

HASSAN V. NYPD



About HASSAN V. NYPD

The Film - In a Pulitzer Prize-winning series of stories, the Associated Press revealed through leaked documents that after 9/11 the New York Police Department (NYPD) had secretly launched a vast program of human mapping and surveillance carried out by a so-called "demographics" unit that targeted Muslim communities in New York, New Jersey, and beyond. For years, officers and informants had been spying on hundreds of mosques, student groups, and Muslim-owned businesses, solely on the basis of religion or ethnicity. Produced by Flatbush Pictures, HASSAN V. NYPD tells the dramatic story of how ten New Jersey plaintiffs -- a group of imams, college students, business owners, school teachers, and a U.S. army sergeant -- came together to stand up to the NYPD in a critical fight for equal protection under the Constitution and how they won.

A Sprawling Program of Surveillance

The Case - *Hassan v. City of New York* is a federal lawsuit that challenges the NYPD's suspicionless surveillance of Muslims in New Jersey solely because of their Muslim identity. Since 2002, the NYPD has spied on at least 20 mosques, 14 restaurants, 11 retail stores, two grade schools, and two Muslim Student Associations (MSAs) in New Jersey. The monitoring included video surveillance, photographing, community mapping, and infiltration. Moreover, internal documents, including a list of 28 "ancestries of interest," reveal that the NYPD used racial and ethnic backgrounds as proxies to identify and target Muslims.

Over 60 Organizations and individuals petitioned the court in support of the *Hassan* plaintiffs' position. Read the full list at www.muslimadvocates.org/endspying

Hassan v. City of New York is the first case ever brought on behalf of American Muslims who were unlawfully targeted and surveilled under this program. The lawsuit was initially filed by Muslim Advocates in 2012, and the Center for Constitutional Rights and Gibbons, P.C. joined as co-counsel. The

plaintiffs comprise a broad group with diverse backgrounds, and include a decorated Iraq war veteran who currently serves as a US Army reservist, Rutgers University students, and the former principal of a grade school for Muslim girls. A federal appeals court in Philadelphia issued an opinion in favor of plaintiffs, which compared the NYPD's surveillance of Muslims to the government's treatment of "Jewish-Americans during the Red Scare, African-Americans during the Civil Rights Movement, and Japanese-Americans during World War II."

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On April 5, 2018, the Hassan plaintiffs reached a landmark settlement with the NYPD that provides sweeping protection for Muslim communities from unwarranted NYPD surveillance. Under the *Hassan* settlement, the NYPD cannot surveil Muslim communities in New Jersey on the basis of faith or ethnicity and its investigations must always conform to the Constitution, including the First Amendment. The NYPD also agreed to pay damages to the New Jersey businesses, mosques, and individuals for lost revenue and the stigma they endured from being profiled because of their faith.

**Want to host a screening of the film?
Please contact Kibret Yebetit at
kibret@picturemotion.com to learn more.**

Muslim Advocates is a national legal advocacy and educational organization that works on the frontlines of civil rights to guarantee freedom and justice for Americans of all faiths. Muslim Advocates are experts with deep experience

in the courtroom and powerful connections in Congress and Washington, D.C. As a thoughtful voice in Washington, they ensure the concerns of American Muslims are heard by leaders at the highest levels of government. As a watchdog of justice, they use the courts to bring to task those who threaten the rights of American Muslims. Muslim Advocates are strategic in the battles they take on so resources have maximum impact. They create coalitions inside and outside of government to tackle the most urgent issues facing the American Muslim community.

Muslim Advocates team of legal advocates, policy experts and communications professionals:

1. Fight discrimination with high impact lawsuits against those who wrongfully target American Muslims.
2. Empower communities by strengthening American Muslim charities and educating people about their legal rights.
3. Counter anti-Muslim hate by challenging bigotry and hate crimes.

The Center for Constitutional Rights is dedicated to advancing and protecting the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Founded in 1966 by attorneys who represented civil rights movements in the South, CCR is a non-profit legal and advocacy organization committed to the creative use of law as a positive force for social change.

CCR employs litigation, education, and advocacy to advance the law in a positive direction, to empower poor communities and communities of color, to guarantee the rights of those with the fewest protections and least access to legal resources, to train the next generation of constitutional and human rights attorneys, and to strengthen the broader movement for social justice. Since its founding, CCR has lent its expertise and support to virtually every popular progressive movement.

CCR fights tirelessly to obtain justice for those who have fallen victim to domestic government abuses perpetuated in the so-called "war on terror." CCR challenges to discriminatory profiling, torture, and illegal detentions of Muslims in the U.S. began in the days immediately after the tragic 9/11 attacks when Muslim, South Asian, and Arab men were rounded up and detained and continues to this day with CCR's opposition to the Trump administration's systemic anti-Muslim bigotry, including the Muslim ban.

CCR's efforts also include litigation and advocacy opposing: experimental prison units that segregate Muslims, surveillance of Muslim communities, and attempts to coerce Muslims into spying on their communities. Some of our most fundamental rights - the right to habeas corpus, the right to due process, the right to a fair trial, the right to equal protection - rights that separate a democracy from a police state - are being systematically eroded in Muslim communities.

