



State of New Jersey

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DIVISION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
P.O. Box 089
Trenton, NJ 08625-089

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April 8, 2008

J. FRANK VESPA-PAPALEO, ESQ.
Director
Division on Civil Rights

VIA EMAIL AT AREF@AMERICANARABFORUM.ORG

Dr. Aref Assaf, Ph.D., President
American Arab Forum
42 East Main Street
Denville, New Jersey 07834

RE: Dr. Mohamed Mahdi Qatanani

Dear Dr. Assaf:

Thank you for attending the March 11th, 2008 meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights and for bringing to the Commission's attention the plight of Dr. Mohamed Mahdi Qatanani. Your plea on behalf of Dr. Qatanani, the Imam of the Islamic Center of Passaic County, was well received by the Commissioners.

Hany Mawla, Esq., one of the Commissioners who is familiar with Dr. Qatanani and his situation, assures the Commission that Dr. Qatanani is a good family man and a community bridge builder. Having been given the opportunity to review the information and background on Dr. Qatanani, the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights extends best wishes to Dr. Qatanani for success in obtaining permission to remain in the United States.

To that end, I have enclosed herein a copy of correspondence the Commission has sent to Imam Qatanani's counsel.

Once again, it was very nice to meet you and to have you present at the Commission meeting.

With best regards,

Dr. Joan Rivitz, *Chairperson*
New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights

Enclosure

CC: NJ Commission on Civil Rights Members
NJ Division on Civil Rights Director Vespa-Papaleo



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