



The Dual Life of a Pro-Terror Activist

By [Joe Kaufman](#)

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Ahmed Bedier leads a dual life. As President of the Tampa/Hillsborough County Human Rights Council (THHRC), he enjoys the fortune of being mistaken by government officials and media personalities for a civil rights leader. The rest of the time, Bedier portrays his real self, an Islamist whose existence is devoted to hatred of Israel. Now, he has started a new group to fool the masses, United Voices for America (UVA). How long will those in positions of influence continue to fail to recognize the other side of Ahmed Bedier?

On February 6, 2008, a song invaded the Tampa, Florida, airwaves about “Palestine.” According to the vocalist, it was sung “in honor of our *shahids*” – *shahid*, meaning a holy martyr or an individual seeking death (suicide) in the cause of Allah, a term most widely used in association with terrorists. What followed the tune was an anti-Israel hatefest, the same hatefest that is heard week after week on WMNF-FM’s *True Talk*, a Muslim talk show hosted by Bedier and his cohort, Samar Jarrah.

Bedier has been involved with radical Islam since at least 2002, when he was the Outreach Director for the [Islamic Society of Pinellas County](#) (ISPC), a mosque whose website features material calling for violence against Jews. After the stint with ISPC, much of Bedier’s life has centered around organizations and individuals connected to and in support of anti-Israel terrorist groups overseas, including Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and Hezbollah.

Bedier and Hamas

In February 2003, Bedier began working for the Florida chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Florida), soon to become the group’s Communications Director. In December of 2003, CAIR opened a separate office in Tampa, and Bedier was named its Executive Director. All of this was subsequent to CAIR’s [involvement in the funding of Hamas](#), which took place prior to December of 2001, when Hamas’s American financing wing, the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development (HLF), was shut down by the U.S. government. CAIR was named as a co-conspirator in the 2008 HLF trial, where all of the defendants were found guilty of all charges.

Bedier left CAIR in May 2008, but that hadn’t stopped his association with those who support Hamas. On December 30, 2008, he joined hundreds of others in a [pro-Hamas demonstration](#) in Tampa, one of a number of similar protests which took place on the same date across the nation. The event, which was organized in large part by the extremist Muslim American Society (MAS), featured signs that read “End Zionism” and “Zionism is Cancer; Radiate It.” Additionally, some participants at the protest donned keffiyehs, Palestinian symbols of violence worn as scarves.

Bedier and PIJ

When Bedier joined CAIR in February of 2003, it was no coincidence that that same month terrorist and former University of South Florida (USF) professor Sami al-Arian had been taken into custody by the FBI. Al-Arian, along with others, was indicted for his leadership role within PIJ. Al-Arian founded [a mosque, a children's school](#), a think tank, and a charity all in the name of furthering PIJ operations at home and abroad. Since al-Arian's activities were based in Tampa, Bedier was the perfect person to be brought in as his "unofficial spokesman."

Bedier held press conferences voicing concern about the government's treatment of al-Arian. As well, Bedier allowed his radio show to be used as a propaganda tool for al-Arian's family and his PIJ colleagues.

In December 2005, Bedier appeared on local Fox 13 WTVT's *Your Turn with Kathy Fountain* to discuss al-Arian's legal troubles. During the show, Bedier was asked if he believed that al-Arian's involvement with PIJ was immoral, to which he replied, "To a certain degree. Now, before 1995 there was [nothing immoral about it](#)." This, while PIJ had taken credit for five terrorist attacks before 1995, including one suicide bombing, which resulted in the deaths of eight innocent people.

Bedier and Hezbollah

When it comes to controversial topics brought up on Bedier's radio show, many times Bedier speaks through his guests. On July 21, 2006, in the course of Israel's war in Lebanon against Hezbollah, Bedier's entire show was [devoted to lauding the terrorist group](#). All three of his invitees heaped praise on Hezbollah, such as:

- "I'm not very good at being brief about Hezbollah, but I'll try. I'll just say that it's not at all the picture that is portrayed of it in the West, as some sort of cartoonish terrorist group. It is a liberation movement in many senses for the Lebanese Shia that has huge support, probably more than any party in Lebanon... It has quite a clean record, and its leader, Hasan Nasrallah, is revered probably by most Lebanese as a fairly eloquent and capable leader."
- "Let everyone understand that Hezbollah is not a building, Hezbollah is [not] a street. Hezbollah is composed of families that believe in liberation, families that believe [in] dignity, families that believe [in] purpose."
- "They have been trying to invade Lebanon since the first day. Yesterday alone, there was a 20-hour battle between the Israeli army and the National Resistance Movement of Hezbollah. For 20 hours they fought. This speaks volumes about the heroic nature of Hezbollah."
- "The fact of the matter is that Hezbollah has a lot of the voice of the people here, so ultimately Hezbollah's voice needs to be heard. You can't just keep shutting it away, because it's always gonna rise again."

All three of the groups mentioned – Hamas, PIJ and Hezbollah – are found on the U.S. State Department's list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs), yet Bedier has sought to surround himself with individuals and groups associated with and in support of them. This is troubling in itself, but what makes it more so is the fact that Bedier has persisted in his quest to gain access to those in positions of power and influence.

As President of the Tampa/Hillsborough County Human Rights Council, Bedier has had unwarranted interaction with the [Tampa Mayor's office](#), which has provided a personal liaison to his group. He has also been granted accreditation by members of the media, who mistakenly consider him a legitimate source of information. Now, Bedier is looking to expand his sinister ambitions with a brand new group he established, a political advocacy organization called United Voices for America.

On March 9th and 10th, Bedier and his UVA will be hosting what he calls a "Lobby Day" in Tallahassee, the location of the Florida legislature. According to a February 9th letter he had e-mailed, the event, entitled "[Florida Muslim Capitol Day](#)," will provide members of his organization a "unique opportunity of speaking directly with your elected legislators and [this] empowers us collectively to change Florida."

The change which Ahmed Bedier seeks for Florida, given his extensive terrorist ties, can and should be viewed as a threat to America, her ally Israel and Israel's backers in the Sunshine State, which as of now includes most if not all of the Representatives and Senators he is targeting. If Bedier has his way, those in office will turn their backs on America's friend abroad. It is incumbent upon all to recognize the true nature of this man, for a man with dangerous intentions, such as Bedier has, will never stop until he is convincingly turned away.

Joe Kaufman is the Chairman of [Americans Against Hate](#), the founder of [CAIR Watch](#), and the spokesman for [Terror-Free Oil Initiative](#).

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Islamist Masquerading as Human Rights Leader

By [Joe Kaufman](#)

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Ahmed Bedier, the former Executive Director of the Tampa office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Tampa), is now the President of the Tampa/Hillsborough County Human Rights Council (THHRC), a group that the local Tampa government has involvement with. Given Bedier's lengthy extremist past, isn't this a conflict of interest for the city?

Bedier first [arrived on the scene](#) with CAIR, a group with deep ties to Hamas, in February of 2003. February 2003 was also the month that federal authorities took Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) operative and co-founder of CAIR's parent organization, the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP), Sami Al-Arian, into custody. It seems that this was no mere coincidence, for all throughout Al-Arian's ordeal, Bedier was his unofficial spokesperson in the media. Anytime anything regarding Al-Arian came up, it was Bedier who was there to discuss the matter. Al-Arian was part of Tampa, and CAIR had its guy in Tampa to defend him.

Bedier was with CAIR for over five years, ending his association last May. During that time, CAIR was named in two federal trials brought by the U.S. Justice Department, one as a co-conspirator and the other as a supporter of terrorists. As well, in that time, three of CAIR's former representatives were convicted of terror-related crimes. One, [Randall Todd "Ismail" Royer](#), was sentenced to 20 years in prison for plotting to go overseas to join Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pakistani group responsible for the recent attacks on Mumbai, India.

Besides Al-Arian, another terror-related individual that Bedier acted as spokesperson for is Ahmed Abdellatif Sherif Mohamed, who was sentenced last week to [15 years in prison](#) for creating a video showing would-be terrorists how to turn a remote-control toy into a bomb detonator. Mohamed, along with Youssef Samir Megahed, two Tampa-area students, were indicted in August of 2007 for transporting explosive materials across state lines. Bedier claimed that their arrests amounted to nothing more than 'racial profiling' due to their Middle-Eastern backgrounds.

The video that Mohamed got in trouble for was produced for YouTube. Bedier, himself, has produced videos for YouTube, one of which featured an individual at a July 2006 rally stating to a cheering crowd, "What we pray all the time is that the state of Israel be dismantled, totally dismantled..." Bedier's YouTube account was later suspended for a "Terms of Use" violation, and all of his videos were removed. Today, Bedier has a new YouTube account, which apparently attracts extremists, as one of his "Subscribers" [uses the Hezbollah logo](#) for an icon.

Bedier has utilized the radio show that he has co-hosted since July of 2005, *True Talk* on WMNF, to defend Al-Arian and the two student radicals. On his show, he has provided their attorneys and members of their families a forum to speak. Primarily, though, Bedier's radio

show is used to give voice to those who vehemently hate Israel, which includes those who support anti-Israel terrorists. An entire show, in July of 2006, was devoted to promoting Hezbollah, and all three of his guests lauded the terror group, one calling it “heroic.”

No longer with CAIR, today Bedier heads up a new organization. He is President of the Tampa/Hillsborough County Human Rights Council (THHRC), a volunteer position voted in by the group’s membership. And just as its name implies, the group’s mission is to advocate for the human rights of the community. Yet, with someone such as Bedier, one has to question how that is possible.

Speaking as the THHRC President, Bedier, earlier this month, appeared on Fox-13’s *Your Turn* to discuss the Mumbai attacks. During the program, he implied that America was responsible for the terrorist training camps located in Pakistan, in effect blaming the U.S. for the attacks. He stated, “[I]t goes back to who created those training camps, and it goes back to the United States’ involvement in that area, when it was convenient to support these militant groups when they were at war against the Soviets and supporting activity in Afghanistan.”

Bedier had been on *Your Turn* prior to this. On one of his appearances, in December of 2005, he uttered a statement that has since become notorious. When asked if it is immoral to associate with Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), he replied, “To a certain degree. Now, before 1995 there was nothing immoral about it.” This, while PIJ, prior to 1995, had carried out five terrorist attacks, which included a suicide bombing, resulting in the murders of eight innocent people. As well, in May of 2004, when given the chance, Bedier [refused to condemn PIJ](#) as a terrorist organization.

Bedier’s position in the THHRC poses a troublesome conflict with the local Tampa government, as the city openly supports the group. In fact, the Mayor’s office has designated a liaison to the council. This has been a disturbing trend from Mayor Pam Iorio, who last month issued a Proclamation declaring November 15th “[CAIR Day](#),” the fourth year in a row she had awarded CAIR such recognition.

Given Bedier’s extremist past, how could the local government continue to have a relationship with the THHRC? In good conscience, it can’t, and that is why it is this author’s opinion that the city of Tampa end its association with the group – at least until Bedier steps down or the THHRC membership seeks his removal.

Tampa needs to consider the interests and wellbeing of its citizens. It cannot do this, if it is supporting an entity whose leader is someone who propagates hatred and support for those who commit violent acts – in the guise of a religion, hidden behind the label of human rights.

Beila Rabinowitz, Director of Militant Islam Monitor, contributed to this report.

Joe Kaufman is the Chairman of [Americans Against Hate](#), the founder of [CAIR Watch](#), and the spokesman for [Terror-Free Oil Initiative](#).

<http://www.frontpagemagazine.com/Articles/Read.aspx?GUID=1C1F6640-4B59-45F8-B084-2E2E2CE1E422>



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The Ahmed Bedier I Know

By [Joe Kaufman](#)

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Samar Jarrah: "It's fascinating that some people who are supposedly terrorism experts and are advising this country are spending time to write about you moving up and changing your career. I mean, it's not like belittling you in any way, but I thought they would have much more important things to do."

Ahmed Bedier: "Yeah, I mean, well, if they think you're a terrorist, then they want to watch your movement." (WMNF, True Talk, May 23, 2008)

After five long years, Ahmed Bedier is now gone from the Hamas-related Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR); forced out, according to the group, so that it could move in another direction; stepped down, according to him, in start of a new project. Whatever the real reason may be, while Bedier may have left CAIR, he continues to foment radical Islam.

Since the beginning of 2003, Ahmed Bedier has served in an official capacity for CAIR, holding positions as Communications Director of CAIR-Florida and Executive Director of CAIR-Tampa.

Throughout his tenure, Bedier acted as the [voice of Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Sami Al-Arian](#) in the media. It had seemed as though that was the reason for his hiring at CAIR, to be CAIR's eyes and ears – and mouth – after Al-Arian's arrest in February of 2003. And that made sense, as Al-Arian was one of the founders of CAIR's now defunct parent organization, the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP), and both Al-Arian and Bedier were located in the Tampa/St. Pete area.

In time, Bedier established himself as a leading voice in CAIR, even appearing on national television news programs, such as Fox News' *Hannity & Colmes*. However, while he was praised by the national CAIR office, the organization never granted Bedier a national position. Recently, that opportunity was given to the younger [Ahmed Rehab](#), the Executive Director of CAIR's Chicago, Illinois office. Rehab, who like Bedier is an Egyptian, now holds the job as National Director of Communications Strategy.

According to Bedier, he left CAIR because he felt the desire to pursue new avenues of interest. He stated on his radio program, [True Talk](#), on May 23, 2008, "I'm no longer with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), which I've been there for the past five years – been volunteering even longer... As Executive Director I founded the chapter, here in Tampa. But, you know, there comes a time when you move on... CAIR is a great organization, but it's time to

move on, pass on the torch. And now, I have an announcement... I'm working on a new project that will focus on peacemaking.”

But as pointed out by the Investigative Project on Terrorism (IPT), [CAIR has a different story](#). According to the Civil Rights Coordinator of CAIR-Tampa, Ramzy Kilic – who has helped Bedier defend two University of South Florida (USF) students, Youssef Samir Megahed and Ahmed Abdellatif Sherif Mohamed, accused by the U.S. government of transporting explosives – Bedier was retired by CAIR. Kilic stated, “CAIR-Florida decided to make a change and go into a new direction. We wish Ahmed the best”

Regardless of which story is true, though, with or without CAIR, Ahmed Bedier continues in his radical Islamist ways, this month, referring to the creation and sustaining of Israel as a “disaster” and a “catastrophe.” He stated on his May 9th radio show, “At the end of the program, we want to dedicate some time to what they’re calling the 60th Anniversary Celebration of Israel’s Independence. I really don’t know what they gained independence from. We call it the Nakba, a disaster occupation for 60 years.”

He continued, “[S]peaking of the Nakba, the local Muslim community is having – which is being put on by the Muslim American Society in association with American Muslims for Palestine – They’re presenting, memorializing 60 years of Al-Nakba, the catastrophe... Anyone that’s interested in remembering the 60 years of catastrophe and the occupation, there’s going to be an event coming up on Saturday, May 17th, from 3 to 11 PM.”

These statements can easily be added to the [long list of past extremist quotations](#) from Bedier, including:

- Comparing Catholic priests to Al-Qaeda: “Catholic priests pose more of a terrorism threat by having sex with young altar boys than those who flew planes into the World Trade Center.”
- About the consequences of exposing radical Muslims: “People, when you corner them, when you keep attacking them and demonizing them and treating them like animals, guess what? They’re gonna snap. And one point, somebody’s gonna retaliate, and then all hell’s gonna break loose.”
- Questioned about whether it’s immoral to associate with Palestinian Islamic Jihad: “To a certain degree. Now, before 1995 there was nothing immoral about it.”
- About the United States’ designation of Hamas and Hezbollah as terrorist groups: “Oftentimes people in the West oversimplify all the groups. Al-Qaida doesn’t provide any social services. They just attack civilians. They’re not into dialogue.”
- On bringing back the Caliphate and denouncing the West: “Yeah, well, we’re looking for it still. Right now... Since the fall of the Ottoman Empire - that was the last major Muslim organized religion - we don’t really have a hierarchy that’s organized how the Catholics are organized. We’re looking for that, and once we have that one voice, unified voice, we’ll be able to speak up... [T]he Ottoman Empire fell because of the Allied Powers, and it was caused by colonialism and so on. Again, Western Allies going there and dividing the Ottoman Empire. That’s what it is now.”

Ahmed Bedier, many times, comes across as a non-threat, as he participates in numerous interfaith gatherings while cracking jokes and flashing a big smile. However, the man behind the smile is one that is infatuated with how the United States responds to terrorism and obsessed with Israel's very existence.

He is a man who has worked for and has attended a mosque, the [Islamic Society of Pinellas County](#), that propagates material calling for the waging of violence against non-Muslims: “[S]o long as Kufr is present in this world, it is necessary to wage Jihad against it to finish it off, and so long as all the disbelievers do not openly accept Islam and adopt the Islamic way of life, Muslims are duty-bound to make Jihad against them.”

He is a man very different from the “peacemaker” that has been portrayed by himself and the media. But the very fact that he was a leader of CAIR, a group that has ample ties to terrorists overseas, makes him someone to be wary of. And no, he is no longer with CAIR, but as witnessed above, his extremist jihad still goes on.

Joe Kaufman is the Chairman of [Americans Against Hate](#), the founder of [CAIR Watch](#), and the spokesman for [Terror-Free Oil Initiative](#).

http://www.americansagainsthate.org/cw/profiles_cw.php



Ahmed M. Bedier

Former Executive Director of CAIR-Tampa, former Communications Director of CAIR-Florida, and "Unofficial Spokesman" for Sami Al-Arian

'Your Turn with Kathy Fountain,' WTVT-Tampa, December 7, 2005:

Fountain: "If [Sami Al-Arian] was associating with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, doesn't that seem immoral, in your opinion?"

Bedier: "To a certain degree. Now, before 1995 there was nothing immoral about it."

Bedier trying to defend PIJ leader Sami Al-Arian against being called a terrorist on WMNF's 'True Talk,' May 11, 2007:

Caller: "Hey, that Al-Arian guy, he was a professor at USF. Wasn't – He was accused of being a terrorist, I guess. Didn't he say something off color on television, on that O'Reilly show, something about like 'I want to kill all Jews' or 'All Jews must die'? Didn't he say something like that?... He said something that got O'Reilly's hair on his back – It doesn't take much. But I mean, the guy's a terrorist, right?"

Bedier: "The caller's question highlights the level of ignorance that the folks in Tampa and around the country have about the Al-Arian case and the trial. A lot of these people never even

stepped foot in the courtroom, but they think they know everything there is to know about this trial, more so than even the jurors that sat there for six months. Even the government, themselves, said that Al-Arian is not a terrorist. The government, themselves, admitted that Al-Arian never financed any violence. What they did say was that he was conspiring with them to aid and provide support for a terrorist organization. But even those charges did not stick, and the jury did not believe it, based on the evidence, and that's the American judicial system. People should not be smeared by the court of public opinion without looking at the evidence."

Pro-Hezbollah statements from guests on Ahmed Bedier's radio show, True Talk, July 21, 2006:

- Author Bilal Al-Amin: "I'm not very good at being brief about Hezbollah, but I'll try. I'll just say that it's not at all the picture that is portrayed of it in the West, as some sort of cartoonish terrorist group. It is a liberation movement in many senses for the Lebanese Shia that has huge support, probably more than any party in Lebanon... It has quite a clean record, and its leader, Hasan Nasrallah, is revered probably by most Lebanese as a fairly eloquent and capable leader."
- Professor Rania Masri: "They have been trying to invade Lebanon since the first day. Yesterday alone, there was a 20-hour battle between the Israeli army and the National Resistance Movement of Hezbollah. For 20 hours they fought. This speaks volumes about the heroic nature of Hezbollah."
- University of South Florida (USF) alum Fadia Anani: "The fact of the matter is that Hezbollah has a lot of the voice of the people here, so ultimately Hezbollah's voice needs to be heard. You can't just keep shutting it away, because it's always gonna rise again."

'The Web As A Weapon,' Kevin Begos, The Tampa Tribune, September 11, 2006:

Begos: "Daniel Byman, a terrorism expert at the Brookings Institution in Washington, said Americans tend to think of these groups in absolutes - they either build hospitals or build bombs... For example, the United States has designated Hezbollah and Hamas as terrorist

groups. But many people in the Middle East don't view them that way."

Bedier: "Oftentimes people in the West oversimplify all the groups. Al-Qaida doesn't provide any social services. They just attack civilians. They're not into dialogue."

Ahmed Bedier's radio show, True Talk, May 23, 2008:

Samar Jarrah: "It's fascinating that some people who are supposedly terrorism experts and are advising this country are spending time to write about you moving up and changing your career. I mean, it's not like belittling you in any way, but I thought they would have much more important things to do."

Ahmed Bedier: "Yeah, I mean, well, if they think you're a terrorist, then they want to watch your movement."

On bringing back the Caliphate and denouncing the West: "Yeah, well, we're looking for it still. Right now... Since the fall of the Ottoman Empire - that was the last major Muslim organized religion - we don't really have a hierarchy that's organized how the Catholics are organized. We're looking for that, and once we have that one voice, unified voice, we'll be able to speak up. Many people say all the time, 'Why aren't Muslims condemning 9/11?' Well, we are, but we're doing it as groups and as individuals, as different mosques, but we're not doing it as one unified voice that speaks clearly... We're trying. But the Ottoman Empire fell because of the Allied Powers, and it was caused by colonialism and so on. Again, Western Allies going there and dividing the Ottoman Empire. That's what it is now." (*statement by Ahmed Bedier, WTVT-Tampa, 'Your Turn with Kathy Fountain,' May 13, 2006*)

"Catholic priests pose more of a terrorism threat by having sex with young altar boys than those who flew planes into the World Trade Center." (*Ahmed Bedier to Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite, during surprise CAIR meeting with Congresswoman, May 29, 2004*)

"Before the invasion, there were no terrorists in Iraq. There was no Al-Qaeda connections. There was no Zarqawi. There was no letters from Bin Laden. There was none of that stuff."

There was nobody coming over the borders... But now, this is a breeding ground for terrorism and for insurgency, where people are coming in from all the borders. And it can't be stopped." About the insurgency: "When people don't have water or food, they do crazy things!" (*statements by Ahmed Bedier, WTVT-Tampa, 'Your Turn with Kathy Fountain,' October 17, 2005*)

"I wouldn't work for any organization that has any type of bad connections." (*Ahmed Bedier, WMNF, 'True Talk,' August 18, 2006*)

"In my office, I have a picture of myself next to the Special Agent in charge of the FBI - really big, you know - and I tell them, 'This is my Get Out of Jail card.'" (*ibid*)

"People, when you corner them [Muslims], when you keep attacking them and demonizing them and treating them like animals, guess what? They're gonna snap. And one point, somebody's gonna retaliate, and then all hell's gonna break loose." (*Ahmed Bedier speech at the University of South Florida, 'The Rise of Islamophobia,' April of 2007*)

Defending Ahmed Abda Sherf Mohamed and Yousef Samir Megahed, two individuals arrested near a Naval base and charged with possession of explosive devices (pipe bombs): "Obviously their heritage and background is playing a major role in blowing this out of proportion." (*stated by Ahmed Bedier, Tampa Bay Tribune, '2 USF Students In S.C. Charged With Possession Of Pipe Bomb,' August 7, 2007*) "And honestly most people will tell you if these were some good old boys from South Carolina traveling through the highway of that county and getting pulled over and having some fireworks, I doubt that it would make news around the world. We believe that there's an overreaction that [sic] happening here just because of their Middle Eastern and Muslim backgrounds." (*stated by Ahmed Bedier, WTSB - Tampa Bay 10, 'USF, CAIR concerned about students arrest in South Carolina,' August 7, 2007*)

Bedier produced a video for YouTube, which included an individual stating to a cheering crowd, "What we pray all the time is that the state of Israel be dismantled, totally dismantled..." (*YouTube account: bedier, rally to end U.S. support for Israel outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., July 25, 2006*) Bedier's YouTube account was later suspended for a "Terms of Use" violation, and all of his videos were removed. (*Little Green Footballs, 'CAIR Official's YouTube Account Shut Down,' September 4, 2007*)

Within Bedier's new YouTube account, Bedier had a "Subscribers" page that contained a Hezbollah logo and an image of Adolf Hitler gripping a swastika-adorned flag. (Joe Kaufman, *FrontPage Magazine*, 'Islamist Masquerading as Human Rights Leader,' December 23, 2008)

Bedier, at a forum discussing the issue, refused to condemn the Islamic practice of stoning, instead falsely noting that all three "monotheistic religions" prescribe it and that, being that four witnesses are needed to establish the crime (in Islamic courts), with a punishment of 70 lashes for a false accusation, the evidentiary standard is virtually unattainable. (Robert Spencer, *Jihad Watch*, 'CAIR's Ahmed Bedier passes up a chance to condemn stoning,' January 12, 2008)

A speech to the Department of Defense: Central Command (CENTCOM) that Bedier was scheduled to give on January 15, 2008 was cancelled, after information was provided to CENTCOM about CAIR's terrorist ties. (*Americans Against Hate*, 'CAIR Speech at CENTCOM Cancelled,' January 12, 2008)

"At the end of the program, we want to dedicate some time to what they're calling the 60th Anniversary Celebration of Israel's Independence. I really don't know what they gained independence from. We call it the Nakba, a disaster occupation for 60 years." (Ahmed Bedier, *WMNF*, 'True Talk,' May 9, 2008)

On his blog, Bedier lauded the words of Muslim radical Tariq Ramadan. (Ahmed Bedier blog, 'Tariq Ramadan: Resolve Palestinian-Israeli Conflict With New Global Non-Violent Movement,' January 2, 2009) In July of 2004, Ramadan's U.S. visa was revoked for providing funds for "charities" associated with Hamas, and he has since been banned from entering the United States. As well, Ramadan has had dealings with Al-Qaeda-related individuals. (Daniel Pipes, *New York Sun*, "Why Revoke Tariq Ramadan's U.S. Visa?" August 27, 2004)

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2009/01/30/fbi-cut-ties-cair-following-terror-financing-trial/>



FBI Cuts Ties With CAIR Following Terror Financing Trial

The FBI severed its ties with all local branches of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the country's largest Islamic advocacy group, an FBI official told FOX News.

By Joseph Abrams

FOXNews.com

Friday, January 30, 2009



The FBI has severed its ties to local chapters of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, whose executive director, Nihad Awad, is pictured above in 2004. (Reuters)

The FBI is severing its once-close ties with the nation's largest Muslim advocacy group, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, amid mounting evidence that it has links to a support network for Hamas.

All local chapters of CAIR have been shunned in the wake of a 15-year FBI investigation that culminated with the conviction in December of Hamas fundraisers at a trial where CAIR itself was listed as an unindicted co-conspirator.

The U.S. government has designated Hamas as a terrorist organization.

An official at the FBI's headquarters in Washington confirmed to FOX News that his office directed FBI field offices across the country to cut ties with local branches of CAIR.

In Oklahoma, FBI officials had worked with CAIR's local branch from its founding in 2007 and attended the [fundraising banquet](#) that launched the office. But just over a year later, the local FBI froze all its programs involving CAIR.

FOXNews.com has obtained an Oct. 8, 2008, letter sent by James E. Finch, special agent in charge of Oklahoma City, canceling a session with local Muslim organizations "as a result of the planned participation by the Oklahoma chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)."

[Click here to read the letter, which was provided by the watchdog group the Investigative Project on Terrorism.](#)

The new policy marks a major shift for the FBI, which has long been close to CAIR. The agency has previously invited CAIR to give training sessions for agents and used it as a liaison with the American Muslim community.

CAIR's executive director, Nihad Awad, attended a [post-Sept. 11 meeting](#) with then-FBI director Robert Mueller, and he met with other [top brass](#) as recently as 2006. But that was before Awad was shown to have participated in planning meetings with the Holy Land Foundation, five officials of which were convicted in December of funneling \$12.4 million to Hamas.

[Click here to see the government's evidence in the Holy Land Foundation case.](#)

Prosecutors identified CAIR's chairman emeritus, Omar Ahmad, as an unindicted co-conspirator in that trial, and Special Agent Lara Burns testified that CAIR was a front group for radical organizations operating in the U.S.

CAIR denies that it conspired in the case and has sued unsuccessfully to have its name removed from the list of co-conspirators. It also is protesting the FBI's decision to sever relations.

"This is an unfortunate legacy of the Bush administration's misguided and counterproductive efforts to marginalize mainstream American Muslim organizations," CAIR's national office said in a statement to FOXNews.com.

"It is not surprising that we would be singled out by those in the previous administration who sought to prevent us from defending the civil rights of American Muslims."

But not all CAIR branches have been told of the FBI's new policy.

"Locally we have not had any reports, we have no letters from the FBI to suggest that" ties were being severed, said Ahmed Rehab, a spokesman in CAIR's Chicago office. "It's a working relationship and that remains in place."

It remains unclear whether CAIR's national office is still in contact with the FBI, as a formal statement from the bureau seemed to hold out the possibility for renewed engagement.

"The FBI has had to limit its formal contact with CAIR field offices until certain issues are addressed by CAIR's national headquarters," said FBI spokesman John Miller. "CAIR's leadership is aware of this. Beyond that, we have no further comment."

CAIR keeps its headquarters in Washington and runs more than 30 offices in 19 states. But the national outreach programs that it once helped coordinate with the FBI may now be in doubt.

News of the split comes as President Obama has been reaching out to the Muslim community to build closer relations. Obama granted his first television interview as president to Al-Arabiya, an Arabic-language news network based in Dubai, a move widely interpreted as extending an olive branch to Muslims at home and abroad.

CAIR told FOXNews.com that it was hoping for improved ties with the new president. "We look forward to better relations with the Obama administration," the organization's D.C. office said in its statement.

FOX News' Mike Levine contributed to this report from Washington.

<http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/240.pdf>

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2009

BEWARE of CAIR

Dear Colleague:

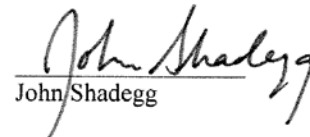
Members should think twice before meeting with representatives of CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations). The FBI has cut ties with them. There are indications that this group has connections to HAMAS.

We encourage you and your staff to read the article below regarding this matter.

Sincerely,


Sue Myrick


Pete Hoekstra


John Shadegg


Paul Broun


Trent Franks



For Immediate Release:

March 12, 2007

Contact: Jeff Urbanchuk

202-225-2431

Shuster Urges Democrats to Cancel Meeting with Radical Islamic Front Group

Washington, DC – Congressman Bill Shuster expressed his extreme disappointment with House Democratic Leadership due to their decision to reserve a room in the US Capitol building for a meeting with CAIR, the “Council on American-Islamic Relations” to discuss US foreign policy in the Middle East.

“The Democrat leadership in the House is walking a very fine line between a political stunt designed to undermine the President and our military and abetting the enemy,” Shuster said. “It’s striking to see the Democrats embrace a front group for terrorists during the same week they plan to announce their plan to retreat from the War on Terror.”

CAIR was organized in 1994 to serve as an advocacy group for Muslims in America. However, since it’s founding, CAIR has tread a fine line between advocacy of Muslim interests and advocacy in support of terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism. Recently, CAIR vocally supported the six Imams who were removed from US Air flight 300 after they aroused passengers’ suspicions due to their behavior. CAIR decried US Air for following accepted post 9/11 security protocols. Other examples of CAIR’s radical history include:

- Omar Ahmad, CAIR’s co-founder praised suicide bombers: "Fighting for freedom, fighting for Islam, that is not suicide,"..."They kill themselves for Islam" (*The Washington Times*, 3/16/04);
- Nihad Awad, CAIR’s Executive Director and scheduled presenter at the Democrat-sponsored meeting said, “I am in support of the Hamas movement,” at a symposium at Barry University in March 1994;

- Ahmed Bedier, the Executive Director of CAIR's Tampa Chapter, said in 2004, "Catholic priests pose more of a terrorism threat by having sex with young altar boys than those who flew planes into the World Trade Center." (Letter, Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite, 11/9/06);
- Senior CAIR employee Randall Todd "Ismail" Royer, pled guilty and was sentenced to twenty years in prison for participating in a network of militant jihadists centered in Northern Virginia. He admitted to aiding and abetting three persons who sought training in a terrorist camp in Pakistan for the purpose of waging jihad against American troops in Afghanistan.

"To fully understand the global rise in fundamentalist Islam, we need to engage in an honest dialogue with leaders of the Muslim community in America," Shuster said. "However, the Democrats' decision to extend an open invitation to CAIR, an organization that supports Hamas and Hezbollah, applauds suicide bombers, and employed a number of terrorist financiers and supporters is beyond comprehension."

"CAIR has failed to prove that is not in league with radical Islam. Time and again the organization has shown itself to be nothing more than an apologist for groups bent on the destruction of Israel and Islamic domination over the West," Shuster said.

"The Democrats' decision to put CAIR in a starring role at a meeting to discuss US policy towards the Middle East shows that they fundamentally fail to grasp the nature of the enemy we face. They should cancel the meeting and call on CAIR to fully disclose the group's ties to known terrorists."

###

<http://www.investigativeproject.org/246/cairs-bedier-wont-condemn-pij>



CAIR's Bedier Won't Condemn PIJ

May 27, 2004

Multimedia for this item

Video Recording



In a perfect example of CAIR's refusal to condemn Palestinian terrorism, Ahmed Bedier head of CAIR-Florida refuses to agree that [Palestinian Islamic Jihad](#) is a terrorist organization at a press conference in support of [Sami Al-Arian](#) in Tampa in May 2004.

Transcript:

***Cameraman:** Do you agree with the government designation of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad as a terrorist organization?*

***Bedier:** We are not here to discuss the Palestinian Islamic Jihad or any other terrorist organization or any other group. We are here strictly to discuss the confinement conditions of this individual who is not in Palestine or in Israel. He is right here in Florida.*

...

***Bedier:** We have to go.*

***Cameraman:** Just a couple of quick questions.*

Bedier: *We have to go.*

Cameraman: *Does CAIR have a position on Palestinian Islamic Jihad?*

Bedier: *We haven't published one.*

Cameraman: *Don't you think that- You don't think that- You don't think that you are creating a perceptual problem asking for peoples understanding about mistreatment of prisons?*

Bedier: *That is an unrelated issue.*

CAIR/BEDIER FACT SHEET

CAIR

- *CAIR Linked By DOJ To HAMAS, Said To Support Terrorists.* The Department of Justice has explicitly linked CAIR to Hamas, and said CAIR supports terrorists. (1) “As of [9/4/07] the Court has entered into evidence a wide array of testimonial and documentary evidence expressly linking CAIR and its founders to....the greater HAMAS-affiliated conspiracy described in the Government’s case-in-chief.” *US v. Holy Land Foundation*, USG Motion at 6-7 (N.D. Tx.)(2007). (2) “Moreover, from its founding by Muslim Brotherhood leaders, CAIR conspired with other affiliates of the Muslim Brotherhood to support terrorists.” *US v. Benkahla*, USG Brief at p. 58 (4th Cir.)(2007). (3) FBI Special Agent Laura Burns testified CAIR was a Muslim Brotherhood front group. (October 7, 2008). <http://crimeblog.dallasnews.com/archives/2008/10/fbi-cair-is-a-front-groupand.html> (4) Mohammed Habib, the Muslim Brotherhood’s No. 2, when asked if CAIR represents the Brotherhood’s interests in the United States, stated ““Ehh, this is a sensitive subject, and it’s kind of problematic, especially after 9/11.” <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/an-interview-with-the-muslim-brotherhoods-2/> (5) Immediately after 9/11, and for a period of about two months, CAIR used its website to raise money for “charities” identified by the USG as Hamas and Taliban fronts, and (certainly with respect to the Hamas front) known to CAIR as such. (6) Hamas has itself posted CAIR information and activities updates on its official web site (<http://www.palestine-info.net>).
- *CAIR Promotes Anti-Semitism.* (1) Omar Ahmad, CAIR founder and former CEO, is heard on FBI wiretaps stating: “we must...reduce the Jews’ circle of influence...” in the United States, that Muslims in the United States must come to believe “All Palestine is for Muslims”, and that the way to do so is through “tools for pressure” i.e. CAIR. (2) CAIR blamed President Clinton’s “Jewish advisors” for US policies against Saddam Hussein. (3) CAIR blamed “the Israel lobby” for post-9/11 “anti-Muslim feelings” in the US. (4) CAIR COO Nihad Awad said to a Muslim group “they [the Jews] have been saying ‘next year to Jerusalem,’ we say ‘next year to all Palestine.’” (5) CAIR rallies include the chant “Oh Jews, the army of Mohammed is coming for you.” (6) CAIR falsely accused Israel of “threatening” the Al-Aqsa mosque, said American Muslims had a “special obligation” to “protect” the mosque, and encouraged Muslim preachers in America to preach about the Israeli “threat” (CAIR Action Alert #508). (7) CAIR rallies in Chicago featuring Hamas flags, calls for Israel’s annihilation, and signs equating Israel with Nazis were followed by synagogue vandalism. <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/2009/jan/16/local/chi-antizionismjan16> (8) CAIR-sponsored speakers tell Muslims that Jews are children of “Apes and Pigs.”
- *CAIR Is Funded By Foreign Islamic Radicals.* (1) CAIR lied about its Saudi/Arab Gulf funding for many years, then finally admitted same in 2007 stating “There is nothing criminal or immoral about accepting donations from foreign nationals.” (CAIR website 12/5/07). (2) In 2006, CAIR’s CEO addressed a group of Arab businessmen in Dubai, requested \$50 million in funds, and promised “billions” in return. (5/25/06 gulfnews.com). (3) The *Arab News* and the *Muslim World* report CAIR “information” campaigns have been paid for by the World Association of Muslim Youth (WAMY), a Saudi Islamist group that had its US office shut down

after an FBI raid in 2004. WAMY (among other things) runs summer camps at which the USG reports children are indoctrinated into support for violent jihad.

Ahmed Bedier

- *CAIR Tampa Director*. Wrote that CAIR's critics were "a small band...made up of racist right-wing and neo-Zionist extremists..." (Ahmad Bedier/CAIR website, 3/19/07.)
- *Claimed Catholic Priests, Not Terrorists, Were A Threat*. Bedier told US Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite he had done research on her and found that she was Catholic and said, according to Congresswoman Brown-Waite, that "Catholic priests pose more of a terrorism threat by having sex with young altar boys than those who flew planes into the World Trade Center."
- *Terror/Anti-Semitic Apologist*. (1) Apologist for an Egyptian national, Ahmed Mohamed, who pled guilty to providing material support for terrorists. Mohamed was arrested with explosives in the trunk of his car, and was found to have made a YouTube video designed to aid terrorists murder Americans. In the plea agreement, Mohamed admitted instructing his audience on how to detonate the explosives, then stating "Instead of brethren going to, to carry out martyrdom operations, no, may God Bless him, he can use the explosion tools from a distance and preserve his life, God willing, the blessed and exalted, for the real battles, unless he was forced to do so." (Plea Agreement, p.10). (2) Apologist for Sami al-Arian, a key Palestinian Islamic Jihad operative who celebrated and helped fund and organize suicide attacks against Jews, and who said "death to Israel", "Victory to Islam", "God cursed those who are the sons of Israel, through David and Jesus, the son of Mary." "Those [Jews], God made monkeys and pigs." http://www.sptimes.com/2003/02/21/TampaBay/Sami_Al_Arian__in_his.shtml In a Cleveland speech, Al-Arian said Muslims should "not befriend Jews or Christians" and promised the future destruction of the entire state of Israel. "Thus is the way of jihad. Thus is the way of martyrdom. Thus is the way of blood, because this is the path to heaven." He was followed by a man who called for funds stating: "This is the Islamic Jihad movement! "Anyone like to donate for the Intifada? A knife to stab the Jews." The audience responded with thousands of dollars and shouts of "Allahu Akbar!" (G-d is great!) and then broke out in song "Khyber, Khyber, ya Yahood, jesh Mohammed sofa ya'ud." ("Khyber, Khyber, oh Jews, Mohammed's Army will return to get you".) (3) Apologist/propagandist for Hamas and Hezbollah. (4) Advocates Israel's destruction, reportedly a participant (organizer?) of a recent Tampa demonstration calling for Israel's destruction. One sign declared, "Zionism is Cancer; Radiate it." <http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/Read.aspx?GUID=4AED0CDF-40D0-42D8-BA02-9F6C39CC63C3>; [http://www.adl.org/main_Anti_Israel/anti_israel_demonstrations_hamas.htm?Mul](http://www.adl.org/main_Anti_Israel/anti_israel_demonstrations_hamas.htm?Multi_page_sections=sHeading_4)

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