

ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE & NATIONAL NETWORK FOR ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

RACIAL PROFILING AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Background

The civil liberties guaranteed to all United States citizens by the Constitution include freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, the right to a fair trial and equal protection under the law. In the United States, however, minority and immigrant groups have often been subject to racial profiling, limiting their civil liberties based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin.

Racial profiling occurs when law enforcement engages in discriminatory practices targeting groups for suspicion of crime. In June 2001, the End Racial Profiling Act (ERPA) was introduced to both houses of Congress, with strong bipartisan support. After the September 11, 2001 attacks, however, the legislation quickly died and new forms of racial profiling began targeting Arab Americans, American Muslims and South Asian Americans. These communities have repeatedly been treated with a significantly heightened sense of suspicion and even detained on minor immigration violations in the absence of any connection to terrorism.

The Problem

A wave of legislation following the September 11 attacks ushered in a new culture of government secrecy and a simultaneous abandonment of several core constitutional guarantees, including due process, privacy, and equal protection. Many of these laws targeted the Arab American and American Muslim communities, who became subject to widespread surveillance, detention and deportation.

- The Patriot Act, passed into law in October 2001 and renewed in 2006 and 2011, greatly expanded the federal government's ability to place citizens under surveillance or in detention with little oversight or suspicion of criminal activity.
- In November 2001, Congress passed the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, placing the newly established Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in charge of all airport security measures and screenings. TSA's methods and efficacy have been questioned, with numerous claims against the agency for unreasonable search and seizure and profiling passengers by their religion or ethnicity.
- Arab Americans and American Muslims have also faced racial profiling from law enforcement officers, resulting in a serious breach of civil liberties under the guise of national security. Most recently, it was revealed that the New York Police Department (NYPD) has been targeting Muslim communities in New York and New Jersey, including student groups, for counter-terrorism surveillance programs. The NYPD was also found to have used anti-Muslim training materials, such as the film "The Third Jihad," in the training of thousands of officers.

While targeting vulnerable groups and drawing on racist stereotypes about Arabs and Muslims, these measures threaten millions of people, and anyone whom the government wishes to define as a 'threat' to national security. Despite the fact that Arab Americans and American Muslims are the target for racial profiling and laws infringing on civil liberties, these same provisions have slowly encroached on the rights of all American citizens regardless of their race, ethnicity or religion.

Recommendations

- Congress must pass the End Racial Profiling Act (ERPA) of 2011, introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) and Rep. Ben Cardin (D-MD), banning racial profiling for law enforcement at the federal, state and local level, and providing a means of legal action for victims of racial profiling.
- Controversial provisions in counterterrorism legislation that has negatively impacted American civil liberties passed in the aftermath of 9/11 should be revisited.
- Congress must implement increased oversight over training programs for the TSA, NYPD, FBI, and other law enforcement agencies, and should work with the Arab American and American Muslim communities to improve counter-terrorism programs. Congress must also establish a practical way for people to be permanently removed from the TSA's "terrorist watch lists" as they are cleared, rather than being subjected to repetitive detentions and unwarranted searches.
- The Arab American and American Muslim communities are subjected to prejudice, racial profiling and discrimination not only by law enforcement, but also by housing authorities and employers. There must be more repercussions and stricter regulations to prevent these types of discrimination on all levels.

ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Background

Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) refers to the various proposals for broad changes to American immigration law that would increase legal immigration, decrease illegal immigration, and, in some cases, offer a pathway to citizenship for some of the nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants currently residing in the United States. CIR is needed because it addresses the needs of our nation's broken immigration system and must include a high level of transparency and guidelines. Various reform proposals have included recommendations to:

1. fix border enforcement
2. enhance "interior enforcement" (e.g., preventing visa overstays)
3. prevent people from working without a work permit
4. adapt the number of visas available to changing economic times
5. implement "amnesty programs" to legalize undocumented immigrants, and
6. help immigrants adjust to life in the U.S.

Current Status

The American electorate has become increasingly politicized about the issue of immigration. Rather than a debate that acknowledges and celebrates the historical narrative of America as a nation of immigrants, the rhetoric of today's debate is increasingly charged and polarizing. Efforts that previously enjoyed bipartisan support have seen a precipitous decline in Republican support in recent years. Among the numerous points of contention are the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act) and the E-Verify system.

First introduced in 2001, the **DREAM Act** has been reintroduced and debated in many forms, both as a part of comprehensive immigration reform and as a separate entity. The DREAM Act would provide conditional permanent residency to certain undocumented students of good moral character who (a) arrived in the U.S. illegally as minors, (b) graduated from U.S. high schools, and (c) lived in the country continuously for at least 5 years prior to the bill's enactment. By completing 2 years in the military or 2 years at a 4-year institution of higher learning, students would obtain temporary (6-year) residency. As apparent from the narrowly defined set of prerequisites, the DREAM Act is designed to provide relief to young people whose undocumented status is no fault of their own and who are contributing to society as either students or soldiers. The DREAM Act provides a path to citizenship for these hardworking people and is worthy of our support.

The mandatory inclusion of **E-Verify** is also a point of contention. This online system connects employers to federal databases in order to determine employment eligibility of new hires and verify Social Security numbers. The system is operated, at no charge to employers, by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in partnership with the Social Security Administration. However, E-Verify's high error rate has led the government to estimate that mandatory use E-Verify would force 3-4 million American workers to have their records corrected by a government agency or lose their jobs.

Recommendations

- Comprehensive Immigration Reform should be pursued aggressively on a bipartisan basis, with proposals considered on their merits, rather than on the current political climate.
- The DREAM Act should be included in any Comprehensive Immigration Reform proposal, as children who had no role in their parents' immigration to the U.S., who know no other country as their home, and who are now working actively to improve their lives or their communities, deserve a pathway to legal status.
- Comprehensive Immigration Reform should not require the use of E-Verify unless or until the E-Verify system's error rate is dramatically reduced.
- Since 9/11, Arab Americans and American Muslims have been unfairly targeted by a number of national security initiatives, many of which are executed through an already overburdened and inefficient immigration system. As such, we believe that real immigration reform must include a termination of measures (like NSEERS) that base their actions on race, religion, or national origin.

ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE

NATIONAL SECURITY ENTRY EXIT REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Background

The National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS), otherwise known as INS Special Registration, was a system for registration of certain non-citizens within the United States, initiated in September 2002 as a domestic component of the “War on Terror.” NSEERS required nonimmigrant men and boys from predominantly Muslim countries to report to an immigration office to be photographed, fingerprinted and interviewed. Those targeted by the NSEERS program were only permitted to leave the United States from specified ports, and failure to comply with the program often resulted in arrest and deportation.

There were criminal and civil penalties associated with NSEERS, including arrest, detention, monetary fines and/or removal from the United States. The domestic “call-in” registration program resulted in hundreds of detentions and confusion at understaffed local immigration offices. More than 13,000 men who complied with call-in registration were placed in removal proceedings. Publicly available information from DHS indicates that approximately 84,000 individuals registered through this process. In addition, thousands of men who were required to register but failed to do so were susceptible to NSEERS penalties.

Although conceived as a program to thwart terrorist attacks, NSEERS proved ineffective as a counterterrorism tool. Among the tens of thousands of men and boys forced to register under NSEERS, none were ever convicted by the U.S. government for a terrorism-related crime. In practice, NSEERS led to the deportations of thousands of people from Muslim-majority countries for minor civil immigration violations and brought an abrupt end to their productive jobs, property ownership and community ties, including to U.S. citizen family members. It also caused egregious civil liberties offenses including racial profiling, unlawful arrests, and detentions of individuals who were not even required to register under the program.

The Problem

On April 27, 2011, the Department of Homeland Security announced that it would be shutting down the NSEERS registration process—a significant step forward in DHS’s continuing efforts to eliminate redundancies, streamline data collection for persons of all nationalities exiting or entering the United States, and improve upon the skills of security personnel.

Shutting down the NSEERS registration process only ceased the collection of data, but it did not eradicate the potential for misuse of the already-collected data. A careful reading of the Federal Register announcement that ended NSEERS shows that this is not, in fact, a comprehensive termination of the program. Margo Schlanger, DHS Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, said in an April 27, 2011 letter: “The underlying NSEERS regulation will remain in place in the event a special registration program is again needed.” Additionally, no clarification has been issued regarding the status of those individuals (a) placed in removal proceedings as a result of violating a requirement under NSEERS; (b) who did not register; and (c) who registered improperly. Over a hundred men are still stuck in “NSEERS limbo.” While NSEERS principally impacted men from Muslim-majority countries who were required to register, the government’s decision to retain the regulatory framework of NSEERS means that every foreign national in the United States is at risk of the program’s reinstatement.

While DHS announcement suspending NSEERS is a step in the right direction, it is only a first step. Discriminatory enforcement is illegitimate and its effects must be reversed and corrected. The inactive NSEERS regulations have been likened by organizations such as the ACLU to the Supreme Court's decision upholding Japanese-American internment during World War II, which also remains on the books.

Recommendations

- The Administration should expunge data already collected by the NSEERS program and ensure that those who did not register or did not register properly under NSEERS are no longer denied immigration benefits if they are otherwise eligible.
- The federal government should take every available step to reverse adverse immigration consequences that resulted for individuals because of NSEERS, including wrongful deportations and denied benefits.
- The Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security should clarify whether and how data collected through NSEERS is currently being used by government agencies.
- The Administration and Congress should prohibit the implementation of future programs or policies that single out individuals based on race, religion, national origin, or ethnicity.

ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE

ARAB SPRING

Background

After decades of political stagnation, the Arab world saw the first glimmers of democratic change in January 2011 when, inspired by the self-immolation of a street-vendor, Tunisians rose up and ousted strongman Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali. Protests quickly spread across the region, from Morocco to Bahrain. The “Arab Spring” was a remarkable outpouring of pent-up political frustration and economic grievances, manifested at first in non-violent passive resistance and popular demonstrations for democracy and economic opportunity.

These street protests also succeeded in toppling Egypt’s Hosni Mubarak and forced Yemen’s Ali Abdullah Saleh to abdicate his presidency, while Libyan rebels assisted by a massive international military effort succeeded in deposing Libyan dictator Moammar Al-Qaddafi. Meanwhile, the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Bahrain, among others, have grown increasingly bloody and complex. As these regional dynamics have changed, so too have the Arab World’s interactions with the United States, primarily due to Washington’s deeply ambiguous role in the Arab Spring. For American policymakers, the Arab Spring has exposed the contrast between our strategic interests and our ideals, as evidenced by Washington’s lukewarm support for the ouster of some of their long-time allies. Recent polling shows that since the revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia, Arab public opinion of the United States is at an all-time low, and Washington’s inability to influence events on the ground has been a symptom of their growing regional irrelevance.

The Problem

For the better part of the past decade, our country’s leadership did grave damage across the broader Middle East and North Africa, negatively impacting not only the peoples of that region but relations between the Arab world and the United States. US foreign policy in the wake of the Arab Spring has scarcely been any different. Washington’s reticence to endorse the revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia have caused approval ratings of the US to drop to record lows. The administration’s silence on on-going repression in Bahrain, Yemen, and upheavals in other “friendly” states, has significantly undermined their position on Syria. And the wake of US-led military strikes in Libya has produced a lawless and fragmented state that shows no sign of short-term peace.

Meanwhile, the situation on the ground appears to be steadily deteriorating. The ouster of the Tunisian, Egyptian and Libyan regimes appears to have empowered groups with questionable commitments to democracy and pluralism, and violence continues to mar their transitions toward democracy. Other uprisings, in Yemen, Bahrain, and Syria, have failed to achieve their objectives, and have settled into an uneasy stalemate. Other Arab countries have all experienced some level of unrest, but have not reached anything near a critical mass.

Moving Forward

Efforts to transform our relationship with the Arab world and challenge the politics in America that have shaped our approach to this region have been repeatedly rebuffed by those who do not want change and who benefit from the continuation of the status quo. Today, with the Arab world in upheaval, the status quo is both unacceptable and dangerous. There must be a fundamental change in our relationship with this region.

Our polling shows that America has limited political capital in the Arab world. The toll of the past decade cannot be ignored. Libya aside, leaders of the Arab uprisings across the region quite simply do not want or trust American intervention or meddling in their internal affairs. What Arabs do want is for America to respect their history, culture and aspirations and to demonstrate responsibility for the problems we have helped to create or have not effectively addressed - like the quagmire in Iraq and the suffering of the Palestinians - and to provide support for capacity-building that will help create jobs, improve health care, and expand education in their countries.

As Arab Americans, we must muster the political resolve to pressure Washington to adopt a consistent and supportive policy toward the new emerging Arab region. Though the atrocities in Syria are doubtless deserving of American condemnation, the words will ring hollow unless the administration can demonstrate to the Arab world that it will be balanced in its approach to the region. Hearing the cries of some for freedom, while threatening to veto the Palestinian's call for justice only insures that America will continue to be viewed with mistrust.

ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE

SYRIA

Background

One year ago, Syrians took to the streets amid an atmosphere of self-assurance and optimism as ossified regimes collapsed all around them. One year later, that initial optimism has vanished as the uprising has struggled to maintain momentum against brutal repression and international paralysis.

The regime has behaved in an abominable manner. When faced initially with a largely non-violent protest movement, they used brutal repression. This only spurred the opposition to take up arms, which allowed the regime to justify the use of even more brutal and deadly force.

The Syrian armed opposition, disorganized, under-equipped, and routed by the regime, is rapidly losing control of the few strongholds it had managed to defend. Meanwhile, the opposition leadership has been marred by internal dissensions, competing narratives and ideologies, and a dangerous dose of foreign influence.

The international community, for its part, has vacillated between too much involvement and too little. Russia, China, and Iran have continued to arm and support the regime, while Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and their allies have hastened to provide weapons to the opposite side. Washington has largely been content to rely on a formula of crippling sanctions and condemnatory resolutions, which have created an acute humanitarian crisis without noticeably weakening the regime's capabilities.

Many prominent U.S. policymakers have repeatedly called for more direct military intervention, using NATO's intervention in Libya as a model. Though they have thus far remained in the minority, the failure of international attempts at peace and negotiation are providing a significant boost to their ranks.

The Problem

Despite the seeming hopelessness of the situation, the status quo cannot remain in place forever; the regime has shed too much blood and lost too much control to ever successfully retake Syria. On the other hand, the opposition has been marred by disorganization, mutual suspicions, and fragmentation, and the international community has been able to do little (and the little they have done may well do more harm than good), and cannot agree on a path forward.

Arab Americans have watched with increasing frustration and powerlessness as the situation grew steadily worse, unable to agree on a way forward and blocked from any meaningful decision-making in Washington. Though many want to support the fledgling armed insurrection, it can never realistically attain the necessary firepower and coordination to beat the Syrian army. To encourage such a solution is to pull Syria ever deeper into a conflict that it may not escape for years to come.

Washington's inability to halt the violence has also brought to light to the extent to which U.S. influence in Syria - and the Arab world in general - has declined in recent years, as countless foreign policy blunders have cost the U.S. much of its legitimacy in Arab eyes.

Moving Forward

In these times it is near-impossible for the U.S. to continue to juggle its foreign policy contradictions while maintaining any semblance of legitimacy in the international arena. Washington's indignation over the Russian veto at the U.N. rang hollow after countless U.S. vetoes on Palestinian resolutions. Vocal support for Syrian opposition parties has been tainted by a parallel silence on the continuing repression in Bahrain, and condemnations of the violence carry little weight while Washington continues to arm Egypt's military government with crowd-control weaponry.

However, the Arab world's demand for democracy, fairness, and respect can no longer be ignored, and history is indisputably on their side. In the meantime, we should try to encourage a peaceful end to the Syrian conflict, and a negotiated solution that can put Syria on the road to democracy without plunging it into civil war. We should also ensure that we are doing our utmost to safeguard the Syrian people from the mounting humanitarian disaster they currently face, by encouraging more government involvement and aid, and a smarter approach to sanctions that does not impoverish the Syrian working class.

ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE

PALESTINE

Background

Twenty years after the signing of the Oslo Accords, the prospects for a peaceful end to the Arab-Israeli conflict have almost never seemed further away. An early attempt by President Obama to jump start the peace plan in 2010 ended with failure, largely because of the Administration's inability to stop the illegal construction of settlements in the occupied West Bank. Disheartened by the lack of balanced mediation, the Palestinian Authority decided on a path of unilateralism, appealing directly to the international community for statehood recognition and applying for membership at a number of international organizations, including UNESCO.

The US responded by cutting off all funding to UNESCO for admitting Palestine as a member state, causing the organization to lose nearly a quarter of its funding in one fell swoop. Since then, little progress has been made, as the Israeli government has repeatedly refused to stop settlement construction as a precondition to negotiations, and Washington has proven equally unwilling to pressure them to do so.

The Palestinians, meanwhile, have been attempting to unify the opposing governments in the West Bank and Gaza, in response to widespread popular demands for an end to the in-fighting and a return to free democratic elections. Instead of encouraging political unification and a return to democratic elections, Washington was quick to condemn these overtures, and Congress has withheld aid to Palestine as punishment.

The Problem

In Israel, hard-liners have won the day. Decades of illegal settlement and "Jewish-only" road construction, the erection of an oppressive barrier wall/fence, land confiscation, demolition of Palestinian homes, and the free reign that has been given to a radical fringe allowing them to seize land to build and expand "outposts" deep in Palestinian areas—all have combined to profoundly distort the map of the West Bank. These actions have deeply undermined prospects for a future two-state solution to the conflict.

This sorry state of affairs has taken a substantial toll on the Palestinians. With the Oslo process, two and one-half decades of a brutal occupation only gave way to an equally harsh reality. The Palestinian economy has become largely dependent on foreign aid, and Palestinians live in an Apartheid-like system, trapped in isolated cantons surrounded by barriers to commerce and travel, increasingly squeezed by ever-growing settlements and encroaching roads that now cut the West Bank into pieces. The Palestinian metropolis of East Jerusalem, once their center of cultural, social, and economic life, has now been severed from the West Bank. And Gaza, always destitute (it is one of the most densely populated, poorest places on earth), has become strangled by a blockade, its people despairing.

Moving Forward

The first steps to peace will have to be taken by the Palestinians and the Israelis themselves, but there is a great deal we must do to help that process along. The US has a responsibility to win back the legitimacy it lost by playing favorites, and reclaim its position as a fair and honest broker for peace.

One of the first steps we can take is to grant the State Department's request for a waiver from Congressional funding restrictions, in order to continue funding UNESCO. Though this should be an obvious step to restore international goodwill and demonstrate American concern for global issues, a number of members of Congress have already mobilized to block the waiver. This kind of bluster is dangerous, counterproductive, and significantly undermines our regional strategic interests.

In addition, Congress should immediately release all Palestinian aid, instead of using it to pressure the Palestinian Authority to bend to our will. US aid does more than simply prop up the Palestinian economy, and it has value to American interests far beyond its current utilization as a "carrot and stick" approach to influencing PA decisions. Palestine receives billions in aid, from dozens of other countries, many of whom are eager to assert themselves as new regional brokers. Our aid does more than just buttress the fledgling Palestinian state; it also affirms the U.S. commitment to the Palestinian people, and Washington's desire to play a role in its future actions and development. To withhold that funding is to invite precisely the outcome that policymakers are trying to avoid; the development of an independent Palestinian state where the United States has no leverage, influence, or respect.

PROJECT KHALID

DR SAAD ALBAZEI ▪ DR SUHEIL BUSHRUI ▪ DR NATHAN FUNK
GAMAL HELAL ▪ RAMI KHOURI ▪ AMB DAVID MACK
DR CLOVIS MAKSOU D ▪ AMB MARWAN MUASHER ▪ DR A. AZIZ SAID
ADVISORY COUNCIL



H. RES. 608

112TH CONGRESS, 2D SESSION

Honoring the life and work of Arab-American writer Ameen Rihani and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the publication of the first Arab-American novel, “The Book of Khalid”, by Ameen Rihani.

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, a significant wave of Christian Lebanese immigrated to the United States and settled in New York City and Manhattan. This population produced an impressive cohort of writers and poets who have had an extraordinary impact on Arabic and international literature, introducing American themes from Walt Whitman, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Washington Irving. Their body of work, extensive in both English and Arabic, is the most substantial contribution of Lebanese-Americans to American society and culture.

2011 brought the hundredth anniversary of the publication of the first Arab-American novel (indeed, often seen as the first novel written by an Arab in English): The Book of Khalid (Dodd, Mead, and Co., 1911) by Ameen Rihani. The novel, the foundational work in Arab-American literature, presents the story of two boys from Baalbek, Lebanon who migrate to New York City through Ellis Island and discover American life. Its author, Ameen Rihani (1876-1940), was a patriotic American citizen, and, at a time when there were few Arab-American public figures intimately familiar with the region, he advised American officials and presidents on the situation in the Middle East. And, by writing in diverse magazines and by lecturing at many universities and institutions across the country, he dedicated much of his life to educating Americans about Arab history and culture.

Ameen Rihani, the foundational Arab-American writer and public intellectual, has never been acknowledged by the United States Congress, and this moment would be extremely appropriate as numerous institutions across the United States, including the Library of Congress with a symposium on March 29, 2011 and the New York Public Library in October 2011, and throughout the Middle East have organized events to celebrate 100 years of the Arab-American novel. With the current changes in the Middle East, Rihani, as an advocate of American-style freedom, is seen as more important around the world and by Arab-Americans. We encourage you to foster greater co-sponsorship and support this resolution, which is important to Lebanese and Arab-Americans and whose subject is worthy of the interest of all Americans.

815 S 18 ST, STE 502 • ARLINGTON, VA (USA) • 22202
PHONE: +1 857.234.0920 • TODDFINE@PROJECTKHALID.ORG

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 608

Honoring the life and work of Arab-American writer Ameen Rihani and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the publication of the first Arab-American novel, “The Book of Khalid”, by Ameen Rihani.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2012

Mr. RAHALL (for himself and Mr. BOUSTANY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and work of Arab-American writer Ameen Rihani and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the publication of the first Arab-American novel, “The Book of Khalid”, by Ameen Rihani.

Whereas Ameen Rihani was born in Freike, Lebanon, in 1876 and moved to New York City with his family at age eleven in 1888;

Whereas Rihani mastered English and Arabic in his youth and wrote many novels, nonfiction books, plays, essays, poems, and travelogues in both languages during his lifetime;

Whereas Rihani became a United States citizen in 1901;

Whereas Rihani became an interlocutor between Arabs and Americans, meeting with Arab leaders, representing the Arabs at important international conferences, and reporting on the situation in the Middle East to the Department of State and several United States presidents;

Whereas by writing in popular American publications and giving lectures at major institutions, Rihani educated the American public about the lives and ambitions of Arabs;

Whereas Rihani introduced free verse poetry into Arabic in 1905, inspired in particular by the American poet Walt Whitman;

Whereas Rihani became a model and mentor for the “Mahjar” writers of Arab descent in the United States, whose work has become extraordinarily influential and popular around the world;

Whereas his 1911 masterpiece “The Book of Khalid”, the first Arab-American novel, is an important record of Arab immigration to the “Little Syria” community of Lower Manhattan and today is a powerful example of the potential of the United States to inspire the Arab world in its democratic aspirations;

Whereas Rihani’s travels in the Arabian peninsula in the 1920s and close relationships with the leaders of the region made him, according to scholar Irfan Shahid, “the apostle of the Arab-American relationship”;

Whereas Rihani was quoted by President George W. Bush about the power of the Statue of Liberty in 2008, stating that “[g]azing at her lamp held high, [Rihani] wondered whether her sister might be erected in the lands of his Arab forefathers. Here is how he put it: ‘When will you turn your face toward the East, oh Liberty?’”;

Whereas Rihani’s protagonist in “The Book of Khalid” argues: “To these United States shall the Nations of the World turn one day for the best model of good Government; in these United States the well-springs of the higher aspirations of the soul shall quench the thirst of every race-traveller on the highway of emancipation; and from these United States the sun and moon of a great Faith and a great Art shall rise upon mankind.”; and

Whereas Rihani died in his hometown of Freike, Lebanon, in 1940: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) honors the life and work of Arab-American
- 3 writer Ameen Rihani; and
- 4 (2) celebrates the 100th anniversary of the pub-
- 5 lication of the first Arab-American novel, “The Book
- 6 of Khalid”, by Ameen Rihani.

○