
Your voice. Your future.

Annual Review 2007



CAIR  **CAN**
Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations

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Cair-Can Annual Review 2007

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MESSAGES

Message from Chair

Assalamu'alaikum - Peace be with you.

It is my privilege to present to you the Canadian Council on American Islamic Relations' (CAIR-CAN) 2006-2007 Annual Review. This latest Review outlines CAIR-CAN's efforts over the past year in our core service areas of human rights and public advocacy, media engagement and community education and outreach.

As you will note, the security certificate cases (including the Charkaoui decision), the Huseyin Celil deportation, the "No-fly List", the Air India Inquiry and the issue of reasonable accommodation represent some of the significant matters in which we have been involved most recently. Perhaps more significantly, under the leadership of our Vice Chair Faisal Kutty, CAIR-CAN has established a Human Rights Group consisting of a team of talented lawyers and caseworkers whose aim is to assist ordinary Canadian Muslims in dealing with discrimination in the workplace and in society generally.

That being said, there is little doubt that this past year has been one of transition given the departure of our former Executive Director, Karl Nickner and our Communications Director Sarah Elgazzar. We are currently engaged in a careful and comprehensive search to replace both of these key individuals and expect to announce the appointment of a new executive director and communications officer early in 2008.

In Karl and Sarah's absence, our Community Relations & Operations Director Ihsaan Gardee, Media Relations & Human Rights Coordinator Sameer Zuberi and Community

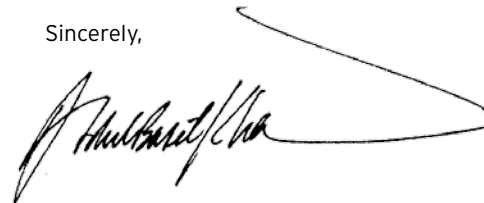
Relations Coordinator (Toronto) Maryam Dadabhoy have worked tirelessly to help the organization fulfil its mandate to serve the community in its core service areas.

In 2006, we welcomed two new Board members - Selma Djukic and Kashif Ahmed. Selma is both a successful businesswoman and a veteran of community service. She brings a unique skill set that has already proven to be of immense value to the organization. Similarly, Kashif's writing ability, business background and community involvement in Western Canada have made him a major addition to the Board.

Together with a dedicated national team of volunteers, we intend to build on our efforts to help Canadian Muslims exercise their rights while fulfilling their civic duties and responsibilities as full participants in a democratic society.

We can only engage in this work by the mercy and grace of the Almighty and through your support. And so I issue this invitation to you all: join us and let us work together to build an even better Canada.

Sincerely,



Abdul-Basit Khan

Muslims are a fundamental part of this country's social fabric. We are as strong as we are diverse - in culture, occupations, skills and educational backgrounds.



MESSAGES

Karl Nickner Departs

On July 4, 2007, CAIR-CAN announced the resignation of Executive Director Karl Nickner. A political science graduate of the University of Ottawa, Karl faithfully served as Executive Director of CAIR-CAN from March 2006. In June 2007, Karl decided to focus on personal commitments (having welcomed a third addition to his family) and to pursue other opportunities. Prior to his service with CAIR-CAN, Karl was employed with the Government of Canada.

“Karl was a tremendous asset to the organization at a time when his expertise and skills were greatly needed. We thank him for all of his efforts and contributions and wish him the best in his future endeavours,” remarked Abdul-Basit Khan, CAIR-CAN’s Board Chair.

“Working with CAIR-CAN has been a highlight of my career and I wish the organization and team at CAIR-CAN the very best in their mission to serve Canada’s Muslim communities as well as all Canadians,” said Karl Nickner.

Moving Forward

CAIR-CAN, under the supervision of the Board of Directors, has undertaken an aggressive recruiting campaign to find the right candidate to fill the role of Executive Director. By early November 2007, numerous applications were received from candi-

dates based in Canada, the United States and overseas. Interviews will take place in November and December and the organization expects to appoint a new Executive Director by the end of 2007 or early in 2008.

01



ASPIRATIONS

Our Vision

{ Striving to be a leading voice that enriches Canadian society through Muslim civic engagement and the promotion of human rights. }

Our Mission

The Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CAN) is a national, not-for-profit, grassroots organization that represents the concerns of Canada's Muslims through dedicated and professional activism.

CAIR-CAN works to foster an accurate understanding and greater appreciation of Islam in Canadian society through: **1** community education and outreach, media engagement,

anti-discrimination initiatives and public advocacy; **2** empowerment of Muslims in Canada through topical research and publishing, conducting seminars and workshops, and working with other social justice organizations on joint initiatives.

CAIR-CAN is fully independent of its sister organization, the Washington-based CAIR, although the two coordinate on areas of mutual concern.

02



INTRODUCTIONS

In the Office



Currently, CAIR-CAN has 3 employees:

➤ **Sameer Zuberi**

Media Relations & Human Rights
Coordinator

➤ **Maryam Dadabhoy**

Community Relations Coordinator
(Toronto)

➤ **Ihsaan Gardee**

Community Relations
& Operations Director

At Your Fingertips - www.caircan.ca

CAIR-CAN's website provides a comprehensive resource for news affecting Canada's Muslims and allows for easy online reporting of discrimination, racial profiling and hate crimes. The website features a complete archive of CAIR-CAN's work, press

releases, action alerts, opinion pieces and a regularly updated record of media coverage regarding human rights and civil liberties issues as well as media pieces addressing Muslims and Islam in Canada.

Headquarters

02

CAIR-CAN's national headquarters are located in Ottawa, Ontario.



PEOPLE

On the Board



> Chair: Abdul-Basit Khan

Abdul-Basit Khan has served as the Chair of CAIR-CAN's Board of Directors since taking over the helm from Dr. Sheema Khan in 2005. Abdul-Basit is a graduate of McGill University's Faculty of Law and completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto. He also holds an MA in Political Science from McGill. Since February 2000, he has been a member of the Labour & Employment Group at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP in Toronto. Abdul-Basit (or "A-B-K" amongst friends) is highly regarded by his peers for his community activism.



> Vice-Chair: Faisal Kutty, LLB

Lawyer, writer and entrepreneur, Faisal Kutty is well known in media and social activist circles. A graduate of the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law and having earned his LLM from York University's Osgoode Hall Law School, Faisal resides in Toronto where he leads one of the largest predominantly Muslim law firms in Canada. When he is not preoccupied with CAIR-CAN commitments, Faisal also serves as General Counsel for the Canadian Muslim Civil Liberties Association (CMCLA) and is currently completing his doctorate in law at Osgoode Hall.



> Selma Djukic

A 2006 addition to CAIR-CAN's Board, Selma Djukic is a graduate of the University of Toronto. Selma is owner and President of White Owl Global Services Ltd., a pharmaceutical drug development consultancy based in the Greater Toronto Area. Involved in community social activism throughout her life, Selma was one of the early youth workers in the Toronto Muslim community. Today, CAIR-CAN has come to depend on her considerable management expertise and community experience.

03



PEOPLE

On the Board



> Aftab Sabir

Aftab Sabir is one of the founders of CAIR-CAN and is based in Calgary. Armed with an MBA in financial and organizational development from the Schulich School of Business at York University, Aftab is a founder and manager of Salam Financial, a business focused on Islamic banking and finance in Canada.



> Dr. Wael Haddara

Wael Haddara, a graduate of Queens University's Faculty of Medicine, is a pharmacist and doctor who resides in London, Ontario. Wael is an assistant professor at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Western Ontario. He is well known as a Canadian Muslim academic, speaker and activist, and his particular strengths include strategic media coordination and political engagement.



> Shahina Siddiqui

Freelance writer and counselor, Shahina Siddiqui resides in Winnipeg. Shahina's articles on matters relating to Canadian Muslims are frequently published in local and national media and she has pioneered projects in spiritual counseling and social work. Shahina is the President of the Islamic Social Services Association (ISSA) and is often invited to speak on local and national media shows (radio and television) as well as at national conferences on racism, policing, ethno-cultural and human rights issues.



> Kashif Ahmed

Kashif Ahmed graduated with a business administration degree in finance from the Levene School of Business at the University of Regina and began his career with Imperial Oil in Calgary. He recently commenced law school at the University of Saskatchewan. Kashif has extensive experience in media relations and public advocacy and joined CAIR-CAN's Board in 2006.



> Khadija Haffajee

Khadija Haffajee, a retired schoolteacher who calls Ottawa home, is a regular speaker on issues that affect Muslims in Canada and internationally and has held leadership roles with the Islamic Society of North America. She has worked for many years with other organizations in interfaith dialogue, the empowerment of women, spiritual counseling and the development of civil society.



> Dr. Jamal Badawi

Dr. Jamal Badawi, one of North America's most renowned Islamic scholars, is a professor at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, where he is a cross-appointed faculty member in the Department of Religious Studies and the Department of Management. Often called upon to comment on issues affecting Canadian Muslims, Dr. Jamal has also produced publications on gender equity as well as an impressive collection of audio materials introducing Islam.

PEOPLE

Where are they now?

› Riad Saloojee (former Executive Director)

Riad Saloojee, along with a small team of dedicated professionals, helped establish a strong foundation for CAIR-CAN, and in the process, developed into one of the most eloquent and well-respected personalities within the Canadian Muslim community. These days, Riad is in Cape Town, South Africa, fulfilling his life-long dream of pursuing graduate Islamic studies. Since moving to the Cape, Riad claims to have spotted at least 20 whales.

› Naeem Saloojee (former Operations Director)

Content to stay in the background and away from the limelight, Naeem quietly and humbly helped to build a foundation for the professional advocacy, human rights and anti-discrimination work that is today's CAIR-CAN. Currently, Naeem can be found working at his family's pharmacy, or changing his new child's diapers while building his empire on eBay.

› Karl Nickner (former Executive Director)

CAIR-CAN's first Québécois de souche, Karl Nickner helped CAIR-CAN to broaden its reach into French Canada while helping the organization build its infrastructure and policies. Equipped with a quick wit and a love for smoked meat sandwiches, Karl is busy pursuing new career opportunities and staying up nights with his family's third addition.

› Sarah Elgazzar

Mom, star hockey goalie, and all-around media dynamo, Sarah Elgazzar brought to the role of CAIR-CAN media spokesperson equal measures of panache and gravitas while still being able to convey a down-to-earth, girl-next-door sensibility on a range of issues from human rights to reasonable accommodation. Sarah and her husband Isam recently moved to the UK where Isam is pursuing a doctorate at the University of Cambridge.

› Ayman Faris

Ayman was instrumental in facilitating the growth of CAIR-CAN's donor database through his ability to build bridges and connect with people. Ayman is a regular host on Radio Islam every Sunday night in Ottawa and now works as the driving force behind one of Ottawa's foremost ventilation companies while still finding time to do "small projects" like hosting Ottawa's first ISNA Canada convention.

› Omaira Faris

While with CAIR-CAN, Omaira Faris worked tirelessly to raise the organization's public profile by coordinating fundraising dinners and other community relations events. Currently, Omaira can be found working with Volunteer Ottawa coordinating workshops and programs to help train and refer new and established Canadians as volunteers to non-profit agencies. But if you want to keep up with her, you'll have to show some endurance on your feet - Omaira's latest adventure is running marathons.

› Abdurrahman Salman

In his signature cool, calm and collected manner, Abdurrahman Salman's knowledge of the inner workings of government, from municipal to provincial to national, helped CAIR-CAN establish inroads with political parties and decision makers. Currently, Abdurrahman is working for the Department of Foreign Affairs while he continues to look for ways to persuade either Naeem or Riad to run for elected office.

› Hadeel Al-Shalchi

Hadeel started with CAIR-CAN and, as her talent for public speaking and media work blossomed, made her way to CBC Radio where she now works as a reporter and news reader. When not behind the mike in Canada, she's freelancing out of the Middle East. Her list of accomplishments includes: praying in the al-Aqsa mosque, visiting the gorillas on the slopes of Rwanda's volcanoes, and waiting 12 hours at Israeli border security. All in a day's work for Hadeel.

PEOPLE

Our Volunteer Consultative Board (Shura)

CAIR-CAN's Shura or Volunteer Consultative Board is comprised of a dedicated and dynamic team of volunteers across Canada that generates ideas, provides constructive feedback, vets draft publications including op-eds, press releases and articles and contributes to the organization's overall body of work. What follows is an introduction to some of the members of the Shura group.

➤ **Rahat Godil - Toronto, ON**

Rahat Godil is an Associate practising in the Litigation Group with the law firm Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP in Toronto. Rahat graduated from the University of Toronto with a Juris Doctor from the Faculty of Law. Before attending law school, she completed a bachelor of business administration at the University of Toronto. Rahat has a keen interest in human rights and is on the steering committee of the Human Rights Watch Toronto Network.

➤ **Safiyyah Ally - Toronto, ON**

Born and raised in Canada, Safiyyah Ally is host of "Let the Quran Speak", a television talk show that airs nation-wide on VISION-TV at 4:00 p.m. every Saturday. Safiyyah is currently pursuing her PhD in Political Science focusing on political theory as it pertains to minority religious communities in the liberal democratic context. Her opinion pieces and commentaries have been published in online magazines and newspapers including the Toronto Star and the Ottawa Citizen.

➤ **Mihad Fahmy - London, ON**

Mihad Fahmy has a graduate degree in law and works as a labour and human rights lawyer based in London, Ontario with the law offices of Eliot, Smith. She is a contributing columnist with the London Free Press and works closely with CAIR-CAN on human rights and anti-discrimination issues.

➤ **Dr. Aisha Sherazi - Ottawa, ON**

A biologist, Aisha Sherazi migrated to Canada seven years ago from the UK. The former principal of a full time Muslim elementary school in Ottawa, Aisha now freelances as a writer for the Ottawa Citizen. When she's not working as a teen counselor giving presentations and workshops on topics from education to youth, Islam and Muslims, Aisha sits on various boards and committees including the Community Advisory Committee to the RCMP, the Islamic Social Services Association of Canada and the Ontario Federation of Independent Schools.

➤ **Tim Weis - Edmonton**

Tim is an Edmonton-based renewable energy researcher with a focus on wind energy development in First Nations Communities. Tim has a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Alberta and has been an active member of CAIR-CAN's advisory board since 2002.

➤ **Eric Engler - Calgary**

Eric Engler has a Bachelors degree in Religious Studies specializing in Islamic History and is currently a student in the University of Calgary's Master of Teaching Program. He has been an active member of CAIR-CAN's advisory board since 2001.

➤ **Khalid Elgazzar - Ottawa, ON**

Khalid Elgazzar is a graduate of the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law and currently practices in the areas of civil, commercial and insurance litigation with the law firm Soloway Wright. An active and involved member of the community who is fluent in English, French and Arabic, Khalid also holds a BComm with majors in finance and marketing from the University of Ottawa where he graduated magna cum laude.

➤ **Anwaar Syed - Toronto, ON**

Anwaar Syed is a communications specialist and runs a consultancy company, Jara Communications. He has held contracts with Ontario's Ministries of Transportation and Finance and worked with the Toronto District School Board. Anwaar earned his undergraduate degree in Communication Arts and Post-Colonial Literature at York University and completed Graduate Studies in Corporate Communications and Public Relations at York and Centennial College.

➤ **Feyoun Khan - Vancouver, BC**

Feyoun Khan is Managing Editor of Al-Ameen, BC's premier bi-weekly Muslim community newspaper and a founder of UmmahWest, a weekly Muslim television program currently in development. A well-known community activist, Feyoun has worked extensively in media relations for BC's Muslim community and published opinion pieces and commentaries in online magazines and newspapers including The Vancouver Sun and The Province.

➤ **Dr. Sheema Khan - Ottawa, ON**

Sheema Khan holds a PhD in Chemical Physics from Harvard University and a number of patents for inventions in drug delivery. She is a founder and former chair of CAIR-CAN. She currently works as a patent agent and writes a monthly column for The Globe and Mail.

A little word about volunteers: the backbone of the organization

There are many volunteers including students and professionals who selflessly give their time to assist CAIR-CAN, doing everything from folding thousands of letters and stuffing envelopes to writing letters and dealing with local communities. Many of these individuals do so with no wish for thanks or recognition. From all of us, thank you - you know who you are.

That being said, certain individuals deserve special credit.

Thank you to Ibrahim Danial for his unrelenting (except when he occasionally disappears to Alberta :)) efforts and commitment. Ibrahim is a graduate of the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto and began his legal career at McCarthy Tétrault before entering the business world. Ibrahim has been providing guidance and direction to CAIR-CAN since 2001. Among other things, he has played a key role in helping organize fundraising dinners in the GTA and has provided valuable advice and ongoing constructive criticism.

Special thanks to Mustapha Khan who, on a daily basis, assiduously helps produce the weekly Media Watch for CAIR-CAN.

Thank you all and we look forward to your continued support.

APRIL 2006

AA Ask Minister MacKay to help Canadian Muslim detained in Uzbekistan
 > Monday, April 10, 2006

PR CAIR-CAN: Parliament must ensure Canadian troops not complicit in torture
 > Monday, April 10, 2006

PR CAIR-CAN settles lawsuits against CFRA Radio, David Harris
 > Wednesday, April 19, 2006

PR MP, rights groups to call for reform of security certificates
 > Wednesday, April 26, 2006

MAY 2006

AA Keep writing letters to free Huseyin Celil
 > Thursday, May 4, 2006

PR CAIR-CAN, CMCLA win participation in security certificate appeals at Supreme Court
 > Thursday, May 11, 2006

PR CAIR-CAN condemns mosque vandalism in Quebec, calls for renewed outreach
 > Tuesday, May 23, 2006

OE Acknowledge the rise of fanaticism and disavow its ideology
 > The Globe and Mail, 05/06/06

JUNE 2006

AA CAIR-CAN, CMCLA ask Supreme Court to uphold both rights and security
 > Friday, June 16, 2006

PR MEDIA ADVISORY: Canadian Muslims call for summit on extremism
 > Wednesday, June 7, 2006

PR Statement by national Canadian Muslim Organizations calling for summit on combating extremism
 > Thursday, June 8, 2006

PR Outcry against Bill 107 grows - more than 50 organizations call on Premier for change
 > Thursday, June 15, 2006

PR CAIR-CAN welcomes Air India inquiry
 > Wednesday, June 21, 2006

PR Canadian Muslims seek freedom for rights activist held in China
 > Thursday, June 29, 2006

OE Canadian Muslims are first line of defence against homegrown terrorists
 > Montreal Gazette, 10/06/06

OE Canada must not sell its soul for security
 > Ottawa Citizen, 06/22/06

OE Good intentions are not good enough
 > Toronto Star, 06/26/06

OE We all share the fight against extremists
 > The Globe and Mail, 27/06/06

JULY 2006

AA Write to Prime Minister, MPs about Mideast crisis
 > Friday, July 21, 2006

PR Muslims say entry of Islamaphobe raises 'double standard' on free speech
 > Thursday, July 13, 2006

PR CAIR-CAN calls for Canada to demand end to Mideast attacks
 > Monday, July 17, 2006

PR • Muslim organizations to comment on Prime Minister's Mideast stance
 > Thursday, July 20, 2006

AA = Action Alert and Good News Alert

PR = Press Release

OE = Op-ed Alert

PR Muslims call on Prime Minister to demand immediate ceasefire in Mideast conflict
 > Thursday, July 20, 2006

OE We all have to confront contempt for 'the other'
 > The Globe and Mail, 08/07/06

AUGUST 2006

AA Canadian Muslim Huseyin Celil Facing Execution
 > Wednesday, August 9, 2006

SEPTEMBER 2006

AA CAIR-CAN demands public apology from airline companies for racial profiling
 > Thursday, September 7, 2006

AA CAIR-CAN publishes 2006 Ramadan kit
 > Thursday, September 21, 2006

AA Call on government to fund Court Challenges Program
 > Friday, September 29, 2006

PR Media Advisory - The Arar Report: Waiting for Answers
 > Monday, September 11, 2006

PR CAIR-CAN condemns vandalism of mosque in Winnipeg
 > Saturday, September 16, 2006

PR CAIR-CAN condemns attack against Islamic school in Ottawa
 > Saturday, September 23, 2006

PR CAIR-CAN urges Prime Minister to ensure government accountability
 > Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2006

PR CAIR-CAN and CAF deplore government decision to abolish Court Challenges Program
 > Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2006

OE Others seek answers, too
 > Toronto Star, 18/09/06

OCTOBER 2006

AA Municipal Election Resource Guide
 > Friday, October 27, 2006

AA Write Maclean's magazine about fear mongering
 > Tuesday, October 31, 2006

PR Canadian Muslims claim double standard on hate speech
 > Thursday, October 05, 2006

PR Parliament must review national security laws and practices
 > Tuesday, October 31, 2006

OE Veil debate attack on faith
 > Winnipeg Sun, 10/27/06

NOVEMBER 2006

AA Participate in task force on needs of Muslim students
 > Sunday, November 5, 2006

AA Contact Prime Minister and MPs on Gaza killings
 > Thursday, November 9, 2006

PR No-Fly list needs scrutinizing
 > Monday, November 6, 2006

PR CAIR-CAN encouraged by Trudeau Foundation survey results
 > Tuesday, November 14, 2006

PR CAIR-CAN supports Prime Minister's efforts to release Canadian held in China
 > Friday, November 17, 2006

DECEMBER 2006

PR Zaccardelli's resignation insufficient
 > Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2006

PR Government must pursue diplomatic efforts to stop profiling by US Customs
 ➤ Friday, December 8, 2006

PR CAIR-CAN, CAF and CMCLA call on Prime Minister Harper to immediately implement Justice O'Connor's recommendations
 ➤ Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006

OE Understanding the Hajj
 ➤ National Post, 12/29/06

JANUARY 2007

AA Email the National Post an appreciation letter
 ➤ Wednesday, January 3, 2007

AA 53-day hunger strike & counting
 ➤ Wednesday, January 17, 2007

PR Little Mosque on the Prairie: A satire on the challenges and opportunities of multiculturalism
 ➤ Tuesday, January 9, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN and Windsor Muslims ask police to investigate possible hate speech
 ➤ Saturday, January 13, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN urges bias probe of Muslim school vandalism
 ➤ Wednesday, January 17, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN applauds government settlement with Maher Arar
 ➤ Friday, January 26, 2007

OE A TV show that allows Muslims to laugh at themselves
 ➤ Toronto Star, 01/11/07

FEBRUARY 2007

AA Urge your MP to vote against extension of Anti-Terror Act
 ➤ Sunday, February 11, 2007

AA Email soccer coach appreciation letter for his support of hijab
 ➤ Tuesday, February 27, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN welcomes poll showing Muslims well integrated
 ➤ Tuesday, February 13, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN and groups ask MPs not to renew Anti-Terror Act
 ➤ Thursday, February 22, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN applauds Supreme Court decision on security certificates
 ➤ Friday, February 23, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN applauds support for Muslim soccer player
 ➤ Monday, February 26, 2007

OE Apologizing to Maher Arar: A Beginning, Not an End
 ➤ Jurist Legal News and Research, 02/02/07

MARCH 2007

AA Write government to ensure fair treatment of Canadian Omar Khadr at Guantanamo Bay
 ➤ Friday, March 16, 2007

PR Canadian Muslims ask FIFA to clarify hijab stance
 ➤ Monday, March 5, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN says firing of Muslim officer 'entirely unnecessary'
 ➤ Wednesday, March 14, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN urges Foreign Minister to meet U.S. officials over Guantanamo Bay detainee
 ➤ Friday, March 16, 2007

PR Canadian Muslims and Arabs profiled at U.S. border
 ➤ Monday, March 19, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN encourages contact to end racism
 ➤ Wednesday, March 21, 2007

PR Canadian Muslims condemn threats, encourage respectful dialogue
 ➤ Thursday, March 22, 2007

AA = Action Alert and Good News Alert

PR = Press Release

OE = Op-ed Alert

OE Say No to a Canadian
No-Fly List
› Jurist Legal News
and Research 03/20/07

APRIL 2007

PR CAIR-CAN, CAF and CMCLA
granted intervener status
at Iacobucci Inquiry
› Wednesday, April 4, 2007

PR Canadian Muslims
condemn attack on Montreal
Jewish Community Centre
› Wednesday, April 4, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN says McMaster
hate graffiti should prompt
intercommunal dialogue
› Thursday, April 12, 2007

PR Quebec Muslim girl banned
from karate tournament
› Sunday, April 15, 2007

PR Benamar Benatta speaks
on 5 years of US detention
› Monday, April 16, 2007

PR Canadian involvement
in Benatta's ordeal cries
out for review
› Wednesday, April 18, 2007

MAY 2007

OE No-fly lists provide false
sense of security
› Toronto Star, 05/15/07

JUNE 2007

PR CAIR-CAN says Guantanamo
detainee must have
Canadian lawyers
› Friday, June 1, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN calls on Government
to scrap No-fly list
› Monday, June 18, 2007

JULY 2007

PR CAIR-CAN Executive Director
regretfully announces resignation
› Wednesday, July 4, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN receives human
rights award
› Thursday, July 19, 2007

AUGUST 2007

PR PM must repatriate Omar
Khadr: 22 groups urge
› Thursday, August 9, 2007

PR CAIR-CAN urges hate probe
of Muslim school vandalism
› Wednesday, August 22, 2007

SEPTEMBER 2007

AA Ramadan community
publicity kit
› Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2007

PR Canadian Muslims start
fasting month
› Thursday, September 13, 2007

PR Trial of Toronto 18 brings
due process into question
› Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2007

PR No stigma for rape victims
in Islam
› Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007

OE Veil issue unfairly
targets Muslims
› The StarPhoenix, 09/14/07

OCTOBER 2007

PR Council's proposed hijab-ban
discriminates against
Quebec women
› Friday, October 5, 2007

WORK

Media Engagement

CAIR-CAN's media work - whether in print, radio or television - is unparalleled in its depth and breadth. Whether it is issue-based commentary, one-on-one interviews, live broadcasts, radio and television talk-ins, informative panel discussions or heated debate, CAIR-CAN is there to provide experienced and articulate representation for Canada's diverse Muslim communities.

Over the last year, CAIR-CAN has spoken, for example, on such broad issues as the Court Challenges Program; the cases of jailed Canadians Huseyin Celil and Omar Khadr; the erosion of civil liberties and the rule of law; the Iacobucci inquiry; reasonable accommodation of religion in Quebec; hate crimes against mosques and Islamic centres; Islamic rites such as fasting, Hajj (pilgrimage); and anti-terrorism legislation.

"CAIR-CAN is a valuable resource for writers, reporters, producers and editors."

> Karlene Nation, Diversity Reporter/Producer, CFTO/CTV

"Whether it's the issuing of a 'Good News' alert, providing an overview of media coverage on an issue of specific pertinence to Canadian Muslims, or analyzing the effects of anti-Muslim discrimination and harassment, CAIR-CAN provides an important service to all Canadians."

> Lois Sweet, Assistant Professor, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University

On The Record

On the Toronto 18 terrorism suspects

"The mystery surrounding this case and this unorthodox turn of events raises serious doubts about the accused's chances of a fair trial and due process."

> **Sameer Zuberi**

Source: www.threadbare.tyo.ca

Date: September 26, 2007

On the Passenger Protect Program

"How is it a person who is supposedly too dangerous to fly, is allowed to walk our streets, ride subways and drive cars? This is a clear violation of Canada's liberty and mobility rights."

> **Karl Nickner**

Source: <http://ccun.org/>

Date: June 19, 2007

On the debate around veiled voting

"They identify themselves at border crossings, when they get their passports - on their photo ID, their faces are showing. All of this controversy ... just stigmatizes ... people who are assumed not to be complying but have already been complying for a number of years now."

> **Sarah Elgazzar**

Source: www.macleans.ca

Date: September 10, 2007

"Elles n'ont pas de problème à se dévoiler pour s'identifier, ça n'a jamais été un problème, a-t-elle estimé. Peut-être que le directeur général d'Élections Canada avait de bonnes intentions, mais le moment ou c'est sorti, la manière que c'est sorti, ce n'était pas une bonne idée. Ces femmes n'ont jamais demandé d'accommodement. Ça a été très mal géré."

> **Sarah Elgazzar**

Source: www.cyberpresse.ca

Date: 07 septembre 2007

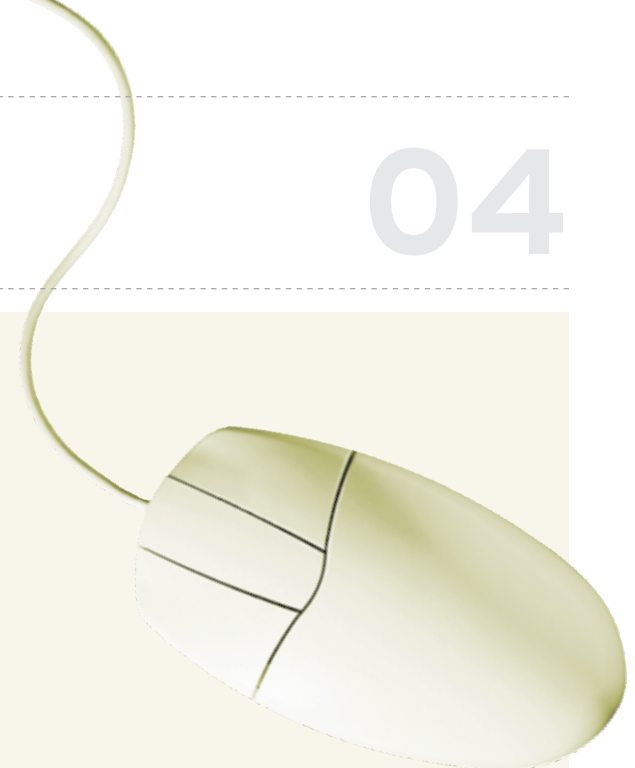
On border harassment faced by Muslims in Canada

"There are hundreds of other average Canadian Muslims who face the same [ordeal] and it's really the most tragic cases".

> **Sameer Zuberi**

Source: www.embassymag.ca

Date: June 27, 2007



> Publications & Kits

CAIR-CAN's publications are still in demand by both the private and public sector. Over 400 Know Your Rights booklets were sent to one conference alone and another 120 copies of the Educator's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices were ordered by one school board. Currently, the entire library of publications from our Guides to Islamic Religious practices for journalists, employers, and health care providers are being updated and revamped with a new look, so keep an eye out for them.

Other organizations that have ordered our publications include government agencies such as the Canadian Human Rights Commission, Arts Canada, Canadian Heritage, the Department of National Defense, Citizenship and Immigration Canada; media organizations such as CTV and CBC; private companies such as UPS, Client Logic, Convergys and law firms; police services such as the RCMP and the Canadian Police College and others.

CAIR-CAN's comprehensive and practical community media kits on Ramadan and Hajj are essential resources in the toolbox of any Canadian Muslim media activist.

> Workshops and Seminars

CAIR-CAN offers seminars and workshops to the public and private sector. Workshops on anti-discrimination, Islam and Muslims have been delivered to educators, employers, media professionals and the law enforcement community.

Furthermore, CAIR-CAN's workshops for various Muslim communities provide leaders and activists with the essential tools and knowledge for effective media relations and human rights advocacy.



> Conferences & Speaking Engagements

CAIR-CAN representatives are regular panelists at national conferences across Canada. Over the past year CAIR-CAN representatives have spoken at numerous events organized by such diverse organizations as:

- > the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives on “Through the Looking Glass: An Examination of Racial Profiling in Canada”
- > CKUT Radio in Montreal on “Media Democracy and Community Radio”
- > the Social Justice committee of the United Muslim Students’ Association on “Social Justice: A Communal Cause”
- > the TARIC Islamic Center on “Too Guilty to Fly, Too Innocent to Charge” about Canada’s No-Fly List
- > Osgoode Hall Law School at York University on “Multiculturalism and Shari’a in Ontario”

> Hate Crimes Community Working Group

CAIR-CAN was a member of a Working Group set up to provide advice to the Attorney General of Ontario and the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services on approaches to address hate crimes in the province. These included measures to enhance services to hate crime victims and to reduce hate crime victimization directed at both individuals and communities at large. The report was submitted to the Ontario government in December 2006.



WORK

Civil Liberties Defence

Protecting the legal and political interests of Canada's Muslims requires vigilance and sustained advocacy. CAIR-CAN is at the forefront defending basic Canadian rights and liberties against the politics of fear and division. CAIR-CAN has organized

press conferences and offered written and oral testimony before parliamentary committees on legislation relating to charitable fundraising and terrorism, and the anti-terrorism omnibus legislation.

"CAIR-CAN plays a valuable role empowering Canadian Muslims with a deeper understanding of their rights as citizens. By addressing issues of particular interest to and impact on Muslims, as individuals and as a community, in an insightful and educated manner, CAIR-CAN has helped foster greater understanding and dialogue among all Canadians."

› Alexa McDonough, MP Halifax and NDP Foreign Affairs
and International Development Critic

> Arar Settlement - O'Connor Report



The story of Maher Arar and his wife Dr. Monia Mazigh is by now one with which most Canadians are familiar.

Spirited off under the cover of night and flown from New York to Syria to be tortured, Maher's case represents a microcosm of all of the things that went wrong with the overzealous application of security measures after September 11, 2001. As the first publicized incident of the United States' policy of rendition (sending people to foreign countries to be questioned under torture), Maher's

ordeal has become one of the seminal human cases of this century. Maher continues to fight to clear his name in the United States where still he remains on a so-called 'no-fly list'.

Along with nearly 20 non-governmental organizations and advocacy groups from across the country, including Amnesty International, the Canadian Arab Federation and the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, CAIR-CAN worked diligently with Monia in her indefatigable campaign to secure Maher's release and thereafter to ensure that he received justice back home in Canada. Especially during the early days immediately after Maher was detained, CAIR-CAN worked diligently to ensure that his story gained national attention. The years-long struggle in which Maher and Monia displayed exemplary strength and quiet dignity culminated in the highly publicized and in-depth Arar Inquiry presided over by Justice Dennis O'Connor.

As an official intervener in the Arar Inquiry, CAIR-CAN presented testimony and filed written submissions to articulate the perspective of Canada's Muslim communities. In his final report, Justice O'Connor acknowledged the contribution that interveners made to the Inquiry's work, specifically noting CAIR-CAN's "invaluable" role in educating Canada's security forces about Muslims and Islam.

Justice O'Connor's ultimately concluded that Maher Arar's detainment and rendition to torture overseas was, in part, due to faulty intelligence gathering by Canada's national security investigators and the unwarranted sharing of that information with their US-based counterparts. Critically, Justice O'Connor published two reports with recommendations outlining best practices for intelligence gathering by our national security agencies.

As a result of Justice O'Connor's groundbreaking work, Maher's name has been cleared in Canada and some of those responsible have been held to account.

Furthermore, in January of 2007, Maher received a public apology from Prime Minister Harper on behalf of the Government of Canada as well as a financial settlement for the role its security services played in his nightmare.

Congratulations and thank you Maher and Monia for your landmark contributions to Canadian Muslims and to society at large. Your victory is a victory for all Canadians.

WORK

> Iacobucci Inquiry



The Cases of Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad Abou-Elmaati and Muayyed Nureddin. One of Justice O'Connor's final recommendations in his reports included the call for a separate inquiry into the role Canadian officials played in the ordeals of Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad Abou-Elmaati and Muayyed Nureddin, the other three Canadians rendered to torture abroad. The Stephen Toope report, part of the Arar Inquiry, established that the three men were also tortured and "suffered severe physical and psychological trauma while in detention in Syria."

As a result of a call made by CAIR-CAN and other groups, in December 2006, Parliament struck an inquiry to investigate what happened to the three men. Retired Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci was called to head the inquiry and CAIR-CAN, along with the Canadian Muslim Civil Liberties Association (CMCLA) and the Canadian Arab Federation, again was officially recognized as an intervener.

However, unlike the Arar Inquiry, which was open to the public and media scrutiny, the Iacobucci Inquiry has been held behind closed doors, leaving many questioning the fairness of the process and the extent to which public confidence will be instilled in the outcome.

> Huseyin Celil



Huseyin Celil is a Canadian Muslim of Uyghur descent, the Uyghurs being a minority population living in China. In 2001 he received refugee status and eventually earned his Canadian citizenship while serving as an Imam in Hamilton, Ontario.

In early 2006, while on a trip to visit his relatives in Uzbekistan and to get three of his children out of China, Celil was arrested and deported to China from Uzbekistan, against strong objections by the Canadian government. In August 2006, the Chinese government, which apparently does not recognize his Canadian citizenship, sentenced Celil to life imprisonment for his alleged "terrorist related crimes". Both the Canadian and American governments have repeatedly and unsuccessfully called for his immediate release and safe return.

CAIR-CAN is one of the many groups who have asked Canadians to support the case of Huseyin Celil. Public outcry against Celil's treatment led the Canadian government to strongly support his case and the government continues to raise it with Chinese officials. CAIR-CAN applauded the Harper's government's efforts in this regard. Celil remains imprisoned and has even been denied his legal right to consular access by Canadian officials. This is a case that CAIR-CAN intends to continue monitoring and bringing to the attention of government officials in 2008.

> Security Certificates



In Canada, five Muslim men, Adil Charkaoui, Mohamed Harkat, Mahmoud Jaballah, Mohammed Mahjoub and Hassan Almrei are all named under the federal legislation on security certificates. A security certificate is a legal instrument that allows the Government of Canada to summarily detain and deport foreign nationals and all other non-citizens living in Canada.

For several years there has been a growing movement to educate citizens on the fundamental flaws inherent in this legislation. Security certificates are widely viewed as instituting a secret trial process whereby the person named in a certificate cannot see the evidence against them or challenge its validity. Civil liberties advocates also hold that the law establishes a two-tier justice system, one for citizens and another for immigrants and refugees.

As a result of widespread debate on security certificates, the Supreme Court of Canada decided in 2006 that it would hear submissions in connection with a review of the legislation. Through the Court Challenges Program, CAIR-CAN secured funding to argue against the legitimacy of security certificates as an intervenor in front of the Supreme Court.

In a unanimous judgement released in February 2007, the Supreme Court rendered a landmark decision in *Charkaoui v. Canada*. The Court found that security certificates were in violation of sections 7, 9 and 10 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and therefore unconstitutional, as they did not allow the accused to know the facts of the case against them. We thank David Baker and Faisal Bhabha of [bakerlaw](http://www.bakerlaw.ca) (www.bakerlaw.ca) who represented CAIR-CAN before the Supreme Court of Canada.

However, despite the successful outcome at the Supreme Court of Canada, the struggle against security certificates is far from over. In October 2007, the Harper Government introduced a bill to amend the security certificate process whereby “special advocate” lawyers would be able to view the evidence against the accused. Modeled after the UK’s highly criticized process, these amendments are also flawed as the lawyers would be selected by the state and unable to share the evidence with their clients.

Currently, the men named under the certificates are still seeking their day in an open court and CAIR-CAN supports all efforts to ensure that a fair and transparent process as guaranteed under the Charter is afforded to each of them.



Since the end of 2006, the media has been reporting on the ongoing debate around reasonable accommodation in Quebec. The story broke in November 2006 with a news report that a Hasidic Jewish synagogue in Montreal had worked with (and offered to pay for) an adjacent YMCA to have its windows frosted, so that the boys studying next door at the synagogue would not be distracted by seeing women exercising.

Shortly after this development, the municipal council of Hérouxville, a rural Quebec township of 1300 residents, declared a "Publication of Standards" by outlining several new "rules" that newcomers would have to follow. These included, for example, that the stoning of women would not be tolerated and that residents would be able to eat meat of all kinds. Although the town council stated that these "rules" were not meant to single out any particular ethnic group or faith, it was clear that Muslims were the target of these regulations.

Just prior to calling an election and in response to growing public pressure, Québec Premier Jean Charest appointed philosopher Charles Taylor and sociologist and historian Gérard Bouchard as commissioners of the Consultation Commission on Accommodation Practices Related to Cultural Differences. Since February 2007, the Commis-

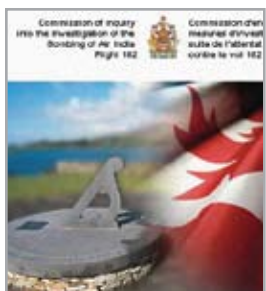
sion has been touring the province to hear from groups and individuals about their views on reasonable accommodation. CAIR-CAN was one of the groups that made submissions before the two eminent commissioners. Additionally, CAIR-CAN has been consulted by a number of organizations for advice prior to the filing of submissions with the Bouchard-Taylor Commission.

Throughout the reasonable accommodation debate, CAIR-CAN has been at the forefront defending the rights of Quebec's Muslims. Several high profile cases of hijab-based discrimination occurred, including Azzy Mansour, an Ottawa resident ejected from a Laval, Québec soccer field, 19-year-old Sondos Abdelatif, fired from her job at a Bordeau, Quebec jail, and five Montreal teenagers who were barred from participating in a tae kwon do tournament. In each of these cases, CAIR-CAN defended the rights of these women publicly and in the media. Additionally, we have filed a number of complaints with the Quebec Human Rights Commission which are currently under review.

CAIR-CAN has also worked closely with several community advocacy groups in Quebec to defend religious freedoms and the right to practice one's faith. On several occasions, through conferences, lectures and workshops, CAIR-CAN has been invited to educate the public on issues relating to reasonable accommodation. CAIR-CAN acknowledges the invaluable efforts of Fadwa Benmbarek of Montreal in helping the organization deal with the issue of reasonable accommodation in la belle province.

DEFINITION of REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION : Reasonable accommodation is a legal concept that signifies making changes so that an individual (typically, a person with a disability or someone who must fulfill a religious requirement) can be employed in the workplace or provided with access to services. Wheelchair ramps, accessible washrooms, equipment modifications, and changes to work schedules are typical examples of the sort of changes that the duty to accommodate under human rights legislation anticipates. With respect to accommodation of religious beliefs, the necessary changes almost always involve modified work schedules and accommodations for religious dress. However, with media coverage focusing on a handful of religious and cultural accommodation questions, the debate has evolved into a discussion of Quebec values and to what extent religious and cultural practices will be accepted.

> Air India Inquiry



In May 2006, the government finally launched a full public inquiry into the Air India bombing which occurred in 1985. The Air India Inquiry's terms of reference included examining existing anti-terror initiatives with the view to making recommendations for improvement, if any.

CAIR-CAN sought intervener status in the Air India Inquiry to make representations and submissions to the

Commission with respect to: **(a)** the historical and contextual background as well as the practical impact of anti-terrorism legislation and practice on Canada's Muslims as well as Canadian Muslim non-profit and charitable organizations; **(b)** contextual information about the direct and localized impact of national security and anti-terrorism legislation and practice on Canada's Muslims as well as Canadian Muslim non-profit and charitable organizations; **(c)** religious equality by highlighting the disparate impact of anti-terrorism legislation on Canada's Muslims as well as Canadian Muslim non-profit and charitable organizations; and **(d)** making recommendations regarding any proposed changes to existing anti-terrorism legislation and practice.

On August 9, 2006, The Honourable John C. Major, Q.C., Commissioner of the Air India Inquiry, granted joint intervenor status to CAIR-CAN and the Canadian Muslim Civil Liberties Association to provide written submissions with respect to the scope of anti-terrorist legislation and its impact on Canadian Muslims.

> No Fly List

CAIR-CAN was one of the only advocacy groups to prepare and file a submission with Transport Canada against Canada's Passenger Protect or "No-Fly" List program, launched in the summer of 2007. The thirty-page submission was endorsed by more than 27 organizations from across the country. CAIR-CAN's in-depth review and critique of the No-Fly List has found that it is fundamentally flawed on at least nine (9) different levels. These include the following:

1. Lack of authority - not sanctioned by elected representatives
2. The questionable need or effectiveness of the List
3. The violation of liberty rights and lack of due process and fundamental justice
4. The violation of privacy rights of individuals
5. The lack of independent members on the Passenger Protect Advisory Group
6. The lack of independent oversight and meaningful channels for appeal
7. The difficulty in having one's name removed from the List
8. Violations of other Charter rights
9. The List's likely result in racial/religious profiling

The question that must be asked in evaluating this security measure is "How is it that someone who is too dangerous to fly is innocent enough to walk the streets or take a bus or train?" We have yet to see how the No-Fly List will fare in the months and years ahead. However, it is safe to say the List may have a profound impact on fundamental liberties and human rights.

To download CAIR-CAN's full submission, please visit our website at www.caircan.ca

WORK

Protecting the rights and freedoms of Canada's Muslims requires vigilance and sustained government advocacy. CAIR-CAN continues to be at the forefront of Canadian Muslim organizations in defending civil liberties. CAIR-CAN has, moreover, fulfilled this role by working closely with national organizations across Canada such as Amnesty International, the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, the Canadian Arab Federation and the Canadian Council on Refugees.

As a human rights organization, a significant aspect of CAIR-CAN's work involves fighting discrimination and harassment faced by Canada's Muslims. We regularly receive complaints from individuals who feel that they have been discriminated against by their employer, landlord, government agency, or other service provider.

During this past year, CAIR-CAN has gained intervener status before the Air India Inquiry and at the Iacobucci inquiry into the rendition of three Canadian men - Abdullah Almaliki, Ahmad Abou El Maati and Muayyed Nureddin.

The CAIR-CAN Human Rights Group has dealt with cases, for example, involving workplace rules prohibiting hijab, allowing employees time off work to attend Jum'a prayers, Islamophobic harassment at school and work, and allowing for prayer space on University campuses. While some of these cases have been resolved without resort to legal action, others have been taken by CAIR-CAN to provincial human rights commissions.

Public Advocacy & Human Rights

A team of dedicated and highly trained volunteers, including lawyers and law students, handle such complaints, working with the individual complainant to arrive at an equitable resolution to the problem. The following individuals (in alphabetical order) have graciously volunteered their time to work for CAIR-CAN as Human Rights Caseworkers and for legal and research purposes:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| > Ali Ahmed | > Ahmed Hussen |
| > Sameer Akhtar | > Mustafa Jilani |
| > Emtiaz Bala | > Meagan Johnston |
| > Samreen Beg | > Andrew Langille |
| > Nafay Al-Alam Choudhury | > Saima Mohamed |
| > Nafisah Chowdhury | > Mueed Peerbhoy |
| > Fatema Dada | > Lina Rahman |
| > Alexandra Dodger | > Arsalan Shirazi |
| > Beenish Gaya | > Daniel Simard |
| > Rahat Godil | > Sahl Syed |
| > Sheza Hasan | > Zeenath Zeath |

The Case of Omar Khadr

In July 2007, CAIR-CAN organized and coordinated with 22 other organizations to address a letter urging the Government of Canada to review and reinvigorate its efforts to ensure Canadian Omar Khadr's basic human and legal rights. Addressed to the Prime Minister and his Ministers of Justice, Public Safety, Citizenship and Immigration and the Secretary of State along with the three leaders of the opposition parties, the letter went on to assert that:

- 1 > Omar Khadr must be repatriated to Canada, his country of birth, in line with the example set by other western countries, including the U.K., France, Germany and Australia; and, that Mr. Khadr be granted a criminal trial in Canada with consideration of his juvenile status at the time the alleged acts occurred;
- 2 > Canada have immediate, full and unhindered access to Mr. Khadr's medical file;
- 3 > The Consular Relations Act be respected in the case of Mr. Khadr, thus ensuring him the right to medical and legal assistance from Canadian consular officials;

4 > Mr. Khadr be immediately evaluated by a physician and psychologist of his choosing to assess his medical and psychological condition;

5 > Mr. Khadr's eye and knee conditions be immediately evaluated and treated by medical experts in the field, and he be given prescription glasses if deemed necessary; and,

6 > Dennis Edney, Mr. Khadr's Canadian counsel, henceforth have his solicitor-client privilege protected and not be subject to harassment and intimidation by U.S. customs officials or Guantanamo Bay personnel, as reported in the Toronto Star.

In the upcoming year, CAIR-CAN intends to continue to follow this case and to demand Omar Khadr's return to Canada so that he may be afforded due process within the framework of the Canadian legal system as opposed to being condemned to the legal and human rights black hole that is Guantanamo Bay.

Opinion pieces are arguably the most influential and creative way to articulate a perspective on important issues of the day. CAIR-CAN has an unprecedented rate of opinion piece success. In our last review we had published 91 op-eds. Currently that figure stands at 105.

CAIR-CAN has published pieces in the The Globe & Mail, the Toronto Star, the Ottawa Citizen, the Montreal Gazette, the Kingston Whig-Standard, the Calgary Herald, the Edmonton

Journal, the Winnipeg Free Press, the Windsor Star, the Regina Leader-Post, the Saskatoon Star Phoenix, the Vancouver Sun, the London Free Press, the Charlottetown Guardian, and the Cape Breton Post.

For your convenience we have reproduced, in the following pages, a sampling of our recent op-eds for you to read through and see for yourself.

1

It's a 'rallying point for Muslim bashers'

- The Calgary Herald - 09/16/07

Kashif Ahmed, CAIR-CAN Board Member

"“I endured them then and now I have to endure them again,” stated a Quebecker, referring to Muslims as he recently spoke before a public commission set up by Quebec to examine what constitutes unreasonable accommodation of minorities.

His comments apparently raised no eyebrows in the room -- then again, Islamophobia is becoming rampant in La Belle Province. Media street interviews with ordinary Quebecers during the recent veiled voting controversy revealed that most thought Muslims were imposing their beliefs on society.

Nothing could be further from both truth and reality.

Elections Canada's legitimate position that Muslim women wearing face veils can vote by providing identification like any other Canadian in upcoming Quebec federal byelections has sparked a gratuitous debate, which has been anything but civil. Prime Minister Stephen Harper decided to lambaste Elections Canada, conveniently ignoring that his government knew as early as May 2006 that Canadian law allows voters with face veils to cast ballots.

It's important to note that special accommodation for voting was never requested by the Canadian Muslim community, because it was never an issue. Yet, negative public emotions have been stoked and j'accuse has been directed at Canadian Muslims.

Muslim women who wear the niqab, or face veils, constitute a fraction of a per cent of Canadian Muslim women -- a minute minority within a minority. In fact, those women who wear the niqab indicate they have no problem identifying themselves at polling stations by unveiling. They willingly do it for driver's licences, passport photographs, at banks and at border crossings, they said. In all, an unfair spotlight has been placed on these women, and the Muslim community at large.

The controversy has also become a rallying point for Muslim-bashers. One such group used shameful fear-mongering -- they claimed that Elections Canada was “bowing to Sharia standards” and that Canada was bending its electoral system to “Sharia demands.” Not only does this issue have nothing to do with Sharia (Islamic law), but such sloganeering is simply aimed at creating public misunderstanding.

NEWS

No-fly lists provide false sense of security

[illegible][illegible]

A TV show that allows Muslims to laugh at themselves

Working capital is defined as the difference between assets and liabilities. It measures how many liquid assets are available for a business to use for growth opportunities. A lack of working capital can really hold a business back from reaching their full potential. There are many different ways to obtain capital for your business.

business credit cards, bank loans, and a standard business check book. It is important that you are always conscious about building your business credit scores as you obtain more capital. It is important to separate your personal credit from your business credit. You can do this by obtaining financing that reports to the Small Business Financial Exchange. Many business credit cards, for example, will require a social security number and will build your personal credit. Business credit scores are essential for obtaining larger bank loans, and also is a must to get funding for a business down the road. Businesses use capital for construction, expansion, furniture, software, equipment, or machinery. It is also commonly used to purchase inventory or to make payroll. Capital is also used often by businesses to put a down payment down on a piece of commercial real estate. Working capital is essential for any business to succeed. It is becoming increasingly important to have access to more working capital when you need it. Working capital is defined as the difference between assets and liabilities. It measures how liquid assets are available for business use for growth and

A lack of working capital can really hold a business back from their full potential. There are many different ways to solve this problem. Work

Small Business Administration card receipt advice receivable factor cards, sale and lease business bank bank. It is important

Global Warming = Global Crisis

Working capital is essential for any business to succeed. It is becoming increasingly important to have access

The unnecessary uproar that we have all witnessed is not Elections Canada's doing. Certainly, the Muslim community appreciates Elections Canada's attempt to treat these women like any other Canadian voter. However, an appropriate strategy needs to be established to reach solutions and avoid future mishaps.

One such strategy is for policy makers to use focus groups in their efforts to develop viable solutions for pressing questions. If the mainstream Muslim community had been thoroughly consulted on this matter, along with other concerned groups, this provocative debate could have been easily averted.

Canadians would have quickly learned that providing identification is required for all Canadian voters, and the Muslim community would not have become a target in the ensuing public debate.

However, what has been quite alarming is the reaction of Harper and his government, along with the opposition parties. It is apparent that our Canadian politicians used this controversy as a cheap political tool to garner some kind of support at the expense of a minority community. And, Muslim-bashers used the opportunity to further a parochial and spiteful agenda.

Back in Quebec, the veiled voting debacle has only

amplified public prejudices against the Muslim community. Community leaders are feeling the pressure and are trying their best to reel in misconceptions.

Nonetheless, Quebec's situation is an example for the rest of Canada, and raises some important questions. Are we willing to jump on the bandwagon of bias and intolerance in the heat of debate? Or are we, as a Canadian collective, going to take an informed and balanced approach to divisive national issues?

Our answers to these questions will help determine the future direction of community relations and cohesion.

No-fly lists provide false sense of security - Toronto Star, 05/15/07

Faisal Kutty, CAIR-CAN Vice-Chair

How can someone be too guilty to fly and yet be too innocent to be charged on the ground

"Nothing personal sir, but your packages are not allowed on passenger airlines," said a United Parcel Service customer service agent, sitting in an American

call centre. She was explaining to me that my package could not be delivered on an "early a.m." basis from Toronto to Peterborough.

I was interrogating the agent about why this was so, since I had been using UPS without any problems since starting my practice in 1996. Initially reluctant, the agent eventually confessed that when my account number was entered into their system, the "Flight Guardian" software flashed a red signal.

"Sir," she said, "after 9/11 we can only pick up packages if the green light is given."

The next day I called the UPS head office and inquired about the situation. The supervisor apologized and informed me that I could use the expedited service within Canada, but that I did not have the requisite clearance to use this service to the U.S.

We will never know how many Canadians have been so specially designated on more than a dozen lists maintained by the United States. The proliferation of these watch lists around the globe has been a troubling development in the "war on terror."

Now the Canadian government may complicate the situation even more by introducing its own no-fly list,

which will inevitably be shaped by, and be available to, the Americans and perhaps even others.

As we consider the need to improve our intelligence and law enforcement systems, we must have an open and informed dialogue about what measures truly make us safer while ensuring that our fundamental values and liberties are not sacrificed.

The proper forum for such a debate is our legislature.

Bypassing this necessary debate in introducing the cleverly named “Passenger protect program” is irresponsible and cavalier, particularly given what we learned from the case of Maher Arar, the Canadian citizen who was rendered to Syria for torture while in transit through New York.

This charge is not being made lightly, as the information-sharing protocols and mechanisms, which were criticized by Justice Dennis O’Connor in the Arar inquiry findings, have not been improved or addressed – yet Ottawa is pushing ahead with its list.

Though the government has claimed national security privilege in refusing to confirm or deny this, the Smart Border Declaration and the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, as well as intelligence

agreements, make it certain that the list will cross-fertilize with U.S., and perhaps even other nations’ lists.

Making lengthy watch lists based on subjective and political criteria and then giving the power to add and remove names to agencies that have a vested interest in the national security agenda is akin to asking the fox to guard the hen house.

Such lists – they will inevitably fill up quickly with “false positives,” political dissidents, those whom our friends and neighbours subjectively view as threats – have not yet, as far as the public is aware, caught any terrorists in the U.S.

Indeed, common sense should make us wonder how someone can be too guilty to fly and yet be too innocent to be charged. Should those who pose a threat to our security be kept off our flights, but be free to roam our streets?

To make matters worse, real terrorists may not even be placed on the list for fear of tipping them off; no kidding, this is the official U.S. position.

How can such a list provide anything more than a false sense of security while leaving it rife for blacklisting innocent people as well as racial and religious profiling?

The no-fly list will threaten many basic rights and leave little practical recourse.

Yes, in theory there is the office of reconsideration. But the inability to know whether you are on the list until boarding time, the potential use of secret evidence as well as the use of unreliable and illegally obtained information by foreign sources, will make it near impossible to get off the list in many cases.

This is based on a close review of the U.S. experience as well as the plight of individuals who are already encountering difficulties in flying within Canada without Ottawa even having an official list of our own yet.

The extraterritorial application of U.S. watch lists is already impacting us; how will we fare once we have our own list interacting with, confirming and/or merging with other lists?

Hasty and ill-considered national security initiatives, which are essentially aimed at managing public perceptions more than they are in really addressing legitimate and manageable security concerns, will not move us forward in the fight to disrupt terrorism.

It will only complicate the lives of innocent Canadians and increase the opportunity for religious and racial

profiling. No matter how vigorously it is denied, racial/religious profiling is too often the reality for a growing number among Canada's Muslim and Arab communities and certainly in the national security context.

The experience of many Canadians who have already been caught up in the web of watch lists, in areas other than flying - be it for opening bank accounts, wiring money, sending courier packages, etc. - does not bode well for the no-fly list.

And my package? The one that was flagged by "Flight Guardian?" Well, I drove to a depot close to my office and sent it off - without using an account number and by paying cash.

So much for the security offered by a watch list.

Faisal Kutty, a Toronto lawyer and doctoral candidate at Osgoode Hall Law School at York University, is also vice-chair and counsel to the Canadian Council on American Relations.

3

Apologizing to Maher Arar: A Beginning, Not an End

Jurist Legal News & Research, 02/02/07

Faisal Kutty, CAIR-CAN Board Member and Vice-Chair

"My priority right now is to clear my name," said Maher Arar during his first public appearance in 2003 upon his return after being tortured for over a year in Syria. The Canadian Arar Commission findings which cleared him and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's recent apology - which came after months of negotiations -- go a long way in helping Arar fulfill his first wish, even though some believe the apology did not go far enough (Harper apologized "for any role Canadian officials may have played", while the Commission squarely blamed Canadian and American officials).

The Syrian-born Arar was detained by U.S. authorities on September 26, 2002, during a stopover in New York en route from Tunisia to Canada. The Canadian citizen was subsequently sent to Syria for torture under the controversial American practice of "extraordinary rendition" even though he had repeatedly requested that he be sent to Canada. He was eventually released and returned to Canada in October 2003 after Canada put pressure on Syria.

According to the inquiry called after public outcry in Canada, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service agents acted on false and misleading information supplied by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). The comprehensive inquiry which lasted more than two years was headed by Ontario's Associate Chief Justice and cost the public purse more than \$16 million. The Commission findings paved the way for the Prime Minister's formal apology to Arar on behalf of the Canadian government and an offer of \$10.5 million plus legal fees to settle a lawsuit launched by Arar.

Canada's top cop, RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli, resigned as a result of the Maher Arar controversy.

Meanwhile, American authorities are refusing Canada's request to purge Arar's name from U.S. watch lists. His inclusion on U.S. lists effectively excludes Arar from at least one third of the world's nations, according to his lawyers. U.S. Senator and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee Patrick Leahy has threatened to hold extensive hearings into Arar's case, lambasting the US's removal of Arar to Syria as absurd and outrageous and noting that instead of sending Arar a "couple of hundred miles to Canada and turned over to the Canadian authorities... he was sent thousands of miles away to Syria." He has called for the U.S. to apologize to Arar as well.

Arar and his wife, Monia Mazigh, are true champions and will push this matter as far as they can – hopefully getting a “terrorism-free” stamp from U.S. officials through the courts eventually. In addition to the Canadian lawsuit which was just settled, Arar has launched a separate lawsuit against American authorities. The U.S. suit revolves around the practice of his deportation to certain torture.

Yet, the Arar settlement in Canada does not close the book. It only opens a new chapter of a book that is about more than Maher Arar – it is about the erosion of civil and human rights in Canada as a result of the “War on Terror.”

The Arar saga brought into focus the unintended victims of draconian laws and policies hastily enacted post 9/11 in Canada and south of the border. It also shed light on the potential of religious and racial profiling inherent in such laws and practices.

We can only hope that Arar’s second wish which was to “make sure this does not happen to any other Canadian citizens in the future,” will also come true. For this to happen, however, more people must realize that due process and fundamental rights must be respected at all times and more so during times of real or perceived crisis when society has a tendency to overreact.

At the broader level, we hope that this admission of responsibility signifies a renewed interest in addressing the myriad issues emanating from the “War on Terror.” Canadians must demand that the government:

- Speedily implement all of the recommendations made by Justice Dennis O’Connor with respect to National Security, essentially centering around the issues of accountability, transparency, national security oversight, checks on information sharing, etc.
- Ensure that the public inquiry into allegations similar to Arar raised by Canadians, Abdullah Almalki, Ahmed Elmati and Muayed Nuredin moves forward in an open, transparent and public manner in order to have the confidence of the Canadian public.
- Seriously evaluate the impact of Canadian anti-terror laws and policies, but also the impact of U.S. laws and policies on Canadians, particularly those of Muslim and Middle Eastern heritage. The differential treatment of Canadian citizens based on religion and origin at the border must be vociferously opposed or a travel advisory be issued. The government must express strong opposition to the extra-territorial application of American laws effectively forcing Canadian companies on domestic soil to discriminate against citizens based on origin if they wish to contract with the United States.

We took a stand against the Arab boycott of companies dealing with Israel – why is this any different? Surely, there are ways to ensure security while upholding the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

- Ground the No-Fly list, which will be shared with other countries and to which names will be added, no doubt, based on information from foreign sources before it takes off in the next few weeks. As confirmed by the Arar case, the information may be unreliable and, in fact, may even be obtained through illegal methods. The arrangements and protocols for information sharing with foreign governments and agencies must be reconsidered.
- Reevaluate the ground realities in terms of racial and religious profiling by police and security agencies. As the Canadian Justice Department’s own study concluded two years ago, Canada has fallen behind even the U.S. and Britain in taking steps to combat this “high-profile and pressing issue.” Those are the Justice Department’s words, not mine.
- Stand up for Canadian citizen Omar Khadr, sent to Guantanamo Bay from Afghanistan at the age of 16. Canada should join the other nations, including staunch U.S. allies such as Britain and Australia, who have spoken out for their citizens and even had a number of

them released. Khadr's guilt or innocence is not the issue - he must be treated, charged and tried in accordance with international standards or be released.

➤ Reexamine the security certificate process under which five Muslim men are detained without charges or even a chance to challenge the "secret" evidence against them -- which even a number of Federal Court judges and even a high ranking intelligence officer has questioned and expressed concerns about. The Canadian Supreme Court is set to render its decision soon in three security certificate appeals - but whatever the decision, the government should scrap them as contrary to our notions of fairness and justice.

As Arar said during his press conference upon his return to Canada:

"What is at stake here is the future of our country, the interests of Canadian citizens, and most importantly Canada's international reputation for being a leader in human rights where citizens from different ethnic groups are treated no different than other Canadians."

With his apology and settlement, the Prime Minister helped raise Canada's stature one notch in the eyes of many local and foreign observers. It's time to continue onto the next chapter in the book.

Faisal Kutty is a Toronto lawyer and doctoral candidate at Osgoode Hall Law School of York University. He is also vice chair and a counsel to the Canadian Council on American Islamic Relations, which was an intervenor in the Maher Arar Inquiry.

4

A TV show that allows Muslims to laugh at themselves - Toronto Star, 01/11/07

Ihsaan Gardee, Community Relations Director

As the Canadian-born son of a tall, blonde, blue-eyed Swede and a dark-skinned South African Indian Muslim who spent the first five years of my life living in Sweden, I remember the challenges I faced moving back to Canada. While growing up, like my friends, I watched TV shows ranging from Saturday morning cartoon-marathons to the well-known show Little House on the Prairie.

One of my favourite episodes was The Craftsman about a lonely, old, Jewish woodcarver, Mr. Singerman, who becomes a mentor to young Albert Ingalls. Ingalls is then the subject of harassment and ridicule from the other children for being a "Jew lover" but goes on to develop a deep bond with the old man based on mutual admiration.

With a little play on the title, CBC television aired the first episode of Little Mosque on the Prairie this week, the pilot sitcom and brainchild of Canadian writer and filmmaker, Zarqa Nawaz.

This small but well-publicized production about the congregation of a rural mosque in the fictional prairie town of Mercy has already generated more buzz than any Canadian program has in ages - from The New York Times to CNN to the BBC. Even the Colbert Report has called.

In choosing to highlight, even lampoon some commonly held misconceptions and stereotypes about and within the Muslim community, Little Mosque travels the familiar road many successful shows have taken.

By looking at the immigrant experience - how people come into and adjust to a new life in a new land - Nawaz and her co-producers are banking on an age-old formula that there is humour to be found in the common experiences and often unintended tragic consequences that result from love and life.

After all, as Lester, played by Alan Alda, in Woody Allen's Crimes and Misdemeanors says, "What is comedy but tragedy, plus time?"

Combining elements of other shows - the surreal and sa-

tirical shtick of Green Acres with the self-deprecating humour, relevance, writing and comedic timing of The Daily Show - Little Mosque uses comedy as a foil to illustrate our neighbourly commonalities without trying to sound like a civics lesson.

Whatever its exact formulation, the challenges facing Little Mosque in the future are the same for all newcomers to this medium, namely, will viewers think, "Is it funny?", "Do these seem like real people?" and "Is this a world I'd like to visit week after week?"

Entertainment, especially comedy as a genre, is highly subjective: What's funny to you and me may not be funny to our neighbours. Comedy works, however, only when people see a part of themselves reflected in it; if they don't "get it" then they probably never will.

As the first show demonstrates, part of living in a society with free expression means tolerating bigotry - no matter where it stems from. Even if characters are exaggerated, flawed and not necessarily reflective of the diversity of the Canadian Muslim identity, its power to reach and inform people who might otherwise never have met a Muslim or heard of Islam can only be a good thing.

Whether it survives depends on its merits as a comedy, not the debates it may spark.

In terms of production values it plays like most Canadian TV shows when they first air: the sets look makeshift and the lighting, background music, and segues from one subplot to another are a little clunky.

Chalk these and the largely non-Muslim cast's stiffness with unfamiliar, traditional, Muslim greetings and rituals up to birthing pains that, hopefully, will improve with time and accent coaches.

In terms of acting, the talented cast of TV veterans brings to the show subtleties and shades of nuance that help convey humour that might otherwise be lost.

So is the show funny? I think so. I see many of the characters and themes in the people I know and am familiar with. Will it offend some people? No doubt.

Honesty is not always appreciated, usually gets bad reviews and is especially ill-received by people in the community who perceive themselves as victims; think of how Mordecai Richler was first received when he started out.

What makes Little Mosque different is the introduction and portrayal, for the first time, of Canadian Muslims as a community able to laugh at itself. Would a documentary do the same thing? Perhaps, but it would not be as engaging or memorable and certainly not as funny.

More than anything, we hope this experiment will not be perceived as a call to arms against Muslims or others (which conspiracy theorists, like the character Baber, have already tried to label it).

We hope, instead, it is viewed as an opportunity for all Canadians to dialogue around issues and events that are important to us and maybe, like Albert Ingalls, build bonds based on the things that tie us together.

5

ISSUES & IDEAS

Understanding the Hajj

- The National Post Online, 29/12/06

By Faisal Kutty, Vice-Chair and Legal Council

Thousands of Canadians are in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, this week for the annual rites of Hajj. They will retrace the footsteps of millions who have made the spiritual journey to the valley of Mecca since the time of Adam.

Hajj literally means "to continuously strive to reach one's goal." It is the last of the five pillars of Islam (the others being a declaration of faith in one God, five daily prayers, offering regular charity and fasting during Ramadan). It is a once-in-a-lifetime obligation for those who have the physical and financial means.

The Hajj is a re-enactment of the rituals of the great prophets and teachers of the faith. Pilgrims symbolically relive the exile and atonement undergone by Adam and Eve after they were expelled from Heaven, wandered the Earth, met again and sought forgiveness in the valley of Mecca. They also retrace the frantic footsteps of Abraham's wife, Hagar, as she ran between the hills of Safa and Marwa searching for water for her thirsty baby (which according to Muslim tradition, God answered with the well of Zam Zam). Lastly, pilgrims also commemorate Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son for God. (God later substituted a ram.)

Yet the Hajj is more than these elaborate rituals. The faithful hope for a deep spiritual transformation, one that will make them better people. If such a change within does not occur, then it was merely a physical exercise devoid of any spiritual significance.

The current state of world affairs, both within and outside the Muslim world, greatly increases the relevance of some of the universal messages inherent in the Hajj. As the American Islamic scholar Ebrahim Moosa rhetorically asks, "After paying homage to the two women Eve and Hagar in the rites of pilgrimage, how can some Muslims still violate the rights and dignity of women in the name of Islam? Is this not a contradiction?"

Indeed, the Koran teaches: "I shall not lose sight of the labour of any of you who labours in My way, be it man or woman; each of you is equal to the other" (3:195). One would hope that the ocean of men and women, side by side performing tawaf (circling) around the Kaaba (the stone building Muslims believe was built by Adam and rebuilt by Abraham and his son Ishmael) should lay to rest any claim that Islam--as opposed to some Islamic cultures --degrades women.

The fact that millions -- transcending geographical, linguistic, cultural, ethnic, racial, economic and social barriers -- converge in unison on Mecca attests to the faith's universality. The Hajj plants the seed to celebrate the diversity of our common humanity.

Pilgrims return home enriched by a more pluralistic and holistic outlook, and with a new appreciation for themselves and their surroundings.

The most celebrated North American Hajji (one who has performed the Hajj) is none other than El-Hajj Malik El Shabbaz, more commonly known as Malcolm X. A man who was renowned for preaching that whites were "devils" profoundly reassessed his views during the Hajj in 1964. This transformation sealed his break with the black nationalist Nation of Islam. Contrary to the Nation's teachings, Malcolm concluded that Islam encom-

passed all of humanity and transcended race and culture. He said, "In my 39 years on this Earth, the holy city of Mecca had been the first time I had ever stood before the Creator of all and felt like a complete human."

Upon his return, he embarked on a mission to enlighten both blacks and whites. Malcolm understood that in order to truly learn from the Hajj, its spiritual lessons must extend beyond the fraternal ties of Muslims to forging a common humanity.

Humility to God and acceptance of His supremacy and control over all are other messages of Hajj. The multitude of people and their inner beliefs and practices are to be judged by God alone in His infinite wisdom. As the Koran proclaims, "Let there be no compulsion in matters of faith, truth stands out clear from error" (2: 256).

A successful Hajj breeds a rich inner peace, which is manifested outwardly in the values of justice, honesty, respect, generosity, kindness, forgiveness, mercy and empathy. And it is these values -- all attributes of God almighty -- that are indispensable to us if we are all just to get along in this world.

Faisal Kutty is a lawyer, writer and doctoral candidate at Osgoode Hall Law School. He is also vice-chair of the Canadian Council on American Islamic Relations.

Event: First Annual CAIR-CAN summer BBQ

As a way to reach out to our constituents in the GTA and to thank them for their kindness, support, and generosity over the years, CAIR-CAN held its first annual free and open summer barbeque in Toronto in July 2007. Very well attended by local politicians, religious leaders, and members of different communities, our first barbeque was a smashing success. With [halal!] hot dogs, burgers, beverages and several bouncy castles, a good time was had by all. See you next year!



INDEX



Number of opinion pieces as of March 2006:	91
Number of opinion pieces as of November 2007:	107
Worst Newspaper:	Still looking for a way to post it to our national list
Size of benefits package:	Might otherwise be known as Personal Prayer Coverage
Approximate op-ed success ratio:	95% +
Français?	Yes, her name is Sarah and she's in the UK
Number of press releases from last March 2006 to November 2007:	58 and counting
Pizza condiments at office:	Maryam's two hot chilli flake shakers
Staff heritage:	Scottish, Pakistani, Swedish, South African
Latest fundraising idea canned:	Licensing Ihsaan's Thai shrimp soup recipe
Board member with the best hat:	Selma's straw cowboy stetson
Longest day on record:	Sarah's amazing 20 interviews in one day



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