



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

December 2, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bessent
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Bessent:

In light of President Trump's leadership combating threats posed by those supporting terror here and abroad, I respectfully request that you investigate the Council on American-Islamic Relations ("CAIR") for suspension of its tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

On November 23, 2025, President Trump revealed that "[f]inal documents are being drawn" to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization and that "[i]t will be done in the strongest and most powerful terms."¹ The next day, the President issued an Executive Order commencing the process to designate and deprive Muslim Brotherhood chapters "of resources, and thereby end any threat [they] pose to United States nationals or the national security of the United States."² Hamas, the branch of the Brotherhood in Gaza and the group responsible for kidnapping and murdering American citizens in its surprise attack on October 7, 2023, was already designated a foreign terrorist organization by the United States government in 1997.³

These developments result in consequences for CAIR, which is registered as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entity as "Cair Foundation Inc." (EIN 77-0646756),⁴ because of its longstanding ties to the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas, and its ongoing support for terrorism. Federal investigators and court filings identify CAIR as a direct subsidiary of the Muslim Brotherhood and as a "front group" for Hamas in the United States.⁵ As a federal court found in one of the largest terrorism financing cases in American history, there is "ample evidence to establish" that CAIR is associated "with

¹ Ryan King, *Trump Vows to Designate Muslim Brotherhood a Terrorist Organization*, N.Y. POST (Nov. 23, 2025), <https://perma.cc/4BMB-U5H5>.

² Executive Order No. 14362, *Designation of Certain Muslim Brotherhood Chapters as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists*, 90 Fed. Reg. 55033 (Nov. 24, 2025), <https://perma.cc/4N2N-BW7L>.

³ U.S. Dep't of State, Bureau of Counterterrorism, *Foreign Terrorist Organizations*, <https://perma.cc/2S5N-D5SY> (last visited Nov. 23, 2025).

⁴ See Internal Revenue Service, *Tax Exempt Organization Search*, <https://perma.cc/R4LU-TNNM> (last visited Dec. 1, 2025). CAIR also operates regional affiliates that maintain their own tax-exempt status, including several in Texas, like Cair-Texas Inc. (EIN 37-1453067), Council on American-Islamic Relations Austin Texas (EIN 82-0688469), and Council on American Islamic Relations -texas Dallas Fort Worth (EIN 75-2805360).

⁵ Lorenzo Vidino, *The Hamas Networks in America: A Short History*, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIV. PROGRAM ON EXTREMISM (Oct. 2023), <https://perma.cc/6B4C-9F88>; Lara Burns et al., *CAIR—Why History Is Important*, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIV. PROGRAM ON EXTREMISM (Nov. 2025), <https://perma.cc/GBU6-3X4C>.

Hamas,” including internal documents listing CAIR under the Muslim Brotherhood’s umbrella.⁶

As you know, federal law provides that tax-exempt status must be suspended for a variety of reasons, including being listed as a foreign terrorist organization in an Executive Order or designated under the Immigration and Nationality Act or the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. *See* 26 U.S.C. § 501(p). The President cited both Acts in his Executive Order concerning the Muslim Brotherhood, and CAIR has already been identified as an associate of the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas, seemingly bringing it within Section 501(p). Domestic organizations created by known terrorist organizations—for the express purpose of supporting and advancing their destructive goals—should clearly be suspended from the benefit of tax-exempt status as 501(c)(3) nonprofits in the United States.

That is why I recently issued a Proclamation designating “the Muslim Brotherhood and its successor organization CAIR” as foreign terrorist organizations and transnational criminal organizations under state law.⁷ From its inception, CAIR has continued to affiliate with terror. One recent report found that CAIR awarded \$1,000 cash grants to university students as a reward for disrupting classes and intimidating and harassing fellow students while celebrating Hamas’ October 7th attack.⁸ Another found that CAIR’s California affiliate took in \$7.2 million of taxpayer funds, supposedly to assist in the settlement of Afghan refugees, but used “less than 10%”—leaving millions unaccounted for in official filings.⁹ Just last week, a federal immigration judge in Texas authorized ICE to remove a Jordanian alien after concluding that “the gravity of the evidence in the record” showed his support for terrorist organizations; CAIR praised him as “a pillar of the community.”¹⁰

Accordingly, I respectfully request that you investigate CAIR for suspension of its tax-exempt status. Americans have generous hearts, and federal law wisely creates incentives to donate to nonprofit organizations that promote the public good. But charity must not become a backdoor to sponsor terrorism, endanger Americans, and subvert our democracy.

Respectfully,



Greg Abbott
Governor

⁶ *United States v. Holy Land Found. for Relief & Dev.*, No. 3:04-cv-240, 2009 WL 10680203, at *7–8 (N.D. Tex. July 1, 2009).

⁷ Office of the Texas Governor, Proclamation (Nov. 18, 2025), <https://perma.cc/PSN7-WUHR>; *see also* Office of the Texas Governor, Press Release, *Governor Abbott Directs DPS To Launch Criminal Investigations into Muslim Brotherhood*, CAIR (Nov. 20, 2025), <https://perma.cc/RBQ5-BRZ3>.

⁸ Isabel Vincent, *Muslim Group CAIR Cutting \$1,000 Checks for Anti-Israel Agitators Who Have Been Disciplined by Colleges*, N.Y. POST (Nov. 18, 2025), <https://perma.cc/T7V9-45AS>.

⁹ *Id.* (citing report by NCRI and IAN).

¹⁰ Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela, *Dallas Muslim Leader Will be Deported, Judge Cites Allegations He Supported Terrorism*, KERA News (Nov. 20, 2025), <https://perma.cc/WVS7-5FAD>; CAIR, Press Release, *CAIR-Texas Joins Calls for Release of Dallas Muslim Community Leader Abducted by ICE* (Sept. 24, 2025), <https://perma.cc/SU57-EQV6>.