

# FLAME.HOTLINE.

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*CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad at an American Muslims for Palestine event praises Hamas for its October 7 massacre, claiming Gazans have the right to defend themselves against an occupier (which Israel was not), but Israel is not allowed to defend itself against terrorists.*

## Time for U.S. to designate Council on American-Islamic Relations a terror organization

Dear Friend of Israel, Friend of FLAME:

Texas recently designated the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) a foreign terror organization, along with the nefarious Muslim Brotherhood. It's time the U.S. State Department joined Texas in condemning CAIR as an un-American supporter of Islamist terrorism. The *New York Times*, neglecting details of CAIR's incriminating past or present, covered the Texas action by characterizing the group as simply "one of the nation's largest advocacy and civil rights groups."

Yet while CAIR indeed masquerades as a civil rights organization, it is more accurately a front for Islamic extremism. The group promotes and supports the Muslim Brotherhood and also praises Hamas, the terrorist group responsible for the October 7<sup>th</sup> massacre in Israel—the bloodiest mass slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust.

CAIR leaders have repeatedly been convicted in court for terrorism-related offences, including in the *United States v. Holy Land Foundation (HLF) for Relief & Development*, the biggest terrorism financing case in American history, in which evidence associated CAIR with Hamas.

Nevertheless, the Obama and Biden Administrations treated CAIR as a credible civil rights organization. Biden even named the group part of his national strategy to combat antisemitism.

It's time the U.S. State Department followed Texas's lead. In accordance with U.S. law, CAIR must be designated a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) and stripped of its non-profit status.

Fortunately, President Trump has moved to name the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization, and several U.S. lawmakers are working to designate CAIR similarly.

**CAIR was created to conceal the Islamist designs of its founders.** In his proclamation declaring CAIR a foreign terrorist organization, Texas Governor Greg Abbott cited the FBI, which asserted that the organization was a "front group" for "Hamas and its support network" in the U.S.

Indeed, CAIR was the brainchild of the Muslim Brotherhood's "Palestine Committee." Among the Committee's goals were "increasing the financial and the moral support for Hamas," and publicizing "the savagery of the Jews." In October 1993, the FBI wiretapped a meeting of the Palestine Committee in Philadelphia, revealing internal discussions on how to improve activities in support of Hamas in the U.S. and shield them from the designation of Hamas as a terrorist organization. The participants agreed to creation of a new organization with no evident ties to Hamas and operating in ways to make it appear moderate in the eyes of Americans.

**CAIR's ties to terrorist organizations proven in federal court.** CAIR members convicted in terrorism-related offences include figures such as Bassem Khafagi, a community relations director for CAIR, who pleaded guilty to federal bank and visa fraud in 2003, after funneling money to terrorist causes and publishing material advocating suicide attacks against the U.S., as well as Randall Todd Royer, a communications specialist and civil rights coordinator for CAIR, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 2004 for conspiring to aid Al Qaeda and the Taliban.

In 2004, two groups—the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development (HLF) and the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP)—were found liable for aiding Hamas in the murder of 17-year-old American citizen David Boim, whom Hamas members shot at a Jerusalem bus stop in 1996. Like CAIR, the HLF and IAP were created by the Palestine Committee. In particular, current senior Hamas leader Mousa Abu Marzook founded the IAP, which the Department of Justice classified as a propaganda arm of Hamas. Among IAP's executives were Omar Ahmad, Rahim Jaber, and Nihad Awad, the co-founders of CAIR.

The most significant case involving CAIR was the *United States v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief & Development*, the largest terrorism financing case in American history, in which CAIR was designated an “unindicted co-conspirator.” Governor Abbott noted that during this case, “internal documents plainly identified CAIR as a subsidiary of the Muslim Brotherhood.”

The case ended in 2008 with five executives of HLF convicted of funneling over \$10 million to Hamas. One of the convicted was Ghassan Elashi, a founding board member of the Texas branch for CAIR and Treasurer of HLF.

**The FBI, as well as Obama and Biden, worked with CAIR despite its terrorist ties.** From CAIR’s founding in 1994, the FBI engaged through CAIR with the U.S. Muslim community, but this collaboration ceased after the Holy Land Foundation convictions in 2008. Nonetheless, under the Obama administration, CAIR representatives participated in community outreach, civil rights discussions and efforts to counter Islamophobia. Biden went further, including CAIR as a stakeholder in his National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.

However, after CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad made comments Hamas’s October 7<sup>th</sup> massacre—calling it “a natural response to an occupation”—Biden disavowed CAIR. In short, both Biden and Obama treated the organization as a legitimate civil rights group, ignoring warning signs of CAIR’s terrorist involvements.

**CAIR doesn’t deserve non-profit status, it deserves terrorist designation.** Per 8 U.S. Code § 1189 – Designation of foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs), the Secretary of State can designate an organization an FTO if: 1. It is foreign 2; It engages in terrorist activity as defined by U.S. law; 3. Its terrorist activity endangers U.S. nationals or the national security of the U.S. The U.S. Government has identified CAIR as an affiliate of FTO Hamas, which should make it an FTO as well. Furthermore, several CAIR staffers have been convicted of participating in terrorist activity. CAIR also threatens U.S. security because of its ties to Hamas, which is determined to destroy the U.S. and its ally Israel. Moreover, per 18 U.S.C. §§ 2339A and 2339B, a non-profit may *not* provide material support for terrorism.

**U.S. lawmakers finally take action against CAIR.** Fortunately, mountainous evidence tying CAIR to Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood has pushed some U.S. lawmakers into taking measures to strip the group of its non-profit status and designate it an FTO. For example, Congressman Randy Fine (R-Florida) submitted HR 4097, a bill co-sponsored by two Texas senators directing the Secretary of State to review whether CAIR meets the criteria for designation as an FTO. In addition, Senator Tom Cotton (R-Arkansas) has asked the IRS to examine the nonprofit status of CAIR due to its terrorist ties.

Please make the point when speaking with family, friends, colleagues—or in letters to the editor—that CAIR deserves designation under U.S. law for what it really is—a terrorist organization masquerading as a legitimate civil rights group.

If you agree we need to spread this truth, please use your email browser to forward this Hotline issue to fellow lovers of Israel—and encourage them to join us by subscribing to the Hotline at no charge.

Best regards,

Jason Shvili, Contributing Editor

Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Surely you’ve recently read of some celebrity, politician, radical student, foreign head of state or media pundit slander Israel with the “Gaza genocide” lie. Many who spread this lie are ignorant, but most

are anti-Israel haters. They care nothing for the truth. The tragedy is, when they utter the Gaza genocide falsehood, too few knowledgeable people—and virtually no media—stand up to refute it. Indeed, when you share the simple facts, the genocide lie crumbles. Upon learning that Israel conducts its war against Hamas terrorists with the highest ethical standards—and that *nothing* Israel does in Gaza fits the definition of genocide—fair-minded people quickly see through the lie. I hope you'll agree that we supporters of the Israel-U.S. relationship need to speak out. FLAME's new *hasbarah*—explanatory message—“**Facts Shatter Gaza Genocide Lies**”—describes what genocide is *and is not* and proves factually that Israel's tactics in the war are ethical and righteous. It also reveals demographic data showing that the Palestinian population in Gaza is actually increasing. Finally, it notes that those who spread the Gaza genocide lie fit the classic definition of antisemites. Please review this convincing, fact-based editorial, which FLAME is about to publish to millions—in leading social media, as well as in the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Tampa Bay Times*, *Denver Post* and *Los Angeles Times*. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, the President and Vice President. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to **support us** with a donation.

