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Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

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Introduction

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization with offices around the country, defines its mission as "to enhance understanding of Islam, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding." Since its founding in 1994, CAIR has sought, with some success, to position itself as a prominent community organization facilitating government outreach to Muslim Americans. It has received some support from elected public officials.

CAIR's credibility as a community relations agency promoting "justice and mutual understanding," however, is tainted. Founded by leaders of the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP), a [Hamas](#) affiliated anti-Semitic propaganda organization, CAIR refused for many years to unequivocally condemn by name [Hezbollah](#) and Palestinian terror organizations, which the U.S. and international community have condemned and isolated.

On the fifth anniversary of the Madrid bombings in March 2009, CAIR condemned acts of terrorism by groups designated by the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Terrorist Organizations, acknowledging that Hamas is on that list. The statement, however, did not represent a genuine break from CAIR's past because it did not address its own historical links to Hamas.

The statement also followed the [Holy Land Foundation \(HLF\)](#) trial, during which evidence was produced by the Federal prosecutors demonstrating that CAIR and its founders were part of a group set up by the [Muslim Brotherhood](#) to support Hamas. The trial ended with guilty verdicts on all charges against HLF and five of its officers. In May 2009, they were sentenced to between 15 and 65 years in prison, including 65 years for Ghassan Elashi, the founder of CAIR's Dallas chapter

Not surprisingly, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has limited its contact with CAIR. In a letter to the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security, the FBI explained that it suspended contacts with CAIR because of evidence introduced during the HLF trial. "Until we resolve whether there continues to be a connection between CAIR or its executives and Hamas, the FBI does not view CAIR as an appropriate liaison partner," the letter read.

In addition, four members of Congress - Sue Myrick (R-NC), John Shadegg (R-AZ), Trent Franks (R-AZ) and Paul Broun (R-GA) - held a press conference on October 14 calling on "federal officials to investigate the actions and non-profit status" of CAIR.

CAIR also continues to offer a platform to conspiratorial Israel-bashers and outright anti-Semites. For example, CAIR's Florida chapter operates a Web site that makes anti-Semitic material available for visitors interested in learning about Islam. CAIR also organizes [anti-Israel rallies](#) during which protestors and speakers engage in anti-Semitic rhetoric, use offensive Holocaust imagery likening Jews and Israelis to Nazis, and express support for terror groups.



CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad delivers a speech under a Hezbollah flag during an April 2002 rally in Washington, DC. To his right stands Imam Abdul Alim Musa, the anti-Semitic head of Masjid Al Islam mosque.

Links to Islamic Association for Palestine

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) was founded in 1994 by several leaders of the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP), an organization described by the U.S. government as part of " Hamas' propaganda apparatus."

Nihad Awad, IAP's public relations director and contributing editor of the IAP publication *Muslim World Monitor*, became CAIR's executive director. **Rafeeq Jaber**, IAP's president after 1994, also served as executive director for CAIR. **Ghassan Elashi**, an IAP co-founder, founded CAIR's Dallas chapter (Elashi is also the past chairman of the **Holy Land Foundation {HLF}**, which was closely associated with IAP). **Omar Ahmad**, IAP president between 1991 and 1994, became CAIR's founding chairman and board member. Ahmad remained on the board of the American Middle Eastern League for Palestine (AMEL), a non-profit organization that has been "operating as one and the same business" as IAP, according to the U.S. government.

IAP was active in the U.S. from 1981 until about 2004, advocating an anti-Semitic ideology which categorically rejected a peaceful resolution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. An early IAP publication, *The Road to Palestine*, stated: "The era of crusader wars against our people is over and now starts the series of the children [of] apes and pigs," a reference to Jews. It further warned of "the stage in which Jews will do mischief...with mighty arrogance."

Immediately following the establishment of Hamas in 1987, IAP began to print and distribute Hamas literature, including Hamas communiqués and the Hamas Charter (an extremely anti-Semitic document that cites the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*). The communiqués explained Hamas's position and called for a global Jihad against Jews.

IAP was closely associated with HLF, a Texas-based charity whose officers were sentenced to between 15 and 65 years in prison in 2009 for funneling over \$12 million to Hamas. IAP not only encouraged supporters to donate to the HLF, but also shared leadership with the charity.

In December 2008, the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit **upheld a lower court ruling** against IAP and other Islamic charities for complicity in the murder of a 17-year-old American citizen in the West Bank.

Positions on Terrorism

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) refused for many years to condemn terrorist groups that seek to destroy Israel. The organization has never addressed its past affiliations with the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP), which has been described by the U.S. government as part of " Hamas' propaganda apparatus."

On the fifth anniversary of the Madrid bombings in March 2009, CAIR condemned acts of terrorism by groups designated by the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, acknowledging that Hamas is on that list. The statement, however, did not represent a genuine break from CAIR's past because it did not address its own historical links to Hamas.

CAIR's statement also came after the [Holy Land Foundation \(HLF\)](#) trial, during which information on CAIR's links to Hamas was produced, and after the FBI limited its contact with CAIR. John Miller, an FBI spokesman has said that "the FBI has had to limit its formal contact with CAIR field offices until certain issues are addressed by CAIR's national headquarters."

Furthermore, while CAIR's statement acknowledged the fact that Hamas is on the list of terror organizations, it avoided making any independent judgment of Hamas, its ideology or goals.

Over the years, CAIR representatives have argued that Hezbollah and Palestinian terror organizations are patently different from Al Qaeda—which CAIR has denounced—and thus cannot be viewed as a similar threat. Yet, the group has participated in and endorsed many rallies where support for terrorist organizations was undeniable, failing to distance itself from such public expressions.

CAIR has often dismissed terror-related trials in the U.S. such as the [Sami al-Arian](#) and HLF cases, portraying the defendants as legitimate advocates for Palestinians and as victims of Israeli political influence in the U.S.

CAIR's position on terrorism is further complicated by its ambiguous stance on innocent civilians - a notion that allows for an interpretation that all Israelis are a legitimate target because of Israel's mandatory military service. This position

was supported by Ghazi Kankan, the former executive director of CAIR's New York chapter, who said that he considers all Israelis over the age of 18 to be "military" because "they are all reserves." CAIR leaders have also expressed support for [Sheik Yusuf Qaradawi](#), the most prominent Muslim cleric to sanction attacks on Israeli civilians based on this rationale.

The following examples further demonstrate CAIR's positions on terrorism:

- *December 2008 – January 2009:* CAIR organized several [anti-Israel rallies](#) in response to Israel's military action against Hamas in Gaza. At one rally in Washington D.C. on January 10, protestors marched with signs that read: "Jewish Run Media Hides Jewish Terrorism" and "Jewish Controlled Congress Supports Jewish Terrorism."
- *August 12, 2006:* CAIR helped to coordinate a number of demonstrations in support of Hezbollah and "resistance" groups fighting American forces in Iraq. Speakers and protesters at the demonstrations hailed Hezbollah and Hamas and denounced Israel's existence. Protesters also equated Zionism with Nazism and called for Hezbollah to bomb Israeli cities.
- *July 7, 2004:* Ibrahim Hooper, CAIR's spokesman, defended [Sheik Yusuf Qaradawi](#), a Qatar-based Muslim cleric known for promoting violence against Jews and Israelis, in an interview with BBC. Hooper described Qaradawi as "respectable," adding: "I don't think there's any incitement of violence on his part."
- *Fall 2003:* Nihad Awad, CAIR's national executive director, publicly endorsed the Islamic American University (IAU), a Michigan-based subsidiary of the [Muslim American Society \(MAS\)](#). IAU's chairman is Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi. Awad commended the IAU for its "ability to educate American Muslims and future generations on how to effectively introduce Islam as a civilized way of life and perhaps as an alternative to the mainstream."
- *April 20, 2002:* Nihad Awad addressed an anti-Israel rally organized by the [ANSWER Coalition](#) in Washington D.C. while standing next to an oversized Hezbollah flag. Other speakers at the rally called for Israel to be dismantled, and protesters held signs comparing Zionism and Israel to Nazi Germany while chanting violent and anti-Semitic slogans.
- *October 12, 2001:* Ghazi Kankan, executive director of CAIR's New York office at the time, defended Hamas's targeting of Israeli civilians. He told the *Jewish Week* that, like Hamas, he considered all Israelis over the age of 18 to be "military" because "they are all reserves."
- *April 19, 1996:* In its first published report on anti-Muslim discrimination, titled "The Price of Ignorance," CAIR cited the arrest of Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, the Egyptian cleric serving a life sentence for conspiracy to blow up New York landmarks in 1993, and the detention of senior Hamas leader [Musa Abu Marzuq](#), as "incidents of bias and violence" against Muslims in the U.S.
- *March 22, 1994:* During a panel discussion at Barry University in Florida, Nihad Awad said: "I used to support the PLO, and I used to be the President of the General Union of Palestine Students which is part of the PLO here in the United States, but after I researched the situation inside Palestine and outside, I am in support of the Hamas movement more than the PLO."

Positions on Israel & Jews

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has a long record of anti-Israel rhetoric. It has accused Israel of genocide and described Israel as a terrorist state. In addition, CAIR's criticism of Israel has at times crossed the line into anti-Semitism.

While CAIR has denounced an Iranian-sponsored Holocaust-denial conference in Tehran and attacks against Jewish centers in the U.S., its public statements cast Jews and Israelis as corrupt agents who control both foreign and domestic U.S. policy and are responsible for the persecution of Muslims in the U.S. CAIR has also never disassociated itself from the anti-Semitic ideology of the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP).

Immediately following [Israeli Navy's raid of a flotilla](#) of ships heading towards Gaza, CAIR issued a statement calling Israel's action a "massacre." In the days after, Ahmed Rehab, director of CAIR's Chicago chapter, accused Israelis of "failure to apply Jewish values," and Hussam Ayloush, executive director of CAIR's Southern California chapter, called for the dismantlement of Zionism.

CAIR's Florida chapter operates a Web site that makes anti-Semitic material available for visitors interested in learning about Islam. The site, Calling Islam, is part of a public relations campaign ostensibly designed to provide information about Islam and to counter negative portrayal of the religion. The campaign received public attention when it ran ads on 50 Broward County buses, directing the public to the site.

The site features several articles by Harun Yahya, an anti-Semitic Turkish writer who denounces Zionism as a fascist movement akin to Nazism, as well as "a racist and colonialist ideology" that is based on "Social Darwinism."

One Yahya article on the site, entitled "A Muslim Call To The Israelis," blames the Israeli army for committing atrocities, admonishing: "The Torah commands Jews to establish peace and security, not to occupy other lands and spill blood." Another article quotes Holocaust-denier Roger Garaudy. The site also includes a link to Jews for Allah, an anti-Semitic Web site that aims to convert Jews to Islam.

CAIR, which continues to offer a platform to conspiratorial Israel-bashers and outright anti-Semites, is also affiliated with *InFocus News*, a California-based publication that similarly publishes anti-Semitic articles and cartoons, in addition to content that praises terrorist groups.

The following examples further demonstrate CAIR's positions on Israel and Jews:

- *June 1, 2010:* Ahmed Rehab, director of CAIR's Chicago chapter, published an op-ed in *The Seeker*, a *Chicago Tribune* blog, about the flotilla incident, in which he accused Israel of "failure to apply Jewish values." According to Rehab, Israel's policies reflected a turning away from religion in favor of embracing an immoral pursuit of power.
- *May 31, 2010:* Hussam Ayloush, executive director of CAIR's Southern California chapter, posted several messages on Facebook in response to the flotilla incident in which he denounced Israel and Zionism. Ayloush called on supporters of the Palestinian cause to "channel this rightful anger into more commitment and resolve to ending this failed destructive and racist experiment called Zionism." He also wrote: "The Zionist political system that has engaged in such inhumanity and barbarism must be dismantled the same way the apartheid regime in South Africa was dismantled."
- *May 2009:* Ahmad Daniels, the executive director of CAIR's Arizona chapter, published an article in a local Muslim online publication about the [anti-Israel speech](#) of Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad at the [Durban Review Conference](#) in Geneva the previous month. In his article Daniels, who assumed his CAIR position in February 2009, called Ahmadinejad's description of Israel as "a racist government" bold. He claimed that "criticism of the Israeli government stems largely from its treatment of Palestinians." The article did not openly endorse Ahmadinejad's position but still, it appeared to be sympathetic with the anti-Semitic leader, reserving its criticism for the United States for boycotting the event.
- *February 16, 2009:* Edgar Hopida, the public relations director of CAIR's San Diego chapter, reportedly said that his preferred solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict will include "the total dismantlement of the Israeli government." Hopida made the statement during a CAIR screening of *Occupation 101*, an anti-Israel propaganda film that denounces Zionism, in Hillcrest, California.
- *December 2008 – January 2009:* CAIR organized several [anti-Israel rallies](#) in response to Israel's military action against Hamas in Gaza. At one rally in Washington D.C. on January 10, protestors marched with signs that read: "Jewish Run Media Hides Jewish Terrorism" and "Jewish Controlled Congress Supports Jewish Terrorism."
- *October 27, 2007:* Ahmad al-Akhras, CAIR vice-chairman at the time and a current board member, published an article in the Saudi online publication, *Arab News*, titled: "HLF Case: An Israeli Trial Conducted on American Soil." In the article, al-Akhras argued that the trial was "an Israeli trial tried on American soil in which guilt by association was used as a substitute for actual evidence."

- *August 28, 2006:* CAIR [hosted](#) professors [John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt](#) for a discussion about the "Israel Lobby" and the war in Lebanon at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Nihad Awad, CAIR's executive director, argued that the "American government offers unconditional support for Israel and its occupation and humiliation of its neighbors." He further claimed that "our one-sided support for Israel is a liability in the war on terror...America's Middle East policy should be based on our nation's interests, not on those of a powerful domestic lobby for a foreign government."
- *August 7, 2006:* Altaf Ali, executive director of CAIR's Florida chapter, published an opinion piece in the *Sun-Sentinel* in which he compared Israel and the U.S. government to Al Qaeda. He also warned that American support for Israel may cause "the conflict [to] be transplanted here."
- *July-August 2006:* In response to renewed fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, as well as with Palestinian terror organizations in Gaza, CAIR issued statements claiming that Israel controls American politics and monopolizes its public debate. It further called for a halt to American economic and military aid to Israel.
- *June 1-8, 2004:* CAIR's Southern California chapter sponsored a speaking tour by Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss, of the [Neturei Karta](#), whose members have a long record of extremist statements and support for anti-Semites. CAIR billed the tour as part of an effort to "foster better cooperation between Muslims and Jews."
- *November 19, 2003:* CAIR included a link to an article entitled "The Terror Enigma: 9/11 and the Israeli Connection," by anti-Israel writer Justin Raimondo, in an email to its supporters. A book's description, included in the email, asks, "Did Israeli intelligence have foreknowledge of 9/11? As one law enforcement source close to the investigation told Fox News, the real question is: how could they not have known? But if they knew, then why didn't they tell us?"
- *August 2003:* CAIR's Florida chapter invited William Baker to its annual banquet. Baker, a known right-wing extremist, warned in his book, *Theft of a Nation*, that Jews throughout the world "can easily become agents for specific world powers in order to create unrest and disharmony." Although Baker cancelled his scheduled appearance, CAIR defended him when his views were publicly challenged.
- *February 20, 2003:* Ibrahim Hooper, CAIR spokesman, suggested on MSNBC that U.S. investigations of terrorism were politically driven by support for Israel. "The entire controversy began with the attack dogs of the pro-Israel lobby going after [Sami Al-Arian](#), the [Holy Land Foundation](#) [and] other groups in the United States," he said. "The [pro-Israel lobby] wanted to shut them down because they oppose the occupation in Palestine." Hooper added a warning about the "Israelization" of "American policy and procedures."
- *December 19, 2002:* CAIR's Dallas-Fort Worth chapter issued a press release condemning the arrest of Ghassan Elashi and four of his brothers, who were then accused ([and later convicted](#)) of funneling money to a Hamas leader through their Texas-based company InfoCom. The release stated: "One is left wondering whether these arrest orders were issued from Tel Aviv or from Washington, D.C.!"
- *December 1, 2002:* Hussam Ayloush, executive director of CAIR's Southern California chapter, wrote an article for the Orange County Register in which he equated Zionism with racism. "Zionism is a political ideology whose tentacles are rooted in racism," Ayloush wrote.
- *September 6, 2001:* In response to an FBI raid on InfoCom, Nihad Awad stated that "we suspect that all these attempts are to please the Israeli government but not to protect the U.S. interests. Siding with Israel, a racist country and state, I think does not do us any good."
- *February 24, 1998:* Nihad Awad said during a lecture at Georgetown University that "many [U.S.] presidents are servants to Israel, and it's hard to see someone who is...disobeying the political authority of Jewish interests."

Links to Holy Land Foundation

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and several of its founders are linked to the *Holy Land Foundation (HLF)*, a Texas-based charity whose officers were sentenced in May 2009 to between 15 and 65 years in prison in 2009 for funneling over \$12 million to Hamas. One of the sentenced officers, Ghassan Elashi, is the founder of CAIR's Dallas chapter.

Evidence presented at the trial shows that other CAIR leaders were linked to HLF and Hamas activity in the U.S. as well. CAIR and its founders were part of the Palestine Committee, an entity that included HLF and was set up by the *Muslim Brotherhood* to coordinate support for Hamas in the U.S. HLF was also closely associated with the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP), whose members founded CAIR.

Throughout the HLF trial, CAIR organized support for the defendants and often argued that the case was "politically driven." CAIR joined several other Muslim organizations, including the *Muslim American Society (MAS)*, to form a coalition dubbed "*Hungry for Justice*" to support HLF through events and a Web site. Khalil Meek, of CAIR's Dallas chapter, served as the coalition's primary spokesman, and two other CAIR leaders acted as media contacts for the coalition. Meek at one point described the legal process as an "Israeli trial tried on American soil."

Parvez Ahmed, CAIR's former chairman, wrote in his blog: "The case against HLF was a political witch-hunt that had nothing to do with America's security." He claimed the trial was merely "an attempt to block humanitarian assistance."

InFocus News

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) helped establish and fund *InFocus News*, an Anaheim, California-based monthly that publishes anti-Semitic articles and cartoons, as well as content expressing support for terrorist groups.

While Asma Ahmad, the former editor, insisted that *InFocus* was "editorially independent," the paper was reportedly subsidized by CAIR when it first began publishing in 2005 and currently shares an address and fax number with CAIR's Southern California chapter.

InFocus News was first published under the title *Southern California InFocus*. In February 2009, the publication adopted a new name, *InFocus News*, reflecting its ambition to become a national paper. It claims to be "the largest Muslim newspaper in America that strives to give American Muslims a voice in mainstream media." *InFocus* has a religious advisory board that is composed of prominent Muslim leaders.

The following examples further demonstrate the type of content published in *InFocus*:

- *April 2010*: Columnist Salaam Abdul Khaliq accused Israelis and supporters of Israel of suffering from a condition he described as "Chosen People Complex, or CPC." According to Abdul Khaliq, symptoms include "innate sense of self righteousness, an arrogant domineering personality...incessant crying over a tragedy that took place over 65 years ago in Europe, and the ubiquitous use of the anti-Semitic label to intimidate and silence critics." He also claimed that Zionists tend to "bully and coerce American lawmakers." Zionism has become "a threat to the peaceful co-existence of the three faiths [and] to the legitimacy of the Jewish people and their very survival in the Holy Land," according to Khaliq.
- *March 2010*: Columnist Lawrence Swaim argued that the trauma of the Holocaust fundamentally changed Jewish ethics and that Israel represents a new and corrupt Jewish morality. According to the article, "the universalism and social justice at the heart of Judaism was gradually replaced by a kind of us-against-them religious nationalism...the believer no longer worshiped God but rather the state of Israel."
- *June 2009*: In an article titled "Is Bibi Netanyahu the Antichrist?" columnist Abdul Khaliq wrote that "if not reined in and forcefully stopped, [Israel's prime minister Binyamin] Netanyahu may well be the Antichrist of the Apocalypse." The article warned that Netanyahu was coveting American "financial support, and maybe American blood sacrifice," and that "his arrogance and hard-line politics are going to drag the Middle East into a nuclear Holocaust."

- *February 2009:* Columnist Salaam Abdul Khaliq asserted in his commentary that Israel's military operation in Gaza was "equal or probably worse than what had happened in the ghettos of Warsaw and the concentration camps of Auschwitz." Khaliq also claimed that Hollywood is controlled by a "powerful Jewish elite" who "wear the Zionist badge with pride." He further condemned the American film industry for "gripping about Nazi Germany" while ignoring the "genocide" against the Palestinian that is committed by "the children of Holocaust survivors."
- *September 2008:* Columnist Lawrence Swaim accused Israel of being a racist apartheid state, adding that the "Israel Lobby" controls American politics and promotes "religious bigotry." According to Swaim, "Israel...was always a state in which one race and religion predominated, with the others driven out and sometimes killed if they resisted." He also blamed Christian-majority countries of making a "deal with the devil" by "letting the Zionist leadership do to the Palestinians what the Christians had done to the Jews."
- *June 2008:* Salaam Abdul Khaliq asserted that American politicians from both major parties worship Israel the way the "the Chosen People" did the Golden Calf in the Bible. Khaliq's article referred to "Jewish voters" and discussed a "political mafia" that exercises "political terrorism on behalf of an apartheid state." It called on "the American people" to "tear down the cult of the Golden Calf."
- *April 2008:* An editorial claimed that the U.S. government investigated [Sami Al-Arian](#) "at the behest of Israel," and that his arrest was made possible by an "engineered mass-hysteria after 9/11."
- *November 7, 2007:* An article by Parvez Ahmed, CAIR's chairman at the time, described the [Holy Land Foundation](#) trial as a "classic case of guilt by association and a political vendetta against American citizens to carry out the agenda of a special interest group – the Israel Lobby."
- *July 2007:* An article by Lawrence Swaim claimed that Jews enjoy unprecedented and destructive influence in the corridors of power in the U.S.; due to what it called, "the new Philo-Semitism." According to Swaim, among Christian Americans, there is "a deep and even fanatical affection for Jews...masking a desire to use Jewish organizations to advance a political agenda." Swaim further stated: "The U.S. corporate upper class would love nothing more, for example, than to give Jews a seat at the table of empire, if only they will help Israel become the flagship of U.S. hegemony over the Middle East — and the neoconservative movement arose precisely to service this political tendency."
- *July 2007:* A cartoon by [Khalil Bendib](#) depicted the presidential candidates competing to be first at "The Israel Lobby sign up."
- *April 2007:* Staff writer Aisha Aziz's article titled "Pro-Israel groups target American Muslims" quoted Hussam Ayloush, executive director of CAIR's Southern California chapter, saying that, "there is a well-coordinated attempt by extremist pro-Israel circles to silence American Muslims."
- *October, 2006:* A commentary by Lebanese writer Mulham Assir titled "Nasrallah - Leadership and Restraint" praised Hezbollah for its war against Israel and condemned what it termed "the Anglo-American-backed Zionist forces." It claimed that the summer 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah was part of an American-British conspiracy, a "phase of the larger plans of the colonialist superpowers." The commentary praised the "epic heroism of the resistance fighters" and "the larger-than-life leader," Hassan Nasrallah.
- *September 2006:* An anti-Semitic opinion piece first published by Saudi English-language newspaper, *Arab News*, claimed that Israel acts with impunity "because we are the Jews – we are the victims of the Holocaust" and because "Israel is in a position of dominating the U.S. government." It also claimed that the Holocaust was the result of a Jewish provocation, when the Zionist movement "declared war on Germany."

Links to the United Association for Studies and Research

Several former Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) leaders have links to the United Association for Studies and Research (UASR), a Hamas-linked anti-Semitic propaganda organization. UASR, which operated as a think-tank out of Virginia until 2005, was established by Hamas leader [Musa Abu Marzuq](#) in 1989.

- **Nabil Sadoun**, CAIR's former vice chairman, was ordered deported in February 2010 because he failed to disclose his ties to the UASR in his 1993 immigrant visa application. According to CAIR, Sadoun resigned his position with CAIR several months before his deportation.
- **Mohamed Nimer**, CAIR's director of research between 1995 and 2007, worked for the UASR during the early nineties. In 1993 he spent a month in Lebanon at a camp of mostly Hamas activists who were deported by Israel. Nimer later described the camp in an IAP article as a blueprint for "the type of society which Islamists hope to bring about on a larger level." As CAIR's director of research, Nimer wrote the organization's annual reports on anti-Muslim bias incidents and oversaw other research projects.
- **Caroline F. Keeble** (a.k.a. Anisa Abd el Fattah), a former CAIR board member, served in different roles in the UASR throughout the 1990s and at least until March 2004, including president and director of public relations and media affairs. A February 2000 UASR report, "Islam and America: A new reading," in which Keeble lauded Hamas as a "resistance" movement, identified her as a member of the Board of Directors of both CAIR and UASR. She served on CAIR's board at least since November 1994, the year CAIR was founded. In a 1999 UASR book, *The Agent: The Truth Behind the Anti-Muslim Campaign in America*, Keeble and Ahmed Yousef, then UASR director, claimed that Israel was behind an anti-Muslim campaign in the U.S. that was reminiscent of Nazi Germany and could "lead to an elimination of liberty for Muslims and Arabs." The book also claimed that Israel was "using its propaganda network in the American media [for an] attack against Hamas and Islamic activism."

UASR has produced materials defending Hamas as a legitimate popular resistance group and has described criticism of the Palestinian terror organization as a Zionist conspiracy against Muslims. On its Web site, it sold a book by Holocaust denier Roger Garaudy.

Evidence presented during the [Holy Land Foundation \(HLF\)](#) trial showed that, together with HLF and the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP), UASR was part of the organizational structure that operated in the U.S. in support of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Muslim Brotherhood's Palestinian offshoot, Hamas. In 2006, UASR director Yousef (aka Yousef Saleh) became a personal adviser to Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Gaza.

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