

- B. *Objective II: Develop strong and cooperative links and relationships with other groups that share the concerns of American Muslims, such as immigration networks, peace and social justice concerns, labor, human rights organizations, etc.*

CAIR continued working with established civil rights organizations, American Muslim and Arab organizations, social justice and faith based organizations. The established civil rights organizations remain the best organized and most effective in addressing attacks on civil liberties, and it is these groups with whom we most try to coordinate CAIR's legislative activities.

In the first three months of this year CAIR, AMC and MPAC governmental relations staff regularly met or spoke by phone about issues and priorities, in an effort to better coordinate the activities of these organizations. These meetings ended when Ray Busch left AMC and Mahdi Bray left MPAC. We plan to revive these conversations, but have not yet done so. I also frequently talked with Majed Jafari of AAI on lobbying issues, and we have coordinated our lobbying efforts on Palestine and Syria, shared information and consulted each other frequently. CAIR also organized three meetings of governmental relations staff from American Muslim and Arab organizations in order to share information and establish better working relationships between the organizations.

CAIR regularly communicates with members of the Washington staff of faith based organizations, although these organizations seem not be less effective than other civil rights organizations in coordinated lobbying efforts. We also were consulted by the Presbyterian Church about an outreach initiative they launched to encourage Presbyterian churches to hold open houses for Islamic centers around the anniversary of September 11. In February, CAIR helped arrange meetings between a private Saudi delegation and members of the religious and interfaith community in Washington, which helped us to renew contact with the Interfaith Alliance, the Interfaith Conference, and establish new contacts in the National Cathedral and the Theological Consortium.

CAIR also contributed to a Martin Luther King Day event with members of the Black Caucus, Rev. Sharpton's Action Network, the ACLU, AAI and other civil rights organizations. We consulted with a coalition of organizations in New York that have been working with the detainees, sharing information and helping to bring attention to each other's work. CAIR helped plan and prepare for a national summit to oppose Administration abuses of Muslims, Arabs and South Asians that brought over 60 people from groups as diverse as La Resistencia, National Lawyers Guild and the ACLU in order to better coordinate activist activities with the legal efforts of national civil rights organizations. Finally, CAIR decided to cosponsor and participate in the Alliance for Justice's First Monday Campaign, which promotes student activism through planning and preparation of a national day of action that coincides with the fall opening of the Supreme Court. CAIR's name will appear on all promotional material and CAIR chapters can coordinate these activities with other organizations to help us reach college age activities that don't yet know about CAIR. This year's theme is oppression of the Muslim community.

Finally, CAIR was approached by Conoco Oil about working together on the issue of sanctions against Iran. Discussions were formal until the introduction of the Syrian Accountability Act of 2002, when a joint interest in opposing these sanctions helped CAIR and Conoco to begin consulting more regularly on the status of this bill and efforts to defeat it. This bill is an AIPAC inspired resolution that is part of a strategy that aims to keep Arab states off-balance and on the defensive, and thereby strengthen the position of Israel vis-à-vis the Palestinians.