

CAIR National Board Meeting  
October 28-29, 2006 Held in Chicago  
Report from CAIR National

Submitted by: Nihad Awad

Pending issues that need resolutions:

1- Islamophobia/OIC/Gtwn/CAIR conference

OIC agreed to fund the conference with up to \$300,000 to be held in Feb/March 06.

a- Budget has to be adjusted by CAIR first, share it with GTWN, then submit it to OIC.

b- Committees be formed:

- 1- A steering committee: a rep. of OIC, CAIR and GTWN
- 2- A program committee
- 3- A logistic committee

2- Hill and Knowlton:

Business plan needs to be reviewed by CAIR before H&K prints a final one.

The UAE ambassador is will to gather all ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperating Council (GCC) to listen to a presentation, in return, hopefully they will write to their respective people to ask for support of the initiative.

3-APPNA & CAIR

(please see attachment)

APPNA is asking CAIR to enter in a partnership with them in protecting Pakistani physicians and promote civil right and political involvement. They would like to receive a proposal from CAIR to present to their board by Nov. 15.

Other organizations already submitted proposals, but we were told that they prefer to work with CAIR.

Events:

- CAIR hosted dinner for the President Khatami, former president of Iran. The dinner was attended by approximately 400 Media dignitaries Muslims and non-Muslims.
- Iftar with the Pakistani Ambassador: Hosted Pakistani Ambassador for Iftar. More than 30 CAIR supporters and community leaders were present at the event.
- CAIR Annual Congressional Iftar: Attended by 9 congressmen and women and dozens of congressional staffers. Also in attendance were military and law enforcement officials, and community leaders. 9 local and international media reported on this event. Over 130 people were in attendance.
- Meeting with Pope's representatives in DC: The meeting was productive. CAIR delivered their concern about the statement made by the Pope on Islam.
- ISNA: CAIR representatives spoke in four sessions at ISNA and had a booth manned by staff and volunteers from CAIR National and CAIR Chicago.
- 9-11 fifth anniversaries Unity Walk: CAIR joined more than 200 interfaith organizations to remember the victims of 9-11 and participated in a 'Unity Walk'. The program included a walk from the Washington Hebrew Congregation, stopping at the National Cathedral for a concert continue to the Islamic Center on Mass Ave, concluding at the Gandhi Memorial Statue.
- Participated in interfaith event in VA
- CAIR was part of the Virginia and Maryland civic picnic. A number of National and local elected officials participated at the event.

- International students and visitor program hosted at CAIR

### Campaigns

- Launched “Not in America’s name” on line campaign
- “Sharing Ramadan” outreach campaign. This was a success with a number of chapters and mosques from across the nation hosting open houses and invited their neighbors and non-Muslims for iftar. Several interfaith events were also held.

### Panels:

- Israel Lobby and US response to the War in Lebanon: Speakers were Professor Stephen Walt, Professor John Mearsheimer and Nihad Awad. The panel was packed with audiences from the media, researchers, community leaders and member of public. It was broadcast live on C-span. C-span aired it three more times. The panel was the most watched item on C-span website for almost a week.
- The war on Lebanon and the War on Terror Panel. Speakers were Anatol Leiven and Bassam Haddad on capitol Building
- Shutting Gitmo Panel. Speakers were Gene Fidel and James Yee at capitol Building

### Surveys

- CAIR commissioned an independent poll, *American Public Opinion Attitudes on the War in Lebanon*. It confirmed other public opinion polls showing a strong public opposition to the Bush Administration pro-Israel position on the war.
- CAIR released *American Muslim Voters: a Demographic Profile and Survey of Attitudes*, our first scientific poll of Muslim voters. The generated information will influence public discourse on Muslims in America for many years to come. With this strong foundation we have establishing another premiere standing program of CAIR that the community and the public will be anticipating on election seasons.

### Reports:

- Released CAIR annual Civil Rights Report for 2006
- Poll on American Muslims attitude
- Poll on Middle East ceasefire
- A list of Muslim voters whose income is \$75,000 or more in all states.
- Phone sheets of Muslim voters from the Research Department’s Database of Muslim Voters to help in get out the vote effort. The following requests have been fulfilled:
  - The 5<sup>th</sup> district of Minnesota, where Keith Ellison is running for Congress.
  - The State of Connecticut.
  - Pennsylvania’s 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> congressional districts.
  - San Francisco Bay Area, California.

### Pending Book:

- The Islamophobia and Anti-Americanism book is in the final editing stage. Agreement to print by Amana and permission to print by contributing authors secured. This book will not read as a conference transcript. It has been drafted to read as a collection of timeless reflections on Islamophobia and anti-Americanism. It may serve as a valuable gift offered to CAIR donors.

#### CAIR New Brand Identity and Logo:

- Launched on September 1<sup>st</sup> was well received by donors and supporters. Many positive comments were made at the ISNA convention and other CAIR events on the new CAIR look and brand.
- In process of changing the office to accommodate and display the new logo on the building and within the office
- Held chapter conference call meeting introducing the new logo

#### Fundraising:

- All figures reported in this report are as of October 27, 2006
- Launched urgent fundraising appeal during the mideast war - raised \$ 48,353.57. Amount pledges if realized in one year is \$75,920
- Ramadan appeal letter - raised \$ 312,000 as of October 27, 2006. This number includes what was raised through website and Br. Rodwan both reported below.
- Website campaign raised \$ 113,660
- Br. Rodwan Saleh was hired as Community out reach Director in mid August. He organized several fund raising and community out reach trips for himself and with Nihad. So far from his efforts CAIR raised \$ 38,000. There pledges amount to about \$ 120,000.
- Dinner and Lunch was held for CAIR major donors in Virginia and Maryland

#### Middle East War 2006

- Initiated a campaign to support relief efforts for the people of Lebanon and Middle East
- CAIR representative met with the Lebanese ambassador
- Issued statement demanding that Israel allow evacuation of Americans from Lebanon
- Issued several statements demanding ceasefire
- Issued condemnation of attack on "Seattle Jewish Center"
- Released excerpts from the Muslim community safety Kit to protect possible repercussions against Muslims, Islamic Centers and organizations.
- Assisted in organizing and participated in the vigil for Lebanon
- Held a town hall meeting on "American Public Response to the Middle East Crisis"

#### Meetings and communications with FBI and Law Enforcement Officials:

- Meeting with FBI representative Assistant Director Joe Persichini and SAI Jim McJunkin to improve relations and channels of communications. We are hoping that this meeting will result in more meetings and communications with them.
- CAIR is on the FBI AMSA (Arab Muslim Sikh Advisory) committee to discuss issues of civil rights and other concerns.
- Joint press conference with FBI on the alleged plot to bomb airlines in UK and US.
- Met with the Fairfax police chief to discuss issues pertaining Muslims and mutual cooperation.

#### Statement against Terrorism:

- Mumbai Bombing - Issues statement against the bombing
- Met with the Indian ambassador to US to offer condolences

### Empowerment of Muslims:

- 8 summer interns were trained for 11 weeks during summer
- A 3 days training program was held for chapter staff and board members in DC
- Held workshops on "Airport Profiling and Safe Travel Tips" in Maryland and Virginia
- Know your rights Workshop
- Workshop on "Mediation and alternate conflict resolution methodology"

### Volunteers

- CAIR National has a good volunteer base that comes and help with specific campaigns and events. Dozens of volunteers worked at CAIR on several campaigns such as packaging and shipping of DVD's and books for 'Explore the Life of Muhammad' Campaign and "explore the Qur'an" campaign, Khatami Dinner and other CAIR events.

### Civil Rights Issues:

- Received 727 cases for this year. Working on 133 open cases
- It is difficult to work effectively on all open active cases with only two staff members in the civil rights department
- **USCIS delay on citizenship application of Muslim applicants.**
  - Compiled the data available in our database on citizenship delay applications.
  - Consulted with CAIR Chicago and Southern California on their pending suits.
  - Met with attorneys Hassan Ahmad and Ashraf Nubani to discuss on the possibility of a class action suit.
- **Support of Guantanamo Bay Suit for Muslim Chaplain.**
  - We received a request from attorney G. T. Hunt who was filing a suit against the government to compel them to provide the prisoners with a Muslim Chaplain. Spoke with Chaplain Yee and he felt strongly that there is a need for one since they only have a cultural expert and non-Muslim chaplain. Arsalan filed an affidavit of support on behalf of CAIR.
- **Imams from South Africa and Egypt**
  - 4 imams from Egypt and 1 from South Africa were not allowed to enter the country despite having valid Visas. We sent a letter to the Secretary of DHS and State Dept asking for a meeting.

### Communications and Media

- Daily communiqués to CAIR-NET and .....
- Daily communiqués to the Arabic media
- Meetings with the media professionals and gatekeepers continue

### Website:

- Suggestions and recommendations for the new website
- Arabic website is being developed and should be ready for launching by the end of the year.

### Explore the Qur'an and Muhammad Campaign

(All numbers reported below are as of October 27, 2006)

### Qur'an:

- Request Received 38481
- Shipped 29385
- In shipping process 2200
- Balance of 6896 was deleted because of false addresses, duplicates, bad names etc.

We noticed an increase in the Qur'ans, Muhammad (PBUH) DVD and Books being returned back with defaced package. We also noticed chatter on the right wing blogs suggesting to order as many Qur'ans and other free material and then return it in order to hurt the campaign financially (CAIR pays for return postage). Therefore we introduced a charge to cover the shipping cost only through credit card. We are hoping that this will eliminate false and illegitimate requests.

### Quantities based on new request system

- Requests received 150
- Duplicates 20
- Need to be charged and shipped 130

### Explore the Life of Muhammad:

#### DVD

- Request Received 12323
- Shipped 6381
- In-Process (includes duplicates) 5942

#### Book

- Request Received 5853
- Shipped 2416
- In-Process (Includes duplicates) 3447

P.S. More than 40% are duplicate order from the total requests received.

- The funds of both campaigns have depleted to almost zero. A concerted effort is required to raise more funds to cover the cost of shipping, handling and administration.
- Qur'an project report has been shipped to all project donors. Other copies left are being sent to chapters for their distributions to raise awareness and funds.

### CAIR Chapters

- Revised manual is being submitted for approval
- Made recommendations to revive struggling chapters to the board
- MA chapter is approved.
- MN application is in process. Br. Fouad to visit them in November.
- OK application sent to the board for approval
- Received inquiries from NC and TN.

### CAIR Building

- a. See details of CAIR properties below.
- b. **Awaiting CAIR board's response on proposed Holding company. The delay in approval is causing properties to be held under separate entities. Following are our concerns as we delay our decision:**
  - i. Liability concerns in case of a lawsuit.
  - ii. The auditors are considering CAIR, Greater Washington LLC and Zahra as separate corporations. It is taking additional time causing delay in audit.

- iii. CAIR has not filed its tax return yet and has asked for 2 extensions already. The accountants are saying that they may have to file amended tax returns after our tax return is filed.
- iv. Our accountant Joey Musmar has serious concerns if CAIR does not create a totally separate entity with different board of directors for the holding company. He strongly feels that the current proposed structure will not protect the properties unless there is a clear separation.
- c. The transfer taxes and cost of consolidation of current properties owned by CAIR under a holding company is estimated to be \$263,078.32 (Please see appendix I). This is estimated cost provided by the lawyers.
- d. CAIR is also trying to acquire three additional properties, which will add another \$48,100 plus legal and other cost if the properties are bought under current structure.
- e. We need to move consolidate all properties under one entity as per recommendation from the Lawyer and close Zahra.
- f. AIC Architects working on getting the demolition permit

## 2. CAIR Foundation

- a. Received another response from IRS that the application is going through further scrutiny. Mr. Joe Sandler called IRS and left several messages with the person handling our case but have not heard back from them yet. In the mean time he is also working with the lawyer from Florida that Br. Parvez recommended to prepare a response based on mutual discussion.
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