



**The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
The National Association of Arab Americans**

Greater Chicago Chapter

www.adcchicago.com

8855 S. Roberts Road
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
708-257-7755
Fax 708-221-6668

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ADC, founded in 1980, is the nation's largest Arab American Organization. ADC is a grassroots civil rights organization which welcomes people of all backgrounds, faiths and ethnicities as members.

ADC is committed to:

1. Empowering Arab Americans;
2. Defending the civil rights of all people of Arab heritage in the United States;
3. Promoting Civil Participation;
4. Encouraging a balanced U.S. foreign policy the Middle East; and
5. Supporting freedom and development in the Arab World.

**The Honorable Mark Kirk
US Representative
Washington, DC Office
1030 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515**

Dear Congressman:

We—The Chicago Chapter of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC-Chicago) -- are writing to express our deep disappointment and shock at some recent statements you made at a pro-Israel rally. In particular, we find your statement “To misquote Shakespeare, something is rotten in Gaza and now it’s time to take out the trash,” is gravely inappropriate for a US Congressman. Such statements not only distort the reality of the current political situation in Gaza, but more importantly only serve to engender hatred and violence toward our American-Arab community.

We as Americans and people of Arab heritage look to our political leaders to promote understanding between various groups in our multicultural society, not intolerance. Depicting the people of Gaza and their political leaders as “trash”, only serves to create greater divisions in our society and foster hatred towards our community.

For these reasons, we ask you to apologize to us and the American-Arab community for your inappropriate language. And, until such time as we receive a formal apology from you, we will be placing your name on our organization’s Discrimination Watch List, which we have posted on www.ADCChicago.com.

We are disappointed that you have decided to use such abusive and dehumanizing language to describe Palestinians for your political gain. We expect much more of you. As our congressman, you have a distinct obligation to represent all of your constituents, which includes us, the American-Arab community. If you are receptive to our needs, we too would like to take the opportunity to express to you our frustration and anger at US policies in the Middle East and American support for Israel’s slaughter of nearly 1,400 Palestinians.

We ask you to reflect on your use of dehumanizing and abusive

language in your political discourse. Regardless of which political stance you ultimately take in Congress, we ask you to better understand the impact of your words on our community, a community, which I am sure you aware, faces great prejudices in our society.

We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your apology, we would expect nothing less from our Congressman.

Sincerely,

**Fadi Zanayed, President
ADC- Chicago**