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Aisha H. L. Al-Adawiya and Women in Islam, Inc. collection16743280

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.
Description is written in: English.

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

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URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Other Finding Aids	6
Burke Library record group:	6
Collection Inventory	6
Aisha H.L. Al-Adawiya and Women in Islam, Inc. collection	6

Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	al-Adawiya , Aisha (Sister Aisha)
Title:	Aisha H. L. Al-Adawiya and Women in Islam, Inc. collection
ID:	16743280
Date [inclusive]:	circa 1960 -- 2020
Physical Description:	50 linear feet 50 linear feet; 50 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection contains the papers and records of Sister Aisha al-Adawiya, co-founder and executive director of Women In Islam, Inc., documenting her various efforts relating to Islam, gender equity, conflict resolution, cross-cultural understanding, and social justice, as well as Muslim and Black community life in New York City, interfaith organizing for social justice causes in New York City, small scale Muslim women's publications (newsletters, magazines); and local and small scale Muslim newsletters across North America. Includes correspondence, administrative and organizational materials, published materials, mixed media, and personal materials.

Preferred Citation

Item description, AWTS: Aisha H. L. Al-Adawiya and Women in Islam, Inc. collection, circa 1960-2020, box #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Aisha al-Adawiya (1944-) is the co-founder and was an executive director of Women in Islam, Inc., an organization of Muslim women which focuses on human rights and social justice; coordinated acquisitions of Islamic material for the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture; and ran several small businesses with her late husband, Aziz Rahman. She organized

and participated in conferences and other forums on Islam, gender equity, conflict resolution, and cross-cultural understanding in New York City and around the world, and served as a board member and/or consultant to numerous interfaith organizations and documentary projects on the Muslim American experience. Aisha al-Adawiya is also an organizer for and speaker on social justice issues including the domestic and global war on terror and its effect on Muslims and the Global South, racism and anti-Blackness, Palestine, anti-war, human rights, and natural disaster relief.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection contains the papers and records of Sister Aisha al-Adawiya, co-founder and executive director of Women In Islam, Inc., documenting her various efforts relating to Islam, gender equity, conflict resolution, cross-cultural understanding, and social justice, as well as Muslim and Black community life in New York City, interfaith organizing for social justice causes in New York City, small scale Muslim women's publications (newsletters, magazines); and local and small scale Muslim newsletters across North America. Includes correspondence, administrative and organizational materials, published materials, mixed media, and personal materials. Correspondence includes handwritten, typed, and printed email correspondence, including from Muslim listservs. This collection also contains material from al-Adawiya's husband, Aziz Rahman, including manuscript drafts and research material on halaal and haram, and personal correspondence and materials; as well as material on other business ventures in which al-Adawiya participated, including World Trade Forum, Inc. and Anglo-Arab Trading Corporation.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series in original order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

burke@library.columbia.edu

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased from Aisha H. L. Al-Adawiya. Received in June 2022, accession AWTS-2023-001.

Processing Information

Materials were minimally processed: sensitive personal and financial information was weeded (including the entirety of Box 22), and original order, boxes, and numbering were maintained. The finding aid, including a box-level inventory and series-level description, was created by Leah Edelman with assistance from Matthew Baker and Katie Merriman in 2022.

Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights.

Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Black Muslims

- Social justice
- Correspondence
- Periodicals
- al-Adawiya , Aisha (Sister Aisha) -- : Archives
- Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
- Women in Islam, Inc.

Other Finding Aids

A thematic inventory may be available for consultation (this inventory does not correspond to box numbers).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Burke Library record group:

Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship (AWTS)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Aisha H.L. Al-Adawiya and Women in Islam, Inc. collection, circa 1960 -- 2020

Physical Description: 50 linear feet 50 linear feet; 50 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in original order.

Scope and Contents

This series contains the papers and records of Sister Aisha al-Adawiya, co-founder and executive director of Women In Islam, Inc., documenting her various efforts relating to Islam, gender equity, conflict resolution, cross-cultural understanding, and social justice, as well as Muslim and Black community life in New York City, interfaith organizing for social justice causes in New York City, small scale Muslim women's publications (newsletters, magazines); and local and small scale Muslim newsletters

across North America. Includes correspondence, administrative and organizational materials, published materials, mixed media, and personal materials. Correspondence includes handwritten, typed, and printed email correspondence, including from Muslim listservs. This collection also contains material from al-Adawiya's husband, Aziz Rahman, including manuscript drafts and research material on halaal and haram, and personal correspondence and materials; as well as material on other business ventures in which al-Adawiya participated, including World Trade Forum, Inc. and Anglo-Arab Trading Corporation.

Title/Description	Instances
<p>Box 1, circa 1980 -- 2020</p> <p><u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access</p> <p>This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Islamic magazines and publications, organizational literature, event flyers, ephemera, correspondence, meeting notes.</p>	box 1
<p>Box 2, circa 1980 -- 2020</p> <p><u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access</p> <p>This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Pamphlets, small-run publications, flyers, correspondence, ephemera.</p>	box 2
<p>Box 3, circa 1985 -- 2012</p> <p><u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access</p> <p>This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Small-run publications including Islamic Center of Long Island News, El Muslimah, Milestones, US Arab Commerce, Bint Al Huda, Sisters with Aims in Serving Society Inc.; photographs; business cards; ISNA strategic planning; social activism and health materials.</p>	box 3
<p>Box 4, circa 1980 -- 1989</p> <p><u>Conditions Governing Access:</u></p>	box 4

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence; flyers; ephemera; Karamah; Stony Brook Minaret; Islamic Centers; Harlem Justice and recommendations for NYPD; Women in Islam; Palestine; Darfur; conflict resolution; human rights; local labor newsletters; World Trade Forum, Inc.

Box 5, circa 1980 -- 2020

box 5

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Ephemera; flyers; correspondence; notes; human rights; manuscript for husband's book, Halal and Haram.

Box 6, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 6

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence; Women in Islam; Eid cards; World Council of Churches; interfaith materials; Sarah Sayeed; US Muslim Engagement; pamphlets; programs; events.

Box 7, circa 1980 -- 2010

box 7

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Islamic publications including The Message, and Horizons.

Box 8, circa 1992 -- 2010

box 8

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Small-run publications including Shahada, American Women's Muslim Association News, Islamic Foundation in Action, Salaah; Islamic Cultural Center; interfaith post 9-11; Malcolm X; Schomburg; ephemera; correspondence; flyers; programs; clippings, notes; maps.

Box 9, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 9

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

UN publications; CAIR; Auburn Seminary; AMWA; women's conference correspondence; Muslim newspapers and publications.

Box 10, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 10

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence; Women in Islam correspondence and agendas; Karamah board materials; Malcolm X museum strategic planning; Coalition for New Philanthropy; ISNA; organizational files.

Box 11, circa 1996 -- 2010

box 11

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Annual Muzri newsletters; CAIR publications; publications including Horizons, Minaret, The Message; Deen Inc correspondence; Schomburg and interfaith center publications; Islamic education and learning; correspondence; flyers; events.

Box 12, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 12

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

CAIR; Women in Islam business materials; International Conference for Restoration of the Deen Religion; UN; Schomburg; Auburn Theological Seminary; correspondence; flyers; clippings.

Box 13, circa 1997 -- 2010

box 13

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Women in Islam; Muslim New Yorkers; An-Nisa publications; Darfur; Schomburg; ICC-NY correspondence, meetings, agendas; Community Action Committee correspondence; newspapers and publications; local NYC ephemera.

Box 14, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 14

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Women in mosques; non-profits; High level conference for interfaith cooperation for peace; correspondence; conflict resolution.

Box 15, circa 1995-- 2010

box 15

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Statement on the Eid date controversy; Islamic Circle of NA; ACLU; CAIR; publications including Aramco World, Al-Talib, NY-Masjid, Muslim Observer, Muslims NY; other publications; Karamah; post 9-11 Islamic-US relations; correspondence; clippings; flyers.

Box 16, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 16

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Karamah board materials; Religions for peace; Conference on women's leadership in Iraq; Shabazz Center; calendars; correspondence; organizational management; meeting agendas.

Box 17, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 17

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Women in Islam; CAIR; non-profit event planning and conferences; Islamic Center of Long Island magazine; The Message publication; planning documentation.

Box 18, circa 1980 -- 2010

box 18

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Personal correspondence; ephemera; publications; CAIR; religious diet and hygiene materials.

Box 19, circa 1980 -- 1989

box 19

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Ephemera; personal correspondence and greeting cards; postcards; business cards; notes; memos.

Box 20, circa 1990 -- 2010

box 20

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

CAIR; Women in Islam; Sisters in Islam; WBAI radio; First Muslim Women's Communication Forum; Comm. Action Committee of ICC; religious healthcare and nutrition materials; Schomburg; NYC listservs; correspondence; ephemera; publications.

Box 21, circa 1995 -- 2010

box 21

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Women in Islam; women's rights in Islam; Muslim Bureau of Investigation; Zakat Project; surveillance

and womens rights; correspondence with Mohammad Salem Agwa; publications.

Box 23, circa 1980 -- 2020

box 23

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Sarah Sayeed.

Scope and Contents

Betty Shabazz; Women in Islam; planning and administration materials.

Box 24, circa 1980 -- 2020

box 24

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Business cards.

Box 25, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 25

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Islamic Speakers Bureau; NY Labor Religion Coalition correspondence; Mummiah Abu Jamal; BCRW; Auburn Womens Multifaith Committee; NY religious organizations; correspondence; publications.

Box 26, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 26

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Betty Shabazz Center; Schomburg; Religions for Peace; notes; letters; photos; organizations; conferences; published documentation.

Box 27, circa 1960 -- 2010

box 27

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

World Trade Forum; journal; husband's memorial service; personal files; minutes; budgets; conferences and events; benefits; correspondence; promotional materials.

Box 28, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 28

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Islam and Women at Stony Brook; CAIR; ISNA; events and conferences; multifaith programs; flyers; correspondence.

Box 29, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 29

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Awards; cards; clippings; publications including Azizah Magazine, Mulsim Womens Magazine, and Sisters!

Box 30, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 30

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Notebooks; cards; address books and business cards; calendars; agendas; publications; ISNA; CAIR; Karamah; Obama; conferences.

Box 31, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 31

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Published materials and clippings; Muslims after 9-11.

Box 32, circa 1990 -- 1999

box 32

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Women in Islam; Commission on the status of women; Mosque Bill of Rights; Muslim Youth Leadership; HIV AIDS in Muslim community; Islamic education and media; NBS radio; clothing patterns; printed articles and clippings; correspondence; pamphlets.

Box 33, circa 1990 -- 2010

box 33

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Cards and letters; Bosnia Solidarity Committee; printed articles and clippings; reports; women and girls in Islam.

Box 34, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 34

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Organizational administration materials; events and planning documentation; board materials; CAIR; Women in Islam; Karamah; diet and halal materials.

Box 35, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 35

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Sisters in Islam questionnaires; cards and correspondence; certificates of achievement; ISNA; Arabic and Quran lessons; articles and notes on halal and diet; CVs and biographical information; Islamic calendar; correspondence on Jamil Al-Amin case. .

Box 36, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 36

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Anti Muslim Bigotry conference; Women in Islam; Schomburg; Karamah; cards and correspondence; flyers and events; organizations; publications.

Box 37, circa 1975 -- 2010

box 37

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Women in Islam; ICERM; Bosnia Solidarity Committee; Karamah annual report; personal materials;

Schomburg; Islamic ephemera and art; photos; correspondence; publications, clippings, and periodicals related to religious rights; organizational reports and administration materials.

Box 38, circa 1990 -- 2010

box 38

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Sisters in Islam; World Trade Forum business materials including correspondence.

Box 39, circa 1990 -- 2010

box 39

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

National Islamic organizations; Women in Islam; World Muslim League; Bosnia; Schomburg; Promoting Peace; publications including Muslim Perspectives, NY Masjid; events and conferences; correspondence; publications.

Box 40, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 40

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Subject files on Islamic subjects including marriage, medicine, women, etc; personal and administration materials; flyers; articles and secondary sources.

Box 41, circa 1990 -- 2010

box 41

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence and cards; Islamic art; World Trade Forum correspondence and manufacturers files; publications. This box includes Sister Aisha's birth certificate as well as a court order changing her name.

Box 42, circa 1995 -- 2010

box 42

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Schomburg; planning, exhibits, events, programs, photos, articles, grants; Black Religion Project.

Box 43, circa 1990 -- 1999

box 43

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

World Trade Forum business materials including correspondence, vendors, cards; Schomburg; notebooks; Shura Law Center; publications; flyers and events.

Box 44, circa 2000 -- 2010

box 44

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Karamah; Schomburg; Islamic studies lectures, research, articles; Negro Ensemble Company;

administration and research files; exhibit files;
correspondence.

Box 45, circa 1990 -- 2010

box 45

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Women in Islam; World Trade Forum business files including correspondence and vendor files; interfaith and Islamic subject files; clippings; cards and correspondence; flyers, events, and invitations; draft cover of Newsweek.

Box 46, circa 1990 -- 1999

box 46

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence and printed email; board materials; committee work; NYC Muslim listervs; Schomburg; Auburn; Sisters in Islam; Women's Interfaith Gathering; National Conference of Christians and Jews; Institute for Commonwealth Studies; Free Bosnia Action Group.

Box 47, circa 1990 -- 1999

box 47

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Newsletters, flyers, and printed ephemera; Balkans Watch; American Committee to Save Bosnia; Free Bosnia Action Group.

Box 48, circa 1990 -- 2009

box 48

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Women in Islam; Bosnia; Christian Jewish Muslim dialogue; photos, flyers, committees, clippings.

Box 49, circa 1980 -- 2009

box 49

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Activism, events, and interfaith programs; correspondence, clippings, email, photos, articles.

Box 50, circa 1990 -- 2018

box 50

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Muslim activism and interfaith dialogue; Islamic family services; Christian Jewish Muslim dialogue; Bosnia; Women in Islam; Interfaith Center; Schomburg; Shabazz Center; photos, clippings, notes, correspondence and emails, programs, events, flyers.

Box 51, circa 1990 -- 1999

box 51

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is minimally processed and may require review before it is available for use; please contact Burke staff for further details.

Scope and Contents

Women in Islam; Islam activism; correspondence, newsletters, flyers, emails, photos, reports.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)