



March 1, 2011

Congressman Peter King,
339 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Peter King,

We invite you to recall our nation's history. During World War II, Japanese Americans were deprived of their rights and forced into internment camps. As a nation we distrusted their loyalty and commitment to the nation. The McCarthy hearings were another shameful spectacle altering and destroying the lives of many Americans. Catholics were once demonized as threats to democracy beholden to a foreign power. Jews and African Americans have faced centuries of suspicion and prejudice. And today, Muslim-Americans in many communities face fierce opposition when they propose to build a mosque to worship peacefully. Ever growing number of Muslims are victims of hate crimes. This bigotry and discrimination, rooted in fear and ignorance is corrosive to the soul of our nation.

Just last month, our nation was shocked by a savage shooting spree in Arizona. That brazen attack killed and injured fellow Americans, including your colleague, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. The nation mourned together in the wake of that painful tragedy. Leaders of both parties have called for an elevated civic dialogue transcending fear-mongering and polarization. Your proposed hearings are unworthy of that noble goal.

As religious leaders and people of faith, we stand together to express our profound concern about the Congressional hearings you have proposed to investigate the Muslim-American community. We fear this effort will only further divide our community and undermine our nation's highest ideals. We urge you to cancel these hearings.

Instead we ask you initiate a more constructive approach and convene a dialogue among faith leaders, law enforcement and elected officials. It is with a spirit of goodwill and sincere hope that we propose beginning such an initiative with you.

Sincerely,

1. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, *Armenian Church Western Diocese*
2. Bishop Jon Bruno, *Episcopal Diocese, Los Angeles*
3. Bishop Dean W. Nelson, *Southwest California Synod, Evangelical Church in North America*
4. Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Chetti, Executive Minister/CEO, *American Baptist Churches of Southern California, Arizona, Nevada & Hawaii*
5. Most Reverend Edward Wm. Clark, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, *Episcopal Vicar for Our Lady of the Angels Pastoral Region*
6. Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, Resident Bishop, Los Angeles Area, *The United Methodist Church*
7. Rev. Felix Villaneuva, Conference Minister, California-Nevada, *United Church of Christ*
8. Rev. Norm Copeland, Elder, *African Methodist Episcopal Church, Los Angeles*
9. The Rt. Rev. Diane Jardine Bruce, Bishop Suffragan, *Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles*

10. The Rt. Rev. Mary D. Glasspool, Bishop Suffragan, *Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles*
11. Fr. Michael D. Gutierrez, President, Priests in Hispanic Ministry, *Archdiocese of Los Angeles*
12. Rev. Walter Contreras, *Evangelical Covenant Church*
13. Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak, *HaMifgash: An On-going Conversation*
14. Rabbi Alan Henkin, Union Rabbi for the West District, *Union for Reform Judaism*
15. Rev. David K. Farley, Senior Pastor, *Echo Park United Methodist Church, Los Angeles*
16. Rev. Thomas C. Hill III, *United Methodist Church, California-Pacific Annual Conference*
17. Rev. Sandie Richards, Chair Board of Church and Society, *California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church*
18. Stephen Rohde Esq., Chair - *Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace*
19. Jim Lafferty, Director, *National Lawyers Guild/Los Angeles*
20. Rabbi Jonathan D. Klein, Executive Director, *Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice, Los Angeles*
21. Rev. Carol Been, *Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, California*
22. Rev. Peter Laarman, Executive Director, *Progressive Christians Uniting*
23. Kathy Masaoka, Co-chair, *Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress*
24. Eisha Mason, Interim Regional Director, *American Friends Service Committee, Pacific Southwest Region*
25. Rev. Don Dewey, Co-Regional Minister-President, *Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Pacific Southwest Region*
26. Rabbi Zoe Klein, *Los Angeles*
27. Rev. Bert Newton, *Pasadena Mennonite Church (Ministry Associate)*
28. Rev. Jennifer Gutierrez, Director of Urban Ministry, *California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church*
29. Anthony Manousos, *Friends for Peace, Santa Monica*
30. Rev. Sandra K. Olewine, *The Neighborhood United Methodist Church, Long Beach*
31. Rev. Daniel Romero, *United Church of Christ, Los Angeles*
32. Stephanie Suggs, *United Methodist Deaconess, San Bruno*
33. Victoria Tamoush, *Christian Pacifist, Tustin*
34. Dave Smith, *Irvine United Church of Christ Advocates for Peace & Justice*
35. Rev. Tom Reinhart-Marean (retired clergy), *The United Methodist Church, California-Pacific Conference*
36. Don Bustany, Producer/Host, *Middle East in Focus, KPFK Radio, Los Angeles*
37. Prof. Dany Doueiri, *California State University San Bernardino, Professor*
38. Sherna Berger Gluck, *Emerita faculty California State University, Long Beach*
39. Rev. John Forney, *Progressive Christians Uniting*
40. Rev. Sarah Halverson, *Fairview Community Church*
41. Rev. Stanley Bain, *United Methodist clergy retired, Kailua, Hawai'i*
42. Rev. Jim Conn (Retired), *United Methodist Church, Santa Monica*
43. Rabbi Steven B. Jacobs, *Founder Progressive Faith Foundation*
44. Fred C. Plumer, President, *ProgressiveChristianity.org*
45. The Rev. Dr. Gwynne Guibord, Founder and President, *The Guibord Center - Religion Inside Out*
46. Albert Cohen, Executive Director, *Southern California Ecumenical Council*
47. Veena Dubal, Staff Attorney, *Asian Law Caucus*
48. Patricia Krommer C.S.J., *Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet*
49. Rev. Susan Gonzales Dewey, Co-Regional Minister, *Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Pacific Southwest Region*
50. Ed Fisher, *Interfaith Communities United for Justice & Peace, Los Angeles*
51. Lupe Lujan, *School of the Americas Watch, Los Angeles*
52. Barry Weiss, *Los Angeles*
53. Andy Griggs, *Los Angeles*
54. Rita Lowenthal, *Progressive Jewish Alliance, Los Angeles*
55. Phil Way, *American Friends Service Committee, Los Angeles*
56. Ruth Persky, *American Friends Service Committee, Los Angeles*
57. Robert Lujan, *School of the Americas Watch, Los Angeles*
58. Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa, Sr. Minister, *Centenary United Methodist Church, Los Angeles*
59. Rabbi Aryeh Cohen, Assoc. Prof. of Rabbinic Literature, *Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, American Jewish University, Los Angeles*
60. Rabbi Reuven Firestone, *Hebrew Union College*
61. Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, *Shomer Shalom Network for Jewish Nonviolence*
62. Rabbi Zev-Hayyim Feyer, *Pomona, CA*
63. Roberta Frye, Chair - Peace & Social Justice Committee, *Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica*
64. Ruhi Sophia Rubenstein, *Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Los Angeles*
65. Cantor Michael Davis, Member, *Jewish Voice for Peace - Rabbinical Council*
66. Rabbi Suzanne Singer, *Temple Beth El, Riverside, CA*
67. Rev. Susan Bjork, *United Church of Christ Minister*
68. Rabbi Linda Bertenthal, Managing Congregational Representative, *Union for Reform Judaism West District*
69. John Marciano, Professor Emeritus, *Suny Cortland, Santa Monica*
70. Rabbi Susan Laemmle, Dean of Religious Life Emeritus, *USC & Editor, CCAR Journal*
71. Rev. Robert Stiles, Global Mission Ministry Team, *First Congregational Church of Long Beach*
72. Rev. Misi Pouena Tagaloa, *Second Samoan Congregational Church U.C.C., Long Beach*
73. Rabbi Lewis M. Barth, *Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles*
74. Rev. Hannah Petrie, Associate Minister, *Neighborhood UU Church*
75. The Rev. Wilfredo Benitez

76. Mark Masaoka, *Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress*
77. Rev. Jim Burklo, Associate Dean of Religious Life, *University of Southern California*
78. Cecilie Surasky, Deputy Director, *Jewish Voice for Peace*
79. Cathie Gentile, Faith In Action Commission, *Unitarian Universalist Community Church, Santa Monica*
80. Gene Rothman, *Culver City Area Interfaith Alliance*
81. Rev. Dr. Reinhard Krauss, Pastor, *St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, Rolling Hills Estates*
82. Jahan Stanizai, *Culver City Area Interfaith Alliance*
83. Doni Heyn-Lamb, Middle East Ministry, *All Saints Episcopal Church, Pasadena*
84. Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, Associate Professor and Director of Multifaith Studies and Initiatives, *Reconstructionist Rabbinical College*
85. Mrs. Jean Katz, Co-Founder *West Los Angeles Cousins Club*
86. David Basior, *Reconstructionist Rabbinical College*
87. Thea Leticia Mateu, *Echo Park United Methodist Church, Los Angeles*
88. Rev. Doris W. Davis, *Interfaith Minister, Culver City, CA*
89. Rabbi Jason van Leeuwen, *Westchester*
90. Penny Choy, *Culver City Area Interfaith Alliance*
91. Rev. Dr. Cedrick D. Bridgeforth, Los Angeles District Superintendent of the *United Methodist Church*
92. Rev. Leland Stewart, Founder/Central Coordinator, *Unity-and-Diversity World Council*
93. M. Theresa Basile, *Culver City Interfaith Alliance*
94. Randy Heyn-Lamb, Middle East Ministry, *All Saints Episcopal Church, Pasadena*
95. Manjusha P. Kulkarni, Esq., Executive Director, *South Asian Network*
96. Rev. Dr. Donna Byrns, Sr. Minister, *The Church of Truth, A Center for Awakening Consciousness*
97. Zac Sidawi, *Costa Mesa*
98. Catherine Thiemann, *Mission Hills United Church of Christ, San Diego*
99. Steph Campbell, President, Orange County Chapter - *Americans United for Separation of Church & State*
100. Rabbi Brian Walt, *West Tisbury, MA*
101. A. Wayne Riggs, Pastor, *Plymouth Congregational Church, San Diego*
102. Scott Landis, Pastor, *Mission Hills United Church of Christ, San Diego*
103. Jane F. Guise, *Culver City Area Interfaith Alliance*
104. Marge England, *St Anselm of Canterbury Episcopal Church, Garden Grove, CA*
105. Vivian Stapleton, *Cousins Club of Orange County*
106. Jose Luis Hernandez, *Episcopalian, Anaheim*
107. Felicity Figueroa, *Irvine, CA*
108. Christo Franklin, *Venice, CA*
109. Virginia Classick, *Progressive Christians Uniting, Los Angeles*
110. Joan Waller, *Woodland Hills, CA*
111. Vanessa Karam, *Middle Eastern Dialogue, Lakewood, CA*
112. Tom England, *St Anselm of Canterbury Episcopal Church, Garden Grove, CA*
113. Paul Waller, *Woodland Hills, CA*
114. Ian Thompson, *ANSWER Coalition*
115. Muna Coobtee, *ANSWER Coalition*
116. Glenna Kay Plitt, *Friends of Tent of Nations North America*
117. Jesus Prado, *Orange, California*
118. Eileen White Read, *Pasadena, California*
119. Elvia Alvarado, *South Pasadena, California*
120. The Rev. Patricia O'Reilly, Executive Director, *Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Area Congregations.*
121. Rev. Barbara Lee, Staff Minister, *The Church of Truth, Pasadena*
122. Rev. Rich Killmer, Executive Director, *National Religious Campaign Against Torture*
123. Tom Walsh, President, *UniteHere-Local 11*
124. Ada Briceno, Secretary-Treasurer, *Unite Here-Local 11*
125. Rev. Dr. Jim Nelson, Senior Minister, *Neighborhood UU Church, Pasadena*
126. Dr. Ken Brown, Executive Director, *Unitarian Universalist Assn., Pacific SW District*
127. Rev. Ed Bacon, Rector, *All Saints Church, Pasadena CA*
128. Rev. Jerry Stinson, Sr. Minister, *First congregational Church of Long Beach, Long Beach, CA*