



Council on American-Islamic Relations

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What They Say About CAIR

(October 2014)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

2014: CAIR-National Executive Director Nihad Awad was again named one of the world's 500 most influential by Jordan's Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center.

2014: CAIR-National Executive Director Nihad Awad was included among Arabian Business Magazine's annual "500 most powerful Arabs in the world."

2014: CAIR-San Francisco Bay Area Executive Director Zahra Billoo received an Unsung Hero Award from the National Lawyers Guild-SF Chapter.

2014: CAIR-San Francisco Bay Area Government Relations Consultant and CAIR-Calif. Board Secretary Sameena Usman received an Asian Pacific Islander American Leadership Award from Calif. Assembly Member Bob Wieckowski.

2014: CAIR-Mich. Executive Director Dawud Walid received the 2014 Booker T. Washington Social Justice Award from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Task Force, Inc.

2014: CAIR-Minn. Board Chair Kausar Hussain received the Outstanding Contribution Award from the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans (CAPM).

2014: CAIR-Minn. Executive Director Lori Saroya was awarded a 2014 Bush Fellowship by the Minnesota-based Bush Foundation.

2014: CAIR-Los Angeles' Communications Coordinator Yasmin Nouh received a "Women Making a Difference" award from Calif. State Senator Lou Correa.

2014: Zainab Chaudry, Co-Founder and Chair of CAIR-Md. Outreach office, received a governor's citation signed by Governor Martin O'Malley for her work with the South Asian Community at the Governor's Pan Asian Summit.

2013: CAIR-National Executive Director Nihad Awad received the Prophet Ibrahim Interfaith Award from the National Islamic Committee on Scouting.

2013: CAIR-Mich. Staff Attorney Lena Masri was honored by the Federal Bar Association for her extensive "pro bono legal services on behalf of poor and indigent clients in the Eastern District of Michigan."

2013: CAIR-Mich. Staff Attorney Lena Masri was awarded by the Syrian American Medical Society, Michigan Chapter (SAMS-MI) and the Syrian Expatriates Organization (SEO) for her “dedication and commitment to serve the cause of medical and humanitarian relief.”

2013: CAIR-Minn. Won the “Making A Difference Through Pro Bono Work.” This award commemorates institutions in the legal profession that have been committed to volunteering their services for the poor and disadvantaged.

2013: CAIR-Minn. was recognized by the Minnesota Philanthropy Partners among the ‘Nonprofits to Know.’”

2013: CAIR-Los Angeles Deputy Director Ameena Qazi received the Beacon of Light Award from Rev. Sarah Halverson at Fairview Community Church in Costa Mesa, Calif.

2013: The CAIR-San Francisco Bay Area chapter received the “Fred Korematsu Civil Rights” award from American Muslim Voice.

2013: The CAIR-San Francisco Bay Area chapter received the Champions of Justice Award from Muslim Legal Fund of America’s-SF Chapter.

2013: CAIR-San Francisco Bay Area’s Executive Director Zahra Billoo received the Trailblazer award from the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California.

2013: CAIR-San Francisco Bay Area’s Executive Director Zahra Billoo received an Asian Pacific Islander American Leadership Award from CA Assembly Member Bob Wieckowski.

2012: CAIR-SFBA Executive Director Zahra Billoo received the Community Service Award from the ICNA San Francisco Bay Area Chapter.

2012: Jordan’s Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center listed CAIR-National Executive Director Nihad Awad among the world’s 500 most influential Muslims.

2012: During Women’s History Month, Islamic Networks Group recognized five of CAIR’s key female leaders.

2012: CAIR-Minn. staffer Nausheena Hussain was given a Minnesota Council of Nonprofits 2012 Leadership Award in the Catalytic Leader category.

2012: CAIR-Mich. Executive Director Dawud Walid received an award from the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) for his work in promoting intrafaith and interfaith understanding and cooperation.

2012: CAIR-Chicago Executive Director Ahmed Rehab was appointed by Chicago’s mayor to the city’s New Americans Advisory Committee.

2011: CAIR-National received an award for “Civil Rights Preservation” from the Muslim Journal, the nation’s oldest American Muslim newspaper. The Muslim Journal has over 36 years of continuous weekly publication.

2011: CAIR-San Francisco Bay Area's Executive Director Zahra Billoo received the 2011 Public Interest Attorney of the Year Award from the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California (SABA-NC).

2011: CAIR-Minn. was awarded the 2011 Mission & Excellence Anti-Racism Award by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) and MAP for Nonprofits. The annual "Mission & Excellence" awards are given to six non-profit organizations that make "outstanding contributions to Minnesota's high quality of life."

2011: CAIR-Minn. received the award in the "Anti-Racism" category. It awards an organization that "works to eliminate prejudice and racism in society; demonstrates a commitment to pluralism and inclusively; and develops unique and thought-provoking strategies to combat racism."

2011: CAIR-National Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper was recognized among the world's "500 Most Influential Muslims" by the Jordan-based Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center.

2011: CAIR-Mich. Executive Director Dawud Walid received two awards for civil rights advocacy at the Michigan Council of Human Rights (MCHR) annual banquet.

2011: CAIR-Mich. Executive Director Dawud Walid accepted the Spirit of Detroit Award given by the City Council of Detroit and the MCHR 2011 Activist Organization Award for advocating for the civil rights of all Americans through encouraging dialogue and building coalitions that promote justice and understanding.

2011: CAIR-Okla. Executive Director Muneer Awad was awarded the Russell Bennett Recognition by the Tulsa Metropolitan Ministries. The Russell Bennett Recognition is given to an individual who, like Russell Bennett, provides courageous social justice leadership within the Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry area.

2011: CAIR-National Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper was profiled as a "DC Influencer" by PR Week. The publication is "the essential title for PR professionals in the US."

2011: CAIR-Minn. was named a "2010 Difference Maker" by the St. Cloud Times. Each year, the publication's editorial board selects individuals and groups it believes have made the biggest difference in the community.

2011: CAIR-Minn. co-founder and president Lori Saroya received the St. Catherine University 'Rising Star' Alumni Award for her community advocacy and social justice work with CAIR-Minn.

2011: CAIR-Wash. received the "Connecting Communities" award from the Faith Action Network.

2011: CAIR-National Executive Director Nihad Awad was included on the "Power 500" list compiled by Arabian Business Magazine.

2011: CAIR-Mich. Executive Director Dawud Walid was awarded the "Pastor's Award" at Central United Methodist Church's 7th Annual Peace and Justice Banquet. The award recognizes Walid's work in promoting religious dialogue and cooperation among Christian and Muslim clergy and speaking out against religious intolerance.

2010: CAIR-San Francisco Bay Area Executive Director Zahra Billoo received a San Francisco Minority Bar Coalition (MBC) 2010 Unity Award.

2010: CAIR-National Board Member Sarwat Husain received "the most Distinguished Alumni" award from the University of Incarnate Word

2010: CAIR-National Board Sarwat Husain won the "Peace Maker of the Year 2013" from Pax Christi USA's National Catholic Organization

2010: CAIR-National Board Member Sarwat Husain received the "Headliner Award" from the Association for Women in Communication.

2010: CAIR-Minn. Co-founder and president Lori Saroya received a "Community Leadership Award" from the Islamic Resource Group, an affiliate of the Islamic Networks Group.

2010: CAIR-National Executive Director Nihad Awad was included on the "Arabian Business Power 100" list compiled by Arabian Business Magazine. In describing why Awad was named to the list the magazine said, "...CAIR's actions have forced many large outlets to be more tolerant of Muslim culture."

2009: CAIR-National Executive Director Nihad Awad was recognized among the world's "500 Most Influential Muslims" by the Jordan-based Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center.

2009 and 2011: CAIR-MN co-founder and president Lori Saroya was recognized as a Facing Race Ambassador by the St. Paul Foundation. Facing Race Ambassador Awards celebrates and honors individuals and organizations working to create a racially equitable community.

FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

"Like the good folks standing with me, the American people were appalled and outraged at last Tuesday's attacks...This is a great country. It's a great country because we share the same values of respect and dignity and human worth. And it is my honor to be meeting with leaders who feel just the same way I do. They're outraged, they're sad. They love America just as much as I do."

- former President George W. Bush during a visit to a Washington, DC mosque, CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad was among those accompanying the president, September 17, 2001

"The vision of CAIR to promote "justice and mutual understanding" is of course also an American vision, and its mission "to enhance understating of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding" is in the best traditions of American civil rights movements, both past and present."

- former New Jersey Gov. Jon S. Corzine (D) (April 2009)

"I'm glad that you have established such a strong voice in the community and that you are working to maintain a strong sense of cultural and economic identity."

- former Maryland Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. (R) (December 2005)

"It has been a pleasure working with the Council over the years to further our mutual understanding, and I look forward to continuing our progress in the years to come."

- former Michigan Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm (D) (March 2010)

"I congratulate CAIR-Chicago on another successful year of serving the needs of the Muslim population in Illinois, and for working toward ensuring justice and civil rights for all the communities you serve."
- Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn (D) (April 2011)

"As Governor and on behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I thank everyone involved with CAIR-PA for your commitment to serving the needs of our commonwealth's Muslim community and building a stronger, more united Pennsylvania."
- former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell (D) (April 2007)

"Frances and I, on behalf of all Ohioans, appreciate your vision to promote justice and mutual understanding. As modern technology seems to shrink our planet, all peoples must strive to understand and respect each and every culture. This is one of CAIR's goals, that of enhancing understanding of Islam. We gather under CAIR-Ohio's theme this year "American Muslims: Connecting and Sharing" to do just that, to connect and share and get to know each other better. Muslims have been in Ohio since the 1800's and the Islamic Center in Toledo is the third mosque ever built in the United States. We honor the Muslim traditions of strong family, hard work, and education. We all deeply value the many contributions Muslims make to this great state. May God bless you!"
- former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland (D) (June 2007)

"CAIR-OH's service to the community and outreach efforts to increase understanding and dispel stereotypes are outstanding. Your continued efforts to protect civil liberties and growth in services to best serve Ohio communities has empowered Ohio's Muslims."
- former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray (D) (March 2010)

"As Attorney General of the State of Ohio, it is my honor to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations on their 9th Annual Banquet."
- Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine (R) (May 2011)

"The strength of America lies in its diversity. More than most any nation on Earth, America is truly a melting pot where people of all creeds, colors and religions come, drawn by our collective commitment to the values of human rights, democracy and equality. Trying times can challenge that commitment. That is one reason civil rights organizations, such as CAIR, are so important."
- Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan (D) (April 2011)

"I admire the Council's continued good work in bringing together community leaders, scholars, and activists to educate, promote mutual understanding, and defend civil liberties."
- Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) (September 2014)

"CAIR is an important and influential organization in Ohio and throughout the country. For two decades CAIR has brought together people of all faiths, along with members of the community, to encourage compassion and understanding between all Americans."
- Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) (September 2014)

"I particularly want to commend CAIR for working to educate others about Islam, a religion of more than one billion people in the world. CAIR also has provided members of the Muslim community in the United States with an important voice in promoting social justice and mutual understanding. CAIR has 31 offices nationwide and in Canada and through your work you have helped promote a dialogue among employers, law enforcement officials, and government agencies. CAIR understands the importance of

developing mutual understanding and trust.”

- Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.) (November 2007)

“CAIR-Chicago advances a greater understanding of the Muslim culture and serves as an essential thread in the multicultural fabric of our nation. Your efforts to advocate for tolerance promote the civil liberties of all communities.”

- Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) (April 2011)

“Through their continued efforts to educate and introduce Americans to positive aspects of the Muslim community, CAIR-LA provides an important link and resource for the Los Angeles region. Their unwavering dedication to increasing awareness and acceptance is truly praiseworthy.”

- Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) (November 2011)

“Our communities are stronger because of our faith and our diversity, and I salute the Council for empowering American Muslims to participate locally and nationally in political and social activism. By protecting and defending the constitutional rights of American Muslims, you support the rights of all Americans.”

- Sen. Christopher S. Murphy (D-Conn.) (August 2014)

“Your efforts to enhance the understanding of Islam and build coalitions that promote justice and respect is both timely and beneficial.”

- Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) (September 2014)

“The Council’s work in the state of Michigan and across the nation is always appreciated.”

-Rep. Sander M. Levin (D-Mich.) (September 2014)

“Since its inception in 1994, CAIR has been at the forefront of enhancing understanding and building coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

- Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) (September 2014)

“I applaud CAIR’s mission to enhance understanding and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.”

- former Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) (November 2006)

“I want to thank the Arab-American and Muslim-American leaders in Michigan and across the country for their hard work...The Council on American Islamic Relations sent a delegation to Baghdad to lobby for her release.”

- Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) speaking about the release of reporter Jill Carroll in 2006

“I firmly believe that every person - regardless of race, gender, or financial status - is entitled to civil rights. I applaud CAIR for empowering American Muslims to participate locally and nationally in social and political activism. Your advocacy for justice, freedom of religion, freedom of expression, and continual promotion of civil rights is crucial.”

- Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) (September 2014)

“I congratulate you on twenty years of work to strengthen our democracy. CAIR has been an advocate for many Minnesotans, including our Somali-American community.”

- Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) (September 2014)

“Since 1994, CAIR has worked to promote a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America. Through media relations, lobbying, education, and advocacy work, CAIR has worked to ensure an accurate portrayal of Muslims is represented.”

-Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) (August 2014)

“CAIR promotes a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America with the hope that this example, along with communication and grassroots activism, will eliminate any misrepresentations of Islam on the part of non-Muslims.”

- former Sen. George V. Voinovich (R-Ohio) (September 2010)

“I commend all those who work with your organization to help defend civil liberties, strengthen the dialogue between faith communities and improve the lives of others.”

- Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) (September 2014)

“I commend the Council for their efforts promoting justice and mutual understanding.”

- former Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) (September 2011)

“I commend the Council on its efforts to empower Muslim Americans to participate in both local and national politics as well as striving to encourage dialogue that presents a comprehensive and accurate understanding of Islam.”

- Rep. Karen Bass (D-Calif.) (September 2014)

“As a firm believer in civil rights, I would like to thank CAIR for their past two decades of educating and empowering our community and protecting and defending the rights of all Americans.”

-Rep. Ami Bera (D-Calif.) (2014)

“CAIR’s work continues to ensure that the principles upon which our nation was founded are upheld.”

-Rep. Bruce L. Braley (D-Iowa) (2013)

“CAIR is the national forefront of fostering a positive understanding of American Muslims and works tirelessly to foster interfaith understanding through education and dialogue.”

- Rep. Lois Capps (D-Calif.) (September 2014)

“I believe we need to continue to foster a sense of respect and understanding in diversity, and I support CAIR’s passionate advocacy in this direction.”

-Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-Calif.) (September 2014)

“Your work is truly essential in making democracy work for everyone in this country, regardless of faith, and it is integral in showing the world an example of Islam in which we are seamlessly engaged in society. I truly believe that your work is helping us take critical steps towards increased tolerance and understanding worldwide.”

- Rep. Andre Carson (D-Ind.) (September 2014)

“I am thankful for the council’s efforts and hope it continues being a forthright voice for social injustice.”

- Rep. Judy Chu (D-Calif.) (September 2014)

Foley: ‘What did you think about the swipe? Because it certainly seemed that [CAIR] is the group that

this hearing was designed to go after.”

Clarke: “Well I’m glad you mentioned that and that’s why in my statement I raised the fact that the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Michigan worked with Federal law enforcement officials. As a matter of fact just last year alone CAIR-Michigan met with the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security combined thirteen times to help coordinate work between law enforcement at the Federal level and the Muslim community. So CAIR in Michigan definitely had good relations with law enforcement and that has been helpful to protect our citizens from any type of likely threat.”

- former Rep. Hansen Clarke (D-Mich.), Interview with the Craig Foley Show on WDET Detroit, March 11, 2011.

“American engagement with the Muslim world is important for all communities. As the Middle East goes through this period of transition, the United States and Muslim communities around the world have a responsibility to work together to shape a peaceful path forward. I thank you for your important work to this end...”

- Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-Va.) (September 2014)

“CAIR’s work in the State of Michigan and across the nation is much appreciated.”

- Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.) (August 2014)

“CAIR has worked diligently to eliminate fear, mistrust, discrimination and violence, all of which are barriers to harmonious relationships and progress.”

-Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-Md.) (September 2013)

“CAIR understands that in defending Muslim Americans against employment discrimination, prison abuse, hate crimes, and citizenship delays they are also defending our American values for every American.”

- Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-Ill.) (March 2011)

“It is important that we recognize the many positive contributions Muslim Americans continue to make in our communities.”

- former Rep. Tom Davis (R-Va.) (November 2008)

“CAIR’s twenty years of bringing together communities and defending civil liberties is commendable, and the work you do for the state of Maryland is greatly appreciated.”

- Rep. John Delaney (D-Md.) (September 2014)

“In Washington state, CAIR plays a central role in defending civil rights, encouraging political engagement and mutual understanding, and building partnerships in the community. I am always pleased to meet with members of the Washington state chapter of CAIR, and I applaud our local leaders for their continuing work to combat discrimination and to encourage an open dialogue among different communities in our region.”

- Rep. Suzan Delbene (D-Wash.) (August 2014)

“Through town hall meetings discussing Muslim civil rights or fighting for American Muslim employees to receive the same benefits as their colleagues, CAIR has done an admirable job advocating for equality for the American Muslim population in Michigan.”

- Rep. John D. Dingell (D-Mich.) (August 2013)

"I applaud the Council for continuing the great tradition of bringing together community leaders, scholars, and activists to celebrate CAIR's work of defending civil liberties. The Council's work in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the nation has indeed had a significant positive impact."
- Rep. Mike Doyle (R-Pa.) (August 2014)

"By presenting an Islamic perspective on issues of importance to the American public, CAIR-Ohio works to establish the role and the future of the Muslim community in this new era of hope."
-former Rep. Steve Driehaus (D-Ohio) (May 2010)

"By promoting and defending the constitutional rights of American Muslims, you support the rights of all Americans and the democracy upon which this country was founded."
-The Honorable Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) (September 2014)

"As a representative for Maryland's Fourth Congressional District, I value the importance of the Council and its ability to empower American Muslims across my district to participate in political and social activism."
-Rep. Donna F. Edwards (D-Md.) (August 2014)

"As a firm believer in civil and human rights, including the principles upon which our country was founded, I appreciate CAIR's work to defend the U.S. Constitution and safeguard the rights of all Americans."
- Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) (September 2014)

"I'm proud to represent members of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of CAIR and I commend you for your tireless work in defense of civil rights for each and every member of our community."
- Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Calif.) (September 2014)

"I applaud the Council for continuing this great tradition of bringing together community leaders, scholars, and activists to celebrate CAIR's work defending civil liberties."
-Rep. Elizabeth H. Esty (D-Conn.) (September 2014)

"I thank you for your commitment to defending civil liberties in the state of Florida and across the nation."
- Rep. Alan Grayson (D-Fla.) (2014)

"Together with your grassroots organizing and outreach efforts, CAIR will no doubt continue to be a leading civil rights organization for years to come!"
- Rep. Bob Filner (D-Calif.) (September 2011)

"I would like to commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the work you do defending civil liberties, empowering American Muslims and building coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding."
- Rep. J. Randy Forbes (R-Va.) (October 2007)

"Your work truly is essential in making democracy work for everyone in this country."
-Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (D-Ohio) (September 2014)

“By protecting and defending the constitutional rights of American Muslims, you support the rights of all Americans.”

-Rep. John Garamendi (D-Calif.) (September 2013)

“I applaud your efforts in educating and enhancing understanding through open dialogue.”

- former Rep. Wayne T Gilchrest (R-Md.) (November 2005)

“I salute the Council for empowering American Muslims for the last two decades to participate locally and nationally in political and social activism.”

-Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) (August 2014)

“Through it all, CAIR has been a steady force steering us towards understanding and the core values that define our nation. Whether it is working in Chicago to build bridges or tirelessly walking the halls of Congress in Washington, CAIR is there.”

-Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-Ill.) (September 2011)

“In particular, I thank CAIR for all the tremendous work that it has done in the State of Florida, and thank its members for bringing important issues to my attention. I truly appreciate our continued partnership.”

-Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-Fla.) (August 2014)

“I applaud CAIR for their outstanding work in encouraging leadership, bolstering civic participation, and promoting social activism. It is only through the commitment and contribution from organizations such as CAIR that the concerns of the American Muslim community are heard.”

- Rep. Mike Honda (D-Calif.) (September 2014)

“I thank CAIR for its advocacy and continuing to open the lines of communication to ensure that we make democracy work for everyone.”

- Rep. Jesse L. Jackson (D-Ill.) (October 2011)

“I applaud you for your service to others, and for your devotion to bringing about a world in which people of various ethnicities and religious beliefs share in a common humanity, where all people are considered equal, and none are thrown to the margins of our society.”

- Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) (September 2014)

“I know I join all gathered in acknowledging CAIR’s tireless efforts to defend civil liberties and empower individuals.”

- Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) (August 2014)

“Your dedication to the community is most admirable. Because of your efforts the lives of many citizens have been enriched.”

- former Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-Mich.) (November 2007)

“Our democracy requires the participation of informed and engaged citizens, something CAIR has been firmly committed to for twenty years.”

-Rep. Adam Kinzinger (D-Ill.) (August 2014)

“During our many meetings, you always provide a thoughtful and welcomed perspective that truly helps prepare me for the work ahead. I look forward to continuing to work together in the future.”

- Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Mich.) (2014)

“In my home state of Ohio, CAIR has helped make my district a more inclusive and welcoming place for American Muslims.”

- Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich (D-Ohio) (September 2011)

Awarded Certificate of Congressional Recognition and Achievement, presented to CAIR-Ohio “in recognition of your 9th Annual Banquet”

- Rep. Steven C. LaTourette (R-Ohio) (May 2011)

“For the past twenty years, CAIR has been a staunch defender of the civil rights of American Muslims nationwide.”

- Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) (September 2014)

“The Council’s work in the state of Texas and across the nation is much appreciated.”

- Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) (September 2014)

“I extend my sincere compliments and admiration as you continue to make such a positive impact on the world.”

- Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) (September 2014)

“I appreciate the twenty years that CAIR has advocated for tolerance and for the protection of civil liberties.”

- Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) (September 2014)

“I continue to be inspired by CAIR’s critical work in not only furthering the civil rights of the American Muslim community but all communities throughout our nation.”

-Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-Calif.) (September 2014)

“For twenty years, the Council has excelled in bringing together community leaders, scholars, and activists to defend civil liberties.”

-Rep. Doris O. Matsui (D-Calif.) (September 2014)

“America’s diversity is a cause for celebration, as are the Council’s efforts at ensuring equal opportunities and representation for everyone.”

-Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-Calif.) (September 2014)

“CAIR’s efforts to promote social justice, protect civil liberties, and increase knowledge about Islam are of great value to all Americans.”

-Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) (August 2014)

“I am honored to work with CAIR-WA on issues of justice and civility important not only to my Congressional district, but to the entire nation.”

- Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Wash.) (September 2014)

“CAIR-NY has proudly served the Muslim community and New York City for more than thirteen years, advocating on civil rights and youth empowerment issues. Though 2010 brings many challenges, both foreign and domestic, for the United States of America, I believe within my heart that CAIR-NY will continue to strengthen the relationships it has forged with communities across New York City and educate the population about Islam.”

-Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-N.Y.) (May 2010)

“I commend the Council for empowering American Muslims to take an active role in local and national politics.”

-Rep. Gary G. Miller (R-Calif.) (September 2014)

“As a lifelong believer in civil rights, I deeply value CAIR’s efforts to defend the rights of not only American Muslims, but of all Americans. This advocacy is crucial in the effort to protect the individual liberties that we so strongly cherish.”

-Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) (September 2014)

“Your work is essential in making democracy work for everyone in this country.”

-Rep. Gloria Negrete McLeod (D-Calif.) (August 2013)

“On behalf of the 8th District of Virginia, I wish your family, friends, and community the high recognition and appreciation you deserve throughout the community.”

-Rep. James P. Moran (D-Va.) (September 2014)

“I congratulate you on preserving this wonderful tradition of bringing different members of the community together in celebration of your dedication to the defense of civil liberties.”

-Rep. Patrick E. Murphy (D-Fla.) (January 2013)

“...I would like to acknowledge and commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations of the Greater Los Angeles Area for its remarkable commitment to the American-Islamic population, and for fostering cultural understanding in our community.”

-Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-Calif.) (November 2007)

“I applaud your commitment to addressing the social and economic issues that plague the Islamic community and for creating initiatives that will provide understanding, encourage dialogue and promote justice. I know that you derive satisfaction through your work, but it is also important that your accomplishments are praised by the community at large. I salute you.”

-Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) (November 2007)

“I have seen firsthand how Muslim Americans contribute to the vibrant culture and heritage of our United States.”

-Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-N.J.) (August 2014)

“The Council’s work of excellence and service enhances the understanding of Islam in the state of New Jersey and across the nation. CAIR’s efforts are appreciated and valued.”

-Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D-N.J.) (August 2014)

“The work that CAIR does for our city and across the nation not only enriches the Muslim community, but also expands productive dialogue between cultures.”

-Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Ill.) (September 2014)

“I encourage further efforts to come from CAIR-NY. I appreciate your organization’s steadfast determination to protect the civil rights of Muslims in our City, our nation, and throughout the world.”

- former Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.) (March 2010)

“It is critical for CAIR to continue to empower American Muslims, understanding and appreciating our respective cultures as the world gets smaller and our interactions become more frequent and meaningful.”

-Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-Md.) (September 2014)

“The burgeoning partnership with the CAIR and the communities it represents brings greater awareness to the richness of Islamic traditions and heritage. I applaud your efforts thus far and look forward to our united work in the future.”

-Rep. Bobby L. Rush (D-Ill.) (September 2014)

“As a firm believer in civil rights, I salute the Council for empowering American Muslims to participate locally and nationally in political and social activism.”

-Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio) (August 2014)

“I sincerely appreciate CAIR’s dedication to engaging leaders at the federal and local level, as it allows me to better represent the interests of all constituents.”

- Rep. Linda T. Sanchez (D-Calif.) (September 2014)

“The Council’s work in the state of California and across the nation is much appreciated.”

- Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.) (August 2014)

“Thank you for your service to the people of Maryland. Your dedication, action and commitment make a difference to the quality of dialogue in our community; and I very much appreciate the opportunity to salute your achievements.”

- Rep. John P. Sarbanes (D-Md.) (November 2007)

“The tireless efforts of CAIR and their many partners have helped make our country and our world a more unified, respectful, and more tolerant place. For that, I am truly thankful.”

- Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) (November 2006)

“Founded in 1994, CAIR is America’s largest Muslim civil advocacy organization...and the Council’s work in Los Angeles, the state of California, and across the nation is much appreciated.”

- Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Ca.) (September 2013)

“CAIR has also helped to strengthen the constitutional rights our society enjoys by defending the rights of American Muslims. These efforts are still important, as there is more work to be done to ensure that the civil rights that many have fought so hard to achieve are not curtailed in any way.”

- Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D-Va.) (August 2014)

“The Council’s work is amongst our nation’s most commendable, as the Council is an ally for both Muslims and other groups and individuals who have experienced religious discrimination, defamation, or hate crimes of any kind.”

- Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) (September 2014)

“I look forward to seeing the crucial work that CAIR continues to do towards preserving the rights and well-being of all Muslim Americans and advocating for others who fall victim to social injustice in the United States.”

- Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) (2014)

"CAIR does such important and necessary work in a difficult environment to change such perceptions and wrongs -- from racial profiling and civil rights to promoting justice and mutual understanding -- at a time when it is challenging to be an American-Muslim."

- former Rep. Joe Sestak (D-Pa.) (April 2007)

“I applaud CAIR’s mission to “enhance the understanding of Islam and to encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.”

- Rep. Pete Stark (D-Calif.) (October 2011)

Awarded Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to the CAIR-Ohio “in recognition of their 9th Annual Banquet”

- Rep. Betty Sutton (D-Ohio) (May 2011)

“For the past two decades, CAIR has brought together community leaders, scholars, and activists to help promote and defend civil liberties.”

- Rep. Mark Takano (D-Calif.)

“Whether it is promoting civil rights, civil liberties, our constitutional right to freedom of religion, or opposing policies that allow racial and religious profiling and inhibit Americans of any faith from engaging in civic life, the Council has worked tirelessly for outcomes that benefit all Americans.”

-Rep. Paul D. Tonko (D-N.Y.) (September 2014)

"On behalf of the United States Congress and the residents of the Eleventh Congressional District, Ohio, I commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Ohio for your service to our community. I extend my personal thanks to your members for all of their efforts to improve the needs of Ohio's Muslims in their quest for civil rights. Enjoy your 4th Annual Sharing Ramadan interfaith Community Iftar Banquet. It is my hope and expectation that this organization will continue to thrive and experience ongoing success."

- former Rep. Stephanie Tubbs-Jones (D-Ohio) (September 2007)

“Since 1994, CAIR has sought to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions.”

-Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) (September 2014)

"I believe, as you do, that awareness and activism are the keys to change. CAIR's vision to promote justice and mutual understanding is essential to our nation. I commend CAIR for its dedication in encouraging the American Muslim population to take a more active role in the government."

- Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) (November 2008)

"I acknowledge and congratulate CAIR for 19 years of providing American Muslims a platform to bring issues of concern to the forefront and compel action."

-Rep. Frederica S. Wilson (D-Fla.) (August 2013)

"The Council on American Islamic Relations has been a strong voice. Your leadership has provided for the protection and promotion of the interests of the Islamic American community while advocating the cause of peace, human rights and social justice."

- Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.) (October 2011)

"Let me take this opportunity to commend CAIR for all of your efforts to promote the civil rights of American Muslims."

- former Rep. Albert L. Wynn (D-Md.) (November 2007)

STATE OFFICIALS

"Over the years, (Council on American-Islamic Relations, Cleveland)'s work and advocacy for greater understanding among cultures and religions has proven to be a blessing to our state. Your goal of promoting compassion and cooperation among diverse ethnic groups is a tremendous gift. "

- former Ohio Secretary of State, J. Kenneth Blackwell (2006)

"The Council on American-Islamic Relations Columbus Chapter is hereby recognized for their work as a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding. Their unwavering adherence to the cause of enhancing the understanding of Islam, encouraging dialogue, protecting civil liberties and empowering American Muslims should serve as an inspiration to others for what can be achieved with such hard work and dedication"

- former Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, Certificate of Commendation (March 2010)

"I applaud and commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations for its stellar efforts and commitment in helping to ensure justice, civil rights, and the ending of discriminatory practices throughout the communities you dutifully serve."

- Illinois Secretary of State, Jesse White (March 2011)

"I wish to commend CAIR-MI for its manifold historic achievements in the community as it continues to serve as the leading voice on civil and human rights issues affecting Michigan Muslims."

- Mayor Virgil Bernero (Lansing, MI) (March 2010)

"We commend your dedicated efforts and vision as a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding. We express our appreciation for your contribution to the welfare of our community."

- Mayor Michael B. Coleman (Columbus, Ohio) (September 2010)

"CAIR-Chicago works to present a balanced and accurate media portrayal of Islam and Muslims and makes our city a better place to live, work, and raise families."

- former Mayor Richard M. Daley (Chicago, Ill.) (April 2011)

“I salute the valuable work that the CAIR-Ohio does on behalf of the American-Islamic community.”
- Mayor Frank G. Jackson (Cleveland, Ohio) (March 2010)

“I...commend the work of CAIR-Ohio on behalf of all people in promoting the many freedoms guaranteed to the citizens of our great democracy.”
- Mayor Kevin M. Kennedy (North Olmsted, Ohio) (March 2010)

“Thank you for all the work you do in our communities, CAIR.”
- Mayor Bob Wieckowski (City and County of San Francisco) (October 2011)

“Proclaimed March 2, 2010, to be “CAIR Day” in the City of Cincinnati in recognition of CAIR-Ohio’s mission to “enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.”
- Mayor Mark L. Mallory (Cincinnati, Ohio) (March 2010)

“CAIR-PA has actively engaged the media to encourage positive representation of Islam and Muslims and promoted interfaith relations and community outreach through workshops and presentations in cooperation with social organizations, churches, synagogues, mosques, and other religious and educational institutions. On behalf of the City of Philadelphia, I congratulate you on the 5th Anniversary of your worthy organization and commend the CAIR-PA administrators and staff for their on-going efforts to raise our awareness of Islam and the American Muslim community through the building of coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.”
- Mayor Michael A. Nutter (Philadelphia, Pa.) (March 2011)

“For 10 years CAIR-MI has worked to promote a positive view of Islam and Muslims in America, protect civil rights for everyone and encourage understanding and justice for all. Your efforts have had a positive impact on the residents of Dearborn and the region. We support your important mission.
- Mayor John B. O’Reilly, Jr. (Dearborn, Mich.) (March 2010)

“I am pleased to join with other members of our community in recognizing CAIR’s dedication to promoting a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America. Thank you for bringing people together from all ethnic backgrounds in the pursuit of mutual understanding and respect.”
- Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa (Los Angeles, Calif.) (November 2008)

I commend CAIR for its continued advocacy and extend my best wishes for the future success of this vital organization.”
- Mayor Bob Wasserman (Fremont, Calif.) (October 2011)

“Your advocacy efforts aimed at protecting civil liberties, encouraging dialogue and fostering understanding serve as an inspiration to all who seek justice.”
- California State Senator Ted Lieu (November 2011)

“For the past 15 years, CAIR has tirelessly worked to protect and empower American Muslims. The campaigns that this organization implements and its unswerving loyalty to the people it represents is truly inspiring.”
- California State Senator Carol Liu (November 2011)

“For over a decade, since its inception, CAIR-NY fights daily seeking equality and justice for all. Doing this, they benefit not merely New Yorkers making up the country’s largest Muslim population, many facing religious persecution or racial discrimination, they also help to demonstrate the strength and beauty of America’s diverse democracy.”

- New York State Senator Bill Perkins (March 2010)

“Your organization has worked diligently to help others and you are to be commended on behalf of the many people who have benefited from your contributions. I am proud to express my gratitude to all of the dedicated individuals who have provided an outstanding example of patriotism in action over this decade.”

- Michigan State Representative Bob Constan (March 2010)

“I applaud CAIR for your efforts to allay the fears of those who may tend to allow their lack of understanding to cloud their opinions regarding a totality of people, organizations whom they have prejudged. CAIR’s renowned impact on society generated by the Muslim community in Chicago and nationwide is one that should be respected and as cited in your subject matter this year, one which your organization is committed to the challenge of further emphasizing and promoting the goodwill of our Muslim neighbors in Chicago and Muslim communities worldwide.

- Illinois State Representative Mary E. Flowers (February 2011)

“Your fight for those who don’t have the resources to defend themselves is invaluable. The advocacy efforts of your organization are vital to all American Muslims, Americans, our community and our state.”

- Michigan State Representative Rashida H. Tlaib (March 2010)

“...I would like to thank CAIR-NY and its dedicated [sic] for the very important work they are doing to help serve and protect our City’s growing Muslim community.”

- New York, New York City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn (May 2010)

“CAIR-Ohio is committed to educating the public and public officials on important Muslim values such as emphasis on strong families, improving neighborhoods and protecting the civil liberties of all residents so that there may be greater harmony and a better America.”

- Columbus, Ohio City Council (June 2007)

“The Franklin County Board of Commissioners extend on behalf of all the people of Franklin County sincere thanks to CAIR – Ohio for their efforts to advocate for freedom, democracy, and human rights for all Americans.”

- Mary Jo Kilroy, Paula Brooks, and Dewey Stokes, Board of County Commissioners, Franklin County, Ohio (2006)

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Pittsburgh Chapter on its work in our City...”

- Pittsburgh, Pa. City Council Proclamation, passed in City Council Tuesday, March 2, 2010

“Thank you [CAIR Cleveland] so very much for organizing and leading my recent meeting with Muslim women... You provided me with yet another opportunity to learn and absorb information about what makes up the family of Ohio’s people.”

- former Ohio First Lady, Frances Strickland (2006)

OTHERS

“The only major US Muslim organization that has achieved a high level of media influence is the Council on American-Islamic Relations, which is now working to rebuff the recent rise in anti-Muslim messages within the American public sphere.”

- **Christopher Bail, the author of a 2012 academic study on the growing influence of anti-Muslim hate groups.**

“CAIR’s outstanding work in strengthening solidarity among American Muslims and generating a harmony between different cultures is worth praising particularly at a time when the defamation of religions continue to pose serious implications for international peace and security.”

- **Embassy of the Republic of Turkey (2014)**

“Their work in defending the civil liberty of the American Muslim community, and their political activism against religious discrimination is vital in safeguarding the climate of multiculturalism and religious diversity for which the United States is known.”

- **Embassy of the State of Qatar (2014)**

“The General Delegation of the PLO has great admiration for CAIR’s critical work. For nearly two decades your organization’s initiatives have crucially supported members of our community.”

- **Ambassador Maen Rashid Areikat, Chief Representative, General Delegation of the PLO to the United States (Washington D.C.) (September 2013)**

“Such an events emphasize the role CAIR has been playing throughout the years in promoting understanding of Islam through dialogue and through enhancing the efforts of the American Muslims in that aspect.”

- **Ambassador Dr. Mohammed AlHussaini Al Sharif (Ambassador to the League of Arab States, Washington D.C.) (September 2013)**

“Number one, it's not fair of to you criticize CAIR, OK? Because CAIR isn't fostering any kind of jihad, as far as I know.”

- **Bill O'Reilly, host of Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor (December 2010)**

“I only wish you could have gone to the CAIR dinner with me and seen—no offense—the parade of unremarkable American normality that I saw; pleasant, concerned, decent people sharing a meal, albeit with a few more veils and skullcaps than are considered usual here at the moment.”

- **Neil Steinberg, columnist, Chicago Sun-Times, (March 2010)¹**

“Muslims across the nation are proud of the Council on American-Islamic Relations for being the ambassadors for Muslims in the United States.”

- **Munir Adhami (Source: Letter to the Editor published in the Los Angeles Times, 1/11/ 2007)**

“The FBI and other agencies have repeatedly used CAIR to build bridges with the Muslim community, and the ‘apologist’ tag certainly wasn't shared by the high-ranking Republican who met with the group at an Islamic center after 9/11: President Bush.”

(Source: New Jersey Star Ledger Editorial, 3/16/2007)

¹ <http://www.cairchicago.org/2010/04/19/sun-times-we-have-little-to-fear-but-ignorance/>, accessed 7/3/2014

"A small band of critics have made a determined but unsuccessful effort to link it to Hamas and Hezbollah, which have been designated as terrorist organizations by the State Department, and have gone so far as calling the group an American front for the two."

(Source: *New York Times*, 3/14/2007)

"Government officials in Washington said they were not aware of any criminal investigation of the group. More than one described the standards used by critics to link CAIR to terrorism as akin to McCarthyism, essentially guilt by association."

(Source: *New York Times*, 3/14/2007)

One Arab-American advocate compared CAIR to 'the tough cousin who curses at anyone who speaks badly about the family'."

(Source: *New York Times*, 3/14/2007)

"Already fighting on behalf of American Muslims is the Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, as it is commonly known. The organization...has developed a reputation for being something of a pit bull in protecting the civil rights of Muslims."

(Source: *The Indianapolis Star*, 9/04/2005)

"The United Way of Hernando County would like to thank [CAIR-Florida] for your generous donation of \$5,000 to support the annual Thanksgiving Day Baskets for veterans and the needy."

- Kathy Jones, Interim Executive Director, United Way of Hernando County (November 2006)

"I remember meeting some of you in 2004 at the voting station when CAIR mobilized community members and provided busses to transport voters to the polls after Friday prayer. CAIR's partnership in the Get Out The Vote campaign shows its commitment to being a voice to the American-Muslim community and should be applauded."

- Buddy Johnson, Supervisor of Elections, Hillsborough County, Florida (August 2006)

"It was overwhelming, their support."

- Host Gator Co. President Brent Oxley after CAIR supporters "swamped" the web host with "literally thousands" of complaints about Right Wing Howler, a blog whose author expressed support for the sentiment "...we need to kill all Muslim kids. Starting now." The web site was shut down. (Source: *St. Petersburg Times*, 12/20/2006)

"The efforts of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) in improving cross cultural communications is commendable. "

- Brigadier General Mark Wheeler, Chairman Senior National Representatives Coordination Group, United States Central Command (February 2007)

"... (T)he Council on American-Islamic Relations has emerged as a vigilant force against discrimination against Muslims."

(Source: *East Valley Tribune*, 1/19/2008)

"Since 1994, CAIR has employed a well-rounded plan in its role as a top Muslim voice in the US."

(Source: *PR Week*, 11/04/2002)

"The Council on American Islamic Relations, among the more effective lobbies for Muslim Americans' civil liberties..."

(Source: Salon.com, 7/10/2008)

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to CAIR-Ohio for helping me with my legal problems. I know I am never alone as long as we have CAIR-Ohio to help all Muslims in Ohio. The lawyer of CAIR-Ohio helped me when my landlord was discriminating against me on the basis of my religion and race. I now know about whom to call if my legal rights are being taken away. Thanks to everybody at CAIR-Ohio who are providing a great service to the Muslim community."

- Ahmed Hamud, Columbus, Ohio (2007)

"Organizations such as CAIR have played a tremendous role in helping to build a statewide dialogue of diversity and partnership..."

- Henry Guzman, Director, Ohio Department of Public Safety (2006)

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you, and the entire CAIR Board, for the gracious invitation to speak and attend the first CAIR MN banquet last week. I don't mind telling you I was a little nervous about being there and worried about the negative potential impact I might have on the attendees but my worries were for nothing. I was most absolutely treated as if I were an honored guest and was treated with the highest amount of respect. I felt more like a friend than a stranger. As a matter of fact, I believe I even made a few very wonderful new friends!

- Ken Rodgers, former President of American Council of the Blind, Minnesota Chapter (June 2007)

"Minnesota U.S. Attorney B. Todd Jones, who watched the [hearing held by Rep. Peter King], also took exception to [Minnesota Rep.] Cravaack's characterization [of CAIR]. "I'm frustrated by the blanket condemnation of (the council)," Jones said. He said his terrorism unit of prosecutors has a working relationship with the council's local chapter as well as other entities in sniffing out extremism or wrongdoing. "I hope that (the hearing) does not have an adverse impact on the good things happening here in Minnesota with our Somali community," Jones said. "We are on a good path with closer collaboration.

(Source Minnesota Pioneer Press, March 11, 2011)

"CAIR is an aggressive Muslim civil liberties organization, modeled on the Anti Defamation League, that has made it a target for criticism. It was indeed named as an "unindicted co-conspirator or joint venturer" in the Holy Land Foundation case--an Islamic charity that in 2008 was convicted of funding Islamic militant groups. But CAIR was not alone in that designation; nearly 250 other organizations and individuals were also named. The federal government said the organizations were included on the list in order to produce evidence at the trial, but the district court and a federal appeals court later ruled that it had been a mistake to make the list public."

(Source: Washington Post, March 10, 2011)

"But the FBI doesn't call CAIR a terrorist group. Nor does it allege that CAIR was founded or financed by Hamas. In America, if somebody has committed a crime, even somebody unpopular, we bring charges. We don't float Internet rumors at a congressional hearing." Also, 'CAIR supported the development of the Muslim American Homeland Security Congress,' [Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee] Baca said. 'Furthermore, they support the Muslim outreach program that I'm doing. . . . I have not experienced anything that suggests that CAIR supports terrorism.'"

(Source: Washington Post, March 13, 2011)

“CAIR itself has never been charged with any wrongdoing; being named an ‘unindicted coconspirator’ in the Holy Land Foundation case was later reported to have been ‘largely a tactical move by the government.’ And the difficult relationship with the FBI is due at least in part to the agency’s controversial use of paid informants at several mosques.”

(Source: *Christian Science Monitor*, March 10, 2011)

“Indeed, some of the statements about CAIR at the hearing were oversimplified at best. Mr. King noted, for example, that CAIR was listed as an ‘unindicted co-conspirator or joint venturer’ in a terrorism financing case against a charity, the Holy Land Foundation — but so were more than 200 other groups and individuals. CAIR was not accused of a crime.

“Mr. Wolf mentioned that a poster declaring ‘Build a wall of resistance — Don’t talk to the F.B.I.’ had appeared on the Web site of the group’s California chapter. But the poster had been created by non-Muslim activists in the 1970s, and CAIR officials took it down after a few days, saying it did not represent the group’s policy.

“CAIR has had a tense relationship with the F.B.I. and on occasion has urged Muslims not to talk to law enforcement officials without a lawyer present, a caution [CAIR Executive director Nihad] Awad said was very much in keeping with the American system of justice. ‘As a civil rights organization,’ he said, ‘we have the difficult job of encouraging constitutionally informed cooperation with law enforcement.’

“CAIR, along with other advocacy groups, has complained about the F.B.I.’s use of informers who pose as militants from Al Qaeda or similar groups, saying the government uses them in effect to draw young Muslim men into militancy.

“Last month, the F.B.I. director, Robert S. Mueller III, said that the bureau had no ‘formal relationship’ with CAIR, but that the organization’s officials and chapters regularly worked with F.B.I. officials on investigations and related matters. This included a news conference held on Thursday in Sacramento to announce an arrest in a mosque vandalism case.

“CAIR officials also note that they went immediately to the F.B.I. in 2009 when they were approached by the parents of five young Muslim men in Virginia who had disappeared. The men turned up in Pakistan, where they were reportedly trying to join the fight against American troops in Afghanistan.”

(Source: *New York Times*, March 11, 2011)

"...We should be giving an award to CAIR, both here in Tampa and across this nation, for the work you are doing, not just on behalf of the Muslim community but on behalf of us all. For every time you challenge stereotypes or discrimination on behalf of Muslims, you challenge them on behalf of us all."

- Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson, President of the North American region of the World Council of Churches and pastor of First United Church of Tampa (September 2011)

“CAIR is an admirable organization that has served as a positive force, working with diverse community leaders to promote mutual understanding and dialogue, protect civil liberties, and defend liberty and justice for all people in America. CAIR works to raise awareness about Islam and Muslims and has continuously and courageously condemned all forms of terrorism and extremism.”

- October 2008 letter signed by leaders of groups representing Korean Americans, Christians, Hispanic Americans, Japanese Americans and union workers.

"We could and would have freely and accurately characterized CAIR as a responsible and highly-esteemed force for reconciliation and sanity, both in international affairs and in deepening interfaith understanding here in the United States."

- January 2007 letter of support signed by 203 Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Baha'i leaders, professors and concerned citizens

CAIR is a responsible force for reconciliation and sanity, both in international affairs and in deepening religious understanding here in America. We urge Congress to state clearly what we know is true: CAIR makes a valuable contribution to democracy and interfaith relations."

- Dr. John B. Cobb, Jr., Professor Emeritus, Claremont School of Theology, Rev. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, Co-Director, Faith Voices for the Common Good, Rev. Peter Laarman, Director, Progressive Christians Uniting, Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, President, Starr King School for the Ministry (March 2007)²

"As a Christian pastor, I support of the work of CAIR, Council on American Islamic Relations. This is a national group with a very balanced and effective voice that speaks up for the rights of all peoples, and especially Muslims in the United States. It is akin to the NAACP. I think that because it is so effective, it has been targeted. I have worked with CAIR locally in the Tampa Bay area and nationally supporting interfaith relations. I find the leaders to be clear, moderate, and at the same time very articulate in defending Muslim-American rights. We need groups like CAIR in these fear-mongering times."

- Pastor Warren Clark, Tampa, FL (Source: St. Petersburg Times, 3/19/2007)

"The impact of your report was to give the false impression that 'the Jewish community' condemns CAIR and the Congressman for speaking, because you did not bother to report other Jewish opinions. Nor did you make any effort to ascertain and report that in fact CAIR speaks out strongly against terrorist attacks by Muslims, while you reported the utterly uncorroborated assertions by two local Jews that CAIR 'has connections to terrorists.' This kind of reporting encourages these McCarthyist assertions. It gives credence to lies. Good reporting should tell the whole story, not a one-sided version of it."

- Rabbi Arthur Waskow, director of the Shalom Center, in a letter to Philadelphia Enquirer reporter Tom Infield. In his letter Waskow notes that he is a Rabbi that has been "described by last week's issue of Newsweek as one of the fifty most influential rabbis in the United States, and one described by the Forward newspaper at the end of 2005 as one of the 'Forward Fifty' of most effective and creative Jews (not just rabbis) from the whole country..." (April 2007)

"I was deeply touched when I received a phone call from Mr. Ahmed Bedir of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in St. Petersburg informing me of this initiative to raise funds for the Palestine Damaged Churches. He told me that it is important in our secular society to build places of worship rather than destroy them. I wholeheartedly agree."

- Father Guido Gockel, U.S. National Secretary, CNEWA a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support (October 2006)

"Jewish Voice for Peace - Philadelphia believes that the [Council on American-Islamic Relations], Pennsylvania, is engaged in some of the most urgent civil rights work currently being done in the Commonwealth."

- Hannah Schwarzschild, Jewish Voice for Peace – Philadelphia (March 2007)

² <http://nccinterfaith.blogspot.com/2007/03/christians-support-cair.html>, accessed 3/25/2010

"We...acknowledge that CAIR-PA is a very excellent organization which builds bridges of understanding between Muslims and the broader culture."

- *The Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation (March 2007)*

"We are grateful for our continuing friendships with members of CAIR-Ohio, for their credible, gracious and courageous witness to the Muslim experience in Ohio, the meaning and diversity of Islam, and the critical issues in our shared search for peace and justice and hope, here and around the world."

- *Revered John C Wagner, Miriam R. Wagner, Professor Emeritus, United Theological Seminary, United Methodist Church (2006)*

"When you attack CAIR you attack virtually every Muslim in America."

- *L.A. County Sheriff Lee Baca (Source: LA Times, 3/24/2010)*

"I applaud your efforts to provide education, justice, outreach and empowerment to the hundreds of thousands of Muslim Americans in the Chicago area. I am impressed by your numerous success stories. I also admire the work you do for civil rights and advocacy. That work is critical to ensuring the rights guaranteed to all Americans in our Constitution."

- *Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart (March 2011)*

"The Washington Field Office of the FBI praises CAIR's dedication in representing the heart of the Muslim American community."

- *Congratulatory letter from the Washington, DC Field Office of the FBI (October 2006)*

"I wanted to say that we really appreciate the effort of Ahmed Bedier [Executive Director, CAIR-Tampa] here in Florida and all the good work that he does on behalf of CAIR in the community in the area of civil rights...Mr. Bedier has done a great job in reaching out to law enforcement, establishing open forums for us to exchange information in order to keep the nation safe."

- *Carl Whitehead, Special Agent in Charge, Tampa Bay, Florida Field Office of the FBI, speaking at the CAIR 2006 Tampa Banquet*

"[CAIR-Chicago's] commitment to maintaining a dialogue leading to the frank and honest exchange of ideas, concerns and recommendations on issues affecting the communities we mutually serve is laudable."

- *Weysan Dunn, former Special Agent in Charge, Springfield, Illinois Office of the FBI (February 2007)*

"Thank you for the opportunity you extended to me to attend the 3rd Annual Banquet of the CAIR Midwest Chapter on February 11, 2007. I expect to attend the Banquet and will be present with other members of the Chicago Field Office."

- *Robert D. Grant, Special Agent in Charge, Chicago, Illinois Office of the FBI (February 2007)*

"Of all the groups, there is probably more suspicion about CAIR, but when you ask people for cold hard facts, you get blank stares."

- *Michael Rolince, a retired F.B.I. official who directed counterterrorism in the Washington field office from 2002 to 2005 (Source: New York Times, 3/14/2007)*

"CAIR-Chicago has shown itself to be a strong partner in our community."

- *Philip J. Cline, former Superintendent of Police, City of Chicago (February 2007)*

“CAIR’s vision to be an advocate of civil rights and to promote peace and just is something we can all strive for.”

- **Lance H. Newman, Special Agent in Charge, Tampa Bay Regional Operations Center, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (September 2006)**

“We are fortunate to have someone of your expertise and credentials take time to address many of the over 800 attendees from Georgia’s criminal justice agencies.”

- **Paul Heppner, Deputy Director, Georgia Crime Information Center, Georgia Bureau of Investigation (August 2006)**

“Organizations such as CAIR have played a tremendous role in helping to build a statewide dialogue of diversity and partnership, working closely with the Ohio Department of Public Safety and other state partners to expand outreach efforts aimed at connecting diverse populations in our state. Through its continuing efforts, CAIR has set an outstanding example for other organizations to follow in our collective efforts to Turnaround Ohio.”

- **Henry Guzmán, Director, Ohio Department of Public Safety (2006)**

“[Community Alternative Policing Strategy] believes that the strength of any community lies in the propensity of its citizens to serve the common good; CAIR-Chicago has been an impressive agent of community organizing.”

- **Vance T. Henry, Former Director of CAPS, City of Chicago (February 2007)**

“On behalf of the CAPS Implementation Office, I would like to extend our support to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). As you continue to move forward with your mission to defend the civil rights of all, end bigotry and promote tolerance and acceptance of our many differences we offer you our continued support and encouragement.”

- **Ronald M. Holt, Director of CAPS, City of Chicago (April 2011)**

Know Your Conspiracies:

NEWSWEEK's guide to today's trendiest, hippest, and least likely fringe beliefs.

9. The Council on American-Islamic Relations is trying to infiltrate Capitol Hill and spread jihad.

Author Dave Gaubatz alleges that the mainstream group is both connected to Islamist terrorists and international jihad and is working to infiltrate the American government by placing interns on Capitol Hill.

Proponents: Dave Gaubatz, Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.), Rep. Sue Myrick (R-N.C.), Joseph Farah.

Kernel of Truth? CAIR has tried to place interns on Capitol Hill, but as it points out, that's standard practice for advocacy groups of all types and allegiances. There's no proof of sinister motives or an effort to encourage international jihad.

-Newsweek, 02/12/2010³

³ <http://www.newsweek.com/id/233518/page/1>, accessed 3/25/2010