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Marc Garneau's response to CAIR-CAN

Original address: http://marcgarneau.ca/in-response-to-the-letter-from-cair-can/?utm_source=streamsend&utm_medium=email&utm_content=17656767&utm_campaign=News%2520Release%253A%2520MP%2520Marc%2520Garneau%2520responds%2520to%2520CAIR-CAN%2520concerns

Date: December 18, 2012

Original title: In response to the letter from CAIR-CAN

Marc Garneau
Member of Parliament
Westmount Ville-Marie, QC

Ihsaan Gardee
Executive Director
Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations

Dear Ihsaan,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 December 2012. I would be pleased to make my comments clear and concise.

In [the article in question](#), the Sun article dated 14 December 2012, my comments were specifically about IRFAN and not about Muslims broadly or the conference. You'll notice that the use of "these people" is in parenthesis which shows that it was an editorial decision by the newspaper and not my words. My concern was focused solely around the involvement of IRFAN, an organization that is allegedly linked to Hamas, and an organization that has now withdrawn its sponsorship of the Reviving the Islamic Spirit (RIS) Conference.

Let me be clear, I very much support the principles of engagement and dialogue. You are perfectly correct when you say broad-brush approaches deny the many valuable contributions of Canadian Muslims to building a just and compassionate Canada. I have not and never will apply such a brush. I continue to look for opportunities to meet with all Canadians, as I was doing at a mosque in the GTA on Friday when the story appeared.

I thank you very much for your letter and the opportunity to reiterate my support for dialogue amongst all Canadians. This letter will be posted on my website and I hope you will share it with your network as well.

Sincerely,

Marc Garneau



MARC GARNEAU

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Sincerely,
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