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# Obama camp apologizes for Muslim incident

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DETROIT, June 18 (UPI) -- U.S. Democratic presidential candidate [Barack Obama's](#) campaign apologized Wednesday for asking Muslim women not to stand or sit behind the candidate at a rally.

At a rally this week in Detroit, some attendees were asked by some volunteers not to appear behind the Illinois senator amid concerns that the appearance of traditional Muslim dress in published and broadcast visuals of the events could damage Obama, The Detroit News reported.

"This is of course not the policy of the campaign," spokesman [Bill Burton](#) said. "It is offensive and counter to Obama's commitment to bring Americans together and simply not the kind of campaign we run."

Sharif Aref, a law student at the University of Detroit-Mercy, said the incident occurred when he and friends attending the rally Monday were invited to stand behind Obama on the stage.

"We said OK, but that we had to bring my sister with us," Aref said. "But, when we told the woman that my sister had a head scarf, she was immediately denied and we were told she was not allowed to come sit there."

Aref said another friend called from outside the event to say she also was approached by an Obama volunteer and told she could stand behind the candidate, but only if she removed her scarf.



### 1 comment(s)

therockofgibralter, @ June. 18, 2008 at 9:16 pm  
This incident was staged, absolutely and positively staged, in my opinion. This way Oprahma comes off as the 'tolerant, understanding, sympathetic, father figure' candidate he is trying to project; to win the hearts and minds of those that would vote for Alfred E. Newman before casting their vote for him. Isn't it interesting that the woman in question is Muslim? How very interesting. If Oprahma thinks he is 'bringing Americans together' he is living in a dream world.

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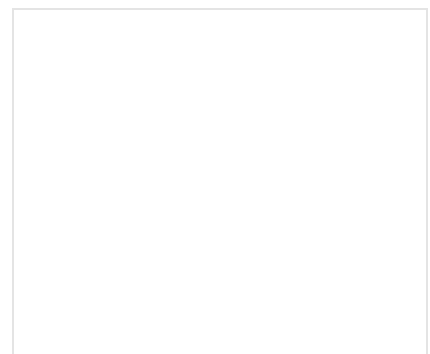
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