

Saturday, March 30, 2019



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM  
f o u n d a t i o n

## **YAHOO! NEWS COVERS MRFF**

**9th-Ranked Site Globally  
7th-Ranked Site Nationally**

MRFF's U.S. ARMY CLIENT OF MUSLIM FAITH  
FORCED TO REMOVE HIJAB STORY  
CONTINUES TO GO VIRAL!



**Muslim soldier says command sergeant major  
forced her to remove hijab: 'I feel violated'**

**By: Paulina Cachero**

**Friday, March 29, 2019**

*(Excerpts from Yahoo! News/Emphasis added by MRFF)*

A Muslim soldier who filed a complaint alleging that her religious freedom was violated when she was forced to remove her hijab now intends to file a federal lawsuit against the U.S. Army.

[...]

The MRFF now intends to file a federal lawsuit against the U.S. Army on behalf of Valdovinos, citing violations to her civil rights in what it views as **“blatant Islamophobic harassment, bigotry and prejudice of the worst type.”**

**“This serious attempt to marginalize, dehumanize, trivialize the religious faith of a member in standing. We will not let this stand,”** Mikey Weinstein,

a former U.S. Air Force officer and founder of MRFF, tells Yahoo Lifestyle. “Her level of heroism is no less than that of Rosa Parks when she refused to move to the back of the bus. It takes a tremendous amount of personal courage, integrity and character to stand up to anyone in the U.S. military.”

The MRFF hopes to enlist the help of [Congresswoman Ilhan Omar \(D-Minn.\)](#), one of the first Muslim women ever elected to Congress, who helped lift a 181-year ban on head coverings on the House floor. Omar has yet to respond to their requests.

[...]

[Click to Read Article on Yahoo! News](#)

## MRFF's MUST-SEE REVOLTING READS:

### PEOPLE/POLITICS

Friday, March 29, 2019

[First Muslim Woman in Pa. House Had to Listen to Prayer for Jesus' Forgiveness: 'That Was Protest'](#)

### DAILY KOS

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

[Neil Gorsuch says no-one can sue to stop government establishing religion](#)

### FOX 21 NEWS TV COLORADO SPRINGS REGION COVERS MRFF

ON THE PHONE:

**MIKEY WEINSTEIN**

FOUNDER OF THE MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOUNDATION

FOX 21 NEWS 9:04 41°

NBA HOUSTON 113 NEW ORLEANS 90 F SPORTS

## Fort Carson soldier says she was discriminated against for wearing a hijab

**By: Courtney Fromm**

**Sunday, March 24, 2019**

*(Excerpts from Fox 21 News/Emphasis added by MRFF)*

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - **The Military Religious Freedom Foundation** is speaking out on behalf of Fort Carson soldier Sgt. Cesilia Valdovinos, after they say she was discriminated against for wearing a hijab.

**"She must have x-ray vision because she can see under the hijab and see her hair if it was down but it was perfectly up,"** said Mikey Weinstein, founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation.

[...]

**"This is nothing more than the worst type of Muslim bigotry, prejudice, and harassment,"** said Weinstein.

[...]

[Click to Read Article on Fox 21 News](#)

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## ARMY TIMES COVERS MRFF

### This Muslim Fort Carson soldier is still getting questions about her hijab

**By: Meghann Myers**

**Friday, March 22, 2019**

*(Excerpts from Army Times/Emphasis added by MRFF)*

A Fort Carson, Colorado, brigade commander has found no issue with the way a command sergeant major attempted to enforce hair regulations with a Muslim soldier earlier this month, according to a Friday statement to Army Times. Now her attorney is considering filing a federal lawsuit.

[...]

**"This is an absolutely quintessential example of some of the worst anti-Muslim bigotry, prejudice and harassment that we have seen,"** Mikey Weinstein, founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, which represents Valdovinos, told Army Times on Friday. **"That's because it's so blatant."**

Having exhausted her administrative remedies, he added, MRFF is considering filing a federal lawsuit on her behalf, in light of the “**hostile work environment**” her command as created.

[...]

Weinstein reached out to the deputy commanding general of 4th ID on Thursday, he said, but has not received a response.

[Click to Read on Army Times](#)

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### **Background:**

## **MRFF's Efforts on Behalf of U.S. Army Soldier Of the Muslim Faith Forcefully Ordered to Remove Hijab**

**March 12th, 2019** - <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/MRFF-DEMANDS-U-S--ARMY--FORT-CARSON-s-ORDER-TO-REMOVE-HIJAB-NOT-GO-UNPUNISHED-.html?soid=1101766362531&aid=oZhk9IPtEc>

**March 14th, 2019** - <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/NEWS-OF-MRFF-s-U-S--ARMY-CLIENT-ORDERED-TO-REMOVE-HIJAB-GOES-INTERNATIONALLY-VIRAL.html?soid=1101766362531&aid=-Q-03bIMel0>

**March 18th, 2019** - <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/WASHINGTON-POST-HIGHLIGHTS-MRFF-s-MUSLIM-CLIENT-ARMY-SGT--ORDERED-TO-REMOVE-HIJAB.html?soid=1101766362531&aid=dOlrGaVVVr8>

**March 22nd, 2019** - <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/MRFF-S-U-S--ARMY-CLIENT-OF-MUSLIM-FAITH-FACES-TARGETED-BIGOTRY-.html?soid=1101766362531&aid=7z1UYQ44yKc>

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### **Background:**

## **MRFF's Efforts on Behalf of U.S. Military Members of the Muslim Faith**

MRFF represents slightly over 18%  
of all Muslim Americans in the U.S. military.

[Click to Read Background](#)

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**MRFF Information/Contact:**  
(505) 250-7727

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our Fight in the Courts and in the Media

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