

By: Patterson

H.R. No. 971

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas is proud of its diverse
2 communities built on shared values of liberty, faith, and
3 patriotism; and

4 WHEREAS, All communities are important to Texas, and we honor
5 those who contribute to the strength, culture, and prosperity of
6 our state; and

7 WHEREAS, The Council on American-Islamic Relations has been
8 credibly linked to terrorist organizations such as Hamas and the
9 Muslim Brotherhood, both enemies of the United States and threats
10 to our way of life; CAIR's leadership has openly praised acts of
11 terror, defended violence against innocent civilians, and shown
12 contempt for American allies such as Israel; and

13 WHEREAS, The Federal Bureau of Investigation has suspended
14 all formal contacts with the Council on American-Islamic Relations
15 due to evidence demonstrating a relationship between CAIR and
16 Hamas; Hamas is designated as a foreign terrorist organization by
17 the United States Department of State and perpetrated the brutal
18 attack on the State of Israel on October 7, 2023, in which Hamas
19 indiscriminately killed more than 1,200 innocent people, including
20 Israelis, Americans, and other nationals, and took more than 240
21 civilians as hostages; and

22 WHEREAS, In the federal criminal prosecutions of persons
23 involved with the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development,
24 the largest successful prosecution of terrorism financing in our

1 country's history, CAIR was identified as an associate of the
2 Muslim Brotherhood and was named an unindicted co-conspirator in
3 the trial; and

4 WHEREAS, Soon after opening its first office in Washington,
5 D.C., CAIR received a grant from the Holy Land Foundation for Relief
6 and Development, a charitable organization that was closed and was
7 designated a Specially Designated Global Terrorist by the United
8 States Department of the Treasury for funding jihadist terrorist
9 organizations; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2009, Ghassan Elashi, who was a member of the
11 founding board of directors of the Texas branch of CAIR and a leader
12 of the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, was
13 sentenced to a total of 65 years in prison after being convicted of
14 10 counts of conspiracy to provide, and the provision of, material
15 support to a designated foreign terrorist organization as well as
16 numerous other charges; and

17 WHEREAS, Randall Todd Royer, also known as Ismail Royer, who
18 served as a communications specialist and civil rights coordinator
19 for CAIR, trained with and set up an Internet-based newsletter for
20 Lashkar-e-Taiba, an al Qaeda-tied Kashmir organization that is
21 listed on the United States Department of State's international
22 terror list; he was also indicted on charges of conspiring to help
23 al Qaeda and the Taliban battle American troops fighting in
24 Afghanistan and was sentenced to 20 years in prison on April 9,
25 2004; and

26 WHEREAS, In September 2003, CAIR's former community affairs
27 director, Bassem Khafagi, pleaded guilty to three federal counts of

1 bank and visa fraud and agreed to be deported to Egypt after he had
2 funneled money to activities supporting terrorism and had published
3 material advocating suicide attacks against the United States,
4 illegal activities that took place while he was employed by CAIR;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, RabiH Haddad, the Ann Arbor, Michigan-based CAIR
7 fundraiser, was arrested on terrorism-related charges and was
8 deported from the United States due to his work as Executive
9 Director of the Global Relief Foundation, which in October 2002 was
10 closed by the United States Department of the Treasury for
11 financing al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations; and

12 WHEREAS, It is a dangerous affront to the people of Texas to
13 allow any group that supports, sympathizes with, or excuses
14 terrorism to be welcomed or honored within the halls of our Capitol;
15 just as the Texas Capitol would never open its doors to groups such
16 as the Ku Klux Klan, to drug cartels, or to any other group that
17 promotes hatred and violence, it must not and will not open its
18 doors to CAIR; the ongoing Islamification of American communities
19 through extremist organizations represents one of the most urgent
20 cultural and security challenges facing our state today; and

21 WHEREAS, Texas has always stood firmly against enemies
22 foreign and domestic, rejecting any group that seeks to undermine
23 the Constitution, erode our freedoms, or endanger our families, and
24 it will never tolerate, support, or honor organizations aligned
25 with terrorism, hatred, or the enemies of the United States; now,
26 therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas

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1 Legislature hereby declare the Council on American-Islamic
2 Relations unwelcome at the Texas Capitol.