

**Submission to
The United States Commission on Civil Rights**

**Testimony of Dr. James J. Zogby
OCTOBER 12, 2001**

**With an Appendix
Selected Hate-Based Incidents
September 11 – October 10, 2001**

A Report of the Arab American Institute Foundation ?

In the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon (even before it became clear that the perpetrators were from Arab countries), Arab Americans found themselves the targets of incidents of hate and bias. It was something that we had come to expect. For a number of decades now, Arab Americans have experienced similar “backlashes”.

During the Iranian hostage crisis, for example, despite the fact that Iranians are not Arabs, Arab Americans were targeted. The same was true in the days following the terrorist bombing in Oklahoma City and the tragic explosion of TWA flight 800.

Part of the reason why Arab Americans have come to be scapegoated in times of crisis is because for many decades, my community has been defined by negative stereotypes propagated by the popular culture. Arab Americans are not known as the complex and diverse community that we are.

Compounding this is the fact that, in recent years, these destructive stereotypes have been fed by the outrageous and condemnable acts of terror committed against the United States by some extremist groups with roots in Arab countries.

The result of this confluence of preexisting negative stereotypes with actual terrorist acts has created, with each of these crises, a dangerous situation where, in the minds of some, blame was generalized and collective guilt was assigned to the entire Arab American community.

In just three days after the Oklahoma City bombing, for example, more than 200 serious hate crimes were committed against Arab Americans and American Muslims. The same was true in the days following September 11.

I have attached to this statement a selection of such instances of hate crimes and acts of bias that were reported to my organization and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) during the period of September 11 to October 10, 2001. The list is not complete, but represents a state-by-state selection, organized by type.

Let me review, for a moment, the types of cases we are reporting.

First, there have been assaults. Among them, there have been seven deaths which may be the result of hate crimes. We also list about 90 other physical assaults, either shooting, beatings, or stabbings that have been reported. Next we list over 85 incidents of vandalism to property. Special targets for vandalism include mosques and Arab-owned businesses that have Arab signage out front. Threats and harassment are next. These include death threats or personal threats. Although we list a large number of these types of incidents, I believe that the numbers must be much higher. While direct assaults and acts of vandalism are reported to law enforcement, most victim communities hesitate to report threats. They all too frequently accept this form of hate crime as expected behavior and are afraid to create more problems by reporting the offense and offenders.

We also have had a few job-related acts of discrimination, though not as many as I might have feared. So far, six cases have been reported to us where people have been fired and been told the specific reason for their dismissal was that their fellow employees didn't want “an Arab

in the workplace.” This is an area of concern that bears watching, since there are signs that it may grow in the future.

Another area of discrimination that is very troubling is the matter of airplane profiling. We’ve had 11 specific instances reported to us involving over 20 passengers where people have either been taken off a plane or not allowed to board a plane because of their ethnicity. Since there is no provision, in law, for a cooperating passenger who has passed security screening to be removed from a flight because “the pilot won’t fly with someone named Mohammed”, or “because other passengers are nervous to fly with you on board” (these were actual reasons given), we feel that there is a very dangerous form of vigilantism at work here. It must be stopped. We have raised this matter with the Secretary of Transportation and have pressed the Department of Transportation to issue a clear policy statement to the airlines.

The key to understanding the gravity of this entire situation for Arab Americans is that no segment of my community has been exempt.

An Arab American Congressman was excluded from a flight. Arab American churches as well as mosques were attacked. And, in many instances, bigots struck out at anyone whom they suspected was Arab, victimizing Sikhs, South Asians and Hispanics.

My own family, for example, has been dramatically impacted. The morning after September 11, I received a harrowing death threat at my office. The caller left this message: “Jim, you towelhead, all Arabs must die. We will slit your throats and kill your children.” My daughter, a college student, received two threatening phone calls. My nephew, also a college student, was affected. My brother, John, received two bomb threats at his office.

The problem was widespread. A poll of Arab Americans we conducted from October 6 to October 8, 2001, showed that while 32% of Arab Americans reported having been subjected to some form of ethnic-based discrimination during their lifetimes, 20% reported having experienced an instance of ethnic-based discrimination since September 11. Most affected were the vulnerable parts of my community. Of special concern, for example, is the fact that 45% of students and 37% of Arab Americans of the Muslim faith report being targeted by discrimination since September 11.

Let me note here that however serious this period has been, I dread to think how much worse it might have been had our nation’s leadership not acted as quickly and proactively as they did.

The President took the lead in cautioning against this backlash and was joined by the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Director of the FBI. Their repeated statements, I believe, helped to stem the wave of backlash.

Also worthy of note were the actions of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives who passed resolutions decrying hate crimes against Arab Americans and American Muslims. Individual Senators and Representatives also took immediate action to shine a light on this problem.

Equally impressive was the effort by the Ad Council which worked with us to produce public service radio and newspaper ads that focused on warning against anti-Arab and anti-Muslim hate and bias (see the attached Ad Council ad).

The constant repetition of this positive message on TV and radio and in print media has helped restrain the hands of the bigots. The hate has not gone away, but the hate crimes have been greatly reduced. Now we must begin the long and difficult task of addressing the negative stereotypes. And in this area we have also been blessed by the support of several national organizations and parts of the Administration. The Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice has assisted us in reaching school districts that have asked for materials on Arab Americans, Arab culture, and Islam. The Department of Education and school boards across the U.S. have also been helpful, as have the nation's unions representing America's teachers.

While noting the role of the Department of Justice, I must single out, for special commendation, the Civil Rights Division and the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Ralph Boyd. He has brought us together, early on and frequently, to discuss both the problem of backlash and our concern with various law enforcement agencies. Mr. Boyd has also made himself available to us in several important outreach efforts to the Arab American community.

Finally, I want to mention the support we received from the FBI. From the Director on down, the FBI has responded to each and every complaint of hate we have brought to them. They have met with our community's leadership in Washington and in several centers across the US.

While we still have some concerns with some reports we have received of overzealous investigative techniques used by some FBI agents, we have had the opportunity to raise each of these concerns with officials from the Bureau.

At the same time, we are gratified that the FBI has aggressively pursued our reports of hate crimes. At the time of this testimony, they have opened 130 investigations and actually brought 3 federal indictments against perpetrators. I understand that they have already identified the individual who made the death threat against my family.

I would like to close with a few recommendations. The first deals with the problem of reporting hate crimes. Immigrants, especially those from some Arab countries, have a fear of law enforcement. For example, if the FBI is investigating hate crimes, recent immigrant Arabs may fear reporting a hate incident because they are concerned that it may compromise their stay in the US. This fear is compounded by the fact that the past history of the FBI's relationship with our community has not always been the kind that encourages people to go to them and report a problem. I therefore believe that there is a need for not just an improved system for hate crime reporting but also for a mediating presence between victim communities and law enforcement so that victims can have more confidence in reporting problems.

Since this Civil Rights Commission is receiving reports of hate crimes, I recommend that you seek a role in suggesting how those hate crimes actually then become investigated. I have noted that while the FBI Director and the community relations side of the FBI have been very responsive, there still is a fear. And many people remain afraid to report hate crimes.

There have been recommendations that the U.S. Attorney's offices be involved, or that the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department be involved, or that the FBI set up a special Hate Crimes Unit that is only involved in hate crime investigations. These are only some suggestions, but I do urge you to look into this matter and help us address this concern.

Secondly, the USCCR has 51 advisory panels in all of the states and the District. It would be useful for the local panels to convene hearings on hate crimes such as this one and actually visit affected communities or highlight good practices that are occurring across the United States.

Thirdly, there is concern with the large numbers of detentions that have occurred in this investigation. It appears the FBI cast a net that was too wide. They've acknowledged that to us. The problem with this roundup is that it's contributed to fear and a lack of reporting of hate crimes, which is why I want to mention it right now.

I don't want to see the FBI — and I don't think anyone wants to see this — doing the INS cleanup job, which is what seems to have been the case. We now know some news agencies are actually trying to investigate those hundreds of reported detentions to find out exactly who the detainees are and on what basis they are being held. In some cases, the reports that have come to us indicate that family members can't find the person who's been detained or lawyers can't find their client. We have asked the Attorney General to disaggregate the growing number of those who are reported "arrested or detained", so that we can better understand what is happening.

The more we know about this situation, the better off we will all be. If large numbers of immigrants are being held without charge, we should know this. If, in fact, they have been released, we should know this. The fact is that, at present, the number in the aggregate is a mystery and is a cause for concern.

Let me conclude by noting once again that despite this backlash and the problems I have noted related to it, on balance, we have been pleased with the positive message of support we received from the Administration and the response we have received to some of our concerns.

While a small minority of Americans turned against Arab Americans and American Muslims in the aftermath of September 11, the leadership of our country and the majority of our fellow citizens turned to us and offered their support and concern for our rights. It was a most gratifying experience.

All problems have not been solved. The hate has not gone away. But we are confident that as our nation has joined together to condemn and root out the terrorists who killed so many of our citizens, the same resolve exists that we root out and stop bigotry and backlash as well.

APPENDIX

HATE-BASED INCIDENTS SEPTEMBER 11 – OCTOBER 10, 2001

**Arab American Institute Foundation? Report
to
The United States Commission on Civil Rights
October 11, 2001**

**Claudette Shwiry Hamad
Editor**

This report is a compilation of hate-based incidents that have occurred in the United States over the one-month period following the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon.

The events described were compiled from print, broadcast and established Internet media sources and individual testimony. Although this report includes 326 incidents in 38 states, there undoubtedly have occurred many other episodes of discriminatory actions that have either not been reported for fear of further backlash, or not considered sufficiently newsworthy.

The Arab American Institute Foundation is grateful for the research efforts its staff, especially webmaster Melyssa Morey, consultant Patsy Thomasson, and the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) reports which are cited with source origination.

ARIZONA

† Assaults

Phoenix. On Sept. 15th, Frank Silva Roque shot to death Balbir Singh Sodhi. Roque allegedly killed Sodhi as part of a multiple-incident shooting rampage that included shootings at a Lebanese-American clerk who escaped injury, at another gas station in Mesa, and at the home of an Afghan family. (Arizona Republic, 9/18)

Mesa. 49-Year-old Indian Sikh shot while standing outside his Chevron station. Family believes he had been killed because he looked ‘Middle Eastern’. Attack apparently part of multiple incident-shooting rampages. Gunman also shot at Lebanese-American clerk who escaped injury and fired upon home of Afghan family. (ADC, 9/15)

† Threats

Phoenix. Anonymous callers told police they planned to attack Middle Eastern businesses. (Arizona Republic, 9/12)

Tempe. Bomb threat phoned into Islamic Cultural Center. (Arizona Republic, 9/12)

† Discrimination

Phoenix. Three Arab men were refused readmission to their Sept. 25th United Airlines flight to Chicago after a female passenger allegedly raised her concern about them. (First plane evacuated allegedly for mechanical problems.) The three have filed a lawsuit. (Chicago Tribune, 10/4)

Phoenix. Arab American pilot pulled off line and told he cannot fly. Coworker allegedly reported pilot sympathetic to Palestinian cause. After background check, put back on and able to fly, but pilot concerned he may be terminated. (ADC, 9/19)

Scottsdale. Bar briefly posted sign: “Arabs not welcome.” Co-manager later removed it and admitted, “it was a stupid think to do.” (Arizona Republic, 9/14)

CALIFORNIA

† Assaults

Los Angeles. Palestinian-born salesman killed while making door-to-door rounds. Family called killing hate crime, but police say robbery was likely motive. (Agence France Presse, 10/9)

Los Angeles. On an evening walk close to his home, Sikh man wearing Pakistani dress attacked by four men who beat and punched him. Norwalk police filed report as robbery because attackers ripped his clothes and pulled his wallet. However, the Sikh claimed the attackers yelled, "terrorist" as they beat him. (ADC, 10/9)

San Diego. Two men on motorcycle pulled up next to Sikh woman stopped at red light, yanked open her door shouting, “This is what you get for what you’ve done to us!” Then, “I’m going to slash your throat!” The woman raised her elbows to protect her neck and hunched over. She was slashed in the head at least twice before the men, hearing a car approach, sped off. (San Diego Union-Tribune, 10/5)

California (cont.)

Reedley. Abdo Ali Ahmed, Yemeni grocer shot to death in his shop over the weekend. Family members said the day before he was killed, death threat that included anti-Arab statements was found on windshield of Ahmed's car. It is being investigated as a hate crime. (Washington Post, 10/3)

Fresno. Arab American, Rien Said Ahmed, was shot and killed while at work. Witnesses saw four males speed from the store in white sedan. No money or merchandise was stolen. Ahmed had received threats since mid-September. (The Fresno Bee, 10/2)

Los Angeles. Thinking he was Iranian, two men bumped a Mexican immigrant's car, followed him to his home, broke in and beat him in front of his wife and daughter, shouting insults against Arabs. (Agence France Presse, 10/2)

Los Angeles. Driver got into argument with Iranian driver while on road. He allegedly yelled racial threats and waved gun at both Iranian driver and passenger, also Iranian. Driver charged with making criminal threat, violating civil rights and exhibiting firearm. (The Bulletin's Frontrunner, 10/1)

Industry. Two Arab customers in bar beaten by four bouncers. One of the customers had been arguing with bartender over bill. Bouncers attacked him, breaking his nose and arm, while calling him a terrorist. Victim's cousin put his hands up, indicating he did not want trouble, asked "Are you gonna beat me?" The bouncers turned on him, breaking his ribs and bruising his eye. (ADC, 9/30)

San Fernandes. A 26-year old Indian, said he was walking with a white Australian friend early the morning of Sept. 15th, when they were approached by a man who called him a "dirty Arab," and punched him and the friend. His friend was stabbed in the ensuing brawl and remains hospitalized in critical condition. (NY Times, 9/19)

Police investigating death of Sikh man as possible hate crime. His body was found floating in nearby canal two days after family reported him missing. (The Hotline, 9/19)

San Gabriel. Egyptian-American grocery storeowner shot to death in what authorities said was robbery, but family called hate crime. Owner shot after confrontation with two customers, who sped off in Honda driven by a third man. Money in cash register not taken. (Arizona Republic, 9/18; ADC, 9/15)

San Mateo. Three-year old Sikh child hit in the head by gasoline bomb thrown through window of her home. The bomb did not explode. (San Francisco Chronicle, 9/18)

San Gabriel. While grocery shopping, woman dressed in Muslim clothing attacked by another woman who beat her while yelling, "America is only for white people." Victim taken to emergency room. (Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations, 9/17)

California (cont.)

Beverly Hills. Noticing Koran charm worn around neck of Muslim bagel shop customer, another female customer attacked her, saying, “Look what you people have done to my people.” She lunged at the Muslim woman making derogatory comments but was restrained by two men. The victim called police; storeowner apologized to attacker and offered help. (www.hatewatch.org, 9/17)

Palmdale. Shots were fired into convenience store. (www.hatewatch.org, 9/17)

San Bernardino. Sixty (60)-year old Arab American businessman, victim of police brutality after Popeye’s employee screamed as the businessman was leaving the restaurant, “He’s an Arab, he’s an Arab. Get him!” Her cries alerted police officer inside whom pursued the frightened customer in his squad car, allegedly yelling, “Get that f----- Arab”. When Arab American arrived home, he was followed by helicopter and squad cars that rammed his car. Officers shot at him point blank with rubber bullets; another officer broke his nose with his baton. Man was taken to hospital, then to jail, charged with abating the law and assault with deadly weapon (his car). Inmates are threatening man. (ADC, 9/14)

San Francisco. Australian software engineer stabbed in chest by someone who allegedly thought engineer’s friend, Australian of Indian and Hispanic heritage, was Arab. Men said stabbing took place when they were passed by a group while crossing street. Scuffle started when engineer was punched or bumped by one of the men, who spewed racial epithets and said, “We don’t like Arabs”, then wounded engineer. (San Francisco Chronicle, 9/14)

Los Angeles. Young Persian woman exiting restaurant with friend followed by another woman, who asked if she is Arab before punching her in the eye. (Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations, 9/14)

Los Angeles. Arab American woman threatened with gun. (Sacramento Bee, 9/14)

Los Angeles. Syrian American convenience store owner shot at twice during week; two shots on 9/11 and four shots 9/13. (Los Angeles Times, 9/14)

Los Angeles. Two Spanish-speaking women harassed and one beaten by woman in doctor’s office. Woman allegedly yelled, “You foreigners caused all this trouble” before attacking them. (Los Angeles Commission on Human Rights, 9/12)

Fremont. Sikh student verbally harassed and physically assaulted at his school. (San Jose Mercury News, 9/12)

San Francisco. Palestinian American teenager beaten. (San Francisco Chronicle, 9/11)

† Vandalism

Anaheim. Pakistani restaurant gutted in blaze called suspicious by city officials. (Orange County Register, 9/28)

California (cont.)

Los Angeles. Home of Pakistani family burned down after series of phone threats. (Family had moved to safer location before blaze. No injuries reported.) (ADC, 9/27)

Los Angeles. Car of Iranian family, parked in their driveway, attacked by man with baseball bat and hammer. (Los Angeles Times, 9/22)

Palo Alto. Tires of car belonging to Palestinian American slashed with knife or other sharp object. (ADC, 9/22)

San Jose. Fire officials reported there had been 14 suspicious fires since Sept. 11th. Two occurred 9/14 at homes of East Indian and Middle Eastern American families. (San Francisco Chronicle, 9/18)

West Sacramento Sikh temple barricaded with tractor, truck and trailer that were padlocked, after refusing angry caller's order to lower its religious flag to half mast. Perpetrator charged with felony vandalism and trespassing after he jumped into the temple's holy pool. (Los Angeles Weekly, 9/20)

Napa. Sikh American fast food restaurant manager found his car vandalized. (Contra Costa Times, 9/19)

San Jose. Afghan restaurant attacked with bottles and rocks. (San Jose Mercury News, 9/18)

Encino. Afghan/Persian restaurant destroyed in fire 9/17. (Los Angeles Times, 9/18)

San Diego. A cherry bomb exploded on the sidewalk outside the Islamic Center 9/16, forcing worshipers to evacuate the building during a prayer service. (Los Angeles Times, 9/18)

San Diego. Mosque struck by paintballs 9/14 and by gunfire during morning prayers 9/15. (Boston Globe, 9/14?)

Los Angeles. Pakistani Muslim returns to mall parking lot to find body of his car scratched in several places with "Nuke em". (www.hatewatch.org, 9/14)

Woodland Hills. Two students scrawled word "die in Persian Club's booth at Pierce College. (Sacramento Bee, 9/14)

San Francisco. Bag of blood thrown at immigration office that serves Arabs. Anonymous caller told paralegal he left package "for your brother Osama bin Laden." (Salon.com, 9/13) Perpetrator booked on suspicion of destroying property, interfering with another's exercising civil rights and one act of terrorizing. Bail was set at \$20,000; he was released 9/12 on own recognizance. (San Francisco Chronicle, 9/13)

California (cont.)

San Francisco. A bag filled with blood was hurled at the door of a law office building in the Mission District 9/12 by someone who apparently mistook the building for an Islamic Community Center. The name of Osama bin Laden was scrawled on the bag. (Philadelphia Inquirer, 9/13)

Pacifica. Car with “Free Palestine” sticker vandalized. (San Francisco Chronicle, 9/13)

Yuba City. Hindu American awoke to find “USA” spray painted across hood of car and religious medallion that had hung from rearview mirror missing. (Sacramento Bee, 9/12)

Anaheim. Three teenagers hurled skateboard through window of Arab American-owned market. Police caught perpetrators and their parents apologized. (AP, 9/12)

† Threats

Huntington Beach. Man arrested for making a death threat against Iranian couple in their 70s. (Los Angeles Times, 9/25)

Palmdale. Five public high school students were sent home for their safety after note was found at school threatening World Trade Center attacks would be avenged 9/18 with “massacre” with their names listed beneath. (AP, 9/20)

Sign posted on freeway: “Kill All Arabs.” (www.hatewatch.org, 9/17)

Moreno Valley. Man arrested on suspicion of making terrorist threats to radio station KHPY. Caller accused of leaving message on station’s answering machine, threatening to damage tower. Police believe threat connected to station’s Sunday morning program, “Islamic Perspective”. (The Press Enterprise, 9/14)

San Diego. Caller to Middle Eastern grocery store asked if the owner sold rat poison, “I wish you do so I can poison you.” (San Diego Union-Tribune, 9/14)

Los Angeles. Sign found in Hall of Records elevator, “Kill all towel heads.” (Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations, 9/13)

San Jose. Islamic group received calls threatening lives of all Muslims. Another caller said, “You ruined the country and you will all die!” (www.hatewatch.org, 9/11)

† Harassment

University of So. California Muslim Public Affairs Council reported some students harassed on campus and some women have had their veils pulled off. (NBC-4 News, 9/14)

† Discrimination/Profiling

Los Angeles. Egyptian American business owner accused by deliverywoman of ‘terrorist threats’ (also sexual battery and imprisonment) on 10/2. Although police insisted he was not being arrested (and therefore not read Miranda rights), was not allowed to go to station on own volition, was handcuffed in front of pregnant wife, employees and

California (cont.)

customers; at station was photographed and fingerprinted and questioned. Passed voluntary polygraph test, released 10/4 on \$50,000 bail. Week of 10/14, computers and other equipment confiscated. On 10/22, judge granted prosecutors three-week continuance to find evidence of ‘terrorist threat.’ (AAI, 10/12, 10/24)

Stockton. Jordanian man, single father of two, fired from job at L3 Celerity systems in Cupertino. Said although week before attacks, weekly evaluation was positive, ‘as usual’ day after boss gave him negative review and forced him to report whereabouts every half hour. Jordanian lost job a week later in series of layoffs, though company kept technicians with less seniority. Has received no response to many job applications he has submitted since then. Is considering legal action. (Newhouse News, 10/17)

San Francisco. A teenage boy was denied entrance on a public bus due to his appearance. (San Francisco Chronicle, 9/25)

Los Angeles. Six passengers of Indian ethnicity brought to back of plane on flight from LAX to Washington Dulles. The pilot first questioned the men; FBI and INS agents arrived an hour later and interrogated passengers. Three passengers left plane because they were uncomfortable. (ADC, 9/26)

Fresno. Hairdresser stomps off; salon owner yells at Pakistani American client and orders him to leave immediately after he refused to answer hairdresser’s questions about bin Laden and recent events. FBI agents went to man’s home later that night and interrogated his wife. (ADC, 9/24)

COLORADO

† Vandalism

Colorado Springs “Terrorist on Board” spray painted during night on car belonging to Sikh American. “Terrorist” also painted on driveway. (AP, 9/18)

† Threats

According to University of Colorado police, library pillars spray painted with “Nuke sand nigger”, “Arabs go home” and “Bomb Afghanistan”. (Colorado Daily via u-wire, 9/19)

Aurora. Muslim man heard eight shots fired outside of his home. Suspicious of stranger on sidewalk wearing a raincoat and ski mask seemingly keeping post-midnight vigil, he called police. (ADC, 9/15)

Colorado Springs Four men entered mosque, cursed at a worker, and threatened to burn down the building. (Philadelphia Inquirer, 9/13, AP Online)

CONNECTICUT

† Assaults

Bridgeport Brazilian waiter attacked on street by eight men who taunted and accused him being Arab. Waiter’s face badly bruised and arm broken. (Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 9/13)

Connecticut (cont.)

† Vandalism

Bridgeport Muslim arriving at mosque for afternoon prayer 9/17 found phone wires cut and threatening graffiti. (AP, 9/17)

† Threats

Turban-wearing Sikh threatened by second-grade classmate, who said, “You better watch out – you’re going to get beat up.” She later explained to the principal, “He looks just like the guys they said did it on TV.” (AP, 9/20)

Bristol. Man threatened to blow up Arab American-run Subway restaurant. (AP, 9/18)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

† Assaults

Two women wearing Muslim headdress spat at on subway near White House. (Plain Dealer, 9/14)

† Vandalism

Rocks thrown against front door and windows of former mosque inhabited by Turkish family. Prior, guests leaving the home were approached by man asking questions about family. Before walking away, said his name was “Osama bin Laden.” (ADC, 10/3)

† Threats

Number of threats received by Arab American Institute, including death threat to president, bomb threats and hate mail at office.

Indian American stopped by car with four males who accused him of being terrorist and threatened, “we will bomb you.” (IACFPA, 9/18)

Islamic Center received bomb threats; closed as result. (ADC, 9/13)

Sikh American leaving work accosted by pedestrians yelling verbal expletives; threatening to ‘get’ him and bomb him in retaliation for 9/11 attacks. (IACFPA, 9/17)

† Discrimination/Profiling

DC area. Department store employee subjected to hostile work environment. Alleges supervisor said government should restrict admission of Arabs and Muslims. ‘better to prohibit them from living here because anyone of them can become a terrorist in waiting, even their children’. Supervisor is threatening to fire her (based on bad economy. Two other employees of Middle Eastern origin fired over past two weeks. (ADC, 9/28)

FLORIDA

† Assaults

Punta Gorda. Gas station shot at by vandals. (ADC, 9/20)

Brooksville. A Muslim woman in a car was almost run off road by another driver. (St. Petersburg Times, 9/16)

Florida (cont.)

Herando County. Mosque shot at and vandalized. (St. Petersburg Times, 9/14)

Sunrise. Islamic school principal, driving home with his sister and three children chased by men in Jeep. Jeep driver reached behind seat, yelling ‘Where’s my gun? Let me take care of them.’ Principal called 911; when Jeep driver saw cell phone, made abrupt u-turn and sped off. (Sun Sentinel, 9/19)

† Vandalism

Jacksonville. Fire that destroyed storage shed in rear of restaurant with Middle Eastern name being investigated as arson. (Florida Times-Union, 9/27)

Port Charlotte Roadside planter, shrubs and plastic sign burned at mosque (second vandalism that week). (ADC, 9/19)

Temple Terrace “Muslims F---” found written on white door of family's garage 9/13. (St. Petersburg Times, 9/14)

St. Petersburg Palestinian American man’s brand new GMC truck found 9/12 with threatening note and splattered with paint. (St. Petersburg Times, 9/14)

† Threats

Deerfield Beach. Ku Klux Klan cards placed under windshield wiper of Egyptian man’s car. (Sun Sentinel, 9/19)

† Discrimination /Profiling

Miami. Palestinian American student in care of legal guardian while father out of country was taken out of school by guardian concerned that father could not return, and was going to send him to relatives out of area. When father advised that he could come back, she tried to reenroll student, but assistant principal rejected admission. Boy finally enrolled; first day back, was badly beaten by classmate urged on by father. Student now in night school; feels his presence is too provocative. (AAI, 10/5)

Tampa. Manager of airport hotel service terminated. Although half the workforce was laid off for lack of business, he was the only manager to lose his job. (ADC, 10/1)

Fort Lauderdale Scottish/Lithuanian wife of Egyptian American forced to disembark a Southwest Airlines flight while bags and documents were once again checked. Her checked bags were removed from plane and flight took off without her. Apparently, flags were raised because she had traveled to Florida with husband; he returned to California (although also pulled off American Airlines flight, airline handled situation discreetly and held plane while checking his ‘story’), she was to fly to Connecticut to visit family. (AAI, 10/8)

Tampa. Egyptian American prevented from boarding United Airlines flight to Cairo. As he was entering plane, was called back to ticket counter and informed that pilot refused to allow him on flight. Ground crew was kind, put him on later flight to make connection to Cairo. (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 9/21; AAI 10/10)

Florida (cont.)

Orlando. Two Pakistani businessmen forced to disembark US Airways plane. Takeoff delayed 45 minutes until security officers and US Airways representatives arrived. They requested the men leave because the captain did not feel comfortable with them aboard. (ADC, 9/17)

GEORGIA

† Assaults

Atlanta. Four men tried to stab a Sudanese man after telling him, “You killed our people in New York. We want to kill you tonight.” (Atlanta Journal Constitution, 9/13)

Gwinnett. Following illegal U-turn, Arab American motorist pulled over by police sergeant in patrol car. Motorist alleges sergeant approached car while holding gun; ordered motorist out, threatened him, called him “bin Laden supporter” then searched his car. (ADC, 10/4)

† Threats

Atlanta. On Arab American woman’s answering machine: “We know where you are and we can get you.” (ADC, 9/14)

† Discrimination/Profiling

Savannah. Authorities boarded AirTrans flight to Atlanta and took away passenger. Airport officials told Savannah Morning News passenger’s name similar to that of one on FBI watch list. After questioning, passenger was cleared and allowed to depart on later flight. (ADC, 9/18)

ILLINOIS

† Assaults

Evanston. Chicago taxi driver and college student, Mustapha Zemkour (who was assumed to be of Arab descent) was injured Monday when two men—including a Cook County corrections officer—chased him on motorcycles, then allegedly hit him in the face and yelled, “This is what you get, you mass murderer.” (Chicago Tribune, 9/18)

Orland Park. Motorist drove alongside Arab family of four, screamed obscenities about the Sept. 11th events and began swerving as if to hit the family’s vehicle. They were able to pull off to side road, but reluctant to report motorist’s license plate number in fear of further harassment. (ADC, 9/16)

Chicago. Man attacked gas station attendant he thought was of Arab descent with blunt end of 2-foot machete. Attacker arrested and charged with hate crime. (Chicago Tribune, 9/13)

Chicago. Firebomb tossed at Arab American community center. (AP, 9/13)

Palos Hills. Two Muslim students beaten at Moraine Valley College. Two Arab boys assaulted attackers in defense of the girls. (NIAMC)

Illinois (cont.)

† Vandalism

Chicago. Assyrian church set on fire; estimate \$200,000 damage. Fire being investigated as arson. (Chicago Tribune, 9/24)

Chicago. Reports of vandalism. (Chicago Tribune, 9/13)

Chicago. Arab American living above his place of business awakened by smoke coming from first floor. Fire was ignited by something thrown into building. Fire department called; police and FBI investigating as possible hate crime. (ADC, 9/13)

† Threats

Chicago. Several bomb threats reported. (Chicago Tribune, 9/13)

Chicago. Man entered Arab American-owned grocery, approached owner with bag in his hands, claimed to have bomb and threatened to “blow up this store like you Arabs blew up the World Trade Center.” Man arrested and charged with hate crime, assault and disorderly conduct. (ADC, 9/13)

Chicago. High school crowd chanted threats at passing cars with occupants who appeared Arab. (AP Worldstream, 9/13)

Chicago. While closing office of Arab American Action Network, three members threatened by man driving by: “We’re going to make sure you guys are going to get yours!” (AP Online, 9/12)

† Harassment

Chicago. Crowd of young people shouted anti-Arab insults at Bridgeview Mosque. (Chicago Tribune, 9/13)

† Discrimination/Profiling

Chicago. Palestinian American medical technician told coworkers not comfortable and terminated from position. He had been suspended without pay after joking about image of Palestinians celebrating after 9/11 attacks. (ADC, 9/19)

INDIANA

† Assaults

Fort Wayne Two men attacked, robbed and cut the penis of an Indian man, calling him an Arab and saying, "to be an American you must be circumcised." (MSNBC.com 10/1)

Gary. Assault rifle fired more than 21 shots into Yemen native Hassan Awdah’s gas station, 9/12. Awdah shielded by thick glass; gunman also shot through wall behind which Awdah crouched. No one was injured. Investigation turned over to FBI (CNN.com, 9/19)

Palos Hills. Two Muslim female students beaten at Moraine Valley College. Two Arab male students assaulted offenders in defense of the women. (ADC, 9/11)

Indiana (cont.)

† Discrimination/Profiling

Indiana couple, husband from Pakistan, claims that captain of Delta Flight matched their last names, Malik, to list of possible security threats and delayed flight until they could be searched. (Evansville Courier Press, 10/12)

IOWA

† Vandalism

Des Moines. Bottles were thrown and windows smashed at Bosnian bar and restaurant, 9/28. Assailants, wielding BB gun, hammers and bat, assaulted a woman in parking lot behind bar. Witnesses said assailants shouted obscene remarks about Bosnians and Muslims. Police have disputed these claims and believe incident was run-of-the-mill bar fight that stemmed from earlier conflict among customers. (Des Moines Register, 10/6)

Evansville. Local man rammed his car at 80 miles per hour into Islamic Center. (Washington Post, 9/14)

KANSAS

† Assaults

Topeka. Muslim student was attacked at Washburn University. (MSNBC.Com, 10/9)

† Threats

Kansas City Phone calls urging retaliation against Arabs and Muslims led to closing of Palestinian-American restaurant and two Islamic schools. (Kansas City Star, 9/13)

KENTUCKY

† Assaults

Islamic Meeting Places vandalized and one Indian student attacked because he was believed to be an Arab. (AAI, 9/13)

† Harassment

Harrods Hill. Neighborhood sign: "Arabs are Murderers." Man refused neighborhood association's request to take it down. Two Arab Americans live in neighborhood. (ADC, 9/14)

† Discrimination/Profiling

On Sept. 21st, in Northern Kentucky, outside Cincinnati, federal agents took the computers and personal papers of more than two dozen Muslims. On Sept. 22nd, said they had found nothing of concern. (Cincinnati Enquirer 9/24).

LOUISIANA

† Vandalism

Parish of St. Bernard. Islamic school and a number of businesses have been repeatedly vandalized. (Times-Picayune 9/18)

New Orleans. Muslim-owned convenience store vandalized. (ADC, 9/14)

Louisiana (cont.)

New Orleans. Windows of mosque shot at with BB gun and neighboring Islamic school windows shattered by rocks. Two people arrested. (ADC, 9/13)

† Harassment

Jefferson Parish. Schools were closed after classmates taunted students of Middle Eastern origin. (Washington Post, 9/15)

MARYLAND

† Attacks

Belmont. Eyewitness reported Greek convenience store owners, believed to be Arab, attacked. Police contacted. (ADC, 9/29)

Baltimore. Sikh-American pizza deliveryman threatened in parking lot of restaurant. Police responded but made no arrests. Attacker returned later that day, spraying the Sikh with pepper spray. Coworkers tried to restrain, but were also sprayed. Police and ambulance arrived; Sikh filed complaint 9/29, but was arrested 10/4 on charges of second degree assault (attacker alleged Sikh threatened to kill him). (ADC, 10/4?)

† Vandalism

Resident found two nails underneath tires of both his and wife's cars. His antenna also bent and toothpicks broken in keyhole of his mailbox. (ADC, 10/6)

Arab American woman reported excrement covering door handle of her car and long scratch on its side. (ADC, 9/22)

Germantown. Rear window of minivan smashed while parked in front of Arab American home. Family targeted twice previously: while out driving, firecracker thrown in front of car. Sixteen (16) year-old daughter attacked on Montgomery College campus by group of young adults. (ADC, 9/28, 9/21, 9/12)

Rockville. Rug company owned by Palestinian set on fire. Owner reported threatening phone calls 9/11. (ADC, 9/11)

Two adjoining buildings owned by a Palestinian burned to ground. (Miami Herald, 9/13)

Burtonsville. Home damaged with graffiti; auto pushed out of driveway and hit; causing approximately \$5,000 in damages to the car. (AAI)

† Threats

Baltimore. Daughter of AAI president received threatening phone calls in dorm room at college. (AAI,

† Harassment

Gaithersburg When Arab American construction worker reported constant threats and hostility received at work, supervisor responded "Well, don't you think they have a right to be angry?" Coworker acted as if he would attack with metal pipe. (ADC, 10/2)

MASSACHUSETTS

† Attacks

Holden. Police arrested and charged man with assault and battery to intimidate for race or religion, simple assault, two counts of assault and battery on a police officer, destruction of property and driving to endanger. Assailant was stopped at traffic light when he saw Middle Eastern looking van driver. He got out of his car, pulled driver out of his van, punched and yelled at him, striking several times before victim fought back. He then assaulted two police officers and destroyed property in police booking room. (Boston Herald/AP, 10/1)

Fairhaven. Arab American attempting to obtain restraining against neighbors. Father hit with baseball bat, ending up in emergency room; tires of son's car slashed; followed and harassed with racial slurs, such as "hey you f----- Arab terrorist, you bombed the World Trade Center." (ADC, 9/19)

Boston. 20-year-old Saudi Arabian Boston University student attacked 9/16, by group of men as he left a Back Bay nightclub. Student suffered two knife wounds in his arm and third puncture to his back. (Boston Herald, 9/18)

Boston. FBI agents, mistaking her fiancé's last name with that of Mohammed Atta, dragged veiled Saudi woman down corridor of Westin Copley Place Hotel, handcuffed and beat her leaving a 6" scratch across her face. She had accompanied her family on numerous visits to Boston for father's medical treatment. Media reports of incident did not refer to error or include public apology by FBI. (Boston Globe, 9/16)

† Vandalism

Laurel. Car belonging to Indian immigrant spray painted with "Terrorist murderer"; tires slashed and windshield shattered. Police investigating as hate crime. (ADC, 9/19)

Fall River. Plastic bottle containing chemical hurled at Mobil gas station managed by Pakistani man. No one was hurt. (Boston Herald, 9/14)

Everett Softballs inscribed with pro-American slogans including "God bless America" and "Freedom for all," thrown through window of cafe owned by a Greek American. Owner believes assailants were aiming for nearby Middle Eastern café, and missed target. (Boston Globe, 9/13)

Weymouth Fire set at gas station owned by Lebanese man (police believe a man and a woman doused a pump with gas and set it on fire before running away). (Boston Globe, 9/13)

Plymouth. Pizza shop owned by Iraqi American badly damaged by fire. The owner had been receiving threatening calls prior to fire and bullet left at front door. (Boston Herald, 9/13)

Quincy. Two Middle Eastern markets vandalized. (Boston Globe 9/13)

Massachusetts (cont.)

Somerset. Three teenagers set fire to store they believed to be Arab owned (in fact owned by Indian American). Teens arrested and told police they wanted to “get back at the Arabic people for what they did to New York.” (Boston Globe, 9/12)

† Harassment

Cambridge Muslim Harvard University graduate student wearing hijab verbally and physically harassed on way to worship by four white males who tried to take off her hijab and reportedly said, “What are you doing here? Go home to your own country” (Harvard University Wire, 10/1)

† Discrimination

Boston. On 10/8, Pakistani consultant with U.S. work visa pulled off United flight to Washington, DC area. Airline officials had identified him as security risk because his name is similar to one on FBI list of suspected terrorists. By time he was cleared by officials, plane had already departed. (Wall Street Journal, 10/23)

Boston. Indian-American flying to Los Angeles asked to disembark plane by United Airlines flight attendants who explained that passenger not comfortable with him on board. United put him on another flight, departing four hours later. (NPR, Weekend All Things Considered, 9/17)

Boston Logan Airport. Various media report passengers pulled off three separate flights. Suspicions of flight crews determined to be unwarranted in each instance. (Los Angeles Times, 9/16)

Boston area. Students of Tufts University Egyptian professor walked out of class after he entered classroom. (NIAMC)

MICHIGAN

† Assaults

Lincoln Park. Forty-five (45) year-old Yemeni-American Ali Al Mansoop shot 12 times in back and killed, 9/13. Attacker, former boyfriend of Mansoop’s girlfriend, broke into their home, saying “I’m going to kill you for what happened in New York and DC”. Attacker made full confession to police. (ADC, 9/21, WDIV Detroit, ClickonDetroit.Com 9/21)

Fair Haven. Windows of Mazen Mislmanion's family service station were shot at 9/13. (AP, 9/14)

† Vandalism

Detroit Metro Airport Two Arab Americans claim tickets they had placed with personal items in basket to pass through x-ray missing. Fear they were confiscated by security. (ADC, 10/2)

East Lansing. Home of mosque caretaker shot at. Police providing protection. (ADC, 9/27)

Michigan (cont.)

Detroit. Arab American-owned store destroyed by arson. Fire investigators found gasoline inside store; molotov cocktail, intact and unlit, outside building (Detroit News, 9/23)

Detroit. Windows of Muslim Students Assoc. office at Wayne State University broken by vandals. (Detroit News, 9/13)

† Threats

Dearborn. Six bomb threats called in to major businesses. (Detroit Free Press, 9/13)

Dearborn. Super Greenland supermarket owner reported two men in car yelled threats and racial slurs at Arab American customers. (Detroit News, 9/13)

† Harassment

Dearborn. Female customer at gas station insulted by man driving by who yelled, “Get out of America. Get out of America.” (ADC, 9/12)

† Discrimination

Detroit. Ahmed Esa, a Yemeni American fired from 16-year welding job; told by boss to “go home, you are Arabic, you are Muslim. Go home, pray to your leader, go to your mosque and pray. I don’t want to see your face.” Esa is suing. (Detroit Free Press, 10/2)

Midland. Despite good record with company, Arab American truck driver suspended by branch manager for ‘safety reasons’. When asked if suspension had anything to do with the attacks or his religion, manager responded affirmatively. (ADC, 10/2)

Detroit Int’l. Airport Avis Rent-A-Car employee of Lebanese origin terminated after being questioned by FBI for taking two pictures of Osama bin Laden from person distributing them at airport shouting ‘this is the terrorist’. (ADC, 9/26)

Detroit Int’l. Airport Yemeni American man, waiting for aunt’s flight to arrive from Yemen, publicly searched by U.S. marshals. Officers stopped when satisfied man was ‘clear’. (ADC, 9/25)

Detroit Airport Federal Express employee asked if he is of Arab origin by Fedex Security Chief. Employee later suspended without pay, then called and asked to report back to work. (ADC, 9/19)

MINNESOTA

† Assaults

Eagen. Indian American woman followed out of grocery store by three high school age boys. One pushed her against her car; another punched her in stomach and elbowed her in the back. As they left, said “This is what you people deserve.” (Minneapolis Star Tribune, 10/2)

Minnesota (cont.)

† Threats

Minneapolis. Palestinian-born businessman found mutilated squirrel and threatening note in his mailbox. He had also received hate mail at his office. (ADC, 10/1)

† Discrimination/Profiling

Four Arab-American men were removed from a Northwest jet and questioned by law enforcement after passengers allegedly refused to fly with them. (AP, 9/21)

Minneapolis-St. Paul Int'l. Airport Three Iraqi natives prevented from boarding Northwest flight to Salt Lake City because some of the passengers and crew were upset at their presence. NW officials said they regretted incident but bound by FAA rules. (ADC, 9/20)

MISSOURI

† Threats

St. Louis. Clerks in 7-11 store flooded with telephoned threats after caller to local radio station alleged they were celebrating 9/11 attacks. After making purchase, Red Cross worker threatened to shoot them if that was true. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 9/14)

Forest Park. Palestinian-American owner of a market contacted police after someone entered store and threatened him. (St. Louis Dispatch, 9/13)

St. Louis. Mosque received telephone threats. (St. Louis Dispatch, 9/13)

MONTANA

† Discrimination/Profiling

Highway Patrol officers pulled over caravan of “Arab-appearing” people with MA license plates after 911 call reported group of 15-20 people with olive skin driving 5 cars and talking to one another on walkie-talkies. When they were pulled over, it was learned that they were Puerto Ricans on way to start a church in Oregon. (Missoulian, 9/14)

NEVADA

† Discrimination/Profiling

Palestinian American officer at Dept. of Corrections filed complaint with EEOC about hostile comments coworkers made about Arabs in the U.S. (ADC, 9/14)

NEW JERSEY

† Assaults

Teaneck. Man hanging U.S. flag on his car approached by woman who asked if he was “Arab”. When he responded “Yes, why”, she replied “Because I was in the department store buying a rope to hang myself before you kill me.” The man ignored her remark and continued hanging his flag with his back turned when she assaulted him with her fist and keys. He slapped her in the face, and she left. (ADC, 9/19)

New Jersey (cont.)

Muslim attendant at a service station punched in face by a motorist. (AP State and Local Wire, 9/13)

† Vandalism

Molotov cocktail thrown at a Hindu temple. (AP State and Local Wire, 9/13)

Garbage and stones thrown at car owned by Sikh. (AP Worldstream, 9/13)

Two businesses owned by Indians were spray-painted with the words “Leave Now [expletive].” (Philadelphia Inquirer, 9/13)

Portuguese American wife of Syrian reported car vandalized. (ADC, 9/22)
(ADC, 9/22)

Collingswood. Vandals spray painted “leave town” on walls of two Indian-owned businesses. (www.hatewatch.org, 9/12)

† Threats

West Babylon Man arrested and charged with possessing homemade metal pipe bomb and other explosive material. He showed pipe bomb to friends, saying he ‘planned to use the bomb to get an Arab’. Friends took the pipe bomb and called police. (Bergen County Record, 9/17)

Carload of people drove by Arab neighborhood yelling “We’re going to bomb you when you sleep!” (AP State and Local Wire, 9/13)

† Harassment

Turkish woman wearing Islamic head scarf verbally abused by woman who leaned out of her car and cursed at her. (AP State and Local Wire, 9/13)

† Discrimination/Profiling

A number of Pakistani immigrants reporting detainment and harsh treatment at the hands of FBI agents. (Washington Post, 10/3).

NEW YORK

† Assaults

Bronx. Yemeni man working at newsstand hit on head with bottle by three men who dragged him to street, allegedly yelling, “You Arabs get out of my neighborhood. We hate Arabs! This is a war!” (Daily News, 9/30)

Manhattan. Two drivers assaulted and suffered minor injuries. (New York Times, 9/24)

Long Island. Police charge man with bias crime after he assaulted gas station attendant whose ethnic background he questioned. (New York Post, 9/19)

New York (cont.)

Buffalo. On 9/16, Arab-American man assaulted by teenage employee at the Tops Market on Broadway. Police charged Brian K. Marshall, 18, with second-degree assault as a hate crime and aggravated harassment after the victim told police Marshall pushed a steel restroom door with both hands into his head. The victim, who briefly lost consciousness, said Marshall called him an "Arab terrorist," and that when he left the restroom, several employees and his alleged assailant laughed at him and refused to offer him aid. (Buffalo News 9/18)

Stony Brook. Shots fired at home of Indian-American Stanford University graduate. (San Jose Mercury News, 9/18)

Albany. Two college students hit in face, apparently because of their Middle Eastern heritage. (New York Times, 9/15)

New York Intoxicated 75-year old man tried to run over Pakistani woman in parking lot of shopping mall; followed her into a store and threatened to kill her for "destroying my country." (AP Worldstream, 9/13)

Staten Island. Arab American soccer player for College men's team nearly run down by car. (Daily News, 9/13)

Suffolk County. Man arrested for allegedly making anti-Arab threat and pointing pistol at gas station employee. (San Francisco Chronicle, 9/13)

Manhattan. Sikh man pounced on by three white men yelling "terrorist." (New York Times, 9/12)

Ronkonkoma. Man arrested after waving pellet gun and shouting ethnic slurs at gas station attendant. (Newsday, 9/12)

Ardsey. When Arab American deli owner responded affirmatively to customer's asking if he was Arab, customer cursed and yelled at him. As deli owner attempted to escort him out of store, customer sprayed him with pepper spray. (ADC, 9/11)

Richmond Hills. Indian American attacked with baseball bat; hospitalized with severe injuries. (IACFPA, 9/18)

† Vandalism

Bronx. Over past two weeks two medallion taxis belonging to Muslim drivers set on fire. (New York Times 9/24)

Bensonhurst. Nine parked livery cars and taxis vandalized. (60 to 75 percent of the city's medallion-cab drivers are of Arab, South Asian or North African descent.) (New York Times 9/24)

Buffalo. On 9/22, passing bicyclist smashed two windows of Arab-run convenience store. (Buffalo News 9/24)

New York (cont.)

Manhattan. Six to eight men harassed and threw rocks at 36 year old Arab American. (New York Post, 9/19)

Manhattan. Stones thrown through windshields of cabs in Central Park, apparently targeting dark-skinned drivers. (Time, 9/18)

Washington Heights. Thirty-five (35) year-old man complained to police that a man spit in his face and made anti-Arab remarks. (Daily News, 9/17)

Manhattan. When Muslim American reported to two patrol officers that he was spat upon and harassed, the officers allegedly responded “(your) people should have known about this before ... (you) deserve everything (you) get.” (ADC, 9/17)

Brooklyn. Motorist blocked path of cab driver that appeared to be of Middle Eastern descent. Motorist pounded on car shouting, “Get out of the car, Arab. You are going to die, you Muslim.” (Daily News, 9/14)

Nesconset. Grocery owned by Pakistani American target of apparent arson. (Newsday, 9/11)

† Threats

Manhattan. Staples employee harassed Arab American customer about his accent and threatened to cut his throat. Police were called and report filed. (ADC, 10/1)

Rochester. Contractor received daily threats and verbal assaults by coworkers since 9/11; include “Let’s kill all the Arabs we find here”; “We’re going to kill you and send you back where you belong”.... (ADC, 10/1)

North Patchogue. Sign on fire department vehicle, driven by senior NPFDD official: “Let’s kill all the ragtops and turbanheads. Let God sort it out.” (ADC, 9/26)

Manhattan. Message on television station answering machine: “F----- Arabs, I know where you live and I’m going to murder you...get out of my f----- country.” (ADC, 9/23)

Bronx. Threatening, expletive filled messages including “you better watch your back, Muslim” left on Muslim Center voice mail throughout week. (ADC, 9/19)

Queens. Jordanian newsstand worker reported man threatened to kill him. (Daily News, 9/17)

Brooklyn. Arab American grocer subjected to racial slurs and threats after grocer attempted to pay delivery bill. The grocer was then told to call main office where manager made racist remarks. Incident reported to police. (ADC, 9/13)

Brooklyn. Woman picking up son from school threatened by ‘older Caucasian man’. (CAIR, 9/11)

New York (cont.)

Hicksville. Sikh man chased him as he fled home. (Newsday, 9/11)

† Vandalism

Queens. Anti-religious graffiti scrawled on sides of Bangladeshi newspaper office. (New York Post, 9/19)

Manhattan. Threatening letters sent to upper east side residents who may be of Arab descent. (New York Post, 9/19)

Buffalo. Vehicle belonging to Arab American torched. Police and fire officials investigating. (Buffalo News, 9/17)

New York City “Don’t support terrorists” spray painted on awning of Afghanistan-owned ‘Chickens ‘R Us’ restaurant. (Daily News, 9/17)

Brooklyn. Palestinian American head of Arab American Family Service Center received several threatening calls, one saying, “you should all die for what you’ve done to my country.” (XINHUA, 9/12)

† Harassment

Manhattan. Priority mail package containing dried pig’s ear and remarks of bin Laden delivered to Afghan Mission. (New York Post, 9/19)

† Discrimination/Profiling

Manhattan. Permanent resident from Moroccan received no mail for some time since 9/11. When mail finally delivered, believes did not get all bank and credit card statements; contacted credit card companies to cancel account and issue new card with different address. Fears retribution if files complaint; is considering moving. (AAI, 10/10)

Manhattan. Man detained in New York. After 20 days, authorities would still not allow family to see him; did allow lawyer visit. Hearings scheduled three times; cancelled three times by FBI. (AAI, 10/10)

Rochester. Turkish man contacted EEOC after expected job offer was rescinded. Was told by company, “We decided we don’t need you here.” (ADC, 9/28)

Manhattan. Pakistani American computer analyst for Henry Electronics on one week assignment at NY Transit Authority. NYTA supervisor saw picture of man’s wife with WTC buildings in background on laptop and said, “Oh boy, you’re in real trouble.” Short while later, supervisor told Pakistani he did not want him to work there; he was then also terminated from Henry Electronics. (ADC, 9/21)

Island Park. Muslim woman fired from part-time job at laundry. Had been there three years; boss said he didn’t know she was Muslim. Although the woman claims he is afraid of her and she is ‘loved’ by the customers; he alleged they threatened to boycott

New York (cont.)

store after hearing her say, “America had it coming” while watching destruction of World Trade Center on television. (Newhouse News, 10/17)

NORTH CAROLINA

† Assaults

Greensboro University of North Carolina Lebanese student attacked and taunted by two men who told him to “Go home, terrorist.” They hit him with their fists, twisted his arm and broke his glasses. (MSNBC.Com 9/19)

† Vandalism

Charlotte On 9/25, Arab American-run restaurant

Charlotte On 9/25, Persian rug store vandalized with anti-Arab epithets, swastika, and the letters KKK. (Charlotte Observer,)

Charlotte Windows broken and containers filled with gasoline left at Persian rug store. Police investigating whether attack is hate crime. (AP, 9/18)

OHIO

† Threats

Outside Cleveland Two men posing as salesmen asked Arab American businessman if he was from Afghanistan, threatening to kick him if he was. The men were arrested. (ADC, 10/3)

† Vandalism

Cortland Fire set to hedge outside Indian American-owned gas station. (www.hatewatch.org; 9/19)

Suburban Cleveland Guru Gobind Singh Sikh Temple attacked with lit bottles of gasoline. (New York Times, 9/18)

On 9/17 a 29-year-old man smashed his car through the entrance of an unoccupied Ohio mosque at 80 mph., landing in a fountain. (Chicago Tribune, 9/18)

Cleveland Ford Mustang driven through entrance of Ohio’s largest mosque. Mosque unoccupied at time; only driver injured. (Estimated damages: \$100,000) (AP, 9/13)

† Discrimination/Profiling

Cleveland Int’l. Airport Pakistani American reported that hours after passing intense security, he was singled out by police officers who scanned his bag twice with x-ray machine just before he was to board his flight. (ADC, 9/22)

OKLAHOMA

† Assaults

Tulsa. Police investigated attack on food store employee jumped by three people while leaving his apartment. He was knocked down, eyes covered and beaten. The men further threatened to “cut you like you cut our people.” (Tulsa World,9/14)

Tulsa. Police classified beating of Pakistani native by three men outside of service station as hate crime. Victim hospitalized. (Tulsa World, 9/11)

† Threats

Waurika. Fire broke out on roof of truck stop owned by Sikh after caller repeatedly threatened he wants to “kill all you Muslims” and “kill everyone up there who’s not white.” Closed circuit videotape showed man in pickup threw something onto roof before fire. (Fort Worth Star Telegram, 10/2)

† Harassment

Oklahoma City. Motorists made obscene gestures outside Islamic Society building. (AP Worldstream, 9/13)

OREGON

† Assaults

Eugene. California woman arrested after attempting to pull turban off head of Sikh man she believed he was an Islamic extremist.

† Vandalism

Vancouver. Muslim family new to neighborhood reported to Sheriff’s office that ‘murder’ had been spray painted on their driveway. (Oregonian, 9/15)

Portland. While shopping at Target, tires of Pakistani man’s car slashed. Police investigating as possible hate crime. (Oregonian, 9/19)

Gladstone. Woman reported racial slur against Arabs painted on street in front of her house. (Oregonian, 9/12)

† Threats

Eugene. 33-year-old man arrested after making threatening phone call to Islamic Cultural Center. (New York Times, 9/18)

Portland. Customers threatened to blow up store and homeland of Iraqi convenience store clerk. In fear, the clerk closed store early. (Oregonian, 9/14)

PENNSYLVANIA

† Assaults

Philadelphia. Off-duty police officer pulled gun on Pakistani convenience store owner. (Philadelphia Daily News, 9/13)

Philadelphia. Foreign-looking taxi drivers threatened. (Philadelphia Daily News, 9/13)
Pennsylvania (cont.)

Philadelphia. Muslim cab driver reported to police passenger broke his arm when he eached back to receive fare. (Plain Dealer, 9/13)

Meadville. Female high school student of Middle Eastern descent attacked by man with knife, who yelled at her, “You’re not an American. You don’t belong here!” He was arrested and is currently in jail. (Pittsburgh Post Gazette, 9/18)

† Threats

Threats made to Muslim and Arab students. (Morning Call, 9/15)

† Harassment

Allentown. Harassing voice mail and e-mail that caused the Allentown mosque to cancel its services this week. (Morning Call, 9/15)

Lehigh Valley. Muslim Association leaders reported prank telephone call and a carload of people shouted derogatory words at congregation members leaving the mosque. (Morning Call, 9/15)

Exeter. Ten pigs’ heads left outside mosque. (Press Association, 9/13)

† Discrimination/Profiling

Philadelphia. Mentally and physically disabled Lebanese American girl mistreated at school; officials ‘unyielding’. Father hired lawyer to file complaint against school system. AAI providing resources. (AAI, 10/10)

Philadelphia. Arab American teacher at Christian school told by principal that he was being replaced and they do not want him to return. When teacher asked for reason, principal stated “...because you’re Arab.” (ADC, 9/13)

RHODE ISLAND

† Assaults

On 9/16, pregnant Muslim woman wearing shawl was using payphone when car pulled up behind her and someone in the car threw rock, hitting her foot. She turned to see what was happening when the passenger, a young woman of around 20, threw another rock and missed. (ADC, 9/16)

State fire investigators detonated explosive device left at gas station owned by Lebanese Americans. Police investigating as possible hate crime. (Providence Journal Bulletin, 9/18)

Three teenagers arrested for throwing molotov cocktail on roof of convenience store. Told police they wanted to “get those Arabs for what they did to us.” (AAI, 9/13)

† Vandalism

Pawtucket. Anti-Arab epithet spray-painted on garage door of gasoline station owned by a Lebanese-American. (Providence Journal, 9/18)

Rhode Island (cont.)

Cranston. Pakistani-owned convenience store vandalized. (MSNBC.Com, 9/14)

† Discrimination/Profiling

Providence. Police forced Sikh telecommunications consultant and ten others off Amtrak train and questioned them for two hours. Consultant charged with possession of concealed weapon: three-inch knife traditionally carried by Sikh men. (ABC, CNN)

SOUTH CAROLINA

† Vandalism

Charleston. Vandals broke window of minivan belonging to man of Middle Eastern descent. (Post and Courier, 9/15)

TENNESSEE

† Assaults

Memphis. Muslim woman badly beaten on way to worship. (Dallas Morning News, 9/16)

† Threats

Waverly. Two Arab American clinicians received threatening phone calls telling them to “go home and get out of our country”; their daughter in Atlanta also received threatening calls. (ADC, 9/12)

TEXAS

† Assaults

Iraqi man shot in leg after struggle with assailant, described as African-American, greeted man in Arabic and then pulled out a gun. Police are investigating as possible hate crime. (MSNBC.Com, 9/26)

Houston. Man of Middle Eastern ancestry wounded by gunman. Attacker approached victim as he was getting out of his car, asked for cigarette, then held handgun to victim’s head, cursed and accused him of having blown up the country and killing his family and friends. Victim grabbed gun and was shot in left hip. Attacker fled scene on foot. (AP, 9/21)

North Texas. Shots were fired at Pakistani home. No one was injured. (MSNBC.Com, 9/24)

Fort Worth. While visiting Botanic Gardens, two Ethiopian men were stabbed by white man who apparently approached them and, without saying a word, stabbed each one before fleeing. The two men were hospitalized. (Fort Worth Star Telegram, 9/22)

Dallas. Pakistani grocer in shot and killed 9/15. (LA Times, 9/18)

San Antonio. Three bullets struck Sahara Grocery. (ADC, 9/11)

San Antonio. Shiraz Iranian Restaurant attacked. (ADC, 9/11)

Texas (cont.)

† Vandalism

Austin. Carpet store owned by Palestinian American destroyed by fire. (American Statesman, 9/23)

Carrollton. Window at Islamic Center of broken by slingshot. (LA Times, 9/18)

Houston. Auto mechanic shop owned by Pakistani torched in early morning fire. No one was injured. Son of owner received threats a few days prior. Federal law enforcement agents and Houston Fire Department arson unit investigating. (Houston Chronicle, 9/17)

Austin. Incendiary devices thrown onto roof of Nation of Islam mosque. (ADC, 9/17) Irving. Six bullets shattered windows of Islamic Center. (AP Worldstream, 9/13)

Denton. Islamic Society fire bombed. (Dallas Morning News, 9/13)

Professor of Middle Eastern language and cultures at University of Texas spat on by passerby. (ADC, 9/11)

† Threats

North Texas. Two death threats prompted Pakistani-American to shut down his gas station. (AP, 10/9)

Austin. Arab American realtor received phone threats, ordering him to “leave this country or else!” (ADC, 9/13)

† Harassment

San Antonio. Two Muslim girls verbally abused in high school. (ADC, 9/11)

† Discrimination/Profiling

Houston. Palestinian anesthesiologist at Baylor College of Medicine was assisting three physicians during surgery, when one began to complain about Islam and Palestinians. When the anesthesiologist told him he is Palestinian, an argument ensued, and the physician ordered him out of the operating room. Physician’s behavior reported to in-charge nurse and hospital vice president by nurse and doctor who were present. (ADC, 9/26)

San Antonio. Ashraf Khan, a 32-year-old Pakistani businessman, removed from Delta Airlines flight after the flight crew said they did not feel comfortable with him aboard. (Los Angeles Times, 9/20; St. Petersburg Times, 9/17)

Palestinian woman sent home by boss, who said he didn’t know if she would be celebrating death of Americans in the office. (ADC, 9/12)

† Vandalism

Salt Lake City. 31-year-old man doused Pakistani-owned Curry in a Hurry restaurant with gasoline and ignited it, 9/13. (Associated Press, 9/27; Salt Lake Tribune, 9/13)

VIRGINIA

† Assaults

Roanoke. Arab American family suffered series of incidents: mother blocked from entering her apartment by group of young men; fist-sized rocks thrown through two-year old daughter's open bedroom window; their two cars scratched and dented; mother again prevented from entering and hit with baseball; rocks again thrown through windows almost hitting daughter. (ADC, 9/30)

Falls Church. Muslim hit in head with baseball bat near Dar Al Hijra mosque. (ADC, 9/28)

Fairfax County. On 9/23, white male pulled to stop light ahead of Middle Eastern person, got out of vehicle and approached Middle Easterner with hammer, yelling, "You guys blew up the Trade Center. You m----- f-----", and spit on victim's hood. (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Fairfax. On 9/19, teenagers playing basketball harassed; one hit in stomach and face. (Washington Post 9/21; Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Alexandria. Afghan American approached by passerby who asked his ethnicity. When Afghan replied affirmatively, passerby screamed, "I'm going to kill you" before assaulting him. (CBS, 9/16)

Falls Church. On 9/14, Afghan American assaulted after verbal altercation in a parking lot. (Washington Post 9/18)

Fairfax County. On 9/11, intoxicated man entered Chinese restaurant, punched patron in back of head; yelled at staff about being foreigners, should not be in this country and referred attacks. (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Fairfax County. On 9/11, man asked woman where she was from, said 'I'm gonna show you where I'm from', returned with gun, stated he wouldn't be afraid to use it, pointed it at woman and told her to go back to her country. (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

† Vandalism

Fairfax County. On 9/30, mailbox smashed; drive-byes yelled 'why are you here; go back to where you came from.' (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Springfield. On 9/29, vehicle parked at mall, 'keyed' with "F--- Palestine Terrorists" and strewn with garbage and U.S. postage stamp. (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Virginia (cont.)

Home of Vietnamese woman and husband of Arab origin and found epithets written in yard. (AAI, 10/10)

Fairfax. Large swastika burned into lawn of Middle Eastern family's home. (ADC, 9/28)

Fairfax County. On 9/28, vehicle rammed by driver who said 'go back to your country you foreigner.' (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Fairfax County. On 9/16, Pakistani-owned store trashed by suspects making statements, "You are terrorists. You support Osama bin Laden. This is our country, not yours." (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Fairfax County. "F----- Arab" scratched on vehicle hood and headlights broken, 9/16. (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Fairfax County. Graffiti in boys' restroom at Oakton High School, 9/14: "Towel Heads got 2 Options 1) Go F----- Home 2) Hit the Curb." (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Officials at two mosques reported vandalism and threatening calls. (Washington Post, 9/13)

Old Town Alexandria Islamic bookstore vandalized. Owner found two bricks on premises with notes that said, "You come to this country and kill. You must die as well." And "Arab murderers." (Washington Post, 9/13)

Fairfax County. On 9/13 student found note, stating "Die you stupid half-Pakistani...Burn in Hell Die!" (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Fairfax County. Sign indicating site as future home of Muslim society vandalized and attempt made to set it on fire, 9/14. "F--- the Arabs" written on sign. (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Fairfax County. "F--- Arabs written on door of home. (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Fairfax County. Anti-Arab and anti-Jewish statements spray painted on walking tunnels, 9/13. (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Fairfax County. "F--- Islam" and "F--- Arabs spray painted on property, 9/12. (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

† Threats

Resident reported threatening phone call. Caller first mocked his name, asked to speak with wife, and then said, "You're all going to die." (ADC 10/3)

Fairfax County. Madina Afghan Kabob restaurant received threatening phone calls 9/14 warning family to go back to Afghanistan or they would be killed. (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Fairfax County. On 9/23, note found on windshield: “Muslim children are hell bound”; on daughter’s bike: “Muslims must die!” (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Fairfax County. Washington Islamic Academy received letter, 9/18, stating all Muslims should be shot and killed and are evil; on 9/12, received nasty phone calls; people driving by yelling and making obscene gestures. (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

James County. Woman arrested for threatening to bomb mosque. Coworker contacted police after woman emailed her “...I am making plans to bomb the mosque in Hampton.” (Daily Press, 9/13)

Hampton. Police investigating phone threat received by Islamic Center and mosque. Male voice threatened “prepare to die.” (Daily Press, 9/13)

† Harassment

Fairfax County. Arab female stopped at traffic light 9/22, white male in another vehicle yelled “You are not wanted here you animals! Go blow up another building.” (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Charlottesville Arab American physician verbally assaulted by neighbor. (ADC, 9/17)

Sterling. Members of Islamic community arriving at Red Cross Center to donate blood found hallway painted with “Die pigs.” And ‘Muslims Burn Forever.’ (XINHUA, 9/12)

Fairfax County. On 9/11, several white males in front of K-Mart asking people to sign petition to support America, displayed banner with anti-Islamic sentiments, shouted at people who appeared to be of Middle Eastern descent. (Fairfax County Police Report, 10/10)

Manassas. Hate messages left on answering machine of mosque (AP Worldstream, 9/13)

† Discrimination/Profiling

Ashburn. Egyptian American fired from Wal-Mart. Called into office at store and questioned by FBI in early October. Coworkers uncomfortable working with him. FBI and Wal-Mart would not comment. (Newhouse News, 10/17)

Woodbridge. Three-year old boy of half-Arab origin dismissed from day care. Mother enrolled him in another center, to receive call from assistant director withdrawing admission after having conversation with former director. Mother alleges decision based on ethnicity; not, as director stated, discipline problem. (ADC, 10/2)

Falls Church. Egyptian American and coworker fired from tax revenue office after reporting anti-Arab slur made by their boss to an attorney and city manager. Apparently, after hearing news that suspect connected with 9/11 attacks had been detained, the boss

Virginia (cont.)

allegedly joked, “Did he have a rag on his head?” In termination letters to the two men, the boss claimed they had “challenged my integrity, impeding my authority to operate this office. Your action is harassment and a breach of trust in our relationship.” (ADC, 9/24)

Manassas. Although their children often played in front of their homes, neighbors contacted Social Services when Algerian children were seen outside unsupervised. (ADC, 9/24)

Dulles. United Airlines flight to London delayed four hours after Saudi pilot sought to fly in cockpit. United pilot refused and returned to gate. Saudi pilot and two other men detained and questioned by FBI and INS for three hours. FBI field office spokesman said ‘their story check out...they were sent on their way.’ (Pittsburgh Post Gazette 9/21)

K-Mart closing manager demoted to hourly-basis employee. Employee suspects demotion because of his national origin and 9/11 attacks; does job well and never been written up. (ADC, 9/17)

WASHINGTON

† Assaults

Snohomish. Man indicted by a federal grand jury on hate-crime charges for allegedly pouring gasoline over a man's vehicle and then firing a handgun at two people leaving the Idriss Mosque on 9/13. (Seattle Times, 9/27)

SeaTac. Sikh taxi driver assaulted by man he picked up at bar. Suspect asked driver if he was a terrorist. Then he choked the cabby, punched him in the face, pulled out part of his beard and knocked the turban off his head. (MSNBC.Com, 9/15)

Seattle. Three white men attacked a Somali woman with a knife 9/16 in a grocery parking lot. (Seattle Times, 9/14)

Seattle. 53-year-old man charged with first-degree assault and attempted arson after dousing car at Islamic Idriss Mosque with gasoline. When confronted by car owner, he tried to fire at him, ‘squeezing a shot into the ground’. The man then drove his own car into a telephone pole. (Seattle Post Intelligencer, 9/13)

Snohomish. Man accused of spitting at Middle Eastern woman picking up her children at elementary school, arrested. (Seattle Times, 9/14)

Prison fights broke out over Muslim slurs. (AP Worldstream, 9/13)

Seattle. Suspect arrested for suspicion of malicious harassment. Allegedly threatened to burn down mosque and walked into mosque wearing his shoes. When asked to leave, pushed mosque leader in chest. (Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 9/11)

Washington (cont.)

† Vandalism

Lynwood. Dar Alarqam Mosque defaced with black paint. The mosque also received a flood of hate calls. (MSNBC.Com 9/24)

Tacoma. A small arson fire damaged synagogue Sunday in what police termed a hate crime. (Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 9/24);

Edmonds. Iranian-owned grocery vandalized. (Seattle Times, 9/18) A Kenmore man is in jail awaiting charges for allegedly pouring gasoline on a Northgate mosque and firing a gun when employees there tried to stop him. (Seattle Times, 9/18)

† Threats

Vancouver. Man arrested after leaving messages on local Islamic school's voice mail; mosques, other schools and cultural centers threatening to blow them up in retaliation for Sept. 11 attacks. (Vancouver Sun, 10/5)

Seattle. Man charged with malicious harassment for threatening to burn down mosque. (Seattle Times, 9/18)

Seattle. Two men threatened East African home improvement store employee. (AAI, 9/16)

Seattle. Man stormed into mosque, threatening to burn it down. (Seattle Times, 9/16)

Spokane. Threats made at two gas stations owned by Arab Americans. (The Hotline, 9/13)

Seattle. Sign hung from footbridge: "Death to all Palestinians." Sign later removed (Seattle Post Intelligencer, 9/11)

Seattle. Police report local mosques received not only abusive calls but also several death threats, including 'we will kill you like sheep'. (Seattle Post Intelligencer, 9/11)

Taxicab dispatcher received calls threatening company to "tell your Muslim drivers not to drive today", among other threats. (Seattle Times,9/11)

† Discrimination/Profiling

Seattle. 12 year American Airlines employee escorted off AA flight to Dallas with another passenger of Arab origin. They were informed "pilot does not feel safe with you guys on board and we have notified the FBI to come here and question you." Interrogation and background check performed by three Seattle police officers, after which they were permitted to board a later AA flight to Dallas. Apologetic stewardess later informed them that pilot of second flight was asked by FBI agent if he feels comfortable flying with "two Middle Eastern men." (ADC, 9/26)

† Threats

Beloit. On 9/29, Jordanian man reported that threat to blow up his store if he did not leave the country in 24 hours. Forty-four-year-old man arrested and charged with conveying ‘false bomb threat,’ making threatening phone call and probation violations. All charges filed as hate crimes. (MSNBC.Com, 10/9)

WYOMING

† Threats

Laramie. American-born Muslim woman and her children chased from Wal-Mart by angry shoppers yelling for her “to go back to her country.” (Associated Press, 9/11)

About the Arab American Institute Foundation

The Arab American Institute Foundation (AAIF) sponsors and supports programs that promote awareness of Arab American contributions to life in the United States. AAIF priorities include research and education on Arab American demographics, cultural heritage and leadership development.

Ongoing programs include the Kahlil Gibran "Spirit of Humanity" Awards program honoring individuals and organizations that promote ethnic and racial understanding and inclusion, and youth leadership awards for outstanding public and community service. AAIF also sponsors events for visiting dignitaries from the Arab world and other forms of U.S.-Arab professional exchange.

Incorporated in 1996 as a 501(c)(3) educational organization by the founders of the Arab American Institute, AAIF is based in Washington, DC.

1600 K Street, NW
Suite 601
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 429-9210 † (202) 429-9214 FAX
aaif@aaiusa.org † www.aaiusa.org