

Media Advisory

Open Forum: Muslims, Arabs & Government

When: Saturday July 12th 2003 1:00-4:00

Where: The Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel, New Jersey

Contact: Engy Abdelkader ENGYYY@aol.com

Web Site: <http://www.naaponline.org/ny/>

The Network of Arab Professionals of New York presents an open dialogue with representatives from key State and Federal Agencies to discuss issues of concern to Arab Americans today. Discrimination, and racially motivated crimes against Arabs has been on the rise since Sept. 11, 2001. The American-Arab Discrimination Committee Research Institute (ADCRI) recently released a report documenting the experiences of Arab Americans. The ADCRI report not only included hate crimes and discrimination by individuals, which has decreased in recent months, but also includes FBI misconduct, defamation by public figures, and severe breach of civil liberties based simply on Arab ethnicity. The Open forum gives Arab Americans the opportunity to voice their concerns, while giving officials a chance to respond, and describe efforts to curb anti Arab Crimes.

Special Guest Speaker:

DALIA HASHAD, ESQ., Arab, Muslim, South Asian Advocate, A.C.L.U

Featured Panelists Include:

CHARLIE MCKENNA, Assistant U.S. Attorney

FRANK VESPA-PAPALEO, Director, The Division on Civil Rights

HESTER AGUDOSI, Chief, Office of Bias Crimes - N.J. Division of Criminal Justice

EDWARD DICKSON, Assistant Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SARAH ELSHAZLY, Community Outreach Director, Office of the Attorney General

PHIL FREEMAN, Assistant Director, Bureau of Prevention & Community Relations - N.J. Department of Law and Public Safety

WENDY GALLAWAY, Captain, New Jersey State Police

JOSEPH GRIFFIN, Detective Sergeant, New Jersey State Police