

AMPLIFYING ADVOCACY, DEFENDING DIGNITY



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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FROM THE CHAIR

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

As in past years, 2023 brought a set of unique challenges for the Muslim community and, no doubt, for CAIR California (CAIR-CA). For our offices, last year was dominated by three themes:



- A historic number of Afghan refugees arriving in California
- The genocide in Gaza
- Rampant Islamophobia

Thanks to CAIR-CA’s extensive history, structured approach, and involvement in communities across California, our offices were well-equipped and prepared to support our constituents.

Our report this year includes a special section entitled “Palestine Will Be Free,” which outlines our Palestinian advocacy and outreach. As Zionists spread lies about the genocide in the media and attack the rights of Americans who speak up for Palestine, I am grateful for the work of our teams across California as they actively defend freedom of speech, conduct targeted trainings and education sessions, and speak the truth about the genocide in the media.

The Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. said, “The greatest sacred struggle (jihad) is to speak the truth in front of a tyrannical ruler.”

This report is a testament to our goal to live up to this great struggle:

- Ensuring an elderly paralyzed widow received her citizenship
- Advocating for a community college to pass a resolution following a professor’s Islamophobic rant
- Securing the safe return of a family trapped in Gaza

And the list goes on. All of this is possible thanks to the support of our Creator and your generosity. We appreciate your role in our success.

Yours in haqq,

Musaab Attaras | Chair of the Board, CAIR-CA

Our History

Our Vision

Our Legacy

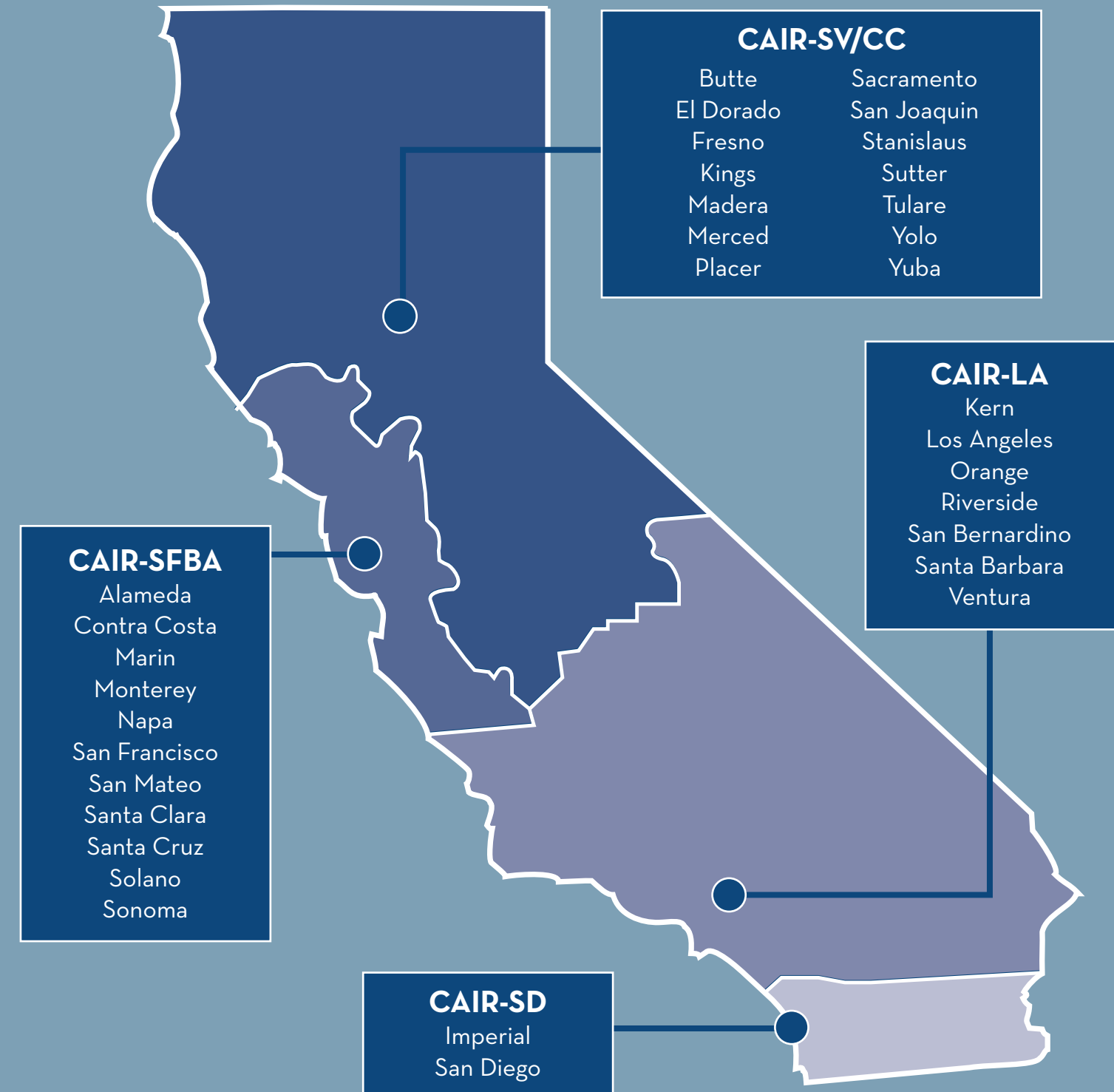


MISSION, VISION, AND LAY OF THE LAND

OVERVIEW

CAIR-CA REPRESENTS 32 COUNTIES ACROSS THE STATE

CAIR-CA's vision is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding. We achieve this goal by actively pursuing our mission to enhance the understanding of Islam, protect civil liberties, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.





OUR IMPACT IN 2023

BY THE STATS

WE WERE THERE FOR YOU

756

Civil Rights
Intakes

2,133

Immigration
Intakes

926

Community
Outreach

271

Educational
Workshops

267

Media
Interviews

322

Government
Meetings



WINNING FOR LIBERTY

CIVIL RIGHTS

CIVIL RIGHTS INTAKES



TOTAL: 756

POLICY CHANGE AFTER MUSLIM WOMAN REQUIRED TO REMOVE HIJAB IN JAIL

After a young Muslim woman was required to remove her hijab during a custody stay at the Santa Clara County Main Jail—the second such incident in two years—CAIR-CA and the Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office reached a settlement to ensure such violations of religious freedom do not recur. The settlement included financial compensation of \$90,000 and, crucially, the establishment of a new policy that mandates that individuals in custody, including during the booking process, are allowed to retain their head coverings or are provided with suitable alternatives. For situations where removal is necessary for safety reasons, such as pat-downs or mental health evaluations, the policy stipulates that it must occur in a private setting or away from men.



NEW COLLEGE DISTRICT RESOLUTION AFTER PROFESSOR’S ISLAMOPHOBIC COMMENTS

CAIR-CA and the Rancho Santiago Community College District Board of Trustees passed a joint resolution, ‘Recognizing Muslim Religious Observances and the Muslim Community,’ in a public meeting on Monday, July 17, 2023.

The joint resolution was introduced in response to an Islamophobic incident at Santa Ana College (SAC) two years prior when SAC Adjunct Professor Jamie McDonough was recorded making Islamophobic statements during an Introduction to Psychology lecture. Her statements degraded Muslim women and characterized Muslim men as barbaric and misogynistic, perpetuating harmful anti-Muslim stereotypes and biases.

“WHEREAS, academia has witnessed the advancement of knowledge by the Muslim community in various subjects such as mathematics, medicine, astronomy, architecture, art, among many more. The Muslim experience in the U.S. demonstrates the numerous intersectional identities that this community possesses.”

Resolution 23-13, Rancho Santiago Community College District Board of Trustees

CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST NEWLY ARRIVED AFGHAN TEENAGER SHOT BY THE POLICE

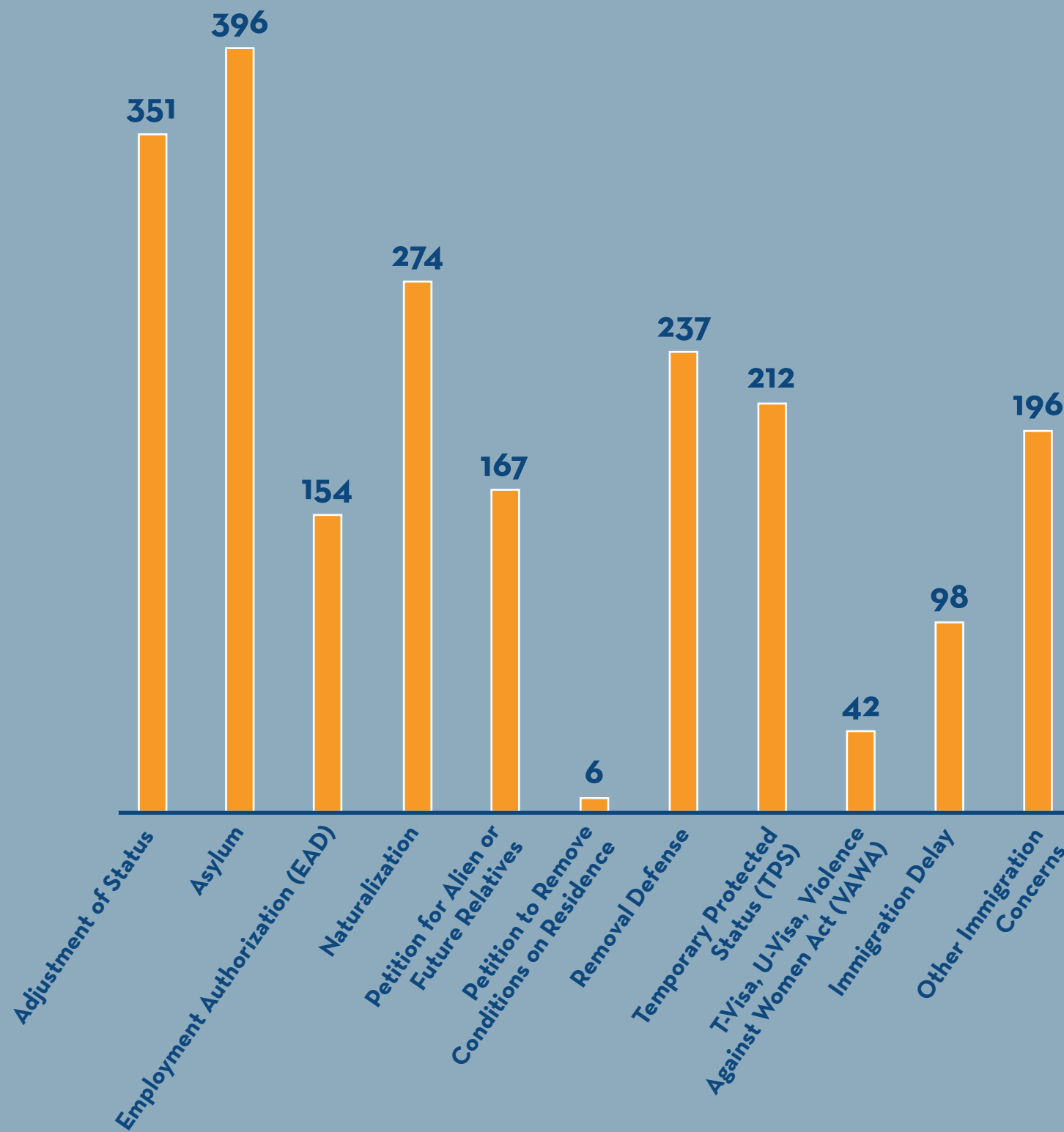
In January 2023, a newly arrived teenage boy from Afghanistan was shot by a police officer in Central California. The police had been called by a neighbor, who saw the boy pursuing his brother while holding a knife. Both boys were in traditional Afghan clothing. When the police officer arrived, he instructed the boy to drop the knife. He did not understand him, so he did not comply. The boy was shot twice and badly injured, requiring two surgeries. While recovering from surgery, CAIR-CA learned that the boy was being criminally charged and retained expert counsel for him. The boy is doing well, and his case was dismissed with the charges against him completely dropped.



FREEDOM FOR OPPORTUNITY

IMMIGRATION

IMMIGRATION INTAKES



TOTAL: 2,133

AFGHAN ROBOTICS TEAM AND FAMILY GRANTED ASYLUM

In 2017, the Afghan Robotics Team made headlines when the United States twice denied its members visas needed to compete in the country. Then-President Donald Trump stepped in, and they were able to participate.

After the fall of the Afghan government in 2021, three of the original members of the team, Fatemah, Lida, and Kawsar, fled to Ireland with the help of a nonprofit organization to escape the chaos, fighting, and danger to their lives in their country. Their parents and family remained behind in Afghanistan. They were terrified for their families' safety due to the risks associated with supporting the girls' activities in the Robotics Team and their ambitions in STEM education and careers.

Fortunately, their families were evacuated by the U.S. military and given humanitarian parole to enter the U.S., where most of them settled in Southern California.

Humanitarian Parole status is a temporary status that does not lead to permanent residency, so the nonprofit organization that helped evacuate the girls to Ireland contacted CAIR-CA for assistance with their parents' and siblings' asylum applications. CAIR-CA's immigration team helped their families in Southern California apply for asylum by completing and submitting their applications, preparing them for the interview process, and representing them during their asylum interviews. They also directly represented Kawsar and Fatemah's mothers and mentored and provided guidance to the attorneys at O'Melveny & Myers law firm, who were the pro bono attorneys for Lida's mom and brother. In addition, CAIR-CA represented their adult sisters and brothers in their asylum applications. Although it was a long and complex process to navigate the asylum process, all family members have been granted asylum.

“It was rewarding to help the Robotics Team's family with their asylum applications because these are the cases that fuel our passion for public interest law.”

Amina Fields Esq., Immigrants' Rights Senior Managing Attorney



CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT VICTORY FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

CAIR-CA celebrated a significant victory with the successful settlement of a class action lawsuit involving Afghan asylees against the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This landmark case, *Ahmed et al v. Department of Homeland Security et al*, began in the wake of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 and the subsequent rise of the Taliban. The U.S.-initiated Operation Allies Welcome promised to process asylum applications within 150 days. However, two years later, thousands of asylees, including CAIR-CA client and lawsuit plaintiff Mursal Sadat, were left in limbo, still awaiting decisions on their applications. For two years, as Mursal awaited asylum approval, she was unable to visit her ill parents and siblings who had escaped to Pakistan.

The successful settlement, reached between the U.S. government and attorneys from Kirkland & Ellis and the National Immigrant Justice Center, mandates timely processing of these applications.

“ I am pleased that this settlement will enable Mursal and the thousands of others who have sought refuge in the U.S. to reunite with their families and to begin rebuilding their lives with more certainty and stability.”

CAIR-SFBA Managing Attorney Brittney Rezaei

CITIZENSHIP FOR AN 85-YEAR-OLD WIDOW

CAIR-CA successfully assisted an 85-year-old Kenyan national of Pakistani descent in obtaining U.S. citizenship. A widow since the 1990s, she suffered a stroke 20 years ago, leaving her left side paralyzed and reliant on a wheelchair. At her first naturalization interview, USCIS made this wheelchair-bound client wait nearly three hours past her scheduled interview time and did not allow for accurate interpretation. Instead, the USCIS officer rejected her medical waiver for the English and civics portions of the naturalization interview, ignoring her diagnosed and visible cognitive and physical disabilities. Despite being flustered and scared, she passed the English portion of the exam on the spot, sufficiently reading, writing, and speaking in English. During her second naturalization interview, a new USCIS officer immediately accepted the medical waiver and granted her U.S. citizenship.

AN ELDERLY TUNISIAN MAN STAYS IN AMERICA

CAIR-CA defended an elderly Tunisian community member in a deportation defense case. He had been waiting for a case resolution for many years and was later placed in removal proceedings as the USCIS did not approve his removal condition. Thanks to the work of the team, his case was dismissed, and he was able to stay in his new home in San Diego.

ASYLUM WIN AGAINST THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR A YEMENI FAMILY

A lifelong member of the Yemeni military was nominated by his army in 2013 to study counter-terrorism at a prestigious U.S. military graduate school. During his studies, the situation in Yemen deteriorated drastically when the Houthis overthrew the government, placing him in direct conflict with the new regime due to his military background, family's political ties, and academic work in the U.S. Consequently, for his and his family's safety, he filed for asylum in 2014.

His journey to asylum was challenging, and he faced immigration court and removal proceedings. This is when CAIR-CA stepped in to represent him. It took three years before his case was heard in court. Ultimately, he and his family were granted asylum, a decision initially contested by the Department of Homeland Security, but eventually conceded.





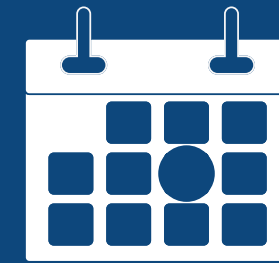
ADVANCING OUR ENGAGEMENT

LEGISLATIVE WORK & IMPACT

THREE LEGISLATIVE WINS



Those who are incarcerated now have the right to religious clothing, headwear, and grooming with the enactment of SB 309.



K-12 students now have a full day of excused absence time per semester for religious reasons with AB 1503.



State employees now have allotted time off to celebrate religious and cultural holidays, such as Eid, Diwali, and Vaisakhi, with SB 461.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CAPITOL IFTAR

CAIR-CA, along with Speaker of the Assembly, Assembly member Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood), hosted the 17th Annual Capitol Ramadan Iftar in Sacramento on April 10, 2023.

Approximately 150 California lawmakers, leaders, and advocates within the Muslim community attended the event, including Muslim lawmaker Bill Essayli (R-Riverside), who made history in the November 2022 elections as the first American Muslim to be elected to the California Assembly.

A SUCCESSFUL MUSLIM DAY AT THE CAPITOL

CAIR-CA celebrated its 12th Annual Muslim Day at the Capitol with over 400 participants attending meetings with nearly 100 elected officials, including Attorney General Bonta and Governor Newsom. Attendees engaged in meaningful dialogue with the officials on issues affecting our communities, building support for key legislative priorities.

These priorities included three CAIR-CA-sponsored bills, SB 309, SB 461, and AB 1503, which passed the State Assembly and were signed into law by Governor Newsom, marking a significant victory for our community.

RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN MUSLIM APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS MONTH

CAIR-CA and partners successfully lobbied to have the State Assembly in Sacramento, plus several cities throughout California, formally recognize August as American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month.

These cities—spanning from the Greater Los Angeles Area (including Corona, Orange County, Fullerton, Irvine, and Yorba Linda), to San Diego County (covering San Diego, Vista, and San Marcos), to the Sacramento Valley and Central California region (Sacramento, Folsom, Tracy, and State Center Community College District), as well as the Bay Area (including Albany, Dublin, Fremont, Milpitas, Pleasanton, and Santa Clara)—issued proclamations acknowledging American Muslims' invaluable achievements and contributions to these communities. Additionally, Anaheim declared July to be Muslim-American Heritage Month, further celebrating the rich diversity and heritage of the Muslim community.

“By recognizing Muslim American Appreciation Month, Orange County is not only celebrating our past achievements but also paving the way for a future of continued collaboration and progress.”

CAIR-LA Policy Manager Basha Jamil





PALESTINE WILL BE FREE

PALESTINE ACTION & ADVOCACY

TAKING PROACTIVE MEASURES FOR PALESTINIAN-RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

In today's digital age, where advocacy and activism have increasingly shifted to online platforms, Palestinian-rights activists faced heightened risks of doxxing after October 7. This malicious practice, which involves the unauthorized disclosure of personal information online, took on particularly alarming forms against activists, who found their pictures displayed on doxxing trucks and websites such as Canary Mission, where they were unjustly labeled as antisemites and subjected to campaigns urging employers not to hire them.

Recognizing the urgency of these threats, CAIR-CA responded by organizing a webinar focused on anti-doxxing strategies and social media safety tailored to the unique challenges these activists face.

The webinar, attended by more than 1,500 people, was led by security experts from Equality Labs, who provided detailed guidance on how attendees could protect their digital presence on platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn. The instruction offered comprehensive strategies for enhancing online security, emphasizing account and device security, how to minimize potential damage, and ways to stay safe without deleting social media accounts.

BASIM ELKARRA SPEAKS UP FOR PALESTINE IN A MEDIA TOUR

CAIR-SV/CC Executive Director Basim Elkarra has dedicated himself to speaking out about the hardships faced by Palestinians. He has conducted over 50 media interviews on CNN, ABC, FOX, CBS, NBC, and others.

In an interview with NPR, Basim shared his thoughts on the immense suffering and devastation experienced by Palestinians in Gaza, “This is the worst catastrophe for Palestinians since the Nakba in 1948.”

He emphasized the loss of innocent lives, noting “the death toll of nearly 8,000 children.” He stressed the urgent need for humanitarian aid and called for a ceasefire to end the violence. Additionally, Basim stressed the importance of speaking out against the injustices faced by Palestinians, and highlighted, “...this is the first genocide that’s televised on social media.”

Basim also underscored the need for accountability, stating, “Our elected officials... have the moral obligation to speak out because this is being done in our name; this is being done with our bombs and our taxpayer dollars.” He urged for solidarity and support to address the humanitarian crisis and work toward justice, peace, and reconciliation.



KAOUD FAMILY MEMBERS RETURN HOME AFTER BEING STRANDED IN GAZA

Despite being American citizens, six brothers in the Kaoud family faced extreme hardship in their attempts to leave Gaza. The U.S. State Department’s assistance fell short, leaving them trapped in the middle of Israel’s violent and ongoing assault on Gaza.

On October 26, CAIR-CA held a press conference where Jamal Kaoud’s daughters Shamiss and Dooneya and Esam Kaoud’s daughter Helal shared their families’ struggle to get their fathers back home and voiced their deep frustration and anger after the State Department failed to help or give them answers. After weeks of uncertainty and tireless advocacy—including a lawsuit filed by Project ANAR on behalf of three of the Kaoud men—all six of the men were able to leave Gaza safely. CAIR-CA’s advocacy efforts were instrumental in helping the Kaoud brothers return home.

VIGIL FOR WADEA AL-FAYOUME AND ALL VICTIMS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA AND WAR

CAIR-CA, along with the Islamic Society of Orange County, Project Islamic H.O.P.E, and the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California, held a vigil for Wadea Al-Fayoume, the six-year-old Palestinian-American boy killed in a hate-fueled attack, and all victims of Islamophobia and the war in Gaza.

“It is a trust upon us to protect every child. No child deserves to feel insecure or threatened. Every child is precious. Every child deserves protection. Whether they are Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Palestinian, Israeli, American, White, or Black—every child deserves that protection,” said CAIR-LA Executive Director Hussam Ayloush.





NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CITIES LEAD WITH CEASEFIRE RESOLUTIONS

On October 24, 2023, Richmond became the first city in the nation to adopt a “Ceasefire Now” resolution in response to the war in Gaza. This historic action set a precedent, inspiring Oakland, San Francisco, and other cities around the state and country to pass similar resolutions. The adoption of the resolutions marked a pivotal moment in local and national politics, demonstrating the power of grassroots mobilization in addressing international crises.

“While some may question the value of local governments weighing in on international conflicts, resolutions like these communicate very strongly that ‘We see you. We care about this also.’ It is also an important way for communities and local legislators to articulate that U.S. funding should be focused in the U.S. We don’t have money for schools or homes but are sending billions of dollars to Israel.”

CAIR-SFBA Executive Director Zahra Billoo

CAIR-CA was instrumental in guiding and supporting the adoption of the Oakland and San Francisco resolutions. Through informational sessions and ongoing advocacy, it provided valuable resources and knowledge to both community and council members. This collaborative approach was key in framing resolutions that were informed, balanced, and focused on the urgent need for a ceasefire and peaceful resolution in Gaza.

These three resolutions sparked a movement in California. In fact, after the Richmond, Oakland and San Francisco resolutions were adopted, several other cities including Yurok Tribe, Folsom, Davis, Hollister, Long Beach, and Cudahy adopted similar resolutions in 2023.

PROTECTION FOR A PALESTINIAN STUDENT FROM UNFAIR REPERCUSSIONS

CAIR-CA assisted Jana Abulaban, who was graduating from El Camino College (ECC). She was a model student and served as the Associated Students Organization President and on two hiring committees. Because of her commitment to her school community, academics, and activism, she was selected by ECC’s Commencement Committee to speak during her school’s graduation ceremony. During her speech, she dedicated her graduation to all “Palestinians who have lost their lives and those who continue to lose their lives every day due to the oppressive apartheid state of Israel killing and torturing Palestinians as we speak.” Jana was wrongly attacked on social media and various national publications.

Instead of defending her from these attacks, ECC issued a public statement that gave into the false and hateful campaign against Jana. CAIR-CA advocated on her behalf to inform the school of the harm its actions caused and to ensure that there were no retaliatory actions taken against her. She was able to finish her post-graduation tasks and presentation.



CAIR-CA ENGAGES THE COMMUNITY VIA PALESTINE OUTREACH

CAIR-CA engaged the community around several impactful events and educational opportunities. These included:

- Palestine & Advocacy for youth at the Orange Crescent School
- Palestine & Youth Advocacy program at the Islamic Society of Corona Norco
- Activism for Palestine for youth at Minaret Academy Middle School
- Palestine Advocacy Webinar 101
- Day of Learning: History & Experiences of Palestinians for Santa Ana Unified School District Staff
- Palestine Teach-In at the Islamic Society of Orange County



REPRESENTING MUSLIMS IN THE PRESS

MEDIA WORK

CAIR-CA EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS SPEAK UP FOR PALESTINE IN THE MEDIA



NBC - The Rise of Islamophobia on School Campuses

CAIR-SFBA Executive Director Zahra Billoo spoke with NBC about the rise in Islamophobia across grade school and college campuses. She emphasized the degree and extreme nature of anti-Palestinian and anti-protestor activities that were resulting in the unfair targeting of students. Most notably, she corrected the newscaster as he attempted to push an Israel narrative of the events on October 7. She reiterates the use of the word “occupation,” and clearly communicated that there was a leadup of what the world saw on October 7.

NBC - The Rise of Anti-Muslim Bigotry, Hate Incidents

In the shadow of rampant reports of antisemitism, CAIR-CA CEO Hussam Ayloush discussed the under-reporting of anti-Muslim bias, bigotry, and harassment across America. He drew attention to the 65% of students surveyed in CAIR-CA’s 2023 School Bullying Report who have experienced Islamophobia on their campuses. He noted that these incidents are often unreported. He also clarified the meaning of “From the River to the Sea” and “Free Palestine” as statements of freedom and the end of apartheid.

Spectrum News - The Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine

CAIR-CA CEO Hussam Ayloush discussed the humanitarian crisis in Palestine. He discussed America’s role in the crisis, the unfair collective punishment of civilians by Israel, the harm to Palestinian civilians before October 7, and the misuse of our tax dollars by Israel. He clearly denied the validity of Israel’s false claims of beheaded babies and reiterated that the fault of the crisis lies with Israel’s occupation of Palestine.



CAIR-CA LAUNCHES THE 'GAZA MEDIA GROUP'

CAIR-CA spearheaded an initiative, with the support of Palestinians in the Bay Area, to establish the Gaza Media Group. This collective aims to provide local media with authentic firsthand accounts from individuals directly impacted by the war.

The group consists of Palestinian Americans who share a deeply personal connection to Gaza, with many members having suffered tragic losses of family. For some, this was as many as 100 extended family members, highlighting the profound personal toll of the conflict.

CAIR-CA's involvement in organizing this group underscores its commitment to ensuring that the voices and narratives of the Palestinian people are heard. "Our goal is to amplify the stories often missing from mainstream media," said CAIR-SFBA Executive Director Zahra Billoo. "These are the voices of people whose lives have been upended by the war in Gaza."

“Our goal is to amplify the stories often missing from mainstream media.”

CAIR-SFBA Executive Director Zahra Billoo





MUSLIM YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM STUDENTS GO TO THE CAPITOL

CAIR-CA hosted 45 high school students during its 17th annual Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP) at the State Capitol in Sacramento.

MYLP is our flagship, four-day, intensive retreat in Sacramento designed to introduce American Muslim high school students to the areas of media, law, and government—avenues that shape public opinion and public policy.

Students from across the state participated in workshops on community organizing, leadership development, and social justice—and took part in a mock legislative session on the State Capitol Assembly floor.

We are so proud of the newest MYLP graduates and cannot wait to see their continued growth in the future.

“ The MYLP program used our shared iman and experiences to unveil a beautiful bond between us, one that I’m still shocked was developed in such a short time. I was reminded of truths about our community that have been tragically ignored: our ability to trust each other, regardless of background and differences, and our obligation to build up one another as leaders.”

Yusuf Perwez

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

YOUTH IMPACT



ENGAGING THE YOUTH: MUSLIM GAME CHANGERS NETWORK

CAIR-CA held the Muslim Game Changers Network (MGN) program, now in its 10th year. MGN is a 10-week innovative program designed to empower young Muslims by equipping them with the skills and knowledge to become effective leaders and advocates in their communities, with a focus on civic engagement, social justice, and community organizing. Throughout the program, students engaged in workshops, interactive sessions, and hands-on projects to prepare them to be effective changemakers while providing them the opportunity to create deep connections with like-minded Muslim students. CAIR-CA graduated over 108 MGN students in 2023—that’s 108 students empowered to drive change in their communities across California.

One student shared, “My experience at MGN was fantastic. I had the chance to meet new people and had some great interactions that I still look back on. Also, I was able to connect to others from the Muslim community and learn more about the kinds of things we Muslims go through. Being a Muslim student in America, this experience has shown me how to take care of myself and how to deal with certain things that I may come across, such as being bullied or harassed in any way, shape, or form.”



LEARNING OUR OWN IMMIGRANT STORIES

CAIR-CA organized an Intergenerational Storytelling Workshop at the Mingei International Museum. This event provided a platform for immigrant families to share their stories and allowed first-generation youth to discuss their experiences of living in the U.S. By hosting the workshop at the museum, the event emphasized the importance of cultural interconnectivity. This and other efforts reinforce the Muslim identity of our future leaders.



ADDRESSING ANTI-BLACK BIAS IN THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

For Black History Month, CAIR-CA held discussions on Black history and discrimination on multiple high school campuses, addressing the various biases existing within Muslim communities. The students were alarmed to learn about their own bias and the racism that exists against the Black community. The students also explored institutional racism and the disadvantages that the Black community often faces.

LIFE LESSONS THROUGH SOCCER

CAIR-CA had the privilege of working with an exceptional group of youth through a partnership with Masjid Annur, Al-Misbaah, and other community organizations. Together, they organized a soccer tournament that highlighted the skills and commitment of these youth, as well as those from the surrounding area. Despite suffering a narrow defeat, a few months later the team secured the league title. This turnaround underscored the invaluable lessons that can emerge from setbacks. Predominantly comprised of Afghan refugees, this group exemplified unwavering passion and resilience—an embodiment of overcoming challenges and achieving success.



CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

OUTREACH

CAIR-CA FACILITATES ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE AFFAIRS

CAIR-CA, along with 22 other immigrant and refugee-serving organizations, welcomed the unanimous vote to establish an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA) by the Orange County Board of Supervisors. The motion addresses the withdrawal of the United States military from Afghanistan and the need to support Afghan arrivals in Orange County. OIRA helps these and other immigrant and refugee communities within the county obtain legal and county services in coordination with local nonprofits.





CAIR-CA FURTHER STRENGTHENS ITS TIES TO THE COMMUNITY VIA MASAJID OUTREACH

Throughout 2023, CAIR-CA staff visited over 60 Bay Area masjid (mosques) during Friday prayers—more than triple last year’s number—from as far north as Santa Rosa and as far south as Monterey (170 mile radius). Some mosques received up to eight visits and many up to five. Community Engagement Coordinator Sami Rehman, who holds degrees in Islamic Law and Theology and Classical Islamic Text, was invited by mosque leaders to give the Friday khutba (sermon) at 24 of the visited mosques throughout the year.

The outreach program is more than just a series of visits—it’s an opportunity to connect, listen, and respond to the needs and concerns of the Muslim community in the Bay Area. Each visit provides an opportunity for CAIR-CA to engage in meaningful dialogue and to educate the community about its civil rights, immigration, and advocacy programs.

CAIR-CA EDUCATES MORE THAN 500 NEWLY ARRIVED AFGHANS

The CAIR-CA Afghan Refugee School Impact (ARSI) project educated 500 newly arrived Afghans about their rights and responsibilities, as well as the opportunities available to them through our Afghan Family & Youth Engagement Programs. CAIR-CA hosted numerous sessions to listen and learn about the concerns and needs of these individuals and provided many presentations to help them successfully begin their lives in the United States. As a result, some of the Afghans we served opened new businesses in San Diego and enrolled in community colleges. Additionally, CAIR-CA helped several newly arrived Afghans become advocates for their community by encouraging them to attend and play an active role in CAIR-CA’s Muslim Day at the Capitol in 2023, where they effectively advocated for their fellow Afghans and other Muslims across the United States.

ARSI/Afghan Youth Mentoring Program

CAIR-CA partnered with the University of California San Diego and California Department of Social Services to sub-contract over \$3,000,000 to organizations across the state that serve school-age Afghan children who moved to California after July 2021. Several dozen partner organizations, including Islamic Circle of North America, Support Lives, Maristan, and many others, came together to serve hundreds of families that benefited from the grant.

CAIR-CA RESPONDS TO THE NEEDS OF REFUGEES WITH GRANTS AND CRITICAL SUPPORT

Throughout the past year, CAIR-CA provided crucial support to Afghan refugees resettling in the Sacramento Valley and Central California area, a region that welcomed the largest number of refugees in the latest wave of immigration. By engaging with the Afghan community early in the resettlement process, CAIR-CA gained vital insights into their immediate needs and leveraged this information to successfully advocate for the community with local elected officials, securing grants and support from the County and City of Sacramento, Tracy, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova. This support not only focused on the needs of the Muslim community but also fostered meaningful relationships with elected officials across the region.





BALANCE SHEET

Total Assets	\$22,045,717
Total Liabilities	
Current liabilities	\$4,080,190
Temporarily restricted	\$1,394,061
Total Equity	\$17,862,142
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$22,045,71

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues	
Contributions and grants	\$13,941,427
Special events, net of expenses	\$1,962,280
Dividends and interest	\$57,825
Other income*	\$1,045,722
Total Revenues	\$17,007,254

OPERATIONAL REVENUES

Greater Los Angeles Area	\$6,228,426
Sacramento Valley/Central California	\$3,246,206
San Diego	\$668,078
San Francisco Bay Area	\$3,428,775
California	\$3,435,769
Total Revenues	\$17,007,254

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Program services	\$12,116,361
Management	\$1,150,055
Fundraising	\$1,041,778
Total Expenses	\$14,308,194

PROGRAM EXPENSES (EXCLUDES INDIRECT EXPENSES)*

Civil Rights	\$109,736
Government	\$86,969
Immigrants' Rights	\$1,443,892
Media	\$1,447
Outreach/Education	\$524,860
Youth Leadership	\$2,121,270
Total Expenses	\$4,288,174

CAIR-CA has established reserves and an endowment to ensure the organization's long-term financial sustainability. A portion of the 2023 net income has been applied toward these financial vehicles.

*Excludes indirect costs, such as facility and personnel-related expenses.

Note: The selected financial data were derived from CAIR-CA's financial records. Audit and tax reports are available upon request.

FINANCIAL REPORT

OUR CAIR-CA TEAM

CAIR CALIFORNIA

Board of Directors

Musaab Attaras | Chair
Haitham Abul-Haija | Vice Chair
Fawad Shaiq | Secretary
Rania Elbanna | Treasurer
Hussam Ayloush, M.B.A. | Chief Executive Officer
Amira Yousef
Asaad Traina, M.D.
Eyas Abdeen
Fahria Khan
Hafsa Kaka
Hebatullah Taha, PharmD, M.B.A
Iftikhar Wahla
Ihab Badr
Khydeeya Alam Javid
Mustanir Makhdoom
Michelle Lee

Staff

Hussam Ayloush, M.B.A. | Chief Executive Officer
Cecilia Peralta, M.B.A. | Chief Operating Officer
Arefa Simjee | Operations & Programs Manager
Bayanne Kanawati | Center for Prevention of Hate & Bullying Program Manager
Christa Monros | Administrative & Finance Coordinator
Jacqueline Ramirez | Finance Manager
Leena Sabagh | Justice Reinvestment, Associate Manager
Nargis Kher | Human Resources Manager

CAIR GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA

Governance Board

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Saman Qadri | Community Canvasser
Sarah Babar | Special Projects Fellow

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

CAIR-CA is a mainstay in our community. Our work impacts the ways Muslims live, work, and worship. Please support us!

DONATE

When you donate to CAIR-CA, you can specify how your donation is allocated to our services.

All financial contributions to CAIR-CA are tax deductible (EIN: 77-0411194) and zakat eligible.

There are several ways you can contribute:

- Make an online donation at: ca.cair.com/ways-to-give.
- Become a recurring, monthly donor by visiting: ca.cair.com/ways-to-give.
- Double your donations with your employer's matching program.
- Donate cryptocurrency and stocks.
- Include CAIR-CA in your estate planning.
- Host a fundraising event with your family and friends.

GET INVOLVED

We need your help! There are so many meaningful ways to get involved with CAIR-CA's work:

- Participate in our internship and law clerkship programs: ca.cair.com/interns-law-clerks.
- Volunteer at your local CAIR-CA office: ca.cair.com/volunteer.
- Follow your local office on social media.
- Sign up for local newsletters.
- Attend workshops and seminars.

*Most importantly,
please keep our
staff and volunteers
in your prayers.*





Thank You For Your Support

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