



Council on American-Islamic Relations

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PERSISTENT AND CONSISTENT CONDEMNATION OF TERRORISM

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has a clear record of consistently and persistently condemning terrorism. Yet American Muslim groups like CAIR get repeatedly asked the question why have Muslims not spoken out against terrorism? The fact is they have, but who is listening? This prompted one media commentator to ask, “Are Muslims condemning terror to the deaf?”

CAIR is an advocacy group and thus takes position on issues of importance to our nation. Sometimes such stances are unpopular, but necessary. For example CAIR spoke out against torture and detainee abuse when majority public opinion was not in favor of our position. We do not expect everyone to agree with all our positions but we, like every other American, ought to have the right to express our views free from any fear of being ostracized, marginalized, smeared or threatened.

All date references in this document are from publicly issued CAIR statements. This document is only illustrative, not exhaustive.

CAIR’s Condemnation of Terrorism Predates 9/11

Here is one example. The section at the end of this document provides additional examples. In 1999, CAIR made the following statements (12/20/1999) in the wake of the arrest of an Algerian man who was allegedly trying to smuggle bomb-making materials into the United States from Canada:

- “American Muslims condemn terrorism in all its forms.”
- “...the possibility that a Muslim could be involved in such an attack in the United States is a cause of distress and apprehension for our community. “
- “It therefore must be clearly stated that any Muslim who plans, attempts or carries out a terrorist attack would be acting outside the boundaries of his or her faith and would be repudiated and condemned by our community.”
- “American Muslims would urge that any such individuals be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.”

Condemnations Supported by Positive Action

- *Sends Delegation to Baghdad to Appeal for the Freedom of a Captured American Journalist* - CAIR sent two of its senior staff to appeal for the release of kidnapped American journalist Jill Carroll (1/18/2006).
- *CAIR Condemns 9/11 Hours After the WTC is hit* - On September 11th, 2001 CAIR issued a statement that read, in part: "American Muslims utterly condemn what are apparently vicious and cowardly acts of terrorism against innocent civilians."
- *CAIR Publishes Full Page Ad in Washington Post* - The above message was published in a full page ad in the Washington Post published on September 16th.
- *CAIR Launches on-line Petition* - In 2004 CAIR's "Not in the Name of Islam" petition declares that the terrorists are, "betraying the values of the faith they claim to represent." By August 2006 nearly 700,000 individuals and organizations endorsed the petition.
- *CAIR Launches Public Service Announcements* - An ad campaign in 2003 and a Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaign launched in 2005 also project this anti-terror message. Over 6.5 million people viewed these messages.
- *CAIR Coordinates Fatwa* - CAIR coordinated a fatwa, or Islamic religious ruling, against terrorism in 2005. The fatwa was issued by the Fiqh Council of North America and endorsed by more than 340 American Muslim organizations, mosques and imams. Among the statements in the fatwa are the following:
 - "Islam strictly condemns religious extremism and the use of violence against innocent lives.
 - Targeting civilians' life and property through suicide bombings or any other method of attack is *haram* - or forbidden - and those who commit these barbaric acts are criminals, not martyrs."
 - It is *haram* (forbidden) for a Muslim to cooperate with any individual or group that is involved in any act of terrorism or violence."
- *CAIR Appeals to Mosque Leaders to Send Anti-Terrorism Messages* - Called on American Muslim religious leaders to dedicate their Friday sermons to "...condemn terrorism and promote peace and interfaith harmony." (6/07/2005)
- *CAIR Helps to Rebuild Church* - CAIR donated \$5,000 for the reconstruction of churches in the Holy Land following violence resulting from comments made by Pope Benedict in Regensburg, Germany (Florida Catholic Newspaper, 10/10/2006).
- *CAIR Takes Principled Stand Against Anti-Semitism* - CAIR has condemned anti-Semitic incidents in Chicago (2/17/2006), Houston (2/24/2005) and Calgary, Canada (8/25/2004). CAIR condemned an Iranian cartoon contest mocking the Holocaust (2/08/2006) and an anti-Semitic article published in a British Columbia Muslim newsletter (1/12/2004) and called on an Arab publication that printed excerpts of the protocols of the Elders of Zion to apologize (11/08/2002)

The Long Record of CAIR's Persistent and Consistent Condemnation of Terrorism and other Forms of Sectarian and Political Violence Includes (*incidents other than those covered above*)

Date	CAIR Condemned...	Date	CAIR Condemned...
1/3/1997	Letter bombs sent to the Al-Hayat offices in DC	5/11/2004	Beheadings in Iraq
8/7/1998	The bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania	6/18/2004	Beheadings in Iraq
8/10/1999	Attacks on a California Jewish Center	6/18/2004	The murder of an American in Saudi Arabia
12/2/2001	Terror attacks in Jerusalem and Haifa	8/1/2004	Terror attacks on an Iraqi church
3/17/2002	Terror attacks on a Pakistani church	9/7/2004	Terror attacks in Russia
3/28/2002	Terror attacks in Netanya	9/21/2004	Beheadings in Iraq
3/28/2002	Terror attacks on Jewish Passover celebrations	10/8/2004	The killing of British hostages in Iraq
7/23/2002	Terror attacks in Gaza	11/17/2004	The killing of British hostages in Iraq
12/30/2002	The slaying of American medical personnel in Yemen	7/7/2005	Terror attacks in Great Britain
3/4/2003	Terror attacks in Phillipines	7/24/2005	Terror attacks in Egypt
5/13/2003	Terror attacks in Riyadh	8/4/2005	Terror attacks in Shfaram
7/5/2003	Terror attacks on a Pakistani Mosque	10/30/2005	Terror attacks in India
10/4/2003	Terror attacks in Haifa	11/9/2005	Terror attacks in Jordan
10/15/2003	An attack on an American diplomatic convoy in Gaza	2/9/2006	Terror attacks on Shia Muslims
11/20/2003	Terror attacks in Istanbul	2/20/2006	Terror attacks on a Nigerian church
3/2/2004	Terror attacks in Spain	4/24/2006	Terror attacks in Egypt
3/2/2004	Terror attacks on Shia Muslims	7/11/2006	Terror attacks in India
3/31/2004	The mutilation of American civilian contractors in Iraq	7/28/2006	Attacks on a Seattle Jewish Center

Conclusions

CAIR's position is clear. Any action that harms innocent civilians is reprehensible. Dialogue and diplomacy ought to be the way to overcome conflicts. Framing the discussion about terrorism in the language of damnation does not bring us any closer to eradicating it.

The way forward is to address the major factors that contribute to terrorism, without justifying it. Several scholarly works suggest that religion (Islam) is not the cause of terrorism. Author of *Dying to Win*, Robert Pape notes, "The central fact is that overwhelmingly suicide-terrorist attacks are not driven by religion as much as they are by a clear strategic objective: to compel modern democracies to withdraw military forces from the territory that the terrorists view as their homeland.... suicide terrorism is mainly a response to foreign occupation and not Islamic fundamentalism."

The unfortunate reality is that the loudest voices, smearing American Muslims and CAIR, lack any clear record of condemning similar atrocities. It is time for people of conscience to repudiate this culture of demonizing minority groups by using the worst forms of stereotype and guilt by association.