

BELIEVERS BAIL OUT



2023 & 2024 REPORT

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WHO WE ARE

BELIEVERS BAIL OUT (BBO) IS A COMMUNITY-LED EFFORT TO BAIL OUT MUSLIMS IN PRETRIAL INCARCERATION AND ICE CUSTODY.

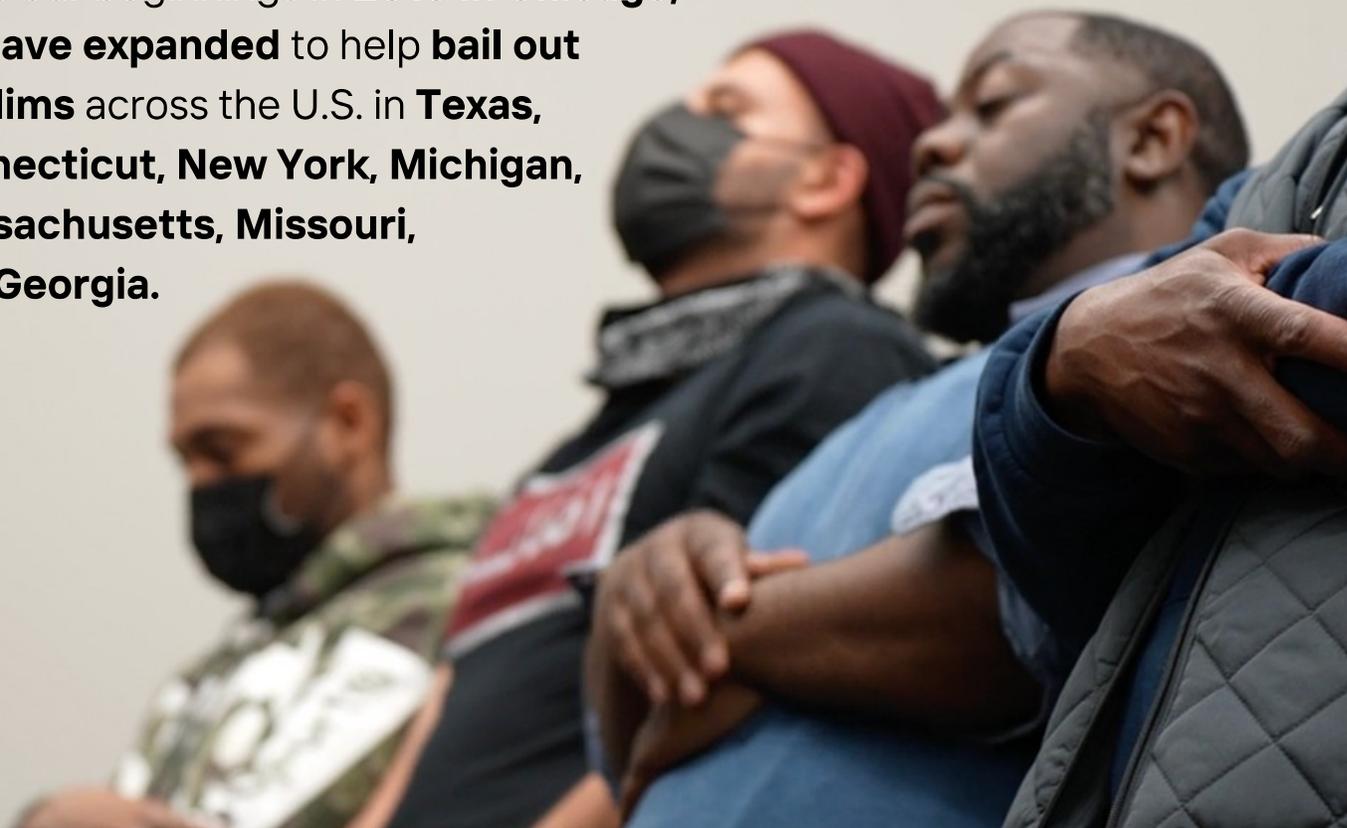
Based in Chicago, which is home to the largest single-site jail in the United States, BBO supports efforts to abolish money bail and raise awareness within Muslim communities on the injustices of the bail bond system, immigration bonds, and the broader prison-industrial complex.

We aim to move towards a world rooted in accountability and healing, rather than punitive responses of the police and prisons.

We seek to create sustainable change by focusing on three overlapping areas:

1. The prison-industrial complex;
2. Anti-Muslim racism; and
3. Anti-Blackness

Since our beginnings in **2018 in Chicago**, we have **expanded** to help **bail out Muslims** across the U.S. in **Texas, Connecticut, New York, Michigan, Massachusetts, Missouri, and Georgia.**



EXPANDING OUR REACH

We have collected over **\$2,000,000** to **bail out over 250 Muslims** from jails and immigration incarceration. In the coming year, **we will continue to expand** in bailing out Muslims in pretrial and ICE incarceration in more states, insh'Allah.

Cash bail was eliminated in Illinois in 2023 through the **Pretrial Fairness Act**, allowing more people to fight their cases from outside jail.

BBO now turns to helping our incarcerated siblings wherever cash bail is still in place, and we continue to support those whom we've bailed out in Chicago.

THE PROCESS

1. FUNDRAISE

BBO raises zakat funds that are directed towards bond and bond-related costs

2. APPLY

Families and advocates for incarcerated Muslims apply for support

3. POST BOND

If applicant meets criteria for zakat funds, BBO posts bond

4. SUPPORT

BBO connects released individuals to community resources while the case is pending

5. FREE EM ALL

Once the case is resolved, the funds are released by the court system, and BBO revolves the funds to bail out someone else behind bars



2023-2024 BY THE NUMBERS

With help of
individual
supporters
we raised:

\$443,881

Through
grants we
raised:

\$121,475

47

Believers **freed**
from pre-trial
incarceration

46

Believers **freed**
from ICE
incarceration

45

Believers
supported with
post-release
support

"Iman is internal, and that's all you have... I fully and wholeheartedly made dua to Allah SWT to free me... I'm a testament and a witness to just making dua and dhikr, follow the Sunna of Rasul Allah (SAW) and the holy spirit in the Quran, resulted in (being freed)"

--CLAYBORN SMITH

Activist, BBO member, & survivor of police torture and 31 years of wrongful incarceration, describing how he leaned on his faith to continue the fight for justice

RAMADAN REFLECTIONS

35,100



DATES PROVIDED
TO INCARCERATED
BELIEVERS

\$17,450

IN MONEY ORDERS
TO INCARCERATED
BELIEVERS



3

FREE ONLINE
WEBINARS HOSTED:
REWATCH HERE!



229

PRAYER SCHEDULES SENT
TO INCARCERATED
BELIEVERS

4

IFTARS HOSTED AT THE
INNER CITY MUSLIM ACTION
NETWORK CAMPUS, FOR
FORMERLY INCARCERATED
BELIEVERS & COMMUNITY
MEMBERS





JUMMAH AT STATEVILLE

MARCH-SEPTEMBER 2024

Between March-September of 2024, members of BBO attended Jummah at Stateville Prison. The Muslim community at Jama'at 'Ibad al-Rahman became a place of Islamic learning, prayer, and support.

As more than one brother told us, they are each other's family. And they welcomed us warmly every time we attended. The community was built up and facilitated by brothers on the inside and supported by volunteers on the outside, especially Dr. Noureldin.

Statesville has been closed and we are finding new ways to continue supporting the brothers, now that this beautiful community has been dispersed to prisons 3-6 hours away from their loved ones.



COURT SUPPORT

Over the last year, we have resumed attending court dates with our Muslim siblings for the first time since before the pandemic.

By attending, we build relationships with them and their families, and show the court that they have a community who cares.

Many new volunteers have begun attending court for the first time, and attest to the importance of witnessing the racist and dehumanizing criminal legal system.

CHICAGO COMMUNITY BOND FUND SUNSETS

We have partnered with the Chicago Community Bond Fund (CCBF) since our founding in 2018. CCBF concluded their bailout work in 2024 due to the passage of the Pretrial Fairness Act. We thank them and the Coalition to End Money Bond, for their contributions to ending money bond in Illinois. We are honored to have been part of the coalition.



REMEMBERING

LIVES AND LEGACIES OF MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

MICHAEL BROADWAY 1969- 2024

Michael was a beloved member of our community, an author of two books, a family man and friend, and among the first group of incarcerated men to receive a bachelor's degree from a top 10 university when he was awarded a diploma in November 2023 from Northwestern University.



MAHDIA LYNN 1988 - 2024

As a community organizer with over a decade of on-the-ground experience Mahdia's work centers marginalized Muslims, transgender advocacy, disability justice, police accountability and prison abolition. Founder of Masjid Al-Rabia, a women centered, LGBTQIA+ affirming pluralist mosque in Chicago, Mahdia found Islam in her early 20's and dedicated herself to LGBTQ Muslim advocacy.



REMEMBERING

LIVES AND LEGACIES OF MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

MICHAEL PARISH 1983- 2024

Micheal found great faith in the Nation of Islam and did his best to acknowledge and be led by Allah. He was exceptional in education; earning vocational certifications in culinary arts, business, & accounting, and his Associate of Arts in Law, where he was *Cum Laude*. His mind was always expanding. Michael absolutely loved his family- he was a protector, provider, and comforter in so many ways. He was a true and real-life superhero.



BROTHER HASAN XXXX- 2024

Hasan was a selfless and righteous brother who embodied the beautiful traits of Islam, who was a special character to all of those who got to know him. He was always fundraising for those in less privileged positions within the community, building many connections among Muslims in the South Side of Chicago, as well as distributing Sadaqah to many folks we've bonded out at BBO.

FUNDRAISING & ZAKAT

* PRETRIAL & ICE BAILOUT COSTS

Since we've started in 2018, the average pretrial bail amount we paid is \$8,359.80 and average ICE bailout amount we paid is \$8,193.40. Since 2018 we have done **115 pretrial bailouts** and **106 ICE bailouts**

Pretrial Bailouts	115
ICE Bailouts	106

* 2018-2024

Total Individual Donations	\$1.8M \$1,813,661.35
Zakat	\$1.3M \$1,254,915.05
Sadaqa	\$560K \$558,746.30

* 2023-2024

Total Individual Donations	\$501K \$501,552.00
Zakat	\$401K \$401,965.04
Sadaqa	\$96K \$99,586.96

STAY CONNECTED



SUPPORT OUR WORK

Launchgood.com/BBO2025

PAYPAL



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