

Interview 28

This interview was conducted by The Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center (MEMEAC) of The Graduate Center, City University of New York (June 2002 – June 2003)

Gender of respondent: Female

Age: 22

Q. Hello? Okay. I'd like to start by asking you a few questions about yourself.

A. Okay.

Q. Where were you born?

A. I was born in Albany, New York, in 1980.

Q. And where did you grow up? Oh, 1980. That's so cute. That's so young.

A. Yeah. Okay. So I lived in New York for two years. And my... my parents had another baby after me also, two years later, and then we moved to Texas-- to [removed], Texas.

Q. Okay.

A. And I've lived in Texas since I was two years old, so twenty years.

Q. Okay. Where was your father born?

A. He was born in Aden, Yemen.

Q. Okay. And your mother?

A. In Baghdad, Iraq.

Q. Okay. So what is your... what would you consider to be your ethnic background.

A. I call myself Arab-American. When people ask what I am I say Arab-American. When they kind of probe a little further I say, well, my Mom is Turkoman from Iraq and my Dad is from Yemen.

Q. Okay. What is your religious affiliation?

A. I wouldn't say that I have one right now.

Q. Okay.

A. I was raised Muslim and I used to go to mosque every Sunday until maybe thirteen.

Q. And you're a U.S. citizen? You were born here. Right?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay. What is your highest level of education?

A. I'm still in college so fifth year of college.

Q. What are you studying?

A. Sociology and humanities and film a little bit.

Q. Okay. And what is your main occupation? Are you a full time student?

A. Yeah, a full time student.

Q. Okay. Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about how you experienced September 11th. Where were you on that day around 9am?

A. I was at work. I'm... I'm... At the time I was a counselor on campus so I was sitting up at the front desk. And we always have the radio on and so someone said something was happening and they turned into NPR or some... some news station.

Q. Okay. And what was your first reaction?

A. When I was first hearing people talking about it 'cause it was right when it happened, I thought that there was just, like, an airplane crash and somewhere around D.C. And, I mean, it sounded... it sounded a little unusual but I didn't... my brain wasn't really processing it and I think... I think I just thought that it was a crash, no sort of attack.

Q. When did you... when you realized that it was an attack how... how did you feel?

What was your reaction to that?

A. It was just kind of disbelief and shock. I... there wasn't any sadness or anger or anything like that. It was more just, like, shock. Like, I didn't... still didn't really understand what was going on. We got on the computer... we have a couple of computers at work -- a couple of computers -- and someone got on and they could immediately they could access the photos of it. And so my friend was showing them... he was, like, looking at them and he asked us to come over to look at them. And so that's when I first kind of realized what was going on.

Q. And how did you feel at that point? I mean, what were your feelings about what happened immediately afterwards?

A. Immediately, like... like I said, it was shock and disbelief and I still wasn't processing it really.

Q. So that... that was your first reaction, the shock and disbelief?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay. And what about... Did you have a reaction to the possibility that the terror... the terrorists could be Middle Eastern?

A. Yeah. Like, as soon as I started... like, probably an hour after, like, we saw the footage of it, or whatever -- I can't remember if I was still at work or if I had gone to class -- but everywhere on campus the TVs were on, 'cause we have big TVs sometimes in buildings. And everywhere on campus the TVs were on and everyone was watching them. And then, when I started hearing references to Middle East and terrorists and stuff like that, then I just started to... I think I started to get upset. I know by the end of the day I was upset.

Q. Well, what were you upset at?

A. I guess... I don't know. I mean, since my family -- my Mom is from Iraq and I've always been... I don't know. I... I mean, I always get angry when I hear people refer to Arabs as terrorists or any... any time that comes up -- you know -- I get a little defensive. I get critical of the people that are saying it. So immediately... especially if they... they said that first I was, like, Oh, of course they're going to say that. You know? That's the first thing they're going to say is that it's Arabs. And so that kind of upset me. And then I just started to get upset as... as like, at the fact. Well, let me think. I guess I just didn't know what that would mean for the Middle East in general -- you know? -- like what was going to happen, -- what the U.S. was going to do in response. I don't know. But... but like I said, that whole first day I was... it was still kind of confusing and I... I don't think I had any solid thoughts on anything. You know? I was just trying to process it all.

Q. Um-hum. Have your feelings changed since the events?

A. Yeah. They've gone through a lot of changes. You want me to say them all?

Q. Yeah, if... Yeah, please.

A. Yeah. Well, the whole first month... like, when I wake up in the morning, like, NPR is usually on -- kind of what I wake up to -- and I remember the whole first month I was just obsessed with the news. Like, I always had to know what was going on. And I remember crying periodically, like, several times a week just crying. Like, any time... I remember waking up to NPR and they were interviewing, like, little Arab children in the Middle East and the children were saying -- you know -- like, why do you hate us or why ... why do you want to bomb us? And I remember crying at that. I remember, like, constantly crying. And at the same time on campus some groups were forming. Actually like, by the

second day, by the day after the attacks, groups were already forming, as far as, like, in response to it, trying to create teach-ins and trying to kind of educate all of campus about, like -- you know -- what... what is Afghanistan? -- who... who are the Taliban? -- who were... I don't know -- things... things like that, like, but just about the Middle East.

Q. Um-hum.

A. I'm sorry if I'm kind of stuttering or...

Q. No, no, no. Don't worry about it.

A. It's kind... It kind of all blends together.

Q. Okay.

A. But... and I remember I met so many people that week or two after September 11th, 'cause these communities just started forming on campus. Like, a student group started called the Campus Coalition for Peace and Justice. In Austin a group started called, Austin Against War, and it was really comforting, 'cause all these people were coming together. And also, first of all, like, there was little to no Arab-Americans in any of the groups. It was mainly white, I guess, Americans, people from Texas, and they were just kind of groups that were forming and trying to organize things. And so for me, like, I found a really solid community in the month or two after September 11th and so... and even though things were very confusing and very scary, like, I remember being so happy during those months 'cause I was finding people that I could talk to things... talk to about things and relate to... see. After a while I just... things were just kind of frantic. I was crying all the time. I was... I'd be very happy some days 'cause I was... I had these people that I could relate to. But then other days I'd be really sad because the world seemed like it was -- you know -- in war, or whatever. And then by... I want to say that by November

the energy, as far as this community that we had found, kind of declined and people started to get kind of cynical or depressed about things. That's when we were -- you know- bombing Afghanistan and...

Q. Okay.

A. Things got really sad. I think the community that had formed kind of started to slowly fall apart.

Q. What do you attribute that to you think?

A. I think for... for a long time... Like, I remember going to meetings and for, like, at least, like, twelve hours a week, -- something like that... Like, every single night there would be something. It was really strange. And then that slowly just started to... I think that the momentum... it just lost momentum, honestly. I mean, people got busy with other things, their jobs and school and anyway. And... and it also seemed like, I mean, what difference could... could any of us really make 'cause... I mean, if the government wants to do something it's going to happen. So... And also after a while it became hard to sift through all the information, like, to understand what was really going on over there. You know? You can only read so many books or go to so many teach ins and... and after them all you still feel like you don't really know that much about the situation. There's that too.

Q. At any point did you feel guilt as an Arab-American?

A. No, no, never.

Q. Okay. What would you say your most vivid memory of September 11th is?

A. Let me think about this for a second. I mean, it's really strange 'cause, like, honestly when I think back to those months I think of it as being a very intense, passionate, happy time because of the community that I found.

Q. Okay.

A. And... and, like, to this day, it was a year later, like, I'm still... some of those people are now my best friends, like, they're my closest friends 'cause we could come to agreement on so many different things, I guess.

Q. But would you say that there's anything about that particular day that stands out in your mind that you'll never forget?

A. Honestly, the only part of that day that I remember was, like, sitting at... sitting at my ... sitting at my chair at work, like, kind of spinning around in the air conditioning and... and having the news on and hearing, like, different blurbs of it and trying to, like, understand what was going on. And that's what I remember. I just... it was kind of confusing and... I remember later in the week, though, I... I was in this horrible class with... I think it was an advertising class. I'm not an advertising major but it was the psychology -- I was interested in that -- so I was taking this class and I really disliked everyone in the class though. It kind of reminded me of high school. And I remember sitting in that class--and this was later in the week -- and people were trying to discuss, like, what was going on, and no one knew what was going on. You know? Everyone thought they did but no one did. And they were referring to... whenever they... I think the news was showing footage of... like, earlier that week the news had showed footage... footage of the Palestinian children dancing. Do you remember that?

Q. Yeah.

A. Yeah. Yeah. And I remember these girls were talking about that and, like, Oh, I can't believe Palestinians are like that! And talking about that. And I remember getting so angry. But at the same time, like, what can you say to people. Like, after a while -- and

this is another reason, I think, the momentum died off -- like, after a while there's no more you can say. Like, you can only talk so much about one subject, but if someone isn't ... if someone doesn't have their ears open or doesn't want to understand you, then you can't talk about it any more. And I... I felt that there was so much rhetoric going on from the media, from George Bush, from activists, just from everybody... . Like, at one point the college Republicans were out on the street with balloons saying honk if you support the war.

Q. Oh, Lord.

A. Things like that were happening all the time and after a while you just, like, fuck it. I don't want to... I don't want to deal with these people any more. I'm just going to let them -- you know -- keep saying what they're going to say and 'cause -- I don't know --we got tired of arguing with people. You know? And arguing doesn't help anything. It just kind of creates more divisions.

Q. How does it make... How did... Or does it still happen now?

A. No. I think that no one wants to talk about it any more. I think everyone's tired of it.

Q. Yeah?

A. Yeah. I mean, even all my friends, like, the community that I made, like, no one talks about it any more. Everyone... I mean, everyone still criticizes Bush and they still talk about current events, but I think everyone is just so drained of it that they. They don't want to even talk about it any more.

Q. When Americans asked you about your ethnic background or origin before September 11th what did you tell them?

A. I always said I was Arab-American but I don't think anyone, especially living in [name removed], Texas -- no one knew what that meant and most people assumed that I was Hispanic 'cause there's a large Hispanic community there. So...

Q. Yeah. Go ahead.

A. Well, so I never really felt my race or my ethnicity until after September 11th, I think. Because all of a sudden everyone knew what you were talking about. Like, all of a sudden there was pictures on the news all the time of Arab-Americans and they could be, like, Oh, that's what you are. You know?

Q. What about immediately after 9-11? How would you answer that question?

A. I still said Arab-American. I always said the same thing.

Q. And what do you say now?

A. I still say Arab-American.

Q. Was there at any point where you felt discomfort saying that?

A. No, I never did and I think it's because I live in a very open... I think the community I live in is relatively open minded. I never felt like I had to hide that.

Q. Have... I'm sorry. Have your feelings toward the United States changed since 9-11?

A. Yes.

Q. How so?

A. I think I'm much more critical of the government than I used to be.

Q. Why? How did that come about? Why would...

A. Well, actually, it's... it's kind of always been, ever since the Gulf War 'cause my grandparents lived in Baghdad. Whenever the Gulf... whenever the bombs started

dropping... and things like that have always influenced me. I've always seen the way U.S. policy has affected people in my family. And so I've just become critical of it. Like, I don't... I mean, I love being in this country. I've... like, I've been to the Middle East and I... I don't want to live there. I'd much rather live here right now. You know? But at the same time I've become more critical and more likely to speak out against things.

Q. So would you say your level of political awareness has changed?

A. Oh definitely. Yeah.

Q. Is it because of foreign policy, domestic policy?

A. It's... it's because of all... it's all of them. Like, I'm a sociology major so when I came to college I started studying about race -- you know -- and poverty and gender and things like that, and equality just, like, within the United States. So I think it started maybe with ... it's just a ... it's a blending of the two. You see racism in... in your society and then you see how it effects other abroad and... as far as immigration. And I don't know. It's... I... I mean, the way I look at the world now is definitely different than the way I looked at it four years ago and one big reason is because of September 11th.

Q. Can you talk a little more about that? What is it about 9-11 or the U.S. reaction to 9-11 that has changed your ... your awareness?

A. It's hard to, like, go back and... it's hard to remember exactly what I was feeling at the time that made me stay up so late and wake up so early and go to all these meetings and invest all this time and energy into this cause. You know? I think I was... at the time I was getting really upset that so many people were making... were formulating these opinions on something that they knew very little about. Like, most people don't have friends that are Arab. You know? They don't interact with people that are Arab. Yet they

were formulating all these opinions about Arab-Americans or about Arabs abroad. And--I don't know--it's strange that all of a sudden, over night... like, you... you don't see Arab-Americans... before September 11th you never saw Arab-Americans on TV, I mean, like, except for the occasional terrorist, or whatever, but you never saw them on TV. And then all of a sudden, over night, you just flash these images of, like, your own race. But it's not only that. Like, every time they show a face of an Arab-American it's coupled with the word evil or terror or something like that, something really bad. It's always negative. And so that obviously, like, that that made me so angry. But there's... I don't know. I wanted to channel that anger into something positive -- you know? -- 'cause you can't just be angry. It doesn't help anything. so for me it was--you know--meeting with people, discussing things and trying to bring people together so that they could learn more about what was going on so they wouldn't be ignorant, so they wouldn't be formulating these opinions -- you know -- based on nothing, based on what the media was telling them. and I don't... I mean, I don't trust the media. I don't... I haven't owned a TV in... I think four years ago I gave up television.

Q. Really?

A. Yeah, and that... that has also affected me a whole lot because now when I watch TV I'm so sensitive to it. Like, I can't watch it, honestly, for more than a couple of minutes it makes me so angry. So... and I remember I'd have to go to my friend's house to watch TV 'cause it was... it was, like, important that I... that I watch some TV at that time -- you know -- to know what was going on.

Q. Yeah.

A. And I remember going to my friend's house and watching TV and just being so angry and not being able to watch it for more than a couple of minutes. You know? It was probably good that I didn't have a TV then.

Q. Very good. You're not missing out on much.

A. Yeah.

Q. Do you feel a sense of belonging to the United States?

A. Yes. Yes.

Q. Okay. Have you always felt like this?

A. Yeah. Yeah. I want to feel that I belong to the Middle East but when I go there I always feel like an outsider and... and I feel like ...

Q. What makes you feel that? Where in the Middle East do you go to?

A. What... What? Excuse me.

Q. Where in the Middle East do you go to?

A. Well, this summer I went to Yemen for a month. And first and foremost, the language barrier. Like, I can speak a little bit... little bit of Arabic but it's not that good and it's not ... like, when I'm speaking to someone that lives in a completely different setting than I do. I want to talk about, like, deep issues -- you know? -- things besides, like, normal affairs of life. And so... but because of the level of Arabic I speak I can never, like, dig beneath that shallow conversation like: How are you doing? Oh, fine. What's for dinner? You know? And so that's very frustrating for me. So first of all, the language makes me feel like an outsider. And then just the way of life. I mean, Yemen's very different. It's not ... it's not the same as some of the other big cities or anything. I'm sorry. I forgot what your question was.

Q. No. No. I was asking you if you felt as if you belonged to the United States or...

A. Okay. Yeah. I mean, I definitely feel like I belong here. And even if I'm really angry or really critical I... I still feel like I belong here. I have every right to be angry.

Q. True. It's... it's our right as citizens.

A. Yeah.

Q. We can be angry and critical.

A. Yeah.

Q. Do you think that there's been a change in the way people from the Middle East in the U.S. have been treated since 9-11?

A. Oh, definitely.

Q. How so?

A. For me, honestly, I haven't felt it that much. Some... sometimes, though, like, back in the autumn of last year I felt like a token figure, like, I was this token Arab-American female who could speak out on issues because everyone else around me was white. You know? And sometimes that was a lot of pressure -- you know? -- if you're supposed to be, like, representing an entire region of the world just because you happen to share the same blood. So it affected me like that. But as far as discrimination, I think it's affected the males in my family much more so 'cause I think when people look at me they can't really tell I'm Arab. They can tell I'm ethnic, or whatever. But just last month my brother ... he had spent a whole summer in Montana studying ecology in the mountains, and he was flying back to Texas and he was in the airport. And he had, like... I mean, he looked like a traveler. Like, he had that big backpack on and his... his hair is really shaggy and he hadn't shaved in a day or two, which was... which would have been fine if he was white.

But he's not. And so he was in the airport and he had a huge lay over, like six hours or something, so he got all comfortable in a corner and he laid down his back pack and he took a nap. And whenever he woke up there was six security guards surrounding him. And my brother is, like, twenty years old. He's still young and -- I don't know -- I felt so bad when he was telling me this. But there were six security guards surrounding him or not... not in a circle but, like, really close to him. Like, it was obvious that they were there for him. And one of them approached him and said -- you know -- "where's your ticket?" And so my brother, like, he's waking up from his nap and he pulls out his ticket and he shows it to him and the officer tells him to get to his gate. And so my brother had to get up. And he walks to his gate and so then they kind of dispersed. So one of the guards follows him until... all the way until he gets to his gate and then he leaves. But he was just telling me about that. And there's, like, little stories that I hear like that all the time, and they're... they're almost funny now. Like, people tell them to me and I don't ... I used to get really angry but now it's just... it's just funny 'cause it's so ridiculous. You know? -- that people can be so paranoid. But I mean, at the same time I understand the caution. Like, I understand that this country has to take precautionary measures now. But it's just horrible that it's come down to just racial profiling, just looking and someone determining if they're a good person or a bad person.

Q. So you've never experienced any kind of racial profiling or harassment or discrimination?

A. No. Like, I can't... I can't think of an instance where I've noticed it. I mean, it might... it might have happened without me noticing it but I haven't really felt it.

Q. Okay. Do you think Arab organizations have been effective in... Arab-American organizations have been effective in handling the backlash against Arab communities since 9-11?

A. You know, I don't know. I don't know what it takes to handle the backlash or if that's something that... I mean, I don't know how an organization can deal with that. And I'm not really sure.

Q. Do you think they've managed to organize or mobilize the Arab-American community politically?

A. You know, I don't feel like... I remember... . Back right after September 11th, I remember feeling like no Arabs on campus wanted to join anything and I think a lot of them were just scared. They wanted to keep a low profile because a lot of them were from abroad. You know? And if I was them I probably wouldn't have done anything either. So at the time I remember feeling that there wasn't a very strong Arab political community. And I'm sure there's lots of reasons for that but I don't really know them. And now I think maybe it might be better but... .

Q. It might be better than what?

A. I mean, it might... maybe it might be a stronger community now. But honestly I don't know because most of my friends aren't Arab cause, like, I was involved in the Arab Students Association on campus and I know Arabs on campus, but I mean, my closest friends aren't Arab. I don't really hang out with Arabs on the weekend and so I can't... I mean, yeah, we share the same blood but I feel a lot closer to a lot of my other friends. It's not... It's kind of hard to explain. So I... I don't know what the Arab community is

like. I remember there might have been like one meeting or two meetings with the Ar---
what is the name of the group? Is it ADC?

Q. Yeah.

A. Yeah. I think maybe they might have sent a representative down here and there might have been a meeting. But for the most part I think a lot of Arabs just kept a low profile.

Q. Have you joined any ethnic or religious organization since 9-11?

A. No.

Q. No?

A. I used to be involved in the Arab Students Association and I haven't really done anything with them. I used to be the of -- ... I used to be the Vice President of the group.

Q. Oh really?

A. And I haven't... Yeah. But I don't know -- after a while I just didn't really want to be involved in it any more. There was lots of fighting, lots of tension, between different members -- you know -- like drama in groups and after a while I just kind... and I also didn't have time for it.

Q. Was this before or after 9-11?

A. It was before 9-11. It was, like, at least a year before.

Q. Okay.

A. Yeah.

Q. In your opinion, what is the nature of the relationship between Arab-Americans and others in the United States at this time?

A. Arab-Americans and who?

Q. Others. Like, would you say relations are more tolerant or harmonious now than before 9-11 or are they more strained or oppositional?

A. I think it... it all depends on the person. I mean, it's really hard to stereotype all Arab-Americans and stereotype all others in this country. You know? If... if you've got an open minded Arab-American -- you've got an open minded individual then I think the relationships can be very good. But if you've got someone that's really defensive and someone that's on the offensive then it's going to be really bad. And I think from my experience it... it just depends on the people involved. You know, it's... it's been frustrating for me to ... just the way people use Arab-Americans. I mean, there's so many different kinds of Arabs in the world. Like, I don't consider... like, Yemenis are so different from -- you know -- Lebanese and it's hard when people lump us all together. And, yeah -- I don't know -- it's difficult for me to make a judgment call, like, say -- I don't know -- to answer that question.

Q. Given your understanding of the status of Arab immigrant groups in the United States after 9-11 would you encourage people from the Middle East to emigrate to the U.S.?

A. Let's see. If they wanted to move to the U.S. and if everything is fine with their papers then, yeah, I would... I would suggest for them to do it.

Q. Why? Why would you tell them... what is it about this country that you would encourage them to come for?

A. Well, if they want to come here there's obviously a reason for that. Maybe they're unhappy where they're at or there's something here that appeals to them. And I think this country does provide a lot of opportunities for that. Like, my father was the first of his

family to come here from Yemen out of ten brothers and sisters and he was... he was able to become a doctor and support his family and send all his children to college. And all of his... most of his family is still back in Yemen or in that area and a lot of them aren't -- you know -- that well off. And so I've seen the system work. You know? And so I think if people... Like, I'm not saying that it's indiscriminate or anything like that. Like, yeah, people might be discriminated against and stuff like that but that's... that might be what they have to sacrifice if they really want to come here at this point.

Q. We've talked about some negative consequences of 9-11. Were there any positive consequences of 9-11?

A. I think people realized that there are other countries in the world besides the United States. I mean, when you live in a place like [name removed], Texas, in the middle of nowhere, I mean, you don't know what an Arab is. You don't know where Indonesia is or places like that. But all of a sudden even your local news station's talking about them. And I think that expands peoples' news of the world. I don't know if that breeds tolerance but, I mean, you need to know that there are other countries out there before you can be tolerant of them, I guess. So maybe it's a... eventually it will lead to tolerance.

Q. Do you think that there's been more visibility or an improved understanding of Middle Easterners or Muslims in the U.S.?

A. Like I said, I don't have a television so I kind of don't know what's going on as far as what the TV is saying. But for me, I find that now, like, when I tell people I'm from the Middle East at least... maybe I'm fortunate. I just hang out with cool people but they... they take a real interest in it and they ask questions about it -- you know -- or they ask if my family has experienced anything. You know? I've never had anyone be like, oh my

God, you're Arab! Or -- you know -- anything like that. And I used to... . Actually, where's this interview going to go?

Q. The 9-11 Digital Archive.

A. Okay. Yeah. I'll leave it at that.

Q. It's not... it's not the news. It's not the media.

A. Okay.

Q. No TV. Why do you think that the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon happened?

A. The tax?

Q. The attacks.

A. The attacks, yeah. I think there are obviously some very angry people out there that ... that wanted to -- you know -- get a message out and I think that's what it's about. I think it's about... . Even though there might be a general feeling in certain regions of the world towards America, like, when I was in Yemen I... I saw a lot of anti-American, anti-Israeli sentiment. It was mainly because of the Israel issue. That's why there is... at least from what I saw, that's why there was anti-American sentiment. As far as why the attacks happened, I mean, certain individuals out of those... regions were very, very angry and wanted -- I don't know -- were willing to put all that energy into this one attack. What was the question: why they happened?

Q. Yeah.

A. Yeah. I mean, I can't say why they happened. That's just... I think it happened because some people were really angry.

Q. Do you think that Arabs or Muslims in the Middle East hate America?

A. I think they hate American policy towards the Middle East; definitely American foreign policy. And I can't say they hate America, 'cause at the same time, they all want to come here. Like, all my... a lot of my cousins are trying to study in Jordan so that they eventually can -- you know -- move to America. So it's not that they hate America. I just think that they hate a lot of the actions that America does.

Q. What do you think that the United States can do to resolve the problem of terrorism directed against it?

A. I think that they need to do something about the Israeli/Palestinian issue, definitely, like, first and foremost. I mean, there's different... there's the Iraqi issues, there's Saudi Arabia. There's different things. So I think, first and foremost, something needs to happen with Israel and Palestine and I don't... like, a lot of people have a set list of things that they say needs to happen there and I'm not sure what all of them are. Like, I've heard so many different things. But I just think that something there needs to be resolved before it can get better.

Q. Okay. Are there any other issues or points that you'd like to comment on that we haven't mentioned in this interview?

A. I'd be interested to know how Jewish... this is just kind of a question. It's not an answer or anything. But I would be really interested to know how Jewish/Arab relations have changed in America since 9-11 because I know, like, a lot of Jews and Arabs don't mingle much, at least here. Like... like in Austin, like, the kids in the Arab Students Association don't really hang out with, like, kids in the Jewish fraternity or in Texans for Israel or anything like that. You know? And I think relations between those two groups

are still... I don't know. There's still a line drawn between the two groups so they don't roll over much. And I...

Q. Even... even in Texas where you're at?

A. Yeah, even in Texas. Like... .

Q. You haven't seen a change or...

A. I don't know. Like, I don't know if it's just my own... if I'm reading into things too much or not, but I think... I'd like to see more dialogue between both sides, between Jews and Arabs living within the United States as a starting point. You know.

Q. Okay. Well, thank you very much for your cooperation.

A. You're welcome. And...