

# FRIDAY BRIEF

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## Two-Thirds of American Muslims: War on Terror, Not Islam

A systematic poll of Muslim Americans has found that two-thirds agree with the Bush Administration's assertion that America is fighting a war on terrorism, not Islam. The poll results were released Wednesday by Project MAPS: Muslims in the American Public Square, a project sponsored by the Center for Muslim - Christian Understanding at Georgetown University and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

The poll was conducted by Zogby International, who interviewed 1,781 persons nationwide that identified themselves as Muslims from November 8 through the 19th, 2001.

The poll covered several areas, including demographics of American Muslims, religious practices, opinion and behavior on social and political issues, party affiliation, voting in the presidential election, foreign policy and other domestic issues relating to religion and public life, and issues related to September 11 and its aftermath.

"The poll clearly shows the determination of the Muslim community," said Project MAPS Co-Director Zahid Bukhari. "Although [the Muslim community] took the heat after September 11, more than 50 percent experienced incidents of backlash, the community is yet very eager to fully participate in the American public life. The American Muslims have great potential to become a moral voice in the society."

A copy of the executive summary of the poll can be accessed at the Project MAPS website at [www.projectmaps.com](http://www.projectmaps.com).

## Islamic Institute Meets Twice with Justice Department on Anti-Terror Law, Domestic Terrorism

The Islamic Institute met twice this week with officials from the U.S. Department of Justice over issues of concern to the Muslim American community. On Wednesday, the Institute coordinated a session with Justice Department officials and Muslim community leaders and lawyers to discuss the aspects of the recently passed USA Patriot Act. The legislation provides several new powers to the government that have been cause for concern in the Muslim American community.

The Institute also met on Thursday with officials from the Office of the Attorney General concerning issues of domestic terrorism and the closure of several Muslim charities. The meeting was coordinated by the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), a recent target of domestic terrorism as reported on national media.

The organizations expressed their concern and suggestions to the Attorney General's office concerning recent revelations that the Jewish Defense League targeted Congressman Darrell Issa, the offices of MPAC, and a large mosque outside Los Angeles. The groups requested that the Justice Department intensify its investigations of domestic terrorism and its threat to the American public, especially in the wake of the September 11 attacks.