

JCRC HB 763- FINAL Commission on Hate Crime and Pr

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Position: FAV



**Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 763–
Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention – Membership –
Alterations
Judiciary Committee
February 20, 2024**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work throughout the region to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all Marylanders.

The JCRC supports House Bill 763- to remove the representative of CAIR from the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention -and to add two new members of the Muslim Community to be vetted and appointed by the Attorney General. It's unfortunate that this bill is necessary. It's something we don't take lightly. However, the hateful, dehumanizing statements made by CAIR leadership on numerous occasions have forced us into this role. Also, our ultimate desire is to have more voices at the table and not fewer. In fact, nothing about this Bill diminishes the JCRC's ironclad commitment to combatting all forms of hatred including Islamophobia.

It has been a privilege for the JCRC to sit on this Commission and participate in its Community Engagement Subcommittee where we are developing best practices for reporting hate crimes and bias incidents. Our mission is to heal the community, not divide it. CAIR is not up to this task. A group that espouses vitriol and hatred for the Jewish community does not deserve nor belong on a Commission that has been established to respond to and prevent hate. We are expected to work WITH one another, not AGAINST one another. On October 7th, the Jewish people experienced the most brutal attack since the Holocaust. Hamas murdered 1200 people and took 240 hostages. CAIR's response? It praised Hamas and compared Israel to Nazi Germany. Comments so egregious that President Biden rebuked CAIR and removed the organization from the White House's blueprint to address antisemitism.

CAIR has proven it cannot be a trusted partner. Therefore, it must be replaced with two other representatives of the Muslim Community. The Commission is a wonderfully diverse group charged with promoting tolerance and understanding. We must collaborate and engage in

constructive dialogue to serve as a role model for all of Maryland to respond to and prevent hate. We look forward to having two new Muslim representatives on this Commission who have the same ironclad commitment to combating antisemitism, that we have the same ironclad commitment to combating antisemitism, that we have to combatting Islamophobia and all forms of hatred. For these reasons, we support HB 763.

Bernstein testimony HB763.pdf

Uploaded by: JAY BERNSTEIN

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY REGARDING HOUSE BILL 763: FAVORABLE

Jay Bernstein, 6310 Ivymount Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21209

Today, Maryland's Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention includes an individual and organization whose public responses to the massacre perpetrated by Hamas on October 7 betrayed the attitudes and perspectives that the Commission is charged with combating. HB763 addresses this troubling situation by removing the spot reserved for a representative of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, and replacing it with two representatives of the Muslim community.

In the immediate aftermath of the October 7 massacre, the CAIR representative on the Commission, Zainab Chaudry, posted the following comments on Facebook:

On October 17, Ms. Chaudry wrote, "[T]hat moment when you become what you hated most," accompanied by photos of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin lit up with the Israeli flag in solidarity with Israel following the Hamas massacre of October 7, and a photo of the Gate in 1936 decorated with the Nazi flag.

On October 26, Ms. Chaudry wrote, "I will never be able to understand how the world summoned up rage for 40 fake Israeli babies while completely turning a blind eye to 3,000 real Palestinian babies."

On November 6, Ms. Chaudry suggested that the mere existence of Israel was the cause of the current conflict, calling Israel an "inconvenient fact," and including an image of the words "it all started in 1948," the year Israel was founded.

When reached for comment about these remarks, Ms. Chaudry doubled-down on her defamation of the State of Israel, telling Fox News that she condemns Israel's "racist government" for "genocidal war crimes" and for making "genocidal threats towards the Palestinian people and killing over 13,000 Palestinians in Gaza, most of them women and children murdered in their homes."

As for CAIR, this past December, the White House disavowed the

organization after its national executive director, Nihad Awad, declared that he “was happy to see” Palestinians break out of Gaza on Oct. 7, the day of the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel that killed an estimated 1,200 people and led to the seizure of 240 others as hostages, and that Palestinians in Gaza “have the right to self-defense” but that Israel “as an occupying power” does not. The troubling history of CAIR is well documented; as noted by the ADL, “While ostensibly focused on responding to the proliferation of anti-Muslim incidents and sentiment nationwide, key CAIR leaders often traffic in antisemitic and anti-Zionist rhetoric. In fact, some of its leaders have cultivated suspicion among the public toward a wide array of American Jewish institutions.” (<https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/council-american-islamic-relations-cair>).

While CAIR and Ms. Chaudry have every right to express their noxious opinions, their vitriol against Israel disqualify them from serving on a Commission whose purpose is to "communicate and promote understanding of diverse perspectives in a positive and meaningful way." Their presence on the Commission makes a mockery of the Commission's lofty goals, and is an insult to Maryland's Jewish community, and to all people of good will.

By removing CAIR from the Commission, HB763 is a positive step towards restoring the moral authority of the Commission. Together with HB809, which confers upon the AG the authority to remove Commission members for good cause, HB763 will help ensure that promoters of hate and divisiveness are not part of a body that combats these evils. I therefore urge the General Assembly to enact HB763.

Graber HB 763 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Mark Graber

Position: FAV

February 16, 2024

Dear Members of the Maryland State Legislature:

House Bill 763 does not violate the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, as incorporated by the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The legislative decision to remove the representative of the Council on American-Islamic Relations from the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention is consistent with the Supreme Court's decisions in *Elrod v. Burns*, 427 U.S. 347 (1976) and *Pickering v. Board of Education of Township High School District 205, Will County, Illinois*, 391 U.S. 563 (1968).

I reach this conclusion for three reasons. First, unpaid members of an advisory task force are not government employees whose positions are subject to first amendment protections. They do not receive salaries, obtain health care or any gain any of the other benefits that the Supreme Court has held trigger free speech rights. Second, constitutional free speech guarantees do not protect persons in government positions who make policy when their speech activities are inconsistent with the policymaking obligations. Supreme Court decisions have ruled that persons whose primary responsibility is to provide policy advice to government officials do not enjoy first amendment protections when they speak in ways inconsistent with the policies being promoted by the state executive or legislative branch. Third, even if the circumstances warrant use of the *Pickering* balancing test, that test supports the House Bill 763. The Maryland state legislature could reasonably conclude that a representative of an organization that "was happy to see" the Hamas massacre that took place in Israel on October 7, 2023 would not be an effective or appropriate member of a task force designed to make recommendations on responses and prevention of hate crimes.

Yours truly,

Mark A. Graber
Regents Professor
University of Maryland Carey School of Law

ADL MD Written Testimony - HB763 .pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith Weisel

Position: FAV



Maryland General Assembly
House Judiciary Committee
February 20, 2024

Testimony of Meredith R. Weisel
ADL Washington D.C. Regional Director

ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) submits this testimony in **support of *HB763, Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention – Membership – Alterations***, which would alter the makeup of the members represented on the commission.

ADL (the Anti-Defamation League)

Since 1913, the mission of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) has been to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” For decades, one of the most important ways in which ADL has fought against bigotry and antisemitism has been by investigating extremist threats across the ideological spectrum and by working with law enforcement, educators, the tech industry, and elected leaders to promote best practices to effectively address and counter these threats. Further, ADL conducts an annual *Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents*, which is widely used by law enforcement, elected officials, and the community at-large to not only understand how to respond to antisemitic incidents, but how to create change.

Related to this work, ADL has long been recognized as a leading resource on effective responses to violent bigotry, including hate crimes. In 1981, ADL crafted the first model hate crime law in the country, and today, 46 states, as well as the District of Columbia, have hate crime laws, many of which are based on or substantially similar to our model, which was unanimously upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. We were also privileged to lead a broad coalition of civil rights, religious, educational, professional, law enforcement, and civic organizations for more than a decade in support of the 2009 Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA).

Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention

During the 2023 Maryland General Assembly session, ADL fully supported ***HB1066, Hate Crimes – Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention – Establishment***, which established a commission to develop strategies to prevent and respond to hate crime activity and evaluate state laws and policies relating to hate crimes. As an organization that had been involved in the Attorney General working group on hate crimes and bias incidents from its inception, we felt it was urgent to formalize the creation of a full commission to carry out this work.

It’s important to remember that behind every hate crime statistic, there is a person, a family, a community – dealing with the unimaginable. Hate crimes cause a distinct type of harm that can have a lasting, immeasurable impact. This is because hate crimes target people due to their

protected, immutable characteristics – race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, sex, gender, gender identity, disability – things about a person that are central to identity and cannot be changed.

ADL is proud to be a leading anti-hate organization that has been able to help thousands of people who report hate and bias incidents to us. We are honored to be a part of this Commission entrusted with developing policy solutions to better support communities disproportionately impacted by hate-fueled violence.

House Bill 763

Unfortunately, the work of the Hate Crime Response and Prevention Commission has been disrupted by one organization appointed last year. In addition to concerns that have been raised by community members regarding CAIR’s support of parental opt-outs of LGBTQ+-inclusive curricula in Montgomery County, since the brutal massacre in Israel on October 7th by Hamas, a State Department-designated foreign terrorist organization, there have been many troubling social media posts and statements made by CAIR at both the national level and by CAIR’s Maryland Director. Unfortunately, these posts and statements have been part of a pattern denying the larger Jewish community’s suffering after the brutal massacre on October 7th. This unprovoked war has had a great impact throughout the world, resulting in a close to 400% rise in antisemitic incidents throughout the U.S., including a number of incidents in Maryland.

As leaders trusted with developing policy solutions to counter hate, it’s disappointing and concerning that inflammatory rhetoric is being used instead of finding ways to bring people together. We may have disagreements on the policies in Israel and Gaza, but to make posts like “disrupting the Zionist agenda has become a favorite hobby” or calling Hamas terrorists “Palestinian Freedom Fighters” and using Holocaust distortion is deeply concerning for the Jewish community.

Here in Maryland, we have an important obligation and unique opportunity to develop policy solutions that help counter hate targeting all marginalized groups. That is how we build a safer, stronger, and more equitable society in the future. Any Commission set up to respond to and prevent hate crimes and bias in our communities should be comprised of members who are committed to building bridges of understanding across communities and countering identity-based hate whenever and wherever it may arise.

We urge the Committee to release HB763 with a favorable report.

Agudah testimony - HB 763 - V2 hate com cair seat

Uploaded by: Rabbi Ariel Sadwin

Position: FAV



HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 20, 2024

HOUSE BILL 763

COMMISSION ON HATE CRIME RESPONSE AND PREVENTION - MEMBERSHIP - ALTERATIONS SUPPORT

Agudath Israel of Maryland, the Mid-Atlantic regional office for Agudath Israel of America – a renowned national Jewish advocacy organization with chapters across the country, speaks on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish communities across Maryland.

In the wake of the shock and horror experienced by Marylanders upon hearing of the barbarous acts committed by Hamas and its allies against innocent civilians of Israeli and other citizenships, and in the wake of the pain and sorrow felt at the deaths of innocent Gazans caught up in the subsequent Israeli incursion into Gaza, it is all the more clear that we must ensure that the Jewish, Muslim, and other various faith and cultural communities of Maryland focus on preserving mutual peace, tolerance, and respect. The role of the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention is therefore all-the-more important. For that very reason, it is imperative that the organizations sitting on the Commission themselves be organizations that emphasize tolerance and respect.

It is extremely unfortunate that public statements made by the Council on America-Islamic Relations (CAIR) fail to meet this imperative, and therefore render it a completely inappropriate representative of the broader Muslim community. Statements by CAIR’s national executive director glorifying the massacre of October 7th, and embracing the antisemitic conspiracy that a shadowy cabal of Jewish Americans secretly control the United States government and the United States Congress and have sold the soul of America¹, were extreme enough to draw a strong disavowal from the Biden Administration, which released a statement condemning “these shocking, Antisemitic statements in the strongest terms.”²

Here in Maryland, CAIR’s Maryland chapter director and CAIR representative to the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention moved far beyond criticism of Israel and

¹ <https://jewishinsider.com/2023/12/nihad-awad-council-american-islamic-relations-israel-gaza-terror-attacks/>

² <https://www.cnn.com/2023/12/08/politics/white-house-cair-leader/index.html>

into the cesspool of atrocity denial³ and refused to apologize for denying the brutal acts of Hamas.⁴

We would not advocate for removing a person or a group from their seat on the commission because of their political stance on the Israel-Hamas conflict, no matter how deeply we might disagree with their views. When their public stances morph into atrocity denial and antisemitic tropes, however, their participation in the commission becomes farcical. The Muslim community, as well as all other faith and cultural communities, are far-better served by organizations and individuals who teach tolerance, not hate. For this reason, we request a favorable report on House Bill 763.

³ <https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/politics-power/state-government/zainab-chaudry-anthony-brown-maryland-commission-on-hate-crimes-V27CRZWEWFG3JCQNTDWFCQBZGM/>

⁴ On that note, see the testimony of Eli Beer, head of Israel's EMS service:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Drr9zTvK4Os&ab_channel=HowardMortman.

HB763 Commission on Hate Crime Response and Preven

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**House Bill 763 Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention –
 Membership – Alterations**

Judiciary Committee

February 20, 2024

SUPPORT

Background: House Bill 763 changes the makeup of the Attorney General’s Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention so that its representatives are reflective of the goals of the Commission. This bill would replace the hate organization The Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) with two representatives from the Muslim community to be appointed by the Attorney General. This will allow for more Muslim representation, while ensuring that members are working toward, not against, the Commission’s goals.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, all of its agencies, as well as the organized Jewish Community of Greater Baltimore. The BJC has been part of the Hate Crime Commission in all its previous forms since its creation in 2019 as a work group, to task force, to a legislatively created commission in 2023. The named organizations in the 2023 bill were almost all previous members of the work group. While we all had been able to work together in a respectful manner toward the goal of lowering the rate of hate crimes in our state and developing mechanisms to help victims, one organization has been acting in opposition to that goal and has strategically worked toward increasing hate against both the Jewish and LGBTQ+ communities.

CAIR has systematically been working against inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community both nationally and here in Maryland. In Montgomery County the leader of CAIR Maryland stood with members of Moms for Liberty, protesting against LGBTQ+ inclusion in public schools.¹ This organizational stance goes against the principles of the Commission and further silences its LGBTQ+ members.

While CAIR has had a troubled history with antisemitism and anti-Israel rhetoric, until the terrorist attacks on October 7th, the Jewish community in Maryland had been able to work with CAIR Maryland leadership on both

¹ <https://twitter.com/TimcastNews/status/1694819062331646148>,
<https://twitter.com/FordFischer/status/1666195811904937998>

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legislative initiatives in Maryland and the Commission. However, in the aftermath of the largest number of Jews murdered since the Holocaust, CAIR national and CAIR Maryland have been relentless and unapologetic in their antisemitism and flat-out dangerous lies about the war in Israel and Gaza. On the national level, CAIR's leader said he "was happy to see" the terrorist attacks which brutally murdered 1,200 innocent Israeli civilians.² He also used dangerous age-old antisemitic tropes to state that Jews control politicians.³ As a result, the White House and Biden administration removed CAIR from its newly created national strategy on combating antisemitism. If the White House is removing CAIR from its partners against hate, Maryland should as well.

In Maryland, the day after the horrific attacks, and days before Israel launched a counterattack, CAIR Maryland's leader was in front of the White House cheering on the atrocities, and a photo was proudly posted on CAIR National's X page.⁴ Since then the leader of CAIR Maryland, who sits on the Commission, has posted hundreds of times on their verified Facebook page with tens of thousands of followers, promoting unabashedly antisemitic rhetoric and dangerously false information about the actions of Israel. They have stated that babies were not actually killed on October 7th, that Israel is harvesting organs from Palestinians, and that Jews control politicians. These are all antisemitic ideologies -- Holocaust denial (denial of Jewish deaths), blood libel, and Jewish control of government.⁵

The question is simple, does the General Assembly want to continue to allow the Maryland Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention to include membership from an organization that publicly and proudly works to promote hate?

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of HB763.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/08/us/politics/white-house-cair-nihad-awad.html>

³ <https://jewishinsider.com/2023/12/nihad-awad-council-american-islamic-relations-israel-gaza-terror-attacks/>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/CAIRNational/status/1711158966992941475>

⁵ See attached screenshots.

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 **Zainab Chaudry**  15h · 

Gaza media office: vital organs stolen from 80 bodies of Palestinians returned to Karam Abu Salem border crossing

—
 “After examining the bodies, it is clear that the features of those killed had changed greatly, in a clear indication that the Israeli occupation had stolen vital organs from them,” the statement went on to say.

The media office said this is not the first time that Israel has “mutilated” Palestinian bodies, and has called for an independent international investigation committee into the kidnapping of Palestinian bodies and theft of their vital organs.

‘Israel has previously exhumed graves in Jabalia and stole some of the bodies, in addition to the fact that it still has dozens of bodies from the Gaza Strip in its possession,’ the office said.”

 **Zainab Chaudry**  41m · 

it’s no surprise that organizations like the ADL who prioritize the interests of the most right wing, fascist administration in the history of Israel, want to smear and silence voices raising awareness about Israel’s war crimes and the genocide in Gaza by falsely labeling them as anti-Semitic

but it also shouldn’t surprise anyone that lawmakers bought and paid for by Israel’s lobbying arm in the United States at every level of the government are also trying to distort, twist and silence us

one could ask where is their humanity, but we already know the answer. you can try to silence one voice, ten voices, but you can’t silence millions.

criticism of apartheid, genocide, illegal occupation, settler colonial violence, crimes against humanity isn’t antisemitic. it’s pro-humanity.

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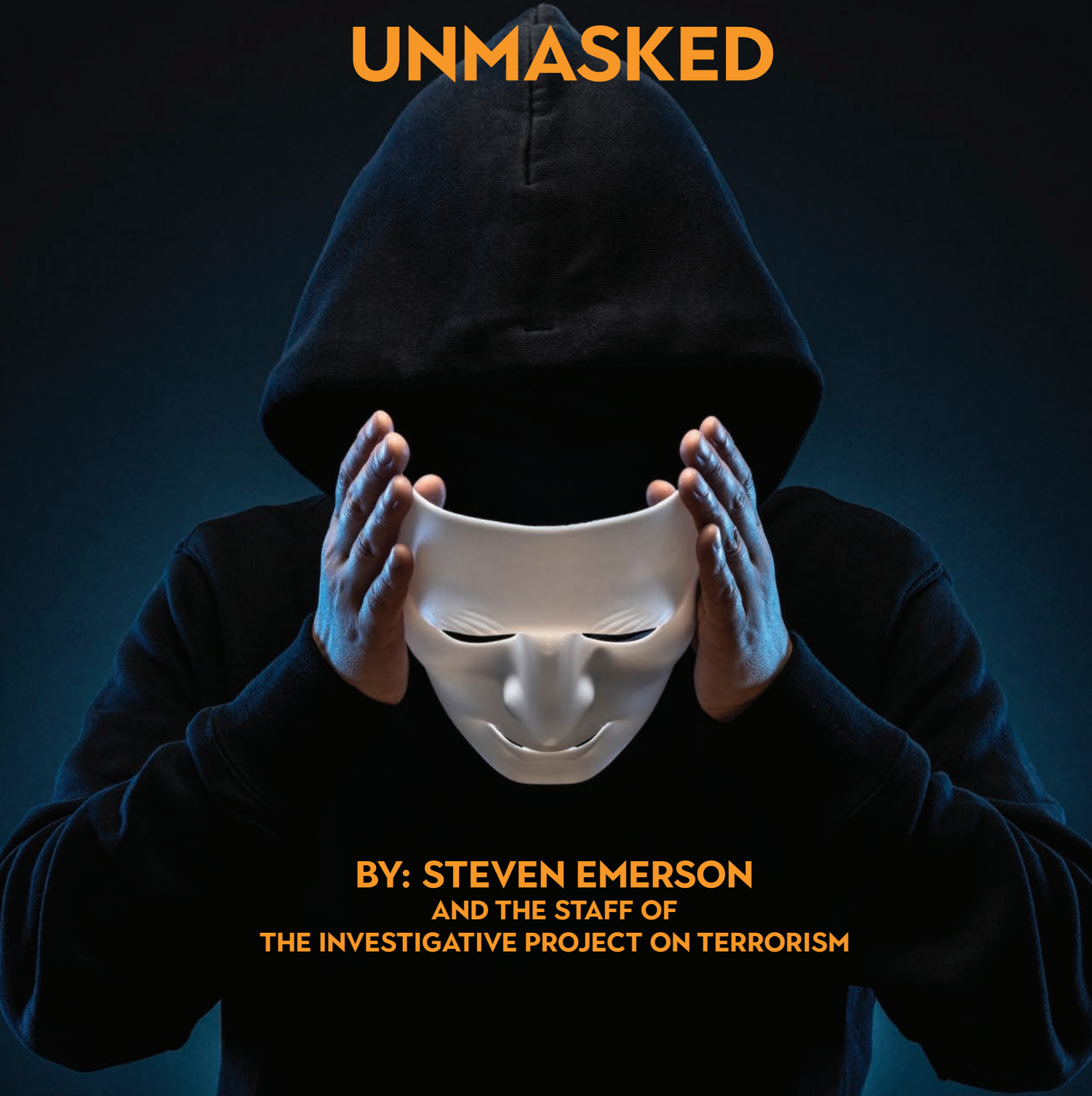
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The Investigative Project on Terrorism

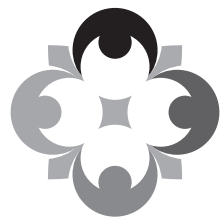


CAIR'S ANTISEMITISM UNMASKED



**BY: STEVEN EMERSON
AND THE STAFF OF
THE INVESTIGATIVE PROJECT ON TERRORISM**

The Investigative Project on Terrorism



CAIR's
ANTISEMITISM
UNMASKED

BY: STEVEN EMERSON
AND THE STAFF OF
THE INVESTIGATIVE PROJECT ON TERRORISM

June 2023

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FOREWORD

The *Washington Post*, *Time Magazine*, NPR, the Southern Poverty Law Center, *USA Today*, the ACLU and even Davos have all described—and several of them have actually also honored—CAIR, the Council on American Islamic Relations, as a “civil rights group.” This label bestows total legitimacy on this organization by anointing it with the same aura of respectability as those who fought in the trenches for the civil rights of Black people with Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy Jr. And most recently, the Biden Administration announced that CAIR would play a role in educating the country about the threat of antisemitism.

We live in a world where facts are inverted and the truth is turned upside down, but the reality—buttressed by cold hard demonstrable inarguable facts laid out in this book from documented sources—is that CAIR is a radical Islamist Hamas front group whose DNA is dominated by antisemitic genes. Two years in the making, this new book is the product of extensive meticulous research into the most dangerous Islamist political group in the U.S. today—CAIR. It is dangerous because it was created as a front group for Hamas in 1993—in a secret meeting of Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas leaders, including CAIR’s current leader Nihad Awad, held in a downtown Marriott Hotel in Philadelphia in 1993, a meeting the FBI wiretapped.

Since its corporate inception in 1994, CAIR has been the number one promoter of incendiary vile antisemitic tropes and conspiracies in the U.S. by any “mainstream” Islamist group. I use the word mainstream in quotations because CAIR has successfully duped virtually the entire media establishment—many of whom have willingly collaborated—into portraying this Hamas front group as a “Muslim civil rights organization.” CAIR

is soaked with antisemitism, yet we hear NOT a word about this reality from the gatekeepers.

To the extent CAIR continues to get away with injecting the poison of antisemitism and its support for terrorism into the American bloodstream, it is a stain on the integrity of those institutions—the media, the political left, mainstream religious groups and leaders, and some 150 members of Congress who have appeared at CAIR events or have sent them congratulatory missives. CAIR’s outspoken antisemitism is matched only by its fierce defense of terrorist groups such as Hamas and its championing of scores of convicted Islamic terrorists in prison in the U.S. Read the incendiary antisemitic exhortations by CAIR officials at their events that if uttered by right-wing white supremacists, would be reported on the front pages of the *New York Times*, as incitement to violence.

The litany of CAIR’s continued antisemitic epithets is mind numbing. It routinely calls for the destruction of the State of Israel which of course is an echo of the same demand of its mother group, Hamas, which also vows to kill every Jew. CAIR’s antisemitism runs so deeply through its veins, as this book demonstrates, that it has allied itself with Holocaust deniers, with convicted Hamas terrorists, with jihadists, with Libya’s Muammar Gaddafi and even with one of the world’s most notorious Holocaust deniers, Iran’s Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Words have consequences, as the world ultimately realized in the Nazi’s obsession with eradicating the Jews. This book is a flashing red light.

Steven Emerson
Executive Director
The Investigative Project on Terrorism

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since its 1994 founding as part of a Muslim Brotherhood-created, Hamas-support network in the United States, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)¹ and its senior leadership have made repeated statements and taken positions that illustrate the organization's deep antisemitic bias. This book spotlights the lengthy record of antisemitic rhetoric amassed by CAIR and its officials that meets the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)'s working definition of antisemitism.² The working definition was adopted by the U.S. State Department in 2016³ and numerous governments have since embraced and promoted it.⁴

While criticizing the Israeli government or its policies is, by itself, not antisemitic, insinuations that American Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the United States fall within the parameters of the IHRA definition. So does “demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews...or the power of Jews as a collective” and “denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination.”⁵

CAIR and its leaders cross these lines repeatedly. They falsely smear Israel as an apartheid state,⁶ call for a Palestinian state “from the river to the sea,”⁷ thus wiping Israel off the map, and have called the Jewish state and its supporters “Zionazis.”⁸ CAIR officials also equate Israel to ISIS⁹ and the Taliban.¹⁰

In November 2021, CAIR's Executive Director Nihad Awad¹¹ made clear he does not believe Israel should exist, when he called its most populous city, Tel Aviv, “occupied” and prayed “it will be free later.”¹² At the same conference, CAIR's San Francisco chapter leader Zahra Billoo¹³ called on American Muslims to reject overtures from “polite Zionists,” even on issues on which they might work together, and warned that any groups supporting Zionism “are not your friends.”¹⁴

After Billoo's remarks drew strong condemnation, CAIR rushed to her defense painting her as a victim of an “online smear campaign.” The Islamist organization further portrayed the criticism as

“false allegations of anti-Semitism in a cynical attempt to silence American Muslims who speak up for Palestinian human rights.”¹⁵

Billoo repeated her blanket dismissal of pro-Israel Jews at an April 9, 2022 event that was advertised as focusing on “Islamophobia” in France and India. “If you are pro-Israel and you are working actively to harm our community here and abroad, we don't want to work with you,” she said. “We have so many other friends and partners to work with, so many other things that we can do. If you're with the Anti-Defamation League, if you're with the Jewish Community Relations Council, if you're with the Jewish Federation, if you're with any of these pro-Israel organizations, enough is enough...If you don't support human rights abroad, then we don't believe you when you're supporting them here. We're not here to partner with in that way.”¹⁶

Billoo has been making similarly outrageous statements for years¹⁷ leading the Simon Wiesenthal Center to describe her in a December 2021 report as “one of venomous professional Israel and Jew-haters who use non-existent dots to create phony links between Israel and U.S. social crises.”¹⁸ The report also lists CAIR among 10 of the world's worst antisemitic organizations.¹⁹

During the May 2021 Gaza war, CAIR and its leaders posted antisemitic comments on social media and co-sponsored and endorsed pro-Palestine rallies featuring strident antisemitic rhetoric and chants that included calls for Israel's destruction.²⁰ This overt display of virulent antisemitism on social media and at pro-Palestine rallies during and after the war corresponded with a surge in violent attacks against Jews and other antisemitic incidents across the United States.²¹

The self-proclaimed civil rights group has additionally opposed legislation to combat antisemitism at both the federal²² and state levels.²³

While CAIR never loses an opportunity to demonize Israel and paint it as a pariah

“apartheid” state,²⁴ neither CAIR nor Executive Director Nihad Awad²⁵ criticizes Turkey’s autocratic, Hamas-supporting,²⁶ Islamist leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, named the world’s “worst jailer of journalists” in 2017.²⁷ CAIR and its leaders have traveled to Turkey²⁸ in support of the regime and met repeatedly with its officials when they come to the United States.²⁹ During a 2016 meeting, Awad lamented “a pathological fear of Turkey here” and suggested the Turkish government make “more efforts to explain what is happening [in] Turkey to American public opinion.”³⁰ Awad, the only executive director CAIR has ever had, met with Iranian President Hasan Rouhani in 2018³¹ and spoke at a 2008 interfaith program with then-

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,³² who has denied the Holocaust³³ and vowed to wipe Israel off the map.³⁴ Three years later, Awad appealed to Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi for help underwriting a campaign to give copies of the Quran to Americans and to help launch a new foundation.³⁵ The Islamist group’s leadership also refuses to specifically condemn the terrorist group Hamas.³⁶

This book presents a compilation of CAIR’s antisemitic statements over the years that have been thematically organized around the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)’s working definition of antisemitism,³⁷ which the State Department embraced in 2016.³⁸

HIGHLIGHTS

During a November 2021 conference sponsored by the rabidly anti-Israel American Muslims for Palestine (AMP),³⁹ Awad called Tel Aviv “occupied” and prayed for it to be freed. “We have to fight. We have to take the fight to the other side. Moving the [U.S.] embassy, our embassy, from Tel Aviv which is occupied, to a city [Jerusalem] that’s supposed to be protected under international law, to move that embassy we should not accept that as a de facto,” Awad said. “We have to pressure the administration to take our embassy back to Tel Aviv. And inshallah [God willing], it will be free later.”⁴⁰

Tel Aviv is Israel’s most populous city, the place where the Jewish nation declared its independence.⁴¹ Awad’s reference to an “occupied” Tel Aviv revealed that he does not accept Israel’s right to exist. At the same conference, CAIR’s San Francisco chapter director Zahra Billoo accused Jews of being behind “a well-funded project” to push “Islamophobia...to marginalize us, to imprison us, to deport us, to silence us.”⁴²

Her blind hatred for anyone who supports Israel⁴³ prompted her to shun what she described as “polite Zionists,” even on issues on which they might work together. “We need to pay attention to the Anti-Defamation League,” Billoo said. “We need to

pay attention to the Jewish Federation...the Zionist synagogues...Hillel chapters on our campuses.”⁴⁴

On August 26, 2021, CAIR joined anti-Israel groups Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action),⁴⁵ the Palestinian Youth Movement,⁴⁶ U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights,⁴⁷ Jewish Voice for Peace Action,⁴⁸ and others to protest President Biden’s meeting⁴⁹ with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.⁵⁰ Hosting Bennett, CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad argued at the protest, is as bad as welcoming the Taliban to the White House. “Imagine if [the] Taliban forms the government, [and] continues to do what it was doing to the people in Afghanistan before they were defeated in 2001,” Awad said. “And they became national and international leaders, and if the president of the United States, President Joe Biden, decides to host in the White House the leader of [the] Taliban, what would be the reaction of the U.S. media? What would be the reaction from the public? What would be the reaction of politicians by the fact that Joe Biden would be hosting the leader of [the] Taliban? ...Today it’s no different. President Joe Biden is hosting the leader of the Israeli Taliban. Joe Biden is hosting the leader of a settler colonial movement in Israel.”⁵¹

The Taliban, an Islamist fundamentalist organization, ruled Afghanistan from 1996 until its overthrow following the U.S. invasion in 2001.⁵² The Islamist group provided sanctuary to 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden⁵³ and its August 2021 return to power was celebrated worldwide by jihadists.⁵⁴



Nihad Awad speaking at AMP National March for Palestine, May 29, 2021, AMP Facebook

CAIR was a “partner” in the May 29, 2021 National March for Palestine⁵⁵ in Washington, D.C., led by the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)⁵⁶ and American Muslims for Palestine (AMP).⁵⁷ The march was part of a broader campaign to “sanction Israel” to end “Israeli settler-colonialism, ethnic cleansing, apartheid, military occupation, and blockade.”⁵⁸ Speakers



Free Palestine rally at the Lincoln Memorial, May 29, 2021
Photo by Diane Krauthamer, Flickr

spewed inflammatory antisemitic and anti-Israel rhetoric and led chants calling for the destruction of the Jewish state.⁵⁹

Among them, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” meaning a new Palestinian state will go from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea and swallow up all of Israel. Other chants included: “Israel you can’t hide, we charge you with genocide,” “Justice is our demand, no peace on stolen land,” and “[President] Biden you will learn, refugees will return, in our millions will return,”⁶⁰ “5, 6, 7, 8, Israel is a terrorist state.”⁶¹

CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad spoke immediately after anti-Israel student activist Nerdeen Kiswani⁶² led the “From the river to the sea” and other chants. Awad did nothing to caution protesters about

going too far. Instead, he called on them “to work to unseat members of Congress who are apologists for the crimes of the State of Israel.”⁶³

Awad also urged the crowd to repeat a “Palestine pledge” to “support candidates who work to end Israeli apartheid” and “to work against elected officials who support Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land.”⁶⁴

“Apartheid” was the official policy in South Africa from 1948-1994. Under that system, blacks were barred from voting and holding political office; relegated to inferior neighborhoods and schools; and prevented from using the same public accommodations as whites.⁶⁵ But none of this applies to Israeli Arabs, who have the right to vote and enjoy representation in the Knesset. They own property and businesses and work in professions alongside Israeli Jews.⁶⁶

Additionally, calling Israel an “apartheid” state qualifies as antisemitic speech under the

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)’s working definition of antisemitism,⁶⁷ which the State Department embraced in 2016.⁶⁸ The working definition encompasses modern anti-Israel sentiment that “crosses the line into antisemitism”⁶⁹ to include “Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.”⁷⁰

Another speaker at the May 29 rally, former CAIR New York board member Lamis Deek,⁷¹ who serves on the national board⁷² of Al-Awda: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition,⁷³ described Israel as a “a global threat, because Israel is a threat to all of us on the streets. Because so long as there is Israeli colonization, and Israeli apartheid and Israeli genocide and Israeli repression, we risk the resurrection of apartheid in South Africa, we risk the resurrection of colonization in Algeria.”⁷⁴



NYC Rally Condemning Trump’s Deal of the Century, Jan. 31, 2020, AMP NJ Chapter Facebook

Falsely calling Israel a “global threat” and accusing it of “apartheid” and “genocide” is hate speech that can stir people to violence against Jews,⁷⁵ the kind witnessed across the United States during the May 2021 Gaza war.⁷⁶ there is no legal basis to claim any Israeli activity

amounts to genocide and such vicious and spurious allegations only go to demonize the Jewish state and diminish the gravity of real genocidal crimes.⁷⁷

On January 31, 2020, after the Trump administration unveiled its “Deal of the Century” peace plan to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, eight radical groups, including Samidoun,⁷⁸ New Jersey chapters of CAIR, American Muslims for Palestine (AMP),⁷⁹ and the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)⁸⁰ at New York’s John Jay Col-



Lamis Deek speaking at AMP National March for Palestine May 29, 2021, AMP Facebook

lege organized and sponsored the “Say No to the Steal of the Century” protest in Manhattan’s City Hall Park.⁸¹

The protest featured chants and speeches repeatedly calling for the destruction of the Jewish state and for terrorist attacks, which protesters euphemistically referred as the “resistance,” against Israel. “Resistance is justified when people are occupied,” protesters repeatedly shouted, adding in the ubiquitous chant, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.”⁸²

CAIR
April 18, 2019 · 🌐

CAIR Action Alert: Tell the [U.S. Department of State](#) to not withhold a visa from Omar Barghouti, one of the founders of the BDS movement.

CLICK HERE TO SEND CAIR'S ACTION ALERT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT:
<https://www.votervoicenet.com/CAIR/campaigns/65451/respond>

Last week, he was denied entry into the United States and prevented from boarding a flight from Israel's Ben Gurion airport. He was traveling to the U.S. for a speaking tour at several universities as well as his daughter's wedding.

VOTERVOICE.NET
Tell State Department Not to Withhold Visa from Palestinian Rights Activist

In April 2019, CAIR urged its supporters to petition the State Department to grant a visa for Omar Barghouti,⁸³ co-founder of the international Boycott Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement,⁸⁴ who is currently based in Israel and was scheduled to give two lectures and meet with members of Congress in Wash-

ington, D.C.⁸⁵ Barghouti was subsequently denied entry for reasons believed to be based on national security matters and a tax evasion case against him.⁸⁶ He openly supports “armed resistance” against Israel.⁸⁷ He also promotes a one-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and “rejects the existence of a Jewish nation state,” the Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center reports.⁸⁸

Opponents consider the BDS movement antisemitic because it singles out the world’s only Jewish state for treatment not imposed on other states with much worse human rights records, and because it is reminiscent of the Nazis’ economic warfare against Jewish-owned companies.⁸⁹

In December 2019, CAIR’s National Strategic Communications Director Ahmed Rehab⁹⁰ posted an ugly rant cursing and vilifying Zionists and France. “F*** Zionism. And F*** you too France,” Rehab wrote.⁹¹ Rehab, who also runs CAIR’s Chicago office,⁹² was reacting to a French Parliament decision to adopt IHRA’s antisemitism definition.⁹³ “Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination,” the crux of Zionism, is among the main examples of antisemitism cited.⁹⁴

According to Rehab, the resolution showed that France wants “to criminalize peaceful free speech that dares to criticize murderous, plunderous, thieving apartheid that mauls with impunity under the auspices of wealthy hyper-militarized super powers. F***** you. (Apologies for my French).”⁹⁵

The resolution was proposed by French Parliament Member Sylvain Maillard in response to an alarming escalation of antisemitic acts in France.⁹⁶

In a “translation” of a May 12, 2021 tweet in which former Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said “Arizona stands with Israel,”⁹⁷ Rehab wrote: “Governor Doug Ducey stands with powerful AIPAC lobbyists in fear of losing reelection financing.”⁹⁸ He forwarded his “translation” of Gov. Ducey’s tweet and posted: “But of course,

it is all about the Benjamins. And the Jacksons and the Hamiltons. It usually is with all US lobby-centric politics. If the naked truth offends you, I'm happy to chip in for your therapy."⁹⁹

Rehab's Facebook post invokes Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's earlier antisemitic tropes about Jewish control of American policy. In a February 2019 tweet, Omar cast American support for Israel as solely driven by political contributions. "It's all about the Benjamins baby," Omar wrote to explain why she and fellow Democrat Rashida Tlaib draw attention for their "criticisms of Israel."¹⁰⁰ Who is the source of this popular reference to cash? "AIPAC!" Omar added, referring to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.¹⁰¹

The strongest defense for Omar came from U.S.-based Islamist groups and leaders.¹⁰² CAIR, for example, issued a statement acknowledging that antisemitism is real, but Omar hasn't engaged in it. Supporters of Israel, according to CAIR, are the real problem. "CAIR applauds Reps. Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib¹⁰³ for their courage in speaking the truth about Israel's racial, religious and ethnic segregation. Agenda-driven groups -- like AIPAC -- have for decades enabled that segregation and the resulting denial of human rights for Christian and Muslim Palestinians."¹⁰⁴

CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad thanked Omar and Tlaib for their "courageous and principled stance" against the "Israeli Lobby."¹⁰⁵

But CAIR's leadership seems to forget that they run an "agenda-driven group," devoted to white-washing Hamas¹⁰⁶ and other terrorist activity against Israel while CAIR leaders praise Islamist regimes,¹⁰⁷ like Recep Tayyip's Erdogan's Turkey, which earned the distinction of being the world's top jailer of journalists.¹⁰⁸

At a December 2017 rally hosted by the anti-Israel American Muslims for Palestine (AMP),¹⁰⁹ Awad alleged that President Donald Trump was "putting the interests of a foreign state, like Israel, and its domestic lobby here...above the United States' interests. This is dangerous and

reckless."¹¹⁰ This statement is among numerous examples, spread out over decades, of Awad and his CAIR colleagues dropping dual loyalty canards against people who support Israel. Describing Israel as an "apartheid state" that "has been oppressing the Palestinian people," Awad added, "The United States has financed and armed and defended and shielded Israel all over the world, in the United Nations. This is at the expense of our policies."¹¹¹



At an AMP event in November 2018, Zahra Billoo, the executive director of CAIR's San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SBFA) office,¹¹² acknowledged that she is "not going to legitimize a country [Israel] that I don't believe has a right to exist."¹¹³ Being pro-Israel, she has written, is tantamount to being "pro-terror, pro-violence, pro-land theft, and pro-apartheid."¹¹⁴ Billoo has similarly supported Palestinian terrorists attacking Israelis and openly called for the destruction



Nihad Awad - AMP Rally for Jerusalem
Washington, D.C., Dec. 16, 2017, AMP Facebook

of the Jewish state: “From the river to the sea, #Palestine will be free.”¹¹⁵

During a 2018 “Islamophobia” program at the Islamic Institute of Orange County, CAIR California Executive Director Hussam Ayloush¹¹⁶ complained about Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programs unjustly targeting Muslims. He asserted CVE programs should instead target American Jews who move to Israel and join the Israel Defense Forces that are “committing war crimes.”¹¹⁷

There’s no similar focus on white communities, he said in a video highlighted by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).¹¹⁸ “You know how many hundreds of Jewish American kids are recruited to join the Israeli occupation army? Hundreds. Every year. They leave their country, leave America, to go join with an army that is engaged, with no debate, in major violations of human rights, and maybe some would argue, and I’m one of them, war crimes.” But “[n]o one has ever established a CVE program to see, why would normal Jewish American kids leave their home and join to be part of an army committing war crimes,” he added.¹¹⁹

During his 2014 debate at the Islamic Institute of Orange County, Ayloush compared Israeli tactics to those used by the Islamic State. “The Jewish State of Israel claims that it’s being attacked because it’s Jewish. And it claims it has the right to the land of Palestine because it’s Jewish. And it justifies its crimes in Gaza because of its Jewishness or defense of the Jewish people. This is exactly what the Islamic State, ISIS, does.”¹²⁰

He has also called for the Jewish state to be terminated.¹²¹ “Iran’s regime calling Israel a ‘cancerous tumor’ is like the pot calling the kettle black. All the people of that region will be better off

once both murderous regimes are terminated,” Ayloush wrote in a November 2018 tweet.¹²²

Some CAIR officials invoke religious belief to demonize and attack Jews as the source of Muslims’ problems. During a May 2012 sermon at the Islamic Organization of North America mosque in Warren, MI, CAIR Michigan Executive Director Dawud Walid¹²³ responded to his own question, “Who are those who incurred the wrath of Allah?” saying “*hum al-yahud, hum al-yahud* [They are the Jews, they are the Jews].”¹²⁴ He added: “One of the greatest social ills facing America today is Islamophobia, and anti-Muslim bigotry. And if you trace the organizations and the main advocates and activists of Islamophobia in America, you will see that all those organizations are pro-Israeli occupation organizations and activists,” Walid said. “You will see every single last one. Do you know why? Because one of the leading Islamophobes by the name of Daniel Pipes, said the political empowerment of American Muslims is a direct threat to Israel.”¹²⁵

From: CAIR S. CA
To: ra****ry
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2002 11:25 AM
Subject: Re: quotes

Of course, these were all lies and taken out-of-context. Why would anyone say such things? Indeed, the zionazis are a bunch of nice people; just like their nazi brethren! It is just that the world keeps making up lies about them! It is so unfair.

They also liken Israel and its supporters to Nazis. “Indeed, the zionazis are a bunch of nice people,” Ayloush wrote in a 2002 email, “just like their nazi brethren! It is just that the world keeps making up lies about them! It is so unfair.”¹²⁶ In his Facebook notes from February 2009, former CAIR Florida director Hassan Shibly¹²⁷ equated Israelis with Nazis, juxtaposing images from the Holocaust with images of Israeli soldiers interacting with Palestinians.¹²⁸

BACKGROUND & HISTORY

The Council on American Islamic Relations’ (CAIR) roots in a Muslim Brotherhood-created, Hamas-support network called the Palestine Committee are documented by the committee’s own records seized by the FBI and entered into evidence in a 2008 federal terror financing trial.¹²⁹ These internal records include a 1994 Palestine Committee meeting agenda which lists CAIR as a branch.¹³⁰ The presiding U.S. District Court judge found “ample evidence to establish the associations of CAIR...with Hamas.”¹³¹ Hamas is a designated terrorist organization¹³² with a stridently antisemitic charter which advocates killing Jews.¹³³

CAIR was also named an unindicted co-conspirator in the trial,¹³⁴ which ended with convictions against the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development (HLF) and five former officers on 108 counts related to illegally funneling millions of dollars to Hamas.¹³⁵ The convictions were upheld by a federal appeals court in 2011.¹³⁶

An FBI affidavit obtained by the Investigative Project on Terrorism (IPT) through a Freedom of Information Act request identifies CAIR co-founder Omar Ahmad (a.k.a Omar Yehya)¹³⁷ as “one of the leaders of HAMAS.”¹³⁸ The affidavit further notes that Palestine Committee members were “active” members of the U.S. Muslim Brotherhood.¹³⁹

Both the Muslim Brotherhood and its Palestinian offshoot Hamas¹⁴⁰ are deeply antisemitic.¹⁴¹ While Muslim Brotherhood leaders have called for the killing of Jews and the destruction of Israel,¹⁴² Hamas’s founding covenant not only mentions the obliteration of the Jewish state, but also the notorious Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a forgery alleging a Zionist conspiracy to take over the world.¹⁴³

CAIR founders Omar Ahmad and Nihad Awad each appear in a phonebook of Palestine Committee members admitted into evidence at the HLF trial.¹⁴⁴ In 1994 – the same year CAIR was created and appeared on the Palestine Committee roster – CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad¹⁴⁵ publicly declared, “I am in support of the Hamas

movement” instead of the secular PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization).¹⁴⁶

Several CAIR officials or fundraisers have either been personally involved in criminal investigations or have held leadership roles in organizations that have been identified by the U.S. government as linked to terrorism.¹⁴⁷ The group continues to defend the Holy Land Foundation, despite a conviction for funneling \$12 million to Hamas, and convicted terror supporter Sami Al-Arian, despite evidence Al-Arian was on the Palestinian Islamic Jihad’s (PIJ) governing board.¹⁴⁸ The PIJ, like Hamas, is sworn to Israel’s destruction and has been proscribed by the United States as a terrorist group since 1997.¹⁴⁹ The Holy Land Foundation conviction “was based more on fear-mongering than on the facts,” CAIR said in a news release.¹⁵⁰ In 2014, CAIR honored Al-Arian and his family with its “Promoting Justice Award”¹⁵¹ just days before the United Arab Emirates designated CAIR as a terrorist group.¹⁵²

CAIR officials refuse to condemn Palestinian terrorist groups like Hamas, and try to equate the brutal slaughter carried out by ISIS terrorists to the Israeli army’s defense of its people from terror attacks. For example, CAIR Los Angeles Executive Director Hussam Ayloush¹⁵³ was challenged to condemn Hamas in 2013. He refused, saying the question itself is “not acceptable,” and “proves that you have nothing but bigotry in you.”¹⁵⁴ In September 2014, Zahra Billoo, executive director of CAIR San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA),¹⁵⁵ equated ISIS with the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), saying she “wonders who has recruited more Americans? The IDF or ISIS?”¹⁵⁶ In February 2015, Billoo reiterated the comparison asking, “Have more American youth joined the IDF than American youth have joined ISIS? Is one genocidal group different than the other? #CVE Summit.”¹⁵⁷

CAIR also has a long history¹⁵⁸ of undermining law enforcement counterterror investigations by urging Muslims not to cooperate with agents, falsely accusing the FBI of using excessive force,¹⁵⁹ and by

crying entrapment when stings have led to arrests of Muslims who plotted attacks.¹⁶⁰ Its San Francisco chapter published a flyer depicting a shadowy FBI agent lurking outside a home: “Build a Wall of Resistance,” it said, “Don’t Talk to the FBI.”¹⁶¹

The FBI cut off outreach communication with CAIR in 2008.¹⁶² In a 2009 letter to U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl, Assistant FBI Director Richard Powers explained the ban would last until it can “resolve whether there continues to be a connection between CAIR or its executives and HAMAS.”¹⁶³ Since the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General’s 2013 audited adherence to the policy,¹⁶⁴ there has been no indication of any change in the policy.

CAIR’S ROOTS IN A U.S.-BASED HAMAS-SUPPORT NETWORK

CAIR emerged out of the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP),¹⁶⁵ an organization that served as a propaganda arm of a now-defunct Hamas-support network called the “Palestine Committee.”¹⁶⁶ The Committee was created by the Muslim Brotherhood to help Hamas politically and financially in the United States.¹⁶⁷ As the committee’s propaganda outlet, the IAP organized “annual conventions and meetings, which were regularly addressed by members of Hamas brought from the Middle East.”¹⁶⁸

The outlet published magazines with articles supporting the terrorist group. It also “published the Hamas charter in English and distributed Hamas communiqués.”¹⁶⁹

Founded in 1994, CAIR was incorporated by three IAP leaders — Nihad Awad, Omar Ahmad, and Rafeeq Jaber.¹⁷⁰ Mousa Abu Marzook, a member of the Hamas Politburo,¹⁷¹ “served as a member of IAP’s advisory board and served

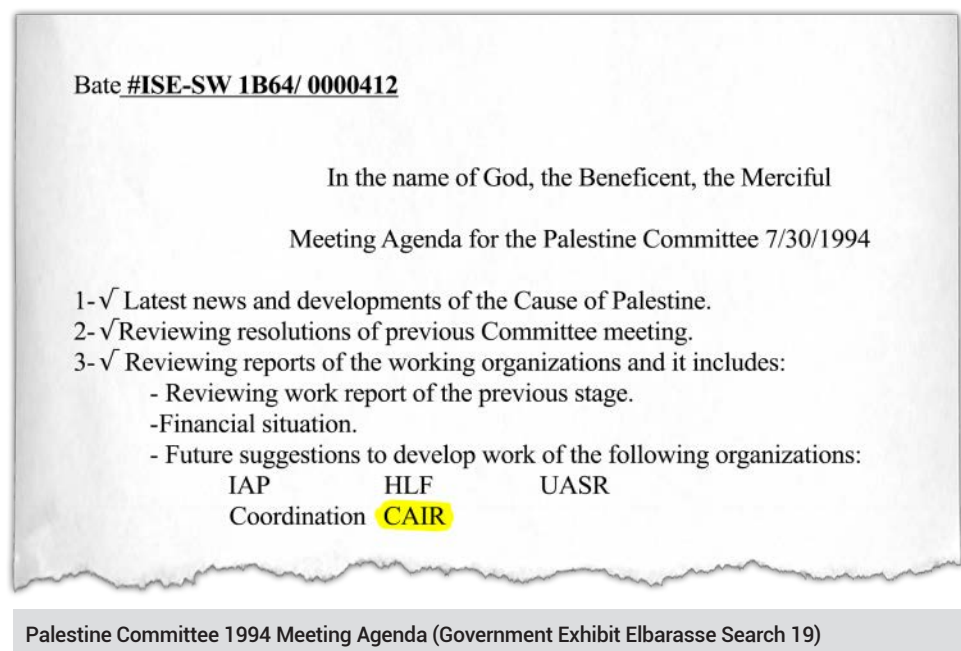
as its chairman in 1988-90.”¹⁷² He also provided IAP with \$490,000.¹⁷³ IAP, which is now defunct, was long a central player in Hamas’ U.S. support network.

In August 2002, a federal judge ruled that there was evidence that “the Islamic Association for Palestine (“IAP”), has acted in support of Hamas.”¹⁷⁴

In November 2004, a federal magistrate judge held IAP civilly liable for \$156 million in damages in the 1996 shooting of an American teenager by a Hamas member in the West Bank.¹⁷⁵ The judge ruled that there was “an abundance of evidence” that “IAP...desired to help Hamas’ activities succeed, and...engaged in some act of helping those activities succeed.”¹⁷⁶ He added, “If IAP has never outrightly cheered on Hamas’ terrorist activities, it has come awfully close.”¹⁷⁷

In December 2008, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld damages against the American Muslim Society, which the court described as “an alter ego” for the IAP.¹⁷⁸

And evidence from the Dallas trial charging HLF and its officers with providing material support for Hamas shows that the IAP played a central role in the Muslim Brotherhood’s Palestine Committee.¹⁷⁹



According to the Committee's 1994 meeting agenda and a 1991 organizational chart¹⁸⁰ introduced into evidence, the IAP, the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development and a Virginia think-tank Marzook founded were the Committee's primary components.¹⁸¹

A November 1991 committee status report approved by the Shura Council explained that the Ikhwan, or Brotherhood, created IAP "to serve the cause of Palestine on the political and media fronts...The Association's work has developed a great deal since its inception, particularly with the formation of the Palestine Committee, the beginning of the Intifada at the end of 1987 and the proclamation of the Hamas Movement."¹⁸²

The documents about IAP's key role in the Palestine Committee were found in the home of Ismail Elbarasse,¹⁸³ a former assistant to Marzook, records and testimony from the HLF trial show.¹⁸⁴

An internal memo, also taken from Elbarasse, defines in chilling fashion the role the Muslim Brothers play in North America.¹⁸⁵

4- Understanding the role of the Muslim Brother in North America:

The process of settlement is a "Civilization-Jihadist Process" with all the word means. The Ikhwan must understand that their work in America is a kind of grand Jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within and "sabotaging" its miserable house by their hands and the hands of the believers so that it is eliminated and God's religion is made victorious over all other religions. Without this level of understanding, we are not up to this challenge and have not prepared ourselves for Jihad yet. It is a Muslim's destiny to perform Jihad and work wherever he is and wherever he lands until the final hour comes, and there is no escape from that destiny except for those who chose to slack. But, would the slackers and the Mujahedeen be equal.

An Explanatory Memorandum on the General Strategic Goal for the Group in North America 5/22/1991 (Government Exhibit Elbarasse Search 3)

Records from a 2004 civil litigation (*Boim v. Quranic Literary Institute*) show how the IAP acted upon these plans. As the magistrate judge noted, IAP has "published and distributed an abundance of pro-Hamas documents."¹⁸⁶ The group published the Hamas charter – a viciously antisemitic document that calls for the murder of Jews – and noted in the October 1988 issue of its Arabic-language publication, *Ila Filastin*, "The Islamic Association for Palestine will deliver

the charter of the Hamas movement all over the American continent."¹⁸⁷ Similarly, a statement in the December 1988 edition of *Ila Filastin* read, "The call for Jihad for the sake of Allah is the only path for the liberation of Palestine and all the occupied Muslim lands... We [Hamas] pledge to almighty Allah to continue on the path of Jihad and martyrdom, we shall not deviate from it until Almighty Allah give us victory and triumph over against His enemies"¹⁸⁸

Again, Nihad Awad and Omar Ahmad were part of the IAP before launching CAIR, and CAIR joined the IAP on the Palestine Committee immediately after CAIR's 1994 founding.

THE 1993 PHILADELPHIA HAMAS MEETING

In order to fully understand CAIR's origins and its close relationship with IAP and HLF, it is critical to examine a meeting in a Philadelphia, PA Marriott hotel that took place less than a year before CAIR's incorporation.

Organized by Hamas operative¹⁸⁹ Abdelhaleem Ashqar,¹⁹⁰ who was indicted in August 2004 for allegedly participating in a 15-year racketeering conspiracy to finance Hamas' activities,¹⁹¹ the meeting was called in the wake of the Oslo Accords. In the

Accords, Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin agreed to a future of coexistence and independence for the Israelis and Palestinians.¹⁹²

The 25-person¹⁹³ gathering represented, according to the FBI, "a meeting...among senior leaders of HAMAS, the HLF and the IAP."¹⁹⁴

According to the November 2008 HLF superseding indictment, "The purpose of the meeting was

to determine their course of action in support of Hamas' opposition to the peace plan and to decide how to conceal their activities from the scrutiny of the United States government."¹⁹⁵

Attendees at the FBI-monitored meeting included five HLF officials who were indicted with the group in July 2004: Executive Director Haitham Maghawri, Chief Executive Officer Shukri Abu Baker, Treasurer Ghassan Elashi,¹⁹⁶ Chairman of the Board Mohammad El-Mezain,¹⁹⁷ and fundraiser Mufid Abdulqader.¹⁹⁸

But the most notable attendees were future CAIR Chairman Omar Ahmad, whose presence is documented in the FBI-certified hotel registry,¹⁹⁹ and future CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad.²⁰⁰

Ahmad is identified as Omar Ahmad Yehya in FBI transcripts of the secretly-recorded meeting.²⁰¹ Although he claimed in a 2003 deposition that he did not recall attending this meeting,²⁰² he acknowledged that "some people call me" Omar Yehya "because it's like one of my middle names."²⁰³ Ahmad also acknowledged knowing many of the men who were in Philadelphia, including Ashqar, Abu Baker, Elashi and Maghawri.²⁰⁴

Meeting participants apparently attempted to cover up their true agenda. As an FBI analysis of the wiretaps states, they "spent much effort hiding their association with the Islamic Resistance Movement, a.k.a. HAMAS. Instead, they referred to HAMAS as 'Samah,' which is HAMAS spelled backwards."²⁰⁵

In addition to trying to obscure their ties to "Samah," those at the meeting discussed how organizations in the United States could support

Hamas. A speaker noted, "The institutions here should be at the service of the Movement over there... This should include finance, information, political, and everything."²⁰⁶ Another urged his colleagues that "[p]eople who are directly connected with Jihad should get more assistance."²⁰⁷

In conjunction with their support for the jihad in Palestine, the participants also recognized the critical importance of domestic lobbying. Stressing the need for deeper engagement with the American Muslim community, one attendee discussed the groups "attempting to encourage the Islamic community to be involved in the political life in this country." He commented, "We should

assist them in this task. This will be an entrance for us to put, through the Islamic community, pressure on the Congress and the decision makers in America."²⁰⁸

"we don't have influence over the Congress... This will bolster our position in America with the U.S. administration and other media and political organizations."

—CAIR Founder Omar Ahmad

CAIR Founder Omar Ahmad went a step further, envisioning a lobby because "we don't have influence over the Congress... This will bolster our position in America with the U.S. administration and other media and political organizations."²⁰⁹

He concluded:

"This can be achieved by infiltrating the American media outlets, universities and research centers as we previously said. ... if Muslims engage in political activism in America and started to be concerned with Congress and public relations we will have an entry point to use them to pressure Congress and the decision-makers in America."²¹⁰

CAIR was incorporated the following summer.

CAIR'S ANTISEMITISM AND THE IHRA DEFINITION

Since its 1994 emergence from a former Hamas-support network in the United States,²¹¹ the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)²¹² and its senior leadership have repeatedly made statements and taken positions that reflect the organization's strong antisemitic bias.²¹³ That includes applying double standards against Israel not expected of other democracies, denying the Jewish people's right to self-determination, claiming that Israel was founded as a racist entity, pushing dual-loyalty smears, and canards about Jewish control over American policy.

CAIR's antisemitic attitude is also reflected in its strident opposition to legislation proposed to combat antisemitism. In an April 2019 press release, for example, the Islamist organization urged its supporters to pressure Congress to oppose the "Anti-Semitism Awareness Act of 2019."²¹⁴ The bill "incorrectly conflates legitimate First Amendment protected discussion on American college campuses about Israel's human rights abuses against Palestinians with the vile bigotry of anti-Semitism," the press release claimed.²¹⁵

The bipartisan legislation reintroduced by U.S. Sens. Tim Scott (R-SC), Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA), Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA)²¹⁶ directs the Department of Education to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)'s working definition of antisemitism,²¹⁷ which the State Department embraced in 2016.²¹⁸ Numerous governments, including the United Kingdom, Germany, and many other European states, have embraced and promoted this working definition.²¹⁹

Elements of this working definition encompass modern anti-Israel sentiment that "crosses the line into anti-Semitism"²²⁰ and include:

- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of

Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.

- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it [Israel] a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.²²¹

But CAIR is apparently concerned that if the U.S. Department of Education adopts this definition, U.S. Islamist groups will be inhibited in their efforts to stoke anti-Israel sentiment on college campuses. If enacted, CAIR said, the bill "would dangerously politicize anti-Semitism by equating it with legitimate criticism of Israeli policy."²²² But the IHRA definition of antisemitism specifically debunks this point with the clarification: "Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic."²²³

The Islamist group made similar claims when the bill had been introduced the previous year as the "Anti-Semitism Awareness Act of 2018."²²⁴

"The falsely-titled Anti-Semitism Awareness Act of 2018 would only create confusion between

what are real and punishable anti-Semitic hate crimes and the protected free speech rights of American students and faculty members,” CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad²²⁵ said in a CAIR press release.²²⁶ “It is not anti-Semitic to criticize the Apartheid-like policies of a foreign government or for Americans to engage in the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS)²²⁷ campaign,” he added.²²⁸

CAIR has challenged similar legislation combating antisemitism at the state level. In July 2019, the New Jersey Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-NJ), announced its opposition to New Jersey Senate Bill 4001²²⁹ that “[p]rohibits anti-Semitism in public schools and institutions of higher education.”²³⁰ It called on all New Jersey residents “to urge their State Senators to oppose and not co-sponsor the act.”²³¹

The bill “incorrectly conflates legitimate First Amendment protected discussion on American campuses about Israel’s human rights abuses against Palestinians with the vile bigotry of anti-Semitism,” said a CAIR-NJ press release.²³²

The bill “would only create confusion between what are real and punishable anti-Semitic hate crimes and the protected free speech rights of American students and faculty members,” CAIR-NJ Executive Director Jim Sues said in a CAIR statement that parroted Awad’s language a year earlier. “It is not anti-Semitic to criticize the [a]partheid-like policies of a foreign government or for Americans to engage in the international Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign,”²³³ Sues added.

In this book, CAIR’s antisemitic statements and positions over the years are thematically organized around the IHRA definition²³⁴ under the following categories:

- Applying Double Standards Against Israel Not Expected of Other Democracies
- Denying the Jews their Right to Self-Determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.

- Dual-Loyalty Smears and Canards About Jewish Control Over American Policy
- Denying the Holocaust, Comparing Israeli policy to Nazis and IDF to ISIS Terrorists

APPLYING DOUBLE STANDARDS AGAINST ISRAEL NOT EXPECTED OF OTHER DEMOCRACIES

CAIR’s application of double standards against Israel is best exemplified in the Islamist organization’s staunch support for the Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the Jewish state. The international BDS movement aims to isolate Israel through economic, cultural and academic boycotts and sanctions modeled on the 1980s boycotts against South Africa’s apartheid government.²³⁵ Opponents consider the movement antisemitic because it singles out the world’s only Jewish state for treatment not imposed on other states with much worse human rights records, and because it is reminiscent of the Nazis’ economic warfare against Jewish-owned companies.²³⁶

CAIR’s pro-BDS stance stands in marked contrast to its unwavering praise for Turkey, despite authoritarian President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s brutal crack-down on dissidents, repression of press freedoms and arrests of journalists by the score.²³⁷ CAIR also failed to criticize Ankara’s war crimes against Kurds in northern Syria²³⁸ even as Awad continued to meet with Erdogan²³⁹ and cast Turkey as a beacon of democracy.²⁴⁰

The Islamist group has also not condemned Turkey’s illegal occupation of a third of Cyprus for nearly 50 years. Only Turkey recognizes an independent Turkish Cypriot state and has 35,000 troops stationed in the occupied territory.²⁴¹

In April 2019, CAIR urged its supporters to petition the State Department to grant a visa for BDS co-founder Omar Barghouti, currently based in Israel, who was scheduled to give two lectures and meet with members of Congress in Washington, D.C.²⁴² Barghouti was scheduled to appear on a panel discussion with former CNN pundit Marc Lamont

Hill²⁴³ and Rebecca Vilkomerson, then-director of the anti-Israel group Jewish Voice for Peace,²⁴⁴ at New York University.²⁴⁵

CNN fired Hill in November 2018 after he concluded a United Nations speech with a wish for “a free Palestine, from the river to the sea.”²⁴⁶ That slogan, which is a staple of anti-Israel events, envisions a future in which Israel does not exist, and is replaced by a Palestinian state.

Barghouti’s U.S. tour also was supposed to include a talk April 17, 2019 at Harvard University as an extension of “Israel Apartheid Week” there.²⁴⁷

Barghouti was subsequently denied entry to the U.S. for reasons believed to be based on national security matters and a tax evasion case against him.²⁴⁸ He openly supports “armed resistance” against Israel. “No, we most definitely have a moral and legal right to an armed resistance against the military occupation of our land, even according to international law, as long as we attack legitimate targets, that is, the occupation, settlers [i.e. Israeli civilians] and people who are armed,” Barghouti said in a 2010 interview with *al-Adab* magazine.²⁴⁹

In July 2019, the U.S. House voted 398-17 approving a resolution condemning BDS for “encouraging the Palestinians to reject negotiations in favor of international pressure.” It cited Barghouti’s statement that, “We oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine. No Palestinian, rational Palestinian, not a sell-out Palestinian, will ever accept a Jewish state in Palestine.”²⁵⁰

In December 2018, CAIR urged its supporters to petition members of the House and Senate appropriations committees to oppose the Israel Anti-Boycott Act (HR 1697/S. 720)²⁵¹ that may be “buried” in the 2019 appropriations bill.²⁵²

The CAIR Action Alert said:

“The Israel Anti-Boycott Act (S. 720 / H.R. 1697) is a threat to the free speech of all Americans and is clearly unconstitutional. The act would criminalize American business owners and individuals supporting any international boycott directed by the United Nations, the European Union or any other international governmental organization that is aimed at Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestine territories with criminal penalties resulting in up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

Responding to public backlash over the bill curbing the free speech rights of Americans, Senator



Rally and March for Gaza 8/2/14, Photo by Susan Melkisetian, Flickr

Cardin has stated that he is open to amending the legislation and other congressional co-sponsors are now re-examining or withdrawing their support for the act. However, CAIR believes that no amendment can be offered to fix the legislation’s true purpose – to intimidate Americans from supporting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement of Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestine territories. CAIR believes that American involvement in foreign boycotts started with throwing tea in Boston Harbor.

It is un-American and illegal for the U.S. Government to deny U.S. businesses and persons the

right to work to change the illegal and discriminatory actions of a foreign government.”²⁵³

In October 2018, Israel’s Supreme Court granted anti-Israel activist Lara Alqasem’s request to enter the country.²⁵⁴ Alqasem had been denied entry because of her pro-BDS activism and close affiliation with the anti-Israel group, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).²⁵⁵ After Alqasem was granted entry, Hassan Shibly, former Chief Executive Officer of CAIR Florida,²⁵⁶ told *WMNF News*:

“Look, I think this whole incident has been a wake-up call for the hypocrisy in how Israel treats Palestinian-Americans and how it treats American citizens. The fact of the matter is the Israelis tried to stop this Florida student from studying in Israel even though she got accepted at the university there. She had a valid visa to study there.

And the reason they wanted to stop her from studying is because they believe that she had participated in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement [BDS], which basically calls for people all over the world to boycott and divest from companies — especially those that do business in the Occupied Territories that are illegally occupied by the Israeli government — until Palestinians receive equal rights as the Israelis.

This is a very similar movement to the movement that was presented against South Africa when they were engaging in Apartheid. And as Jimmy Carter — former U.S. President Jimmy Carter’s called, he said what’s happening in Israel in terms of the unequal treatment of Palestinians is no different than the Apartheid that was enacted in South Africa.”²⁵⁷

Shibly resigned as director of CAIR’s Florida chapter in January 2021,²⁵⁸ weeks after his wife went public with spousal abuse allegations.²⁵⁹ CAIR’s announcement of his departure made no mention of those allegations, and thanked Shibly for leaving “the organization stronger than ever.”²⁶⁰

In December 2019, CAIR’s National Strategic Communications Director Ahmed Rehab²⁶¹

posted an ugly rant cursing and vilifying Zionists and France. “F*** Zionism. And F*** you too France,” Rehab wrote.²⁶² Rehab, who also runs CAIR’s Chicago office,²⁶³ was reacting to a French Parliament decision to adopt IHRA’s antisemitism definition.²⁶⁴ “Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination,” the crux of Zionism, is among the main examples of antisemitism cited.²⁶⁵

According to Rehab, the resolution showed that France wants “to criminalize peaceful free speech that dares to criticize murderous, plunderous, thieving apartheid that mauls with impunity under the auspices of wealthy hyper-militarized super powers. F***** you. (Apologies for my French).”²⁶⁶

The resolution was proposed by French Parliament Member Sylvan Maillard in response to the alarming escalation of antisemitic acts in France.²⁶⁷

“For some years now, France, the whole of Europe, but also almost all Western democracies are facing a rise in antisemitism,” Maillard’s resolution states. “Anti-Zionist acts can at times hide antisemitic realities. Hate toward Israel due to its perception as a Jewish collective is akin to hatred toward the entire Jewish community.” In France today, “dirty Zionist...means dirty Jew,” Maillard told the French newspaper *La Croix*.²⁶⁸

DENYING THE JEWISH PEOPLE THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND CLAIMS THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL IS A RACIST ENDEAVOR

During a November 2021 conference sponsored by the rabidly anti-Israel group American Muslims for Palestine (AMP),²⁶⁹ Awad called Tel Aviv “occupied” and prayed for it to be freed. “We have to fight. We have to take the fight to the other side. Moving the [U.S.] embassy, our embassy, from Tel Aviv which is occupied, to a city [Jerusalem] that’s supposed to be protected under international law, to move that embassy we should not accept that as a de facto,” Awad said. “We have to pressure the administration to take our embassy back

to Tel Aviv. And inshallah [God willing], it will be free later.”²⁷⁰

Tel Aviv is Israel’s most populous city, the place where the Jewish nation declared its independence.²⁷¹ Awad’s reference to an “occupied” Tel Aviv revealed that he does not accept Israel’s right to exist.

At the same conference, CAIR’s San Francisco chapter director Zahra Billoo called on the American Muslim community to shun what she described as “polite Zionists,” even on issues on which they might work together. “We need to pay attention to the Anti-Defamation League,” Billoo said. “We need to pay attention to the Jewish Federation...the Zionist synagogues...Hillel chapters on our campuses.”²⁷²

Billoo warned that those who advocate for a two-state solution – one that leaves Israel intact – “are your enemies”: “There are organizations and infrastructures out there who are working to harm you. Make no mistake of it. They would sell you down the line if they could. And they very often do behind your back. I mean, the Zionist organizations, I mean the foreign policy organizations who say, they’re not Zionists, but want a two-state solution.”²⁷³

She repeated her blanket dismissal of pro-Israel Jews at an April 9, 2022 event that was advertised as focusing on “Islamophobia” in France and India. “If you are pro-Israel and you are working actively to harm our community here and abroad, we don’t want to work with you,” she said. “We have so many other friends and partners to work with, so many other things that we can do. If you’re with the Anti-Defamation League, if you’re with the Jewish Community Relations Council, if you’re with the Jewish Federation, if you’re with any of these pro-Israel organizations, enough is enough...If you don’t support human rights abroad, then we don’t believe you when you’re supporting them here. We’re not here to partner with in that way.”²⁷⁴

On January 31, 2020, after the Trump administration unveiled its “Deal of the Century” peace

plan to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, nine radical groups, including Samidoun²⁷⁵ and area chapters of CAIR, American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)²⁷⁶ organized and sponsored the “Say No to the Steal of the Century” protest in Manhattan’s City Hall Park.²⁷⁷

Had the protest taken issue with specific aspects of the proposal, it would not be noteworthy. But it featured chants and speeches repeatedly calling for terrorist attacks – which protesters euphemistically referred as the “resistance” – and for the destruction of the Jewish state. The chants included calls for an intifada, and claims that “Resistance is justified when people are occupied.” Protesters repeatedly shouted, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.”²⁷⁸

Also at the protest, former CAIR New York board member Lamis Deek,²⁷⁹ who openly rejects Israel’s right to exist,²⁸⁰ said the latest U.S. peace initiative, “and Israel itself, is not just a threat to Palestinians, but it is a threat to all people.”²⁸¹

“We must be sure that we demand full liberation of all Palestinian land, the full return of every single Palestinian refugee, and full justice and accountability for every crime and every suffering of every Palestinian,” Deek said. “And we do not rest until we see a liberated Palestine. From the river to the sea Palestine must be free!”²⁸²

At an American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) event in November 2018, Zahra Billoo, the executive director of CAIR San Francisco,²⁸³ acknowledged that she is “not going to legitimize a country [Israel] that I don’t believe has a right to exist.”²⁸⁴ Being pro-Israel, she has written, is tantamount to being “pro-terror, pro-violence, pro-land theft, and pro-apartheid.”²⁸⁵ Billoo has similarly supported Palestinian terrorists attacking Israelis and openly called for the destruction of the Jewish state, in a not-so-veiled threat: “From the river to the sea, #Palestine will be free.”²⁸⁶

Legitimate criticism of Israeli government policies are important expressions of free speech. But “From the river to the sea” is not a criticism of

Israeli policy. It is a call to eliminate an existing state. This interpretation is reaffirmed by the U.S. State Department's definition on antisemitism established in 2010.²⁸⁷

CAIR uses the term “apartheid” to describe Israel and accuses the Jewish state of imposing “racial segregation” where “rights and opportunities [are] apportioned according to race, religion and ethnicity.”²⁸⁸

In July 2018, CAIR urged the Trump administration, Congress, and the international community to oppose an Israeli law that the Islamist group claimed bestowed Jewish people “an exclusive right to national self-determination” to the exclusion of minorities.



Rally and March for Gaza 8/2/14, Photo by Susan Melkisetian, Flickr

The CAIR statement said:

Israel has long imposed a system of de facto apartheid — with rights and opportunities apportioned according to race, religion and ethnicity — but now Benjamin Netanyahu's government has written that racism into law.

Because billions of American taxpayer dollars are given to Israel each year, and because our nation should stand as a beacon for freedom and equal rights, Congress and the Trump administration must join with the international community in taking concrete steps to push back

against this attempt to further legalize racial segregation.

We must repudiate this racist legislation in the same way the world rejected apartheid-era laws requiring that every citizen be classified as a member of one of a number of racial groups and enforcing the segregation of public services.

*Our nation's elected leaders, along with the international community, must clearly demonstrate that de jure (in law) racism will not be accepted in the modern era.*²⁸⁹ [italics in original]

CAIR was referring to the passage into law of a nation-state bill that describes Israel as “the national home of the Jewish people” and “enshrines the Zionist idea upon which the nation was founded, namely that Israel is a country established to fulfill the Jewish people's ‘right to national self-determination.’”²⁹⁰ The law codifies for the first time that Israel is the nation state of the Jewish people, while recognizing the individual rights of all Israeli citizens. The law's detractors, particularly Israeli Arab lawmakers, claim it is discriminatory towards Israel's Arabs and other minorities.²⁹¹

Soon after the Trump administration unveiled its Mideast peace plan in January 2020 to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,²⁹² CAIR issued a press release in which Awad described the law as “a roadmap to perpetual Apartheid in which a non-viable and non-sovereign ‘State of Palestine’ is in fact a new Bantustan²⁹³ controlled and dominated in every way by Israel and its illegal settlements.”²⁹⁴

“Apartheid” was South Africa's “harsh, institutionalized system of racial segregation” that ended in the early 1990s, giving way to a democratic government in 1994.²⁹⁵

But Israel is not an apartheid state. Israel's Declaration of Independence guarantees “complete social and political equality for all its citizens, without distinction on the grounds of religion,

race or sex”²⁹⁶ and Arab citizens of Israel, like their Jewish counterparts, enjoy the same political, civil, social and economic rights.²⁹⁷ An Arab Islamist party now forms part of the Israeli coalition government, but South Africa’s erstwhile apartheid regime made no efforts to co-opt the African National Congress (ANC) into the government.

While Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza may face hardships because of checkpoints and security crossings, those remain essential to ensuring the security and safety of Israeli civilians from terrorist attacks.²⁹⁸

Additionally, a key reason South Africa’s regime ended was the African National Congress’s willingness to renounce violence and engage in negotiations. In contrast, Hamas shows no such inclination and continues to wage terror attacks against Israel with the ultimate goal to destroy the Jewish state.²⁹⁹

Although any new peace initiative will generate praise or criticism, Islamist groups such as CAIR and their radical left allies will oppose any deal that guarantees Israel’s security and existence.³⁰⁰ In fact, after the Trump administration announced its peace plan, CAIR’s New Jersey chapter, along with other radical groups, organized the “Say No to the Steal of the Century” protest in Manhattan’s City Hall Park.³⁰¹ The protest featured chants and speeches that repeatedly called for the destruction of the Jewish state as well as calls for an intifada, and claims that “Resistance is justified when people are occupied.”³⁰² Rally participants also shouted, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.”³⁰³ As noted, Palestinian state stretching from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea would eliminate Israel, a goal reiterated in Hamas’ revised 2017 charter.

When Hamas attacks trigger new conflict with Israel, CAIR jumps into action to blame only Israel. That’s what happened in May 2021, when Israel bombed Hamas targets in Gaza in an attempt to stop the terrorist group from indiscriminately firing rockets at Israeli civilian communities.

CAIR was a “partner” in the National March for Palestine led by the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)³⁰⁴ and American Muslims for Palestine (AMP)³⁰⁵ in Washington, DC on May 29, 2021.³⁰⁶ The march was part of a broader campaign to “sanction Israel” to end “Israeli settler-colonialism, ethnic cleansing, apartheid, military occupation, and blockade.”³⁰⁷ Speakers spewed inflammatory antisemitic and anti-Israel rhetoric and raised chants calling for the destruction of the Jewish state.³⁰⁸

Demonstrators chanted: “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” meaning a new Palestinian state will go from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea and swallow up all of Israel. Other chants included: “Israel you can’t hide, we charge you with genocide,” “Justice is our demand, no peace on stolen land,” “[U.S. President] Biden you will learn, refugees will return, in our millions will return,”³⁰⁹ “5, 6, 7, 8, Israel is a terrorist state.”³¹⁰

CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad³¹¹ spoke immediately after anti-Israel student activist Nerdeen Kiswani³¹² led the antisemitic “From the river to the sea” chant. Awad did nothing to caution the protesters about going too far. Instead, he called on them “to work to unseat members of Congress who are apologists for the crimes of the State of Israel.”³¹³ Awad also urged the crowd to repeat a “Palestine pledge” after him that called to “support candidates who work to end Israeli apartheid” and “to work against elected officials who support Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land.”³¹⁴

Former CAIR New York board member Lamis Deek,³¹⁵ who serves on the national board³¹⁶ of Al-Awda: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition,³¹⁷ described Israel as a “global threat.”³¹⁸ She said that demonstrators were not just “standing as a voice for Palestine” but as a “voice for global peace and morality.”

People are participating in the rally “not just because Palestinians are threatened by Israeli violence,” Deek claimed, but “because Israel is a global threat, because Israel is a threat to all of us on the streets, because so long as there is Israeli

colonization, and Israeli apartheid and Israeli genocide and Israeli repression, we risk the resurrection of apartheid in South Africa, we risk the resurrection of colonization in Algeria.”³¹⁹

Calling Israel a “global threat” and accusing the Jewish state of “apartheid” and “genocide” only incites hatred and antisemitic violence.³²⁰



Rally and March for Gaza 8/2/14, Photo by Susan Melkisetian, Flickr

“Our nation must live up to its stated ideals by calling for an immediate ceasefire and end to attacks targeting civilians,” Awad said in a May 17, 2021 CAIR press release.³²¹ “Israel must end its brutal treatment of the Palestinian people and eliminate its system of racial and religious apartheid, which has always been the cause of the ongoing conflict. Peace without justice is always temporary. Only justice and dignity for everyone, regardless of race, faith or ethnicity, will result in a lasting peace.”³²²

Awad also explained the boycott by CAIR and other American Islamist groups of the White House’s virtual Eid al-Fitr (“Festival of Breaking the Fast”) celebration. “In a clear message to President Biden, we will boycott the White House celebration of Eid al-Fitr today because of his position on the massacres of the Israeli apartheid regime, which is annihilating the innocent in #Gaza

and the rest of occupied Palestine,” a translation of Awad’s tweet said.³²³ Awad also warned that if Biden does not change his position “he will lose his relationship with American Muslims and the supporters of justice.”³²⁴

Contrary to Awad’s explanation, there were no “massacres.” Nearly half of the more than 200 people killed in the fighting were identified as Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad fighters. Additionally, an undetermined number of Palestinians were killed when Hamas rockets failed to clear Gaza and landed on their homes.³²⁵

Asked to give his “reaction” to the ongoing war in Gaza on a May 20 CAIR on Air program, Awad condemned the “bombardment and indiscriminate targeting of civilian infrastructure and civilian populations by Israel,” describing it as a “reflection” of “apartheid, indiscriminate, or disregard of human lives of the Palestinians.”³²⁶

The program’s host, CAIR Deputy Executive Director Edward Ahmed Mitchell,³²⁷ spoke about the “solidarity” between black and Palestinian

activists pointing to “the obvious similarities between what is being perpetrated against Palestinians and what was perpetrated against black people in the Jim Crow south and against black people in South Africa.”³²⁸

On May 17, 2021, CAIR California Executive Director Hussam Ayloush³²⁹ posted a Twitter thread condemning “Israel’s violent occupation, apartheid, and bombings [that] have by far mostly killed innocent men, women and children, wiped out entire families, and destroyed water, electricity, sewage, and other vital infrastructure.”³³⁰ Describing Israel as “the occupier/aggressor,” Ayloush called those who support the Jewish state’s “right to self-defense” as “an accomplice” in its “crimes against humanity.”³³¹

The same day, Ayloush tweeted a *Washington Post* critique of the Biden administration’s approval of

a \$735 million weapons sale to Israel³³² with the comment, “Our country is not merely an enabler of Israeli apartheid and mass murder of Palestinians. We are an accomplice.”³³³

In a May 18, 2021 Facebook post, Ayloush wrote: “The majority of Gaza’s population are children. The majority are living under poverty



Rally and March for Gaza 8/2/14, Photo by Susan Melkisethian, Flickr

line. The majority are refugees from cities and towns that Israel ban [sic] them from because they are not Jewish. #EndIsraeliApartheid #EndIsraeliOccupation.”³³⁴

The post was accompanied by a picture of a Palestinian child amidst Gaza rubble with the text, “ISRAEL IS ALWAYS ASKING: Why do Palestinian children hate us? HARD TO TELL. I WONDER IF IT COULD BE BECAUSE YOU ETHNICALLY CLEANSED THEIR GRANDPARENTS, MURDERED THEIR PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, AND DESTROYED THEIR HOMES?”³³⁵

Ayloush also retweeted³³⁶ a tweet by anti-Israel Australian journalist C. J. Werleman³³⁷ that claimed that “Israel’s violence against Palestinians occurs 24/7, 365” and “[t]hey [Palestinians] are caged, expelled, displaced, separated, harassed, bombed and shot.” The tweet further

alleged that “the media reports on this ‘conflict’ only when the Palestinians resist, misleading audiences to believe it started with Hamas rockets.”³³⁸

Contrary to Werleman’s claim, the May 2021 Gaza war³³⁹ was a culmination of “a long record of Hamas-initiated attacks, clashes, developments in internal Palestinian politics, rearmament, and Iranian incitement since the 2014 ceasefire.”³⁴⁰ The immediate trigger for the war was the firing of hundreds of Hamas rockets from Gaza to cities in southern Israel and Jerusalem leading Israel to launch airstrikes against Hamas targets.³⁴¹

Ayloush was also a speaker at a May 11 protest rally in front of the Israeli consulate in Los Angeles. The rally was led by American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) and endorsed by CAIR.³⁴²

“[T]he struggle against apartheid, the struggle against racism, against occupation, against ethnic cleansing is a global struggle,” Ayloush said.

“And the Palestinian people are at the front line on the forefront of the struggle, because they’re not just fighting the Israeli apartheid, they’re fighting against those who are silent, those who are supporting, those who are funding that occupation, that ugly occupation.”³⁴³

Slogans raised at the rally called for Israel’s destruction and justified resistance against the Jewish state. Demonstrators chanted: “Long live Palestine, death, death to Israel,” “O Zionist get out, Palestine is free, free,” and “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.” An Arabic chant translated to: “With our blood and our souls, we would sacrifice for Palestine.”³⁴⁴

On May 21, 2021, the New Jersey chapters of CAIR and AMP sponsored an “Emergency Rally & Phone Bank to Defend Palestine” in front of Sen. Bob Menendez’s office in Jersey City, NJ. During the rally, speakers raised chants such

as “Israel is a terrorist state,” “Israel is a racist state,” “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” and “Hey, hey, ho, ho Zionism has got to go.”³⁴⁵

At a pro-Palestine rally on May 11, 2021 in Paterson, NJ, speakers attacked Zionism calling it a “racist ideology rooted in white supremacy and genocide.” CAIR New Jersey’s Executive Director Selaedin Maksut³⁴⁶ spoke about the interconnectedness of the black and Palestinian struggles and equated Zionism with racism.³⁴⁷

“The powers that are funding the oppression of the Palestinian people are the same powers that are funding the oppression of minority groups in



AMP Executive Director Osama Abuirshaid Speaks at Save Sheikh Jarrah Protest in Washington, D.C., May 11, 2021, AMP Facebook

this country,” Maksut said. “It is the same money. They’re cutting the same checks. They are the same people. They’re sitting in the same offices of government. We cannot forget our struggle is an interconnected struggle. And if we want to succeed, we have to work together.” He then led the crowd with chants of “From Patterson to Palestine ethnic cleansing is a crime,” “From Patterson to Palestine racism is a crime,” and “Zionism is racism.”³⁴⁸

CAIR co-sponsored a May 11, 2021 pro-Palestine rally in front of the State Department in Washington, D.C.³⁴⁹ Osama Abuirshaid,³⁵⁰ executive director of the anti-Israel group American Muslims for Palestine,³⁵¹ called Israel “a militarized apartheid

enterprise.” “Condemning Israel and Israel’s evil act is not anti-Semitic,” he declared.³⁵²

CAIR participated in a May 15, 2021 “March for Palestine” rally in Washington, D.C. Protesters raised radical antisemitic slogans in Arabic such as “Khaybar, Khaybar ya yahud. Jaish Muhammed soufa ya’oud! (“O Jews of Khaybar, the army of Muhammad is returning!”),³⁵³ “Min al maya al maya, falesteen Arabiya” (“From the river to the sea, Palestine is Arab”), “Bil rouh! Bil dam! Nafdeek ya Gaza” (“With our souls and blood we will sacrifice for you Gaza”), and “Al Aksa rajiin, shuhada b’milliyyin” (“We are returning to Jerusalem, martyrs in the millions”). Chants were also raised in English: “Israel is a

terrorist state,” “Israel is a racist state,” and “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.” Rally participants carried antisemitic posters that read: “Israel is an apartheid state,” “Zionism=Terroism,” “Zionism is racism,” “Boycott Israel, End Apartheid,” “Not a Conflict. It’s Ethnic Cleansing,” and “IDF=Pigs, Pigs=Haram.”³⁵⁴ Abuirshaid, who also spoke at the rally, said “Zionism is no different than white supremacy.”³⁵⁵

While Abuirshaid falsely equates Zionism – the belief in a Jewish homeland³⁵⁶ – with white supremacy, he has no qualms meeting with leaders of the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation to champion Muslim causes.³⁵⁷

In a May 10, 2021, press release, CAIR Philadelphia’s Executive Director Jacob Bender³⁵⁸ described eviction proceedings in Israeli courts against Palestinian families in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem as an attempt at “Judaizing all of Jerusalem” and “only the most recent example of Israel’s decade-long policy of ethnic cleansing.”³⁵⁹

Bender further compared the intended Israeli eviction of the Palestinian families to “the centuries of

anti-Jewish persecutions in Christian Europe...the ‘Whites Only’ terror of the Jim Crow American South and Apartheid South Africa.”³⁶⁰ He likened the use of “state power” against “marginalized communities” to “our current struggles on the domestic front” and alleged that “[m]any of the crowd control tactics used by American police forces were taught to them by Israeli forces, funded by US tax dollars.”³⁶¹

CAIR-Philadelphia’s allegation that Israel sought to “forcibly expel Palestinians from the Arab neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem” ignores the history, legality, or nature of this dispute.³⁶²

“It is an ordinary property dispute between private parties,” write experts Avi Bell³⁶³ and Eugene Kontorovich³⁶⁴ in a May 14, 2021 *Wall Street Journal* opinion. “The Jewish claimants’ ownership of the few plots of land has been confirmed repeatedly in court, following laws that apply equally regardless of ethnicity. Israeli courts have gone out of their way to avoid evicting the Palestinian residents who haven’t paid rent for half a century.”³⁶⁵

CAIR leaders rarely hesitate to rush to the defense of Israel-bashing antisemites.³⁶⁶ While acknowledging that antisemitism is real, CAIR openly praises Congresswomen Ilhan Omar (D-MN)³⁶⁷ and Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) despite their antisemitic statements.³⁶⁸

For example, while acknowledging that antisemitism is real, CAIR Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper openly praised Omar and Tlaib,³⁶⁹ in a February 11, 2019 post. “CAIR applauds Reps. Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib for their courage in speaking the truth about Israel’s racial, religious and ethnic segregation. Agenda-driven groups -- like AIPAC -- have for decades enabled that segregation and the resulting denial of human rights for Christian and Muslim Palestinians,” Hooper wrote.³⁷⁰

Awad posted a tweet in defense of Omar and Tlaib six months later. “It’s simple. #Israel is afraid of any member of congress visiting occupied Palestinian land and experiencing first

hand its #Apartheid and segregationist policies without the guided whitewashing tour led by US lobby AIPAC. @IlhanMN @RashidaTlaib @shaunking #letthem in,” Awad wrote in an August 15, 2019 tweet.³⁷¹

Awad was alluding to Israel’s barring of Omar and Tlaib from entering the country as part of a planned visit because of their support for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement.³⁷² Explaining the Israeli decision, Prime Minister Netanyahu said that in their travel plans Omar and Tlaib had referred to a trip to “Palestine” not Israel, and had no meetings scheduled with Israeli officials. Also the congresswomen had been invited by the Palestinian organization, MIFTAH, that supports BDS, and individuals affiliated with the organization have advocated terror against Israel.³⁷³

Awad reiterated his displeasure over Israel’s banning of the Democratic congresswomen later that day: “Outrageous but not surprising #Israel’s decision to ban two Congresswomen @IlhanMN and @RashidaTlaib is a slap in the face to US taxpayers who fund it with \$3.2 billion dollars annually. #Trump is inspiring another #MuslimBan. Time to #CutUSAidToIsrael.”³⁷⁴

Omar is known for spewing antisemitic stereotypes, including claiming that Jewish money controls American foreign policy and that Israel, the world’s only Jewish state, has “hypnotized the world.”³⁷⁵ In February 2019, Omar tweeted, “It’s all about the Benjamins baby”³⁷⁶ to explain why she and fellow Democrat Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) draw attention for their “criticisms of Israel.”³⁷⁷

In fact, soon after panelists on CNN’s “Cuomo Prime Time” show denounced Omar for her antisemitic remarks, Awad called out anchor Chris Cuomo: “@ChrisCuomo Disappointed with your one sided panel. You didn’t invite anyone to present a different perspective. This is not about anti-semitism which we condemn, it’s about whether Americans can criticize Israel

and it's [sic] lobby or not without being called antisemitic. @IlhanMN³⁷⁸

Others in CAIR rallied to defend Omar. "CAIR supports Representative Omar and her efforts to highlight the lobbying efforts of [AIPAC]... CAIR does not feel there was any anti-Semitic meaning in her tweet, but due to the brevity some took it as such," Robert McCaw, CAIR's Director of Government Affairs,³⁷⁹ said.³⁸⁰ He also thanked Omar for "standing firm in her willingness to speak out" against the influence of the pro-Israel lobby.³⁸¹

Tlaib has generated controversy for some of her anti-Israel positions, including her full support for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement to boycott Israel and encourage business and academic institutions to divest investments in companies which do business in Israel.³⁸² "Americans boycotted Nazi Germany in response to the dehumanization, imprisonment and genocide of Jewish people," Tlaib said during a House debate on a resolution outlawing the BDS campaign targeting Israel. "In the 1980s, many of us in this very body boycotted South African goods in the fight against apartheid. Our right to free speech is being threatened with this resolution."³⁸³

During the American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) 2019 convention in Chicago, Awad cast Zionism as inherently hateful. "For me, at CAIR, as the executive director of CAIR, the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, we deal with racism, Islamophobia and Zionism on [a] daily basis," Awad said.³⁸⁴

In March 2019, Awad posted on Twitter: "I'm a Palestinian refugee. My relatives live in what is now Israel. They are treated as second class citizens. Now [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu is running for office on the separate & unequal nation state law. That law codifies discrimination against non-Jews. If this is not #Apartheid. What Is?³⁸⁵ The previous year, Israel's Knesset passed into law a nation-state bill that describes the country as "the national home of the Jewish people" and "enshrines the

Zionist idea upon which the nation was founded, namely that Israel is a country established to fulfill the Jewish people's 'right to national self-determination.'"³⁸⁶

In February 2019, then-CAIR Arizona Executive Director Imraan Siddiqi posted a tweet describing Israel as "an unrepentant, corrupt, murderous apartheid nuclear state."³⁸⁷

Siddiqi commented "Apartheid is a helluva drug" in response to a February 2020 Israel Action Network Twitter post that read: "Think the BDS Movement will call for a boycott of this #coronavirus vaccine? #Israel."³⁸⁸ The tweet linked to a *Jerusalem Post* article, "Israeli Scientists: In a few weeks, we will have coronavirus vaccine."³⁸⁹



Siddiqi is now executive director at CAIR Washington.³⁹⁰

CAIR, along with other Islamist groups, co-sponsored a December 2017 rally to protest the Trump administration's recognition of

Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.³⁹¹ Protesters shouted, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.”³⁹² During the rally, Oussama Jammal,³⁹³ Secretary General of the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO),³⁹⁴ falsely claimed that “Israel is a state that kills children day-in and day-out,” and added, “[t]his is not a state that can be respected.”³⁹⁵

In 2019, after the ADL expressed concern that the Women’s March had picked CAIR-California Executive Director Zahra Billoo to serve on its board of directors, Siddiqi wrote: “When your brand has become more about dogpiling on Muslim women and shilling for apartheid and less about civil rights. Israel is a corrupt, violent nation-state and should always be subject to criticism like any other corrupt, violent nation-state.”³⁹⁶

In response to a May 12, 2016 tweet by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau congratulating Israel on its 68th anniversary, Siddiqi wrote, “Happy Apartheid Anniversary.”³⁹⁷ He also responded with a post that simply said “freedom” to a message from U.S. Rep. Trent Franks (R-Ariz.) congratulating the Jewish state on its 68th independence day. In subsequent posts he clarified: “-Freedom to commit ethnic cleansing -Freedom to conduct apartheid -Freedom to bomb Gaza indiscriminately -Freedom to break international law -Freedom to make life hell for Palestinians -Freedom to discriminate against migrants -Freedom to promote settler violence -Freedom to shoot fisherman -Freedom to bomb hospitals -Freedom to bomb schools -Freedom to arrest children -Freedom to displace indigenous people since 1948 -Freedom to shoot first, ask questions second. -Freedom to foment Islamophobia and fascism.”³⁹⁸

After U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jefferies (D-NY) posted a message on Twitter regarding his recent trip to the “HOLY LAND” and the “special relationship” the United States shares with Israel, Siddiqi responded by saying, “Great to know an entire new generation of so-called progressives have bought into the dehumanization and erasure of Palestinian lives and are dedicated to upholding generations of apartheid.”³⁹⁹

CAIR and its leadership use every opportunity to demonize and excoriate Israel for trumped up charges of “war crimes,” “settler violence” and “genocide,” as they continue to shower lavish praise on repressive Islamist regimes in Turkey and Iran that oppress their populations.⁴⁰⁰

In a Twitter post at the height of the 2014 Gaza conflict, Ayloush wrote: “It isn’t merely about opposing Israel. It’s about defeating racism, colonialism, barbarism, apartheid, Zionism & the culture of murder.”⁴⁰¹

In another post a couple of days later, Ayloush compared the “supporters of Israel” to “Nazis” saying it was “interesting how supporters of Israel use exact same excuses that Nazis used to justify their murders [at] the Warsaw ghetto.”⁴⁰²

Ayloush also described “supporters of Israel’s barbarism in Gaza” as “heartless hateful bloodthirsty humans.”⁴⁰³

But Ayloush and CAIR stay quiet when Hamas TV glorifies jihad and calls for “death to Israel”⁴⁰⁴ or Hamas and the Palestinian Authority name parks and buildings after terrorists.⁴⁰⁵

In a 2002 rebuttal to a column by Steven Greenhut in the *Orange County Register* titled, “Muslim leaders should get off the fence,” Ayloush described Zionism as a “political ideology whose tentacles are rooted in racism.”⁴⁰⁶ “The Zionist movement practically translated into the uprooting of homes and lives of the indigenous people - the Palestinians - in favor of European settlers who claim their ancestors used to live there about 2,000 years ago,” he added.⁴⁰⁷



During the 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict, Hassan Shibly, then-executive director of CAIR Florida,⁴⁰⁸ wrote: “No one is as good at defending and justi-

fyng war crimes and apartheid like Israel #FreePalestine #GazaUnderAttack #GazaUnderFire.”⁴⁰⁹ And: “Supporting Israeli apartheid and massacre of civilians is unamerican #GazaUnderAttack #GazaUnderFire.”⁴¹⁰

In November 2018, Shibly wrote: “Supporting Americans’ right to boycott is supporting the U.S. constitution, which @ilhanmn took an oath to uphold.” He urged U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar to “keep speaking truth to power” adding, “the #ADL was wrong about South Africa Apartheid and they are wrong about #BDS #IStandWithIlhan.”⁴¹¹

Shibly also denounced a positive portrayal of Israel during the 2014 war: “Those who write talking points 2 justify Israel’s annihilation of >1,200 Palestinians & counting could make the devil appear to be a saint.”⁴¹² He posted a cartoon showing an Israeli stomping on a Palestinian child lying in a pool of blood while an American stops another individual representing “the world” from interfering. The cartoon was captioned: “U.S. enables Israel to slaughter children.”⁴¹³



Another post blasted American aid to Israel: “Israel has blown up 222 civilians in the past few days and America only votes to increase it’s [sic] funding.”⁴¹⁴ Another accusing the Jewish state of “Israel helps 10 Muslim children celebrating Eid [Islamic festival] by sending them to heaven courtesy of an air strike targeting the playground they played.”⁴¹⁵

Like the 2021 Gaza conflict,⁴¹⁶ the 2014 fighting was triggered by Hamas rocket attacks targeting

Israeli civilians.⁴¹⁷ An assessment of the 2014 conflict by the High Level Military Group (HLMG), comprising military leaders and officials from NATO and other democratic countries,⁴¹⁸ noted that “ Hamas not only indiscriminately targeted Israeli civilians throughout the conflict with extensive rocket fire, but willfully sought to draw the IDF into a prepared stronghold amid Gaza’s civilian population.”⁴¹⁹ It added that “ Hamas actively sought the death of its own civilians as an advantageous reinforcement of its strategic concept aimed at the erosion of Israel’s legitimacy.”⁴²⁰

Also, as in the 2021 conflict,⁴²¹ the Palestinian casualty count was grossly inflated and mischaracterized. According to a Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center’s (ITIC) analysis of casualties from the 2014 conflict, “nearly half of those killed in Operation Protective Edge were terrorist operatives, and slightly more than half of them were non-involved civilians.”⁴²² Approximately 65 percent of the terrorist operatives were affiliated with Hamas and the remainder were from the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and other terrorist groups.⁴²³

The report cited an interim IDF analysis that put the total number of Palestinians killed in the operation at 2,125. “**At least 936 of the dead** (44% of all the fatalities) **were terrorist operatives** (“militants”) **and 761** (36% of all the fatalities) **were civilians,**” according to the analysis. “**428 of the dead** (20% of the fatalities), all males aged 16-50, were designated as unidentified, i.e., it was not possible to determine with certainty whether they were terrorist operatives or non-involved civilians.”⁴²⁴ [emphasis in original]

CAIR officials have denied that Israel is a democracy. “Calling Israel a Middle Eastern Democracy is like saying Jim Crow South was democratic. Nonsense repeated in U.S. mainstream



media,” wrote CAIR Michigan Executive Director Dawud Walid⁴²⁵ in a December 2013 Twitter post.⁴²⁶ Earlier that year, Walid blamed U.S. funding for “fueling segregation/apartheid” in Israel. He wrote: “Meanwhile, Americans don’t seem to mind that U.S. tax dollars are hard at work fueling segregation/apartheid. #IsraelJimCrow.”⁴²⁷

Walid has blamed Jews for police shootings in the United States that have killed unarmed black people. At a 2016 conference hosted by the anti-Israel group American Muslims for Palestine (AMP)⁴²⁸ outside Chicago, Walid said: “The same tear gas that is used in Al Quds [Jerusalem] to tear gas Palestinians is the same tear gas and the same tear gas company that tear gassed African-Americans in Ferguson. The exact same company. The same militarized police forces that shoot unarmed black people and do this crowd control like what happened in Ferguson – where do the police chiefs, these people, get trained at? In Israel. We, brothers and sisters in Islam, be we black...or lighter skinned...we have a common concern, we have a common struggle.”⁴²⁹

During a May 2012 sermon at the Islamic Organization of North America mosque in Warren, MI, Walid responded to his own question, “Who are those who incurred the wrath of Allah?” saying “*hum al-yahud, hum al-yahud* [They are the Jews, they are the Jews].”⁴³⁰

He added: “One of the greatest social ills facing America today is Islamophobia, and anti-Muslim bigotry. And if you trace the organizations and the main advocates and activists of Islamophobia in America, you will see that all those organizations are pro-Israeli occupation organizations and activists,” Walid said. “You will see every single last one. Do you know why? Because one of the leading Islamophobes by the name of Daniel Pipes, said the political empowerment of American Muslims is a direct threat to Israel.”⁴³¹

In fact, what Pipes said is that American Jews – not Israel – may be threatened by the “increased

stature, and affluence, and enfranchisement of American Muslims, because they are so much led by an Islamist leadership.”⁴³²

Islamists, including CAIR, have exploited the May 2020 killing of George Floyd⁴³³ and the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement⁴³⁴ to advance an anti-Israel agenda and support Palestinian resistance.⁴³⁵

Soon after Palestinian terrorist Ahmed Erakat was shot and killed after his car rammed a checkpoint trying to kill an Israeli soldier, Islamists presented the incident as an accident claiming the Israeli soldiers over-reacted.



Rally and March for Gaza 8/2/14, Photo by Susan Melkisetian, Flickr

Awad was quick to offer his condolences to Erakat’s cousin Noura Erakat, a Rutgers University professor,⁴³⁶ and denounce the Israeli troops who fired in self-defense.

“I’m sorry for your loss, Noura,” wrote Awad adding, “Israel had murdered thousands of Palestinians. Total silence and unwavering support is our government’s response.”⁴³⁷ Awad also included two hashtags to his post: “Palestinian Lives Matter” and “Black Lives Matter,” thereby equating the long, slow death of unarmed George Floyd – who was suspected of nothing more than

passing a fake \$20 bill – with a man who had just rammed his car into human beings.⁴³⁸

In July 2020, CAIR New Jersey issued a joint press release with the local Black Lives Matter chapter and other groups condemning the ADL for allegedly “attempting to smear a local Muslim leader who expressed solidarity between black and Palestinian communities against similar and connected forms of racist police brutality.”⁴³⁹ ADL’s New York/New Jersey office, along with the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey, had issued a statement against CAIR NJ Executive Director Selaedin Maksut for remarks he made at a rally protesting a possible Israeli annexation of the West Bank.⁴⁴⁰

“New Jersey police officers must stop training with the Israeli government and any other foreign nation that engages in racist acts of police brutality. Chokeholds and other violent tactics used against both African-Americans and Palestinians must end. Police officers must serve and protect, not occupy and oppress,” Maksut said in the release.⁴⁴¹

There is no evidence that the training includes any of the tactics Maksut claims. His statement “only serves to further anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist conspiracy theories and distract and divide us from critical work of combating systemic racism here in the U.S. and supporting the work of Israelis and Palestinians who yearn for peace and equality,” the ADL said.⁴⁴²

In August 14, 2014 post on Twitter, Shibly alleged the police in Ferguson, MO had received training from their Israeli counterparts, who are “well known for abuse,” as exemplified in the case of Tariq Khdeir. Tariq Abu Khdeir, a Tampa teenager of Palestinian descent, was reportedly beaten by Israeli police during a

protest in Eastern Jerusalem in July 2014.⁴⁴³ Above an article titled, “St. Louis Cops Using Anti-Terrorism Learned in Israel On...,” Shibly wrote: “THAT EXPLAINS IT! #FergusonPolice have had training by #Israel –country known 4 police abuse. #TariqKhdeir.”⁴⁴⁴

Shibly’s allegation of Ferguson police being trained in Israel was reiterated by Dawud Walid in a Twitter post: “Police in Ferguson got training in Israel. No wonder they act that way!”⁴⁴⁵



Rally and March for Gaza 8/2/14, Photo by Susan Melkisetian, Flickr

Shibly and Walid were criticizing the ADL’s week-long “Leadership Seminar in Israel” program⁴⁴⁶ that has hosted more than 200 American police officials since it started in 2003. Israel bashers have spent years inciting antisemitism by exaggerating the program’s influence in an attempt to link the cause of police killing unarmed black people with Palestinian nationalism. In 2014, Michael Brown was killed by a Ferguson, MO police officer, the BDS Movement tied Israel to his death by coining a slogan, “From Ferguson to Palestine.”⁴⁴⁷

Contrary to claims made by CAIR, the ADL program includes no hands-on, tactical training. Participants on a 2018 trip, for example, met with officials ranging from a “Christian-Arab Police Chief overseeing Jerusalem’s Old City, to the Palestinian Commander of the Bethlehem District; from a mother who survived a near-fatal

terror attack who is dedicated to instilling courage in children of disabled parents, to an astute Palestinian journalist who offered an overview of the region's challenges."⁴⁴⁸

In November 2017, the ADL's Jonathan Greenblatt criticized Linda Sarsour⁴⁴⁹ and Jewish Voice for Peace⁴⁵⁰ for leading an antisemitism panel at The New School, a progressive university in New York.⁴⁵¹ CAIR Chicago's Executive Director Ahmed Rehab⁴⁵² responded, "You have got to be kidding. Why don't you honestly say that your issue with @lsarsour and @jvplive is their calling out of Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territories and its human rights abuses. You call that fomenting antisemitism. Smh [Shaking my head]."⁴⁵³

Rehab linked the tweet to his 2010 *Huffington Post* article, "Shilling for the Israeli Occupation: The ADL's New Mission Statement," where he blasted the ADL for its report on the "top ten most influential anti-Israel groups in America."⁴⁵⁴

"An organization that describes itself as 'the nation's premier civil rights/human relations agency that fights anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, defends democratic ideals and protects civil rights for all' is spending its resources decrying American organizations that are not blindly supportive of a foreign government it likes to align itself with," Rehab wrote in the article.⁴⁵⁵

In August 2014, Rehab tweeted: "#BringBack-OurHumanity Stop 'standing with' oppression, apartheid, occupation & civilian massacres. #FreeGaza #FreePalestine."⁴⁵⁶

During the 2018 American Muslims for Palestine "Conference for Palestine in the U.S.,"⁴⁵⁷ Zahra Billoo spoke about "connect[ing] the dots" to show that "every single issue and injustice that we see in the United States is in some way connected to what we see in apartheid Israel."⁴⁵⁸ Alluding to the lead seepage into drinking water in Flint, MI, that had caused a massive public health crisis,⁴⁵⁹ Billoo argued that the "millions of dollars in military aid to apartheid Israel"

could be better spent in improving infrastructure and amenities in the U.S.: "Flint, Michigan still doesn't have clean water. But we send millions of dollars in military aid to apartheid Israel."⁴⁶⁰ She also pushed a false antisemitic claim that "if police officers here didn't train abroad, then they might kill fewer people."⁴⁶¹

Billoo's smear was referring to the Anti-Defamation League's weeklong "Leadership Seminar in Israel" to train American police officers in Israel.⁴⁶² No tactical training is involved but Israel bashers have spent years inciting antisemitism by baselessly blaming the program for police killings of unarmed black people in America.⁴⁶³ Even the Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)⁴⁶⁴ one of the principal groups pushing that false "deadly exchange" narrative⁴⁶⁵ now acknowledges: "Suggesting that Israel is the start or source of American police violence or racism shifts the blame from the United States to Israel. This obscures the fundamental responsibility and nature of the U.S., and harms Black people and Black-led struggle. It also furthers an antisemitic ideology."⁴⁶⁶

During the May 2021 Gaza war, Billoo called the "apartheid state of Israel" as the "original and ongoing aggressor" in the conflict. "The apartheid state of Israel is the original and ongoing aggressor in this most recent onslaught of violence, and always. Palestinian deaths in the past few days now outnumber Israeli deaths, more than 10:1," Billoo wrote in a May 15 tweet.⁴⁶⁷

On May 16, 2021, Billoo forwarded a 2016 Amnesty International report critical of U.S. police departments training with a "chronic human rights violator-Israel"⁴⁶⁸ and posted "Where Do Many Police Departments Train? In [Apartheid] Israel."⁴⁶⁹

CAIR has come to the defense⁴⁷⁰ of Linda Sarsour⁴⁷¹ who wrote in a 2012 Twitter post: "Nothing is creepier than Zionism."⁴⁷² Sarsour repeated the false, unsubstantiated claim that the ADL's police exchange program in Israel fuels police brutality at a September 2018 convention⁴⁷³ sponsored by the Muslim

Brotherhood-tied Islamic Society of North America (ISNA).⁴⁷⁴

She also told the audience, “I am an unapologetic pro-BDS, one-state solution supporting resistance supporter here in the U.S.”⁴⁷⁵ fully realizing the one-state solution she advocates would upend Israeli demographics and end Israel’s status as a Jewish homeland.⁴⁷⁶

CAIR Chicago’s Executive Director Ahmed Rehab⁴⁷⁷ has also defended Sarsour.

In an August 2020 Facebook post, Rehab launched a scathing attack on CNN anchor Jake Tapper, calling him a “weasel” and urging him to “register as a foreign agent/lobbyist” after Tapper retweeted a clarification from Biden campaign spokesman Andrew Bates that Sarsour had no role in then-Democratic candidate Joe Biden’s presidential campaign.⁴⁷⁸ Speculation on Sarsour’s role in the campaign emerged after she spoke at the Democratic National Convention’s “Muslim Delegates and Allies Assembly.”⁴⁷⁹

“...She [Linda Sarsour] has no role in the Biden campaign whatsoever,” Tapper wrote. “A Dem official [Andrew Bates] says this was a meeting of Muslim delegates to the convention room and not run by the DNC or the Biden campaign.”⁴⁸⁰ He added in a subsequent tweet, “3/ Bates points to this in DNC platform: ‘We oppose any effort to unfairly single out and delegitimize Israel, including at the United Nations or through the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement, while protecting the Constitutional right of our citizens to free speech.’”⁴⁸¹

In response to Tapper’s tweet, Rehab wrote:

“Biden’s camp is playing that old grotesque tune, and they had better fix it and quick. Israel is not an American citizen last I checked, nor a voting constituent. It is a God damn foreign entity. Any American can like it or despise it as they please, with no reasons or apologies given. It’s a free country.

Muslims plugged into the Biden camp (Muslims For Biden, etc [sic]), come get your boy on this one. It’s a bad look. As for that weasel Jake Tapper, he had better register as a foreign agent/lobbyist.

Not to worry: None of this will ameliorate us to the Trump/GOP camp any, but it does not mean we are stuck having to take it from the establishment left, lying down. And we will stand by Linda Sarsour, one of the most consistent justice voices (for all) out there.”⁴⁸²

Other CAIR officials joined in Sarsour’s defense. Awad even gave an interview to the viciously antisemitic Nation of Islam⁴⁸³ (NOI)’s publication, *The Final Call*, even though the Nation and its leader, Louis Farrakhan, are recognized by the ADL and Southern Poverty Law Center as overtly antisemitic.

An ADL report describes Farrakhan’s “wide-ranging campaign specifically targeting the Jewish community, a campaign that has featured some of the most hateful speeches of his tenure as head of NOI” and includes vicious antisemitic allegations “that the Jewish people were responsible for the slave trade and that they conspire to control the government, the media and Hollywood, as well as various black individuals and organizations.”⁴⁸⁴ A Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) report has also detailed NOI and Farrakhan’s “deeply racist, antisemitic and anti-LGBT rhetoric.”⁴⁸⁵

Despite that record, Awad granted *The Final Call* an interview in which he cast Sarsour as mainstream. He had “called on Joe Biden and his campaign to apologize to American Muslims” for criticizing Sarsour.⁴⁸⁶ “The mainstream media recognizes that Linda Sarsour is a mainstream activist, but unfortunately it underscores that the Biden campaign does not have the backbone to stand by people who have been mobilizing activists and voters nationwide for so many years on social justice issues,” Awad claimed. “She was attacked solely because of her outspoken advocacy on behalf of Palestinian rights. Their action is Islamophobic anti-Palestinian, and should be rejected by all Americans.”⁴⁸⁷

DUAL-LOYALTY SMEARS AND CANARDS ABOUT JEWISH CONTROL OVER AMERICAN POLICY

Since its earliest days, CAIR has pushed a message that Jews control American government. Support for Israel cannot, in its view, be good policy. It is only the product of serving someone else's agenda, of making American interests subordinate to Israel's.

In March 2019, U.S. Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA) posted a tweet condemning Ilhan Omar for her antisemitic comments accusing Jews of having allegiance to a foreign government.⁴⁸⁸ "It is disturbing that Rep. Omar continues to perpetuate hurtful anti-Semitic stereotypes that misrepresent our Jewish community," Vargas wrote, reaffirming that "questioning support for the U.S.-Israel relationship is unacceptable."⁴⁸⁹ In response to Vargas' tweet, CAIR Washington Executive Director Imraan Siddiqi, who was then head of CAIR Arizona, sarcastically posted, "How *dare* you throw around the term dual-loyalty?" [sic] "Also - Don't ask any questions of Israel, pls."⁴⁹⁰

At a December 2017 AMP rally, for example, Awad alleged President Donald Trump was "putting the interests of a foreign state, like Israel, and its domestic lobby here...above the United States' interests. This is dangerous and reckless."⁴⁹¹ Describing Israel as an "apartheid

state" that "has been oppressing the Palestinian people," Awad added, "The United States has financed and armed and defended and shielded Israel all over the world, in the United Nations. This is at the expense of our policies."⁴⁹²

At an August 2014 rally in Washington, D.C. in support of Gaza, Awad called on participants to "hold our elected leaders accountable" by "tell[ing] our members of Congress that they have pledged allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, not the State of Israel."⁴⁹³ He added: "It is our tax money that's going to supply the State of Israel to kill innocent people. No longer should be in our name. This carnage is being committed in America's name. Israel has become a strategic liability on the United States."⁴⁹⁴ Awad also claimed that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)⁴⁹⁵ had "corrupted our foreign policy...corrupted our political leaders" and added that "our political leaders who speak their party line, they don't speak their conscience."⁴⁹⁶

At a June 2014 CAIR-CA empowerment conference and dinner at the Islamic Center of Northridge in Granada Hills, CAIR California Executive Director Hussam Ayloush⁴⁹⁷ justified the "anger" against "pro-Israel groups" saying, "they're seen as always advancing Israeli, an Israeli agenda at the expense of the U.S. interests or U.S. agenda."⁴⁹⁸



CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad Speaks at D.C. Rally for Gaza, Aug. 2, 2014 - CAIRtv YouTube

At a 2010 joint convention sponsored by the Muslim American Society (MAS) and the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), Awad accused lawmakers of favoring the interests of Israel over that of the United States. "Some of members of Congress are willing to put the interests of Israel ahead of the United States' interests,"⁴⁹⁹ Awad said. He also blamed Israel for fueling "anti-American sentiment because of what

Israel does,”⁵⁰⁰ and added that “there’s a growing movement within Congress and in the public to distinguish between America’s interest and Israel’s interest.”⁵⁰¹ Awad also spoke about the “huge influence” of the “pro-Israel lobby”:

“So we in the activist community, yourselves, we always call on the President, on the White House to do things. But there’s nothing being done. Why? Because the second power lies with the Congress. Members of Congress compete with each other, whether Democrats or Republicans, to please the Israel lobby, to please Israel. Some of members of Congress are willing to put the interests of Israel ahead of the United States’ interests.

Why? Because we have to understand what drives members of Congress. Is it values, principles or votes and money and pressure? The pro-Israel lobby has mastered deception, pressure tactics and exploiting the system of giving money to candidates and putting pressure and threatening some candidates with either scandals or what have you. And they managed over many years to have this huge influence on not only members of Congress but those who want to be elected officials in the United States.”⁵⁰²

MAS was created in 1993 as the Muslim Brotherhood arm in the U.S.⁵⁰³ ICNA’s founders support⁵⁰⁴ the ideology of the South Asian Sunni revivalist movement Jamaat-e-Islami (JI),⁵⁰⁵ and seek to establish “Iqamat Deen” or the Islamic system of life in North America.⁵⁰⁶

During a May 11, 2008 Q & A session on Islam Online, Awad claimed: “Everyone is aware that the United States is biased towards Israel at the expense of American interests.”⁵⁰⁷ Ten years earlier, Awad appeared on *Al Jazeera* with now-deceased radical cleric Yusuf al-Qaradawi⁵⁰⁸ to discuss “The Image of Muslims in American Cinema.” When asked about the role of Zionists in marginalizing Muslims politically, Nihad Awad replied, “In the absence of the presence of Islamic or Arabic artistic activity, of course, it seems that automatically the Zionist movement

and its supporters are alone on the stage. There is...no secret in the knowledge that filmmakers in Hollywood are of Jewish origin and they have a big effect.”⁵⁰⁹

When votes approached in May 2002 on congressional resolutions supporting Israeli actions against terrorist strongholds in the West Bank, CAIR issued a press release stating that the move “amounted to American elected officials ‘pledging allegiance’ to a foreign government.”⁵¹⁰ Awad added, “It is truly disturbing to see American elected officials falling over themselves in an unseemly attempt to ‘pledge allegiance’ to a foreign government and its domestic lobby. Perhaps these same politicians should be reminded that they were elected by American, not Israeli voters.”⁵¹¹

On August. 26, 2021, CAIR joined anti-Israel groups Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action),⁵¹² the Palestinian Youth Movement,⁵¹³ U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights,⁵¹⁴ Jewish Voice for Peace Action,⁵¹⁵ and others to protest President Biden’s meeting⁵¹⁶ with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.⁵¹⁷ Awad alleged that Jewish money was driving American policy.⁵¹⁸

The White House meeting, Awad said, sends “a message to the world that Israel is an exception, Israel can abuse human rights because it has an agency on Capitol Hill that pours money in the pockets of candidates and congress people. And that’s what matters. What matters is not that people are being killed and maimed and bombed, and their houses are being destroyed on their heads by U.S.-made weapon [sic] supplied to Israel.” Awad further claimed that U.S. policy towards the Jewish state is not going to change because “there’s money pouring in the pockets of people like Joe Biden to become candidates and to maintain the status quo.”⁵¹⁹

In July 2014, Awad wrote, “[o]ur American policy towards Palestine is failed with distinction. Biased, bereft of the values of ‘freedom for all people’ it lacks respect for human rights, directed by the Israel lobby.”⁵²⁰

In another tweet he claimed, “[t]he Israel lobby has corrupted American politicians through deviating foreign policy to support the killing of innocent people in Gaza.”⁵²¹

On November 2, 2008, Awad appeared on Qatar’s *Al Jazeera* news channel, where he discussed the strong influence the pro-Israel lobby wields over American lawmakers. Awad accused AIPAC of paying off congressmen to shape a pro-Israel U.S. policy in the Middle East. He further added that the pro-Israel lobby had led the Arab and Muslim communities to organize “political action in the same way if they want to create a balance in the American position toward an issue such as the issue of Israel and Palestine.”⁵²²

“A Congressman has political interests, the most important thing to him after winning elections is to win in the elections which follow and to keep his seat. He reflects the preferences and the desire of voters in his district except in the case of Israel. It reflects the tendency and the desire of pro-Israel lobby for the absence of strong counter-balance. In the absence of countervailing forces, why should he take a pro-Israel view? Because they [“pro-Israel lobby”] have money and have the votes and have the means to politically destroying him or ending his political career.

Every member of Congress in the eyes of AIPAC and institutions supporting Israel - and their number exceeds a hundred in Washington - has a political price and value. The one who works in the Armament Committee and the Committee on Foreign Relations, for example, receives fifty to one hundred thousand dollars or even two hundred thousand dollars. The one who works on economic committee, they give him about \$250.

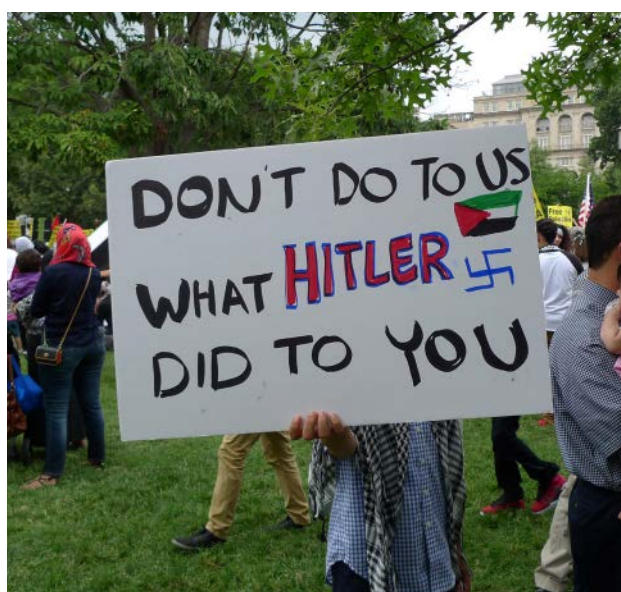
...

Reliance of [sic] the method of political destruction and fear is a policy for which the pro-Israel lobby is famous; it has ended the life of many American politicians for their standing in the face of the pro-Israel lobby in Congress,

and through advertising campaigns and smear campaigns or even political isolation attempts.

They have hurt many activists, some organizations. The examples are many. The goal is in fact, you know, to give an atmosphere of fear and terror to be a lesson for anyone who wants to repeat the resistance or stand in the face of the pro-Israel current, but they erred, because this way they have alerted other groups of American society and even Arab and Muslim communities and opened their eyes and ears on the need to organize political action in the same way if they want to create a balance in the American position toward an issue such as the issue of Israel and Palestine.”⁵²³

In 1998, Awad told a Georgetown University Muslim Students Association audience that the Jewish origin of many Clinton administration officials helps drive U.S. policy. Among Clinton advisers, he asked, “Who is opposing the latest agreement with Iraq? Look at their names. Look at their ethnic, their ethnic or religious or racial background. You will see that these are the same groups that belong to the same interest groups in the administration,” Awad said. “These are the same people who are pushing the United States to go to war on behalf of a third party, and they are the same people who are opposing the peace process...”⁵²⁴



Rally and March for Gaza 8/2/14,
Photo by Susan Melkisetian, Flickr



Rally and March for Gaza 8/2/14,
Photo by Susan Melkisetian, Flickr

It's not just Awad pushing the antisemitic trope that Jews "control" the American government. During the May 2021 Gaza war,⁵²⁵ Rehab⁵²⁶ excoriated U.S. politicians' support for Israel, and accused them of being influenced by AIPAC:

"You Stand with Israel? OK. You go ahead and stand with a nuclear hyper militarized colonial-settler superpower that has murdered 45 children confined to the world's most dense and poorest enclave, in the last few hours of the conflict alone.

Have the courage to say it, at least and spare us the bombastic monkey dance scripted for you by AIPAC.

And by the way I use "conflict," facetiously.

Look at that photo. This is your "conflict." This is your "both sides." An occupier and an occupied. An abuser and a resister.

So you go ahead and pick your stance.

You stand with your robocops. I'll stand with her.

Your guy has all your modern weapons, but no moral courage. Moral courage is all she has.

It's all we have.

No lobby money, corporate media gaslighting, or PR spin can change that. And none can ultimately defeat it. Time is never on the side of cowards."⁵²⁷

In a "translation" of a May 12, 2021 tweet by former Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey that said "Arizona stands with Israel,"⁵²⁸ Rehab wrote: "Governor Doug Ducey stands with powerful AIPAC lobbyists in fear of losing reelection financing."⁵²⁹ Rehab posted the tweet and his "translation" in a May 15 Facebook post and wrote: "But of course, it is all about the Benjamins. And the Jacksons and the Hamiltons. It usually is with all US lobby-centric politics. If the naked truth offends you, I'm happy to chip in for your therapy."⁵³⁰

Rehab's tweet implies Jewish money and influence drive U.S. government policy and "crosses the line into anti-Semitism" as defined by the IHRA because it perpetuates "the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions."⁵³¹

On August 8, 2001, CAIR-NY published an open letter it had sent to the editor of the New York Daily News complaining about "Zionists' Attempts to Intimidate Muslims or Block their Political Rights in America": "[A]ll of the 1.3 billion Muslims of the world, 7 million of whom are American citizens, and all fair-minded people, oppose the Israeli brutal apartheid policies and support the right of the expelled Palestinians to return to their homes under international law. We also categorically reject any attempt by the ADL or extremist Zionists like Dov Hikind to impose a pro-Israel 'litmus test' on Americans exercising their political rights in the election process."⁵³²

A week later, CAIR-NY circulated an open letter to President Bush and Secretary of State Colin

Powell calling on them to condemn Israel's "ongoing campaign of political assassination." This was in reference to Israel's killing of Palestinian terrorists during the early years⁵³³ of the Second Intifada (2000-2005).⁵³⁴ The letter additionally stated, "Political intimidation by the domestic Zionist and pro-Israeli lobbying groups should never prevent the U.S., a 'superpower,' from upholding the basic standards of international law and human rights."⁵³⁵

DENYING THE HOLOCAUST, COMPARING ISRAELI POLICY TO NAZIS, AND IDF TO ISIS TERRORISTS

On August 26, 2021, CAIR joined anti-Israel groups Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action),⁵³⁶ the Palestinian Youth Movement,⁵³⁷ U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights,⁵³⁸ Jewish Voice for Peace Action,⁵³⁹ and others to protest President Biden's meeting⁵⁴⁰ with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.⁵⁴¹ Hosting Bennett, CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad argued at the protest, is as bad as welcoming the Taliban to the White House. "Imagine if [the] Taliban forms the government, [and] continues to do what it was doing to the people in Afghanistan before they were defeated in 2001," Awad said. "And they became national and international leaders, and if the president of the United States, President Joe Biden, decides to host in the White House the leader of [the] Taliban, what would be the reaction of the U.S. media? What would be the reaction from the public? What would be the reaction of politicians by the fact that Joe Biden would be hosting the leader of [the] Taliban? ...Today it's no different. President Joe Biden is hosting the leader of the Israeli Taliban. Joe Biden is hosting the leader of the settler colonial movement in Israel."⁵⁴²

The Taliban, an Islamist fundamentalist organization, ruled Afghanistan from 1996 until its overthrow following the U.S. invasion in 2001.⁵⁴³ The Islamist group provided sanctuary to 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden⁵⁴⁴ and its

return to power in August 2021 was celebrated worldwide by jihadists.⁵⁴⁵

During the May 2021 Gaza war, CAIR California Executive Director Hussam Ayloush⁵⁴⁶ compared the destruction of Al Shorouk Tower in Gaza City during Israeli air raids to the World Trade Center's destruction on September 11 by al-Qaeda terrorists: "I still remember how mad we were when Al-Qaeda terrorists destroyed our towers and murdered our innocent people. I can only imaging [sic] how the people of Gaza feel seeing their towers attacked every day by Israel's terrorism," Ayloush wrote in a May 14, 2021 Twitter post.⁵⁴⁷ The post was accompanied by an *Al Jazeera* English video story showing the air raid on the Al Shorouk Tower with the caption, "This is the moment the 14-storey al-Shorouq tower, housing media offices in Gaza City, was completely destroyed by multiple Israeli air raids on Wednesday."⁵⁴⁸



Ayloush, of course, failed to mention that the Al Shorouk Tower was targeted because it “housed Hamas military intelligence offices & infrastructure used to communicate tactical-military information.”⁵⁴⁹ In addition, the IDF had “warned civilians in the building & provided them sufficient time to evacuate.”⁵⁵⁰

During the 2014 Gaza war, Billoo compared Israel with Nazi Germany when she wrote: “Israel ‘defending’ itself from Palestinians is analogous to Nazi Germany defending itself from Jewish uprising.”⁵⁵¹



Ayloush used the term “zionazis” to describe Israeli Jews. In email correspondence, he compared Israelis to Nazis, writing: “Indeed, the zionazis are a bunch of nice people; just like their nazi brethren! It is just that the world keeps making up lies about them! It is so unfair.”⁵⁵² In January 2013, he wrote: “...Modern states operate on basis of laws. Racist states (such as old S. Africa, Nazi Germany, Israel) operate on basis of race.”⁵⁵³



While serving as a CAIR New York board member,⁵⁵⁴ Lamis Deek⁵⁵⁵ used the term “zionazi” multiple times to refer to Israeli Jews.

During the 2014 Gaza war, Deek disparaged⁵⁵⁶ Israel’s attempt to minimize civilian casualties by warning Gaza civilians to evacuate before a target is bombed.⁵⁵⁷ “Photo: countless zionazi flyers descend over #Gaza MT @DrBasselAbuward NOT snow Israel warning to leave to NO WHERE!” Deek wrote in a July 30, 2014 Twitter post. The post was accompanied by a photo of an Israeli aircraft dropping leaflets, which looked like falling snowflakes, warning Gaza residents to seek safer shelter.⁵⁵⁸

Earlier the same month, Deek commented on pictures of Israeli soldiers in Huwara in the West Bank saying, “Right now in Huwarra! The beginning of a settlement, ie [sic] bunch of ziopig colonizers stealing Palestinian [sic] land and supporting zionazi colonizing soldiers on top of main hill, huwarra [sic] is already surrounded, thus [sic] is terrible....”⁵⁵⁹

In another Facebook post she wrote, “Israhell is bombing every 3 seconds, zionazi colonizing army to enter or already in gaza [sic] city, Shujaiyeh area terribly destroyed...a family of 30 trapped saying with them r [sic] many martyrs.”⁵⁶⁰

In February 2020, CAIR Washington Executive Director Imraan Siddiqi⁵⁶¹ wrote: “AIPAC’s cool with Nazis and Nazi-adjacents - just as long as they don’t support Palestinian rights.”⁵⁶²

Likewise, in his Facebook notes from February 2009, Shibly equated Israelis with Nazis, juxtaposing images from the Holocaust with images of Israeli soldiers interacting with Palestinians.⁵⁶³

Ayloush and Billoo have criticized Jewish American youth who move to Israel and join the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as becoming “part of an army committing war crimes” and compared them to ISIS terrorists.⁵⁶⁴

During a program at the Islamic Institute of Orange County on “Islamophobia,” Ayloush complained

about Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programs⁵⁶⁵ that he said unjustly target Muslims.⁵⁶⁶

There's no similar focus on white communities, he said in a video highlighted by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).⁵⁶⁷ "You know how many hundreds of Jewish American kids are recruited to join the Israeli occupation army? Hundreds. Every year. They leave their country, leave America, to go join with an army that is engaged, with no debate, in major violations of human rights, and maybe some would argue, and I'm one of them, war crimes." But "[n]o one has ever established a CVE program to see, why would normal Jewish American kids leave their home and join to be part of an army committing war crimes," he added.⁵⁶⁸

During a December 2014 debate at the Islamic Institute of Orange County, Ayloush compared Israeli tactics to those used by the Islamic State. "The Jewish State of Israel claims that it's being attacked because it's Jewish. And it claims it has the right to the land of Palestine because it's Jewish. And it justifies its crimes in Gaza because of its Jewishness or defense of the Jewish people. This is exactly what the Islamic State, ISIS, does."⁵⁶⁹



Biloo wrote in a February 2015 tweet: "Have more American youth joined the IDF than American youth have joined ISIS? Is one genocidal group different than the other? #CVESummit."⁵⁷⁰ In another post she "wonders who has recruited more Americans? The IDF or ISIS?"⁵⁷¹

She reaffirmed the comparison in a May 2018 tweet: "Both ISIS and the IDF are violent, immoral gangs. They're literally baby killers."⁵⁷²

ISIS recruits traveled overseas to wage jihad against infidels and fight western troops in

Muslim lands with the long-term goal of establishing a global caliphate ruled by sharia. In contrast, Israel's size and the nature of the threats against it, make military service compulsory for most young men and women who live in the country.⁵⁷³

In a February 4, 2015 Facebook post, Shibly linked to a separate post by noted anti-Israel activist, Norman Finkelstein: "#ISIS burnt alive a Jordanian Remember when Israeli settlers burnt alive 16-yr-old Palestinian Mhmd Abu Khdeir Terrorism has no religion."⁵⁷⁴ Muhammad Khdeir was murdered July 2, 2014, allegedly in revenge for the abduction and murder of three Israeli yeshiva students by Hamas operatives in June 2014.⁵⁷⁵ The killing shocked Israeli society and the three people responsible – including two minors – were convicted of murder, with two receiving life sentences.⁵⁷⁶

Past CAIR events featured neo-Nazis who call for Israel's destruction. For example, CAIR invited the Rev. William Baker to speak at multiple events, including a September 7, 2002 CAIR New York event at which he was the keynoter,⁵⁷⁷ a CAIR-Florida meeting on August 12, 2003,⁵⁷⁸ and an October 18, 2003 CAIR New Jersey conference.⁵⁷⁹

Baker was chairman of the "Populist Party," founded by neo-Nazi Willis Carto in 1984, and organized its national convention that year.⁵⁸⁰ Carto, a founder of the American Nazi party, also started the Southern California-based Institute for Historical Review, a group whose central purpose is to deny the Holocaust.⁵⁸¹

Baker has attempted to reinvent himself, seeking to jettison his past as a member of a neo-Nazi party and become known as a pro-Palestinian Middle East expert. He authored *Theft of a Nation*, a stridently anti-Israel and anti-Jewish book, published in 1982.⁵⁸² Baker has written that achievement of "true justice and real conciliation" in the Middle East requires that "all Jews who entered Palestine during the British Mandate from 1917 to 1948 and after the establishment of the state of Israel should return to the

various countries of their origin” and also that the “Zionist state of Israel . . . should be dismantled and eventually eliminated.”⁵⁸³

After the Anti-Defamation League wrote letters complaining of CAIR’s association with Baker, CAIR countered with a press release attacking the ADL for “attempts to defame Muslims.”⁵⁸⁴

Rehab’s college web page defends Holocaust denial and asserts Jews control the media. As a DePaul University graduate student in the mid-1990s, Rehab published a web page. It featured personal information such as his interests in music and film, his favorite athletes and entertainers and even his pet peeve: “Having to repeat what I just said.”⁵⁸⁵ It also served as an outlet for his essays. In one, entitled “Double Standardism: The Case of the Two Books,” Rehab challenges Holocaust history, calling it “the established opinions of the able Jewish historians regarding the details of the holocaust.”⁵⁸⁶ It was written just after a May 1996 Charlie Rose show that featured a debate about St. Martin’s Press’ withdrawal from a contract to publish a biography of Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels.⁵⁸⁷ Rehab contrasted western reaction to David Irving’s book, *Goebbels: Mastermind of the Third Reich*, to that of Salman Rushdie’s novel, “The Satanic Verses.”⁵⁸⁸

In doing so, Rehab rewrote history to cut the number of Jews murdered by the Nazis in half.

“Rushdie targeted a world-wide religion, 1300 years of history, and one billion people,” Rehab wrote. “Irving targeted a historical event, 2 years of history and three million people.”⁵⁸⁹

Rehab distanced his views from the fatwa calling for Rushdie’s death, but said the book never should have been published. He defended Irving’s book as merely presenting an alternative – and perhaps more sober – viewpoint.

“If the Jewish historians have the right to research the history of the Holocaust and dictate it for schools and Universities, why can’t other historians do the same even if their findings are different? aren’t [sic] they less likely to be biased and non-objectively sympathetic?”⁵⁹⁰

Rose stayed mostly out of the fray as guests Christopher Hitchens and Eric Breindel debated St. Martin’s decision. But at the end, he asked Hitchens whether he was persuaded by Irving’s conclusions about the Holocaust. Hitchens said he wasn’t.⁵⁹¹

“By that,” Rehab wrote, “Rose confirmed the Jewish control over the media.”⁵⁹²

CONCLUSION

America has seen a dramatic rise in violent antisemitism in recent years, with perpetrators including left- and right-wing extremists. The 2018 and 2019 shootings at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life synagogue and California’s Chabad of Poway respectively were carried out by right-wing extremists.

In January 2022, a British gunman held four Jews hostage at the Beth Israel Synagogue in Colleyville, TX, demanding the release of convicted terrorist Aafia Siddiqui.⁵⁹³ Siddiqui is serving 86 years in prison for attempting to kill U.S. personnel in Afghanistan.⁵⁹⁴ She also repeatedly has made antisemitic statements, including an attempt to ban Jews from her trial jury⁵⁹⁵ and a claim after being convicted that “This is a verdict coming from Israel, not America.”⁵⁹⁶

CAIR has been at the forefront of an Islamist campaign to free Siddiqui and is directly raising money for her defense.⁵⁹⁷

As this book shows, top CAIR officials, led by the organization’s founder and executive director Nihad Awad, continue to push antisemitic narratives that can incite antisemitism across the political spectrum. In this narrative, American Jews are to blame for policies CAIR officials don’t like. Jews are accused of dual loyalty, and of coercing America into policies that are bad for the country.

“Look at their names,” Awad said in 1998, insinuating that Jews in the Clinton administration were “pushing the United States to go to war on behalf of a third party.” A decade later, Awad said U.S. policy toward Israel comes “at the expense of American interests.”

In 2014, as ISIS established a caliphate and Hamas terrorism instigated war in Gaza, Awad called Israel “the biggest threat to world peace and security.” At an August 2021 protest against

President Biden’s White House meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Awad called the elected president of a U.S. ally “the leader of the Israeli Taliban.”

Other CAIR leaders share similar expressions of Jew-hatred that include statements considered antisemitic based on the IHRA’s working definition of antisemitism embraced by the State Department in 2016. They falsely accuse Israel of being a racist state and hold it to standards not expected of other democracies. They repeatedly compare Israeli policy to Nazis and the IDF to ISIS terrorists.

CAIR and its leftist allies push the antisemitic smear that police exchange programs lead to American police violence against black people.

They oppose Israel’s very existence.

Soon after the outbreak of the May 2021 Gaza War, CAIR endorsed or co-sponsored anti-Israel rallies across the United States. The hostilities were triggered by Hamas firing of hundreds of rockets from Gaza to cities in southern Israel and Jerusalem, leading Israel to launch airstrikes against Hamas targets. But rather than holding Hamas responsible, CAIR and its leadership posted hateful antisemitic invective on social media, and co-sponsored or endorsed pro-Palestine rallies featuring vile antisemitic rhetoric and chants calling for the Jewish state’s destruction. The virulent antisemitism displayed at rallies and on social media corresponded with the highest surge of violence against Jews across America.

CAIR’s leadership tries to pass off these expressions of antisemitism as mere criticism of Israel that is not directed at Jews or Judaism, but the long-term and consistent evidence detailed in this report proves that assertion to be a lie.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: ANTISEMITIC STATEMENTS OF CAIR OFFICIALS (INCLUDES STATEMENTS CITED EARLIER IN THE TEXT)

NIHAD AWAD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CO-FOUNDER⁵⁹⁸

During a November 2021 conference sponsored by the rabidly anti-Israel American Muslims for Palestine (AMP),⁵⁹⁹ Awad called Tel Aviv “occupied” and prayed for it to be freed. “We have to fight. We have to take the fight to the other side. Moving the [U.S.] embassy, our embassy, from Tel Aviv which is occupied, to a city [Jerusalem] that’s supposed to be protected under international law, to move that embassy we should not accept that as a de facto,” Awad



CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad Speaks at the 14th Annual Convention for Palestine hosted by Americal Mulsims for Palestine, Nov. 27, 2021 - AMP YouTube

said. “We have to pressure the administration to take our embassy back to Tel Aviv. And inshallah [God willing], it will be free later.”⁶⁰⁰

At an August 26, 2021 protest against President Biden’s meeting⁶⁰¹ with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett,⁶⁰² Awad said:

“Imagine if [the] Taliban forms the government, [and] continues to do what it was doing to the people in Afghanistan before they were defeated in 2001. And they became national and international leaders, and if the president of the United States, President Joe Biden, decides to host in the

White House the leader of [the] Taliban, what would be the reaction of the U.S. media? What would be the reaction from the public? What would be the reaction of politicians by the fact that Joe Biden would be hosting the leader of [the] Taliban?...Today it’s no different. President Joe Biden is hosting the leader of the Israeli Taliban. Joe Biden is hosting the leader of the settler colonial movement in Israel.”⁶⁰³

In a May 15, 2021 tweet, Awad justified his boycott of the Biden administration’s Eid festivities by alleging it “literally aids, abets and justifies the Israeli apartheid government’s indiscriminate bombing of innocent men, women and children in Gaza.”⁶⁰⁴ Asked on a May 20 CAIR on Air program to give his “reaction” to the ongoing war in Gaza, Awad condemned what he described as the “bombardment and indiscriminate targeting of civilian infrastructure and civilian populations by Israel,” describing it as a “reflection” of “apartheid, indiscriminate, or disregard of human lives of the Palestinians.”⁶⁰⁵

In an August 15, 2019 tweet Awad wrote: “It’s simple. #Israel is afraid of any member of congress visiting occupied Palestinian land and experiencing first hand its #Apartheid and segregationist policies without the guided whitewashing tour led by US lobby AIPAC. @IlhanMN @RashidaTlaib @shaunking #lettheminn.”⁶⁰⁶

In another Twitter post the same day, he reiterated his displeasure of Israel’s banning the entry of the Democratic congresswomen: “Outrageous but not surprising #Israel’s decision to ban two Congresswomen @IlhanMN and @Rashi-

daTlaib is a slap in the face to US taxpayers who fund it with \$3.2 billion dollars annually. #Trump is inspiring another #MuslimBan. Time to #CutUSAidToIsrael.”⁶⁰⁷

On March 11, 2019, Awad tweeted: “I’m a Palestinian refugee. My relatives live in what is now Israel. They are treated as second class citizens. Now [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu is running for office on the separate & unequal nation state law. That law codifies discrimination against non-Jews. If this is not #Apartheid. What Is?”⁶⁰⁸

In July 2018, Israel’s Knesset passed into law a nation-state bill that describes the country as “the national home of the Jewish people” and “enshrines the Zionist idea upon which the nation was founded, namely that Israel is a country established to fulfill the Jewish people’s ‘right to national self-determination.’”⁶⁰⁹

Awad denounced the ADL for “shamefully providing cover for Israel’s murder of unarmed protesters by drawing attention from war crimes and occupation.”⁶¹⁰

The condemnation was in response to ADL’s criticism of Hamas’ launch of the 2018 Great March of Return campaign that aimed “to highlight the plight of Gaza, the broader Palestinian situation, and the Right of Return for Palestinian refugees.”⁶¹¹ “Hamas is once again cynically exploiting its civilian population to draw attention away from its own flawed leadership and once again with tragically deadly consequences. Their call for ‘return’ is a call for the end of the State of Israel,” ADL had posted earlier.⁶¹²

Deadly confrontations between Gazans and IDF soldiers that included firing of hundreds of mortars and rockets from Gaza into southern Israel peaked on May 14 – the day of the official opening ceremony of the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem – when at least 60 Gazans died and thousands more were wounded. Israel and Hamas reached an informal ceasefire on May 30.⁶¹³

Awad has alleged that his family was “ethnically-cleansed by Israeli soldiers” during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. On May 14, 2018, he posted: “In 1948 my family was ethnically-cleansed by Israeli soldiers from our city of #Lydda in #Palestine. Ever since, we have been refugees scattered worldwide waiting to return. The U.S. is on the wrong side of history by supporting #Apartheid #Israel.”⁶¹⁴

Awad’s exaggerated claim that Israel “ethnically-cleansed” and expelled Palestinians from their homes during the 1948 war fuels a one-sided narrative. Thousands of Palestinians, including many wealthy Arabs, fled their homes in 1947-48 to escape the Arab-Israeli war but with the expectation that they would return to their homes following an Arab victory.⁶¹⁵

In the weeks following the Trump administration’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and ordering the U.S. Embassy to move there from Tel Aviv,⁶¹⁶ Awad excoriated CNN for attempting “to discredit the tidal wave vote [in the U.N. against the U.S. action] and distract viewers with sensational footage of Venezuela and Syria.”⁶¹⁷ Awad was reacting to CNN anchor Jake Tapper’s statement that among the 128 countries that voted in favor of the U.N. resolution denouncing the U.S. move were “some countries with some rather questionable records of their own.” Tapper’s statement was accompanied by civil conflict and war footage from Venezuela and Syria that voted in support of the U.N. resolution.⁶¹⁸

Awad also claimed that by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, President Trump “cast away America’s role as an impartial mediator in seeking a just peace in the Middle East” and the “move only benefits @realDonaldTrump and extremist[s] in his base.”⁶¹⁹

Awad also called Israel basher Congressman Paul Findley⁶²⁰ his “friend” in an August 2019 obituary message: “My friend, the hero who broke the silence over the #IsraelLobby, Congressman #PaulFindley died yesterday. He served in Congresses from 1961 to 1983. He authored: -They Dare to Speak Out: People and Institutions Con-

front Israel's Lobby -Deliberate Deception -Silent No More #RIP"⁶²¹

Findley claimed Zionist control "throughout U.S. society" in a 1990 article in the virulently anti-Israeli⁶²² *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*: "Israel's zealous supporters occupy influential positions throughout U.S. society-not just in the media-and are employed by the U.S. government in every office that has any important relationship to the making of U.S. policy in the Middle East. Relentlessly, step by step, they have assiduously developed over the years a tight grip on America's Middle East policy."⁶²³

During the 2014 Gaza conflict,⁶²⁴ Awad posted a series of anti-Israel posts on Twitter:

August 19, 2014: "Israel is the biggest threat to world peace and security. It: 1-targets civilians 2-has WMD 3-doesn't respect international laws or values."⁶²⁵



August 11, 2014: "Support #BDS "@bataleh: The Heart of the Problem With Israel: The Mass Expulsion of the Palestinian People <http://fb.me/1cRhdvkcc>"⁶²⁶

August 9, 2014: "Israel is facing the same destiny of Apartheid '@haroonmeer: 120k South Africans march to show solidarity with #gaza'"⁶²⁷

August 5, 2014: "US-Israel relations are hitting a new low because of Israel's war crimes. How many more innocents have to die until US tells Israel ENOUGH?"⁶²⁸

July 25, 2014: "Good news: majority of young Americans (18-29) and Democrats are against Israel's bombing campaign of civilians #Gaza #GazaUnderAttack"⁶²⁹

July 24, 2014: "@BarackObama How many Palestinian civilians have to die until you tell Israel Enough? #Gaza #GazaUnderAttack #IsraeliTerror"⁶³⁰

July 24, 2014: "People of conscience: Declare Israel as a terrorist state for the war crimes it has been committing against civilians [sic]. #IsraeliTerror #Gaza"⁶³¹



July 22, 2014: "Israel is hiring interns for \$778,000 to improve its battered image on social media. Kill and lie. #GazaUnderAttack"⁶³²

July 20, 2014: "The 'Civilized World' must confront it's [sic] hypocrisy and total silence on Israel's mass murder of Palestinian civilians. #TheMostImmoralArmy"⁶³³

July 20, 2014: "Israel targeted this ambulance in #Gaza today #TheMostImmoralArmy. Targeting civilians is an official Israeli policy."⁶³⁴ A picture of a charred ambulance in Gaza accompanied the post.⁶³⁵

July 20, 2014: "Why are most of the victims of the Israeli attack civilians? Either failed soldiers or inaccurate military equipment or an official policy of targeting civilians."⁶³⁶

July 18, 2014: "Save lives. Call the White House 202 456 1111 and your elected reps. Demand that the US pressure Israel to stop the slaughter of civilians."⁶³⁷

July 18, 2014: "Our American policy towards Palestine is failed with distinction. Biased, bereft of the values of 'freedom for all people' it lacks respect for human rights, directed by the Israel lobby."⁶³⁸

July 13, 2014: “56 seconds is what Israel gives the residents of Gaza before it bombs their homes. Killing civilians for political reasons is terrorism.”⁶³⁹

July 9, 2014: “Our government can and should pressure Israel to stop the military collective punishment on Gaza. Go ahead spy on me and call me #raghead.”⁶⁴⁰

At an August 2014 rally in Washington, D.C. in support of Gaza, Awad called on participants to “hold our elected leaders accountable” by “tell[ing] our members of Congress that they have pledged allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, not the State of Israel.”⁶⁴¹ He added: “It is our tax money that’s going to supply the State of Israel to kill innocent people. No longer should be in our name. This carnage

But Awad is pushing a false narrative of a one-sided Israeli rampage on unarmed Palestinians during the 2014 Gaza conflict. The conflict, in fact, started with Hamas intensifying its rocket and mortar attacks against Israel from Gaza in the summer of 2014. Around the same time, three Israeli teenagers were kidnapped and murdered by the terrorist group in the West Bank, leading to a further escalation of tensions. Even as Israel tried to deescalate the situation through diplomatic channels, Hamas-led rocket attacks from Gaza continued unabated, prompting Israel to launch an aerial campaign termed Operation Protective Edge.⁶⁴⁵ A ground phase of the operation was subsequently initiated after Hamas terrorists entered Israel surreptitiously through terror tunnels to perpetrate a large-scale attack on a kibbutz near the Gaza border.⁶⁴⁶



CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad Speaks at D.C. Rally for Gaza, Aug. 2, 2014 - CAIRtv YouTube

is being committed in America’s name. Israel has become a strategic liability on the United States.”⁶⁴² Awad also claimed the America’s pro-Israel lobby group AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee)⁶⁴³ had “corrupted our foreign policy...corrupted our political leaders” and added that “our political leaders who speak their party line, they don’t speak their conscience.”⁶⁴⁴

A detailed report on the 2014 Gaza conflict shows that Israel’s military took strong measures to avoid civilian casualties and carry out its Operation Protective Edge aerial campaign in accordance with international humanitarian law.⁶⁴⁷ In fact, then-Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey applauded the Israeli military for going to “extraordinary lengths” to protect civilians and limit collateral damage. The Pentagon also sent

a team to Israel to see what lessons could be learned from Operation Protective Edge.⁶⁴⁸

At a December 2017 rally organized by the American Muslims for Palestine, Awad described as “dangerous and reckless” the Trump administration’s alleged policy of “putting the interests of a foreign state, like Israel, and its domestic lobby here...above the United States’ interests.”⁶⁴⁹ He

added, “The United States has been siding with Israel, an apartheid state. Israel has been oppressing the Palestinian people at the expense of our reputation. The United States has financed and armed and defended and shielded Israel all over the world, in the United Nations. This is at the expense of our policies.”⁶⁵⁰

Awad made similar claims at a 2010 joint convention sponsored by the Muslim American Society (MAS) and the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), where he accused lawmakers of favoring the interests of Israel over that of the United States. “Some of members of Congress are willing to put the interests of Israel ahead of the United States’ interests,”⁶⁵¹ Awad said. He also blamed Israel for fueling “anti-American sentiment because of what Israel does,”⁶⁵² and added that “there’s a growing movement within Congress and in the public to distinguish between America’s interest and Israel’s interest.”⁶⁵³

Awad also spoke about the “huge influence” of the “pro-Israel lobby:

“So we in the activist community, yourselves, we always call on the President, on the White House to do things. But there’s nothing being done. Why? Because the second power lies with the Congress. Members of Congress compete with each other, whether Democrats or Republicans, to please the Israel lobby, to please Israel. Some of members of Congress are willing to put the interests of Israel ahead of the United States’ interests.

Why? Because we have to understand what drives members of Congress. Is it values, principles or votes and money and pressure? The pro-Israel lobby has mastered deception, pressure tactics and exploiting the system of giving money to candidates and putting pressure and threatening some candidates with either scandals or what have you. And they managed over many years to have this huge influence on not only members of Congress but those who want to be elected officials in the United States.”⁶⁵⁴

MAS was created in 1993 as the Muslim Brotherhood arm in the U.S.⁶⁵⁵ ICNA has been described as “openly affiliated” with the South Asian Sunni revivalist movement Jamaat-e-Islami (JI)⁶⁵⁶ and was set up to establish “Iqamat Deen,” the Islamic system of life, in North America with the ultimate goal of founding a global Islamic state or Caliphate.⁶⁵⁷

Awad told a Georgetown University Muslim Students Association audience in 1998 that the Jewish origin of many Clinton administration officials helps drive U.S. policy. Among Clinton advisers, he asked, “Who is opposing the latest agreement with Iraq? Look at their names. Look at their ethnic, their ethnic or religious or racial background. You will see that these are the same groups that belong to the same interest groups in the administration,” Awad said. “These are the same people who are pushing the United States to go to war on behalf of a third party, and they are the same people who are opposing the peace process...”⁶⁵⁸

Following President George W. Bush’s election, CAIR made nearly the identical claim about his administration. CAIR officers sent the new president a letter warning him to beware of penetration of Zionist voices in U.S. decision-making circles, *Al-Arab al-Yawm* reported January 29, 2001.⁶⁵⁹ At CAIR’s “Meet Your Congressman” event two months later, CAIR-co-founder Omar Ahmad⁶⁶⁰ told the audience that “Muslims in the U.S. are willing to be a catalyst to unite the Muslim world with Washington. It is the Israeli lobby that is demonizing Islam.”⁶⁶¹

On August 8, 2001, CAIR-NY circulated a letter to the editor of the New York Daily News complaining about “Zionists’ Attempts to Intimidate Muslims or Block their Political Rights in America”: “All the 1.3 billion Muslims of the world, 7 million of whom are American citizens, and all fair-minded people, oppose the Israeli brutal apartheid policies and support the right of the expelled Palestinians to return to their homes under international law. We also categorically reject any attempt by the ADL or extremist Zionists like Dov Hikind to impose a pro-Israel ‘litmus test’ on

Americans exercising their political rights in the election process.”⁶⁶²

A week later, on August 15, CAIR-NY circulated an open letter addressed to President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell calling on them to condemn Israel’s “ongoing campaign of political assassination.” The document stated, “Political intimidation by the domestic Zionist and pro-Israeli lobbying groups should never prevent the U.S., a ‘superpower,’ from upholding the basic standards of international law and human rights.”⁶⁶³

When votes approached in May 2002 on congressional resolutions supporting Israeli actions against terrorist strongholds in the West Bank, CAIR issued a press release stating that the move “amounted to American elected officials ‘pledging allegiance’ to a foreign government.”⁶⁶⁴

Awad added, “It is truly disturbing to see American elected officials falling over themselves in an unseemly attempt to ‘pledge allegiance’ to a foreign government and its domestic lobby. Perhaps these same politicians should be reminded that they were elected by American, not Israeli voters.”⁶⁶⁵

Following the April 2004 assassination of Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a CAIR press release, which referred to Rantisi merely as a “Palestinian political leader,” stated, “Until our leaders act in America’s interests, and not just those of a foreign state or its domestic lobby, we will continue to be viewed worldwide as a party to oppression, not as a force for freedom or justice.”⁶⁶⁶

In a July 9, 2004 press release, CAIR asked, “How long will America’s international image and interests be held hostage by a domestic lobby for a foreign government?”⁶⁶⁷

On November 22, 1998, Awad appeared on Qatari *Al Jazeera* television news channel with now-deceased radical cleric Yusuf al-Qaradawi⁶⁶⁸ to discuss “The Image of Muslims in American

Cinema.” When asked about the role of Zionists in marginalizing Muslims politically Nihad Awad replied, “In the absence of the presence of Islamic or Arabic artistic activity, of course, it seems that automatically the Zionist movement and its supporters are alone on the stage. There is...no secret in the knowledge that filmmakers in Hollywood are of Jewish origin and they have a big effect.”⁶⁶⁹

Qaradawi was an Egyptian Islamic scholar associated with the Muslim Brotherhood. He was known for his militant religious rulings and political commentary in support of acts of terrorism and the repression of Muslims. Qaradawi has urged terror attacks against Israel and once fantasized about killing a Jew.⁶⁷⁰ In 2003, Qaradawi described Muslims killed fighting American forces in Iraq as “martyrs”: “Those killed fighting the American forces are martyrs given their good intentions since they consider these invading troops an enemy within their territories but without their will.”⁶⁷¹

On November 2, 2008, Awad appeared on the *Al Jazeera* news channel where he discussed what he described as the powerful pro-Israel lobby in the United States and the strong influence it purportedly wields over American lawmakers. Awad accused AIPAC of paying off congressmen to shape a pro-Israel U.S. policy in the Middle East. He further added that the pro-Israel lobby had led the Arab and Muslim communities to organize “political action in the same way if they want to create a balance in the American position toward an issue such as the issue of Israel and Palestine.”⁶⁷²

“A Congressman has political interests, the most important thing to him after winning elections is to win in the elections which follow and to keep his seat. He reflects the preferences and the desire of voters in his district except in the case of Israel. It reflects the tendency and the desire of pro-Israel lobby for the absence of strong counter-balance. In the absence of countervailing forces, why should he take a pro-Israel view? Because they [“pro-Israel lobby”] have money and have the votes and

have the means to politically destroying him or ending his political career.

Every member of Congress in the eyes of AIPAC and institutions supporting Israel - and their number exceeds a hundred in Washington – has a political price and value. The one who works in the Armament Committee and the Committee on Foreign Relations, for example, receives fifty to one hundred thousand dollars or even two hundred thousand dollars. The one who works on economic committee, they give him about \$250.

...

Reliance of the method of political destruction and fear is a policy for which the pro-Israel lobby is famous; it has ended the life of many American politicians for their standing in the face of the pro-Israel lobby in Congress, and through advertising campaigns and smear campaigns or even political isolation attempts.

They have hurt many activists, some organizations. The examples are many. The goal is in fact, you know, to give an atmosphere of fear and terror to be a lesson for anyone who wants to repeat the resistance or stand in the face of the pro-Israel current, but they erred, because this way they have alerted other groups of American society and even Arab and Muslim communities and opened their eyes and ears on the need to organize political action in the same way if they want to create a balance in the American position toward an issue such as the issue of Israel and Palestine.⁶⁷³

During a May 11, 2008 Q & A session on *IslamOnline.net*, Nihad Awad claimed: “Everyone is aware that the United States is biased towards Israel at the expense of American interests.”⁶⁷⁴

At an August 2014 rally in Washington, D.C. in support of Gaza, Awad accused the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) of wielding undue influence over lawmakers to manipulate U.S. foreign policy in favor of Israel: “AIPAC should have its hand off the United States Congress. They have corrupted our foreign policy. They have corrupted our political

leaders. But our political leaders who speak their party line, they don’t speak their conscience.”⁶⁷⁵ He said “we need to tell our members of Congress that they have pledged allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, not the State of Israel. And therefore we have to hold our elected leaders accountable.”⁶⁷⁶

HUSSAM AYLOUSH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAIR GREATER LOS ANGELES⁶⁷⁷

On May 17, 2021, CAIR California Executive Director Hussam Ayloush posted a Twitter thread condemning “Israel’s violent occupation, apartheid, and bombings [that] have by far mostly killed innocent men, women and children, wiped out entire families, and destroyed water, electricity, sewage, and other vital infrastructure.”⁶⁷⁸ Describing Israel as “the occupier/aggressor,” Ayloush called those who support the Jewish state’s “right to self-defense” as “an accomplice” in its “crimes against humanity.”⁶⁷⁹

The same day, Ayloush tweeted a *Washington Post* critique of the Biden administration’s approval of a \$735 million weapons sale to Israel⁶⁸⁰ with the comment, “Our country is not merely an enabler of Israeli apartheid and mass murder of Palestinians. We are an accomplice.”⁶⁸¹

In a May 18 Facebook post, Ayloush wrote: “The majority of Gaza’s population are children. The majority are living under poverty line. The majority are refugees from cities and towns that Israel ban them from because they are not Jewish. #EndIsraeliApartheid #EndIsraeliOccupation.”⁶⁸²

The post was accompanied by a picture of a Palestinian child amidst Gaza rubble with the text, “ISRAEL IS ALWAYS ASKING: Why do Palestinian children hate us? HARD TO TELL. I WONDER IF IT COULD BE BECAUSE YOU ETHNICALLY CLEANSED THEIR GRANDPARENTS, MURDERED THEIR PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, AND DESTROYED THEIR HOMES?”⁶⁸³

Ayloush was a speaker at a May 11, 2021 protest rally in front of the Israeli consulate in Los Angeles. The rally was led by American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) and endorsed by CAIR.⁶⁸⁴ “[T]he struggle against apartheid, the struggle against racism, against occupation, against ethnic cleansing is a global struggle,” Ayloush said. “And the Palestinian people are at the front line on the forefront of the struggle, because they’re not just fighting the Israeli apartheid, they’re fighting against those who are silent, those who are supporting, those who are funding that occupation, that ugly occupation.”⁶⁸⁵



**EMERGENCY PROTEST
ALL OUT FOR PALESTINE**

#SAVESHEIKHJARRAH #JERUSALEMUPRISING #DEFENDGAZA

TUESDAY, MAY 11 @12 NOON

**ISRAELI CONSULATE - LA
11766 WILSHIRE BLVD
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025**

**Bring your flags and hatta --
stay masked and distanced!**

CAIR Greater LA Director Hussam Ayloush Speaks at AMP hosted Emergency Protest All Out for Palestine, May 11, 2021 - Facebook Live

Ayloush has called for Israel’s termination.⁶⁸⁶ “Iran’s regime calling Israel a ‘cancerous tumor’ is like the pot calling the kettle black. All the people of that region will be better off once both murderous regimes are terminated,” Ayloush wrote in a November 2018 tweet.⁶⁸⁷



At an April 2018 event titled, “Challenging Islamophobia with My Vote” at the Islamic Institute of Orange County (IIOC), California, Ayloush⁶⁸⁸ equated ISIS terrorists negatively with the Israeli army.⁶⁸⁹ Ayloush complained that Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programs unjustly target Muslims.⁶⁹⁰

There’s no similar focus on white communities, he said in a video highlighted by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).⁶⁹¹ “You know how many hundreds of Jewish American kids are recruited to join the Israeli occupation army? Hundreds. Every year. They leave their country, leave America, to go join with an army that is engaged, with no debate, in major violations of human rights, and maybe some would argue, and I’m one of them, war crimes,” adding: “No one has ever established a CVE program to see, why would normal Jewish American kids leave their home and join to be part of an army committing war crimes.”⁶⁹²

Ayloush made strikingly similar comments in January 2015 during a speech on “countering violent extremism” at the Islamic Center of Orange County in Garden Grove, California:

“You know, you don’t hear about countering violent extremism to deal with the thousands of Jewish-American kids who join the Israeli army killing the people of Gaza. When was the last time the DHS – the Dept. of Homeland Security – or the FBI approached the Jewish community to ask them to deal with this trend? Actually, there are many more Jewish Americans who have joined the Israeli army than there are Muslim Americans who join ISIS.”⁶⁹³

In December 2019, Ayloush accused Zionists of “rewriting history” of “Palestine.” “When Jesus (peace be upon him) was born in Bethlehem, Romans ruled that area, called it Palestine, and were conducting a census that coveted Bethlehem and the entire Palestine. Nice Zionist try in rewriting history,” he posted on Twitter.⁶⁹⁴

During a December 2014 debate at the Islamic Institute of Orange County titled, “Should Muslims Condemn ISIS?” Ayloush compared Israeli tactics to those used by the Islamic State. “The Jewish State of Israel claims that it’s being attacked because it’s Jewish. And it claims it has the right to the land of Palestine because it’s Jewish. And it justifies its crimes in Gaza because of its Jewishness or defense of the Jewish people. This is exactly what the Islamic State, ISIS, does.”⁶⁹⁵

In an August 2014 Twitter post, Ayloush wrote: “It isn’t merely about opposing Israel. It’s about defeating racism, colonialism, barbarism, apartheid, Zionism & the culture of murder.”⁶⁹⁶ In another post a couple of days later, Ayloush compared the “supporters of Israel” to “Nazis” saying it was “interesting how supporters of Israel use exact same excuses that Nazis used to justify their murders [at] the Warsaw ghetto.”⁶⁹⁷ Ayloush also described “supporters of Israel’s barbarism in Gaza” as “heartless hateful blood-thirsty humans.”⁶⁹⁸

At a June 2014 CAIR-CA empowerment conference and dinner at the Islamic Center of Northridge in Granada Hills, Ayloush justified the “anger” against “pro-Israel groups” saying, “they’re seen as always advancing Israeli, an Israeli agenda at the expense of the U.S. interests or U.S. agenda.”⁶⁹⁹

Ayloush condemned Israel as purportedly “the only place in the world today that continues to build apartheid walls that separate people based on their religion or race.” He added that “Israel is the only place in the world—since South Africa has abolished its apartheid regime—Israel is the only place that actually builds cities and towns for Jews only. If you are a Christian and if you’re Muslim you cannot go there, you cannot drive there, you cannot live there. And yet Israel receives foreign aid more so than most other countries in the world paid for by taxpayers’ money.”⁷⁰⁰

In email correspondence, Ayloush compared Israelis to Nazis, writing: “Indeed, the zionazis are a bunch of nice people; just like their nazi brethren! It is just that the world keeps making up lies about them! It is so unfair.”⁷⁰¹

Ayloush has also alleged “Israeli apartheid” in social media posts.

August 16, 2019: “Had I been a conspiracy theorist, I would have believed that [President Donald] Trump and [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu are actually secret supporters of BDS [Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions]. But the truth is that they are just Israel’s apartheid most stupid advocates.”⁷⁰²

August 15, 2019: “Just imagine if Germany, for example, announces that all US members of Congress are allowed to visit except Jewish ones. How would our reaction be? Time to challenge Israel’s apartheid.”⁷⁰³

May 2, 2019: The toughest job is a Zionist trying to explain why it’s ok for Israel to build towns for Jews-only, to be an apartheid state with special privileges for Jews-only, and to deny Palestinian refugees the right to return to their towns because they are not Jewish. I don’t envy anyone having to justify such bigotry. I had to

listen to three old Zionists at UCI trying to do that. It was painful.”⁷⁰⁴

February 12, 2019: “Let’s try this. A certain unnamed lobby group [AIPAC] pressures our Congress members to look the other way regarding a certain unnamed foreign country’s [Israel] apartheid practices and brutal occupation. Are we allowed to say that?”⁷⁰⁵

September 22, 2018: “A good *Washington Post* op-ed: America’s Jews are watching Israel in horror. My comment: Israel’s horrific & brutal apartheid practices started long before Netanyahu!”⁷⁰⁶ The post linked to the *Washington Post* op-ed, “America’s Jews are watching Israel in horror.”⁷⁰⁷

July 23, 2018: “If Israel doesn’t like being called an apartheid state then maybe it needs to stop passing apartheid laws and practicing apartheid policies.”⁷⁰⁸

May 15, 2018: “After 70 years of repression, ethnic cleansing, occupation, brutality, and terrorism, the Zionist apartheid project in Palestine remains a complete failure. #Nakba70”⁷⁰⁹



April 11, 2018: “Israeli army tells Gazans that peaceful protests go against Islam. Really? Doesn’t occupation, apartheid, and shooting at peaceful protesters go against Judaism?”⁷¹⁰

September 30, 2018: “Yesterday marks the 18th anniversary of the murder of Palestinian child Mohamed al-Durra, who was shot dead in his father’s arms by Israeli forces in Gaza. Sadly, Israeli apartheid, terrorism, murder, & occupation is funded by our tax money.”⁷¹¹

Ayloush was alluding to Mohammed al-Durra, a 12-year-old Palestinian boy who was allegedly

killed by Israeli bullets on September 30, 2000.⁷¹² Subsequently, many raised questions about the veracity of the event.⁷¹³

November 19, 2014: “Israel revives Nazi-style collective punishment against innocent Palestinians, In [sic] violation of the Geneva Conventions.”⁷¹⁴ The Twitter post linked to the *New York Times* article, “Israeli Forces Demolish Home of Palestinian Who Used a Car to Kill 2.”⁷¹⁵

July 9, 2014: “Photos of #GazaUnderAttack. Damn you #Israel & damn those who support or excuse your filthy criminal #Zionism.”⁷¹⁶ The Twitter post linked to photos from the 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict.

June 30, 2014: “Netanyahu wants to punish Palestinians for the dead settlers. Then who is going to punish the dead settlers’ parents & Israel’s leaders who made those settlers live in an illegal settlement built on illegally confiscated and occupied Palestinian land in the West Bank? The tragedy of the death should not make us forget the real culprits. Preventing more deaths and suffering on both sides requires that Israel end its brutal occupation, dismantle illegal settlements, stop apartheid policies, and allow Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland. Collective punishment will only further victimize the Palestinian people and make peace harder to achieve.”⁷¹⁷

January 14, 2013: “...Modern states operate on basis of laws. Racist states (such as old S. Africa, Nazi Germany, Israel) operate on basis of race.”⁷¹⁸



January 13, 2013: “...nation states like Nazi Germany or Apartheid S. Africa are racist for having classes of citizens. So is Israel.”⁷¹⁹

Nov. 18, 2012: “Earlier, US leaders defended S. African apartheid & labeled its opponents as terrorists. History repeats itself. #Israel #Palestine.”⁷²⁰

In a 2002 rebuttal to a column by Steven Greenhut in the *Orange County Register* titled, “Muslim leaders should get off the fence,” Ayloush described Zionism as a “political ideology whose tentacles are rooted in racism.”⁷²¹ “The Zionist movement practically translated into the uprooting of homes and lives of the indigenous people - the Palestinians - in favor of European settlers who claim their ancestors used to live there about 2,000 years ago,” he added.

HASSAN SHIBLY, FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAIR FLORIDA⁷²²

In a November 15, 2018 Twitter post, former CAIR Florida Chief Executive Director Hassan Shibly, wrote, “Supporting Americans’ right to boycott is supporting the U.S. constitution, which @ilhanmn took an oath to uphold.” He urged Cong. Ilhan Omar to “keep speaking truth to power” adding, “the #ADL was wrong about South Africa Apartheid and they are wrong about #BDS #IStandWithIlhan.”⁷²³

In October 2018, Israel’s Supreme Court granted anti-Israel activist Lara Alqasem’s request for entry into Israel.⁷²⁴ Alqasem had been denied entry because of her pro-BDS activism and close affiliation with the anti-Israel student group, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).⁷²⁵ After Alqasem was allowed into Israel, Shibly told *88.5 WMNF News*:

“Look, I think this whole incident has been a wake-up call for the hypocrisy in how Israel treats Palestinian-Americans and how it treats American citizens. The fact of the matter is the Israelis tried to stop this Florida student from studying in Israel even though she got accepted at the university there. She had a valid visa to study there.

...

And the reason they wanted to stop her from studying is because they believe that she had participated in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement [BDS], which basically calls for people all over the world to boycott and divest from companies — especially those that do business in the Occupied Territories that are illegally occupied by the Israeli government — until Palestinians receive equal rights as the Israelis.

...

This is a very similar movement to the movement that was presented against South Africa when they were engaging in Apartheid. And as Jimmy Carter — former U.S. President Jimmy Carter’s called, he said what’s happening in Israel in terms of the unequal treatment of Palestinians is no different than the Apartheid that was enacted in South Africa.”⁷²⁶

In a February 5, 2015 Facebook post, Shibly linked to a post by noted anti-Israeli activist, Norman Finkelstein: “#ISIS burnt alive a Jordanian Remember when Israeli settlers burnt alive 16-yr-old Palestinian Mhmd Abu Khdir? Terrorism has no religion.”⁷²⁷ Muhammad Khdeir was murdered July 2, 2014, allegedly in revenge for the abduction and murder of three Israeli yeshiva students by Hamas operatives in June 2014.⁷²⁸ The three people responsible – including two minors – were convicted of murder, with two receiving life sentences.

In a January 25, 2015 Facebook post, Shibly linked to a video from Radio Bethlehem in 2000 of Israeli soldiers allegedly harassing children in Rafah, a Palestinian city and refugee camp in the southern Gaza strip.⁷²⁹ His comment posted above the video read: “Never forget that God of Abraham, Moses, and Jesus has promised a day where He will humble all arrogant oppressors and elevate all the humble oppressed.”⁷³⁰

Shibly has denied the widely reported fact⁷³¹ that Hamas hides weapons in civilian areas. In an August 2014 discussion on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he claimed, “[t]he argument that Hamas hides in active civilian areas has not

only been debunked by Amnesty International, but it's very similar to the weapons of mass destruction argument that we used against you know Iraq, where we have still not found those weapons of mass destruction and we still have not found those weapons that are stored in active civilian sites."⁷³²

In an August 14, 2014 post on Twitter, Shibly alleged the police in Ferguson, MO had received training from their Israeli counterparts, who are "well known for abuse," as exemplified in the case of Tariq Khdeir. Tariq Abu Khdeir, a Tampa teenager of Palestinian descent, was reportedly beaten by Israeli police during a protest in Eastern Jerusalem in July 2014.⁷³³ Above an article titled, "St. Louis Cops Using Anti-Terrorism Learned in Israel On..." Shibly wrote: "THAT EXPLAINS IT! #FergusonPolice have had training by #Israel –country known 4 police abuse. #TariqKhdeir."⁷³⁴

Responding to the UN decision to interview Tariq Abu Khdeir as part of a broader investigation into the incident, Shibly was quoted in a CAIR press release in January 2015: "This investigation is a clear signal that the United Nations itself has serious concerns about the bad conduct of Israeli police and military personnel during the violence in Gaza, and particularly the brutal beating and unlawful confinement suffered by this Tampa teenager."⁷³⁵

During the 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict, Shibly posted: "No one is as good at defending and justifying war crimes and apartheid like Israel #FreePalestine #GazaUnderAttack #GazaUnderFire."⁷³⁶ And: "Supporting Israeli apartheid and massacre of civilians is unamerican #GazaUnderAttack #GazaUnderFire."⁷³⁷

Shibly denounced the positive portrayal of Israel during the 2014 war: "Those who write talking points 2 justify Israel's annihilation of >1,200 Palestinians & counting could make the devil appear to be a saint."⁷³⁸ He posted a cartoon showing an Israeli stamping on a Palestinian child lying in a pool of blood while an American stops another individual representing "the world"



from interfering. The cartoon was captioned: "U.S. enables Israel to slaughter children."⁷³⁹

In his Facebook notes from February 2009, Shibly equated Israelis with Nazis, juxtaposing images from the Holocaust with images of Israeli soldiers interacting with Palestinians.⁷⁴⁰ He also described Israel as an apartheid state and wrote in a July 2014 Twitter post: "The Israeli government does not value the lives of Palestinian children and on an institutional level treats Palestinians worse than animals."⁷⁴¹

ZAHRA BILLOO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAIR CALIFORNIA⁷⁴²

At a November 2021 American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) conference, Billoo called on American Muslims to shun what she described as "polite Zionists" even on issues on which they might work together:

"But I also want us to pay attention to the polite Zionists. The ones that say, let's just break bread together... We need to pay attention to the Anti-Defamation League... to the Jewish Federation... to the Zionist synagogues... to the Hillel chapters on our campuses, because just because they're your friend today doesn't mean that they have your back when it comes to human rights. So oppose the vehement fascists, but oppose the polite Zionists too."⁷⁴³

She repeated her blanket dismissal of pro-Israel Jews at an April 9, 2022 event that was advertised as focusing on "Islamophobia" in France and India. "If you are pro-Israel and you are working actively to harm our community here and abroad, we don't want to work with you," she said. "We have so many other friends and partners to work with, so many other things that we can do. If

you're with the Anti-Defamation League, if you're with the Jewish Community Relations Council, if you're with the Jewish Federation, if you're with any of these pro-Israel organizations, enough is enough...If you don't support human rights abroad, then we don't believe you when you're supporting them here. We're not here to partner with in that way."⁷⁴⁴



CAIR California Director Zahra Billoo Speaks at the 14th Annual Convention for Palestine hosted by Americal Mulsims for Palestine, Nov. 27, 2021 - AMP YouTube

During the May 2021 Gaza war, Billoo called the “apartheid state of Israel” as the “original and ongoing aggressor” in the conflict. “The apartheid state of Israel is the original and ongoing aggressor in this most recent onslaught of violence, and always. Palestinian deaths in the past few days now outnumber Israeli deaths, more than 10:1,” Billoo wrote in a May 15 tweet.⁷⁴⁵

On May 16, 2021, Billoo forwarded a 2016 Amnesty International report critical of U.S. police departments training with a “chronic human rights violator-Israel”⁷⁴⁶ and posted “Where Do Many Police Departments Train? In [Apartheid] Israel.”⁷⁴⁷

During American Muslims for Palestine’s annual “Conference for Palestine in the U.S.” over the Thanksgiving weekend in Chicago in 2018,⁷⁴⁸ Zahra Billoo stated:

“And what happens in apartheid Israel is that [the] Jewish National Fund helps people build

trees over the villages that they razed. Right? So they burn down the village, they bomb it, they murder the residents, and then they build new cities over it. And if they’re not building a new city, they put trees on it.”⁷⁴⁹

Billoo also criticized the “millions of dollars in military aid to apartheid Israel.” She gave examples of United States police training in Israel and the Flint, MI, water crisis to argue against sending money to Israel: “Every single issue and injustice that we see in the United States is in some way connected to what we see in apartheid Israel, if for no other reason than because we’re sending them our money rather than spending it here.”⁷⁵⁰ She added that “if we could stop sending so much money to apartheid Israel, we could spend it on safe water here.” and “if police officers here didn’t train abroad [in Israel], then they might kill fewer people here.”⁷⁵¹

During a session discussing Muslim political engagement at the 54th annual convention of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) in July 2017, Billoo, criticized training of American law enforcement officers by “apartheid Israeli Defense Forces.” “Apartheid Israeli Defense Forces train our police officers. We have to dehumanize people in Afghanistan, Somalia, and elsewhere, so we can keep bombing them,” she contended.⁷⁵²

In another session at the same conference, Billoo alleged that “some of the very problematic progressive elected officials we’ve worked with...have had Zionist influence really early on, like [sic] did the trip to apartheid Israel when they were on [the] city council, so that by the time they get to the State House, they are going to vote for the legislation against Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions.”⁷⁵³ Billoo said she does not “agree with elected officials or with

Muslims who want to go on Zionist-funded trips to apartheid Israel and say that that's going to build interfaith relationships."⁷⁵⁴ She added that she does not "agree with anyone that wants to cooperate with the FBI to surveil our community."⁷⁵⁵

In a July 12, 2018 Twitter post, Billoo condemned American basketball player Draymond Jamal Green's visit to Israel saying, "It doesn't add up that he [Draymond Green] won't visit the White House but will play ball with the terrorists in Israel on an all expenses paid trip?"⁷⁵⁶ She added: "@warriors @money23green visit to [Apartheid] Israel draws criticism: 'Horribly offensive.'"⁷⁵⁷

September 30, 2019: "Israel is an apartheid, racist, terrorist state and it commits war crimes as a hobby."⁷⁵⁸



July 9, 2018: "JUST IN CASE THE ZIONISTS DIDN'T HEAR ME: Israel is an apartheid, racist state, which engages in terrorism against Palestinians."⁷⁵⁹

May 30, 2018: "Both ISIS and the IDF are violent, immoral gangs. They're literally baby killers."⁷⁶⁰



May 14, 2018: "If you're wondering about police militarization, the ADL [Anti-Defamation League] actually facilitates learning trips for US

police to go study how apartheid Israel's police force profiles and otherwise represses Palestinian communities."⁷⁶¹

May 14, 2018: "Years of normalizing and fraternizing with Zionists, and today some Muslim MLI [Muslim Leadership Institute] alums and ADL friends want to act like they care one iota about Palestinian human rights."⁷⁶²

May 14, 2018: "What we need this morning is for Apartheid Israel to stop killing unarmed protesters."⁷⁶³

May 14, 2018: "This picture? This is the new ADL CEO [Jonathan Greenblatt, Anti-Defamation League CEO], who offered to register as a Muslim if there were ever a Muslim registry, partying."⁷⁶⁴

May 10, 2018: "Zionism is racism, and Israel is a settler colonial nation engaged in ongoing apartheid."⁷⁶⁵



November 29, 2018: "From the river to the sea, #Palestine will be free."⁷⁶⁶

August 13, 2013: "Apartheid Israel commits war crimes as a hobby. The US continues to fund them, like a bad gambling habit."⁷⁶⁷

March 5, 2012: "'Brick by brick, wall by wall, Israeli.Apartheid [sic] has to fall.' - #Occupy AIPAC."⁷⁶⁸



July 12, 2018: "Bay Area folks, know that this is happening on our watch. @warriors are our home-

town team and the @FIDF [Friends of the IDF] has a Bay Area chapter which recruits people to support and appreciate the terrorists who serve in the [Apartheid] Israeli army.”⁷⁶⁹

January 3, 2018: “Our tax dollars fund this. Apartheid Israel is the largest single recipient in the world of US “aid” money. God will ask about our complicity.”⁷⁷⁰

March 30, 2019: “American tax \$ pay for the Apartheid Israeli carnage in #Gaza.”⁷⁷¹

June 10, 2015: “worryes more about police, the FBI, and the [Apartheid] Israeli Defense Forces recruiting youth to engage in violence & impunity than ISIS.”⁷⁷²

September 15, 2014: “wonders who has recruited more Americans? The IDF or ISIS?”⁷⁷³

May 13, 2014: “Israel ‘defending’ itself from Palestinians is analogous to Nazi Germany defending itself from Jewish uprising.”⁷⁷⁴

DAWUD WALID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAIR MICHIGAN⁷⁷⁵

In a September 2019 Twitter post, Walid claimed that Israel discriminated against non-Jews, including in the Palestinian territories: “Israel is a Jewish state; America isn’t a White Christian state constitutionally though the ‘founding fathers’ viewed it that way in reality. Netanyahu is upfront that he believes that non-Jews don’t deserve equal rights and that the occupied territories belong to Jewish people.”⁷⁷⁶ The post was linked to a Haaretz article titled, “Netanyahu vows to apply ‘Jewish sovereignty’ over West Bank.”⁷⁷⁷

Walid has blamed Jews for police shootings in the United States that kill unarmed black people. At a 2016 conference hosted by the virulently anti-Israel group American Muslims for Palestine (AMP)⁷⁷⁸ outside Chicago, Walid said: “The same tear gas that is used in Al Quds [Jerusalem] to tear gas Palestinians is the same tear gas and the same tear gas company that tear gassed African-Amer-

icans in Ferguson. The exact same company. The same militarized police forces that shoot unarmed black people and do this crowd control like what happened in Ferguson – where do the police chiefs, these people, get trained at? In Israel. We, brothers and sisters in Islam, be we black...or lighter skinned...we have a common concern, we have a common struggle.”⁷⁷⁹

Also, in an August 2014 Twitter post he alleged: “Police in Ferguson got training in Israel. No wonder they act that way!”⁷⁸⁰



Walid has accused Israel of using chemical weapons in Gaza during the 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict. He wrote: “Israel is using chemical weapons in #Gaza; that’s what white phosphorus is. They’ve used this before in war crimes.”⁷⁸¹

In a July 2014 Twitter post, Walid criticized American aid to Israel while people in Detroit were facing a drinking water crisis: “We’re giving \$8 million a day to Israel to help the occupation while people in Detroit are getting their water turned off. #WhiteHouseIfar.”⁷⁸² In 2014, lead seepage into the drinking water in Flint, MI, caused a major public health crisis leading then-President Obama to declare a federal emergency in the state.⁷⁸³

In a May 25, 2014 twitter post, Walid published a photo of Pope Francis at the “Wailing Wall” or “Western Wall” in Jerusalem and captioned it: “Pope reflecting at Israeli Apartheid Wall in Palestine. Palestine Christians suffer just like Palestinian Muslims.”⁷⁸⁴

Walid has claimed that Israel is not a democracy: “Calling Israel a Middle Eastern Democracy is like saying Jim Crow South was democratic. Nonsense repeated in U.S. mainstream media.”⁷⁸⁵

In a March 4, 2013 twitter post, Walid blamed U.S. funding for “fueling segregation/apartheid” in Israel. He wrote: “Meanwhile, Americans don’t seem to mind that U.S. tax dollars are hard at work fueling segregation/apartheid. #IsraelJimCrow.”⁷⁸⁶

During a May 2012 sermon at the Islamic Organization of North America mosque in Warren, MI, Dawud Walid responded to his own question, “Who are those who incurred the wrath of Allah?” saying “*hum al-yahud, hum al-yahud* [They are the Jews, they are the Jews].”⁷⁸⁷ He added: “One of the greatest social ills facing America today is Islamophobia, and anti-Muslim bigotry. And if you trace the organizations and the main advocates and activists of Islamophobia in America, you will see that all those organizations are pro-Israeli occupation organizations and activists,” Walid said. “You will see every single last one. Do you know why? Because one of the leading Islamophobes by the name of Daniel Pipes, said the political empowerment of American Muslims is a direct threat to Israel.”⁷⁸⁸

IMRAAN SIDDIQI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAIR WASHINGTON ⁷⁸⁹

In February 2019, then-Executive Director of CAIR Arizona Imraan Siddiqi⁷⁹⁰ described Israel as “an unrepentant, corrupt, murderous apartheid nuclear state.”⁷⁹¹ Siddiqi is now executive director at CAIR Washington.⁷⁹²

A couple of months’ earlier, Jonathan Greenblatt, National Director and CEO of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) – an organization that fights antisemitism and hate⁷⁹³ – posted a tweet in response to an article from the *Jerusalem Post* titled, “ICC Prosecutor says Israel committing war crimes, opens investigation. Greenblatt wrote, “This announcement by the ICC [International Criminal Court] is outrageous both because it represents poor procedure and precedent regarding jurisdiction, and for its potential abuse by those who seem to delegitimize and demonize Israel.” Siddiqi commented on Greenblatt’s post saying,

“It’s racist to hold an apartheid nuclear nation-state accountable for war crimes!”⁷⁹⁴

Siddiqi commented “Apartheid is a helluva drug” to a February 2020 Israel Action Network Twitter post that read: “Think the BDS Movement will call for a boycott of this #coronavirus vaccine? #Israel.”⁷⁹⁵ The tweet linked to a *Jerusalem Post* article, “Israeli Scientists: In a few weeks, we will have coronavirus vaccine.”⁷⁹⁶

After ADL posted a tweet expressing concern that the Women’s March had picked CAIR-California Executive Director Zahra Billoo to serve on its board of directors,⁷⁹⁷ Siddiqi wrote: “When your brand has become more about dogpiling on Muslim women and shilling for apartheid and less about civil rights. Israel is a corrupt, violent nation-state and should always be subject to criticism like any other corrupt, violent nation-state.”⁷⁹⁸

After Rep. Hakeem Jefferies (D-NY) posted a message on Twitter regarding his recent trip to the “HOLY LAND” and the “special relationship” the U.S. shares with Israel, Siddiqi responded saying, “Great to know an entire new generation of so-called progressives have bought into the dehumanization and erasure of Palestinian lives and are dedicated to upholding generations of apartheid.”⁷⁹⁹

In February 2020, Siddiqi posted the comment “This is called ‘transfer’ and is Nazi sh*t” in response to a Haaretz article that quoted sources saying that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu suggested moving Israeli Arabs to a future Palestinian state to the Trump administration as part of a Mideast peace plan.⁸⁰⁰ Later that month Siddiqi claimed the pro-Israel lobby “AIPAC’s cool with Nazis and Nazi-adjacents - just as long as they don’t support Palestinian rights.”⁸⁰¹

In response to a May 12, 2016 tweet by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau congratulating Israel on the 68th year of its founding, Siddiqi wrote, “Happy Apartheid Anniversary.”⁸⁰² He also responded with a post that simply said “freedom” to a message from Rep. Trent Franks (R-Ariz.) congratulating the Jewish state on its

68th independence day. In subsequent posts he clarified: “-Freedom to commit ethnic cleansing -Freedom to conduct apartheid -Freedom to bomb Gaza indiscriminately -Freedom to break international law -Freedom to make life hell for Palestinians -Freedom to discriminate against migrants -Freedom to promote settler violence -Freedom to shoot fisherman -Freedom to bomb hospitals -Freedom to bomb schools -Freedom to arrest children -Freedom to displace indigenous people since 1948 -Freedom to shoot first, ask questions second. -Freedom to foment Islamophobia and fascism.”⁸⁰³

After U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced in November 2019 that the establishment of Israeli civilian settlements in the West Bank was not illegal,⁸⁰⁴ Siddiqi explained the U.S. decision saying, “[b]ecause land theft from indigenous people is a shared value [between the U.S. and Israel].”⁸⁰⁵

Secretary Pompeo explained the policy change saying that U.S. policy on the legality of settlements had “been inconsistent over decades.” While the Carter administration regarded the civilian settlements as conflicting with international law, the Reagan administration overturned that position in 1981. He said that Obama administration support for U.N. Security Council Resolution 2334 in December 2016 that claimed settlements constituted a “flagrant violation” of international law and had “no legal validity,” and had prompted the Trump administration to institute a review of U.S. policy by international law experts and officials who had served in previous administrations resulting in the current policy position.⁸⁰⁶

In January 2017, the *Jerusalem Post* reported on a poll conducted by stopantisemitism.org that voted Rep. Ilhan Omar “2019’s biggest anti-Semite [sic].” Siddiqi responded to a tweet on the news story saying, “This entire thing is an Islamophobia Industry op. Make no mistake about it.”⁸⁰⁷

In March 2019, U.S. Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA) posted a tweet condemning Ilhan Omar for her antisemitic comments accusing Jews of having allegiance to a foreign government.⁸⁰⁸

“It is disturbing that Rep. Omar continues to perpetuate hurtful anti-Semitic stereotypes that misrepresent our Jewish community,” Vargas wrote, reaffirming that “questioning support for the U.S.-Israel relationship is unacceptable.”⁸⁰⁹ In response to Vargas’ tweet, CAIR Washington Executive Director Imraan Siddiqi, who was then head of CAIR Arizona, sarcastically posted, “How *dare* you throw around the term dual-loyalty?” [sic] “Also - Don’t ask any questions of Israel, pls.”⁸¹⁰



AHMED REHAB, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAIR CHICAGO⁸¹¹

During the May 2021 Gaza war,⁸¹² CAIR Chicago’s Executive Director Ahmed Rehab excoriated U.S. politicians’ support for Israel and accused them of being influenced by AIPAC. In a May 15, 2021 Facebook post he wrote: “You Stand with Israel? OK. You go ahead and stand with a nuclear hyper militarized colonial-settler superpower that has murdered 45 children confined to the world’s most dense and poorest enclave, in the last few hours of the conflict alone. Have the courage to say it, at least and spare us the bombastic monkey dance scripted for you by AIPAC.”⁸¹³

In a “translation” of a May 12, 2021 tweet by former Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey that said “Arizona stands with Israel,”⁸¹⁴ Rehab wrote: “Governor Doug Ducey stands with powerful AIPAC lobbyists in fear of losing reelection financing.”⁸¹⁵ Rehab posted the tweet and his “translation” in a May 15, 2021 Facebook post and wrote: “But of course, it is all about the Benjamins. And the Jacksons and the Hamiltons. It usually is with all US lobby-centric politics. If the naked truth offends you, I’m happy to chip in for your therapy.”⁸¹⁶

In an August 2020 Facebook post, Rehab launched a scathing attack on CNN anchor Jake Tapper calling him a “weasel” and urging him to “register as a foreign agent/lobbyist” after Tapper retweeted a clarification from Biden campaign spokesman Andrew Bates that Sarsour⁸¹⁷ had no role in then-Democratic candidate Joe Biden’s presidential campaign.⁸¹⁸ Speculation on Sarsour’s role in the campaign emerged after she spoke at the Democratic National Convention’s “Muslim Delegates and Allies Assembly.”⁸¹⁹

“...She [Linda Sarsour] has no role in the Biden campaign whatsoever,” Tapper wrote. “A Dem official [Andrew Bates] says this was a meeting of Muslim delegates to the convention room and not run by the DNC or the Biden campaign.”⁸²⁰ He added in a subsequent tweet, “3/ Bates points to this in DNC platform: ‘We oppose any effort to unfairly single out and delegitimize Israel, including at the United Nations or through the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement, while protecting the Constitutional right of our citizens to free speech.’”⁸²¹

In response to Tapper’s tweet, Rehab wrote:

“Biden’s camp is playing that old grotesque tune, and they had better fix it and quick. Israel is not an American citizen last I checked, nor a voting constituent. It is a God damn foreign entity. Any American can like it or despise it as they please, with no reasons or apologies given. It’s a free country.

Muslims plugged into the Biden camp (Muslims For Biden, etc), come get your boy on this one. It’s a bad look. As for that weasel

Jake Tapper, he had better register as a foreign agent/lobbyist.

Not to worry: None of this will ameliorate us to the Trump/GOP camp any, but it does not mean we are stuck having to take it from the establishment left, lying down. And we will stand by Linda Sarsour, one of the most consistent justice voices (for all) out there.”⁸²²

In December 2019, Rehab posted an ugly rant on Facebook cursing and vilifying Zionists and France. “F*** Zionism. And F*** you too France,” Rehab wrote.⁸²³



Rehab, who also runs CAIR's Chicago office,⁸²⁴ was reacting to a French Parliament decision to adopt IHRA's antisemitism definition.⁸²⁵ "Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination," the crux of Zionism, is among the main examples of antisemitism cited.⁸²⁶

According to Rehab, the resolution showed that France wants "to criminalize peaceful free speech that dares to criticize murderous, plunderous, thieving apartheid that mauls with impunity under the auspices of wealthy hyper-militarized super powers. F***** you. (Apologies for my French)."⁸²⁷

Discussing the Israel Anti-Boycott Act (HR 1697/S. 720)⁸²⁸ in a January 2019 interview with the Turkish state international news channel TRT World, Rehab claimed:

"Well, I think that for many members of the Senate and House, AIPAC is a force of nature, the most powerful lobby in the United States of America that is able to essentially dictate the policy on how the United States approaches the issue of Israel... And this bill is extremely problematic because... on one hand it has this blind support for the actions of a foreign government that engages in apartheid, that engages in abuses of, human rights abuses. On the other hand, it basically does away with our own constitutional rights, our own freedom of speech here in America, against American citizens. Basically, regardless of how you feel about BDS, whether you support it or not, one should understand that the right to engage in BDS is a constitutionally protected right that Americans have the freedom of expression including political expression. And so when you have bills that dictate that states who legislate laws to punish citizens for practicing that right should be protected against lawsuits then you're siding with the wrong side. You should be siding with the American people and their protected freedoms, constitutional-ly-protected freedoms."⁸²⁹

In response to a question on how "measures taken by states to prevent boycotting Israel" impact "the right to protest and the freedom of speech," Rehab noted:

"It chills freedom of speech and right to protest which is a fundamentally American right. This is not about how you feel about Israel or Denmark or Bangladesh, this is about our American constitution and the values that it enshrines, including the freedom citizens have in this country to express themselves politically or otherwise. So when you have government beginning to legislate in order to punish or boycott private citizens and institutions to practice this fundamental American right, you have a real undermining of the American constitution. So, you know, it's really shameful and shocking that senators of the United States of America would be engaging and pummeling down this kind of bill that basically chose the rights of Americans and for the benefit of what, an apartheid regime that is engaging occupation. It used to be that the message was, look we're only against violent resistance, the Israeli human rights abuses, but now you have a movement that is essentially entirely peaceful and it's still being treated as a criminal movement and there's still an attempt to criminalize that peaceful, free movement to push back against apartheid and human rights abuses."⁸³⁰

November 14, 2017: After ADL's Jonathan Greenblatt criticized Sarsour⁸³¹ and Jewish Voice for Peace⁸³² for leading an antisemitism panel at The New School, a progressive university in New York,⁸³³ Rehab responded, "You have got to be kidding. Why don't you honestly say that your issue with @lsarsour and @jvplive is their calling out of Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territories and its human rights abuses. You call that fomenting antisemitism. Smh [Shaking my head]."⁸³⁴

Rehab linked the tweet to his 2010 *Huffington Post* article, "Shilling for the Israeli Occupation: The ADL's New Mission Statement," where he blasted the ADL for its report on the "top ten most influential anti-Israel groups in America."⁸³⁵

"An organization that describes itself as 'the nation's premier civil rights/human relations agency that fights anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, defends democratic ideals and protects civil rights for all' is spending its resources decrying American organizations that are not

blindly supportive of a foreign government it likes to align itself with,” Rehab wrote in the article.⁸³⁶

In an August 4, 2014 tweet, Rehab wrote: “#BringBackOurHumanity Stop ‘standing with’ oppression, apartheid, occupation & civilian massacres. #FreeGaza #FreePalestine.”⁸³⁷

In October 2012, Rehab tweeted about the political influence of “The lobby”: “Does any American agree -or even understand- the blatant Israel-pandering candidates do @every election. Pst The lobby.#Debates #MuslimVote.”⁸³⁸

Rehab’s college web page defends Holocaust denial, and asserts that Jews control the media. As a DePaul University graduate student in the mid-1990s, Rehab published a web page. It featured personal information such as his interests in music and film, his favorite athletes and entertainers and even his pet peeve: “Having to repeat what I just said.”⁸³⁹ It also served as an outlet for his essays. In one, entitled “Double Standardism: The Case of the Two Books,” Rehab challenges Holocaust history, calling it “the established opinions of the able Jewish historians regarding the details of the holocaust.”⁸⁴⁰ It was written just after a May 1996 Charlie Rose show that featured a debate about St. Martin’s Press’ withdrawal from a contract to publish a biography of Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels.⁸⁴¹ Rehab contrasted western reaction to David Irving’s book, Goebbels:

Mastermind of the Third Reich, to that of Salman Rushdie’s novel “The Satanic Verses.”⁸⁴²

In doing so, Rehab rewrote history to cut the number of Jews murdered by the Nazis in half.

“Rushdie targeted a world-wide religion, 1300 years of history, and one billion people,” Rehab wrote. “Irving targeted a historical event, 2 years of history and three million people.”⁸⁴³

Rehab distanced his views from the fatwa calling for Rushdie’s death, but said the book never should have been published. But he defended Irving’s book as merely presenting an alternative – and perhaps more sober – viewpoint.

“If the Jewish historians have the right to research the history of the Holocaust and dictate it for schools and Universities, why can’t other historians do the same even if their findings are different? aren’t [sic] they less likely to be biased and non-objectively sympathetic?”⁸⁴⁴

Rose stayed mostly out of the fray as guests Christopher Hitchens and Eric Breindel debated St. Martin’s decision. But at the end, he asked Hitchens whether he was persuaded by Irving’s conclusions about the Holocaust. Hitchens said he wasn’t.⁸⁴⁵

“By that,” Rehab wrote, “Rose confirmed the Jewish control over the media.”⁸⁴⁶

ENDNOTES

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The Investigative Project on Terrorism



CAIR'S ANTISEMITISM UNMASKED

Two years in the making, this new book is the product of extensive meticulous research into the most dangerous Islamist political group in the U.S. today—CAIR. It is dangerous because it was created as a front group for Hamas in 1993—in a secret meeting of Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas leaders, including CAIR's current leader Nihad Awad, held in a downtown Marriott Hotel in Philadelphia in 1993, a meeting the FBI wiretapped.

CAIR's outspoken antisemitism is matched only by its fierce defense of terrorist groups such as Hamas and its championing of scores of convicted Islamic terrorists in prison in the U.S. Read the incendiary antisemitic exhortations by CAIR officials at their events that if uttered by right-wing white supremacists, would be reported on the front pages of the New York Times, as incitement to violence.

Words have consequences, as the world ultimately realized in the Nazi's obsession with eradicating the Jews. This book is a flashing red light.

Steven Emerson, Executive Director, The Investigative Project on Terrorism

"Faithful to its origins in the Muslim Brotherhood, the Council on American-Islamic Relations since 1994 has constantly purveyed uninhibited bigotry against Jews and Israel. Fortunately, the Investigative Project on Terrorism has tracked and exposed CAIR's long and ugly record. No one can again claim ignorance."

Daniel Pipes, President Middle East Forum

"CAIR's Antisemitism, the new book by Steven Emerson and the Investigative Project on Terrorism is must reading. If you read only one book on the insidious threat of antisemitism of radical Islamist front groups, this is that book. CAIR's Antisemitism is a meticulously researched book that tells the truth about the threat in the United States of ascendant Islamist supremacists and the propaganda machine of front groups like CAIR masquerading as civil rights organizations. CAIR's Antisemitism is required reading for anyone who is concerned about the dangerous rise in antisemitism. Every American needs to read Steven Emerson's closing argument on the façade that is CAIR and the hate-filled antisemitism they spew."

*M. Zuhdi Jasser, MD, President and Founder, American Islamic Forum for Democracy
Co-Founder, Muslim Reform Movement
Author, A Battle for the Soul of Islam: An American Patriot's Fight to Save His Faith*



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GLOBAL ANTI-SEMITISM 2021 TOP TEN



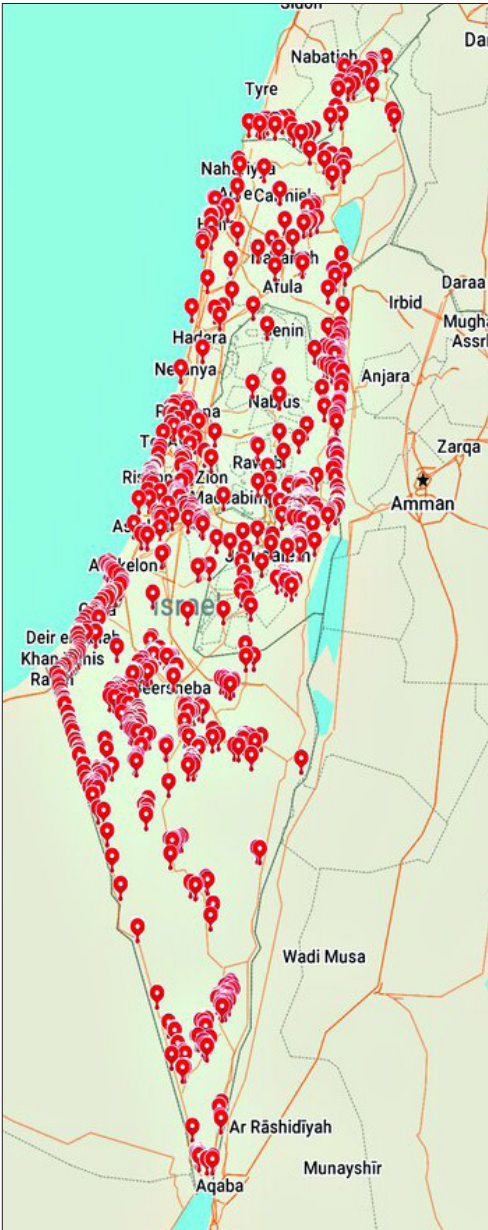
“Fk the Jews and
rape their daughters”**

1

IRAN

“We will not back off from the annihilation of Israel, even one millimeter. We want to destroy Zionism in the world.”

- Iranian Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi



There is no greater existential threat to the Jewish people than the growing nuclear threat from the anti-Semitic, Holocaust-denying, terrorist-sponsoring, human rights-abusing Iranian regime.

In November, a bill was presented to the Iranian parliament obliging the country to “destroy” Israel by 2041. The legislation followed an ultimatum issued by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, declaring that there must be “nothing left” of Israel by 2040 - an ultimatum that has since been repeated by anti-Israel protesters at Quds Day rallies.

Leaving nothing to the imagination about its genocidal hate for the Jewish State, the regime has made clear its intentions. During nuclear negotiations in Vienna between Iran and the US over the future of Tehran’s nuclear program and its demands that all sanctions be removed, the regime ran a front-page story in The Tehran Times, including a photo of a map showing scores of potential targets for missile strikes throughout the State of Israel with a headline warning: Just One Wrong Move! This was followed by a threat posted on Iran’s Twitter account (top, right) showing the elimination of the Jewish State in 2022.

These threats and Iran’s continuous cheating in building its nuclear capabilities - despite earlier international agreements - have spurred unprecedented cooperation between Israel and the Gulf States to deter Iranian threats.

2 HAMAS

“Fk the Jews and rape their daughters”** - Pro-Hamas chants in London’s Jewish neighborhood

The May 2021 conflict between Israel and terrorist Hamas, also played out across cities and on social media in Europe and North America. Hamas’ violent vitriol targeting Jews was exported to Germany, the UK, and across the Atlantic in the US and Canada.

While Hamas rockets pummeled Israeli civilian communities, a rabbi was physically attacked outside his synagogue in London. On the same day, a caravan of cars flying Palestinian flags roamed through the city’s largely Jewish Golder’s Green neighborhood, chanting, “F**k the Jews and rape their daughters” broadcast over a loudspeaker.

Across the US, synagogues and Jews were targeted. In Los Angeles, pro-Hamas thugs jumped out of a caravan of SUVs at a restaurant in the heart of the city, demanding to know who was Jewish, spouting anti-Semitic rants, and violently attacking Jewish customers. A day earlier, during the Shavuot festival, a Hasidic father of six had to run for his life to escape anti-Semites pursuing him in vehicles adorned with Palestinian flags.

In New York, violence emerged from a pro-Palestinian demonstration. A young man was badly beaten by pro-Palestinian attackers in broad daylight, sending him to the hospital with a concussion.

In Canada, Jews attending pro-Israel rallies in the country’s major cities were cursed, spat upon, and beaten by Pro-Palestinian protesters.

Most nations did not acknowledge the wave of anti-Jewish attacks and at the UN it was anti-Israel business as usual. At a special hearing at the General Assembly, the president of the UN Human Rights Council presented his annual report which was obsessed with one nation—not egregious human rights violators, like China or Iran—but Israel. Israel’s UN ambassador, Gilad Erdan, rose to the podium and declared that the “Antisemitic and one-sided report” belonged “in the dustbin of history.” He then ripped apart a copy of the report and left the hall.



3

BBC AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

As Anti-Semitism Soars in the UK, BBC Slanders Jews

**“Hitler was right...
Zionists can’t get enough of our blood.”**

- BBC reporter Tala Halawa



It takes a lot to bring 250 protesters to BBC headquarters in London, but British Jewry has had enough. On Chanukah, a group of Muslims attacked a bus filled with Jews in the center of London. BBC falsely reported that anti-Muslim slurs could be heard from within the bus, deftly turning the victim into the victimizer. Subsequently, BBC has been accused of breaking the law in its reporting of the incident and is being sued, the claimants stating that the passengers on the bus are being discriminated against in the BBC’s reporting of the incident.



Senior BBC producer Alaa Daraghme shared a video on Twitter he captioned, “An Israeli settler ramming a Palestinian man near the Lions Gate.” In fact, the car drove onto the sidewalk after an attempt by Palestinians to lynch the Jewish driver, who then lost control of the vehicle.

BBC reporter Tala Halawa tweeted, “Hitler was right.” Halawa said that Israel should be moved to the US, that “Jerusalem is Palestinian” and “Zionists can’t get enough of our blood.”

The Jewish Chronicle reports that the BBC interview with Youtuber Mohammed Hijab who has half a million+ followers, and who has stood beside Palestinian flags declaring that he “loves death” was asked by journalist Tom Brada how to “promote a sense of harmony, specifically with the Jewish community.” **Hijab replied that the answer lay in “bringing people together” though he emphasized that “if someone who is an apologist for Israel or Zionism, that should be delineated from Jewishness.” The BBC journalist said he “completely agrees” with Hijab’s statement.**

BBC Arabic-language broadcasts often refer to all Israelis as “settlers” – even those not living in disputed territories.

The UK Jewish community is reeling from attacks. Britain’s Jewish Community Trust (CST) says that the Israeli-Hamas war in May led to 639 anti-Jewish hate incidents, the highest monthly incidents ever recorded. **There were 1,308 anti-Semitic incidents nationwide between January and June 2021, a 49% increase over 2020.**

4 COVID'S LATEST DEVIANT STRAINS



"The Jews, as they dominate the fiscal world, bought and have the vaccines they wanted. I won't say anything else before the Zionist 'bulldogs' jump."

– Rodrigo Sousa e Castro, lawmaker from Lisbon.

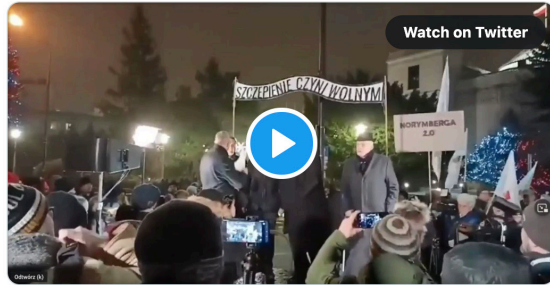
2021 saw the continuing misappropriation of the imagery of the Nazi Holocaust from Korean pop groups to politicians on all sides of the political spectrum seeking to smear their political opponents with the legacy of Adolph Hitler and the Third Reich.



Daniel Tilles @danieltilles1

Five MPs from Poland's far-right Konfederacja party stand under a sign - modelled on the one at Auschwitz and other Nazi camps - that says "vaccines make you free".

They were attending a protest outside parliament against "forced vaccination"



Most disturbing of all however is the wholesale use of Nazi images and icons by elements of the anti-vaxxer movement.

COVID vaccine conspiracy theories have popped up everywhere, from Neo-Nazi websites to COVID skeptic groups. Inspired by the virulent, debunked anti-Semitic "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" the conspiracies involve a Jewish plot to take over the world. In its latest versions, a cabal including the Rothschilds and George Soros masterminded COVID vaccines to establish a "new world order." The vaccine, they allege, is a nefarious Jewish bioweapon designed to sterilize the white race.

In May, a coronavirus conspiracy group on Telegram asked its followers, "Is Israel tricking the whole world to add restrictions against non-vaccinated people?" Replies came in swiftly; "It's always those damn Jews," said a user. That response was followed by caricatures of Jews as hooked-nose insects, and an illustration of a woman with an arm outstretched in a Hitler salute.

Anti-vaxxers from Germany and the Czech Republic, from Washington, DC to Vancouver, Canada have donned the yellow Star of David (which European Jews were forced to wear during WWII by the Nazis) to protest alleged persecution by government vaccine mandates.

In New York City, anti-vax demonstrators displayed Nazi imagery during a protest outside a Jewish politician's office. Jeffrey Dinowitz, a member of the New York State Assembly, called the demonstrators' behavior "despicable." Two photos of protestors showed images of a woman holding a sign with a swastika and claims that vaccines were linked to "crimes against humanity." A third shows a man holding a small American flag wearing a Nazi-era yellow star on his chest.

In the UK, a report issued by the government's independent advisor on anti-Semitism reports more than two dozen anti-vaccine networks on Facebook and Twitter, 79% of them had "anti-Semitic content."

In Argentina, one anti-vaxxer Telegram channel with thousands of subscribers, hosted a cartoon of a caricatured Jewish man, milking the udders of a coronavirus into a bucket with a money sign.

5 JEWISH VOICES FOR PEACE (JVP)

Finally, a “Jewish” group Hamas can love.

“If every single Jewish person was a Zionist that would not change the fact that Zionism is an existential threat to the Palestinian people and therefore **needs to be eradicated**. It is literally not more complicated than that.” – JVP retweet by Rawan @fromtherivertothesea



Here is how JVP turned the legacy of Chanukah on its head: “Come celebrate Hanukkah this year building a radical, loving, anti-Zionist Jewish movement for liberation.

Furthering their mission this Hanukkah, JVP launched an 8-day campaign: “Come celebrate Hanukkah this year building a **radical, loving, anti-Zionist Jewish movement for liberation**. Hanukkah means rededication. *This Hanukkah Against Apartheid*, we rededicate our resolve to be bold and win against all that is life-taking and land-grabbing. It is said, the Temple was cleaned, sanctified, and rededicated after the Maccabees won the fight. Here, in diaspora, we can recognize the ‘Temple’ as what we are building together: **Judaism beyond Zionism**. The Temple is where we practice our treasured values of justice, freedom, and equality; it is this practice that sanctifies the Temple.”

JVP is a group that believes it is immune from being labeled and treated as anti-Semites. They are wrong. Anyone seeking or enabling the destruction of Israel, home to the world’s largest Jewish community — over 6 million Jews — is an anti-Semite, whatever their religion or creed.



6

SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS**Platforms mass marketing bigotry and extremism 24/7**

No idea, movement, or product can sustain itself and flourish without access to social media. Unfortunately, in 2021 major companies have done precious little to degrade the marketing capabilities of anti-Semites and racists. In addition, *Twitter* has a decidedly political bent as to who is blocked, (a sitting President of the US) and who is allowed, (Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini) who seeks a 'Final Solution' against Israel.



Against this backdrop, Twitter has appointed Fadah Jassem as the new Middle East and North African news curator. In 2010 and 2011, Jassem posted Tweets praising anti-Semite Louis Farrakhan and declared that Israel was "not born" but "dropped like a bomb" in the Middle East. Jassem announced her new role as editorial curation lead for the MENA region in a tweet that included flags of 17 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, including a Palestinian flag but omitted Israel.

TELEGRAM:

Telegram continues to be the social media platform of choice for extremists and supporters of terrorists, many of whom promote hate and violence against Jews, Blacks, and law enforcement (above top images). [link to SWC telegram report](#)

TIKTOK:

While growing at a much faster pace than *Facebook*, *Instagram*, and *YouTube*, *TikTok* is confronted by the same challenges of exploitation of their platform by nefarious actors. These users promote hateful and harmful content undeterred by whatever parameters might be in place to curb bigotry, anti-Semitism, and racism. [link to SWC tiktok report](#)

FACEBOOK:

Shockingly, a company which has always claimed to take the lead on combatting online hate, *Facebook* directly profited from ads comparing the COVID vaccine to the Nazi Holocaust. Mass marketing by extremists continues. Live streaming policies remain unchanged despite their use by murderers and terrorists.



7

GERMANY

A German anti-Semitism Commissioner who "likes" social media comparisons of Israel to Nazis



"Every day there are three anti-Semitic attacks in Berlin."

- Sigmunt Königsberg, Jewish community's commissioner for fighting anti-Semitism

THE POST-MERKEL ERA BEGINS

A new government has been installed in Germany marking the end of the Angela Merkel era. Despite her many achievements as Chancellor, Germany has failed to curb anti-Semitic attacks from the far-Right, Islamists, and the demonization of Israel from the Left. Her administration's rarely denounced the Ayatollah regime's Holocaust denial and the regime's frequent calls to destroy the Jewish state.

STAGGERING STATS

In June, the German government confirmed a staggering number of anti-Semitic hate crimes in 2020 - 2,275 with at least 55 involving violence. More than 1,000 anti-Semitic incidents were recorded in Berlin during 2020, a rise of nearly 20% over the previous year. Samuel Salzborn, Antisemitism Commissioner for the State of Berlin admitted, **"One thing is clear: Berlin has an anti-Semitism problem."**

ANTISEMITISM COMMISSIONERS FIGHTING OR ENABLING JEW-HATRED?

However, another German Antisemitism Commissioner has apparently forgotten that his job is to combat anti-Semitism not "like" it. Michael Blume, Commissioner Against Anti-Semitism for Baden-Württemberg has continued, since 2019, social media activity where he "liked" a *Facebook* posting comparing Zionists to Nazis. He has since continued to "like" and retweet anti-Jewish, anti-Israel, and conspiratorial *Twitter* accounts.

Inexplicably, the German state of Baden-Württemberg's Green party governor, Winfried Kretschmann, and Christian Democratic Union Interior Minister Thomas Strobl have permitted Blume - the commissioner tasked with *fighting* anti-Semitism - to continue to engage in these anti-Semitic and anti-Israel activities on social media.

In stark contrast, Blume's counterpart in Hamburg, Stefan Hensel, has urged his city's government to close the Iranian regime-controlled Islamic Center in Hamburg because it stokes anti-Semitism. Blume has failed to call on the Baden-Württemberg metropolis of Freiburg to end its twin-city partnership with the Iranian regime's Isfahan, a city whose administration sponsors calls for the destruction of the Jewish state each year, at its annual al-Quds Day demonstration.

While Felix Klein, the Federal Commissioner for Jewish Life and the fight against anti-Semitism, has urged banks not to provide accounts to BDS groups, Blume has failed to urge the partly state-owned Landesbank Baden-Württemberg (LBBW) to close the account of Baden-Württemberg's and Germany's most powerful anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) organization, the Palestine Committee Stuttgart.

ANTI-SEMITES AT GERMAN PUBLIC BROADCASTING



Meanwhile, the stench of anti-Semitism reached German Public Broadcaster *Deutsche Welle*. *The Süddeutsche Zeitung* exposed a scandal involving anti-Jewish and Holocaust-trivializing comments by members of its Arabic service. One post referred to the Holocaust as an "artificial product" and added that Jews would continue to control "people's brains through art, media, and music." Another declared that "Everyone involved with the Israelis is a collaborator and every recruit in the ranks of their army is a traitor and must be executed." *Deutsche Welle* was forced to suspend four of its Arabic service employees and one freelancer pending an investigation led by former German Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger.

8

COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS (CAIR) & SUNRISE MOVEMENT

Unleashing pollution of anti-Semitism into America's mainstream



Council on American-Islamic Relations

CAIR



“There is a concerted effort to ideologically cleanse progressive politics of anyone or anything that dares to believe in Israel’s right to exist. The fearmongering about Zionist organizations has an undeniable current of anti-Semitism.”

- Congressman Ritchie Torres (D-NY)

The DC-based environmental group, **Sunrise**, made clear that its advocacy for protecting rights did not extend to Jews who dare identify as Zionists. They pulled out of a rally “due to participation of a number of Zionist organizations,” adding it, “[**Sunrise**] **opposes Zionism and any state that enforces its ideology. Israel is a colonial project that routinely displaces Palestinians.**”

Meanwhile, anti-Semite Zahra Billoo continues demonizing American Jews. The Executive Director of CAIR’s San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA) affiliate, accused “Zionist organizations” of being “enemies” and warned of “Zionist synagogues.”

Speaking at the American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), Billoo declared there was a “connection between Islamophobia and Zionism. ... The organizations that promote Zionist agendas, materials, marketing, and legislation are the same ones that want to ban Muslims, are the same ones that want to ban anti-Sharia legislation.”

Billoo was previously ousted from the Women’s March, Inc. board in September 2019 after her tweets equated Israel to the Nazis and ISIS, labeled Zionists “racists” and declared the slogan, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” (i.e., eliminating the State of Israel) came to light.

Billoo is but one of venomous professional Israel and Jew-haters who use non-existent dots to create phony links between Israel and US social crises. They always wrap their bigotry in the mantle of social justice. The goal is demonizing the Jewish state and silencing Israel’s supporters on campus and Capitol Hill.

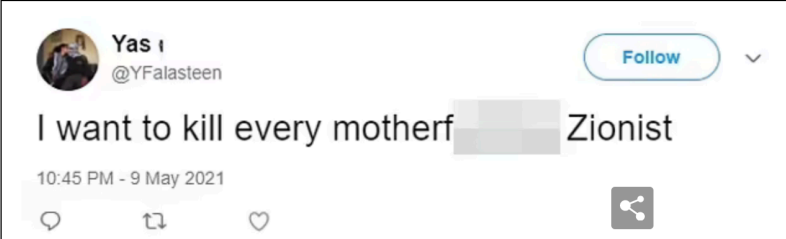
But not all progressives have embraced the demonization of Zionism and Zionists. US Representative Ritchie Torres (D-NY), a leading progressive voice in Congress, publicly rejected such bigots: “There is a concerted effort to ideologically cleanse progressive politics of anyone or anything that dares to believe in Israel’s right to exist. The fearmongering about Zionist organizations has an undeniable current of anti-Semitism,” Torres noted.

9

USC PRESIDENT GETS AN "F" FOR FAILING TO HOLD VILE JEW-HATER ACCOUNTABLE

"I want to kill every motherf---ing Zionist... curse the Jews."

- Yasmeen Mashayekh



StopAntisemitism.org @StopAntisemites · Nov 28
 .@USCViterbi student Yasmeen Mashayekh wants to murder Zionists.

The school has removed her from their website as a student senator YET have not expelled her.

DM us for Board emails to contact - threats of violence must be investigated by police!

More: bit.ly/3o0lfUx

ANTISEMITE OF THE WEEK

Yasmeen Mashayekh

2021 has been a disastrous year for Jews on campuses across North America, from the University of Toronto to George Washington University, to Duke University and Universities of Chicago and University of Illinois. But topping the list is the University of Southern California’s (USC) administration which has consistently failed to act effectively against overt Jew-hatred. Yasmeen Mashayekh, an engineering student at USC’s Viterbi school makes no secret that she hates Jews and the Jewish State. Her vicious hate anti-Semitism is troubling enough, but the fact that Mashayekh also serves as one of the school’s diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) senators whose task is to promote “greater inclusivity” and to “advocate against racism and discrimination,” makes a mockery of these goals and has marred the reputation of USC.

Not even the fact that over 60 faculty members at USC recently signed an open letter <https://usc-faaz-2021.org/> urging officials to rebuke Mashayekh has moved USC to take real action to remove her.

At a time when special efforts are being made to protect and encourage minorities, USC President Carol Falt gets an “F” for allowing this travesty to continue.

10 UNILEVER

It's not about ice cream, it's about enabling an immoral, illegal boycott



“It was never just about ice cream sold in East Jerusalem. It is about Ben & Jerry’s ice cream company’s profits being leveraged by an activist, anti-Semite who hates Israel and defends Hamas – and the corporate executives at Unilever letting it stand.”

- Rabbi Abraham Cooper, SWC Associate Dean and Global Social Action Director

Earlier this year, Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream announced a boycott of East Jerusalem and the West Bank, giving anti-Israel BDS campaigns new legitimacy.

From the outset, the SWC labeled the boycott a purely political act. It was pushed forward by its activist board Chairwoman, Anuradha Mittal, who has a track record of endorsing the BDS movement and defending Hezbollah and Hamas terrorist groups. Like other anti-Israel boycotts, Arab, as well as Jewish employees living in the Holy Land, will be the ones to suffer the consequences.

But Ben & Jerry’s doesn’t care. Their decision to plow profits from its products in order to brand Jews as occupiers in their own land flies in the face of the historic Abraham Accords which has seen Israel and Arab nations embrace peace, mutual respect, and expanding economic relations. Beyond its anti-peace action, Ben & Jerry’s boycott represents a danger to Jews everywhere at a time of surging anti-Semitism.

Ben & Jerry's is Boycotting Israel.

Tell Your Local Grocery Store to

STOP SELLING

Anti-Semitic Ice Cream!

SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER
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Paid for by supporters of the Simon Wiesenthal Center

The SWC ran full-page ads in Jewish publications across the US and is vigorously pursuing its campaign to get Unilever to cancel the boycott or suffer the consequences.

On December 22, 2021, the SWC made its case directly to the Illinois Investment Policy Board to divest from Unilever based on state law and ethics. The Board voted unanimously to put Unilever on the divestment list. Illinois joins New York, New Jersey, Arizona, and other states, with divestments already reaching hundreds of millions of dollars.

5 of 5 documents

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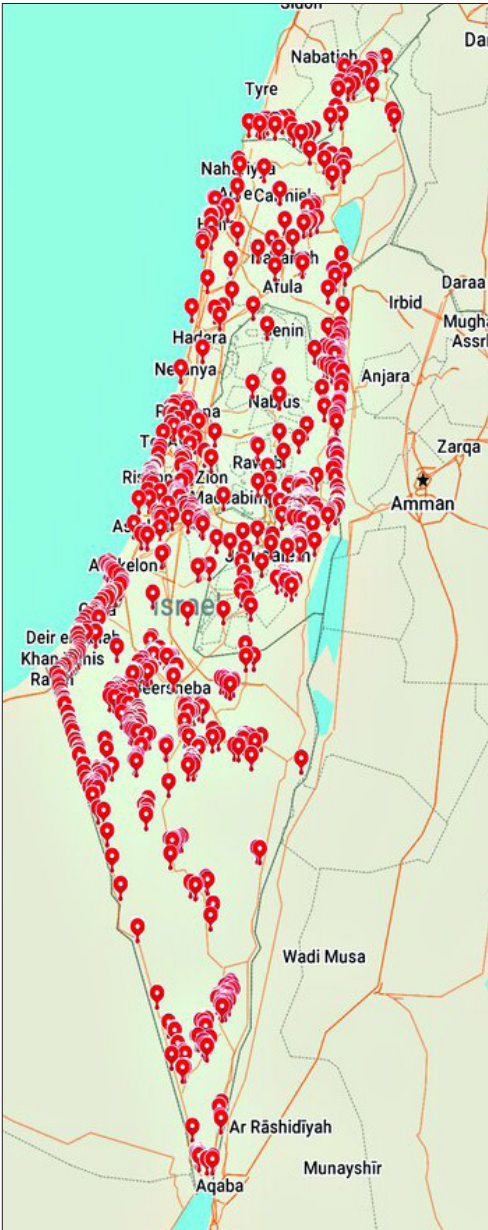
“F**k the Jews and
rape their daughters”

1

IRAN

“We will not back off from the annihilation of Israel, even one millimeter. We want to destroy Zionism in the world.”

- Iranian Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi



There is no greater existential threat to the Jewish people than the growing nuclear threat from the anti-Semitic, Holocaust-denying, terrorist-sponsoring, human rights-abusing Iranian regime.

In November, a bill was presented to the Iranian parliament obliging the country to “destroy” Israel by 2041. The legislation followed an ultimatum issued by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, declaring that there must be “nothing left” of Israel by 2040 - an ultimatum that has since been repeated by anti-Israel protesters at Quds Day rallies.

Leaving nothing to the imagination about its genocidal hate for the Jewish State, the regime has made clear its intentions. During nuclear negotiations in Vienna between Iran and the US over the future of Tehran’s nuclear program and its demands that all sanctions be removed, the regime ran a front-page story in *The Tehran Times*, including a photo of a map showing scores of potential targets for missile strikes throughout the State of Israel with a headline warning: **Just One Wrong Move!** This was followed by a threat posted on Iran’s *Twitter* account (top, right) showing the elimination of the Jewish State in 2022.

These threats and Iran’s continuous cheating in building its nuclear capabilities - despite earlier international agreements - have spurred unprecedented cooperation between Israel and the Gulf States to deter Iranian threats.

2 HAMAS

“Fk the Jews and rape their daughters”** - Pro-Hamas chants in London’s Jewish neighborhood

The May 2021 conflict between Israel and terrorist Hamas, also played out across cities and on social media in Europe and North America. Hamas’ violent vitriol targeting Jews was exported to Germany, the UK, and across the Atlantic in the US and Canada.

While Hamas rockets pummeled Israeli civilian communities, a rabbi was physically attacked outside his synagogue in London. On the same day, a caravan of cars flying Palestinian flags roamed through the city’s largely Jewish Golder’s Green neighborhood, chanting, “F**k the Jews and rape their daughters” broadcast over a loudspeaker.

Across the US, synagogues and Jews were targeted. In Los Angeles, pro-Hamas thugs jumped out of a caravan of SUVs at a restaurant in the heart of the city, demanding to know who was Jewish, spouting anti-Semitic rants, and violently attacking Jewish customers. A day earlier, during the Shavuot festival, a Hasidic father of six had to run for his life to escape anti-Semites pursuing him in vehicles adorned with Palestinian flags.

In New York, violence emerged from a pro-Palestinian demonstration. A young man was badly beaten by pro-Palestinian attackers in broad daylight, sending him to the hospital with a concussion.

In Canada, Jews attending pro-Israel rallies in the country’s major cities were cursed, spat upon, and beaten by Pro-Palestinian protesters.

Most nations did not acknowledge the wave of anti-Jewish attacks and at the UN it was anti-Israel business as usual. At a special hearing at the General Assembly, the president of the UN Human Rights Council presented his annual report which was obsessed with one nation—not egregious human rights violators, like China or Iran—but Israel. Israel’s UN ambassador, Gilad Erdan, rose to the podium and declared that the “Antisemitic and one-sided report” belonged “in the dustbin of history.” He then ripped apart a copy of the report and left the hall.



3

BBC AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

As Anti-Semitism Soars in the UK, BBC Slanders Jews

**“Hitler was right...
Zionists can’t get enough of our blood.”**

- BBC reporter Tala Halawa



It takes a lot to bring 250 protesters to BBC headquarters in London, but British Jewry has had enough. On Chanukah, a group of Muslims attacked a bus filled with Jews in the center of London. BBC falsely reported that anti-Muslim slurs could be heard from within the bus, deftly turning the victim into the victimizer. Subsequently, BBC has been accused of breaking the law in its reporting of the incident and is being sued, the claimants stating that the passengers on the bus are being discriminated against in the BBC’s reporting of the incident.



Senior BBC producer Alaa Daraghme shared a video on Twitter he captioned, “An Israeli settler ramming a Palestinian man near the Lions Gate.” In fact, the car drove onto the sidewalk after an attempt by Palestinians to lynch the Jewish driver, who then lost control of the vehicle.

BBC reporter Tala Halawa tweeted, “Hitler was right.” Halawa said that Israel should be moved to the US, that “Jerusalem is Palestinian” and “Zionists can’t get enough of our blood.”

The Jewish Chronicle reports that the BBC interview with Youtuber Mohammed Hijab who has half a million+ followers, and who has stood beside Palestinian flags declaring that he “loves death” was asked by journalist Tom Brada how to “promote a sense of harmony, specifically with the Jewish community.” **Hijab replied that the answer lay in “bringing people together” though he emphasized that “if someone who is an apologist for Israel or Zionism, that should be delineated from Jewishness.” The BBC journalist said he “completely agrees” with Hijab’s statement.**

BBC Arabic-language broadcasts often refer to all Israelis as “settlers” – even those not living in disputed territories.

The UK Jewish community is reeling from attacks. Britain’s Jewish Community Trust (CST) says that the Israeli-Hamas war in May led to 639 anti-Jewish hate incidents, the highest monthly incidents ever recorded. **There were 1,308 anti-Semitic incidents nationwide between January and June 2021, a 49% increase over 2020.**

4 COVID'S LATEST DEVIANT STRAINS



"The Jews, as they dominate the fiscal world, bought and have the vaccines they wanted. I won't say anything else before the Zionist 'bulldogs' jump."

– Rodrigo Sousa e Castro, lawmaker from Lisbon.

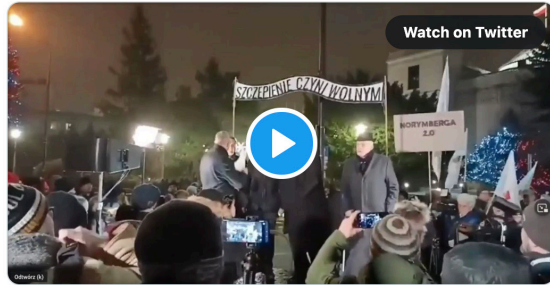
2021 saw the continuing misappropriation of the imagery of the Nazi Holocaust from Korean pop groups to politicians on all sides of the political spectrum seeking to smear their political opponents with the legacy of Adolph Hitler and the Third Reich.



Daniel Tilles @danieltilles1

Five MPs from Poland's far-right Konfederacja party stand under a sign - modelled on the one at Auschwitz and other Nazi camps - that says "vaccines make you free".

They were attending a protest outside parliament against "forced vaccination"



Most disturbing of all however is the wholesale use of Nazi images and icons by elements of the anti-vaxxer movement.

COVID vaccine conspiracy theories have popped up everywhere, from Neo-Nazi websites to COVID skeptic groups. Inspired by the virulent, debunked anti-Semitic "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" the conspiracies involve a Jewish plot to take over the world. In its latest versions, a cabal including the Rothschilds and George Soros masterminded COVID vaccines to establish a "new world order." The vaccine, they allege, is a nefarious Jewish bioweapon designed to sterilize the white race.

In May, a coronavirus conspiracy group on Telegram asked its followers, "Is Israel tricking the whole world to add restrictions against non-vaccinated people?" Replies came in swiftly; "It's always those damn Jews," said a user. That response was followed by caricatures of Jews as hooked-nose insects, and an illustration of a woman with an arm outstretched in a Hitler salute.

Anti-vaxxers from Germany and the Czech Republic, from Washington, DC to Vancouver, Canada have donned the yellow Star of David (which European Jews were forced to wear during WWII by the Nazis) to protest alleged persecution by government vaccine mandates.

In New York City, anti-vax demonstrators displayed Nazi imagery during a protest outside a Jewish politician's office. Jeffrey Dinowitz, a member of the New York State Assembly, called the demonstrators' behavior "despicable." Two photos of protestors showed images of a woman holding a sign with a swastika and claims that vaccines were linked to "crimes against humanity." A third shows a man holding a small American flag wearing a Nazi-era yellow star on his chest.

In the UK, a report issued by the government's independent advisor on anti-Semitism reports more than two dozen anti-vaccine networks on Facebook and Twitter, 79% of them had "anti-Semitic content."

In Argentina, one anti-vaxxer Telegram channel with thousands of subscribers, hosted a cartoon of a caricatured Jewish man, milking the udders of a coronavirus into a bucket with a money sign.

5 JEWISH VOICES FOR PEACE (JVP)

Finally, a “Jewish” group Hamas can love.

“If every single Jewish person was a Zionist that would not change the fact that Zionism is an existential threat to the Palestinian people and therefore **needs to be eradicated**. It is literally not more complicated than that.” – JVP retweet by Rawan @fromtherivertothesea



Here is how JVP turned the legacy of Chanukah on its head: “Come celebrate Hanukkah this year building a radical, loving, anti-Zionist Jewish movement for liberation.

Furthering their mission this Hanukkah, JVP launched an 8-day campaign: “Come celebrate Hanukkah this year building a **radical, loving, anti-Zionist Jewish movement for liberation**. Hanukkah means rededication. *This Hanukkah Against Apartheid*, we rededicate our resolve to be bold and win against all that is life-taking and land-grabbing. It is said, the Temple was cleaned, sanctified, and rededicated after the Maccabees won the fight. Here, in diaspora, we can recognize the ‘Temple’ as what we are building together: **Judaism beyond Zionism**. The Temple is where we practice our treasured values of justice, freedom, and equality; it is this practice that sanctifies the Temple.”

JVP is a group that believes it is immune from being labeled and treated as anti-Semites. They are wrong. Anyone seeking or enabling the destruction of Israel, home to the world’s largest Jewish community — over 6 million Jews — is an anti-Semite, whatever their religion or creed.



6

SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS**Platforms mass marketing bigotry and extremism 24/7**

No idea, movement, or product can sustain itself and flourish without access to social media. Unfortunately, in 2021 major companies have done precious little to degrade the marketing capabilities of anti-Semites and racists. In addition, *Twitter* has a decidedly political bent as to who is blocked, (a sitting President of the US) and who is allowed, (Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini) who seeks a 'Final Solution' against Israel.



Against this backdrop, Twitter has appointed Fadah Jassem as the new Middle East and North African news curator. In 2010 and 2011, Jassem posted Tweets praising anti-Semite Louis Farrakhan and declared that Israel was "not born" but "dropped like a bomb" in the Middle East. Jassem announced her new role as editorial curation lead for the MENA region in a tweet that included flags of 17 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, including a Palestinian flag but omitted Israel.

TELEGRAM:

Telegram continues to be the social media platform of choice for extremists and supporters of terrorists, many of whom promote hate and violence against Jews, Blacks, and law enforcement (above top images). [link to SWC telegram report](#)

TIKTOK:

While growing at a much faster pace than *Facebook*, *Instagram*, and *YouTube*, *TikTok* is confronted by the same challenges of exploitation of their platform by nefarious actors. These users promote hateful and harmful content undeterred by whatever parameters might be in place to curb bigotry, anti-Semitism, and racism. [link to SWC tiktok report](#)

FACEBOOK:

Shockingly, a company which has always claimed to take the lead on combatting online hate, *Facebook* directly profited from ads comparing the COVID vaccine to the Nazi Holocaust. Mass marketing by extremists continues. Live streaming policies remain unchanged despite their use by murderers and terrorists.



7

GERMANY

A German anti-Semitism Commissioner who "likes" social media comparisons of Israel to Nazis



"Every day there are three anti-Semitic attacks in Berlin."

- Sigmunt Königsberg, Jewish community's commissioner for fighting anti-Semitism

THE POST-MERKEL ERA BEGINS

A new government has been installed in Germany marking the end of the Angela Merkel era. Despite her many achievements as Chancellor, Germany has failed to curb anti-Semitic attacks from the far-Right, Islamists, and the demonization of Israel from the Left. Her administration's rarely denounced the Ayatollah regime's Holocaust denial and the regime's frequent calls to destroy the Jewish state.

STAGGERING STATS

In June, the German government confirmed a staggering number of anti-Semitic hate crimes in 2020 - 2,275 with at least 55 involving violence. More than 1,000 anti-Semitic incidents were recorded in Berlin during 2020, a rise of nearly 20% over the previous year. Samuel Salzborn, Antisemitism Commissioner for the State of Berlin admitted, **"One thing is clear: Berlin has an anti-Semitism problem."**

ANTISEMITISM COMMISSIONERS FIGHTING OR ENABLING JEW-HATRED?

However, another German Antisemitism Commissioner has apparently forgotten that his job is to combat anti-Semitism not "like" it. Michael Blume, Commissioner Against Anti-Semitism for Baden-Württemberg has continued, since 2019, social media activity where he "liked" a *Facebook* posting comparing Zionists to Nazis. He has since continued to "like" and retweet anti-Jewish, anti-Israel, and conspiratorial *Twitter* accounts.

Inexplicably, the German state of Baden-Württemberg's Green party governor, Winfried Kretschmann, and Christian Democratic Union Interior Minister Thomas Strobl have permitted Blume - the commissioner tasked with *fighting* anti-Semitism - to continue to engage in these anti-Semitic and anti-Israel activities on social media.

In stark contrast, Blume's counterpart in Hamburg, Stefan Hensel, has urged his city's government to close the Iranian regime-controlled Islamic Center in Hamburg because it stokes anti-Semitism. Blume has failed to call on the Baden-Württemberg metropolis of Freiburg to end its twin-city partnership with the Iranian regime's Isfahan, a city whose administration sponsors calls for the destruction of the Jewish state each year, at its annual al-Quds Day demonstration.

While Felix Klein, the Federal Commissioner for Jewish Life and the fight against anti-Semitism, has urged banks not to provide accounts to BDS groups, Blume has failed to urge the partly state-owned Landesbank Baden-Württemberg (LBBW) to close the account of Baden-Württemberg's and Germany's most powerful anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) organization, the Palestine Committee Stuttgart.

ANTI-SEMITES AT GERMAN PUBLIC BROADCASTING



Meanwhile, the stench of anti-Semitism reached German Public Broadcaster *Deutsche Welle*. *The Süddeutsche Zeitung* exposed a scandal involving anti-Jewish and Holocaust-trivializing comments by members of its Arabic service. One post referred to the Holocaust as an "artificial product" and added that Jews would continue to control "people's brains through art, media, and music." Another declared that "Everyone involved with the Israelis is a collaborator and every recruit in the ranks of their army is a traitor and must be executed." *Deutsche Welle* was forced to suspend four of its Arabic service employees and one freelancer pending an investigation led by former German Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger.

8

COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS (CAIR) & SUNRISE MOVEMENT

Unleashing pollution of anti-Semitism into America's mainstream



CAIR

Council on American-Islamic Relations



“There is a concerted effort to ideologically cleanse progressive politics of anyone or anything that dares to believe in Israel’s right to exist. The fearmongering about Zionist organizations has an undeniable current of anti-Semitism.”

- Congressman Ritchie Torres (D-NY)

The DC-based environmental group, **Sunrise**, made clear that its advocacy for protecting rights did not extend to Jews who dare identify as Zionists. They pulled out of a rally “due to participation of a number of Zionist organizations,” adding it, “[**Sunrise**] **opposes Zionism and any state that enforces its ideology. Israel is a colonial project that routinely displaces Palestinians.**”

Meanwhile, anti-Semite Zahra Billoo continues demonizing American Jews. The Executive Director of CAIR’s San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA) affiliate, accused “Zionist organizations” of being “enemies” and warned of “Zionist synagogues.”

Speaking at the American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), Billoo declared there was a “connection between Islamophobia and Zionism. ... The organizations that promote Zionist agendas, materials, marketing, and legislation are the same ones that want to ban Muslims, are the same ones that want to ban anti-Sharia legislation.”

Billoo was previously ousted from the Women’s March, Inc. board in September 2019 after her tweets equated Israel to the Nazis and ISIS, labeled Zionists “racists” and declared the slogan, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” (i.e., eliminating the State of Israel) came to light.

Billoo is but one of venomous professional Israel and Jew-haters who use non-existent dots to create phony links between Israel and US social crises. They always wrap their bigotry in the mantle of social justice. The goal is demonizing the Jewish state and silencing Israel’s supporters on campus and Capitol Hill.

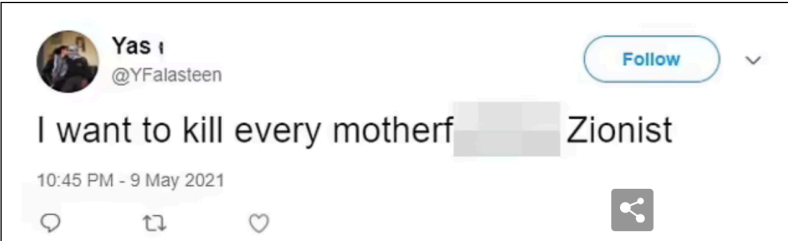
But not all progressives have embraced the demonization of Zionism and Zionists. US Representative Ritchie Torres (D-NY), a leading progressive voice in Congress, publicly rejected such bigots: “There is a concerted effort to ideologically cleanse progressive politics of anyone or anything that dares to believe in Israel’s right to exist. The fearmongering about Zionist organizations has an undeniable current of anti-Semitism,” Torres noted.

9

USC PRESIDENT GETS AN "F" FOR FAILING TO HOLD VILE JEW-HATER ACCOUNTABLE

"I want to kill every motherf---ing Zionist... curse the Jews."

- Yasmeen Mashayekh



StopAntisemitism.org @StopAntisemites · Nov 28
 .@USCViterbi student Yasmeen Mashayekh wants to murder Zionists.

The school has removed her from their website as a student senator YET have not expelled her.

DM us for Board emails to contact - threats of violence must be investigated by police!

More: bit.ly/3o0lfUx

ANTISEMITE OF THE WEEK

Yasmeen Mashayekh

2021 has been a disastrous year for Jews on campuses across North America, from the University of Toronto to George Washington University, to Duke University and Universities of Chicago and University of Illinois. But topping the list is the University of Southern California’s (USC) administration which has consistently failed to act effectively against overt Jew-hatred. Yasmeen Mashayekh, an engineering student at USC’s Viterbi school makes no secret that she hates Jews and the Jewish State. Her vicious hate anti-Semitism is troubling enough, but the fact that Mashayekh also serves as one of the school’s diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) senators whose task is to promote “greater inclusivity” and to “advocate against racism and discrimination,” makes a mockery of these goals and has marred the reputation of USC.

Not even the fact that over 60 faculty members at USC recently signed an open letter <https://usc-faaz-2021.org/> urging officials to rebuke Mashayekh has moved USC to take real action to remove her.

At a time when special efforts are being made to protect and encourage minorities, USC President Carol Falt gets an “F” for allowing this travesty to continue.

10 UNILEVER

It's not about ice cream, it's about enabling an immoral, illegal boycott



“It was never just about ice cream sold in East Jerusalem. It is about Ben & Jerry’s ice cream company’s profits being leveraged by an activist, anti-Semite who hates Israel and defends Hamas – and the corporate executives at Unilever letting it stand.”

- Rabbi Abraham Cooper, SWC Associate Dean and Global Social Action Director

Earlier this year, Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream announced a boycott of East Jerusalem and the West Bank, giving anti-Israel BDS campaigns new legitimacy.

From the outset, the SWC labeled the boycott a purely political act. It was pushed forward by its activist board Chairwoman, Anuradha Mittal, who has a track record of endorsing the BDS movement and defending Hezbollah and Hamas terrorist groups. Like other anti-Israel boycotts, Arab, as well as Jewish employees living in the Holy Land, will be the ones to suffer the consequences.

But Ben & Jerry’s doesn’t care. Their decision to plow profits from its products in order to brand Jews as occupiers in their own land flies in the face of the historic Abraham Accords which has seen Israel and Arab nations embrace peace, mutual respect, and expanding economic relations. Beyond its anti-peace action, Ben & Jerry’s boycott represents a danger to Jews everywhere at a time of surging anti-Semitism.

Ben & Jerry's is Boycotting Israel.

Tell Your Local Grocery Store to

STOP SELLING

Anti-Semitic Ice Cream!

SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER
leadership with a global reach

Paid for by supporters of the Simon Wiesenthal Center

The SWC ran full-page ads in Jewish publications across the US and is vigorously pursuing its campaign to get Unilever to cancel the boycott or suffer the consequences.

On December 22, 2021, the SWC made its case directly to the Illinois Investment Policy Board to divest from Unilever based on state law and ethics. The Board voted unanimously to put Unilever on the divestment list. Illinois joins New York, New Jersey, Arizona, and other states, with divestments already reaching hundreds of millions of dollars.

Docuemtn 2 of 5

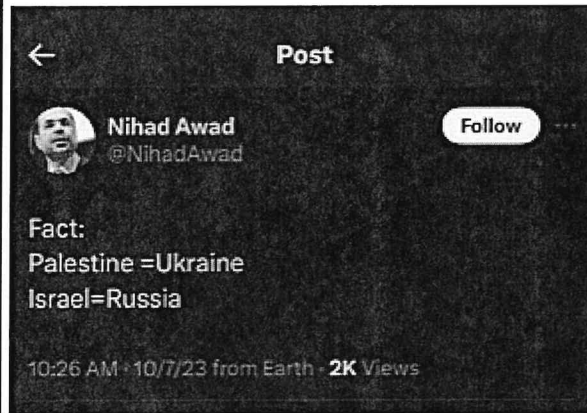
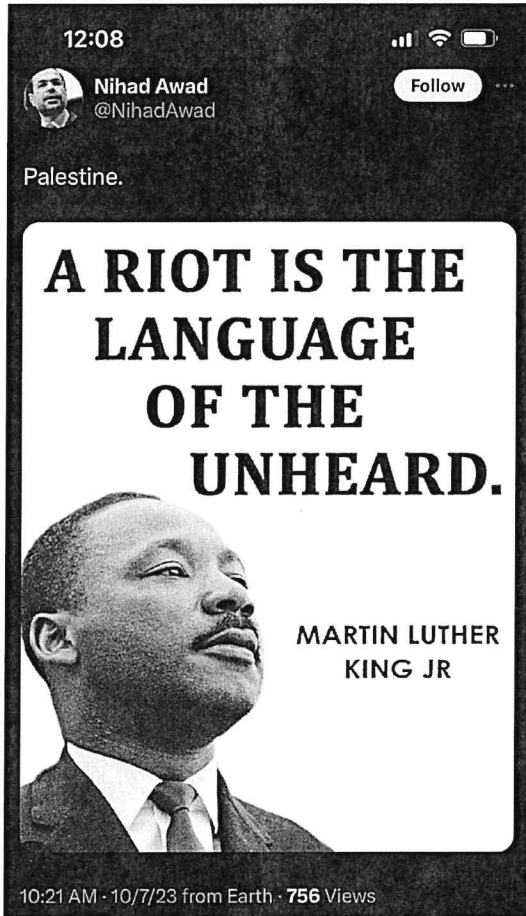
Uploaded by: Brad E. Kauffman

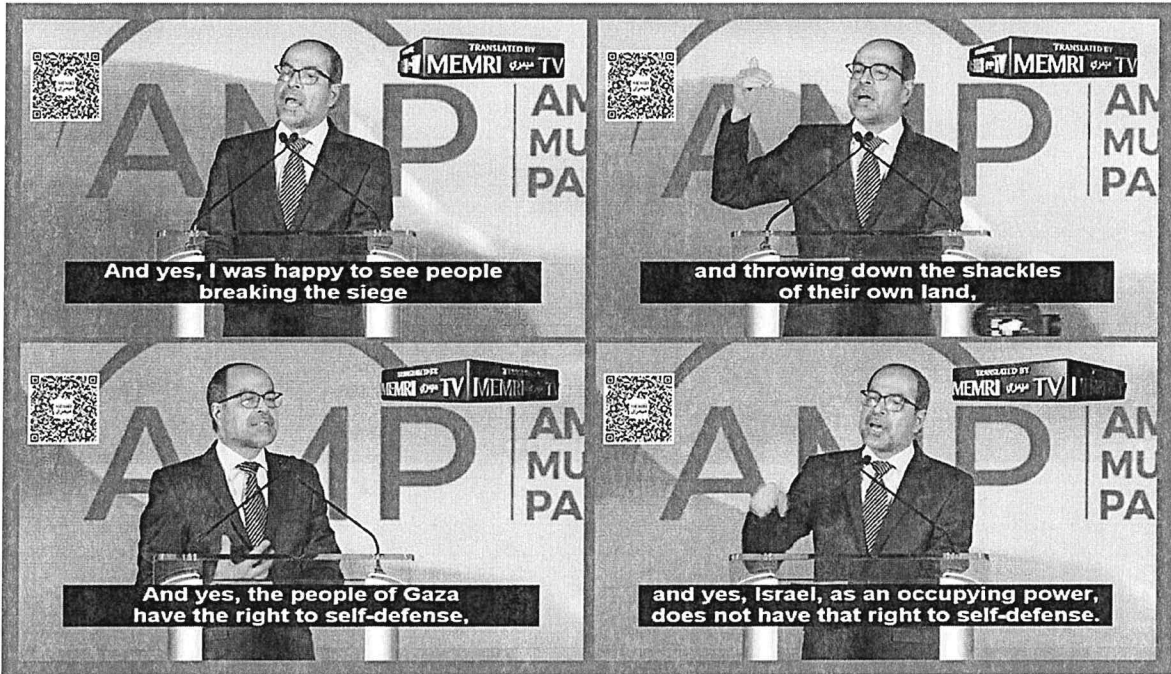
Position: FWA

CAIR's Response to October 7th

Rationalization and Glorification

The National Executive Director - Nihad Awad





← Nihad Awad Message Us 🔍

Nihad Awad
Oct 9, 2023 · 🌐

No surprise!
A colonial power supporting a settler colonial
Apartheid state.
#GazaUnderAttack
لا غرابة
قوة استعمارية تدعم نظام استعماري استيطاني عنصري
#غزة

See translation



👁️ 78

← Nihad Awad Message Us 🔍



👁️ 27

👍 27

↪️ 4

Nihad Awad
Oct 7, 2023 · 🌐

جاء دوركم.
على كل الشعوب العربية الخروج يوم الأحد الثامن من أكتوبر
و كل يوم في مظاهرات تأييد للفلسطينيين و رفضا للتطبيع
مع المحتل و نظام الفصل العنصري.
#فلسطين_قضييتي
#FreePalestine

Your turn has come.

All Arab peoples should come out on Sunday,
October 8th and every day in demonstrations in
support of Palestinians and refusing normalization
with the occupier and apartheid regime.

#فلسطين_قضييتي ... See more

Translated from Arabic


👁️ 56

👍 56

↪️ 3

Nihad Awad
Oct 7, 2023 · 🌐

CAIR Maryland – Zainab Chaudry

 Zainab Chaudry
October 9 · 🌐

ukrainian freedom fighters = heroes
palestinian freedom fighters = terrorists

🗨️ that's how western media and pundits spin the narrative.

the pain of black, brown, arab people has always been diminished, tokenized, written off as inconsequential - often even by other people of color

it's shameful and disappointing but not surprising to see elected officials scramble to show their support for an apartheid government that has been waging terror against Palestinians for decades, without ever having acknowledged how that same government has terrorized and incited the violence spreading in the region for decades

who gets to decide which pain is more valid?

who gets to decide which community deserves to be humanized?

why is white pain centered in global consciences at the expense of others' grief and suffering?

people often ask why I as a non-Palestinian speak out on the cause for a free Palestine .


it's not just because of the symbolism and significance of the holy land. it's not just because of the double standards and willful ignorance over the atrocities committed against Palestinians

it's because our government is complicit in war crimes against humanity. billions of our tax dollars fund the military occupation of Palestine and the siege of Gaza

no one with a sound moral conscience can ignore the reality of this injustice. but it takes courage to speak up and take action for justice. courage that, along with critical context, is too often missing in discussions about Palestine

👍❤️ 126

16 comments 33 shares

 Zainab Chaudry
October 7 · 🌐

when you wake up to read media coverage of the uprising in Palestine, keep in mind that they are a people who are illegally occupied. militarized occupation is inherently evil and violent. the state of Israel was created through the oppression, persecution and subjugation of Palestinians. it sits on the graves of martyrs and people forcibly displaced from their homes, forced to endure humiliation, terror, desecration of their holy spaces.

thoughts and prayers fall from the lips and fingertips of elected officials who are sympathetic to the colonizers, but have ignored the rights and dignity of the colonized for decades. the thirst for freedom is an innate instinct we're born with. resistance is a reminder that it can't be quenched through might and force.

**"If you're not careful,
the newspapers
will have you hating
the people who are
being oppressed,
and loving the people
who are doing
the oppressing."**





< Zainab Chaudry 🔍

Posts Photos

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Zainab Chaudry
Oct 7 · 🌐

Steven McCallum · Follow
Oct 7 · 🌐

Glasgow Celtic fans during today's game against Kilmarnock. 📸


👍👍 149 2 comments 22 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

CAIR Los Angeles – Hussam Ayloush

Hussam Ayloush
October 9, 2023 · 🌐

"Unprovoked" is the biggest lie.




TRT WORLD
1947
UN partition plan of 1947
1967 lines
Present day


TRT WORLD
UN partition plan of 1947
TRT WORLD
1967 lines
TRT WORLD
Present day



TRT World
October 8, 2023
Gaza-based Palestinian group Hamas launched Operation Al Aqsa Flood, saying it was in response to the storming of the Al Aqsa Mosque and increased settler

Hussam Ayloush
October 11, 2023 · 🌐

This is what Palestinians have had to deal with for the past 75 years.
inhumane zionist supremacists!

 This content isn't available right now
When this happens, it's usually because the owner only shared it with a small group of people, changed who can see it or it's been deleted.

 2

 Like  Share

Hussam Ayloush
October 11, 2023 · 🌐

"Western politicians and media expect the Palestinians of Gaza to stay in their torture chamber, bite their lips and suffer in silence so consciences in the West are not disturbed.

Gaza's population is facing a quiet slow path to erasure. And the ones funding the ones erasing it, are the US and its European allies. Their hands are the ones drenched in the blood of Gaza.

CAIR -

CAIR San Francisco – Zahra Billoo

← Zahra Billoo 🔍

👤 10
👍 10 💬 2 ➦ 2

 **Zahra Billoo** Oct 9, 2023 · 🌐

If your company, elected official, school, or university has positional leaders who have issued one-sided statements on the Israeli aggression in and occupation of Palestine, please reach out for support. We must use our privilege to speak out but that can be intimidating. Our team at CA... See more

👤 109
👍 109 💬 8 ➦ 21

 **Zahra Billoo** Oct 7, 2023 · 🌐

Pray for Gaza. We are witnessing decolonization.

👤 37
👍 37 💬 1 ➦ 1

← Zahra Billoo 🔍

 **Zahra Billoo** Oct 31, 2023 · 🌐

The only terrorists in my book today are the Israelis and those who support them.

👤 29
👍 29 💬 4 ➦ 2

CAIR Florida – Abdullah Jaber



Abdullah Jaber

Oct 7, 2023 · 🌐



- Palestinians, just like everyone else, must live unburdened by occupation, apartheid, siege, segregation, humiliation, and abuse.
- The core issue is universal human rights and self-determination.
- US's unconstitutional unequivocal support of the occupier is at the core of the problem.

.
.
.

#palestine #القدس #فلسطين #US #alqa #filistin
#palestine 🇵🇸



👁️👁️ 7

CAIR New Jersey – Selaedin Maksut



Selaedin Maksut
Oct 7, 2023 · 🌐

📄 Comment your disappointment with NJ Gov Murphy's statement on Instagram and Facebook.

Let him know Israel's occupation is at the root of the problem.

Instagram:
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CyGet1HLTNE/?igshid=NzZhOTFIYzFmZQ=>

Facebook:
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=863747218454137&id=100044565993826&mibextid=qC1gEa

Governor Phil Murphy
Oct 7, 2023 · 🌐

Tammy and I are sickened by the videos and



CAIR New Jersey
@CAIRNJ

This is not a war. It's an occupation. Palestinians, like all people around the world, are entitled to live free from abuse on their own land. End the occupation. Free Palestine.



Written testimony 1 of 5 documents

Uploaded by: Brad E. Kauffman

Position: FWA

BRAD E. KAUFFMAN, ESQUIRE
MARYLAND ATTORNEY AT LAW
(443) 470-9756
bekaufflaw@gmail.com
February 18, 2024

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0763 WITH AMENDMENTS

On or about August 3, 2023, Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown appointed several members of organizations to the Maryland Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention. He is the Chair of this Commission. The Commission was established due to Maryland House Bill 1066, which was signed into law by Governor Moore in June 2023.

Maryland House Bill 1066 requires that the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) be a permanent member of the Commission, among other organizations.

Attorney General Brown appointed Zainab Chaudry, the Executive Director of the Maryland chapter of CAIR, to represent CAIR on this Commission.

CAIR has an extensively documented history of having significant ties to terrorism and antisemites, predating the current 2023-2024 Israel-Hamas war by three decades. A George Washington University Report and a Report from the Investigative Project on Terrorism, which are attached and included herein, detail CAIR's extremism in depth. It is very unfortunate that the Legislature selected CAIR to be on the Commission in the first place given CAIR's background.

CAIR ORIGINS

CAIR originated from the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP).ⁱ The IAP operated as a propagandist for a Hamas-supporting network known as the "Palestine Committee."ⁱⁱ The Muslim Brotherhood established the Palestine Committee to aid Hamas politically and financially in the United States.ⁱⁱⁱ In fact, in August 2002, a Federal Judge determined that "the Islamic Association for Palestine ("IAP") has acted in support of Hamas."^{iv} CAIR's founders, Omar Ahmad and Nihad Awad (CAIR's current National Executive Director) were members of the IAP. Both of CAIR's founders attended a meeting at a Philadelphia hotel that the FBI monitored. At that meeting, speakers strategized on how U.S. organizations could support Hamas, with one speaker stating, "people who are directly connected with Jihad should get more assistance."^v When CAIR was incorporated in 1994, it joined the IAP on the Palestine Committee. In 1994, the same year of CAIR's founding, Nihad Awad stated, "I am in support of the Hamas movement."^{vi}

Many CAIR officials have either been linked to terrorism or later indicted on terrorism-related charges.^{vii} Ghassan Alashi, a Board of Director of the Texas branch of CAIR, was sentenced to 65 years in prison in 2009 for providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization.^{viii} Ismail Royer, a communications specialist for CAIR, was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 2004 for conspiracy to assist Al-Qaeda in its battle against U.S. troops in Afghanistan.^{ix} Bassem Khafagi, CAIR's former community affairs director, pleaded guilty to 3 federal counts of bank and visa fraud and agreed to be deported to Egypt in 2003 after he published certain materials that called for suicide bombings against the U.S.^x Rabih Haddad, a

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February 18, 2024

CAIR fundraiser from Michigan, was deported, around 2002, after it was determined that he financed Al-Qaeda through the Global Relief Foundation. Muthana Al-Hanooti, a CAIR director, was sentenced in 2011 to a year in federal prison for breaching U.S. sanctions against Iraq.^{xi} CAIR was named as an associate of the Muslim Brotherhood and an unindicted co-conspirator in the 2008 Holy Land Foundation Relief and Development (HLF) trial, which resulted in convictions of HLF officials for transferring 12 million dollars to Hamas.^{xii} The District Court Judge stated that there was “ample evidence to establish the associations of CAIR with Hamas.”^{xiii} In response to the verdict, CAIR issued a 2008 news release defending HLF despite the convictions.^{xiv} In 2014, CAIR honored Sami Al-Arian even though he served on the Palestinian Islamic Jihad governing board.^{xv} That same year, the United Arab Emirates declared that CAIR was a terrorist organization.^{xvi}

OCTOBER 7, 2023

CAIR’s support for Hamas can be seen on full display, most recently in its response to the events that occurred on October 7, 2023.

Since October 7, 2023, Maryland CAIR’s Zainab Chaudry has been writing alarming and antisemitic posts on her Facebook page, including labeling Israelis as Nazis, denying that Hamas murdered Jewish babies, and classifying Hamas' massacre on October 7 as "resistance." Her frequent maligning of Israel and the Jewish people can be viewed on her Facebook page.

Although Chaudry has been outspoken in disseminating her pro-terror and vitriolic rhetoric against Israel and the Jewish people, she is merely following the playbook of CAIR National. A review of the statements of different Executive Directors from various CAIR chapters across the country, including the National Executive Director Nihad Awad, reveals that they all use the same hateful rhetoric, including the glorification of terrorism, on their social media pages. Attached, and included herein, is a compilation of these horrendous posts ("CAIR's Response to October 7, 2023").

CAIR’S REPEATED USE OF ANTISEMITIC TROPES

CAIR’s antisemitic rhetoric, well before October 7, 2023, includes but are not limited to the following themes: (1) Accusing Jewish organizations, such as AIPAC, of controlling government institutions or using money to buy out politicians in exchange for supporting Israel, (2) Spreading conspiracy theories or presenting falsified claims about Israel, (3) Denying the Jewish people their right to exist in the State of Israel and explicitly calling for the dismantling of the Jewish state, (4) Denigrating a whole class of Jews as well as using imagery and symbols which have historically been deemed antisemitic, and (5) Comparing Israel to Nazis.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center in 2021 named CAIR as one of the ten most antisemitic entities in the world, joining Iran and Hamas on that list, and for good reason (“Global Antisemitism 2021 Top Ten”).

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Here is a summary of CAIR's despicable antisemitic rhetoric over the years:

1. In 2021, at the American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) conference, Nihad Awad even called Israel's pre-1967 borders "occupied," stating, "we have to fight. We have to take the fight to the other side. Moving the U.S. embassy, our embassy, from Tel Aviv, which is occupied, to a city that's supposed to be protected under international law, to move that embassy, we should not accept that as a de facto." He went further, "we have to pressure the administration to take our embassy back to Tel Aviv. And *inshallah* [God willing], it will be free later."^{xvii}
2. At the same AMP conference in 2021, CAIR's San Francisco Executive Director, Zahra Billoo, urged the American Muslim community to distance themselves from "polite Zionists." She stated, "we need to pay attention to the Anti-Defamation League. We need to pay attention to the Jewish Federation, the Zionist Synagogues, Hillel chapters on our campuses."^{xviii}
3. At a 2018 AMP event, Billoo reiterated that she is "not going to legitimize a country, [Israel], that I do not believe has a right to exist."^{xix}
4. Billoo and other CAIR officials regularly cite the phrase "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," which if occurred, Israel would be wiped off the map.
5. In 2019, CAIR's Chicago Executive Director, Ahmed Rehab, stated, "F***** Zionism. And F***** you too, France,"^{xx} in response to France's decision to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism, as has the United States.
6. In response to Governor Ducey's tweet in 2021, "Arizona stands with Israel," Rehab responded, "Governor Doug Ducey stands with powerful AIPAC lobbyists in fear of losing reelection financing."^{xxi}
7. CAIR's Michigan Executive Director, Dawud Walid, delivered a speech in 2012 in which he stated, "Who are those who incurred the wrath of Allah?" He answered his question, "*hum al-yahud, hum al-yahud* [they are the Jews, they are the Jews]."^{xxii}
8. CAIR's Washington Executive Director, Imraan Siddiqi, stated in 2020, "AIPAC's cool with Nazis and Nazi-adjacents-just as long as they don't support Palestinian rights."^{xxiii}
9. CAIR's Los Angeles Executive Director, Hussam Ayloush, in 2014 called supporters of Israel "Nazis," when he stated, "interesting how supporters of Israel use exact same excuses that Nazis used to justify their murders at the Warsaw Ghetto."^{xxiv}

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10. On November 4, 2023, Ayloush posted on his Facebook page, "Couldn't the Zionists have chosen an empty land to establish their supremacist project outside of Palestine?"
11. Zainab Chaudry (MD-CAIR) posted on her Facebook page on or about December 26, 2023: "Zionist arrogance and entitlement has nothing to do with God and everything to do with self-interest."
12. Abdullah Jaber, Florida's CAIR Executive Director, posted a video on his Facebook page on or about December 5, 2023, where he argued that Jews who back Israel are not the chosen people. "If someone out there believes that committing a genocide is okay and that makes you chosen of God, then I am sorry. Definitely you don't know God, or there is no God to you."

CAIR also often sponsors rallies where attendees display banners or signs with antisemitic phrases, and CAIR never disavows those atrocious slogans. At a May 11, 2021 protest rally in Los Angeles, attendees bellowed: "Long live Palestine, death, death to Israel" and another chant in Arabic, was translated into English as, "with our blood and our souls, we would sacrifice for Palestine."^{xxv}

All of the Maryland Delegates and Senators have received a grassroots Petition from the community at large, which as of the above captioned date, has **10,500+** signatures. The Petition has two specific requests: 1) The removal of *both* Chaudry and CAIR from the hate crime Commission and for 2) the Legislature to provide the Attorney General with the authority to remove a Commission member who violates the Commission's code of conduct. **As evident by the large number of signatures, it is clear that people are repulsed by CAIR and are outraged by their membership on the hate crime commission.** There is no justification whatsoever for CAIR to be on the Maryland hate crime commission, when it actively participates in the dissemination of vile bigotry against the Jewish people and the Jewish state of Israel as well as supporting Hamas.

The Petition reads in part: "*We call upon the Attorney General, the Governor, and elected officials in Annapolis to condemn CAIR and Zainab Chaudry's antisemitism and support of terrorism. We call upon the Legislature to amend the law to remove CAIR from the Commission and allow for Commissioners, such as Zainab Chaudry, to be removed when they violate the code of conduct.*"

HB0763 does remove the Maryland Representative of CAIR, Zainab Chaudry, which is undoubtedly a good start. However, in light of CAIR National's disturbing positions and documented support for terrorism, as stated above, HB0763 needs to expressly state that no CAIR representatives in Maryland or elsewhere should ever be permitted to serve on the Maryland hate crime Commission. The Attorney General could appoint other individuals from CAIR, potentially outside of Maryland, which would not resolve the issue at hand.

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Specifically, removing Zainab Chaudry and CAIR is also necessary because many community members have zero confidence in the Attorney General's ability to exercise any discretionary power to remove Chaudry, even if he could do so. After Chaudry's measly two -week suspension, the Attorney General drafted guidelines for the appointees to the hate crime commission, which include avoiding and discouraging divisive conduct and not directing "personal attacks toward any individual or community." Unfortunately, Attorney General Brown is unwilling to penalize Chaudry for violating the draft guidelines. He also has refused to condemn Chaudry's antisemitism.

If the Legislature is concerned that HB0763 would alienate the Muslim community, it should be stated herein that absolutely the Muslim community should have representation on this Commission. Many moderate Muslim organizations could replace CAIR on this Commission. The Legislature should locate those organizations, with input from others, and HB0763 should specifically cite these appropriate organizations in the statute. If HB0763 is adopted, the only statement that the Legislature will make by removing CAIR is that organizations that endorse terrorism will not have a seat on any Maryland government panel.

Unfortunately, HB0763 does not include any language for removing a Commission member who violates the Commission's code of conduct. It would be practical if the language in HB0748 for removing a Commission member is added to HB0763.

Finally, it is absurd that HB0763 takes effect in October 2024. CAIR and Chaudry would then be able to continue spewing their hatred for Israel and the Jewish people until October 2024 before any action can be taken against them. HB0763 should take effect as soon as the Governor signs it into law.

For the reasons above, I wholeheartedly support HB0763 with certain amendments. All CAIR representatives should be removed from the Commission, and specific moderate Muslim organizations should be named to replace CAIR, a process spelled out in HB0763 for removing a commission member who does not abide by the commission's code of conduct and an implementation date as soon as the Governor signs HB0763 into law.

Respectfully Submitted,



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THE ENDOTES BELOW WERE OBTAINED FROM THE INVESTIGATIVE PROJECT ON TERRORISM REPORT, TITLED “CAIR’S ANTISEMITISM UNMASKED,” DATED JUNE 2023.(EXCEPT FOR ENDNOTES VIII-XI WHICH ARE FROM FLORIDA’S 2024 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL).

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- ⁱ “U.S. v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, et.al., 04-CR-240-G, Pamphlet containing an internal memo of the IAP October 1992,” Government Exhibit Elbarasse Search-5 (Earlier Government Exhibit 003-0005), (N.D. Tex., October 10, 2008).”
- ⁱⁱ “U.S. v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, et.al., 04-CR-240-G, Palestine Committee Report, Government Exhibit Elbarasse Search-13 (Earlier Government Exhibit 003-0005), (N.D. Tex., October 1, 2008).”
- ⁱⁱⁱ “U.S. v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, et.al., 04-CR-240-G, Pamphlet containing an internal memo of the IAP October 1992, Government Exhibit Elbarasse Search-5 (Earlier Government Exhibit 003-0005), (N.D. Tex., October 10, 2008).”
- ^{iv} “Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development v. Ashcroft, Memorandum Opinion, 02-CV-442 (D.D.C. August 8, 2002).”
- ^v “FBI analysis of the Philadelphia Conference, Submitted as an exhibit in Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development v. Ashcroft, 02-442 GK, Exhibit 28 at 1445 (D.D.C. August 2002), p.58.”
- ^{vi} “CAIR’s Awad: In support of the Hamas Movement,” Barry University, March 22, 1994.”
- ^{vii} See the Investigative Project On Terrorism’s document titled “The Suspect Ties of CAIR officials, Fundraisers & Trainers.”
- ^{viii} See Florida’s HR Bill 1209 (2024).
- ^{ix} See Florida’s HR Bill 1209 (2024).
- ^x See Florida’s HR Bill 1209 (2024).
- ^{xi} See Florida’s HR Bill 1209 (2024).
- ^{xii} “U.S. v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development , et.al., 04-CR-240, Attachment A: List of Unindicted Co-conspirators and/or Joint Ventures,” p.5, (N.D. Tex. May 29, 2007).”
- ^{xiii} “U.S. v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, et.al., 04-CR-240, Memorandum Opinion Order, p.15, (N.D. Tex., July 1, 2009).”
- ^{xiv} “CAIR says HLF Verdict Based on Fear Mongering, CAIR Press Release, November 26, 2008.”
- ^{xv} “Steven Emerson, CAIR’s Exposed Series Exposes CAIR’s Terrorist Sympathies,” IPT News, September 9, 2020.”
- ^{xvi} “UAE Cabinet approves list of designated terrorist organizations, groups, WAM Emirates News Agency, November 15, 2014.”
- ^{xvii} “AMP 2021 LIVE, November 27, 2021, <https://youtu.be/vfAvJ2ST6UI?t=2854>.”
- ^{xviii} “AMP 2021 LIVE, November 27, 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0q6oroJXkMs>.”
- ^{xix} “Thank you Zahra Billoo, IPT News, December 10, 2018.”
- ^{xx} “Ahmed Rehab, Facebook, December 4, 2019.”
- ^{xxi} “Ahmed Rehab, Facebook, May 15, 2021.”
- ^{xxii} “Importance of Al-Quds in Islam, Published by Dawud Walid on May 25, 2012, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LgNxXnAAZA&t=1636>.”
- ^{xxiii} “Imraan Siddiqi Twitter, February 25, 2020.”
- ^{xxiv} “Husaam Ayloush, Twitter, August 2, 2014.”
- ^{xxv} “Emergency Protest All out for Palestine,” Israeli Consulate-LA, May 11, 2021, <https://www.facebook.com/barakatamani/videos/10158576603378778>.”

HB0763 Katz.pdf

Uploaded by: Ariana Katz

Position: UNF

February 20, 2024

Honorable Chair Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony to OPPOSE HB 0763 Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention -
Membership - Alterations

Dear Chair Clippinger and House Judiciary Committee Members:

I thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong opposition of House Bill 763 Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention - Membership - Alterations aiming to remove CAIR and its representative from the Maryland Attorney General Hate Crimes Commission and instate two other Muslim appointees. My name is Rabbi Ariana Katz, and I am writing to voice my full throated support of my friend Zainab Chaudry and the Maryland Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

I moved to Baltimore in 2018 to found Hinenu, a synagogue that gathers in Charles Village, MD. We are a community of over 250 households, 35 of which have joined the congregation since the violence of October 7 in Israel and the subsequent massacre in Gaza.

When the Tree of Life shooting happened in Pittsburgh, PA, synagogues around the country felt not just grief for the murdered Jews shot down during Shabbat morning services, but fear that our communities would be next. Around Baltimore we saw an increase in police presence outside synagogues to ensure the people inside would feel safe. At Hinenu, the first Shabbat service after the shooting, instead of police outside our building, our allies from faith communities around the city were there, led by Zainab Chaudry and CAIR. Standing outside in the rain, shoulder to shoulder with Bishop Bill Gohl, Friends from Homewood Friends, and many Muslim teens she organized, Zainab was a loving presence to all who came to the Shabbat after the shooting. She put her body in between any bad actors and the Jewish community, and she has continued to do that countless times in Baltimore and Maryland.

In the days after the October 7 attacks, when we were overwhelmed with shock and fear and grief for our loved ones in Israel, we also knew that violence was surely on its way for the people of Gaza. Not just retaliatory violence, but floodgates of revenge that would open. And we were sadly not wrong—in the 129 of days since October 7, 28,064 Palestinian people have been killed, 67,611 Palestinian people insured. 1,139 Israelis were killed in the Hamas attacks of October 7. These

numbers, the images coming out of Gaza, the stories we are all flooded with are devastating--I ask you to read these numbers a second time: in the 129 of days since October 7, 28,064 Palestinian people have been killed, 67,611 Palestinian people insured, 1,139 Israelis were killed in the Hamas attacks of October 7. As I write this, the people of Gaza who fled to Rafah at the instruction of the Israeli Defence Force are now being bombed as they shelter in mere tents.

The reasons supplied for removing Zainab Chaudry from the Hate Crimes Commission are posts she made on social media, including one with an image of the Brandenburg gate, saying "that moment when you become what you hated most," equating the Israeli government with the Nazi regime. The caption in her friend's original post, which did not crossover when shared, read "Never again is happening again."

"Never again is now" is a call to action used by Jewish organizers standing in opposition to brutal and inhumane anti-immigrant action by the US government, as well as in response to the Israeli government's war in Gaza.¹

In the last few months, Zainab and I have had many conversations, including about the sensitivity of making such comparisons. Through heartfelt conversation, amidst the pain, trauma and grief we and our communities have been experiencing at the horrific violence unfolding, we were able to understand, empathize with one another, and center each other's shared humanity. Some of Ms Chaudry's posts called into question simply call the war in Gaza a genocide, something that on January 26, 2024 the International Court of Justice ruled "plausible" that Israel has committed acts that violate the Genocide Convention.²

I cannot say it more clearly than this: anti-Zionism is not anti-Semitism. The reason for removing Zainab Chaudry from the Maryland Hate Crimes Commission claims to be because of a social media post. But it is clear to so many of us that the push to remove her from the Commission is because of her opposition to the Israeli war in Gaza, hiding it behind claims that her critiques are anti-Semitic.

Zainab, a member of the Hate Crime Commission, has ironically herself, been subjected to death threats and a floodgate of the most vile hate from people who are attacking her for defending the humanity of Palestinians. Is there room on this Hate Crime Commission to acknowledge the

¹ <https://www.neveragainaction.com/>,

² <https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/the-importance-of-the-icj-ruling-on-israel>
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-federal-judge-says-israel-plausibly-committing-genocide-biden-must-take-note/#:~:text=The%20United%20States%20District%20Court,the%20international%20prohibition%20against%20genocide.%E2%80%9D>

humanity, pain and trauma of dozens of Maryland families enduring hate because of their Palestinian identity, while also having loved ones killed in Gaza?

If the Maryland General Assembly wants to remove Ms. Chaudry from the commission, it is not because of her qualifications, or her commitment to defending the dignity and freedom of Muslims and all other religious minorities in Maryland, but an equation of anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism, and a desire to censor speech, even when misguided, to eliminate critique of the Israeli government.

CAIR's National Executive Director Nihad Awad made remarks at a conference last fall that were spliced into a video mischaracterizing his message and intent, and widely distributed. He is on public record addressing this disinformation campaign.³ Some have provided members of this assembly false information that the White House has disconnected with CAIR. CAIR remains engaged with partners on all levels of the government, and while it is no longer part of the White House Taskforce to Combat Anti-Semitism because of bad faith attacks, it consistently condemns all forms of hate including anti-Semitism, and remains very much engaged on Islamophobia and other matters.

Removing a community leader like Zainab from the Hate Crime Commission sends a very dangerous message that these vile attacks can be successful in achieving their aim of disempowering Muslim communities, and that Muslims are welcome on the Hate Crime Commission as long as they do not speak out in against the war in Gaza. As a Maryland resident, I am ashamed that this bill has advanced as far as it has, and that we would besmirch another member of our community's name in such a way.

I urge you to vote no on HB0763, and instead to turn to building more understanding of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, as well as all internalized prejudices that keep our communities from standing up for one another.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Ariana Katz

3

<https://religionnews.com/2023/12/22/as-a-muslim-i-condemn-attacks-on-both-israeli-and-palestinian-civilians-president-biden-should-too/>
https://www.cair.com/press_releases/statement-by-nihad-awad-on-remarks-at-palestine-human-rights-conference/

Written Testimony, 2_16_24.pdf

Uploaded by: Chynnah McFadden

Position: UNF

I, Chynnah McFadden, am a Maryland resident, and I urge you to oppose HB 763, which aims to remove CAIR, a trusted advocate for Maryland's Muslim community, from the state's Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention. CAIR has a proven track record of condemning hate crimes and advocating for civil rights. Their inclusion is crucial, especially as hate crimes against Muslims, Palestinians, and Arab Americans rise.

I respectfully urge you to help preserve public trust in the work of the state's Hate Crimes Commission by maintaining the Maryland office director of CAIR as the commission's representative for the state's Muslim community by opposing House Bill 763.

Sincerely,

Chynnah McFadden

HB 763 CAIR Removal UNFAV[30].pdf

Uploaded by: Dana Vickers Shelley

Position: UNF



Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee

HB763 Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention – Membership – Alterations

February 20th, 2024

UNFAVORABLE UNLESS AMENDED

DANA VICKERS SHELLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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SHELLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANDREW FREEMAN
GENERAL COUNSEL

The ACLU of Maryland respectfully urges an unfavorable report on HB763 unless it is amended to keep the Council on American-Islamic Relations Maryland Office (“CAIR Maryland”) as a member on the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention.

Adding additional members of the Muslim community is a positive addition to the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention; it is obvious that removing CAIR Maryland from the Commission is based not only in Islamophobia and general hostility toward pro-Palestinian advocacy but also meant to directly silence the voice of the Director of CAIR Maryland. HB 763 is also clearly a premature move when HB 748 is only proposed legislation so there is no criteria legally established to justify this action.

Furthermore, punishing the only member of the Commission who is advocating for Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian Marylanders (AMEMSA) and furthering efforts to stop violent Islamophobic actions that are all too common across the country and in Maryland, marginalizes the AMEMSA community and sends a clear message to all AMEMSA Marylanders that their voice, their opinions, and their lives do not matter. In fact, it was CAIR that recently filed a lawsuit to defend the rights of teachers to speak out in Montgomery County, especially those from the AMEMSA community, and share their opinions without being punished for those views. Moreover, the ACLU of Maryland and our national office have consistently challenged the false contention that speaking out against a country's governmental actions is the equivalent of hate speech against individuals and groups of people who are marginalized.

Lastly, the addition of members of the Muslim community to the Commission is a positive and important step to address the rise in Islamophobia, and should be commended as adding greater legitimacy to the Commission. Although, notably, every other member of the Commission represents an organization not just an ethnicity or religious community. Removing CAIR Maryland representation is not

only a message to AMEMSA Marylanders that their voices are not equal to other Marylanders, it delegitimizes the very purpose of the Commission.

For the aforementioned reasons, I urge an unfavorable report on HB763 unless it is amended.

AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION
FOUNDATION OF
MARYLAND

HB0763.pdf

Uploaded by: Diana Ali

Position: UNF

HB0763

Unfavorable

Diana Ali

10902 cedar oaks lane Columbia MD 21044

Dear Chair Luke Clippinger, Vice Chair J. Sandy Bartlett and Judiciary committee members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 0763, "Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention - Membership - Alterations," sponsored by Delegates Attar, Vogel, and Rosenberg.

The proposed removal of the representative from the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Maryland Office from the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention raises serious concerns. CAIR, being a nonprofit, grassroots civil rights, and advocacy organization, has been a crucial contributor to promoting a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America since its establishment in 1994.

As the largest Muslim civil liberties organization in the United States, with affiliate offices nationwide and its national headquarters on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., CAIR has played an essential role in ensuring that the Muslim community's voice is heard and represented. Through effective media relations, lobbying, education, and advocacy, CAIR has worked diligently to empower American Muslims and encourage their active participation in political and social activism.

The proposed alteration to the Commission's membership, which involves removing the CAIR representative and adding two members of the Muslim community appointed by the Attorney General, could inadvertently hinder the inclusive representation that CAIR has consistently provided. It is crucial to recognize and preserve the valuable contributions of CAIR to the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB0763 and ensure that any modifications to the Commission's membership foster inclusivity and maintain the diverse perspectives necessary for addressing the complex issue of hate crimes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Diana Ali

Eleanor Hancock CAIR-testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Eleanor Hancock

Position: UNF

February 16, 2024
Honorable Chair Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony to **OPPOSE HB 0763** Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention
Membership - Alterations

Dear Chair Clippinger and House Judiciary Committee Members:

I am **testifying in strong opposition to House Bill 763**, which aims to remove CAIR and its representative from the Maryland Attorney General Hate Crimes Commission and instate two other Muslim appointees.

As a homeowner and full time resident of Maryland, I strongly oppose this effort to remove CAIR and its Maryland Director, Zainab Chaudry, from the Hate Crimes Commission.

CAIR is the US's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. CAIR is the main Muslim organization in Maryland that tracks hate bias incidents and provides advocacy and legal assistance to the state's Muslim communities.

CAIR's work is vital in this moment of heightened Islamophobia, anti-Arab racism and anti-Palestinian hate. No one is better suited to represent Maryland's Muslims than the group that has been the strongest local voice against Islamophobia hate crimes.

Each community should be able to decide who represents it, and Zainab Chaudry has the support of her community. Dozens of Islamic faith-based organizations and institutions have written to the Office of the Attorney General in support of keeping CAIR and Zainab Chaudry on the Commission, along with thousands of community members.

Removing CAIR from this Commission effectively silences the many Muslims in Maryland who have stood up in support of Zainab Chaudry over the past few months. We know that she brings a perspective to the Hate Crimes Commission that will not be present if she were removed.

Part of what Dr. Chaudry brings to the table is a consistent and principled stance in support of Palestinian human rights and freedom. This advocacy has meant she's faced smear attacks, death threats, and seemingly endless hate.

Support for Palestinians is not hateful. Many people, including myself and many others in my community (including my Jewish neighbors and friends,) support Palestinians, especially at this moment when Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank are under such intense attack. We refuse to equate advocacy for Palestinians with antisemitism.

As the mother of a biracial daughter (who appears, to most people, to be Black, and who herself has close friendships with many Latino Marylanders,) I know how important it is to stand against hate crime in *all* of its forms. It is important that residents of Maryland, together with our legislative representatives, support our Muslim family, friends, and neighbors right now, when so many communities are at a heightened risk of hate crimes.

Zainab Chaudry and CAIR have a long history of intersectional work within and beyond Muslim communities, including showing up for Jews, African Americans and Latino communities against hate crime. Whoever you are, you know that she has your community's back. When she is under attack, we have hers.

As a Marylander, I stand by CAIR and Zainab Chaudry and their continued presence on the Maryland Hate Crimes Commission. I respectfully urge this committee to return an **unfavorable report on HB 0763**.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Eleanor Hancock
4702 Longfellow St
Riverdale Park, MD 20737

Testimony in Opposition to HB 763.pdf

Uploaded by: Emily Kamin

Position: UNF

February 20, 2024
Honorable Chair Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony to **OPPOSE HB 0763** Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention
Membership - Alterations

Dear Chair Clippinger and House Judiciary Committee Members:

I thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony **in strong opposition to House Bill 763**, which aims to remove the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and its representative from the Maryland Attorney General Hate Crimes Commission and instate two other Muslim appointees.

My name is Emily Kamin and I am a Jewish constituent of Delegate Clippinger. I oppose this effort to remove CAIR and its Maryland Director, Zainab Chaudry, from the Hate Crimes Commission.

Dr. Chaudry, who is the Executive Director of CAIR's Maryland office, faces removal from the Maryland Hate Crimes Commission because she has condemned Israel's relentless bombardment, starvation, and displacement of the 2.3 million Palestinians living in Gaza. Over the past 120 days, Israel has indiscriminately slaughtered more than 300,000 Gazan civilians, including 11,500 children, and trapped countless more under rubble. The Israeli military's bombing has demolished 70% of homes in Gaza, alongside schools, hospitals, and places of worship; entire neighborhoods have been razed.

Due to her denunciation of Israel's actions, Dr. Chaudry has now become the target of a defamatory campaign, including a push to remove her from the Maryland Hate Crimes Commission. The targeting of Dr. Chaudry is a naked attempt to intimidate those who exercise their right to speak out against the Israeli government's actions. More importantly, it distracts from the real issue at hand: the ongoing atrocities being perpetrated by Israel against Palestinians in Gaza.

As the only American Muslim on the Maryland Hate Crime Commission, Dr. Chaudry is a critical voice in representing the interests of Muslims in our Maryland community. As Maryland and the nation have seen a rising tide of Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian hate, having Dr. Chaudry remain on the Maryland Hate Crime Commission is more important than ever.

Chaudry is a widely respected activist and an important leader in the Maryland community, who has spent many years dedicated to public service, while participating in interfaith initiatives, including Jewish-Muslim interfaith dialogue groups. She was nominated for the El-Hibri Foundation Peace Awards and is a recipient of the Governor's Service Award for her work in interfaith communities across Maryland, among many other contributions and accolades.

We cannot allow the hateful campaign against Zainab Chaudry to succeed. As a Jew, I join many others of my faith in standing by CAIR and Zainab Chaudry. We demand that she remain on the Maryland Hate Crimes Commission. **I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB 0763.**

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Emily Kamin
649 S Curley Street
Baltimore, MD 21224

Testimony - HB0763.pdf

Uploaded by: Eric Hiller

Position: UNF

February 16, 2024
Honorable Chair Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony to **OPPOSE HB 0763** Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention
Membership - Alterations

Dear Chair Clippinger and House Judiciary Committee Members:

I am **testifying in strong opposition to House Bill 763**, which aims to remove CAIR and its representative from the Maryland Attorney General Hate Crimes Commission and instate two other Muslim appointees.

As a Jewish Marylander, I strongly oppose this effort to remove CAIR and its Maryland Director, Zainab Chaudry, from the Hate Crimes Commission.

This effort to remove Dr. Chaudry appears to be in response to social media posts she made in her personal capacity about Israel's military operations in Gaza. From what I have seen, these posts condemned horrific crimes being perpetrated by Israel upon the Palestinian people and addressed the hypocrisy of those who assign greater value to the lives of certain groups of people over others. While these expressions may be unpleasant to those who feel an affinity for Israel, they are clearly directed at the Israeli state and political actors. I have not seen any indication that Dr. Chaudry has animus towards Jews.

As a Jew, I am disturbed by attempts to conflate political speech condemnatory of Israel with antisemitism. The attempts to remove Dr. Chaudry and CAIR from the Hate Crimes Commission appear to be based upon just such a conflation. CAIR is the main Muslim organization in Maryland that tracks hate bias incidents and provides advocacy and legal assistance to the state's Muslim communities. It would be extremely troubling to see this organization removed from the Hate Crimes Commission under what looks like efforts to shield Israel from criticism. It is hard to understand how such an action would serve to reduce hate crime against Jews or Muslims.

As a Jew, I stand by CAIR and Zainab Chaudry and their continued presence on the Maryland Hate Crimes Commission. I respectfully urge this committee to return an **unfavorable report on HB 0763**.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Eric Hiller

1000 Kenilworth Dr.

Towson, MD, 21204

HB763-UNF Frankl.pdf

Uploaded by: Evelyn Frankl

Position: UNF

HB763 – UNF

Evelyn Frankl, 728 Easley Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910

As a Montgomery County Jewish resident and daughter of Holocaust survivors, I oppose HB763.

I was privileged several week ago to witness a presentation by a group called “Combatants for Peace” at Adat Shalom Synagogue. The group is made up of former combatants on both sides of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict who have come together through their rejection of their own violence toward one another. Listening to them gave me hope. I suggest everyone go to their website and FB page.

The Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention is a relatively new MD commission which has yet to establish governing mechanisms. There is a bill before this body, HB748, that will establish a code of conduct for that commission. It is therefore inexpedient and egregious to use this esteemed body for the explicit removal of a member organization without the due process a code of conduct would provide.

The Jewish Community is represented on the Commission by at least three organizations – two of them national. Here in Maryland, no other representative of the Muslim community enjoys the trust and support that CAIR Maryland does.

CAIR is the country’s largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization and has thirty years of experience serving the American Muslim community. It has a well-established public record of denouncing terrorism and religious intolerance. CAIR has not only advocated for Muslim Americans, but it has also repeatedly condemned attacks on—and raised money to rebuild—churches, as well as repeatedly condemning antisemitism and hate crimes against Jewish Americans.

As a Jewish activist, I have worked in coalition with CAIR for years and find them to be a solid thoughtful and courageous partner. I have never found them to be antisemitic in any way.

I worry in this moment, about the knee-jerk silencing of voices on the Muslim/Arab/Palestinian and progressive Jewish side of the current tragedy. I worry that the resultant McCarthyistic atmosphere is inappropriately bleeding into local and state policies.

The removal of CAIR from a commission assigned to mitigate hate sets an extremely dangerous precedent. All other groups within the commission are represented by organizations not randomly selected individuals without the gravitas brought by national level organization. It is disrespectful to ask this of the Muslim community. This moment calls for generosity of spirit not knee-jerk reactions. For our unified future, please vote no on HB763.

JVP Baltimore Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Hannah Pursley

Position: UNF



February 16, 2024
Honorable Chair Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony to **OPPOSE HB 0763** Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention
Membership – Alterations

Dear Chair Clippinger and House Judiciary Committee Members:

On behalf of **Baltimore Jewish Voice for Peace**, I thank you for this opportunity to **testify in strong opposition to House Bill 763**, which aims to remove CAIR and its representative from the Maryland Attorney General Hate Crimes Commission and instate two other Muslim appointees.

Jewish Voice for Peace is a grassroots Jewish organization working toward freedom and justice for Palestinians and Israelis, with over 700,000 members and supporters nationwide. As Jewish Marylanders, Baltimore Jewish Voice for Peace strongly opposes this effort to remove CAIR and its Maryland Director, Zainab Chaudry, from the Hate Crimes Commission.

CAIR is the US's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. CAIR is the main Muslim organization in Maryland that tracks hate bias incidents and provides advocacy and legal assistance to the state's Muslim communities.

CAIR's work is vital in this moment of heightened Islamophobia, anti-Arab racism and anti-Palestinian hate. No one is better suited to represent Maryland's Muslims than the group that has been the strongest local voice against Islamophobia hate crimes.

Each community should be able to decide who represents it, and Zainab Chaudry has the support of her community. Dozens of Islamic faith-based organizations and institutions have written to the Office of the Attorney General in support of keeping CAIR and Zainab Chaudry on the Commission, along with thousands of community members.

Removing CAIR from this Commission effectively silences the many Muslims in Maryland who have stood up in support of Zainab Chaudry over the past few months. We know that she brings a perspective to the Hate Crimes Commission that will not be present if she were removed.

Part of what Dr. Chaudry brings to the table is a consistent and principled stance in support of Palestinian human rights and freedom. This advocacy has meant she's faced smear attacks, death threats, and seemingly endless hate.

Support for Palestinians is not hateful. Many Jews, including myself, the rest of Jewish Voice for Peace Baltimore, and many people in our community, support Palestinians, especially in this moment when Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank are under such intense attack. We refuse to equate advocacy for Palestinians with antisemitism.

We know, as Jews, how important it is to stand together with our Muslim family, friends, and neighbors right now, when both of our communities are at heightened risk of hate crimes. We know that Jews and Muslims are safer and stronger when we support one another.

Zainab Chaudry and CAIR have a long history of intersectional work within and beyond Muslim communities, including showing up for our community against antisemitism. We know that she has our community's back. When she is under attack, we have hers.

As Jews, we stand by CAIR and Zainab Chaudry and their continued presence on the Maryland Hate Crimes Commission. We respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB 0763.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Hannah Pursley,
213 W Lanvale St, Apt. 3F
Baltimore, MD 21217

Testimony Judiciary Committee (16 Feb 2024).pdf

Uploaded by: Hazem Moakkit

Position: UNF

February 16, 2024

Judiciary Committee
Maryland State House
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: HB0763
Position: Unfavorable

Esteemed Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and esteemed Judiciary Committee members:

I write this testimony to express my **strong opposition to Resolution HB0763** proposed by delegates Attar, Vogel, and Rosenberg which calls for the removal of the Council on American Islamic Relations - Maryland Representation from the Maryland Attorney General's Hate Crimes Commission, to be replaced with the appointment of two Muslim commissioners selected by the Attorney General.

This is a clearly **bigoted resolution** that only **exacerbates the atmosphere of hate, intimidation, and harassment** that the **Arab and Muslim communities have been experiencing**, particularly in the past four months since Israel started its genocidal campaign in Gaza.

I would like to stress the following points:

1. The Council on American-Islamic Relations is America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. Its Maryland office is the predominant organization for the Muslim community in the state that tracks and reports on hate bias incidents targeting Muslim communities. There are over 350,000 Muslims in the state of Maryland.
2. CAIR's Maryland director Dr. Zainab Chaudry is a well-respected civil rights activist and leader of the Maryland Muslim community. She is the first Muslim to serve on the Maryland State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.
3. Many residents of Maryland's diverse communities, including Zainab, have been vocal and critical of the Israeli government's horrific crimes against Palestinian Christians and Muslims. CAIR, Jewish Voice for Peace DC Metro and the Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace recently held a legislative briefing for the Maryland General Assembly on the staggering humanitarian crisis that has unfolded in Gaza.

Hazem Moakkit
5712 Cromwell Drive
Bethesda, MD 20816

4. The Muslim and Arab (includes Christians) communities in Maryland --and indeed around the country-- have witnessed an unprecedented surge in racist and bigoted attacks aimed at silencing and ostracizing Americans who supports Palestinian human rights.
5. Such hateful attacks included death threats and persistent harassment to many of our community members, including Zainab. And now, this legislative attempt to remove her and CAIR from the Hate Crimes Commission, is a clear example of that broad-based campaign of hate against the Muslim and Arab communities.
6. Israeli leaders have also made genocidal remarks about the Palestinian people, calling them 'human animals', claiming that there are 'no innocent civilians' in Gaza, and threatening to ethnically cleanse millions of people. At a recent hearing in Howard County, at least 16 reports of hate bias incidents committed by anti-Palestinian demonstrators against members of our community were made to CAIR and the Howard County Police Department.
7. Attempting to legislatively remove Zainab and CAIR from this Commission because they've joined Muslim, Jewish, Christian allies, including faith leaders and other people of conscience, in criticizing the Israeli government's crimes and for expressing solidarity for human rights for all including Palestinians is unacceptable. This attack on them is an attack on all of us.
8. Conflating pro-Palestine advocacy with Antisemitism is fundamentally and categorially flawed. Supporting Palestinian human rights, or any human rights for that matter, is an enshrined right. Israel is a state, and Zionism is an ideology. Being critical of either one does not make one Antisemitic.
9. I therefore reject this attempt to further undermine our communities and undercut our voices. We respectfully call on the House Judiciary Committee to give this bill an unfavorable report. I strongly oppose this attempt to disempower and marginalize our communities.

I respectfully urge the House Judiciary Committee Chair Luke Clippinger, Vice-Chair Sandy Bartlett and Committee members to unequivocally reject any attempt to remove CAIR or Dr. Zainab Chaudry from the OAG Hate Crimes Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Hazem Moakkit

Bethesda, MD

Testimony Opposing HB 0763 by Hena Zuberi, Directo

Uploaded by: Hena Zuberi

Position: UNF

Testimony Opposing HB 0763 by Hena Zuberi, Director of Advocacy, Justice For All

Honorable Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I, Hena Zuberi, Director of Advocacy for Justice For All, a nonprofit organization committed to championing human rights and social justice issues across the globe, including here in our own backyard. I am here to express our strong opposition to HB 0763, a bill that, if passed, would have significant adverse effects on the Muslim community's cohesion, trust, and the fundamental principles of justice and equality that we all hold dear.

Our organization, Justice For All, stands in solidarity with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Maryland, an esteemed institution that has tirelessly worked to promote understanding, protect civil rights, and foster community empowerment. The leadership of CAIR Maryland has been instrumental in advocating for the rights of Muslims and other marginalized communities across the state, offering support to those affected by discrimination and hate crimes, including anti-semitism and working towards a more inclusive society.

It is with deep concern that we observe the unfounded attacks against the leadership of CAIR Maryland. These baseless allegations not only undermine the credibility and hard work of a key civil rights organization but also harm the very fabric of our community.

Choosing leadership for the Hate Crimes Commission is a significant decision. It requires more than just filling a seat; it demands appointing representatives who carry the trust and the mandate of those they represent. The Muslim community has chosen its leadership. We choose CAIR to represent us on the Hate Crimes Commission because they are our civil rights organization. They have the expertise, the experience, and most importantly, the community's backing to serve effectively in this capacity.

The leadership of CAIR Maryland has been at the forefront of advocating for policies and practices that protect and uplift all Marylanders, regardless of their faith or background. Their work has been critical in advancing dialogue, enhancing mutual understanding, and promoting the rights of individuals to live free from discrimination and hate. Any effort to undermine this work through legislation like HB 0763 not only harms the Muslim community but all communities that rely on the unwavering support of civil rights advocates.

Our community's trust in CAIR is not misplaced. Time and again, CAIR has proven itself by standing on the front lines against discrimination, offering legal support to victims of hate crimes, and educating the public about Islam, thereby combating ignorance with knowledge. Their work in collecting data on hate crimes provides an invaluable resource for understanding the scope and nature of the challenges we face. This data is not just numbers; it represents the lived experiences of our brothers and sisters, making CAIR's role in the commission not just beneficial but essential.

To appoint random community members without the requisite background or understanding of the issues at hand would not only be a disservice but could potentially undermine the commission's efforts to combat hate crimes against Muslims. It is not enough to have representation in name alone; we need representation that is meaningful, informed, and empowered to make a difference.

In closing, I urge you to consider the broader implications of HB 0763 on our community's cohesion, the respect for civil rights, and the essential work of organizations like CAIR Maryland. Let us not be swayed by unfounded allegations or actions that would weaken our collective pursuit of a just and equitable society. Instead, let us reaffirm our commitment to principles of fairness, inclusion, and respect for all individuals and their rights to effective representation and advocacy.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my testimony against HB 0763.

Hena Zuberi

Hiruy Hadgu - hb0763.pdf

Uploaded by: Hiruy Hadgu

Position: UNF

Hiruy Hadgu
Testimony on HB0763
Unfavorable

Members of the Committee,

I am testifying to express my vehement opposition to House Bill 0763, which aims to unjustly remove the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) from the Maryland Attorney General's Hate Crimes Commission.

CAIR is the nation's largest Muslim civil rights organization, with a venerable history of defending the rights of Muslim Americans. The organization has been at the forefront of empowering not just mosques but also churches and synagogues, fighting against the surge of hate crimes that has unfortunately become all too common in our society.

I am appalled by the Bill's sponsors and the State Delegations Zionist Caucus' push to continue to silence critics of Apartheid Israel and its genocidal crimes. Instead of expressing collective outrage against Israel's war crimes, the Zionist Caucus seeks to employ fascist tactics to crack down on dissent.

The bill in question is a direct retaliation against CAIR's advocacy for Palestinian Christians and Muslims, a continuation of efforts from last fall that failed to undermine CAIR's legitimate and necessary work. CAIR's Maryland director, Zainab Chaudry, has been recognized for her tireless efforts in combatting hate and fostering interfaith harmony.

The sponsors of House Bill 0763 have remained disturbingly silent on the rise of anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian sentiments. Instead of addressing these pressing issues, they have chosen to target an organization that provides a crucial voice for the Muslim community. This bill is not just an attempt to remove CAIR; it is an attempt to silence a significant portion of our community and to suggest that the rights and representations of Muslim and Palestinian voices are negotiable.

In a time when CAIR's Maryland office reported a worrying number of incidents and hate bias complaints, the message sent by this bill is clear and dangerous: it attempts to normalize the marginalization of Muslims and Palestinians, and it undermines the integrity of the Hate Crimes Commission itself.

I urge you to review the actions and public statements of the bill's sponsors critically. Do they reflect a commitment to all constituents and a condemnation of all forms of hate?

With this in mind, I call upon you to uphold the values of representation, justice, and inclusivity by maintaining CAIR's deserved place on the Hate Crimes Commission. Oppose House Bill 0763 and ensure that our state's response to hate crimes remains robust, fair, and representative of all communities.

Zionism is terrorism. Zionism is fascism. Oppose fascism because this has no place in our state. Vote against this bill. If we don't stop Zionism now, if we agree to punish and crack down on dissent today because of legitimate criticisms against Israel, what's next? This is a slipper slope and I urge you to reject it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

IMAN Testimony - HB0763.pdf

Uploaded by: IMAN Action Steering Committee

Position: UNF

IMAN NETWORK

Statewide Muslim Crisis Working Group

Email: info@imanaction.org

Website: imanaction.org



Mosque & Member Organizations

Statewide Organizations:

- American Muslim Educator Network
- CAIR Maryland
- ICNA Council for Social Justice
- ICNA Relief
- Islamic Leadership Institute of America
- Justice For All
- Muslim American Society MD/Noor Ctr.
- Muslim Voices Coalition
- United Maryland Muslim Council

Anne Arundel County:

- Islamic Society of Annapolis

Baltimore City:

- BAM Baltimore Area Muslims
- Beats Rhymes & Relief

Baltimore County:

- Islamic Center of Owings Mills
- Islamic Society of Baltimore
- Masjid Fatima

Frederick County:

- Frederick County Muslim Council
- Islamic Society of Frederick

Harford County:

- Harford Islamic Center
- Masjid Al Falaah

Howard County:

- Dar Al Taqwa
- Howard County Muslim Council

Montgomery County:

- IMAAM Center
- Islamic Center of Maryland
- Islamic Society of Washington Area
- Montgomery Co. Muslim Council

Prince Georges' County:

- Dar Us Salaam
- Diyanet Center of America
- Prince Georges' Co. Muslim Council



February 20, 2024

Honorable Chair Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony OPPOSING House Bill 0763 - Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention - Membership - Alterations

Dear Chair Clippinger, Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Islamic Maryland Action Network (IMAN) submits this testimony in strong **opposition** to HB0763 calling for the removal of the Council on American-Islamic Relations - Maryland Representation from the Maryland Attorney General's Hate Crimes Commission, to be replaced with the appointment of two Muslim commissioners selected by the Attorney General.

The Islamic Maryland Action Network (IMAN Network) is a statewide Muslim crisis response working group that serves and represents over 350,000 Muslim residents in the state.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations is America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. It's Maryland office is the predominant organization for the Muslim community in the state that tracks and reports on hate bias incidents targeting Muslim communities. CAIR is a member of the IMAN Network.

CAIR's Maryland director Dr. Zainab Chaudry is a well respected civil rights activist and leader of the Maryland Muslim community. She has been serving in the advocacy space for a decade. She is the first Muslim to serve on the Maryland State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and has been recognized at the federal, state and local levels of the government for her interfaith work and activism.

Over the past four months, anti-Muslim bigotry and anti-Palestinian racism (directed towards both Christians and Muslims) have surged in our state. This has led to an unprecedented rise in harassment, discrimination and hate bias incidents, as well as a relentless campaign to censor and erase Americans who expose injustices and express support for Palestinian human rights.

The unwarranted, misleading and hateful attacks and death threats launched against Zainab over the last four months, including this legislative attempt to remove her and CAIR from the Hate Crimes Commission, is merely an example of that broad-based campaign of hate.

(continued on next page)

IMAN NETWORK

Statewide Muslim Crisis Working Group

Email: info@imanaction.org

Website: imanaction.org



Mosque & Member Organizations

Statewide Organizations:

- American Muslim Educator Network
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- Muslim Family Center

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- IMAAM Center
- Islamic Center of Maryland
- Islamic Society of Washington Area
- Montgomery Co. Muslim Council
- Muslim Community Center

Prince Georges' County:

- Dar Us Salaam
- Diyanet Center of America
- Prince Georges' Co. Muslim Council



House bill 0763, introduced by Delegate Dayla Attar and co-sponsored by two of her colleagues of the Maryland General Assembly, is an attempt to validate a dishonest smear campaign against Zainab by emboldening voices that seek to suppress advocacy for Palestinian human rights.

As a representative for Maryland's Muslim community on the Attorney General's Hate Crimes Commission, Zainab and CAIR's voice is critical in articulating our community's experiences and concerns and advancing our interests in a manner that inspires trust. Removing their role is harmful and unjustified. **We strongly oppose this attempt to disempower and marginalize our communities.** Particularly in this political environment, it is perceived as a direct attack on our communities. In order to maintain faith in this commission's mission and objectives, we reserve the right to decide who serves on our behalf in this capacity.

Like Zainab, many residents of Maryland's diverse communities have been vocal and critical of the Israeli government's horrific crimes against Palestinian Christians and Muslims. CAIR, Jewish Voice for Peace DC Metro and the Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace recently held a legislative briefing for the Maryland General Assembly on the staggering humanitarian crisis that has unfolded in Gaza.

As you know, the Israeli government has bombed residential buildings, refugee camps, hospitals, ambulances, mosques and churches, killing over 30,000 people, most of them women and children. Many of our community members have loved ones - in some cases, entire blood lines - who have been unjustly killed in Gaza in the recent violence. Both the United Nations' International Court of Justice and a U.S. Federal Court have declared a plausible case of genocide against the Israeli government.

Israeli leaders have also made genocidal remarks about the Palestinian people, calling them 'human animals,' claiming that there are 'no innocent civilians' in Gaza, and threatening to ethnically cleanse millions of people. At a recent hearing in Howard County, at least 16 reports of hate bias incidents committed by anti-Palestinian demonstrators against members of our community were made to CAIR and the Howard County Police Department.

Attempting to legislatively remove Zainab and CAIR from this Commission because they've joined Muslim, Jewish, Christian allies, including faith leaders and other people of conscience, in criticizing the Israeli government's crimes and for expressing solidarity for human rights for all including Palestinians is unacceptable. This attack on them is an attack on all of us.

As Zainab has said, "There is no conflict between condemning any government's war crimes and standing up against all forms of hate here at home, including Islamophobia, antisemitism and anti-Palestinian racism."

(continued on next page)

IMAN NETWORK

Statewide Muslim Crisis Working Group

Email: info@imanaction.org

Website: imanaction.org



Mosque & Member Organizations

Statewide Organizations:

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- Islamic Center of Maryland
- Islamic Society of Washington Area
- Montgomery Co. Muslim Council
- Muslim Community Center

Prince Georges' County:

- Dar Us Salaam
- Diyanet Center of America
- Prince Georges' Co. Muslim Council



We agree. Our communities stand united against attempts to divide us. We reserve the right to identify our own representatives who advocate for our interests. We reject this attempt to further undermine our communities and undercut our voices. We respectfully call on the House Judiciary Committee to give this bill an unfavorable report.

IMAN Network urges House Judiciary Committee Chair Luke Clippinger, Vice-Chair Sandy Bartlett and Committee members to unequivocally reject any attempt to remove CAIR or Dr. Zainab Chaudry from the OAG Hate Crimes Commission.

Regards,

IMAN Network Steering Committee

testimony-HB763-2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Jonathan Rochkind

Position: UNF

February 16, 2024
Honorable Chair Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony to OPPOSE HB 0763 Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention Membership - Alterations

Dear Chair Clippinger and House Judiciary Committee Members:

I am **testifying in opposition to House Bill 763**, which proposes to remove CAIR and its representative from the Maryland Attorney General Hate Crimes Commission.

I am a Jewish Marylander, I've lived in District 43A for 17 years, I'm an active member of my community, worshipping at the Jewish congregation in Hinenu, and active over my years here in several civil rights and social justice organizations. I have had the opportunity to visit the offices of members of this committee before.

I want to make it clear that speaking up for Palestinian lives and liberation is not anti-Jewish, and neither is recognizing the decades of history of Israeli ethnic cleansing and apartheid toward Palestinians. Those claiming to speak for the Jewish community saying otherwise do not speak for me or the growing numbers of Jews who share my values.

The attacks on CAIR are part of a coordinated smear campaign meant to punish any statements in support of Palestinian rights, and become part of a larger effort to discipline and control expression for Palestinian rights, involving soliciting government repression of speech, organized campaigns of personal harassment and threats, and creating a climate of fear of punishment for expressing disapproved political opinions.

When our entire nation is in a precarious position right now, where democracy, pluralism, freedom of expression, and multiculturalism are being threatened by anti-democratic forces, these efforts to control pro-Palestinian speech are helping to build structures of repression and attacking norms around freedom of expression and pluralism that will leave an ongoing anti-democratic legacy effecting Marylanders for a generation.

This will not keep Jews, Muslims, other minorities, or any Marylanders at all safer. The choices you make here today affect not only Palestinian lives, but will be remembered for how they affect our ongoing crisis of democracy.

We respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB 0763.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Rochkind
755 Melville Ave
Baltimore MD, 21218

Testimony_OPPOSE HB 0763 .pdf

Uploaded by: Maxwell Greenberg

Position: UNF

February 20, 2024
Honorable Chair Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony to **OPPOSE HB 0763** Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention
Membership - Alterations

Dear Chair Clippinger and House Judiciary Committee Members:

I thank you for this opportunity to **testify in strong opposition to House Bill 763**, which aims to remove CAIR and its representative from the Maryland Attorney General Hate Crimes Commission and instate two other Muslim appointees.

As a Jewish Marylander, I strongly oppose this effort to remove CAIR and its Maryland Director, Zainab Chaudry, from the Hate Crimes Commission.

CAIR is the US's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. CAIR is the main Muslim organization in Maryland that tracks hate bias incidents and provides advocacy and legal assistance to the state's Muslim communities.

CAIR's work is vital in this moment of heightened Islamophobia, anti-Arab racism and anti-Palestinian hate. No one is better suited to represent Maryland's Muslims than the group that has been the strongest local voice against Islamophobia hate crimes.

Each community should be able to decide who represents it, and Zainab Chaudry has the support of her community. Dozens of Islamic faith-based organizations and institutions have written to the Office of the Attorney General in support of keeping CAIR and Zainab Chaudry on the Commission, along with thousands of community members.

Removing CAIR from this Commission effectively silences the many Muslims in Maryland who have stood up in support of Zainab Chaudry over the past few months. We know that she brings a perspective to the Hate Crimes Commission that will not be present if she were removed.

Part of what Dr. Chaudry brings to the table is a consistent and principled stance in support of Palestinian human rights and freedom. This advocacy has meant she's faced smear attacks, death threats, and seemingly endless hate.

Support for Palestinians is not hateful. Many Jews, including myself and many people in my community, support Palestinians, especially in this moment when Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank are under such intense attack. We refuse to equate advocacy for Palestinians with antisemitism.

We know, as Jews, how important it is to stand together with our Muslim family, friends, and neighbors right now, when both of our communities are at heightened risk of hate crimes. We know that Jews and Muslims are safer and stronger when we support one another.

Zainab Chaudry and CAIR have a long history of intersectional work within and beyond Muslim communities, including showing up for our community against antisemitism. We know that she has our community's back. When she is under attack, we have hers.

As a Jew, I stand by CAIR and Zainab Chaudry and their continued presence on the Maryland Hate Crimes Commission. I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB 0763.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Maxwell Greenberg
2105 N Charles St, Apt 4
Baltimore, MD 21218

HB0763_Levy.pdf

Uploaded by: Michele Levy

Position: UNF

February 16, 2024
Honorable Chair Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony to **OPPOSE HB 0763** Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention
Membership - Alterations

Dear Chair Clippinger and House Judiciary Committee Members:

I am **testifying in strong opposition to House Bill 763**, which aims to remove CAIR and its representative from the Maryland Attorney General Hate Crimes Commission and instate two other Muslim appointees.

As a Jewish Marylander, and grandchild of Holocaust survivors, I strongly oppose this effort to remove CAIR and its Maryland Director, Zainab Chaudry, from the Hate Crimes Commission.

CAIR is the US's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. CAIR is the main Muslim organization in Maryland that tracks hate bias incidents and provides advocacy and legal assistance to the state's Muslim communities.

Time and time again, CAIR has demonstrated its commitment to safety in solidarity. Most notably, for me, was the unwavering support and bravery that Zainab Chaudry and other members of CAIR demonstrated after the Tree of Life massacre in October 2018. I will never forget the overwhelming grief and fear I felt approaching the doors of my synagogue on the first Shabbat after the atrocities. Nor will I forget the sight of the CAIR community standing outside our building, putting their bodies on the line by volunteering to serve as our security and remaining at their posts for the duration of the service.

CAIR's work is vital in this moment of heightened Islamophobia, anti-Arab racism and anti-Palestinian hate. No one is better suited to represent Maryland's Muslims than the group that has been the strongest local voice against Islamophobia hate crimes.

Each community should be able to decide who represents it, and Zainab Chaudry has the support of her community. Dozens of Islamic faith-based organizations and institutions have written to the

Office of the Attorney General in support of keeping CAIR and Zainab Chaudry on the Commission, along with thousands of community members.

Removing CAIR from this Commission effectively silences the many Muslims in Maryland who have stood up in support of Zainab Chaudry over the past few months. We know that she brings a perspective to the Hate Crimes Commission that will not be present if she were removed.

Part of what Dr. Chaudry brings to the table is a consistent and principled stance in support of Palestinian human rights and freedom. This advocacy has meant she's faced smear attacks, death threats, and seemingly endless hate.

Support for Palestinians is not hateful. Many Jews, including myself and many people in my community, support Palestinians, especially in this moment when Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank are under such intense attack. We refuse to equate advocacy for Palestinians with antisemitism.

We know, as Jews, how important it is to stand together with our Muslim family, friends, and neighbors right now, when both of our communities are at heightened risk of hate crimes. We know that Jews and Muslims are safer and stronger when we support one another.

Zainab Chaudry and CAIR have a long history of intersectional work within and beyond Muslim communities, including showing up for our community against antisemitism. We know that she has our community's back. When she is under attack, we have hers.

As a practicing Jew, I stand by CAIR and Zainab Chaudry and their continued presence on the Maryland Hate Crimes Commission. I respectfully urge this committee to return an **unfavorable report on HB 0763**.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Michele Levy
3140 Remington Ave.
Baltimore, MD

HB 763– Hate Crime Commission.pdf

Uploaded by: NaShona Kess

Position: UNF



NAACP

Maryland
STATE CONFERENCE

February 20, 2024

Judiciary Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: HB 763 – Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention –
Membership-Alterations

Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland State Conference of the NAACP. We oppose House Bill 763, Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention – Membership Alterations. We ask that all members of the committee oppose this legislation as it seeks to remove the representative Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) Maryland Office from the Commission on Hate Crime Response.

This legislation introduced by Delegates Attar, Vogel and Rosenberg is a direct attack against CAIR over its advocacy in support of Palestine. CAIR's mission is to protect civil rights, enhance understanding of Islam, promote justice and empower American Muslims. Removing CAIR from the commission is a bad faith means to attack CAIR for their willingness to speak out against the regimes that seek to impede the civil and human rights of Palestine and Palestinians.

This bill seeks to amend the Code of Maryland Article – State Government 6-802.

Notwithstanding the exception of “two members of the general public” and “Asian American and Pacific Islander Community”, the commission members listed under 6-802 (b) consist of members from coalitions, councils and other organizations that represent specific groups, including minorities. The members include: Anti-Defamation League; Women’s Law Center; Baltimore Jewish Council; Coalition Opposed to Violence and Extremism; Free State Justice; Jewish Community Relations Council; Immigration Outreach Service Center; Maryland Association of Human Relations/Human Rights Agencies; Maryland Chiefs of Police Association; Maryland commission on Civil Rights; Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center; Maryland Center for School Safety; Maryland Sheriffs’ Association; Maryland State’s Attorneys’ Association; National Alliance of Mental Illness; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Pride Center of Maryland; and Sikh Coalition. This amendment seeks to **REMOVE** the only council that represents the Islamic and Muslim community and replace it with “two representatives of the Muslim Community”. This is substantially out of sync with the membership and make-up of the commission, which is evidence to show that the purpose of

this bill is to remove CAIR as a coordinated effort to further condemn the organization and their executive director, Dr. Zainub Chaudry, for its stance on the Israel and Palestine conflict.

In or around November 2023, the Attorney General suspended the Executive Director of CAIR, Dr. Zainub Chaudry, however, she was later reinstated by the Attorney General's office. On the issue of the suspension, the AG's office stated that "the AG office lacked the authority from the legislation creating the commission to remove or suspend a commissioner during their 4-year term of service" (WMAR 2 Baltimore). The Attorney General's Offices further stated "...the Attorney General will distribute draft operating guidelines to members which include personal communications and how to balance the members' right to freedom of speech and their role as commissioners for their review and feedback". Since the AGO lacked the ability to continue the suspension, we believe this bill acts as an alternative to remove the organization all together. The removal coupled with the evidence of obvious dissention further demonstrates that the purpose of this bill is to excommunicate or strip away a specific group from the commission with mal intent.

In addition to its support for Palestine and the wider Muslim community, CAIR has a history of condemning any all acts of hate like Neo-Nazi and Anti-Semitic acts. You can find these remarks on their website at <https://www.cair.com/?s=antisemitic>. CAIR is an advocate for the community on the prevention of all hate crimes and should remain on the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention in the Office of the Attorney General.

We encourage the Committee to oppose HB 763 to ensure CAIR remains on the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention. Thank you.

In Service,

NaShona Kess, Esq., MLS
Executive Director, NAACP Maryland State Conference
NaShonakess.mdnaacp@gmail.com

HOUSE BILL 763.pdf

Uploaded by: Nasima Ali

Position: UNF

HOUSE BILL 763 – UNFAVORABLE

My name is Nasima Ali, and I am a longtime resident of Maryland. I grew up in Montgomery County, attending Pleasant View ES, Julius West MS, and Richard Montgomery HS (the IB Program). I established a Muslim students' organization at UMCP, and when returning to the area years later, I started to work with Muslim nonprofits in education and refugee resettlement, which is what I do until today.

I've met so many active and determined Muslim American citizens here. Therefore, I can testify that Maryland does have a long standing Muslim community that has been happy to work alongside, and with our fellow Americans of other faiths and cultures. However, it is also true that we Muslims are represented by the Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR). It is the most active advocacy organization in the Muslim community, here in Maryland. One may even argue it is our ONLY such institution. I testify that it would be unfair to change this legislation to read "Muslim Community" when every other faith community is represented by its organizations. We Muslims deserve to be represented by our organization as well.

I began to hear about the CAIR back in 1994. We had (still have) maybe three national organizations that represented the Muslim community, but none were advocacy organizations per se. Muslims could not turn to them for redress or even documentation of anti-Muslim actions. When CAIR came on the scene, our community was finally able to start documenting and working on Islamophobia in the workplace, anti-defamation, bullying in schools, and such.

Zainab Chaudry joined CAIR and garnered much recognition of her good work within the organization. She has been recognized by the White House, and by the Governor's office. She advises the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, is a graduate of the Maryland Public Policy Conflict Resolution Fellows Program at the University Of Maryland Carey School Of Law, and advises Howard County Racial Equity Taskforce as well.

But most importantly, she conducts the important work of CAIR. When Afghan refugees were brought in a chaotic evacuation in August 2021, Zainab became involved, on an organizational and individual level. While she was transporting pregnant women and children in her own car,

she was also collaborating in a Maryland-wide coalition of Muslim mosques and nonprofits, known as Maryland Afghan Refugee Crisis Committee (MDARCC). I facilitated this temporary coalition that worked together for 18 months, and as such, was witness to her dedication to the same values as the state Hate Crime Commission. She also worked amicably with Jewish and Christian partners in interfaith networks for the common cause of refugee resettlement.

When the understaffed overworked resettlement agencies placed refugees in vulnerable unsafe placements, and especially when we had children being bullied in schools in Baltimore and Prince George's County, Zainab as Director of CAIR was the only recourse for some alleviation. She worked in front of media cameras, and behind the scenes with public school, city, and county officials. Ms. Chaudry was able to intervene and get some redress of these hate crimes. I am sure that we all hoped that with the appointment of CAIR to the Hate Commission that we would be able to bring more peace and justice to a state where hate still lives and is active against the Muslim community, and all our brethren minorities.

I cannot think of a Muslim institution that is more representative and effective in civil rights and hate crimes, than CAIR and its Director Zainab Chaudry. She has demonstrated a high aptitude, and success, in her roles thus far. To remove CAIR and its Director in this manner would be an injustice to the Muslim community. I urge an unfavorable report.

Nasima Ali

(co-facilitator of Maryland Afghan Refugee Crisis Committee MDARCC)

3710 Green Ash Court

Beltsville, MD 20705

PCAP Letter to MD Delegates HB0763.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Philip Farah

Position: UNF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Fahed AbuAkel
Rev. Alex Awad
Mubarak Awad
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Rula Kort
Jonathan Kuttab
Maher Massis
Paul Noursi



February 16th, 2024

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates

Greetings. I am writing on behalf of my organization, the Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace (PCAP.) I am co-chair of this national group that advocates for peace and justice in Israel/Palestine, with equal rights for all Palestinians, Jews, and others who are inhabitants of the Holy Land.

We urge against the adoption of HB0763, effectively banning the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) from the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention. CAIR and its leaders are faithful representatives of the civil rights of Muslim Americans and highly trusted and valued by this community. They have stood against Islamophobia and hate crimes against Muslims in the U.S. They have also always stood firm against all forms of racism and bigotry, including antisemitism. In fact, some of their strongest allies are Jewish Americans.

PCAP has proudly collaborated with CAIR on many occasions. The Anti-Defamation League has led the attacks on CAIR, as it has tried to malign all major groups advocating for the rights of the Palestinian people. The attack on CAIR is another bad faith attempt to use legislation to shut down free speech when it comes to the defense of Palestinian rights. A large and growing percentage of all Americans, including Muslims, Christians, Jews, and secular people are supporting the human rights of the Palestinian people. HB0763 constitutes a dangerous step towards limiting the rights of the people of MD to free speech.

Respectfully,

Philip Frah (signed)

Co-Chair

Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace

CAIR Testimony to OPPOSE HB0763 .pdf

Uploaded by: Robert McCaw

Position: UNF

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.
All praise and thanks belong to God, the Lord of the Worlds.
May peace and prayers be upon Prophet Muhammad and his family.



Council on American-Islamic Relations
453 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
Tele 202-488-8787 Fax 202-488-0833
E-mail: info@cair.com URL www.cair.com

February 20, 2024

Honorable Chair Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Honorable Vice Chair J. Sandy Bartlett
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: CAIR Testimony to OPPOSE HB0763 Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention - Membership - Alterations

Honorable Chair Clippinger, Honorable Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Robert S. McCaw, and I serve as the Government Affairs Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. I appreciate this opportunity to testify against HB0763, a measure concerning alterations to the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention that directly impacts my organization.

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed removal of CAIR's representation from this commission. At this critical juncture, amid an unprecedented surge of hate targeting American Muslims,¹ it is more important than ever for the commission to include the Maryland Muslim community's leading civil rights group and expert on Islamophobia.

Our organization received over 3,500 complaints nationwide in the final months of 2023 and our Maryland office alone recorded 223 reports of hate bias complaints and requests for assistance between October 9 through December 2, 2023.² CAIR has dedicated many long hours to fulfilling the community trust placed within us and responding to the legitimate concerns and experiences of our diverse communities. This hate has been driven, in part, by the relentless dehumanization of Muslims and Palestinians in our society.

It is crucial to acknowledge CAIR's vital role in our community. CAIR routinely interfaces and engages with officials at every level of the government. As a key trusted resource for reporting

¹ CAIR, "CAIR: New Data Shows the End of 2023 was a 'Relentless' Wave of Bias, Community Resilience is 'Impressive'," January 29, 2024, Link: https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-new-data-shows-the-end-of-2023-was-a-relentless-wave-of-bias-community-resilience-is-impressive

² CAIR, "CAIR Releases Updated Number of Complaints, Bias Incidents Reported Against Maryland Muslims, Arabs in Past 8 Weeks," December 7, 2023, Link: https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-releases-updated-number-of-complaints-bias-incidents-reported-against-maryland-muslims-arabs-in-past-8-weeks

hate crimes and bias incidents, our organization consistently conveys legitimate concerns and experiences of American Muslims and provides insights and resources to local, state, and federal officials.

This attempt to remove CAIR from the commission, based on bad-faith accusations and attacks, is an attempt to silence our advocacy for civil rights and human rights. It is fueled by the failure to distinguish between legitimate criticism of a foreign government's actions versus vile bigotry, such as antisemitism.

Antisemitism is evil, dangerous, and unacceptable, and CAIR has consistently condemned it for 30 years, as you can see from the supporting documents we have provided. We have also clearly and consistently unjust wars, terrorism, and any violence against civilians, including attacks on Israeli civilians on Oct. 7th. Again, we have provided the committee with documentation.

CAIR has unwaveringly defended all communities impacted by hate and bias, including the Jewish community. I urge this committee to oppose this legislation in order to ensure that the Maryland Muslim community's leading expert on Islamophobia and hate crimes continues to serve on the commission on behalf of impacted community members.

It is important to note CAIR's Maryland office has long advocated for increased and more diverse representation on the commission in addition to our organization, including members from Palestinian Muslim and Christian communities, who have been disproportionately impacted by hate in recent months.

This can be achieved through legislative or non-legislative means but should not be couched in with a bill that aims to silence a critical voice for the concerns, experiences, and rights of Maryland's Muslim communities.

Removing the nation's largest Muslim civil rights organization from the commission would silence a vital voice advocating for safety and inclusivity, which in turn would dangerously undermine the commission's fight against hate. It would leave Maryland's Muslim communities more vulnerable to hate bias and send a dangerous message that the Hate Crimes Commission has itself succumbed to hateful and divisive attempts to undermine the humanity of marginalized communities.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose this bill and urge an unfavorable report.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert S. McCaw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "M".

Robert S. McCaw
Director of Government Affairs Department
Council on American-Islamic Relations

Dec-22-CAIR-Board-Letter.docx (6).pdf

Uploaded by: Robert McCaw

Position: UNF



Council on American-Islamic Relations

453 New Jersey Ave. S.E.

Washington, D.C. 20003

Tele 202-488-8787 Fax 202-488-0833

E-mail: info@cair.com URL www.cair.com

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Dec. 22, 2023

Dear friends and partners:

I write on behalf of the National Board of Directors of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Over the past two weeks, our National Board has communicated with staff leaders, organizational partners, and government officials to address recent concern and confusion about remarks made by CAIR's National Executive Director at a conference on Palestinian human rights on Nov. 24, 2023.

As the National Board of CAIR, we want to be very clear about our organization's stance: we oppose all forms of bigoted hate, including antisemitism, and we oppose all forms of unjust violence against any community, including the Jewish community. This has been our [clear and consistent position in the 30 years](#) since our founding. That's why we [repeatedly](#) and [unequivocally](#) condemned the Oct. 7th attacks on Israeli civilians, and why we reaffirm our condemnation of that violence today without reservation.

CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad also has a long record of opposing bigotry and violence. In fact, his condemnations of terrorism once made him a target of ISIS. He also began his recent remarks at the Palestinian rights conference [by explicitly condemning](#) the scourge of antisemitism.

At the same time, Mr. Awad recognizes and agrees that some of the other remarks he made at that conference should have been explained and expressed more clearly. When anti-Muslim groups and far-right media outlets used the ambiguity in Mr. Awad's remarks to frame his intent in the worst way possible, he [released a statement clarifying his remarks](#) and reiterating his alignment with CAIR's longstanding positions.

It is important for CAIR leaders and all human rights advocates to be clear and precise in our advocacy, especially as bad-faith actors try to single out, smear and silence Americans who speak up for Palestinian human rights. CAIR remains committed to consistently—and clearly—speaking out against all forms of bigotry and injustice. We are confident that all CAIR leaders and staff members will do so as we continue to oppose U.S. support for the Israeli government's human rights abuses in Gaza.

We thank those community partners and elected officials who have addressed this issue with us in good faith over the past two weeks. We also thank the over 160 national, state, and local Muslim American civil society organizations and houses of worship that have issued a statement in solidarity with us.

Our national board is available to answer questions or address outstanding concerns about this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Manal Fakhoury
National Board Chair
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Mfakhoury@cair.com

Washington D.C.

Alabama Arizona California Colorado Connecticut Florida Georgia Illinois Kansas Kentucky Maryland
Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Missouri New Jersey North Carolina New York Ohio Oklahoma Pennsylvania
Texas Washington State

HistoryofCAIRDefendingJewishCommunity.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert McCaw

Position: UNF



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E-mail: info@cair.com URL www.cair.com

A Principled and Consistent Force Against Antisemitism

As part of our founding values, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, has always condemned hate.

Because of our values, we have specifically and repeatedly condemned antisemitism throughout our 30 years of existence. We also regularly work with Jewish civil and human rights organizations, and benefit from numerous Jewish team members at the local and national level.

Like other civil and human rights groups, we reject the false notion that advocating for Palestinian human rights is an act of bigotry. It is crucial to differentiate between unacceptable antisemitic hate and legitimate opposition to what even Israeli human rights organizations have described as the Israeli government's human rights abuses against the Palestinian people.

This brief document, citing examples from 1999-2023, offers only a snapshot of CAIR's long record of rejecting antisemitism. This document is not comprehensive.

The past: CAIR takes a principled stand against antisemitism and terrorism against the Jewish community here and abroad

For decades, CAIR has had a standing statement on our website condemning terrorist attacks committed by Hamas and other designated terrorist groups.

CAIR has condemned attacks on a California Jewish Center (8/10/1999), terror attacks in Jerusalem and Haifa (12/2/2001) and terror attacks on Jewish Passover celebrations (3/28/2002).

CAIR has also condemned an Iranian cartoon contest mocking the Holocaust (2/08/2006), an antisemitic article published in a British Columbia Muslim newsletter (1/12/2004) and called on an Arab publication that printed excerpts of the protocols of the Elders of Zion to apologize (11/08/2002). CAIR has condemned antisemitic incidents in Chicago (2/17/2006), Houston (2/24/2005) and Calgary, Canada (8/25/2004).

CAIR also condemned an apparent bias attack on a rabbinical assistant in Brooklyn (3/20/2008), racist and anti-Semitic comments made by Columbus, Ohio Police Officer (8/28/2007), an antisemitic attack on a Penn State Jewish student (2/29/2008) and the vandalism of a Chicago synagogue (4/02/2007).



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[CAIR condemned a shooting incident at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum \(06/10/2009\)](#). After CAIR pointed it out, the Virginia [Department of Motor Vehicles recalled a “Heil Hitler” license plate \(04/22/2010\)](#). [CAIR denounced vandalism perpetrated against a Chicago synagogue \(09/22/2010\)](#), [antisemitic attacks on Anaheim councilman \(10/03/2013\)](#), an [attack on a Kansas Jewish community center \(04/12/2014\)](#), and [stood with Maryland’s Jewish community after the hate vandalism of a synagogue \(04/08/2015\)](#).

[CAIR expressed solidarity with the Jewish community after an Iowa synagogue was vandalized \(05/12/2016\)](#). CAIR [condemned anti-black, anti-gay, and anti-Semitic letters sent to seven businesses and the Israeli consulate in New York City \(10/6/17\)](#).

[CAIR denounced the shootings at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life Synagogue \(10/27/2018\)](#), [anti-Semitic vandalism targeting a Brooklyn synagogue \(11/02/18\)](#), and [vandalism of a Holocaust memorial \(10/9/19\)](#).

[CAIR strongly condemned anti-Black, antisemitic and Islamophobic remarks by then GOP Candidate Marjorie Greene \(06/19/2020\)](#). CAIR condemned [antisemitic material distributed to Idaho and Maryland homes and expressed support for the Jewish Community \(12/21/2021\)](#). We also [condemned a neo-Nazi group’s attempt to promote antisemitic hate in Iowa \(12/30/2022\)](#).

The present: CAIR continues taking a principled stand against antisemitism

CAIR condemned the distribution of antisemitic flyers in [Missouri’s St. Louis County \(5/10/2023\)](#), [Louisiana \(5/02/2023\)](#), [Wisconsin \(3/09/2023\)](#) and [Kentucky \(4/12/2023\)](#).

CAIR [condemned antisemitic neo-Nazi vandalism targeting Michigan’s Jewish community in Oakland County \(5/01/2023\)](#), [multiple incidents of antisemitic vandalism in Queens, New York \(3/24/2023\)](#). The organization further condemned antisemitic vandalism on the [Stanford University campus \(3/14/2023\)](#), the distribution of [antisemitic flyers in two neighborhoods in Kent County, Mich \(3/08/2023\)](#), antisemitic materials to [businesses in Cincinnati \(3/06/2023\)](#), distribution of antisemitic flyers to homes in [West Virginia’s Kanawha County \(3/02/2023\)](#).

CAIR welcomed a hate crime charge brought against a suspect in an [allegedly antisemitic incident in Maryland \(2/27/2023\)](#) and several alleged antisemitic incidents that took place on the campus of the [University of Denver. \(2/15/2023\)](#)

HB 76316022024.pdf

Uploaded by: Sabine Dohrn

Position: UNF

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

UnfavorableHB073.pdf

Uploaded by: Samya Mohammad

Position: UNF

HB0763
Unfavorable

Samya Mohammad
3902 Jiggysy Court
Edgewater, MD 21037

Dear Chair Luke Clippinger, Vice Chair J. Sandy Bartlett and Judiciary committee members,

My name is Samya Mohammad and I am writing in strong opposition to House Bill 0763. I am a physician, a local community organizer, and a Muslim resident of Anne Arundel County. It is deeply disappointing and discouraging to see a bill introduced to exclude the representative of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Maryland Office from the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention during a time of increased islamophobia and racism against those who are visibly Muslim, Arab, brown or black. Impacted communities of hate crimes have a right to have their own vehicle of representation and empowerment which cannot be dictated to them by others.

CAIR has a long-standing history of being the main voice for the Maryland Muslim community to address hate crimes. This organization has spent decades investing in our local muslim communities and it is our source of reporting any incidents of a hate bias or a hate crime that may happen in our community. Zainab Chaudry is a respected figure in our community who we feel safe sharing our most vulnerable experiences with and has tirelessly advocated for so many in our community. Removing CAIR in essence is calling for the erasure and silencing of Muslim voices in Maryland and undercuts the very purpose of this commission.

This bill proposes not only the removal of CAIR, a civil rights and advocacy group, but also goes on to ask for the addition of two members of the Muslim community to be appointed by the Attorney General. The goal is to remove an actual organization that works essentially to advocate for Muslims targeted by hate crimes with two people who happen to be Muslim. Any community would want the best representation, not just token representation. The fact is the sponsors of this bill cannot name another organization that works at the level of CAIR in supporting Muslim victims of hate crimes. They think it is sufficient to just have two random Muslims on the commission and our community will feel valued. Clearly they do not value their Muslim constituents enough to understand the long term damage already committed by the introduction of this bill.

The Muslim community in Maryland views this bill to be in bath faith and punitive in nature. It is meant to target CAIR for its advocacy for Palestinians and specifically on the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Truth be told, any Muslim representative who holds any grain of value in our community or is seen as a representative will be advocating for Palestinians in Gaza. The unfortunate political climate is such that advocating for Palestinians will lead some to feel uncomfortable and have hurt feelings. We do not remove voices and advocates for marginalized communities because some conversations are too challenging or too

uncomfortable. As leaders we should take these as opportunities to listen, learn and grow. If this commission is meant to have any value and serve a purpose for our community then we should have a valid voice that has worked on every level of the government to address bias against communities impacted by hate.

I humbly ask this committee to oppose HB0763 as it sends the wrong message to Maryland Muslims that they do not matter, that hate crimes against them are unimportant and they are undeserving of proper advocacy. I strongly believe this committee does not hold these notions to be true and will see how harmful such actions are to marginalized communities in building trust with their elected representatives and with special commissions dealing with such an important topic as hate crimes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Samya Mohammad, D.O.

Message.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarwat Khan

Position: UNF

HB0763
Unfavorable

Sarwat Khan
6304 Holland Meadow Lane Gaithersburg MD

Dear Chair Luke Clippinger, Vice Chair J. Sandy Bartlett and
Judiciary committee members,

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to
House Bill 0763, "Commission on Hate Crime Response
and Prevention - Membership - Alterations," which is
sponsored by Delegates Attar, Vogel, and Rosenberg.

The proposed removal of the Council on American-Islamic
Relations (CAIR) Maryland Office representative from the
Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention is
disheartening, especially given the current climate faced by
Muslim Americans. The United States' policy supporting
Israel's war in Gaza, resulting in the tragic loss of more than
30,000 civilians, with 70% being women and children, has
exacerbated anti-Muslim sentiment.

In the wake of these distressing events, Muslim Americans
here at home are experiencing a surge in anti-Muslim
sentiment and hate crimes. It is a critical time when
organizations like CAIR play a pivotal role in protecting
Maryland Muslims and individuals of all faiths.

CAIR's tireless efforts to combat discrimination and promote understanding among diverse communities are indispensable. The organization's voice is needed now more than ever to ensure the safety and well-being of Maryland Muslims in the face of rising hostility.

I implore you to reconsider HB0763 and recognize the urgent necessity of CAIR's representation in the Commission. Collaborative efforts with CAIR are vital for fostering inclusivity, understanding, and ultimately creating a society that values the safety and rights of all its members.

Thank you,

Sarwat Khan

HB763.JVP-DCMetro.Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Shelley Cohen Fudge

Position: UNF



The DC Metro chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace is adamantly opposed to House Bill 763. We urge members of the Maryland General Assembly's House Judiciary Committee to prevent it from being enacted into law.

Jewish Voice for Peace is a national organization that advocates for social justice, equality, and freedom for all people, with over 700,000 members and supporters nationwide. Like generations of Jewish American progressives before us, we work toward freedom and justice for Palestinians and Israelis.

Jewish Voice for Peace-DC Metro represents over 2000 JVP members and supporters who live in the DC metro area, including those who reside in Montgomery and Prince George Counties, as well as in the District of Columbia and northern Virginia.

If enacted, HB 763 would remove meaningful, trustworthy representation of Maryland's Muslim residents from the state's Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention. We believe that this bill amounts to a vicious smear campaign against the indispensable work conducted by the Maryland office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

CAIR has a well-established, public record of denouncing terrorism and religious intolerance. CAIR has not only advocated for Muslim Americans, it has repeatedly condemned antisemitism and hate crimes against Jewish Americans. Our JVP-DC Metro chapter has worked for many years with the staff of the Maryland office of CAIR, as well as with many of those who volunteer their time with the office, and we have never experienced any expressions of antisemitism by the organization's staff or volunteers.

We are well aware of the increase in antisemitic hate bias and hate crime incidents in Maryland. We are also aware of the huge increase of hate bias and hate crime incidents affecting the state's Muslim, Palestinian and Arab American residents. CAIR's Maryland office reported 223 complaints, reports of hate bias incidents and requests for advocacy assistance between October 9 - December 2, 2023. It is thus vitally important to include CAIR on the state's Hate Crime Commission.

The bill's stated goal of replacing CAIR on the commission with "two members of the Muslim community to be appointed by the Attorney General" is an insult to Maryland's Muslim community, which overwhelmingly supports CAIR as its representative on the Commission.

We respectfully urge you to help preserve public trust in the work of the state's Hate Crimes Commission by maintaining the Maryland office director of CAIR as the commission's representative for the state's Muslim community by opposing House Bill 763.

Sincerely,

Shelley Cohen Fudge
as a representative of the Steering Committee of Jewish Voice for Peace – DC Metro and resident of Montgomery County

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Position: UNF



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as a representative of the Steering Committee of Jewish Voice for Peace – DC Metro and resident of Montgomery County

HB0763-testimony-16Feb24.pdf

Uploaded by: William Simonds

Position: UNF

HB0763

(UNF) (Oppose)

As a Maryland resident and practicing physician who supports human rights, I strongly urge opposition to HB0763, and urge the retention of a representative of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Maryland on the state's Hate Crimes Commission.

I am active in the movement for peace and social justice. I have worked with members of CAIR Maryland on multiple occasions, in collaborative efforts to promote peace and justice legislation at the federal level by meeting with our congressional representatives down on Capitol Hill in DC.

I have the highest opinion of CAIR Maryland.

Representatives of CAIR Maryland, as I have directly observed based on my personal experience, work very well with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim allies, all in the name of peace and justice.

CAIR Maryland stands strongly against antisemitism, against Islamophobia, and against racism and hate speech of any kind. CAIR has repeatedly condemned hate crimes against Jewish Americans.

HB0763 represents a vicious smear campaign against the indispensable work conducted by the Maryland office of CAIR.

No other representative of the Muslim community in Maryland enjoys the trust and support that CAIR Maryland does.

I respectfully urge you **preserve public trust** in the work of the state's Hate Crimes Commission by maintaining the Maryland office director of CAIR as the commission's representative for the state's Muslim community. **In the strongest possible terms, I oppose House Bill 0763.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

William F. Simonds, MD
11902 Smoketree Rd.
Potomac, Maryland 20854

Testimony HB0763.pdf

Uploaded by: Zainab Chaudry

Position: UNF



February 20, 2024

Honorable Chair Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony to OPPOSE HB 0763 Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention - Membership - Alterations

Dear Chair Clippinger and House Judiciary Committee Members:

I thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony opposing House Bill 763 Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention - Membership – Alterations, aiming to remove CAIR and myself from the Maryland Attorney General Hate Crimes Commission, and instead instate two other Muslim appointees.

During the date of this hearing, I am committed to join the Maryland leg of the [‘Pilgrimage for Peace’](#) march for ceasefire with rabbis, Black clergy, and interfaith leaders joining the growing chorus of nearly 70 percent of Americans supporting an end to the violence in Gaza and Israel by marching from Philadelphia, PA to Washington, D.C. I plan to try and attend this hearing in person.

In recent days, possibly like you, I have received floods of emails, messages and calls from my community members, friends and allies, deeply alarmed and concerned by the harmful implications of HB0763 that is being perceived as an attack not just on myself or my organization, but also on all those who support equality and human rights.

I appreciate House Speaker Adrienne Jones’ commitment to the Decency Agenda this legislative session. Decency compels us to always raise awareness about injustices, work relentlessly to address them, center marginalized voices and protect all innocent lives.

Hundreds of innocent Israelis died in the horrific attack on October 7, 2023. Since then, over 30,000 innocent Palestinians have been killed in the span of the past several weeks, mostly children and women, using bunker buster bombs and other munitions paid for by billions of our tax dollars. This is the single, most catastrophic loss of life in the 21st century.¹ An average of nearly two hundred children are being massacred in Gaza daily by the Israeli military.

Our country rightfully stood by Ukraine against Russia’s aggression and war crimes. The General Assembly unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution in unwavering solidarity. Our decency compels us to also speak up for millions of innocent Christian and Muslim Palestinians suffering unfathomable atrocities. Words cannot encompass the depth of despair and loss in Gaza, brought on by our tax dollars.

Several of our community members have forwarded me emails from a couple members of this committee stating that you support the removal of myself and CAIR from the Hate Crimes commission because "the White House no longer works with CAIR."

I am submitting testimony on the record to directly address this.

Despite our long track record of speaking out against all forms of hate, including antisemitism, it's true that because of disingenuous attacks against our organization over our advocacy for Palestinian human rights, CAIR is no longer consulted on the White House taskforce on antisemitism.

However, rest assured that we are actively and frequently engaged with partners and agencies on every level of the government. Especially pertaining to matters that impact the safety and security of our communities.

It's been brought to my attention that the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a group that itself has been heavily criticized for its controversial policies and rhetoric (See: <https://droptheadl.org>) and is struggling with a growing internal organizational divide over its unconditional loyalty to Israel,^{2,3} has been spreading disinformation regarding CAIR's advocacy, including sharing a spliced and doctored video of CAIR's National Executive Director's remarks at a conference, that deliberately mischaracterizes his message to make it appear as if he welcomed the horrific attack on October 7. He makes his position clear in the following op-ed to rebut against these disingenuous attacks:

<https://religionnews.com/2023/12/22/as-a-muslim-i-condemn-attacks-on-both-israeli-and-palestinian-civilians-president-biden-should-too/>

During a period of crisis when both of our communities are seeing a tremendous spike in hate, it's disheartening to know that the organization that bills itself as the "leading anti-hate organization in the world" is coordinating indecent attacks to de-platform, smear and manufacture controversies against the nation's largest Muslim civil rights organization – and in turn, against our communities who stand to bear the consequences of these attacks.

The sponsors and groups pushing forward HB0763 have refused to acknowledge the humanity, pain, loss and suffering of Christian and Muslim Palestinian constituents in their districts and communities. They have not publicly condemned the unprecedented surge of Islamophobia or anti-Arab hate, fueled in part by the relentless, deadly dehumanization of these communities. Dehumanization that has contributed to the murders of innocent Palestinians in our country, including young 6-year-old Palestinian American Wadea Al-Fayoumy, who was brutally and fatally stabbed 26 times in his own apartment in Chicago by his landlord in a shocking hate crime.⁴

But we do not take a page from their playbook. Decency demands that we value all human life. CAIR's and my record on anti-Semitism is clear and strong. What's also clear is that groups like the ADL have uncritically pledged their loyalty to Israel - a government which the International Court of Justice and a U.S. federal judge have both said is credibly committing genocide against Palestinians.

These groups are increasingly censoring, erasing and punishing anyone who defends their basic rights and freedoms.

<https://amp.theguardian.com/news/2024/jan/05/adl-pro-israel-advocacy-zionism-antisemitism>

<https://newrepublic.com/post/177993/adl-abandons-pretense-tracking-antisemitism-honestly-palestine-rallies>

I myself am not Palestinian. But I have advocated on behalf of many Muslim and Christian Palestinians, mostly students and children, who are directly and viscerally impacted by the ongoing assault on their identities across the state. Their humanity and experiences matter.

The attacks on CAIR are rooted in a desire to silence our voices, control our platforms and erase our advocacy for human rights.

Decency demands that these attacks not be successful.

My advocacy is rooted in my faith, and my faith guides me to stand up and to speak up for all, regardless of how much others may try to obstruct it. Are Palestinians – both Christians and Muslims – not worthy of inclusion, security and respect? Do they not deserve to have access to equal rights and freedoms like all of us?

Confronting the extent of injustices can be uncomfortable. But growth, accountability and justice seldom occur in spaces of comfort.

Many communities - Muslim, Jewish, Christian, secular - have been experiencing an onslaught of distress over HB0763. While the indecent attacks against me and my organization won't discourage my advocacy for all those who are oppressed, marginalized and wronged, it's personally very difficult to witness how deeply my communities, friends and allies are affected by the prospect of this committee supporting bad faith attacks against me or the suppression of Palestinians' humanity by voting for HB0763.

Passing this bill out of committee wouldn't only draw us one step closer to silencing my communities' and allies' voices, it would be a betrayal of their trust, render them more vulnerable to hate and unfortunately undermine the Commission's objectives.

You have the right to vote according to your conscience. I simply encourage you to center their concerns and perspectives, value their humanity too, support protecting all innocent life, and vote according to facts. Not propaganda, sensationalized allegations, smear attacks or baseless accusations intended to silence and erase anyone.

Ten years ago, I left a career as a shock trauma/critical care pharmacist to come work for CAIR. It's an honor to serve in a capacity that is rooted in decency and humanity and aligns with my faith and values. It's deeply humbling to have opportunities to impact lives through this work.

I plan to continue working tirelessly to advocate, interface and engage with partners at every level of the government on behalf of those I serve. My platforms, titles and degrees are only meaningful if they're applied to uplift those who are silenced, oppressed and marginalized.

If you have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to contact me anytime.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zainab Chaudry, Pharm.D.
Director, CAIR Maryland

Council on American-Islamic Relations
zchaudry@cair.com
410-971-6062

1. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/1/11/gaza-daily-deaths-exceed-all-other-major-conflicts-in-21st-century-oxfam>
2. <https://truthout.org/articles/adl-staff-internally-dissent-over-groups-targeting-of-pro-palestine-advocates/>
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2024/jan/05/adl-pro-israel-advocacy-zionism-antisemitism>
4. <https://www.cnn.com/2023/10/16/us/chicago-muslim-boy-stabbing-investigation/index.html>