

Muslims Seek U.S. Media Understanding & Fairness

Muslim organizations in the U.S. have taken a major step toward helping the American media to shed some of its biases toward Islam and Muslims.

The Muslim Coalition for National Media Relations (MCNMR), representing the major Islamic organizations in North America, has held meetings with the senior editorial and management staff of the *Wall Street Journal*, *Time* magazine, *US News & World Report*, and *New York Times* in New York on Sept. 27 and 28, and with the editorial staff of the *Washington Post* on Sept. 29.

MCNMR plans to hold meetings with NBC-TV, and ABC and CBS radio networks, and *Newsweek* magazine.

On Friday, Sept. 29, the group met with the managing editor Bob Kaiser, and other senior editorial staff members of the *Washington Post* in Washington, DC. The Muslim team comprised Maha ElGenaidi, director of the Islamic Network Inc. (INI), Abdulrahman Almoudi, executive director of the American Muslim Council (AMC), Salam al-Marayati, executive director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), Prof. Mir M. Ali, representing ISNA, and Lyla Sein, editor of *AMC Newsletter*.

The purpose of the meeting was to sensitize the American media about the way they were stereotyping their fellow citizen and to offer them open channels of communication with the Muslim community. The Muslim team asked the media to provide them with a "level playing field" in the American media for their reporting on events concerning Muslims in North America and overseas.

In their meeting with the American media, the Muslims asked them to apply one standard in reporting about religions. The media, they said, should realize that the Muslim world and the Muslim communities in the U.S. are not monolithic. They called upon the media

to seek Muslim experts on issues relating to Muslims, and to cover non-crisis events relating to the mainstream of American Muslims, such as holidays and community events.

Muslim Leader Is Target Of Government Intimidation

The federal government's farcical charges against Imam Jamil al-Amin, leader of the National Community and a member of the ISNA Shura' Council, suffered a setback when the alleged accuser, on whose "identification" the imam had been arrested, announced his acceptance of Islam.

Imam Jamil, formerly H. Rap Brown of the American civil rights movement, was arrested on Aug. 7 by a clutch of federal agencies on an allegation that the police described as a 'routine aggravated assault'.

The alleged accuser told the press that he did not identify the imam as his assailant. The alleged victim says that he was coerced into naming Imam Jamil. The arrest of the imam came weeks after the alleged incident.

ISNA was joined by the American Muslim Council (AMC), the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) and the Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR) in asking the Justice Department to investigate the conduct of the federal agencies in the case.

Muslim Leader Hostage To Israeli Interests

Dr. Musa Abu Marzook, 45, a Palestinian Muslim and a member of the political wing of Hamas, a popular party disliked by the Zionist entity for its Islamic orientation, continues to be held hostage in the U.S. at the whims of his Zionist accusers.

Dr. Abu Marzook, who holds a doctoral degree from an American university, was arrested at the New York airport when he returned from an overseas visit. Since 1993, he has been

working to help shape the Hamas' political structure. Toward this end, Dr. Marzook had called for the creation of Islamically-oriented political parties, adoption of the Hamas charter to reflect political realities, formation of a united front with secular organizations, and establishing positive relations with various Arab and Western governments. He has been active in raising funds for educational and social institutions in Occupied Palestine.

The Palestinian scientist, whose family was rendered a refugee when his home was occupied by the Zionists in 1948, and who has lived in the U.S. for 14 years, has been detained by U.S. authorities only on allegations made by the Zionist entity. The extradition proceedings against Dr. Marzook are allegedly based on a "confession" written in Hebrew, a language that the accused does not know.

Dr. Marzook's detention at the behest of a foreign entity seriously compromises the American traditions of free political expression. It also sends a signal to American Muslims that their legal rights can be invalidated at the whims of foreign governments.

Dr. Abu Marzook's wife and children have appealed to the Muslim community to seek his release from illegal confinement. They request that letters should be sent to President Clinton, attorney general Janet Reno, secretary of state Warren Christopher and senators and congress members. A legal defense fund has been set up for Dr. Marzook. Send checks to Marzook Family Fund, Account # 2050000269885, First Union Bank of Virginia, 4260 John Marr Dr., Anandale, VA 22003.

Researcher Seeks Views Of Muslim Women

A researcher at the University of Pennsylvania is pursuing her doctoral research on "The Religious Lives and Ritual Practices of Arab Muslim Women in the U.S."