

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4097

To direct the Secretary of State to review whether the Council on American-Islamic Relations meets the criteria for designation as a foreign terrorist organization, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2025

Mr. FINE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to review whether the Council on American-Islamic Relations meets the criteria for designation as a foreign terrorist organization, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Designate CAIR as  
5 a Terrorist Organization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The Council on American-Islamic Relations  
2 (CAIR) has been named as an unindicted co-con-  
3 spirator in the 2007 Holy Land Foundation ter-  
4 rorism financing trial.

5           (2) Multiple State legislatures, including Flor-  
6 ida and Arizona, have passed resolutions urging  
7 avoidance of engagement with CAIR due to its al-  
8 leged affiliations with terrorist groups.

9           (3) The Federal Bureau of Investigation has  
10 suspended all formal contacts with CAIR due to evi-  
11 dence demonstrating a relationship between CAIR  
12 and Hamas, designated as a foreign terrorist organi-  
13 zation by the United States Department of State  
14 and the monsters behind the brutal attack on the  
15 State of Israel on October 7, 2023, indiscriminately  
16 raping, torturing, and killing over 1,200 innocent  
17 persons, including Israelis, Americans, and other na-  
18 tionals, among whom were babies and Holocaust  
19 survivors, and taking 240 Israelis, Americans, and  
20 other civilians as hostages.

21           (4) Since October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists  
22 and their allies have launched over 11,500 rockets  
23 into southern and central Israel, the sole goal of  
24 which was to kill Israeli civilians.

1           (5) Hamas and Iranian leadership have called  
2           for the extermination of Israelis, Americans, Jews,  
3           and Christians around the world and the establish-  
4           ment of a global Islamic caliphate.

5           (6) The stated goal of Hamas and its allies is  
6           the complete and total destruction of the State of  
7           Israel and the Jewish people.

8           (7) In the Federal criminal prosecutions of per-  
9           sons involved with the Holy Land Foundation for  
10          Relief and Development, the largest successful pros-  
11          ecution of terrorism financing in our country's his-  
12          tory, CAIR was identified as an associate of the  
13          Muslim Brotherhood and was named an unindicted  
14          co-conspirator in the trial.

15          (8) CAIR, soon after opening its first office in  
16          Washington, DC, received a grant from the Holy  
17          Land Foundation for Relief and Development, a  
18          charitable organization that was closed and was des-  
19          ignated a Specially Designated Global Terrorist by  
20          the United States Department of the Treasury for  
21          funding jihadist terrorist organizations.

22          (9) In 2009, Ghassan Elashi, who was a mem-  
23          ber of the founding board of directors of the Texas  
24          branch of CAIR and a leader of the Holy Land  
25          Foundation for Relief and Development, was sen-

1 tenced to a total of 65 years in prison after being  
2 convicted of—

3 (A) 10 counts of conspiracy to provide, and  
4 the provision of, material support to a des-  
5 ignated foreign terrorist organization;

6 (B) 11 counts of conspiracy to provide,  
7 and the provision of, funds, goods, and services  
8 to a Specially Designated Terrorist as deter-  
9 mined by the United States Secretary of the  
10 Treasury;

11 (C) 10 counts of conspiracy to commit,  
12 and the commission of, money laundering;

13 (D) 1 count of conspiracy to impede and  
14 impair the Internal Revenue Service; and

15 (E) 2 counts of filing a false tax return.

16 (10) In October, 2000, at a large CAIR rally in  
17 Washington, DC, featured speaker Abdurahman  
18 Alamoudi, later a convicted terrorist and Al Qaeda  
19 financier, publicly expressed support for both Hamas  
20 and Hezbollah as the crowd cheered him on.

21 (11) Randall Todd Royer, also known as Ismail  
22 Royer, who served as a communications specialist  
23 and civil rights coordinator for CAIR and trained  
24 with and set up an internet based newsletter for  
25 Lashkar-e-Taiba, an al Qaeda-tied Kashmir organi-

1 zation that is listed on the United States Depart-  
2 ment of State's international terror list, was also in-  
3 dicted on charges of conspiring to help al Qaeda and  
4 the Taliban battle American troops fighting in Af-  
5 ghanistan and was sentenced to 20 years in prison  
6 on April 9, 2004.

7 (12) In September 2003, CAIR's former com-  
8 munity affairs director, Bassem Khafagi, pleaded  
9 guilty to 3 Federal counts of bank and visa fraud,  
10 and agreed to be deported to Egypt after he had  
11 funneled money to activities supporting terrorism  
12 and had published material advocating suicide at-  
13 tacks against the United States, illegal activities  
14 that took place while he was employed by CAIR.

15 (13) Rabih Haddad, the Ann Arbor, Michigan-  
16 based CAIR fundraiser, was arrested on terrorism-  
17 related charges and was deported from the United  
18 States due to his work as Executive Director of the  
19 Global Relief Foundation, which in October 2002  
20 was closed by the United States Department of the  
21 Treasury for financing al Qaeda and other terrorist  
22 organizations.

23 (14) In March 2011, Muthanna al-Hanooti, a  
24 director within CAIR, was sentenced to a year in

1 Federal prison for violating United States sanctions  
2 against Iraq under Saddam Hussein.

3 (15) United States ally, the United Arab Emir-  
4 ates, officially designated CAIR as a terrorist orga-  
5 nization in 2014.

6 (16) In 2014, CAIR honored convicted terrorist  
7 and Palestinian Islamic Jihad financier Sami Al  
8 Arian and in 2020 CAIR–Florida featured Al Arian  
9 in its livestream interview series. A former professor  
10 at the University of South Florida, Al Arian was  
11 convicted in 2006 of providing material support for  
12 a designated terrorist organization, Palestinian Is-  
13 lamic Jihad, and was deported after serving his pris-  
14 on sentence.

15 (17) Zainab Chaudry, Executive Director of the  
16 Council on American-Islamic Relations—Maryland  
17 Office, was suspended from the Maryland Commis-  
18 sion on Hate Crimes Response and Prevention by  
19 Maryland’s Attorney General on November 21,  
20 2023, following multiple social media posts, includ-  
21 ing one comparing Israel to Nazi Germany with the  
22 comment, “That moment when you become what you  
23 hated most”.

24 (18) On November 24, 2023, Speaking at the  
25 American Muslims for Palestine convention in Chi-

1 cago, CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad pro-  
2 claimed “The people of Gaza only decided to break  
3 the siege, the walls of the concentration camp, on  
4 October 7. And yes, I was happy to see people  
5 breaking the siege and throwing down the shackles  
6 of their own land, and walk free into their land,  
7 which they were not allowed to walk in. And yes, the  
8 people of Gaza have the right to self-defense, have  
9 the right to defend themselves, and yes, Israel, as an  
10 occupying power, does not have that right to self-de-  
11 fense”.

12 **SEC. 3. REVIEW OF WHETHER CAIR MEETS CRITERIA FOR**  
13 **DESIGNATION AS FOREIGN TERRORIST OR-**  
14 **GANIZATION.**

15 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment  
16 of this Act, the Secretary of State, in collaboration with  
17 the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury,  
18 shall—

19 (1) pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration  
20 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189), conduct a for-  
21 mal review of the Council on American-Islamic Rela-  
22 tions to determine whether it meets the criteria for  
23 designation as a foreign terrorist organization under  
24 such section; and

1           (2) submit to Congress a report summarizing  
2 the findings of the review conducted under para-  
3 graph (1), including—

4           (A) any resulting designation of the Coun-  
5 cil on American-Islamic Relations as a foreign  
6 terrorist organization under such section 219;  
7 or

8           (B) if the Secretary determined that the  
9 Council on American-Islamic Relations did not  
10 meet the criteria for designation as a foreign  
11 terrorist organization, the a summary of the  
12 findings leading to such determination.

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