



**American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee**  
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#### In Memoriam

Hala Salaam Maksoud, PhD  
(1943-2002)  
Alex Odeh  
(1944-1985)

March 13, 2008

John McCain 2008  
P.O. Box 16118  
Arlington, VA 22215

Dear Senator John McCain,

On behalf of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), I write to voice my concerns over your recent remarks linking Islam to violence. We are non-sectarian and non-partisan organization, ADC is the largest Arab-American grassroots organization in the United States. Founded in 1980 by former United States Senator James Abourezk, in response to stereotyping, defamation, and discrimination directed against Americans of Arab origin. ADC has 40 chapters and active members in all 50 states. We are deeply troubled by your fear mongering comments which are part of an increasingly vicious pattern noted by ADC.

As a former U.S. Congresswoman (I served with you in the House of Rep.) and the president of ADC, I am dismayed to hear your various speeches in which you appear to generalize all people of Muslim faith; your speeches have linked Islam with such terms as “violent”, “extremist”, and “radical”. ADC has found that particularly malicious forms of anti-Muslim and anti-Arab bigotry are becoming more prevalent in mainstream discourse and such comments are another example. ADC believes making these remarks adds fuel to the fire of extremists everywhere.

However, ADC appreciates your disavowal of Rep. Steve King’s (R-IA) remarks and the remarks of other individuals who inject bigotry into this presidential race. ADC is under no illusion; there are violent and rogue individuals who subscribe to the Muslim faith and other faiths. However, your latest series negative reference alienates good Muslims and Muslim-Americans. As a Catholic, I find negative comments of any religion egregious. The vast majority of Muslims make-up some of the most productive US citizens and are people of good character who share the common values of all of us.

We hope you understand how the nature of your generalized remarks is perceived by people of other faiths. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-244-2990.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar (Retired)  
President, ADC