



2007/08 ANNUAL REPORT

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OUR MISSION

Understanding of Islam,
Dialogue,
liberties,
American Muslims,
mutual understanding.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2007 / 08 ANNUAL REPORT

About Us	1
Vision Mission Core Values	
A Message from CAIR Leadership	3
Masoud Nassimi : Chairman of the Board, CAIR California	
CAIR California Year in Review	5
Media and Communications Civil Rights Community Development Government Relations	
CAIR California Financial Activity Report	16
CAIR Leadership	19

ABOUT US

OUR VISION

To be a leading
advocate for
Justice and Mutual
Understanding

OUR MISSION

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

OUR TEN CORE VALUES

1. CAIR supports free enterprise, freedom of religion & freedom of expression.
2. CAIR is committed to protecting the civil rights of all Americans, regardless of faith.
3. CAIR supports domestic policies that promote civil rights, diversity & freedom of religion.
4. CAIR opposes domestic policies that limit civil rights, permit racial, ethnic or religious profiling, infringe on due process, or that prevent Muslims and others from participating fully in American civic life.
5. CAIR is a natural ally of groups, religious or secular, that advocate justice & 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 & 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 & worldwide.
10. CAIR supports equal and complementary rights and responsibilities for men & women.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAIR LEADERSHIP



*CAIR-California Chairman at CAIR-Los Angeles' 11th Annual Banquet
in Anaheim, California.*

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, CAIR CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends:

Assalamu Alaikum (peace be to you).

On behalf of the entire CAIR family, I thank you for your continued support. Your support is critical to sustaining our efforts in promoting justice and mutual understanding. Together we have helped in enhancing understanding of Islam, promoting justice, and empowering the American Muslim community.

Another year has passed, but the American Muslim community still is challenged by prejudice, discrimination, hate crimes and Islamophobia by some extremists who seek to divide Americans by sowing fear and hatred of Muslims.

Despite attempts to exclude Muslims from the political landscape, Americans celebrated a historic moment when the first Muslim Congressman Keith Ellison, was elected. A year later, another Muslim Congressman, André Carson, got elected. Our hope is that both of them work together to help American Muslims more fully integrate into our society's fabric and help renew America's promise of justice and equality for everyone.

As we go forward, we pledge to work harder and smarter to fulfill your aspirations to become empowered and enlightened citizens of America. Insha'allah, we hope that you will walk alongside us in the future, just as you did in the past.

We can only accomplish these goals with your continued support and prayers. Please take a moment to read our annual report. If you have any suggestions for improvement or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are proud to serve you throughout our 4 offices in California: Sacramento Valley (SV), San Francisco Bay Area (SFBA), Los Angeles (LA) and San Diego (SD).

SINCERELY,

Masoud Nassimi
Chairman of the Board, CAIR CA

CAIR CA YEAR IN REVIEW

Our annual report is an opportunity to inform the community about our work during the past year. This year, as with preceding years, was eventful for CAIR and the Muslim community in California. This brief report is intended to provide a glimpse into the work and accomplishments of CAIR California during the past year in four major areas of our operation.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

CAIR has continued its proactive work to build solid relations with journalists and editors and be a force in generating positive media content on the American Muslim community. We have also strongly challenged media outlets and individuals who misrepresent or defame Islam and Muslims. In presenting an accurate portrayal of Islam and Muslims to the American public, we regularly provide interviews to television, radio and print outlets, engage in letter- and opinion-writing, and serve as a resource for the media on issues of interest to the American Muslim community.

STRONGLY CHALLENGED MEDIA OUTLETS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO MISREPRESENT OR DEFAME ISLAM

Last year, syndicated talk show host Michael Savage sued CAIR after CAIR posted audio clips from his October 29, 2007, program on its website. In those clips, Savage, whose “Savage Nation” program airs on more than 300 radio stations nationwide, screamed attacks on Muslims, Islam and the Quran. CAIR called on radio listeners of all faiths to contact companies that advertise on the program to express their concerns about the host’s anti-Muslim bigotry. An interfaith and civic coalition, Hate Hurts America, also formed to speak out against hate spewed by Savage. Additionally, Brave New Films launched videos exposing Savage’s bigotry. On response to these multiple campaigns, more than a dozen advertisers dropped Savage’s show. In a ruling issued in August 2008, U.S. District Judge Susan Illston said members of the public are entitled to take excerpts from programs like Savage’s in order to use them for comment and criticism. Judge Illston also dismissed a bizarre racketeering claim against CAIR in Savage’s lawsuit, but allowed for an amended filing by August 15.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS



CAIR-SV held its 5th annual media reception. The event brought together local media professionals with key leaders and activists from the Sacramento Valley Muslim community for the mutual benefit of creating a more accessible network.

- CAIR-CA representatives regularly appear in the media as experts on issues in the Muslim community and foreign affairs. CAIR-SV provides regular commentary and holds a weekly radio show. Plus CAIR-LA representatives conducted some 30 media interviews on Los Angeles Police Department’s ill-conceived ‘mapping’ project, including the USA Today, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, CNN, NBC, O’Reilly Factor, FOX News, KRON and the BBC.
- CAIR-LA also participated in production of a public service announcement for the Western Inland Empire Coalition Against Hate in Riverside.
- CAIR-CA published a number of op-eds in California newspapers.



CAIR-CA helped mobilize Muslim Student Associations (MSA) as a counter response to “Islamofascism Awareness Week.” CAIR-SFBA also published an Islamophobia Guide for Bay Area Universities.

- CAIR-LA produced a documentary on Southern California Muslim community’s visit to Manzanar, a Japanese American internment camp during World War II. The documentary captured Muslim sentiments on the visit and drew parallels between Japanese-American experiences following Pearl Harbor and Muslim American experiences after 9/11 terrorist attacks. Additionally, CAIR-LA conducted a dozen media interviews on Muslims’ visit to Manzanar.

Media and Communications Highlights continue on page 9 ▶

CAIR'S WORK WITH



HELPING FOSTER A
POSITIVE CHANGE IN
HOLLYWOOD'S PORTRAYAL
OF MUSLIMS & ARABS

Located in Hollywood's backyard, the Greater Los Angeles Area office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations has regularly worked with movie studios in the past decade to promote a fair and accurate portrayal of and challenge negative stereotypes about Islam and Muslims on the big screen.

CAIR proactively worked with executives of major production studios such as Fox Entertainment, Warner Bros., Paramount Pictures, Paramount Vantage, DreamWorks, and Overture Films. CAIR also consulted on and screened a number of films and shows, including "A Mighty Heart", "World Trade Center", "Kite-Runner", "The Kingdom", "NYPD Blue", "The Prince of Egypt", "Sum of all Fears", "Three Kings", and "Line of Fire."

RECENT SAMPLES OF CAIR'S WORK

- Late last year, CAIR-Greater Los Angeles Area co-hosted a "Hollywood 101" workshop with Fox Television for aspiring Muslim writers, actors and directors. The event, held at Fox Studios in Century City, was also designed to help foster a positive change in Hollywood's portrayal of Muslims and Arabs and position the Muslim community as a partner in the filmmaking process. Those taking part in the event included students and entry-level professionals hoping to build contacts in the industry and seeking tips on advancing their careers. The workshop was also covered by Al-Jazeera in Arabic.
- This year, CAIR worked with Overture Films to organize a Muslim community screening of the studio's major movie, "Traitor," featuring Don Cheadle and Guy Pearce. The story centers on an American Muslim CIA operative working undercover with a terrorist group who subsequently becomes a terrorist suspect. At the screening, director and co-writer Jeffrey Nachmanoff spoke about the film and addressed questions and concerns from the attendees.
- CAIR additionally contacted Warner Bros. and expressed concerns over the choice of the word "Towelhead" as the film's title. The term has been used as a slur against Muslims, Arabs and Sikhs. Additionally, the use of "Towelhead" in the film's title would inadvertently lead to more acceptance of the term in society, essentially desensitizing people to its vulgarity. To reach out to the community, Warner Bros. agreed to place a statement from CAIR on its film's website. Moreover, director Alan Ball conducted a roundtable interview with CAIR-LA Executive Director Hussam Ayloush and actors Summer Bishil and Peter Macdissi about the use of the title "Towelhead" for the film's web site and DVD.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

- CAIR-CA and civil rights organizations representing broad sectors of communities joined together for a press conference to call attention to bias-related harassment plaguing California's public schools despite state laws instituted seven years ago to protect students.
- CAIR-LA organized a media campaign in which seven California mosques dedicated a khutbah during Ramadan on the values of peace and justice advocated in Islam. The campaign received wide media coverage.

CIVIL RIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS



CAIR-CA conducted sensitivity training for mediators at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to increase the understanding and awareness of religious issues pertaining to American Muslims at the work place.

- CAIR-LA co-hosted a screening and discussion on the documentary "USA vs. Al-Arian." The film shows challenges faced by Dr. Sami Al-Arian's family members as they sought justice for Al-Arian while he fought terrorism charges against him.
- CAIR-CA, along with Southern California and San Diego ACLU branch offices, sent a letter calling on the U.S. Congress to conduct a full and impartial investigation of reports that surveillance records on Muslim communities and mosques in California were illegally obtained and disseminated by a group operating out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. CAIR representatives subsequently conducted media interviews.
- CAIR-CA ensured a Muslim voice in law enforcement and worked with community and religious advisory boards of the FBI, Sheriff's Departments, and other federal and local law enforcement agencies. CAIR-LA along with other Muslim and civil rights organizations strongly opposed Los Angeles Police Department's proposed plan to 'map' Los Angeles Muslims because it would have permitted profiling persons based on what mosques they attended or what internet sites they visited. Due to CAIR's campaign against this ill-conceived plan, LAPD abandoned the project and created a Muslim community forum to reach out to Muslims.
- CAIR-SD also filed a FOIA request with the ACLU San Diego on alleged surveillance of the San Diego Muslim Community.

CAIR CA YEAR IN REVIEW

CIVIL RIGHTS

Each year, CAIR-California continues to document and help resolve cases of discrimination and hate crimes, work that is essential to protecting our Constitutionally-mandated civil rights. Some highlights of this department include the addition of a Staff Attorney to CAIR Greater Los Angeles Area office. Also for the third year in a row, CAIR-CA joined in the annual pilgrimage to Manzanar, a World War II Concentration camp in Central California for people of Japanese Ancestry. The experience of retracing the footsteps of many Japanese and Japanese Americans was moving and heart-wrenching, as the reality of what war-time hysteria can do to

RETRACING THE FOOTSTEPS OF MANY JAPANESE AND JAPANESE AMERICANS WAS MOVING AND HEART-WRENCHING

innocent citizens and immigrants hit all the attendees. All those who participated shared their thoughts about the climate of fear that resulted from consistent hate speech similar to that witnessed today against Islam and Muslims.



CAIR-California at the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage hosted by the Manzanar Committee.

CIVIL RIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

- CAIR-SD co-organized and co-sponsored its first Annual San Diego Hate Crimes Summit with the United for Hate Free San Diego Coalition.
- CAIR-SFBA joined the NAACP on a panel discussion titled “Race Relations and Tolerance” for a Youth Leadership Conference hosted by the NAACP.
- CAIR-LA organized town hall meetings in partnership with Muslim American Homeland Security Congress at various Islamic centers in Southern California featuring Los Angeles County Sheriff Leroy Baca.
- CAIR-CA helped empower the community with civil rights workshops at various Islamic centers and community events throughout California. CAIR-SFBA helped launch intergenerational dialogue on Immigrant Rights.
- CAIR-CA, in conjunction with DHS Civil Rights Office, encouraged people having difficulties at airports to apply for the TRIP (Traveler Redress and Inquiry Program) along with port expedite at LAX.
- CAIR-LA met with LAX airport security officials to discuss new body scanners and issues pertaining to the hijab in secondary inspections at LAX.
- CAIR-CA filed a joint ACLU/CAIR lawsuit to address citizenship delays faced by members of the Muslim community.
- CAIR-SV held its first Community Legal Day in Stockton. The legal clinic helped more than 40 community members with issues ranging from employment discrimination to citizenship delay.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- CAIR-SV and CAIR-LA hosted Comedy Night for Civil Rights.
- CAIR-LA served as member of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California, an umbrella organization that brings together all mosques, Muslims organizations and the community.
- CAIR-SFBA coordinated Ramadan Open House throughout the Bay Area inviting friends and neighbors to learn more about Islam.
- To promote understanding through education, CAIR-SV held two Elderhostel events with over 100 community members attending each program.

CAIR CA YEAR IN REVIEW

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CAIR strives to nurture grassroots activism through innovative strategies to inform Americans about their Muslim neighbors. These strategies include various methods such as workshops, forums, conferences, and interfaith dialogues conducted at various mosques, churches, synagogues, schools, and universities.

In a major milestone for the California Muslim community, CAIR-CA held its fourth Muslim Youth Leadership Program at the State Capitol. The program this year was expanded, by popular demand, to accommodate 35 driven high school students from all over California. The students learned about the political process, the importance of community organizing and how to be effective leaders within their communities. The theme focused on health care and immigration. The four-day conference featured workshops on community organizing and advocacy, public speaking and media activism. The highlight of the conference was the ‘Mock Legislature’ session on the Senate floor, during which participants served as legislators as they debated public policy issues. The students noted that they were moved by the program and that it was a life-changing experience.

STUDENTS... WERE
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PROGRAM AND (SAID)
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EXPERIENCE

Additionally, since polls indicate that education is the key to improving public perceptions of Islam, CAIR has focused much of its work on launching positive educational campaigns that address the growing tide of Islamophobia in our society.

Muslim Youth Leadership Program '08 at the California State Capitol, Sacramento.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...



In an effort to promote volunteerism among Muslim Americans, CAIR-CA re-launched its annual “Muslims Care” campaign. This year’s campaign focused on Breast Cancer Awareness, Community Activism and Youth Empowerment and an AIDS Walk.

- CAIR-SV continues to sit on the Sacramento Library Multicultural Advisory Council.
- CAIR-SV gave the commencement speech at U.C. Davis South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Program graduation ceremony.
- CAIR-SV sponsored the Capitol dinner and OCA Dragon Boat Festival during the year.
- CAIR-CA participated in Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Celebration and several National Day of Prayer events throughout California.
- CAIR-LA participated in the Annual U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops—Muslim/Catholic Dialogue comprised of religious and lay leaders from the Muslim and Catholic faiths.
- CAIR-LA was invited as a guest of His Eminence Cardinal Roger Mahoney to the 25th Anniversary of prestigious Interfaith Leadership Luncheon at the California Club in Los Angeles.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

- CAIR-CA produced constituent letters to all local members of Congress in a three-week period regarding the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and urged them to call for an immediate cease-fire and send a humanitarian aid package.
- CAIR-SV Executive Director Basim Elkarra was elected as member of the Police Chief Selection Committee and CAIR-SV Rep. Najme Minhaj was elected Chair of the Davis Human Relations Commission.
- CAIR-CA participated in the California Interfaith Coalition Lobby Day at the State Capitol.
- CAIR-LA organized the Ed Royce (R-CA) postcard campaign where constituents and community members sent postcards and called his office demanding that he stop linking the faith of Islam to terrorism.
- CAIR-SFBA hosted its 4th Annual Family Summer Picnic to prepare the local Muslim community for the 2008 Elections.

CAIR CA YEAR IN REVIEW

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Meeting and working with state, local and federal officials strengthens the Muslim community’s presence and stature in civic life. CAIR Government Relations Department’s work involves being at the forefront of positive engagement with politicians and lawmakers.

Throughout the year, CAIR-CA has conducted a string of meetings with local congressional representatives, mayors, council members locally and in Washington D.C. to raise awareness about issues that affect American Muslims, including FISA wiretapping, religious accommodation in schools, racial profiling, and the Israeli blockade in Gaza and proposed action plans.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH POLITICIANS AND LAWMAKERS.

With the upcoming 2008 presidential election, CAIR-CA has conducted events to educate the American Muslim community about voting and citizen participation. The training materials provided included reference guides for voter registration, ballot measures, and candidate score cards.

To ensure the Muslim voice is projected, CAIR empowers the Muslim community through action alerts on the issues that affect the community. CAIR further engages the Muslim community in government activism by publishing scorecards and hosting Candidate Forums with local candidates to speak about their goals and platforms.



Edgar Hopida, CAIR San Diego Public Relations Director and Sharaf Mowjood, CAIR Los Angeles Government Relations Coordinator met with representatives and staffers in Washington D.C.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS **HIGHLIGHTS** CONTINUED...



CAIR-LA hosted a youth forum with Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN), the first Muslim elected to Congress, and additionally organized various meetings in which Southern California Muslim leaders met with the Congressman. CAIR-LA also organized the Southern California visit of André Carson, the second Muslim elected to Congress.



CAIR-CA worked on 'Get out the Vote' campaigns, with tabling, having booths, flyering and organizing all around voter registration. CAIR-SFBA Government Subcommittee organized weekly voter registration drives at Bay Area mosques and events, assisting with the registration of over 200 voters. CAIR-LA additionally organized a Candidate Forum, along with other voter empowerment groups, in which elected officials and candidates ranging from local to federal level participated and answered questions from community members. CAIR-CA also made and distributed Presidential Primary Voter Information guides for mosques and community centers throughout the Southland.

- CAIR-CA met with the offices of most California members of Congress regarding the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. CAIR-SV met with the office of Senator Gloria Romero to find ways for the State to provide Halal meat for Muslim inmates. CAIR-SV also met with Representatives of CDCR requesting a resolution to this issue. CDCR has responded favorably and Halal meat will be provided in the near future, CAIR-LA, along with other community members and organizations, organized a tour of Muslim-owned businesses and one mosque with Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-CA).
- CAIR-CA helped launch a Web site, www.cair2008election.com, to keep community members abreast of developments relating to Islam, Muslims and the 2008 Presidential election.
- CAIR- CA helped complete Legislative Fact Sheets on racial and religious profiling, due process issues, opposition to torture, citizenship delays, civil liberties of six Muslim Religious Leaders (The Six Imams), U.S.- Muslim World relations and ending hunger.

CAIR CA FINANCIAL ACTIVITY REPORT

CAIR CA FINANCIAL ACTIVITY REPORT

The following statement of activities is for the fiscal year of 2008 for CAIR Chapters in San Francisco, San Diego, Greater Los Angeles Area and the Sacramento Valley.

OPERATING FUNDS COME FROM THREE MAIN SOURCES

1. UNRESTRICTED INCOME

Unrestricted income refers to funds which are donated for no specific purpose other than to support CAIR.

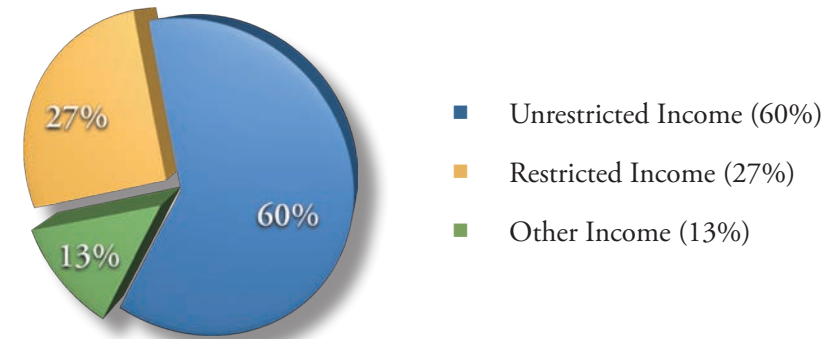
2. RESTRICTED INCOME

Restricted income refers to funds which are donated to CAIR for a specific purpose, usually specified by the donor.

3. OTHER INCOME

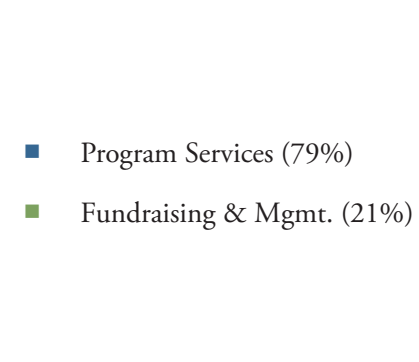
OPERATING FUNDS

\$1,519,814



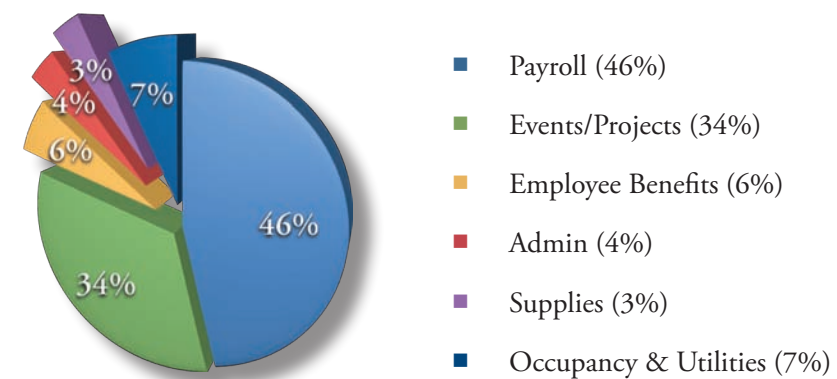
EXPENSES

\$1,451,263



+ \$68,551

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



CAIR CA LEADERSHIP

CAIR CALIFORNIA BOARD

- Masoud Nassimi (Chair)
- Omar Hassaine (Vice Chair)
- Yousef Marmosh (Treasurer)
- Hussam Ayloush (Secretary)
- Khaldoun Abugharbieh (Member)
- Omar Ahmed (Member)
- Fouad Khatib (Member)
- Fawad Yacoob (Member)
- Rashid Ahmad (Advisor)

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Khaldoun Abugharbieh (President)
- Omar Ahmad
- Fouad Khatib
- Razi Mohiuddin
- Athar Siddiquee
- Safaa Ibrahim
- Shafath Syed

OFFICE STAFF

- Saqib Zuberi (Director of Programs and Outreach)
- Agnes Chong (Civil Rights and Public Relations Coordinator)
- Marukh Hasan (Government and Civil Rights Coordinator)
- Sana Rydhan (Administrative and Outreach Coordinator)

SACRAMENTO VALLEY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Yousef Marmosh (President)
- Tamer Ahmed
- Hamza El-Nakhal
- Shabbir Khan
- Imran H. Khan
- Najme Minhaj
- Wazhma Mojadiddi

OFFICE STAFF

- Basim Elkarra (Executive Director)

SAN DIEGO AREA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Omar Hassaine (President)
- Ahsen Ahmed
- Shaykh Sharif Battikhi
- Dr. Wael Delaimy
- Hani Eltamas
- Owais Siddiqui
- Ayaz Usman

OFFICE STAFF

- Edgar Hopida (Public Relations Director)
- Homayra Yusufi (Administrative and Membership Coordinator)

GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Fawad Yacoob (President)
- Dr. Ashraf Ibrahim (VP)
- Dr. Mohammad Abdel
- Asem Abusir
- Tahara Akmal
- Imran Dadabhoy
- Omar Jubran
- Yasir Kahf
- Masoud Nassimi
- Dr. Ahmed Soboh

OFFICE STAFF

- Hussam Ayloush (Executive Director)
- Alia Aboul-Nasr (Programs Manager)
- Sherrel Johnson (Assistant to Director and Community Relations Manager)
- Anbar Mahar (Membership and Administrative Manager)
- Sharaf Mowjood (Government Relations Coordinator)
- Ameena Mirza Qazi (Staff Attorney)
- Affad Shaikh (Civil Rights Coordinator)
- Arefa Simjee (Project Coordinator)
- Munira Syeda (Communications Coordinator)

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US

cont

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act us

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