

Reprinted from the Archives of the Memphis Commercial Appeal:

## **CHARITY, NOT TERROR**

The Commercial Appeal - Tuesday, March 7, 2000

Author: *DANISH SIDDIQUI* ; President ; The Muslim Students Association of Memphis

It was frightening to see such anti-Islam journalism as your Feb. 19 article reprinted from The New York Times, "Islamic charities used as terror fronts, U.S. says."

No proof was provided for the article's fictitious claims. Statements by government officials made clear they had no proof of their allegations.

Officials of the two charities mentioned in the article, the Global Relief Foundation and the Holy Land Foundation, visit us frequently in Memphis. As regular donors, we can firmly attest that their only mission is to serve war-ravaged and oppressed Muslims overseas.

Genocide is occurring in Chechnya, worse than any other in history. Millions of people have died in the wars of Bosnia, Kosovo and Chechnya. The Russians are responsible for these atrocities. Yet the world is turning a blind eye, and the U.S. government, while verbally condemning the Chechnya genocide, is doing nothing to stop it.

Has anything been more misunderstood in the past century than Islam? This religion and way of life constantly have been branded as a "threat" by the Western world.

Muslims have regularly contributed to this community, this country and the entire world, in all areas of life, but go unrecognized. They are never portrayed in an outstanding manner, as are followers of other faiths. Instead, they are shunned and discredited.

No creed should be negatively pro-filed because of isolated incidents or pure hate that has no foundation.

Memo: Letters to the Editor

Edition: Final

Section: Viewpoint

Page: A9

Record Number: 0000067242

Copyright 2000 The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, TN