



Council on American-Islamic Relations-MN Chapter
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www.cairmn.com

July 3, 2009

Steve Houser, President
Red Rhino Fireworks
501 Copper Oaks Drive
Carl Junction, MO 64834

RE: 'Run Hadji Run' Fireworks

Dear Mr. Houser:

The Council on American-Islamic Relations Minnesota Chapter (CAIR-MN) is a civil rights organization that advocates on behalf of Muslims in Minnesota who feel they have been discriminated against because of their religion. It is our duty to report to you complaints of offensive fireworks being manufactured and distributed by your company.

The fireworks are called 'Run Hadji Run'. Hadji is the title given to Muslims who have performed the holy pilgrimage to Mecca, one of the five pillars of Islam. On one side of the fireworks, there is a picture of Arabs/Muslims riding camels, with a fighter plane overhead. On another side there is what appears to be Uncle Sam yanking the long beard of a man in traditional Muslim attire.

SEE: <http://www.redrhinofireworks.com/itemview.aspx?ID=CD-2881>

ALSO SEE: <http://img.moonbuggy.org/run-hadji-run/>

Run Hadji Run fireworks were brought to CAIR-MN's attention because they were being sold at Fireworks City in Baldwin, Wisconsin. Per our conversation with the company, the 'Run Hadji Run' fireworks were "pulled off the shelves" today.

Many of the over seven million Muslims living in the U.S., including Arab Americans, will take part in Fourth of July festivities this weekend and will find these fireworks highly offensive. Stereotyping any religious or ethnic group in such a derogatory way is unacceptable and is not entertaining.

CAIR-MN is willing to work with Red Rhino Fireworks on this issue immediately. We ask that you do the following:

1. Offer an apology to the Muslim and Arab community.
2. Remove the link to the 'Run Hadji Run' fireworks on your website.
3. Immediately stop manufacturing, distributing, and selling the 'Run Hadji Run' fireworks.
4. Participate in CAIR's workplace sensitivity and diversity training.

CAIR, America's largest Islamic civil liberties and advocacy group has 35 offices and chapters nationwide and in Canada. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

Sincerely,

Taneeza Islam, Esq.
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CC: Fireworks City