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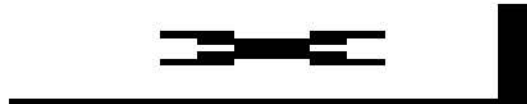
**To:** "Community Engagement </O=DHS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=Communityengagement>"

**Subject:** Civil Rights Groups Concerned About Minneapolis CVE Pilot Program | Video: CAIR Works with FBI on Threat to Chicago Mosque

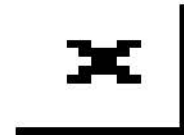
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- • \* **Video:** [CAIR Works with FBI on Threat to Chicago Mosque](#)
- • • \* **Video:** [CAIR-Chicago Says Threats Triggered Security Alert for Local Mosques](#)
- • • \* **Video:** [Following Threats, CAIR-Chicago Calls for Stepped-Up Security at Local Mosques](#)
- • • \* **Video:** [CAIR-Chicago Issues Community Alert After Threats to Mosque](#)
- • • \* **CAIR-Chicago:** [Threats Target Bridgeview Mosque](#) (Southtown Star)
- • • \* **CAIR-Chicago:** [Authorities Investigate Threats Against Mosque](#) (Sun-Times)
- • • \* **CAIR-Chicago:** [Threats investigated against Mosque](#) (Arab Daily News)
- • • \* **CAIR-Chicago:** [Authorities Investigating Threats Against Mosque](#) (AP)
- • • \* **CAIR-Chicago:** [Authorities Investigate Online Threats Against Mosque](#)
- • • \* **CAIR-MI:** [Woman Sues Dearborn Heights After Police Forced Her to Remove Hijab After Arrest](#) (Detroit News)



**CAIR-Michigan** met with Dearborn Heights and Dearborn officials last year about pursuing policies that would accommodate head coverings during bookings,

**executive director Dawud Walid** said. "We're always open to meet with those two police departments again as well as in the local area to assist them in implementing policies that are religious-friendly," he said. He pointed out that since hijabs have been allowed in some military IDs, passport photos and state driver's licenses, "wearing a head covering during a booking photo doesn't impede in identification purposes."

- • \* **'American Sniper'** Prompts Threats to Arabs, Muslims (Detroit Free Press)
- • \* **CAIR:** Panelists Discuss Charlie Hebdo Attack and Freedom of Speech

Thursday's discussion was sponsored by the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy. Other panelists were **Nihad Awad, the executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations**, James Le Sueur, a professor at the University of Nebraska and Radwan Masmoudi, the founding president of the CSID.

- • • \* **Video:** CAIR Director Nihad Awad at D.C. Press Club Panel on Understanding the Root Causes of Radicalization

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **CAIR-MN: Civil Rights Groups Concerned About Minneapolis CVE Pilot Program**

Advocates question whether program is a front for domestic intelligence gathering

(**MINNEAPOLIS, MN, 1/23/15**) -- The Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MN) today joined with other civil rights organizations in expressing concerns that the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) pilot program, soon to be launched in Minneapolis, raises serious civil liberties issues.

CAIR-MN, along with groups like the **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)** and the **Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law**, say the CVE program may further stigmatize and marginalize the Muslim community by treating all of its members as suspects and by holding an entire community responsible for the actions of others.

**[MEDIA ADVISORY:** On Friday, January 30, CAIR-MN and the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law will hold a community educational event on CVE, "Understanding Minnesota's 'Countering Violent Extremism' Pilot Program: The Dangers of Reliance on a Debunked Theory of Terrorism." Speakers will include the Brennan Center's Michael German, David Schanzer of the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security, CAIR-MN Executive Director Jaylani Hussein, and others. It will take place at 6 p.m. at Safari Restaurant and Event Center, 3010 4th Ave S, Minneapolis, Minn. **Contact:** CAIR-MN Executive Director Jaylani Hussein, 612-206-3360, Cell: 612-406-0070; [jhussein@cair.com](mailto:jhussein@cair.com)]

"We welcome any tangible effort to educate and empower youth to make the right decisions and promote safety, but it needs to be a community-based, grassroots effort free of intelligence gathering disguised as community outreach," said **CAIR-MN Executive Director Jaylani Hussein**.

Hussein said constitutional rights are the cornerstone of our society and must not be

suspended for any Americans. He said CAIR-MN unequivocally condemns terrorism and terrorist organizations: "Any action that harms innocent civilians is reprehensible and deserves condemnation. CAIR-MN condemns terrorism whenever it happens, wherever it happens and whoever commits it."

### **Backgrounder:**

U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota Andrew Luger is leading the effort to implement the controversial CVE program in Minneapolis. He has not addressed civil liberties concerns about CVE or resolved current law enforcement abuses under his supervision, including FBI informants in mosques, surveillance of the Muslim community, FBI harassment in homes and workplaces, and profiling of Muslims at the airport.

A new article by Glenn Greenwald's *The Intercept* considers whether CVE is really a front for domestic intelligence gathering. It states: "[Civil liberties advocates] believe that blurring the line between engagement and intelligence gathering could end up with the monitoring of innocent individuals. If past programs in this area are any guide, those concerns are well founded."

The article also states: "Documents obtained by attorneys at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, and shared with the 'Intercept,' show that previous community outreach efforts in Minnesota--launched in 2009 in response to the threat of young Americans joining the al-Qaeda-linked militia al-Shabab, in Somalia--were, in fact, conceived to gather intelligence."

**SEE:** [Spies Among Us: How Community Outreach Programs to Muslims Blur Lines between Outreach and Intelligence](#)

**SEE ALSO: White House** [Announces CVE Program: Is it Pretext for Spying on Muslims? Terrorist or ... Teenager?](#) [Justice Department's CVE Program Ripe for Abuse](#)  
**L.A. Groups** [Criticize White House Program on Homegrown Extremism](#)

Civil rights advocates cite concerns with the FBI's active involvement in the Minneapolis CVE. The FBI has previously used outreach as a way to gain access and intelligence in the Muslim community.

**SEE:** [CAIR-MN Asks FBI to Stop Recruitment of Informants in Mosques](#)  
**FOIA Documents** [Show FBI Illegally Collecting Intelligence Under Guise of "Community Outreach"](#)  
**FBI FOIA Docs** [Show Use of "Mosque Outreach" for Illegal Intel Gathering](#)  
**Is the FBI's Community Outreach Program a Trojan Horse?**

The ACLU also raised civil rights concerns about the new CVE pilot program. In a coalition letter signed by 27 national civil rights groups, the ACLU discussed the following concerns:

- • \* Serious Impact on Religious Exercise and Political Expression
- • \* Improper Characterization of American Muslims as a Suspect Community
- • \* CVE's Relationship to Abusive Counterterrorism Practices
- • \* CVE Funding of Private Organizations and Individuals

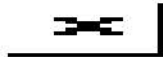
**SEE:** [Coalition Letter to Obama Administration on Countering Violent Extremism \(CVE\) Program](#)

CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

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