



Council on American-Islamic Relations

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Honorable Michele Bachmann
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bachmann:

We are writing in response to your recent calls for investigations of American Muslims who are participating in our national democratic process. We join our voice with that of Senator John McCain (R-AZ), who said, "These attacks have no logic, no basis, and no merit and they need to stop. They need to stop now."¹

Your letters challenging the loyalty of patriotic American Muslims based on discredited anti-Muslim conspiracy theories can only be described as devoid of a sense of decency. These are American citizens asking what they can do for their nation.

Among those you accuse, Mrs. Huma Abedin helps the Secretary of State represent the best interests of our nation overseas. The Society of Former Special Agents last year honored Mohamed Elibiary for his "extraordinary contributions to specific cases in support of the FBI's counterterrorism mission."² Dalia Mogahed was appointed to the president's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships has advised the Department of Homeland Security. Imam Mohamed Magid enjoys widespread interfaith respect and has also advised the Department of Homeland Security.

The honorable public service of these individuals deserves better treatment than political theatrics characterized by half-truths, overblown accusations and guilt by association.

Organizations like the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) and Muslim Advocates provide a crucial service to preserving our constitutional republic and making democracy work for everyone. An honest review of the web sites of these groups might produce positions with which the reader may disagree, but to characterize them

¹ "McCain Defends Clinton Aide Huma Abedin Against Bachmann Accusation About Muslim Brotherhood," ABC News, July 18, 2012, <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2012/07/mccain-defends-clinton-aide-huma-abedin-against-house-gop-charges-of-muslim-brotherhood-scheme/>

² "Society of Former Special Agents Recognizes Louis E. Peters Memorial Award Recipient," FBI Press Release, September 8, 2011, <http://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/society-of-former-special-agents-recognizes-louis-e.-peters-memorial-award-recipient>

as an “infiltration” of America by hostile forces is reminiscent of past allegations against Japanese Americans, American Catholics, people of the Jewish faith and others.

In more than 10 years since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the administrations of Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama have subjected American Muslims institutions such as those named above to enormous scrutiny. It is reasonable to assert that if there were any questionable activity on the part of these groups, criminal charges would have been filed long ago. Instead, they serve as a strong voice for a faith minority and make important contributions to preserving American freedom.

We remain eternally grateful that, like Sen. Joseph McCarthy before you, your power is limited, enumerated and constrained by our nation’s constitution.

Sincerely,



Nihad Awad
Executive Director