



American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

January 21, 2015

Via Facsimile & First Class Mail

Mr. Bradley Cooper
Creative Artists Agency
405 Lexington Ave., Suite 19th Floor
New York, New York 10174

Re: Request for Public Statement Against 'American Sniper'-Related Threats

Dear Mr. Cooper:

I am contacting you on behalf of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the largest Arab civil rights organization in the United States. Founded by former U.S. Senator James Abourezk in 1980, our organization serves as a public voice for the Arab American community in the United States on domestic and foreign policy issues. ADC supports the human and civil rights of all people and opposes racism and bigotry in any form.

I am writing to bring to your attention the increase of serious threats made against the Arab and Muslim American communities. A majority of the violent threats we have seen over the past few days are result of how Arabs and Muslims are depicted in *American Sniper*. We are in receipt of hundreds of violent messages targeting Arab and Muslim Americans from moviegoers of the film. Many of these threats are made through social media forums, such as Twitter and Facebook. The threats advocate for the murder of Arabs, one going as far as to say, "*Great f**king movie and now I really want to kill some f**king ragheads.*" In another threat a user wrote, "*American sniper makes me wanna go shoot some f**kin Arabs.*"

ADC takes these threats seriously and is reaching out to you in an effort to help reduce the hateful rhetoric. It is our opinion that you could play a significant role in assisting us in alleviating the danger we are facing. I am asking if you are willing to make a statement against the violent rhetoric being exhibited. The statement should make it clear that we cannot tolerate hate and bigotry here in America. Your visibility, influence, and connection to the film would be a tremendous force in drawing attention to and lessening the serious dangers facing the respective communities.

ADC is currently working directly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and local law enforcement officials to address these violent threats. In the midst of the negative media coverage and hateful propaganda surrounding the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks, *American Sniper* catalyzes increased anti-Arab and Islamophobic tensions here at home. It is imperative for us, as Americans, to act now to prevent these verbal threats from turning into violent and physical hate crimes against Arab and Muslim Americans, or those perceived to be Arab or Muslim.

I would like to request an immediate response to this letter as timing is of the essence – these threats could elevate quickly, putting many of us in danger. Our office is available to work with you in drafting a statement. I can be reached at the office, 202-244-2990. I can also be reached via email to president@adc.org.

Sincerely,



Samer Khalaf, Esq.
ADC President