The Freedom of Information Act, which outlines request procedures, was enacted by Congress in 1966 to give the public greater access to the federal government's records. Natarajan said the ACLU decided to request FBI records after working with the Muslim community and conducting "know your rights" presentations at mosques.

Natarajan said worshippers at mosques have been asked what their imam is preaching, where they go and what they do on pilgrimages to Mecca, and for details about religious practices.

"People are asking me if it is safe to worship. People began to worry that maybe there is something wrong with going to the mosque," Natarajan said. "So they need to know, is there monitoring going on

and, if so, why? If there is monitoring, can we assure people it is not just their religion that is being targeted, that there are other reasons?"

CAIR wanted the records request filed on the belief that no person or organization should be monitored because of peaceful religious practice, Khan said. There must be a legitimate probable suspicion of illegal activity, she said.

"Also, based on the history of innocent people who have gotten into trouble due to incompetence, human error or even untruthful informants, it is necessary to insist on transparency from our government," Khan said. "This is our right as Americans."

She pointed to American lawyer Brandon Mayfield, 37, a convert to Islam who was mistakenly arrested in 2004 in connection with terrorist train bombings in Spain. The case was dismissed, and the FBI later apologized.

CONTACT THE WRITER:  
(714) 796-4945 or  
apepper@ocregister.com

# St. Petersburg Times

tampabay.com

FLORIDA'S BEST NEWSPAPER

Sunday, January 28,

## Anonymous anti-Muslim flier raises ire

**SEMINOLE** | An offended couple try but fail to track down the messenger.

BY WAVENEY ANN MOORE  
Times Staff Writer

Joel Harper couldn't believe his eyes. The piece of paper that hung on his front door didn't advertise the usual pizza deal or offer to trim his tress. Rather, it was selling a message of hate in the name of God.

It accused Muslims of stockpiling anthrax in America and smuggling suitcase-sized nuclear bombs across the Mexican border. If the worst happened, it asked, "Are you prepared for eternity? If this tragedy happened today, do you know for sure that you would go to heaven?"

Harper, a disabled Army veteran, said the vitriolic message upset him and his wife. She jumped into their car to try to find the 20-something-year-old they had seen with a stack of the yellow fliers but had no luck.

"We're having enough trouble around the world with hatred and stuff," Harper said. "They're trying to scare people to Jesus, to church, instead of doing it the right way."

The fliers that made their appearance in Harper's Seminole neighborhood, in the 8400 block of 76th Avenue N, about two weeks ago, gave no clue about their origin.

"You'd think they would be proud of what they're doing, but it just seems strange that they wouldn't fess up to who they are," Harper said.

The Seminole city manager's office said Friday it had received no calls about the fliers.

Ahmed Bedier, executive director of the Tampa Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said he was concerned about the "hateful content and the fact that somebody is actively going door to door to circulate this bigotry in the name of Jesus."

Islamophobic propaganda has increased across the country, he said.

"However, this is the first time we've learned about this type of door-to-door propaganda," he said. "What if it was a Muslim home? Will that cause a confrontation? ... How would the neighborhood start looking at their Muslim neighbors when



ATOYIA DEANS | Times

**Joel Harper looks at the flier, which mentions terrorism and Muslim extremists.**

they get that type of propaganda?"

Such messages are dividing America "along ethnic and religious lines, which is contrary to the message of Jesus," Bedier said.

Charles Kimball, a Baptist minister and professor of comparative religion at Wake Forest University who was invited to talks with the Iranian government during the 444-day hostage crisis, said he hadn't heard about "this particular tactic" before, but he described it as a combination of two things.

"One, we see there's an anti-Muslim sentiment that some say is growing in the land. The other is there are more and more examples of evangelical and fundamental Christians looking for ways to frighten people," he said. "Anything to compel people that you may not be alive in 24 hours. This sounds like something right out of the TV show 24. And the rationalization is that anything that opens people's eyes to the message that they are delivering is justifiable."

Wavevey Ann Moore can be reached at 892-2283 or moore@sptimes.com.

The New York Times  
nytimes.com

September 5, 2006

### A Lone Man's Stunt Raises Broader Issues

By KATE ZEZIMA

LEWISTON, Me. — On a hot July night, a few dozen Somali men were kneeling shoulder to shoulder in prayer at a storefront mosque here when the door opened and the frozen head of a pig, an animal considered unclean in Islam, rolled across the floor.

Men fled in fear. A child fainted. Some called the police and ran after the person who had rolled the head in. A suspect, Brent Matthews, was quickly apprehended and charged with desecrating a place of worship. Mr. Matthews, 33, said that the incident was a prank and that he did not know the significance of a pig's head.

Now, weeks later, Somali leaders say the incident has left a scar on their community of about 3,000 immigrants.

While they admit the act was the work of one man, it has heightened simmering tensions in this overwhelmingly white, working-class city of 35,000, where Somali refugees started flocking about five years ago, after first settling in more urban areas of the United States. Many said they came here because housing was inexpensive and Lewiston seemed a safe place to raise their families.

While much of Lewiston has been welcoming, some Somalis here believe the head incident reveals an undercurrent of suspicion and lack of understanding about their culture. According to the Census Bureau, Maine is 96 percent white.

"We're not saying all of Lewiston is part of this," said Imam Nuh Iman, leader of the mosque, the Lewiston-Auburn Islamic Center. "But this is the biggest impact you can have on a mosque, in the time of praying, to put in a pig's head. It could have been a goat's head, or a cow's head. But it was a pig's head."

Phil Nadeau, the assistant city administrator, believes the incident was isolated but underscored the growing pains this city — whose mills and shoe factories, now closed, welcomed French-Canadian workers a century ago — is now going through.

"I think it's a reflection of where we are right now. There's a small group of people that will never accept this type of change in their community, ever," said Mr. Nadeau, whose French-Canadian grandmother spoke only five words of English. "The second wave of non-English speakers to Lewiston is now the Somali population."

Hussein Ahmed, 31, said the mosque incident came as Somalis here felt that they had finally started to move on from a 2002 open letter written by Laurier Raymond, then the mayor, which asked them to stop other Somalis from coming to the city. Mr. Raymond contended in his letter that the city was "maxed-out financially, physically and emotionally."

washingtonpost.com

### Teacher Charged After Uproar Over Arabic

By Ernesto Londoño  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Wednesday, September 13, 2006, B04

A substitute teacher was charged with disorderly conduct Monday after she allegedly lashed out at a group of Guthrieburg high school students for using words in Arabic while practicing a commemorative speech to mark the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Montgomery County police say Carol J. McVey, 49, began screaming at the group of Guthrieburg High School students and one of their teachers for saying "assalaamu alaikum" — a greeting that means peace be with you — while they rehearsed the speech in a classroom.

Police said McVey, of Olney, began yelling at the students and their teacher.

"Islam doesn't mean peace, it means killing everyone for peace," she told them, according to a charging document.

The students were working on a speech that they intended to deliver at a memorial service at Kingsview Middle School that day.

The students and one of their teachers left the classroom in fear after the outburst, police said, and McVey followed them down the hall, where her alleged tirade intensified.

"Because of you our families died in New York!" she allegedly yelled, threatening to go to the principal's office to ask that Kalsum Malik, the teacher who was with the students, be told to leave, the charging document said.

Police spokeswoman Lavellie Bass said she didn't know whether Malik or any of the students working on the speech are Muslim.

When McVey reached the office of Assistant Principal Leanne Bricker and began yelling again, Bricker asked her to leave. As the administrator was telling McVey to go, McVey began to argue that it was Malik who should be asked to leave, police said.

As an officer assigned to the high school began escorting McVey out, she allegedly resisted, saying she wanted to get Malik's information in order "to report her," according to the charging document.

On her way out, McVey yelled at a Hispanic teacher about the inappropriateness of speaking to students in languages other than English, police said.

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