



**CAIR-CHICAGO**  
ANNUAL REPORT 2007

**CAIR**  
ILLINOIS





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In only its fourth year since restructuring, CAIR-Chicago has continued its impressive growth from a one-man operation into a fully-fledged institution, and of that we are proud. The organization, with a process-oriented infrastructure developed to corporate standard and powered by a talented and dedicated staff of 12 professionals, today plays a leading role in the Chicago area Muslim community's civil rights and public relations spheres.

We present you this year's Annual Report as a synopsis of CAIR-Chicago's progress in 2007. The year 2007 witnessed the hiring of some exceptional talent. Reem Rahman, fresh from the University of Illinois, joined as communications coordinator. Azam Azeem, relentless community activist, joined as operations coordinator. Tricia Kemling, passionate advocate for justice, came on board as staff attorney, while Gerlad Hankerson, a proven bridge-builder, joined as outreach coordinator. Christina Abraham was promoted to Civil Rights Director in recognition of the crucial role she has played in developing her department, while Dina Rehab also received a promotion for playing the same role in the outreach department.

2007 also confirmed the phenomenon of the CAIR-Chicago "super intern," with more interns voluntarily choosing to stay on longer than one semester and who function with the productivity of part-time staff.

In 2007, CAIR-Chicago received a whopping 391 new civil rights complaints. Cases ranged from employment discrimination and citizenship delay to prison abuse and hate crimes. The Civil Rights Department added more volunteer attorneys and took on some high profile cases; it also welcomed its first prestigious PILI fellow, Tawfiq Ali, from Harvard University.

In addition to defense and advocacy work, the Civil Rights Department continued to implement a proactive, forward-looking agenda through its outreach to the government, media, and the community.

In 2007, CAIR-Chicago's own Reem Rahman completed a fellowship at the Drum Major Institute, while Ahmed Rehab and board member Yaser Tabbara, received fellowships in President Eisenhower's American Assembly.

2007 also witnessed the quiet debut of an ambitious new project, the Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium, or MYLS [[www.cairchicago.org/myls](http://www.cairchicago.org/myls)]. MYLS, which looks to officially launch with a major event this spring, trained over 150 students in two pilot programs last summer and fall. The program, managed by Youth Coordinator Amir Siddiqui, looks to actively promote civic engagement via value-based projects dreamed up by students. It also looks to accentuate the importance of literature and the arts for the development of a healthy American Muslim community. The program received rave reviews from participants and sponsors alike.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2007, CAIR-Chicago's Executive Director, Ahmed Rehab, joined the board of ICIRR, the Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights, a statewide organizing powerhouse. Rehab immediately brought key communications and strategic contributions to the coalition, leading training seminars and participating at the Heartland Presidential Forum in Iowa. Sadiya Ahmed, the Government Affairs Department's coordinator, expanded CAIR-Chicago's role in various coalitions and helped bring more voter education to more communities in the area. 2007 saw the continuation of CAIR-Chicago's global outreach, hosting more delegations from all corners of the world, showcasing to them our unique brand of Chicago activism.

In 2007, CAIR-Chicago continued its strong media presence both locally and nationally. In addition to omnipresence in the local audiovisual and print media, CAIR-Chicago officials gave several lauded performances on FOX's Bill O'Reilly and CNN's Glenn Beck, among others, and on talk radio coast to coast. Within 2007, CAIR-Chicago was featured, reported on, or quoted 187 times in local, national, and international media. That includes newspapers and magazines such as the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Sun-Times, the Daily Herald, the New York Times, and the International Herald Tribune; local and national radio stations that include NPR and BBC Radio; and local and national television newscasts that include CBS, NBC, ABC, WGN, FOX, MSNBC, PBS, and CNN.

Lastly, 2007 saw the fortification and diversification of CAIR-Chicago's board with impressive community leaders joining its ranks: Dr. Shahwar Syed, Kimberly Newkirk, Emaad Hamwi, and Khaled Taha.

For more updates on CAIR-Chicago and our current projects, please visit our new website: [www.cairchicago.org](http://www.cairchicago.org). We hope that you will continue to support the services and projects of CAIR both locally and nationally.

Board of Directors  
CAIR-Chicago



# FINANCIAL REPORT 2008

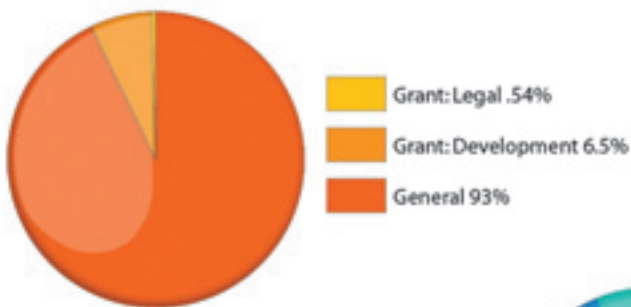
## 2008 Financial Activity

### INCOME

General	\$427,764
Grant: Development	\$30,000
Grant: Legal	\$2,500
Total	\$460,264

### EXPENSE:

Salaries/Payroll Expense	\$275,694
Bank/Credit Card Charges	\$1,437
Employee Benefits	\$16,608
Printing/Postage	\$4,283
Events/Projects	\$86,260
Accounting/Legal Services	\$9,710
Repairs/Maintenance/Supplies	\$24,544
Office Lease & Utilities	\$22,833
Other	\$3,555
Total	\$444,924



# ABOUT US

CAIR-Chicago is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization registered in Illinois. It is the local chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the nation's largest Muslim Civil Rights organization with 35 chapters in North America. CAIR was founded in 1994 and is headquartered in Washington, D.C.; the Chicago office, located in the heart of the city's downtown business district, is currently in its 4th year of operation.

## CAIR's Vision

To be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.

## CAIR 's Mission

To enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

## CAIR's Core Values

1. CAIR supports free enterprise, freedom of religion and freedom of expression.
2. CAIR is committed to protecting the civil rights of all Americans, regardless of faith.
3. CAIR opposes domestic policies that limit civil rights, permit racial, ethnic or religious profiling, infringe on due process, or prevent Muslims and others from participating fully in American civic life.
4. CAIR supports domestic policies that promote civil rights, diversity and freedom of religion.
5. CAIR is a natural ally of groups, religious or secular, that advocate justice and human rights in America and around the world.
6. CAIR supports foreign policies that help create free and equitable trade, encourage human rights and promote representative government based on socio-economic justice.
7. CAIR believes the active practice of Islam strengthens the social and religious fabric of our nation.
8. CAIR condemns all acts of violence against civilians by any individual, group or state.
9. CAIR advocates dialogue between faith communities both in America and worldwide.
10. CAIR supports equal and complementary rights and responsibilities for men and women.

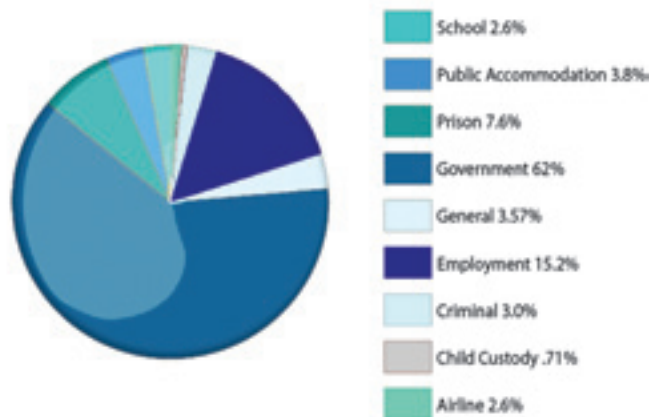
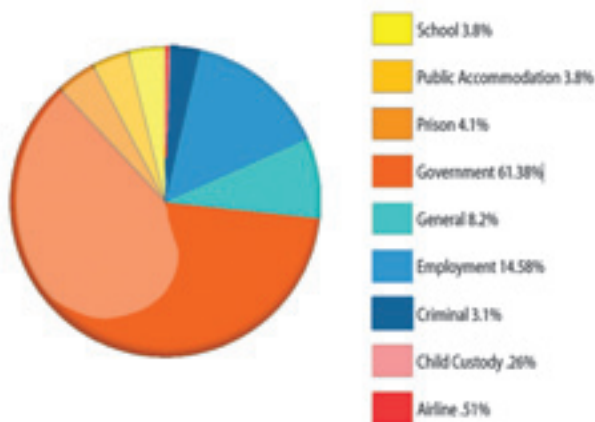
# YEAR IN REVIEW

## Civil Rights

The Civil Rights Department has experienced tremendous success and development in the past year. In 2007, 391 cases were reported to CAIR-Chicago, and the number of active cases has nearly doubled from 2006. The consistent high volume of cases seen by the Civil Rights Department illustrates the continuing need for Muslims to have access to legal representation when facing discrimination, as well as the growing trust in CAIR-Chicago to do the job. However, this also means that CAIR-Chicago must be able to expand its Civil Rights Department in order to meet the ever-growing needs of the Muslim community.

### No. of Cases Reported in 2007 **391**

Airline	3
Child custody	1
Criminal	12
Employment	57
General	32
Government	240
Prison	16
Public Accommodation	15
School	15



### Total Active Cases from 2007 **420**

Airline	5
Child Custody	3
Criminal	13
Employment	64
General	15
Government	261
Prison	32
Public Accommodation	16
School	11

### Projects Launched in 2008

- **FBI Project**
  - o 2006 has seen an increasing number of Muslims who report having been contacted by the FBI for interviews. CAIR-Chicago has represented Muslims who have been contacted by the FBI and remains in communication with the FBI regarding any possible misconduct by agents.
- **Pegasus Project**
  - o The Pegasus Project, which is sponsored by the Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## Civil Rights (continued)

of Rights and Pegasus Players, seeks to educate high school students about constitutional rights. At the end of the term, students will turn what they learn into plays which will be submitted to the Chicago Young Playwrights Festival.

## Ongoing Projects

- Free Campus Coalition

- o The Free Campus Coalition aims to protect and advocate for the right of faculty, staff and students to engage freely in intellectual exploration and discourse on American university and college campuses. It will provide a network of support to faculty, staff and students whose academic freedom is in peril. In 2006, the Coalition's work focused on Professor Norman Finkelstein's denial of tenure at DePaul University.

- Coalition to Protect People's Rights (CPPR)

- o The Coalition to Protect People's Rights united in order to raise public awareness about the United States government's violation of Mr. Muhammad Salah and Abdelhaleem Ashqar's due process rights. The Coalition, which is comprised of civil rights groups, human rights groups, community-based organizations, and concerned individuals, advocates for the safeguarding of people's rights protected by the United States' Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Throughout

the past year, the Civil Rights Department has worked to mobilize the community around the case by sponsoring events, fostering public discussion of the issues, and urging community members to attend the trial and write to the district court judge to show support for Muhammad Salah and Abdelhaleem Ashqar.

- Citizenship Delay Project

- o The Citizenship Delay Project has worked to end the lengthy delays in the citizenship process for Muslims applying for citizenship by political and legal means. Currently, 298 cases of citizenship delays have been reported. In 2006, CAIR-Chicago filed a class action law suit with the National Immigrant Justice Center and Competition Law Group. As a result of the class action and individual law suits filed on behalf of individuals delayed in obtaining citizenship, many who have been delayed were granted citizenship. However, the Civil Rights Department will have to expand if it is going to be able to meet the growing demand for legal representation in citizenship delays.

- Employment Discrimination Project

- o This project seeks to help Muslims facing religious discrimination at the workplace. Fifty-seven cases of employment discrimination were reported in 2007, many having been resolved positively through negotiations and mediations with employers. Additionally, several law suits have been filed on behalf of Muslims who experienced

# YEAR IN REVIEW



## Civil Rights (continued)

discrimination in the workplace.

- **Prison Project**

- o This project looks to secure the rights of Muslim inmates to practice their religion freely as well as to ensure that inmates are treated humanely. In the past, it sponsored the donation of Qurans to Muslim inmates and presented to state prison officials regarding the religious accommodation of Muslims. Throughout 2007, the project has been working to challenge policies affecting the rights and treatment of Muslim inmates.

- **Police Misconduct Project**

- o This project advocates and represents clients in cases of police misconduct. In 2007, CAIR-Illinois signed on in support of a report issued entitled The failure of Special Prosecutors Edward J. Egan and Robert D. Boyle to Fairly Investigate Police Torture in Chicago. The project has also represented individual clients who have experienced police misconduct.

- **Travel Free Project**

- o This project seeks to look into complaints

of Muslims being detained upon re-entry to the country when traveling due to their names being put on a “watch list” by the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA). The project assists Muslims in going through the proper procedures for being safe-listed. Additionally, it also represents individuals who have experienced discrimination while traveling.

## Civil Rights Outreach

The Civil Rights Department has sponsored and participated in events pertaining to the struggle for civil liberties for Muslims in America. The following are events that the Civil Rights Department participated in during the 2007 year.

- CAIR-Chicago Co-hosts Comprehensive Immigration Reform and Citizenship Delay Workshop
- CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney Speaks on panel on Immigration Law and the effects of September 11 at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP.
- CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney speaks at National Town Hall on Hate Crimes

# YEAR IN REVIEW



## Civil Rights (continued)

- DePaul Students Act to Protect Academic Freedom on Campus
- CAIR-Chicago Prison Project Coordinator Speaks at the Advisory Board Meeting of the Illinois Department of Corrections
- CAIR-Chicago Prison Project Coordinator Speaks on Religious Discrimination in Prisons
- CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Coordinator Speaks on Panel at Columbia College
- CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Coordinator Speaks at Islamic Foundation School on Malcolm X Day
- CAIR-Chicago Staff Attorney Presents at Depaul Legal Clinic
- CAIR-Chicago Legal Advisor Speaks at Wellesley College
- CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Coordinator Participates in Teaching Constitution to

## Students

- CAIR-Chicago Volunteer Attorney Speaks on Civil Liberties Panel
- CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Coordinator Speaks at Rally Protesting Guantanamo Bay

## Civil Rights Publications

- Heena Musabji and Christina Abraham, The Threat to Civil Liberties and its Effect on Muslims in America. DePaul Journal for Social Justice, Vol. 1, No. 1 (Fall 2007). stigma, exchange concerns, and increase mutual understanding.

## Communications/Media

CAIR-Chicago continued a variety of proactive initiatives aimed at projecting a fair and accurate image of Islam and Muslims in the media. 2007 saw the rapid expansion into numerous new mediums designed to more effectively challenge the bias, bigotry, and prejudice in America's public discourse on

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## Communications/Media (continued)

Islam and Muslims. It was a year of firsts in many areas, not the least of which was the milestone launch of its redesigned website.

### New Website and Newsletter

The Communications Department launched a new website and brand-new bi-weekly newsletter, showcasing sections better equipped to feature new and relevant content. Every section of the website has been designed to reflect the wide breadth of work by all CAIR-Chicago departments, and with the added features, content can be easily e-mailed, printed, or shared at a click. Whether providing incident report forms, announcing the latest media successes or showcasing the latest voter education guides, the improved functionality of the new website amplifies CAIR-Chicago's ability to serve the Chicagoland community.

### CAIR-Chicago in the News

2007 was a busy year for the Communication Department. CAIR-Chicago was featured, quoted or reported on over 187 times locally, nationally, and globally. These included over 55 times in print media, 25 times on broadcast news (TV) and 13 times on radio, in addition to numerous references online.

News agencies included:

- **Newspapers:** *Chicago Tribune, Chicago*

*Sun-Times, Daily Herald, Huffington Post (Online), Milwaukee*

*Journal Sentinel, Medill Reports, Daily Southtown, Arab News, Herald News, Jerusalem Post, The Davidsonian, Chicago Tribune Redeye*

- **Newswires:** *Reuters, AFP, Medill, United Press International, The Free Lance-Star*

- **Magazines:** *Higher Education Chronicles, The Economist*

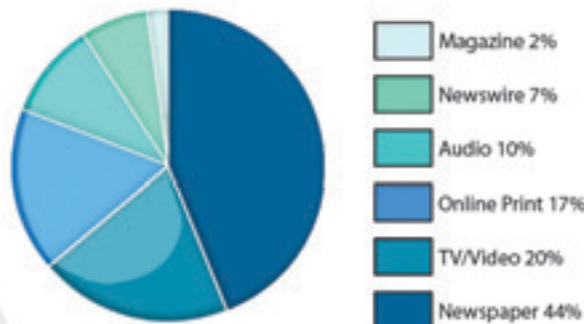
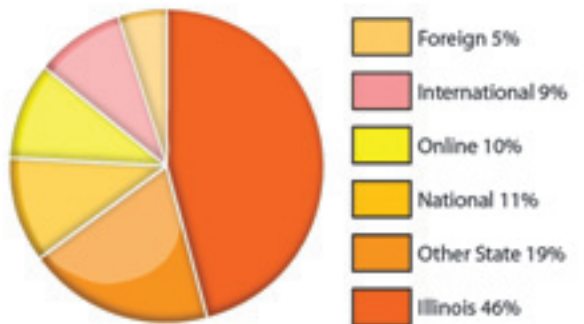
- **Television:** *PBS 11 (WTTW) Chicago Tonight, Asian American News Network, FOX 32 Fox News, ABC 7, Bridges TV, Associated Press, Wise TV*

- **Radio:** *BBC Radio, Fox Radio, Chicago Public Radio, WGN Radio, Radio Islam, WBBM 780AM Newsradio, Voice of America – Uzbek, WBEZ Dan Rea Show 1030AM, WVON Santita Jackson Show, Leslie Marshall Show*

### Media Monitoring

CAIR-Chicago continued to monitor the local media on a daily basis with the purpose of reinforcing positive and accurate coverage of Muslims and Islam, and challenging simplistic, inaccurate, or biased reports. Numerous articles, opinions and commentary pieces were written by CAIR-Chicago and printed in mainstream press and credible online sources. Bigoted positions against Muslims were challenged by writers coordinated through the Communications Department.

# YEAR IN REVIEW



## Media Resource

CAIR-Chicago led press conferences and issues press releases and media advisories in order to ensure that Muslim perspectives on pressing issues and current events were

represented in the mainstream media. CAIR-Chicago provided feedback to major local

Chicago newspaper editors and staff on their coverage of Islam and Muslims.

## New Media & Multimedia

The Communications Department introduced new ways of producing and presenting the latest in new media forms including the latest in audio, video, graphics, web design, flash, and blogs.

## Multimedia Studio

The Communications Department established a studio to capture audio and video on site and make it easily available for the community's benefit through webcasting.

## Reports and Analysis

Northwest Indiana Times, Die Zeit (Germany), Thuringer Allgemeine (Germany), and the International Herald Tribune (France) among others.



# YEAR IN REVIEW



## Communications/Media (continued)

### Training

The Communications Department hosted and led numerous lectures and workshops for students, mosques, and organizations on how to be more effective media activists and community spokespersons. These included a messaging workshop to a room full of Chicago activists hosted by the Illinois

Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and to numerous student leaders gathered for the New Jersey Muslim Youth Leadership Program at Princeton, NJ.

### Government Relations

Each year, CAIR engages the Chicago and Muslim community in civic engagement programs while cultivating and strengthening already existing relationships with elected officials on the federal, state, and local levels. Followed by last year's successful publication of the CAIR-Chicago Civic Education Guide,

this year the Government Affairs department further developed educational materials for distribution to the Muslim community for the 2008 presidential election. We worked with the national office and other CAIR chapters to compile a presidential candidates' survey for distribution in our local community.

During the year, as we prepared for the presidential election, working with local grassroots organizations around the area to establish a comprehensive curriculum and program for the community, we created new ways to effectively keep the Muslim community abreast of political developments. The Government Affairs Department's volunteers and interns continue to work on researching national legislation, while incorporating information into databases about elected officials and their positions on issues that are of particular importance to the Muslim community

### Civic Engagement and Community Outreach

In 2007, the department held workshops and

# YEAR IN REVIEW



community forums on issues ranging from the Muslim community's involvement in politics to comprehensive immigration reform updates. CAIR-Chicago conducted several trainings on how to effectively be involved in grassroots politics. We continued on the electoral work from 2005 and held voter registration drives to register new citizens and previous unregistered voters to vote in the upcoming election. We continued building our voter information database to be able to get a more accurate number of registered Muslims voters in Illinois. The following are some of the events the Government Affairs Department held or participated in over the last year:

- Civic Engagement Workshop at Northwestern University
- Panel Discussion on "Hearing from the Allies in the Social Justice Movement" in Washington DC
- Immigration Reform Briefing and Community Meeting at the Mosque Foundation
- Third Congressional District Unity Summit for Comprehensive Immigration
- ReformCommunity Civic Engagement and

Comprehensive Immigration Reform Workshop at the Indo-American Center

- Community Workshop: Reclaiming the People's Voice in American Politics
- Comprehensive Immigration Reform

and Naturalization Delay Workshop in the Southwest Suburbs

## Coalition Building

CAIR-Chicago continued to forge new relationships with diverse organizations around the Chicagoland area as well as maintaining already existing relationships. We worked with immigrant rights organizations to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. We regularly consulted with organizations such as the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIR) on the Muslim community's concerns on the current immigration system.

We attended the national South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow (SAALT) where we established new relationships with South Asian Organizations in the Chicagoland area. CAIR-Chicago was invited to speak on a panel

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## Government Relations (continued)

about our work in the area of Muslim civil rights. Coming out of the summit, CAIR-Chicago became a lead organization in the establishment of a new coalition, the South Asian Network (SAN) for the Chicagoland area, meeting quarterly to bring organizations that serve a part of the South Asian community together.

CAIR-Chicago worked with other community organizations in the third congressional district to mobilize around immigration reform, demanding answers from Congressman Dan Lipinski. We regularly sent diverse delegations to the Congressman's office, demanding a clarification on his views on immigration reform, held a community meeting, attended by over 1,000 community members, and finally took part in a march to Congressman Lipinski's office.

The Government Affairs took part in regular strategy meetings with other community and grassroots organizations to establish core principles on comprehensive immigration reform. We pushed hard for legislative reform on naturalization delay to be adapted as part of a national immigration reform agenda. We worked with partner organizations to push for dialogue about the background checks within their communities.

## Relationship Building with Elected Officials

We met with upper level staff members from national congressional offices to discuss the Muslim community's concerns on comprehensive immigration reform and CAIR-Chicago's solution to delays applicants face when applying for naturalization. This year, as in the past, the Government Affairs department also met with candidates running for federal and state offices to discuss the concerns of the Muslim community.

As a 501(3), we worked with other non-partisan organizations to hold a candidates' forum in the third congressional district, inviting all major party candidates to address the local community and asked questions about their positions on issues that concern the immigrant and/or the Muslim community.

CAIR engaged in limited lobbying on issues such as comprehensive immigration reform earlier this year, demanding a realistic solution to our current broken immigration system. Later in the year, we began engaging in talks with elected officials and their staff about legislative solutions to eliminate the backlog on naturalization delay.

CAIR-Chicago received 21 congratulatory letters of support from government officials which has since been incorporated in our distribution literature. Members of Congress like Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Congressman Danny Davis, law enforcement (CPD, CAPS, and FBI), Governor Rod Blagojevich, mayors of various cities including



# YEAR IN REVIEW



## Government Relations (continued)

Mayor Richard Daley, and state and local officials praised CAIR-Chicago for its hard work over the years.

## Outreach

This year witnessed the launch of an exciting new program geared towards unleashing the potent skills and ideas of Muslim youth into projects that bring about constructive change. The Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium's

(MYLS) core mission is to provide American Muslim youth with a proactive agenda for positive activism; empower them to guide their communities from the margin to the mainstream; and foster a healthy American Muslim identity that fits comfortably within pluralistic American society while true to its faith values. It encourages our youth to explore how Muslims can become model citizens that help make America a better place for all Americans, regardless of race or creed.

The Outreach Department held the first Muslim

Youth Leadership Symposium as a pilot project, hosting over 30 students from local Islamic high schools, predominantly from the Universal School in Bridgeview. The day-long workshops covered a variety of topics such as Muslim American Self-Definition, Knowing Your Rights at School and the Workplace, Muslim American Activism as well as strategizing concrete ways to transform ideas into action. The Symposium was a remarkable success, opening the doors to an ambitious second event scheduled to take place in April 2008.

The MYLS Initiative, a year-long training designed to help prepare students for the Annual Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium, was also initiated to facilitate the implementation of student-based projects. A partnership between CAIR-Chicago and local Islamic schools was established where the MYLS initiative serves as a school club with several subcommittees. Committees serve student interests and include areas such as philanthropy and communications. CAIR-Chicago provides support and training to club members via workshops and regular meetings with students. Through this partnership, CAIR-Chicago hopes to turn student generated ideas into measurable results.

Visit [www.cairchicago.org/myls](http://www.cairchicago.org/myls) for more information on the MYLS Initiative.

# YEAR IN REVIEW



## Participant Testimonials:

*“MYLS motivated me to become more involved in my community and not only give back to the Muslims in the community, but to people of other religions as well. The speakers were terrific.” Noor Alawad*

*“The individual speeches were wonderfully refreshing. It really made me realize that there are many venues available for me to work towards improving our quality of life.” Nuha Mulk*

*“I think the symposium was very effective and taught me so many lessons that I can implement in my life. My favorite part was the 1st session about self-definition. It answered so many questions I’ve had for years. I can’t wait to share them with my family and friends.” Asma Hammadi*

CAIR-Chicago also participated in various national Muslim youth leadership trainings such as those held in Cincinnati, Ohio and Sacramento, California.

## Interfaith

The Outreach department held several lectures and workshops to address common misconceptions on Islam and Muslims. CAIR-Chicago staff discussed issues such as the

headscarf (hijab), fundamental laws of Islam, and the history of Islam at churches, libraries, community centers as well as at Institutions such as the Art Institute of Chicago. Various sessions were also held nationally in states such as California, North Carolina, and Wisconsin.

## Muslims Care

As part of Muslims Care ([www.muslimscare.org](http://www.muslimscare.org)), a national campaign promoting community service, CAIR-Chicago organized several community service events throughout the year 2007. Events included blood drives, community food drives, and addressing the needs of children of domestic violence homes.

## University / Academia

CAIR-Chicago delivered several speeches at various universities in the United States including Benedictine University, Loyola University, the University of Chicago, the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and the Claremont Colleges California.

## Ramadan Outreach

CAIR-Chicago was in full-swing with its outreach efforts to the community in Ramadan 2007. CAIR-Chicago coordinated presentations on its services and updates on its progress

# YEAR IN REVIEW

during the Taraweeh (night prayer) gatherings in 15 mosques in the Greater Chicagoland area.

## Internship/Externship Program

CAIR-Chicago has partnered with several universities and law schools establishing a unique and highly competitive for-credit and not-for-credit internship/externship program:

Internship programs are available through:

Brown University  
College of DuPage  
Columbia College  
DePaul University  
Loyola University  
Moraine Valley Community College  
Northeastern Illinois University  
Northern Illinois University  
Northwestern University  
Robert Morris College  
Roosevelt University  
University of Chicago  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Externship programs are available through:

Chicago-Kent College of Law  
DePaul College of Law  
Florida State University College of Law  
Indiana University School of Law  
John Marshall Law School  
Northwestern University School of Law  
Rutgers School of Law  
UCLA School of Law  
University of Chicago Law School

University of Washington School of Law  
University of Wisconsin Law School

CAIR-Chicago hosted a total of 65 Interns/Externs in the year 2007, and currently has a database of over 100 active volunteers.

## Friday Sermons (Khutbahs)

CAIR-Chicago delivers weekly Khutbahs at some of Chicago's largest Mosques in an effort to promote key civic and humanitarian ideals fostered in Islam's teachings, and to bridge the mosque audience with the field work that CAIR-Chicago administers. This year, CAIR-Chicago also delivered sermons on a national level.

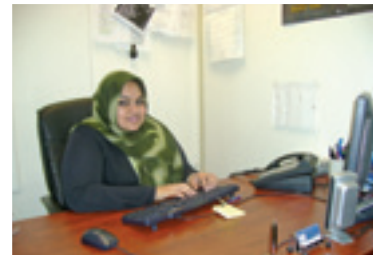
## International Outreach

CAIR-Chicago hosted several international delegations of Muslim scholars and activists from Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Saudi Arabia, Bulgaria, Jordan as well as a European delegation and a Middle Eastern Women's delegation.

# STAFF AND BOARD

## Board of Directors

Safaa Zarzour, Esq. – President  
Mazen Kudaimi, MD– Vice-President  
Yaser Tabbara, Esq. – Secretary  
Hina Sodha, Esq. – Treasurer  
Khaled Taha  
Emaad Hamwi  
Shahwar Syed, MD  
Kimberly Newkirk  
Ahmed Rehab  
Alif Muhammad

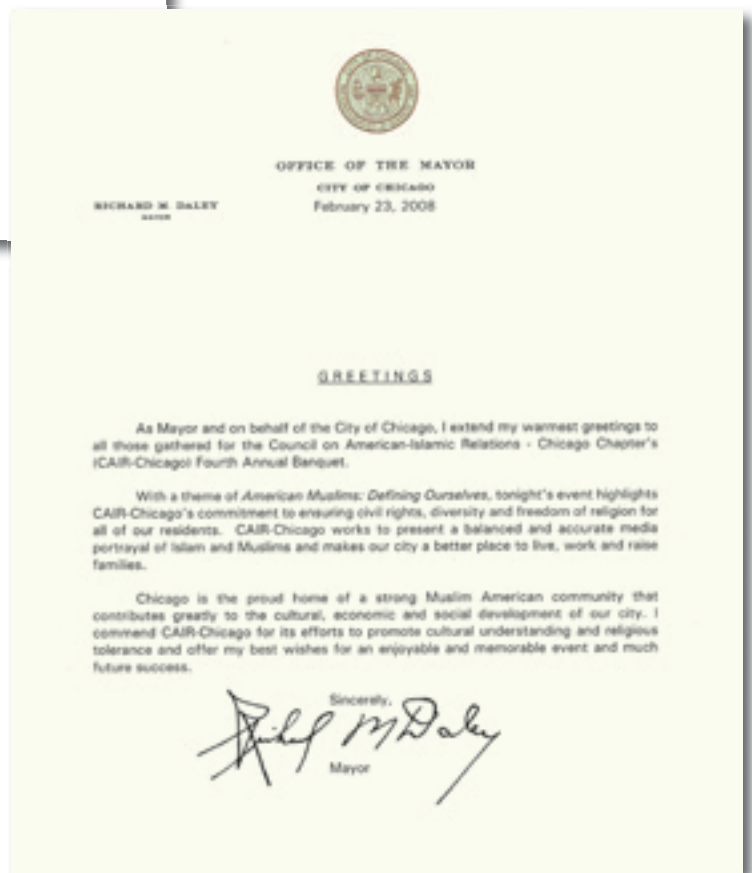


## Staff

Ahmed Rehab – Executive Director  
Christina Abraham – Civil Rights Director  
Dina Rehab – Senior Outreach Coordinator  
Reem Rahman – Communications Coordinator  
Sadiya Ahmed - Governmental Affairs Coordinator  
Azam Azeem – Operations Coordinator  
Veronica Zapata – Cultural Sensitivity Speaker  
Islaam Rahim - Administrative Assistant  
Shahzeen Karim - Governmental Affairs Coordinator  
Gerald Hankerson - Outreach Coordinator  
Amir Siddiqui - Youth Coordinator  
Tricia Kemling - Staff attorney



# RECOGNITIONS





# RECOGNITIONS



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

January 4, 2008

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
Chicago Chapter  
28 East Jackson Boulevard  
Suite 1410  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Friends:

As Illinois Secretary of State, it is indeed an honor to welcome you to CAIR – Chicago's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. I am happy to extend my best wishes and warmest greetings to all who have gathered to partake in this noteworthy event.

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. Your dedication embodies the very essence of our society's steady pursuit of social, racial and economic equality for all. Through the resilience of organizations such as yours, the message of peace, multiculturalism, equal opportunity and inclusion continues to have a meaningful and positive effect on our nation.

Again, welcome to this memorable and inspirational banquet. I know that you will continue to find generous support for your humanitarian and democratic endeavors, which advance the ideals of peace and equality.

Sincerely,

Jesse White  
Secretary of State



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
2111 West Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, IL 60604  
February 14, 2008

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) - Illinois Chapter  
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1410  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab,

I would like to congratulate the members of the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations on the event of your 4th Annual Banquet. I'd also like to thank you for the opportunity to join you in your celebration.

The national security of the United States and the protection of the civil rights of all Americans are high FBI priorities. In order to effectively protect our citizens, our guests and even undocumented people who live and work in our communities, we need the support, trust and cooperation of the American people. I know you have a similar view and goal to protect the safety and security of every individual in our country. You demonstrated strong commitment to that goal by participating in the FBI Citizens' Academy and using that experience to help demystify the FBI to others. I don't think I could express our common goal better than you did after your Citizens' Academy graduation, when you stated in a press release, "Maintaining safe communities cannot be the work of the FBI and the police alone; we, the citizens, have a role to play in keeping our streets safe by staying vigilant and reporting unlawful activity."

Your dedication to open and honest communication and understanding, even in disagreement, has embodied the principles of a civil and democratic society and brings credit to your leadership. For that you have the thanks and gratitude of all of the men and women of the Chicago FBI.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Grant  
Special Agent in Charge

# RECOGNITIONS



# RECOGNITIONS

JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.  
200 SOUTH LAUREL

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MEMBERS:  
LARRY HAINES AND  
FRANK RAYBURN  
FRANK CROUCHER, SUZANNE HANCOCK  
AND MURRAY PRINCE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1102

February 23, 2008

Ms. Sadiya Ahmed  
Governmental Relations Coordinator  
CAIR-CHICAGO  
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1410  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Ms. Ahmed:

I would like to congratulate the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations on its 4th Annual event at the Westin O'Hare in Rosemont, Illinois.

At a time when the American-Muslim community faces countless hurdles, CAIR-Chicago has stood up to effectively defend civil rights while proactively advocating for the respect of our constitutional guarantees. The everyday efforts of CAIR-Chicago should serve as a beacon of hope for all Americans when it comes to preserving the basic rights and liberties that America was founded upon.

Once again, congratulations and please send my best wishes to every person at the event.

Sincerely,

  
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

JLJjr.:PG:pg

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Darryl K. Davis  
F Democrat - Texas

January 17, 2008

Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Chicago Chapter  
28 East Jackson Boulevard - Suite 1410  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Director Rehab:

Thank you for offering this opportunity to greet and welcome attendees at the CAIR-Chicago fourth annual Banquet, Saturday, February 23rd, 2008. Illinois has one of the largest Muslim populations in the United States and I trust that this year's event, like events of the past three years, will be a great success.

The theme of this year's event: *American Muslims: Defining Ourselves* reminds all Americans that we live in a multi-cultural nation and that, in the final analysis, the security and strength of our nation lies in our diversity and our unity and our commitment to these rights and responsibilities set down in our constitution, and reaffirmed and measured over time so as to encompass every American. These are the true core of our democracy and these principles have been reaffirmed at great cost so many times over our history.

I salute CAIR Chicago for their commitment to justice and equality for Muslim Americans ... and all Americans. 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.

Once again, welcome attendees, I am certain you are in for a highly worthwhile conference, and an unique opportunity to network with community members, leaders and activists from every sector of the Muslim American community in the highest tradition of our grassroots based and driven Democracy.

Sincerely,

  
Darryl K. Davis  
Member of Congress

DKD:dc



# RECOGNITIONS



# RECOGNITIONS

CAPITOL OFFICE:  
506 CAPITOL BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62764  
(314) 270-6462  
FAX: (314) 270-4079



DISTRICT OFFICE:  
ONE SPRINGY PAVIL, SUITE 200  
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61710  
(309) 636-4990  
FAX: (309) 636-4991

**Carole A. Pankau**  
STATE SENATOR - 23<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

January 9, 2008

CAIR-CHICAGO  
28 E. Jackson Blvd.  
Suite 1410  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Friends,

I am writing to once again congratulate you on all your successes. We all owe you a debt of gratitude, not just the American-Islamic community in Chicago. Your record of advocating on behalf of local Muslims continues to be truly extraordinary!

Your motto is "Ignorance is the Enemy". Every day your organization upholds this mantra. Whether it be working with other organizations such as JCUA (The Jewish Council on Urban Affairs), or providing employment and volunteering opportunities to the people of Chicago, you provide your community with invaluable resources, and instill a great sense of pride. Through the efforts of organizations such as CAIR-Chicago, the battle against ignorance will not be lost.

I apologize that I am unable attend your 4th Annual Banquet. However, I wish you the best with this event, and I appreciate your invitation. If I can ever be of service, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 630-582-0390.

Sincerely,

  
Carole Pankau  
State Senator - 23<sup>RD</sup> District

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
610 MAPLE ST.  
LEHOCK, IL 60429  
(815) 243-0800  
FAX: (815) 243-0808



CAPITOL OFFICE:  
2000 STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706  
(217) 782-9407  
FAX: (217) 782-7818

**CHRISTINE RADOGNO**  
DEPUTY SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER - 41<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

To My Friends at CAIR

I would like to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)-Chicago on the organization's annual event, celebrating yet another successful year of your commitment to serving the needs of the Chicago Muslim population.

The organization's successful advocacy work continues to affect the lives of thousands of Illinois residents. Your outstanding work on voter outreach programs is commendable.

I encourage the dedicated men and women on the Council of American Islamic Relations to carry on with their commitment to making this state and nation a better place to live. CAIR's ongoing effort to engage Muslim Americans in the political process, while fighting against persecution and injustice, is deserving of the most sincere respect and accolades.

I look forward to working with CAIR to help accomplish their mission and goal.

Sincerely,

  
Christine Radogno  
Senator 41<sup>st</sup> District  
Illinois State Senate

# RECOGNITIONS



# RECOGNITIONS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS

January 3, 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

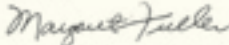
On behalf of the Village of Harwood Heights, I wish to extend warm wishes and greetings to everyone gathered together to celebrate "American Muslims: Defining Ourselves" and to the entire CAIR-Chicago Organization.

It is my sincere pleasure to join you and your colleagues in celebrating Muslims in American civic participation. In protecting constitutional and human rights, CAIR-Chicago promotes tolerance and inspires all of us to form a strong and safe community bond.

Although Harwood Heights is a small town separate from Chicago, I believe that a real community has no borders. We are all friends and neighbors. We are all working for a greater understanding and treatment of each other, for peace and for justice to all. What greater way to define ourselves than to be civic minded and participate in local, state and national government.

My wish to all of you, my friends, is continued progress in all your very important work.

Sincerely,



Margaret Fuller  
Village President  
Village of Harwood Heights

7300 WEST WILSON AVENUE HARWOOD HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS  
TEL: (708) 667-7200



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

GERALD R. BENNETT  
Mayor

January 23, 2008

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab  
Executive Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1410  
Chicago, IL 60604

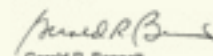
Dear Mr. Rehab,

As Mayor of the City of Palos Hills I send warm greetings to you and all those attending the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago).

Over the past four years, CAIR-Chicago has accomplished an outstanding record of service in educating and communicating the values and cultures of the American Muslim community. Your efforts to engage and become part of the political process, has resulted in greater understanding and recognition by many political leaders in the Metropolitan Chicago area.

As Mayor of my City, with many Arab and Muslim American citizens, and with mayors throughout the metropolitan Chicago area, we look forward to working with you to continue the efforts of embracing diversity in our community.

Sincerely,



Gerald R. Bennett  
Mayor  
City of Palos Hills

GRB/ih

# RECOGNITIONS



# CONTACT

## Address

CAIR-Chicago  
28 East Jackson Blvd, Suite 1410  
Chicago, IL 60604

## Telephone / Facsimile

T: 312 212 1520 | 312 212 1527 | 312 212 1528  
F: 312 212 1530

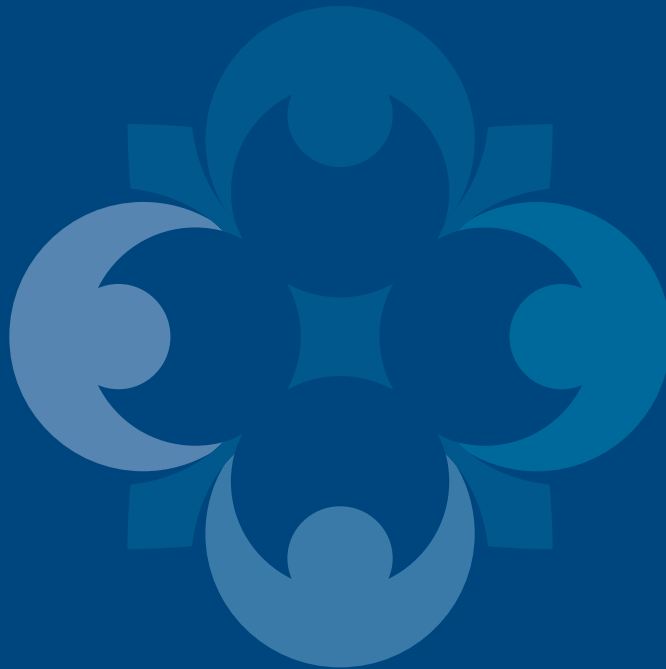
## Website / Emails

[www.cairchicago.org](http://www.cairchicago.org)  
[info@cairchicago.org](mailto:info@cairchicago.org)

Executive Director: [director@cairchicago.org](mailto:director@cairchicago.org)  
Civil Rights: [civilrights@cairchicago.org](mailto:civilrights@cairchicago.org)  
Outreach: [outreach@cairchicago.org](mailto:outreach@cairchicago.org)  
Communications: [communications@cairchicago.org](mailto:communications@cairchicago.org)  
Government Relations: [gov.relations@cairchicago.org](mailto:gov.relations@cairchicago.org)  
Operations: [operations@cairchicago.org](mailto:operations@cairchicago.org)  
Staff Attorney: [attorney@cairchicago.org](mailto:attorney@cairchicago.org)  
Legal Advisor: [legal@cairchicago.org](mailto:legal@cairchicago.org)

Board Chairman: [president@cairchicago.org](mailto:president@cairchicago.org)





**CAIR-CHICAGO**

28 E. Jackson Blvd, Suite 1410, Chicago IL, 60604

t: 312.212.1520 f: 312.212.1530

[info@cairchicago.org](mailto:info@cairchicago.org)

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The Chicago Office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations - Illinois Chapter

[www.cairchicago.org](http://www.cairchicago.org)

[www.cair.com](http://www.cair.com)