

LA Jews for Peace
Statement about CAIR
September 20, 2010

LA Jews for Peace condemns the recent smear campaign against Muslims and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) by the Republican Jewish Committee (RJC).

CAIR is an American civil rights and advocacy institution that works to defeat religious discrimination in the U.S. and to uphold the U.S. Constitution. To those ends, LA Jews for Peace has worked in partnership with CAIR over the years, and we have jointly sponsored lectures and other civil rights events.

The activities of the RJC, and other right-wing pro-Israel groups, defame the peaceful, moderate Muslim-American community, and undermine its political activities. If these activities are allowed to continue, they will marginalize Muslim-Americans by discouraging and intimidating politicians from working with that American community.

The efforts of the Republican Jewish Committee, and others like them, are no different than similar efforts by some groups in the 20th century to demonize and marginalize other minorities including Jewish, Italian, Irish, Chinese, and Japanese Americans. It is part of an ongoing national campaign driven by right-wing bigots. It is manifested in attacks on the right of Muslims to build mosques, attempts to burn copies of the Quran, and the hate-mongering in the media and by many politicians.

As American Jews, we reject the hateful and divisive statements of the RJC, and instead call for unity and respect for all groups who support American values and the U.S. Constitution.