

2007/08 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships

Mohawk Paper Award



SANA ALI

Graphic Design
Graduate Student
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I grew up in a family of immigrants who felt it their social responsibility and civic duty to be involved in the community and to help those who did not have the resources to support themselves. In high school, I was inspired by the pioneering efforts of my mother, who helped found the Houston Islamic Social Services Association (HISSA) that helped women in dire circumstances leave their abusive relationships by providing them with resources such as lawyers, living arrangements, and financial support.

The Israeli Air Force conducted an **air raid** on the town of Qana located in Southern Lebanon after midnight on the morning of July 30, 2006. The **raid** was conducted against **Hezbollah fighters** who had a **command center** in the town. The collapse of a residential building resulting in the death of **fifty-six civilians** was viewed as a **terrible loss of innocent life**. They were victims of **Hezbollah**. The residents were warned before the attacks, but **the taxis were too expensive**. The **United States** is calling the tactics used by **Hezbollah** as barbaric and immoral.

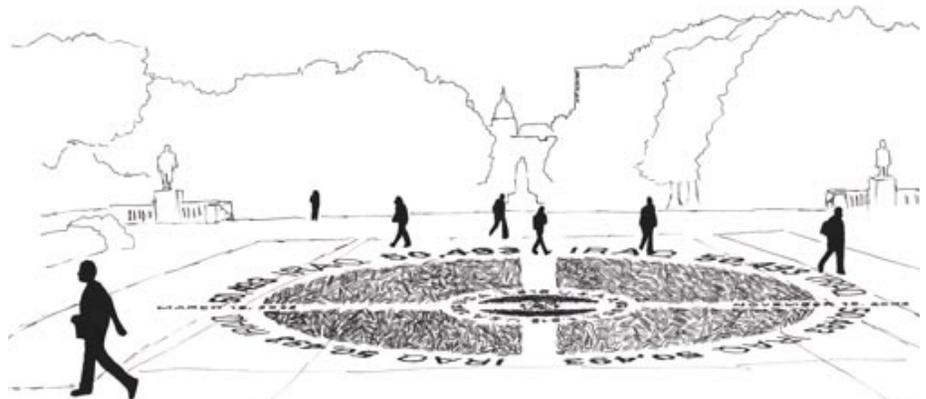
The New York Times

The Israeli Air Force conducted a **slaughter** on the town of Qana located in Southern Lebanon after midnight on the morning of July 30, 2006. The **slaughter** was conducted against **Hezbollah fighters** who had **no presence** in the town. The collapse of a residential building resulting in the death of **at least sixty martyrs that were mostly children** was viewed as **state terror**. They were victims of **Israel**. The residents were warned before the attacks, but the **two roads leading out of the town had been bombed by Israel two days before**. **Lebanon** is calling the tactics used by **Israel** as barbaric and immoral.

The Daily Star

The Israeli Air Force conducted a **missile strike** on the town of Qana located in Southern Lebanon after midnight on the morning of July 30, 2006. The **strike** was conducted against **Hezbollah terrorists** who had a **command center** in the town. The collapse of a residential building resulting in the death of **fifty-seven civilians** was viewed as **accidental**. They were victims of **Hezbollah**. The residents were warned before the attacks, but chose **not to leave**. **Israel** is calling the tactics used by **Hezbollah** as barbaric and immoral.

The Jerusalem Post



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In the following weeks, a female friend wearing a headscarf was fondled by an airport security guard, another friend's father was abruptly arrested and bail posted for \$1 million, and I myself was publicly harassed when religious and racial slurs were called out at me. I felt outraged at reports of the human rights abuses of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay and the cruelty that people felt justified in directing towards Muslims because of their religion. I realized that being a Muslim American woman with a passion for design, coupled with a personal background of serving my community, could prove crucial in creating a link between the much, misunderstood Muslim American community and American society.



Through my work I create an awareness of the Muslim community and explore the misrepresentation of them in American Society after 9/11 by helping to enlighten people more about Islam. I also explore the War on Terror, because I think that the media has abused it to increase more negative stereotypes of Muslims. Many of the hate crimes and injustices that have been conducted against Muslims [or even those who simply fit a stereotypical image of one] have been pushed into the background. The way Muslims have been treated is a result of a fear of the unknown. If people knew more about Muslims then this wouldn't exist. There is just a severe lack of communication. My work is located in the public realm so that it can directly confront my audience—not always offering them solutions, but enlightening them on different issues. The work that I create should be tools for disrupting expectations or conventional thinking about Muslims in America. My work helps to create dialogue between people so they can view each other's point of views on different topics. As a designer, I can communicate this information better than most people.



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