



Case Highlights

CIVIL

ON THIS PAGE

- [Case Highlights](#)
- [From the Civil Rights Desk](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [File a Complaint \(Consultation Request\) Form](#)

RESOURCES

USCIS Handling of Muslim Woman | May 26, 2009

A Muslim woman applied for permanent residency with USCIS. On May 26, 2009, the complainant went to a local USCIS office to have her fingerprints and picture taken. The complainant wears a hijab. The immigration officer assisting the complainant told her to take off her hijab, because she was required to show her ears in her picture. The officer explained that USCIS photos required that the applicants not wear any earrings in their pictures. The officer interpreted this to mean that applicants were required to show their ears and, therefore, the complainant had to take off her hijab. After some discussion about the interpretation, the immigration officer agreed to take the complainant's picture with her hijab, but the indicated that he was not sure if it would be accepted. The complainant has yet to hear back from USCIS regarding her photographs.

Airport Stops | Jun 17, 2009

A Muslim man has been stopped at the airport and checked with security for the past 2 years. After the CAIR Civil Rights Department contacted airport officials, Homeland Security stopped harassing this man. Recently, airport security has been stopping the complainant every time he flies in from a foreign country and asked questions by airport security and his bags are searched.

Islamophobia | Jan 28, 2009

An event organized by the California Coalition for Immigration Reform (CCIR), endorsed speakers such as Jennifer Hammond and Christmas Atanous. This event was titled "Eyewitness Report - The Deadly Threat of Islam to America: With Hearts, Heads and Feet, WE Must Stop Islamism" The event flyer had hate crime rhetoric and a slogan saying don't miss this "one-time opportunity to meet, greet and chat with these exceptionally knowledgeable and dedicated pro-American activists and learn the frightening TRUTH about Islam!"

From the Civil Rights Desk [back to top](#)

American Muslims

In the wake of the FBI agent provocateur incident at the Islamic Center of Irvine and other mosques, a number of community members have wondered whether they should still attend or donate to their mosque, if converts to Islam can be trusted, how to speak about difficult or controversial topics without endangering oneself, or whether it is safe to simply be an active outspoken member of this society.

The chilling effect that the suspect treatment of the American Muslim community in post-911 America has had on Constitutionally-protected activities is a travesty. That the Department of Justice in December 2008 institutionalized this profiling by allowing race and religion to be factors in FBI's opening investigations is further evidence that a lot of work to protect civil liberties is yet to be done.

While the natural response for many people is to shell up and wait for the storm to pass over, the best way to protect our freedoms of religion, of association, and speech when they risk being trampled, is to continue to assert them.

No group should be treated as suspect or threatening because of race, country of origin, or religion. It is important to understand that the freedoms we enjoy today came at a cost and after the sacrifice of groups of consciousness throughout America's history. We also need to understand that when we stand up for our basic freedoms today, we do so not for ourselves but for every American, for generations to come. We now need to move forward from the discourse of simply knowing what our rights are, to asking: Now that we know our rights, what are we going to do to protect them?

For the full article, visit <http://www.infocusnews.net/content/view/35724/1043/>

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FAQs [back to top](#)

[?](#) I think I've been discriminated against, what should I do?

[?](#) How do I know if I've been discriminated against?

[?](#) Will you share information about my case with the public?

[?](#) I have an immigration problem, can CAIR help?

[?](#) I'm used to being treated differently. When should I report something to CAIR?

[?](#) Does CAIR charge for its services?

[?](#) What are my rights as an employee? As a student? As a traveler? With law enforcement?

File a Complaint (Consultation Request) Form [back to top](#)

Please provide the details of your complaint/consultation request by filling out the form below and click submit when finished.

First Name: *

Last Name: *

Phone: *

Email Address: *

What is your question/complaint regarding? Please check all that apply: *

- Immigration
- Hate Speech
- Public Place
- Schools
- Personal/Family
- Employment
- Airport Profiling
- Police/FBI
- Landlord/Tenant
- Other

Please describe your question/complaint: *

Have you contacted an attorney or other organization regarding your problem? If so, who, and when?

Have you contacted CAIR before? If so, why, and when?

How do you hope CAIR can serve you? Please check all that apply: *

- Referral
- Advice
- Legal Representation
- Direct Action
- Meeting
- Reporting Only
- Financial Assistance
- Other

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CAIR is America's largest Islamic civil liberties group. Since its establishment in 1994, CAIR has worked to promote a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America. Your support is critical to CAIR's grassroots work and ongoing community projects. [Donate Online NOW!](#)

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