

# **CAIR Ties to HAMAS**

Dallas Morning News Crime Blog

Tue, Oct 07, 2008—Jason Trahan/Reporter

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				1	2	3
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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## FBI: CAIR is a front group, and Holy Land Foundation tapped Hamas clerics for fundraisers



6:47 PM Tue, Oct 07, 2008 | Permalink | Yahoo! Buzz  
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The FBI took a new slap at the Council on American-Islamic Relations today at the Holy Land Foundation terrorism financing trial.

FBI Special Agent Lara Burns was going over more transcripts from the Philadelphia meeting -- the 1993 gathering of Holy Land officials and Hamas sympathizers that the government contends was meant to brainstorm ways to downplay the Foundation's extremist ties -- when talk turned to a passage from defendant Shukri Abu Baker.

He is quoted on the wiretap transcript talking about how it would be beneficial to have more traditional, secular American organizations to help spread the Islamist message.

He and others envisioned an "alternative" organization "which can benefit from a new atmosphere, one whose Islamic hue is not very conspicuous," he said according to the transcript.

Prosecutor Barry Jonas asked Burns whether any groups formed after the Philadelphia gathering fit this mold. "CAIR," she said.

CAIR is one of about 300 unindicted co-conspirators in the Holy Land case, and testimony has shown that its founder, Omar Ahmad, and current executive director, Nihad Awad, both participated in the Philadelphia meeting.

CAIR has strenuously denied having any terrorist ties, and has filed a request -- similar to other groups -- to have its name removed from the government's list of co-conspirators. CAIR maintains that it is a civil rights group focused on promoting understanding of Islam and combating unfair treatment of American Muslims.

Joshua Dratel, attorney for defendant Mohammad El-Mezain, later grilled Burns on her CAIR testimony.

"Just to be sure," he said, raising up a large posterboard with the name "Council on American-Islamic Relations" scrawled across it, "this is the one with the inconspicuous Islamist hue?"

Later Tuesday, Burns' counterpart, FBI Special Agent Robert Miranda, began his testimony detailing the type of people Holy Land routinely called on to speak at its fundraisers in the U.S.

He and prosecutor Jim Jacks went through a list of Holy Land speakers, seized from a computer at its Richardson offices in 2001, and compared it to lists of known Hamas members and associates.

They found dozens of matches of names and phone numbers among Holy Land speakers and a roster of Hamas members found at the Mississippi apartment of unindicted coconspirator Abdehaleem Ashqar. Holy Land speakers' names also showed up in the address book of Hamas leader Mousa Abu Marzook, who has extensive ties financially and personally to many of the defendants.

Defense attorneys and their clients grinned and looked at each other every time Miranda referred to the owner of the address book as "the terrorist Marzook."

Among those on Holy Land's speakers list are Mahmoud al-Zahar (a Hamas co-founder), Jamil Hamami, Mohammed Siam and Hamed Bitawi. All of them



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are listed on a huge chart prosecutors made for jurors titled "Hamas Leaders In The 1990s."

The Holy Land speakers list also shared some names in a pamphlet outlining the roster of candidates for Jordan's Islamic Action Front political party. The group is, like Hamas, an offshoot of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, Miranda testified. Their platform, according to the pamphlet, says basically that Palestine must be wrested from Israeli occupation through jihad. The FBI found the pamphlet at Holy Land's offices.

Miranda and Jacks then began going through speaker activity sheets and other records, connecting fundraising appearances by these Hamas-affiliated speakers and money in Holy Land coffers.

Miranda's testimony resumes Wednesday.

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## Comments

Posted by **Andrew Whitehead** @ 9:38 PM Tue, Oct 07, 2008

How many times must it be proven that CAIR actively supports Islamic terrorism and Islamic terrorists?

They have told us, repeatedly, what they have planned for us, and our county.

When are we going to:

- a) Listen to them.
- b) Take them seriously.

**Andrew Whitehead**  
 Director, Anti-Council on American-Islamic Relations (Anti-CAIR)  
 ajwhitehead@anti-cair-net.org

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Posted by **KC** @ 9:08 AM Wed, Oct 08, 2008

Mr.Whitehead,

The history in the last 5000 years is vey clear in whom are the anti people and anti other religions. Please Do not brag about CAIR and you have 5000 years of tainted history.

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Posted by **John** @ 9:09 AM Wed, Oct 08, 2008

A Square is a Rectangle but a rectangle is not a Square. "Secular American organizations to help spread the Islamist message" does not equal terrorism. First amendment rights does not equal terrorism . When was the meeting and when was Hamas declared illegal ? I guess there is no Statute of Limitations on Fantasies.  
 Gee I miss the Constitution

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Posted by **KC** @ 9:09 AM Wed, Oct 08, 2008

Mr.Whitehead,

The history in the last 5000 years is vey clear in whom are the anti people and anti other religions. Please Do not brag about CAIR and you have 5000 years of tainted history.

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Posted by **Vigilant** @ 10:03 AM Wed, Oct 08, 2008

When Defense Atty Dratel challenged Agent Burns over the purpose and name of CAIR, he glossed over the very reason CAIR came into being: in order to blur the extreme differences between the views and goals of Islamic-American community and that of the IslamIST.

It has been pointed out over and over again that not all Islamics are terrorists or embrace terrorism as a means to an end. The same cannot be said for Islamists, who do embrace terrorism as a means to their end.

CAIR seeks to blur the distinct differences between Islamic and IslamIST in the mind of the American public, media and government. We have to learn how to tell the difference between Islamic and IslamIST.

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Posted by **Corey Saylor** @ 10:07 AM Wed, Oct 08, 2008

"Of all the groups, there is probably more suspicion about CAIR, but when you ask people for cold hard facts, you get blank stares."  
 -Michael Rolince, a retired F.B.I. official who directed counterterrorism in the Washington field office from 2002 to 2005 (Source: New York Times, 3/14/2007)

# CAIRs Ties to Muslim Brotherhood

## Who Is Tied to HAMAS

(Egypt has linked MB to terrorism)

An Interview with Muslim Brotherhood's #2, Mohammed Habib by Egyptian blogger "Sandmonkey" in the Leadership Office of the Muslim Brotherhood.

*SM: But it's not CAIR, right? The Council for American Islamic Relations? Many people say that they are your front. Other people say that its ISNA. **But back to CAIR, some people from the Muslim Brotherhood have denied having a connection with CAIR. Do they really represent you?***

Mohamed Habib: Ehh, this is a sensitive subject, and it's kind of problematic, especially after 9/11 ...

*SM: **For them to say that there is a relationship between you two?***

Mohamed Habib: **Yes. You can say that.**

*SM: Gotcha. **What kind of relationship does the Muslim Brotherhood have with Hamas? Do you offer them support of any kind?***

Mohamed Habib: Hamas, like any Muslim Brotherhood entity, is not related to the other entities. But **we do support them. We support them with ideas. We support them with advice and vision. We incite the people — in Egypt for example — to donate money and care and understand about the Palestinian cause.** Then the civil society institutions carry out the role of facilitators of our support.

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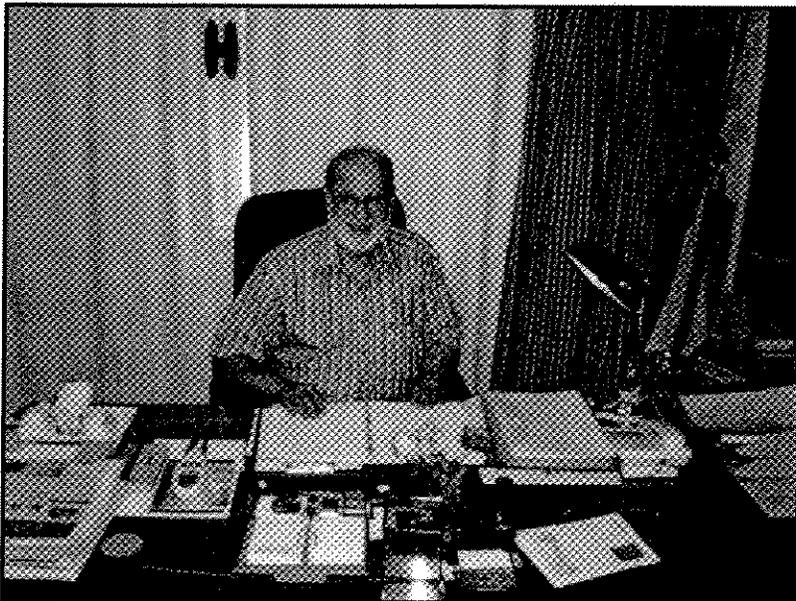
## An Interview with Muslim Brotherhood's #2, Mohammed Habib

Posted By "[Sandmonkey](#)" On August 24, 2008 @ 1:21 am In [. Positioning](#), [Africa](#), [Politics](#), [Religion](#), [World News](#) | [35 Comments](#)

Mohammed Habib is slated to become the next Supreme Leader of the [Muslim Brotherhood](#) <sup>[1]</sup>.

His rise to the position of deputy supreme leader became possible when his predecessor in the job was sentenced to five years in prison by an Egyptian military tribunal for financing a banned organization — alongside 25 other members of the Muslim Brotherhood — and he ascended to the position. With the advanced age of the current supreme leader, it's quite possible that Habib will become the next leader of the organization shortly.

The PJM interview with Habib was conducted by Egyptian blogger [Sandmonkey](#) <sup>[2]</sup> in the Leadership Office of the Muslim Brotherhood.



<sup>[3]</sup>

They discussed a wide range of topics, including the Muslim Brotherhood's support for Sudanese President [Omar al-Bashir](#) <sup>[4]</sup> against the International Criminal Court, their relationship with Hamas, ties to CAIR, and their continuing struggle against what they view as a vast Zionist-American conspiracy. But first things first...

*SM: What does the Muslim Brotherhood think of the two candidates in the upcoming elections in the U.S?*

Mohamed Habib: We would naturally like to see the end of the current regime and that their practices are not to be repeated by the coming administration. We don't anticipate such change taking place if Senator John McCain wins, for he seems to be following the same line as the current American President George Bush. We are not so sure about Senator Obama either, because of his Israel visit, him saying that Israel is a democracy, and his visit to AIPAC, but we are withholding judgment because maybe he needs to do this to win. That being said, any change away from the criminal practices of the current administration is a good thing, and we would be happy with whatever candidate would put a stop to it.

*SM: Since it just happened, what do you think of the Shura Council fire? [5] Do you think this is an act of fate or does it indict someone?*

Mohamed Habib: In the name of God, most merciful, most graceful, I think that its representative of the deterioration and the negligence that is entrenched in all of the government's institutions. One would assume that with such an institution there would be a little bit of care or interest exercised in protecting it, since the tools to prevent such accidents are available. But, unfortunately, we saw that the response to the incident wasn't on the required level to stop it, and while the firemen showed incredible courage, their level of preparedness and training were not at the desired level.

*SM: We had Army helicopters carrying buckets of water from the Nile and dumping it on the fire. It was a scandal.*

Mohamed Habib: That's of course a shameful incident, but it's a part of a bigger picture. And it expresses the tragedy and the suffering that the Egyptian people live in.

*SM: Sir, let's now talk about some international incidents. Very recently, the ICC has issued an indictment of the Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir over Darfur, and the first people in the world who issued a statement against the indictment was the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. Why is that?*

Mohamed Habib: First of all, this whole scenario is a political one of the first degree, and the Security Council is the organization that proposed this whole thing, and in reality, we know that the Security Council is under the control of the current American administration. And there is an American agenda and project in the region — and in Sudan. We see that this project doesn't only go after the Sudanese resources, but also the fabric of Sudan itself, with the aim of tearing it into shreds. This is not about Omar al-Bashir or Ahmed Haroun, or whomever. There is a project, and it's an obvious one at this point, and it aims to turn all parties against each other, east and west and north and south, in order to attack the heart, which is the Arabic and Islamic solidarity and unity. And to us as Egyptians, Sudan represents the gateway to Africa and it's of strategic importance to Egypt; so any foul play happening there will naturally reflect on Egypt, since it concerns its national security. That's one side of it. The other side is that we haven't seen the Security Council moving to take action in order to address the war crimes that American President George Bush committed in Iraq, and the hundreds of thousands of people who died in the invasion and occupation in Iraq. We didn't see the Security Council moving to address the human rights violations in Iraq or Afghanistan. We didn't see them move to prevent the monstrous slaughtering of our Palestinian brothers in Ghaza and the West Bank. Given all that, it is then obvious this indictment is political of the first degree. And if there were human rights violations in Sudan, then it should be addressed and remedied in Sudan, and there should be an independent judiciary inside Sudan that would launch an investigation and conduct a fair trial to address what happened in Darfur or elsewhere.

*SM: What are the goals of the Muslim Brotherhood?*

Mohamed Habib: The Muslim Brotherhood has an Islamic, civilized, uplifting project that is based on the idea that Egypt needs to rise again to greatness, because in its rise it will uplift the entire Arab world with it. This of course requires the creation of a society that values justice, equality, and freedom, and what that entails in regards to respecting the will of the people in choosing their representatives or leaders; and also what that entails in regards to having really independent judicial and legislative branches of government, especially in the face of an executive branch of government that has infiltrated everything. We have announced our acceptance of the rule of democracy that is based on real political diversity, and the peaceful exchange of power, and that the people should rule and that they have the right to choose their leaders, their representatives, and the political platform that best addresses their desires and ambitions. We have a civilized project that is very interested in education, scientific research, and the use of technology as an important element in the uplifting of nations and people. We have a civilized project that highlights the importance of serious planning, and the modern

administration of all of the country's institutions. If we, as Egyptians, are suffering from a bread crisis or an unemployment crisis, or whatever, in reality we only have one crisis and that's a crisis in ruling the country. Everything else is symptoms of that disease. We are facing corruption and oppression, therefore we consider that political reform is the key to achieve all the other types of desired reforms. We also want and call for an international community that enjoys stability and peace for all of the nations of the world, and this cannot take place without having the values of truth, justice, and freedom. Unfortunately, the current administration has stepped on all of the international treaties, agreements, and conventions, and unfortunately the American administration is now using might as a substitute for legitimacy, which brought back the law of the jungle to the world. It aims to control and hegemonize the world, so that the international political landscape is a unipolar one instead of a multipolar one.

*SM: The image of the Muslim Brotherhood in the U.S. and in other western countries — while we aren't going to say it's a bad one — is not the image you would like to portray for yourselves.*

Mohamed Habib: That's true!

*SM: Why do you think that is?*

Mohamed Habib: There are two parts to that. The first part is related to the tyrannical and oppressive regimes in our countries, that try to project a mental image (a really scary and horrifying image) in the minds of the western world that we are against democracy, and freedom, and human rights in general. The other part is the Zionist-American project that upholds double standards and has a special agenda that contradict the interests of our Ummah, and thus finds in the Muslim Brotherhood an obstacle in the way of executing that agenda. Therefore, they unfortunately promote a very wrong and negative image of us. This forces us to act and try to communicate with think tanks and research centers, academics in universities, the people, and the media, whether the local or the international one.

*SM: Fine, but we can claim that the Egyptian media is controlled by the Egyptian government, while the western media is not controlled by the western governments. What's stopping the right image of you to reach the world then? Are they conspiring against you?*

Mohamed Habib: No, but naturally there are centers in the U.S. and Europe that carry out the agenda of the U.S. government. But there is also an independent media that has a role in educating the populace, and thus improve our image in their minds.

*SM: Is there a Muslim Brotherhood in the U.S.?*

Mohamed Habib: I would say yes. There are Muslim Brotherhood members there.

*SM: Then what are they doing there?*

Mohamed Habib: No, there are already existing institutions; there are laws and a constitution that they operate under in order to have a role in serving the American society. They are part of the American society and they want to an active positive role in it, and a part of that is to spread a positive image of Islam along with its values, culture, history and teachings.

*SM: This is naturally very important. Who represents you in the US?*

Mohamed Habib: Well, there are there those who do represent us, who do that role.

*SM: But it's not CAIR, right? The Council for American Islamic Relations? Many people say that they are your front. Other people say that its ISNA. But back to CAIR, some people from the Muslim Brotherhood have denied having a connection with CAIR. Do they really represent you?*

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*SM: Thank you for your time sir.*

Mohamed Habib: Thank you.

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[2] Sandmonkey: <http://www.sandmonkey.org/>

[3] Image: <http://pajamasmedia.com/files/2008/08/p82105531.JPG>

[4] Omar al-Bashir: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar\\_al-Bashir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar_al-Bashir)

[5] *Shura Council fire?*: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/08/19/africa/ME-Egypt-Parliament-Fire.php>

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# Egypt: Muslim Brotherhood Is Linked To Terrorists



By Adam Morrow and Khaled Moussa Al-Omrani | Inter Press Service

CAIRO, Aug 4 (IPS) - The Egyptian government is now accusing the Muslim Brotherhood of links to Palestinian resistance groups and of establishing "global networks". Recent months have seen a host of government accusations - which critics say are fabricated - against opposition groups it claims have ties with Hamas, Hizbullah, and the ever-elusive Al-Qaeda.

"The government is making up so many charges of 'terror networks' and 'Islamist cells' that it's hard to keep track of them all," Islamist lawyer Montasser Al-Zayat told IPS.

Abdel Moneim Abul-Fotouh, senior member of the Muslim Brotherhood and secretary-general of the Arab Doctors' Union, was arrested Jun. 28 along with seven leading Brotherhood members. They face charges of setting up an illegal "committee for communications abroad" and of "conspiring with foreign organisations."

According to official claims, Abul-Fotouh received instructions from Lebanese resistance group Hizbullah during Israel's January assault on the Gaza Strip to organise anti-government street demonstrations in Egypt and throughout the Arab world. He was also allegedly mandated with recruiting "jihadist cells" to be sent to Gaza to receive paramilitary training from Palestinian resistance group Hamas.

Spokesmen for the Muslim Brotherhood deny all charges. According to Al-Zayat, the case against the group is "entirely political."

"The regime wants the Brotherhood's support for its plan, which many say is imminent, to transfer presidential authority from President (Hosni) Mubarak to his son Gamal," he said. "So it's twisting the group's arm by cracking down on its middle and upper level echelons."

Story continues below ↕

Although officially banned, the Muslim Brotherhood represents Egypt's largest opposition movement, with roughly one-fifth of seats in parliament. The rest of the National Assembly is held by the National Democratic Party (NDP) of President Mubarak.

Al-Zayat says that linking Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood to Palestinian groups Hamas and Hizbullah

accomplishes two government objectives.

"First, it will hinder dialogue between the West and the Brotherhood since the U.S. and most of the EU consider Hamas and Hizbullah terrorist organisations rather than legitimate resistance groups. Secondly, it will deter Egyptians at home from supporting the Brotherhood by unjustly associating it with terrorism."

Ibrahim Mansour, executive editor of independent daily Al-Dustour says the campaign specifically targets Brotherhood members who have been outspoken critics of Egypt's position during Israel's recent assault on the Gaza Strip.

Over the course of the three-week assault from December 2008 into January this year, Egypt kept its border with the Hamas-run territory tightly sealed, effectively preventing the delivery of desperately needed humanitarian aid. According to critics, the decision amounted to tacit support for Israel's war on Hamas.

"All the Brotherhood leaders that had been vocal critics of Egypt's closed- border policy at the time have since been arrested or charged," Mansour told IPS. "Those arrested had also been active in organising humanitarian aid donations to Gaza's besieged population during and after the assault."

In a closely related case, 26 men were referred to a state emergency court in late July on charges of spying for Hizbullah and plotting "terrorist activity" on Egyptian territory. Members of the group were first arrested in April, and accused of planning attacks on tourist destinations and on ships passing through Egypt's Suez Canal.

At the time, Hizbullah leader Hassan Nasrallah admitted to having dispatched a single agent to Egypt on a "logistical" mission to assist the besieged Palestinian resistance in the Gaza Strip. He denied all accusations of plotting violent operations on Egyptian soil or of spying on the Egyptian state.

But in recent weeks headlines in the official press have been peppered with phrases like "Islamist cell" "global terror network" and "links to Al-Qaeda".

"All these Islamist 'cells' supposedly being uncovered, with links to Al-Qaeda or otherwise, are obvious fabrications with little or no basis in reality," says Mansour.

The recent spate of Al-Qaeda claims is "strange in the extreme," says Mansour. "During the 1990s, the regime constantly reiterated that local Islamist groups had absolutely no links with Al-Qaeda, whose presence in Afghanistan at the time was well-established," he said. "So why are they making all these claims now, when there is no evidence whatsoever that Al- Qaeda even exists?"