

# Witnesses Say CAIR's Hamas/MB Links Cemented From Start

[gathered reporters](#) to express outrage and call on Carson to drop out of the race. When a 14-year-old Texas boy was detained for bringing what he said was a homemade clock to school that a teacher feared might be a bomb, a CAIR official expressed outrage and sat by the boy's side during [interviews](#).

And in the immediate aftermath of the Dec. 2 mass killings in San Bernardino by a radicalized Muslim man and his wife, CAIR called a [news conference](#) where its top Los Angeles official "unequivocally" condemned the killings.

CAIR's aggressive approach, and a combination of media ignorance or laziness, generates uncritical television and newspaper stories throughout the country. This helps the organization reinforce its self-anointed and [appeared on CNN](#) to blame "our foreign policy" for fueling radicalization that leads to such violence.

In blaming the United States for an attack by radical Islamists, CAIR- Los Angeles director Hussam Ayloush picked up [well-documented record](#) establishing CAIR's own ties to terrorists. Internal Muslim Brotherhood records obtained by the FBI place CAIR and its founders [bars interaction](#) with its officials except in criminal investigations.

On Thursday, CAIR [told the Wall Street Journal](#) that the alleged Hamas ties were "put to rest by the Department of Justice in 2011 and now exists as an Internet story."

This is a lie. Saylor knows that the FBI policy toward CAIR remains in effect, and it was [publicly reaffirmed](#) in 2013. And there simply is no way to "put to rest" the internal records admitted into evidence in 2008.

FBI records recently obtained by the Investigative Project on Terrorism further illustrate why CAIR merits closer scrutiny, rather than free air time, from the mainstream media. The records cement CAIR's connections to the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas from its very foundation, including disclosures about the only executive director CAIR has ever had – [Omar Ahmad](#) sought the blessing of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt to proceed with the new political start-up. That approval went as far as getting the global Islamist movement's blessing over CAIR's bylaws.

These accounts came from separate sources, each of whom ran in the same Islamist circles as Awad and Ahmad, during interviews with the FBI in 2005 and in 2009-10. They were among more than 1,000 pages of FBI records released to the IPT, via a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. The IPT sought records from the 2010 [Sadoun's deportation](#) resulted at least in part from his "connections to HAMAS, HAMAS leader Mousa Abu Marzook, and HAMAS front organizations," papers filed in Immigration Court show. Sadoun was a longtime CAIR national board member and served as president of the Muslim Arab Youth Association (MAYA), the 1,013-page FOIA response shows.

"MAYA served as a conduit for money to HAMAS, through the HLF [Holy Land Foundation], and served as a forum where HAMAS could promote its ideology and recruit new members," a February 2010 declaration filed in Sadoun's deportation case [here](#))

CAIR was [promotes itself](#) as "arguably the most visible and public representative of the American Muslim community." But questions about its connections to Hamas have dogged

the organization for years.

Those questions led the FBI to [associate director explaining](#),

“until we can


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.”

...until we can 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. It is important to note, however, that although the FBI was suspended all formal outreach activities with CAIR at this time...

CAIR’s Hamas connection is established by evidence FBI agents uncovered while investigating a Muslim Brotherhood controlled [places CAIR](#) among the Brotherhood’s “Palestine Committee” branches. A 1992 internal memo, “Islamic Action for Palestine,” [dismiss critics who call attention](#) to them – including the IPT – as anti-Muslim smear merchants.

Disclosures in the FOIA records the IPT obtained should be more difficult for CAIR to brush aside. They come from two former activists, both of whom were deeply involved in the same Muslim Brotherhood/Hamas-support network.

## Omar Ahmad and the Muslim Brotherhood



**Omar Ahmad**  
Member

Omar Ahmad is the founder of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, better known by the acronym CAIR, a Washington DC-based grassroots civil rights and advocacy group which seeks to empower the North American Muslim community through political and social activism. As the Chairman of the Board of Directors since founding in 1994, Mr. Ahmad has successfully led CAIR to becoming the largest Muslim civil rights organization with 29 regional offices and chapters.

Mr. Ahmad is a well-known activist and a community leader in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is frequently interviewed by national news media such as the New York Times, Washington Post and the LA Times. Mr. Ahmad is also the founder, President and CEO of a software technology company in the Silicon Valley. He holds B.S and M.S in computer engineering.

Omar Ahmad’s CAIR bio

The FOIA records include prosecution evidence accepted by the Immigration Court and used to find Sadoun deportable on a 21-count charging document. Among the records, an FBI agent’s [one of the leaders of HAMAS](#).”

[including a power struggle](#) pitting members who wanted more autonomy from the International Muslim Brotherhood against those who favored “a direct and official relationship.”

During the mid-1980s, the FBI source became a member of the U.S. Brotherhood's Majlis al Shura, or governing board, and he described its structure and operation during the 2005 interview. "The Palestine Committee was the largest and most powerful nationalistic committee within the Brotherhood at that time," the [chart included in the file](#) shows Sadoun's connections within the network, including CAIR.

According to the witness, the U.S. Brotherhood's estimated 1,500 to 2,000 members unanimously supported the Palestinian intifada and saw Hamas as its leader. The group then created the Holy Land Foundation to be "the Brotherhood's primary organization to support the Intifadah," the FBI report of the 2005 interview [United Association for Studies and Research](#) (UASR) and a propaganda outfit called the [wrote](#) in denying the Holy Land Foundation's appeal.

The IAP served as the Palestine Committee's media outlet, promoting Hamas attacks and even publishing the terrorist group's anti-Semitic charter which calls for Israel's annihilation. The IAP worked with the Holy Land Foundation and other groups on fundraising events with the money being routed to charities controlled by Hamas. In addition, Marzook [booklet](#), "America's Greatest Enemy: The Jew! and an Unholy Alliance!"

CAIR founders Omar Ahmad and Nihad Awad worked for the IAP immediately before launching CAIR.

Ahmad became Palestine Committee president after Marzook was deported from the United States, the FBI source said. He [successful prosecution](#) of five former Holy Land Foundation officials for Hamas support, investigators proposed indicting Ahmad, the CAIR co-founder. That request was [secret 1994 meeting](#) of Hamas supporters in Philadelphia. It was called in response to the 1993 Oslo

Accords, which offered the potential for a peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians.

The FBI recorded the weekend-long meeting. Transcripts entered into evidence show that the group opposed the deal for two reasons: They, like Hamas, opposed any peaceful settlement to the conflict. And, the agreement empowered the secular Palestine Liberation Organization to lead the newly created Palestinian Authority, diminishing the influence and power of the Islamist Hamas movement.

Ahmad helped [called it to order](#). At one point, he acknowledged that the group [Ahmad replied](#). "We didn't say that to the Americans."

### **Nihad Awad and Hamas**

Awad participated in that 1994 meeting, too, and joined the others in following instructions to refer to Hamas only in code. Those in the meeting were [said](#) during the Philadelphia meeting.

Awad's true mission was spelled out during a 2010 interview FBI officials had with Mohamed Shorbagi, a former Rome, Ga. imam who [testifying he was told](#), had been sent by the IAP to Washington "in order to educate and inform U.S. political leaders about the Palestinian cause. His job was to influence the leaders of the U.S. government in favor of the Palestinian cause," an FBI memo summarizing the interview said.

Shorbagi had [told Shorbagi](#) that Awad "went to Washington, D.C. for the IAP in order to represent Hamas." But then the idea to start CAIR came to fruition and Awad was tasked with running the new organization. "It was known in the community that CAIR was under or influenced by the IAP because its (CAIR) leadership had come from the IAP."

The timing and the claim that Ahmad sent Awad to Washington

fits with other information already in the public domain.

Awad's own account of his move to Washington, in an article he wrote in 2000, offers a more benign motivation, but matches Shorbagi in saying it was Ahmad who "proposed that I move to Washington, D.C., where any effective national effort would have to be based."

After the Gulf War was over, I was offered a job with the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP) as their public relations director. Since many Americans had been exposed to only one side of the story, my responsibility was to explain the Palestinian experience to the public and the media. In this effort I worked closely with IAP president Omar Ahmad.

Omar, however, had the insight to realize that the central issue facing the Muslim community in the United States was not being addressed. The core challenge, that of stereotyping and defamation, was having a devastating effect on our children and paralyzing adults from taking their due roles in civic affairs.

Omar suggested to me that we leave the IAP and concentrate on combating anti-Muslim discrimination nationwide. He proposed that I move to Washington, D.C., where any effective national effort would have to be based, while he tried to raise the seed money for the project.



During a 2003 deposition in a civil lawsuit, Awad said he served as public relations chief for the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP) in 1993, then moved to Washington "to work for CAIR." As mentioned, the IAP was the Palestine Committee's media arm, publishing the Hamas charter and reproducing Hamas communiques. Awad denied knowledge of this fact and claimed he had never read the Hamas charter.

In the deposition, Awad described IAP merely as a "cultural association" and denied ever seeing or reading the Hamas charter. But Shorbagi told federal investigators that "IAP 'festivals' championed the cause of Hamas exclusively" after the intifada. This point is clearly established by [exhibits](#) entered into evidence during the Holy Land Foundation trial.

In March 1994, Awad was part of a panel discussion at Miami's Barry University. He [Awad also serves](#) as a national board member.

On social media posts a year ago, [arguing Israel is on par with ISIS](#).

Hamas officials in Gaza have taken notice of Shorbagi's cooperation with the government. They were holding his passport,