

environment. If the Democratic Party can strengthen its control of the Senate and get control of the House legislation protecting civil liberties will have more of a chance of being scheduled and voted on.

II. Report of Program work

Goal 1: To advise American political leaders and local Muslim constituents on domestic and international policy concerns of the American Muslim community.

A. *Objective 1: Influence the formulation and execution of American domestic and international policy based on the concerns and values of the American Muslim community.*

The first six months of 2002 saw a rise in the number of meetings and contact with government agencies and congressional offices. In January CAIR delivered testimony on racial profiling at a 'rump' hearing called by Rep. John Conyers, and meetings and calls to offices of members of the House Judiciary Committee on this and related issues. We continued to highlight the concerns about the treatment of detainees and their due process rights and the effect of 'voluntary' interviews on the American Muslim community and its relation with government officials.

During this period we met with Frank Boyd, head of the DOJ Civil Rights Department, and Frank Mueller, Director of the FBI and the Inspector General of the Office of Inspector General for DOJ, an independent auditing body that is currently investigating charges of mistreatment of detainees at the Passaic and Brooklyn INS detention centers. We also met with members of the DOT Transportation Security Agency to discuss the issues of watch lists and racial profiling of American Muslims. Finally, we met with the head of the Civil Rights Unit and other staff in the USDA to discuss denial of food stamp privileges among a number of Somali grocery stores. These stores have a strong defense, but have been denied the right to accept food stamps based on allegations of trafficking and fraud, causing enormous harm to the owners and the Somali community.

We met with a number of congressional offices, especially in the senate, to discuss the Treasury Department raids on American Muslim homes, businesses and institutions. In these meetings we argued that the targets of the raids had not been afforded basic due process protections, especially the right to learn the nature of accusations and suspicions leveled against them. We tied these raids into the pattern of due process denial for detainees, interviewees, and the three Muslim charities whose assets have been frozen and asked for greater congressional oversight of Administration actions against the American Muslim community.

On international issues, CAIR weighed in heavily regarding American policy in the Middle East, meeting with representatives of the State Department on a number of occasions and corresponding with State, the White House Office and Congressional offices to argue for a more balanced US policy in the Middle East. This contact increased during the major Israeli offensive in the West Bank. We also began to develop ties and resources to begin a major effort to highlight the threat of fundamentalist Hindu nationalism in India, especially in the state of Gujarat. We compiled information and began contacting congressional offices, especially senators of the Foreign Relations subcommittee on South Asian affairs.

CAIR also participated in planning a congressional Mideast Dialogue called for by John Conyers. The dialogue involves religious and political leaders from the Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities, members of Congress and community members. Two dialogues have been held with mixed results. Attendance is light, although Conyers has gotten a number of members of Congress to participate