



Council on American-Islamic Relations

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Honorable Sue Myrick
U.S. House of Representatives
Fax: (202) 225-1976

Dear Representative Myrick:

I am writing in response to the letter you recently sent to Congressional offices regarding the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). We read the letter keeping in mind the troubling worldview you have previously displayed:

“In remarks about domestic security threats, Rep. Sue Myrick of Charlotte said, ‘Look at who runs all the convenience stores across the country.’” (Charlotte Observer, 2/06/2003)

Revealingly, you have never attempted to communicate with us to learn both sides of the issue that caused you to assert that Congressional offices should deny us our right to meet with them.

In a March 14, 2007 *New York Times* article, Michael Rolince, a retired FBI official who directed counterterrorism in the Washington field office from 2002 to 2005, said, “Of all the groups, there is probably more suspicion about CAIR, but when you ask people for cold hard facts, you get blank stares.”

Additionally, an August 8, 2007 *Newsweek* article reported, "According to one senior law-enforcement official (who asked not to be named talking about an ongoing case), the listing of ISNA, CAIR and other groups as 'unindicted co-conspirators' was largely a tactical move by the government."

Do we defend unpopular issues? Yes. Objective justice is a principle well-established by our faith (the Supreme Court recognizes the Prophet Mohammad as one of history's great lawgivers in a sculpture in its building) and by the U.S. founding fathers.

Before he became president, John Adams acted as legal representation to British soldiers accused of perpetrating the Boston Massacre. This act did not make him popular with his peers; however, we find comfort in the fact that history celebrates him as one of the most important contributors to our nation's founding.

We regret the recent FBI decision to sever some of its ties with us. (FBI officials will still work with CAIR on civil rights issues.) We appreciate the efforts of agents who work closely with us and know us whose attitudes are reflected in the statement: “F.B.I. sources, however, say the new policy has not been uniformly followed since it was put into effect late last summer. They say there is still political resistance to the rule, which has generated complaints from some in the Muslim community.” (WorldNetDaily, 1/30/2009)

We sincerely value the FBI and the work of its agents in preserving the rule of law and our Constitution. When a hate crime is committed against Muslims or their institutions, it is the FBI we turn to for help. We have participated in their press conferences and used our reputation in our community to bring them to town hall meetings and even to speak in mosques.

This relationship between a civil liberties group and law enforcement is unusual. We remember that J. Edgar Hoover, arguably the most powerful leader of the FBI in our nation's history, called Martin Luther King "the most notorious liar in the country." The FBI wiretapped and harassed King and other African-American civil rights leaders of his time.

That only five members of Congress chose to sign your Dear Colleague letter is significant. The names on the letter are also revealing.

In early 2008, Rep. Broun invited David Yerushalmi to speak to congressional staff on Islamic Finance. Even Daniel Pipes, regarded as the nation's leading Islamophobe, is on record distancing himself from Yerushalmi because of the extreme nature of Yerushalmi's views. (*New York Jewish Week*, 8/24/2007)

In February of 2007, Yerushalmi's group, the Society of American's for National Existence (SANE), offered a policy proposal that stated in part: "We need to implement the Separation platform with a Search and Destroy Mission whenever Islam raises its ugly head." SANE has advocated prison terms for "adherence to Islam."

Rep. Pete Hoekstra attached an amendment to the Intelligence Authorization Act that sought to limit the speech of our intelligence agencies. The amendment said, "none of the funds ... appropriated by this Act may be used to prohibit or discourage the use of the words or phrases 'jihadist,' 'jihad,' 'Islamofascism,' 'caliphate,' 'Islamist,' or 'Islamic terrorist' by or within the intelligence community or the Federal Government."

On the House floor, Hoekstra bitterly complained that "the National Counterterrorism Center, and the Department of Homeland Security have issued memos imposing speech codes." The DHS document actually "outlines recommendations," and the NCTC document says its suggestions are "not binding."

The only speech limitation was contained in Hoekstra's amendment.

Mrs. Myrick, these are the times that try men's souls. If enduring these baseless attacks from you is part of God's price for freedom, we embrace them.

Sincerely,

Corey P. Saylor
National Legislative Director