

HB 763 Written Testimony – by Sabine Dohrn, 8100 Inverness Ridge Road, Potomac MD 20854
UNF

Testimony:

CAIR is the national, well respected and trusted civil rights organization that serves to protect Arab Americans and Palestinians against discrimination and hate incidents. It is coming under a vicious smear campaign at the very moment that a spike in hate incidents against Muslims, reminiscent of the post 9/11 Islamophobia is occurring, as an example, a 182% rise in such incidents happened just during a 16 day period in October 2023. Horrific crimes like the stabbing of a six year old Palestinian boy in Illinois gave rise to fear in the American Muslims community. Yet, antisemitism seems to be the main focus of the Maryland Hate Crime Response and Prevention commission.

We need to ask ourselves why is there such a push right now for CAIR to be dismissed at this important time from the Maryland commission?

While their fellow Muslims as well as Christian Palestinians are under deadly genocidal assault in Gaza, Muslims and their supporters seem to be expected to stay silent and not speak out for those who are being mercilessly mass murdered. They call for an immediate ceasefire and a solution to the Palestinian people's demand for self-determination. Jewish organizations like JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council), IAC (Israeli American Council) and even ADL (Anti Defamation League) are trying to silence them while shielding Israel even during a time when it is investigated for plausible genocide. Their attacks on students, teachers, professors, journalists and others who are being punished severely for speaking out show a blatant disregard for their rights to free speech and equal rights.

If we allow the removal of CAIR from the commission, we are silencing these voices and are thereby damaging our democracy by violating the equal protection of all groups. Please vote against bill H 763.

Thank you

Sabine Dohrn