

**Department of Justice First Freedom Project**

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## Summary

The Department of Justice's "First Freedom" project on religious liberty <http://www.firstfreedom.gov>, starting next week with a public meeting in Kansas City [http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/religdisc/seminar\\_flyer.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/religdisc/seminar_flyer.htm), Missouri, may be monopolized by Islamist organizations. Other seminars will be held in Tampa, Florida, April 25, 2007 and Seattle, Washington, May 10, 2007. If members of other religions attend these DOJ meetings, a more balanced view can be presented. Criticism of other religions should not be criminalized, including criticism of Islam or the Koran.

Meetings between the DOJ and Islamist advocacy groups that may have led to the [www.firstfreedom.gov](http://www.firstfreedom.gov) initiative are summarized here:  
[http://www.amperspective.com/html/muslim\\_leaders\\_meet\\_gonzales.html](http://www.amperspective.com/html/muslim_leaders_meet_gonzales.html)

As conservative writer Janet Levy has noted, "Muslim leaders such as Salam Al-Marayati, executive director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, insist that Muslims have a right to petition for special accommodation based on their religious beliefs as mandated by the First Amendment. In truth, no requirement exists, either in state or federal statutes, requiring that such petitions be addressed or behavior adjusted accordingly." <http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=25874>

Below we provide background information:

1. A congratulatory email notice from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), stating that the DOJ's First Freedom Project "is designed to provide additional enforcement tools for laws against religious discrimination and hate crimes."
2. The press release on the First Freedom Project, as provided from the ADC
3. A similar email notice from the Muslim Public Affairs Council on the First Freedom Project
4. Related Legislation: Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007 (LLEHCPA), just introduced March 21  
[http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/printer-friendly.asp?ARTICLE\\_ID=54535](http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/printer-friendly.asp?ARTICLE_ID=54535)  
(text not available online on 3/22/07 )
5. Related Legislation: The "Domestic Radicalization" Amendment to the Improving America's Security by Implementing Unfinished Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007
6. A partial list of Kansas City events, including the March 7, 2007 charges against a Columbia, Missouri charity designated as a supporter of terrorism
7. A list of Islamic organizations in Kansas City, ranging from local chapters of national Islamist advocacy groups, to local mosques, schools and foundations that may be moderate

## **1. ADC email on First Freedom Program from DOJ**

ADC Welcomes Recent Outreach Initiatives

by Attorney General Gonzales

Date: Wed, 28 Feb 2007 12:40:01 -0500  
From: "media@adc.org" <adcupdates-  
service@adc.biglist.com  
To: [redacted]

ADC Press Release:

ADC Welcomes Recent Outreach Initiatives by Attorney General Gonzales

Washington, DC | February 28, 2007 | Today, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), welcomed several new outreach initiatives made by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and the US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division in recent weeks.

ADC appreciates recent comments made by the Attorney General to a meeting of US Attorneys in South Carolina. Gonzales told the US Attorneys, "As U.S. Attorneys, upholding civil liberties is utterly central to your work. As leaders in your communities, talking about how we as a government achieve the balance between individual rights and national security is a matter of civic responsibility." The Attorney General continued, "You also have a duty to show your colleagues and your districts that we are not engaged in a struggle against a faith or religion. On the contrary, we very much need the partnership of the Muslim community. Discouraging radicalism is vital, and that cannot be done effectively without Muslim community leadership. So seek it out in your districts. We believe in religious freedom for everyone. The Department of Justice is committed to protect these rights, and in doing so, I think we promote trust and provide an alternative way to that of radicalization."

Additionally, in a recent interview with the conservative Christian Broadcasting Network News, Gonzales said, "It's something we worry about, naturally, when people see images on the television screen that these are the enemies of America, they may naturally assume anyone who looks like these people, or have the same religious belief - that, in fact, they constitute enemies of the United States. And that's just not true."

**Moreover, ADC welcomes the launch of The First Freedom Project. This project, announced last week by Attorney General Gonzales, is designed to provide additional enforcement tools for laws against religious discrimination and hate crimes. Part of this new initiative includes a series of regional training seminars for religious, civil rights and community leaders, attorneys, government officials, and others interested in religious liberty issues. The first seminars will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, on March 29, followed by others scheduled for Tampa, Florida and**

Seattle, Washington. For more information see <http://www.firstfreedom.gov>

## **2. PRESS RELEASE FROM US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION**

As provided in email from ADC

US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Announces The First Freedom Project

On Tuesday, Attorney General Gonzales announced a new Department of Justice initiative, The First Freedom Project, to strengthen enforcement of laws against religious discrimination and hate crimes, and other laws protecting religious freedom. He also unveiled a new website about the initiative, [www.firstfreedom.gov](http://www.firstfreedom.gov).

In conjunction with announcing the initiative, the Attorney General released a Report on Enforcement of Laws Protecting Religious Liberty. The report details the efforts of the Department of Justice over the past six years to increase enforcement of laws protecting religious freedom. An electronic version of the report is available on at [www.firstfreedom.gov](http://www.firstfreedom.gov). For hard copies, please write to [FirstFreedom@USDOJ.gov](mailto:FirstFreedom@USDOJ.gov).

As the Attorney General said in his introduction to the report, from 2001 to 2006 the Department achieved "a dramatic rise in the number of cases brought to protect the religious rights of all Americans in category after category." "But this," the Attorney General stated, "should be only the beginning. Preserving religious liberty requires an ongoing commitment to protecting this most basic freedom for people of all faiths."

To ensure that religious freedom rights are protected, the First Freedom Project encompasses a variety of measures to ensure vigorous enforcement of these laws, and educate members of the public about their rights.

The initiative includes:

- A commitment to increased enforcement in all areas of the Department's jurisdiction.
- Creation of a Department-wide Religious Freedom Task Force, chaired by Assistant Attorney General Wan Kim, to review Department policies, practices and litigation to ensure that religious liberty is protected.
- A series of regional training seminars for religious and community leaders, government officials, and attorneys to learn about religious freedom laws from senior Department of Justice officials. The first seminars are slated for Kansas City, Missouri on March 29, Tampa, Florida on April 25, Seattle Washington on May 10, with more to come throughout 2007. An information sheet about the seminars is attached.
- The launch of our new website, [www.firstfreedom.gov](http://www.firstfreedom.gov) to provide information and literature about all of the Department's activities in this area.

For more information about the First Freedom Project, contact the Special Counsel for Religious Discrimination, Eric W. Treene, at (202) 353-8622 or send an email to [FirstFreedom@usdoj.gov](mailto:FirstFreedom@usdoj.gov).

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American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee | [www.adc.org](http://www.adc.org)  
1732 Wisconsin Ave., NW | Washington, DC | 20007  
Tel: 202-244-2990 | Fax: 202-244-7968 | E-mail: [media@adc.org](mailto:media@adc.org)

### **3. MPAC on First Freedom Project :**

<http://www.mpac.org/article.php?id=480>

“MPAC also welcomes the launch of The First Freedom Project, a new initiative by the U.S. Department of Justice to protect the religious freedom of all Americans. This project, announced last week by Attorney General Gonzales, is designed to provide additional enforcement tools for laws against religious discrimination and hate crimes. This new initiative will create a Department-wide Task Force on Religious Liberty, chaired by the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division, to review DOJ policies impacting religious liberty, coordinate religious liberty cases, and improve outreach to stakeholder communities. It also includes a series of regional training seminars for religious, civil rights and community leaders, attorneys, government officials, and others interested in religious liberty issues.

For more information about The First Freedom Project, visit [firstfreedom.gov](http://firstfreedom.gov).”

### **4. Related Legislation:Hate Crimes Bill HR 1592**

"ADC Legal Department"

<legal@adc.org>

Subject: ADC Legal Updates: ADC Supports Bill to Combat  
Hate Crimes, HR 1592  
Date: Wed, 21 Mar 2007 14:35:01 -0400  
To: [redacted]

ADC Press Release:  
ADC Supports Bill to Combat Hate Crimes, HR 1592

Washington DC | March 21, 2007 | The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) welcomes today's introduction of H.R. 1592, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007 (LLEHCPA) in the House of Representatives. This bill, commonly referred to as, “the hate crimes bill,” was introduced by Judiciary Chairman John Conyers and already has 137 cosponsors. The Senate will soon introduce an identical bill.

LLEHCPA would provide increased protection for all Americans, including Arab-Americans, from being the victims of hate crimes. Arab-Americans have experienced a

surge in hate crimes directed against them over the past several years. Immediately following the September 11 terrorist attacks, the FBI documented a 1,600 percent increase in hate crimes against those perceived to be Muslim or Arab and a 130 percent increase in incidents directed at individuals on the basis of ethnicity or national origin. On a daily basis ADC continues to be contacted by members of the community seeking support following hate crime incidents. ADC is part of a coalition of over 200 civil rights, faith-based, disability, and labor organizations supporting the hate crimes bill. The bill has also received strong support from national law enforcement organizations.

LLEHCPA will provide assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies to combat hate crimes and amend federal law to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of violent, bias-motivated crimes. While states would continue to play the primary role in prosecuting bias-motivated violence, the hate crimes bill would allow the federal government to address those cases in which local authorities are either unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute.

ADC calls upon Congress to send the message to all Americans that the federal government and law enforcement officials are committed to protecting all citizens from hate crimes by swiftly passing H.R. 1592, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

ADC Action Alert

<http://capwiz.com/adc/issues/alert/?alertid=9476061&type=CO>

ADC Letter of Support for Hate Crimes Bill [www.adc.org/PDF/LLEHCPA.pdf](http://www.adc.org/PDF/LLEHCPA.pdf)

United Against Hate Website-More Resources [www.civilrights.org/issues/hate/](http://www.civilrights.org/issues/hate/)

List of Organizations Supporting LLEHCPA [www.civilrights.org/assets/pdfs/LLEEA-Coalition-Endorsement-Fact-Sheet.pdf](http://www.civilrights.org/assets/pdfs/LLEEA-Coalition-Endorsement-Fact-Sheet.pdf)

## ***5. Related Legislation: Domestic Radicalization Amendment***

From: "MPACnews" <news@mpac.org>

Subject: 'Domestic Radicalization' Amendment Passed by Senate Homeland Security Committee

Date: Fri, 23 Feb 2007 08:39:19 -0600

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### **'DOMESTIC RADICALIZATION' AMENDMENT PASSED BY SENATE HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

(Washington, DC - 2/23/07) -- Last week, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs approved legislation to implement unfulfilled recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Included in the bill was an amendment expressing the "Sense of the Senate" regarding combating "domestic radicalization".

Entitled "the Improving America's Security by Implementing Unfinished Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007", the amendment to the legislation underscores the need for enhanced engagement with the American Muslims by public officials and federal and local agencies. The Muslim Public Affairs Council welcomes the Committee's recognition that engagement is a far more powerful tool in countering radicalization than mere enforcement.

SEE: ["Homeland Security Committee Approves Lieberman, Collins Legislation to Implement 9/11 Recommendations"](#) (Senate Homeland Security Committee, 2/15/07)

Written by Congressman George Voinovich (R-OH), the amendment advocates for "advocates for consulting with experts to ensure that the lexicon used within public statements is precise and appropriate and does not aid encourage extremists by unintentionally offending the American Muslim community" and "pursuing broader avenues of dialogue with the Muslim community to foster mutual respect, understanding and trust". MPAC has advocated for such direct engagement between federal agencies, public officials and the American Muslim community since long before 9/11.

Authored by Chairman Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and Ranking Member Susan Collins (R-ME), the legislation also includes provisions to increase risk-based homeland security grants to states, improve communications among first responders, restrict terrorists' ability to enter the United States, and improve information sharing - all the while preserving the civil liberties and freedoms of American citizens.

[CONTACT: Edina Lekovic, 213-383-3443, [communications@mpac.org](mailto:communications@mpac.org)]

## ***6. Past Events involving Local Kansas City, MO Islamic Groups or Individuals***

**1. 1995 or before:** Steve Emerson's documentary, "Jihad in America," shows radical Muslims meeting in Kansas City (presumably in 1995 or before) - <http://www.newsmax.com/archives/articles/2000/11/6/170946.shtml>

**2. June 2002: Interfaith prayer meeting:**

[http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=4361405&BRD=1425&PAG=461&dept\\_id=154733&rfti=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=4361405&BRD=1425&PAG=461&dept_id=154733&rfti=6)

**3. April 2003: Report on Akhtar Chaudhry** being appointed as Chief Administrative Officer of Jackson County, MO - <http://nation.com.pk/special/us-com/page30.htm> and <http://www.dawn.com/2003/04/28/nat21.htm> (Former President of American Muslim Council, Heartland chapter) – see

<http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/groupProfile.asp?grpId=6146>

**4. October 12, 2004** – Kansas City, Missouri - FBI officials meet with Muslim leaders who ask if the interviews could be set up in advance and whether the interviews could be done after Ramadan. Several area residents question whether the interviews are intended to scare Muslims from the voting booth. The Kansas City Star, 10/12/04.

<http://www.bordc.org/threats/cair-octreport.pdf>

**5. October 2004: Past criticism of FBI agents: 2004 -**

<http://www.aclu.org/safefree/general/18702prs20041012.html>

**6. March, 2007: Columbia MO charity charged**

<http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/16855803.htm>

Islamic American Relief Agency-USA, (IARA) a defunct Columbia, Missouri charity and five officers and associates have been charged in a 33-count federal indictment unsealed in Kansas City, with illegally sending more than \$1.4 million to Iraq while Saddam Hussein was in power. IARA was designated a supporter of terrorism in 2004.

**7. Kansas City, Missouri Islamic Organizations**

**1. Muslim American Society, Missouri Chapter**

**Kansas City Chapter**

9520 James A. Reed Road, Suite G

Kansas City, MO 64134

Phone: 816-765-4627

Email: [amjad@masnet.org](mailto:amjad@masnet.org)

Mahdi Bray of the MAS Freedom Foundation also stated they have a youth center in KC (<http://www.aifdemocracy.org/media-focus.php?id=1694> )

**2. The Islamic School of Greater Kansas City**

10007 James A Reed Rd

Kansas City, MO 64134, USA

Phone: 816-763-0322

URL: [www.isgkc.net](http://www.isgkc.net)

**3. Islamic Society of Greater Kansas City**

<http://www.isgkc.org/>

**8501 E 99th St.**

**Kansas City, MO 64134**

**Office Phone: (816) 763-2267**

**Office Fax: (816) 763-6468**

**Office Manager: Mustafa M. Hussain**

**4. Islamic Ctr Of Greater K. C.**

Islamic Ctr Of Greater K. C.

Po Box 410891,

Kansas City, MO 64141, USA

**5. Masjid Ahmed (local mosque)**

Masjid Ahmed

5501 Cleveland Ave,

Kansas City, MO 64130, USA



**MS House**

5501 Charlotte St,  
Kansas City, MO 64110, USA

Phone: (816) 235-2976

Email: hasans@umkc.edu

URL: <http://www.umkc.edu/studo/msa>

Managed by the MSA of Greater Kansas City; caters to religious need of Muslim students attending the Univ. of MO-Kansas City (UMKC) and other higher education institutions in the metropolitan Kansas City area. All five daily prayers offered at Masjid.

**6. Masjid Omar (local mosque)**

2700E 49 STREET,  
Kansas City, MO 64130, USA  
816 924-5683

**Islamic Information Center**

2700E 49 STREET  
Kansas City, MO 64130, USA  
816-924-2244

**7. Ansar Foundation**

PO BOX 240554,  
Kansas City, MO 64127, USA  
816-231-2990

**8. Deir Debwan Assoc**

201 Jones St,  
Kansas City, MO 64102, USA

**9. Islamic Women's Society**

P.O. Box 287894,  
Kansas City, MO 64128, USA  
Phone: (816) 763-8725  
Fax: (816) 965-7420

Email: Beardella@worldnet.att.net

General Information: 501 (c)(3)Non-profit organization. Our mission is to make know the true meaning of Al-Islam to seek Allah's pleasure. To est. a sisterhood of Women. To offer its members a source and forum for info. in regards to Islam. Emphasis is dedicated to our youth. Pleasing Allah through uniting our brothers and sisters in Al-Islam. Special emphasis to our young mumin, in developing them in to positive citizens for tomorrow following the Quran and Sunnah.

Activities 1: 1:00p-3:00p: Sat.,meeting,weekly

General Activities: Annual conference - in its 2nd year. Annual summer program - in its 3rd year. Eid celebrations, field trips, bazaars and fundraiser. Inshallah We are seeking networking with other muslim groups and businesses.

**10. MSA - University of Missouri - Kansas City**

131 U Center, 5100 Rockhill Rd,

Kansas City, MO 64110, USA

Phone: 816-255-5385

Email: amsafi@gmail.com

URL: <http://www.umkc.edu/studo/msa>

Managed by the MSA of Greater Kansas City; caters to religious need of Muslim students attending the Univ. of MO-Kansas City (UMKC) and other higher education institutions in the metropolitan Kansas City area.

**11. MSA-Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences**

1750 Independence Ave,

Kansas City, MO 64106, USA

Phone: 816-283 2000

**12. ISLAMIC SCHOOL OF KANSAS CITY**

10515 Grandview Rd

Kansas City, MO 64137, USA

Phone: 816-965-0186

Fax: 816-767-0110

Email: [iskc89@hotmail.com](mailto:iskc89@hotmail.com)

URL: [www.iskc.org](http://www.iskc.org)

**The Center for Islamic Education in N. America**

10510 Grandview Road,

Kansas City, MO 64137, USA

Phone: 816-965-5555

**Universal Foundation**

10510 Grandview Road,

Kansas City, MO 64137, USA

Fax: 816 966 6220

Email: [ciena2001@hotmail.com](mailto:ciena2001@hotmail.com)

Islamic school

**14. Center for Religious Experience and Study - <http://www.cres.org/>**

Hosts the Kansas City Interfaith Council: <http://www.cres.org/oldifc/ref9910.htm>

Speakers for Islam include:

COUNCIL MEMBER: A Rauf Mir, MD, 12613 Sagamore, SMKS 66209, 913.345.8317,

[araufmir@yahoo.com](mailto:araufmir@yahoo.com)

COUNCIL ALTERNATE: Rushdy El-Ghussein, [rushdyel@aol.com](mailto:rushdyel@aol.com)

**SPEAKERS:**

A Rauf Mir, MD, above; Expertise: General topic of Islam; Availability: evenings

Shaheen Ahmed, MD, founder, **Crescent Peace Society**, Box 27023, SMKS 66225; 913.756.2651, 913.346.6190

Rushdy El-Ghussein, 6309 NE Walbash Dr, KCMO 64118; 816.452.7029; Expertise: General Topic of Islam; Availability: evenings

Ahmed El-Sherif, founder, **American Muslim Council, Heartland Chapter**; shifa@juno.com, Box 6092, SMKS 66206

Abdul Rahman Raja, DO, 5212 W 128, SMKS 66209; 913.681.5135; Expertise: General topic of Islam; Availability: evenings.

Syed Eqbal Hasan, PhD, 14302 W 72 St, SMKS 66216; 913.631.6927, shasan@cctr.umkc.edu; Expertise: General topic of Islam, Islam and the Environment, Muslim Contribution to Science (the latter two topics are illustrated with color slides); Availability: days and evenings

Bilal Muhammed, Imam of **Masjid Inshirah**, 3664 Troost, Box 300167, KCMO 64130; 816.763.7455, [alinshirah@aol.com](mailto:alinshirah@aol.com)

Mahnaz Shabbir, **Heartland Muslim Council**, president; **Crescent Peace Society**, vice president; Cres, Board Member, Mahnaz@shabbiradvisors.com, 816.213.2536, www.americanmuslimwoman.com, www.communitypeace.com, [www.shabbiradvisors.com](http://www.shabbiradvisors.com)

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