



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

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#### In Memoriam

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

June 20, 2008

Senator Barack Obama  
Obama for America  
PO Box 8120  
Chicago, IL 60680

Dear Senator Obama:

Please accept our sincere gratitude on behalf of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), the nation's largest civil rights organization working on behalf of the Arab-American community since 1980. As a civil rights organization we want to thank you for the personal leadership you exhibited in addressing the two troubling incidents involving two of your Muslim supporters that took place during your campaign rally in Detroit.

As you know, earlier this week, ADC contacted you with our letter dated June 18 concerning our grave disappointment with the manner in which two women who elect to wear the *hijab* (religious scarf) were treated by campaign volunteers during the Detroit rally. We feared that these two incidents represented an unfortunate outgrowth of your campaign's political efforts at disassociating from Islam.

Earlier this morning, ADC was contacted by your campaign. The message confirmed earlier press reports of your personal apology to both women and the fact that you were able to speak with one of them directly by phone to apologize and express your personal displeasure with what took place. This gesture of personal leadership confirms to us your consistent message of inclusion and positive change and the continuing need for our leaders to champion our American traditions of freedom, liberty, and equality under the rule of law.

Once again, thank you for taking the leadership in addressing this troubling issue. By doing so you have made it clear to everyone associated with the Obama Campaign, and all Americans, that such incidents of intolerance and disrespect will not be tolerated in your campaign just as they would not be tolerated in an Obama Administration.

Should you need any additional information about this matter or the work of ADC, please contact us to [president@adc.org](mailto:president@adc.org) and [kshora@adc.org](mailto:kshora@adc.org) or call (202) 244-2990. Thank you for your time and leadership in personally addressing this concern.

Sincerely,

Hon. Mary Rose Oakar  
President

Kareem Shora, JD, LL.M.  
National Executive Director