



December 15, 2005

Governor Bill Richardson  
State Capitol, Room 400  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor Richardson:

We are writing to urge you to publicly denounce the Coalition for a Secure Driver's License bigoted attack on Arabs and Muslims and reject efforts to deny driver's licenses based on immigration status.

The Coalition has announced an inflammatory and misleading billboard campaign in North Carolina and New Mexico which contains extremely negative images of Arabs and Arab cultural symbols with the message, "Don't License Terrorists." The billboards unfairly conflate the question of immigration and national security and cast a shadow of suspicion on Arabs and Muslims, unfairly equating them with terrorism and encouraging an environment that can lead to prejudice and hate crimes. In doing so, the ads utilize false stereotypes and racist rhetoric to promote an anti-immigrant agenda.

The issue of who gets driver's licenses is not about terrorism. It is about a reliable state program to license those who can safely drive. Having all residents licensed makes sense as it will assist law enforcement to locate those included in the system, increase the level of safety on the state's roads and promote insurance coverage. Accepting the coalition's proposal would detract from the intended purpose of the state's driver's license program and saddle the state with the weaknesses of the national immigration system.

Governor Richardson, we again urge you to speak out against this hateful billboard campaign to ensure that these ads do not become a reality in your state and oppose proposals to make the state driver's license less effective.

**This letter has been endorsed by the following organizations:**

**National Organizations**

- 1) American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
- 2) American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
- 3) American Humanist Association
- 4) American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)
- 5) Amnesty International, USA
- 6) Arab American Institute (AAI)
- 7) Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA)
- 8) Asian American Justice Center (AAJC)
- 9) Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
- 10) Episcopal Migration Ministries
- 11) Fellowship of Reconciliation, USA
- 12) Hmong National Development
- 13) Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HLCEF)
- 14) Immigration Legal Resource Center (ILRC)
- 15) Jerusalem Fund for Education and Community Development
- 16) Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR)
- 17) Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)
- 18) National Association of Muslim American Women (NAMAW)
- 19) National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
- 20) National Employment Law Project (NELP)
- 21) National Immigration Forum
- 22) National Immigration Law Center (NILC)
- 23) National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
- 24) National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
- 25) National Lawyers Guild (NLG)
- 26) National Network for Arab American Communities
- 27) Not in Our Name
- 28) September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows
- 29) Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
- 30) South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow (SAALT)
- 31) Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
- 32) Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children

**State Organizations**

- 33) Access California Services, California
- 34) Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice, New Mexico
- 35) American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Kentucky Chapter
- 36) American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Los Angeles Chapter
- 37) American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, New Jersey Chapter
- 38) American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Orange County Chapter
- 39) American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Philadelphia Chapter
- 40) American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, San Diego Chapter
- 41) American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Tucson Chapter
- 42) American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Washington DC Chapter
- 43) American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Wisconsin Chapter

- 44) American Arab Forum, New Jersey
- 45) American Arab Heritage Council, Michigan
- 46) American Liberty and Freedom for All, New Jersey
- 47) Arab American Action Network, Illinois
- 48) Arab American Association of New York
- 49) Arab American Community Center of Orlando, Florida
- 50) Arab American Community Coalition of Seattle, Washington
- 51) Arab American Cultural and Community Center, Texas
- 52) Arab-American Family Services, Illinois
- 53) Arab-American Family Support Center, New York
- 54) Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS), Michigan
- 55) Arab Cultural Center, California
- 56) Arab Jewish Peace Alliance of Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 57) Art for Action, New York
- 58) California State University Fullerton Middle Eastern Student Society
- 59) CASA of Maryland
- 60) CAUSA, Oregon's Immigrant Rights Coalition
- 61) Center for Community Change, Washington, DC
- 62) Center for Economic Justice, New Mexico
- 63) Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on Arab Affairs
- 64) Committee of Indigenous Solidarity/DC Zapatistas
- 65) Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter
- 66) Council of Peace, New Mexico
- 67) El Pueblo, Inc., North Carolina
- 68) Fairfax County Privacy Council, Virginia
- 69) The George Washington University Law Democrats
- 70) Greater Lansing Arab American Social Services (GLAASS), Michigan
- 71) Hate Free Zone Washington
- 72) Hispanic Coalition, Florida
- 73) Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- 74) Immigration Equality, New York
- 75) Immigrant Law Center/Oficina Legal, Minnesota
- 76) Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, Maine
- 77) International Relations Center, New Mexico
- 78) Irish Immigration Center, Massachusetts
- 79) Islamic Association of Raleigh, North Carolina
- 80) Islamic Group of New Mexico
- 81) Khmer Health Advocates Inc., Connecticut
- 82) Korean American Resource and Cultural Center, Illinois
- 83) Korean Resource Center (KRC), California
- 84) Latinos United of Michigan
- 85) Maryland Arab American Committee (MAAC)
- 86) Migration and Refugee Services, Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey
- 87) Muslim American Public Affairs Council, North Carolina
- 88) National Black L.U.V. Festival, Washington, DC
- 89) New York Immigration Coalition
- 90) North Carolina Justice Center
- 91) North Carolina State Muslim Students Association
- 92) Not in Our Name, Seattle

- 93) Peace Action, New Mexico
- 94) Philadelphia Arab American Community Development Corporation
- 95) South End Lebanese/Syrian Veterans Association, Massachusetts
- 96) Syrian-Lebanese Club of Boston
- 97) Tahirih Justice Center, Virginia
- 98) Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition
- 99) Triangle Tikkun, North Carolina
- 100) Utah Coalition of La Raza
- 101) Veterans for Peace, New Mexico
- 102) Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Pennsylvania
- 103) YKASEC- Empowering the Korean American Community, New York