



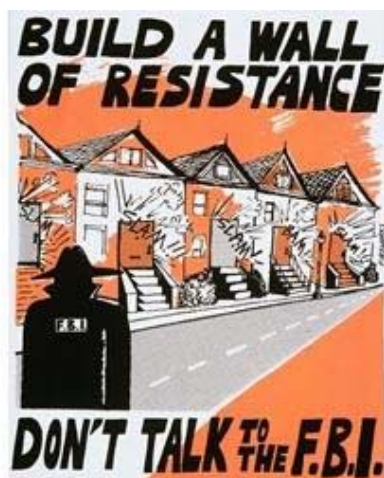
Basim Elkarra of CAIR

On June 2nd Tower Hamlets council will launch a new “Youth Council” at an event at the Water Lily Centre.¹

One of the scheduled speakers is Basim Elkarra. He is the executive director of the Sacramento, California office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). He joined CAIR in 2004. He is a first generation Palestinian-American from San Francisco who was educated at Berkeley.

CAIR is an Islamic lobby group. It is notorious in the United States for its close links to American funders of Hamas, as revealed in the Holy Land Foundation case, and its defiance of the FBI's counterterrorism operations. The FBI severed relations with the group in 2008. A detailed independent study of CAIR and its terrorist ties is available at this internet link: <http://www.investigativeproject.org/profile/172>.

A poster published by CAIR's San Francisco office earlier this year summarises the group's attitude. It shows a shadowy FBI agent being shut out by a neighbourhood in the name of “resistance”.



The poster was a response to FBI investigations of alleged US supporters of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Both have been designated terrorist groups by the United States. The poster was part of a CAIR event announcement which said “This type of investigation is a tool to repress our movements for social justice and divide our communities”.²

The rest of this note profiles episodes in Basim Elkarra's record. They are typical of CAIR and show why he and CAIR should never be considered legitimate partners by Tower Hamlets council, especially in youth work.

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<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=419619&SubjectId=16&AdvancedSearch=true>

² <http://www.investigativeproject.org/2492/cair-imagery-makes-obstructionist-goal-clear>

Summary

- Basim Elkarra has a record of strongly criticising US counter-terrorism investigations and portraying them as attacks on the “Muslim community”. He has also painted individual terrorism suspects facing serious allegations as innocents and one as a worthy Islamic leader. His goal - in line with CAIR’s modus operandi - is to foment division, paranoia and anger that is likely to frustrate the authorities in their vital work for the security of US citizens.
- He has simply dismissed concerns about CAIR’s own links with terrorism.
- His CAIR chapter has invited well-known American extremist Siraj Wahhaj to raise funds for the chapter and speak at its conferences.
- When he was a student at Berkeley his Muslim Student Association invited a Hamas operative to address students. The operative had been convicted of terrorism offences in Israel and sentenced to five years in prison. Elkarra moderated the event, which was titled “Continuing Resistance in Palestine”.
- While most of CAIR’s strongest opponents are on the right, CAIR has also been strongly criticised by Democratic politicians for aiding extremists. California Senator Barbara Boxer, a Democrat, took note of these concerns in 2006 and rescinded an award her office had given to Elbarra.
- Many Muslims too do not support CAIR. In California, some of the fiercest criticism of Elkarra and his CAIR chapter has been expressed by Muslims.
- In fact, one of the best ways to aid Muslims who oppose extremism is to challenge the opportunist and entryist political operations of CAIR.

Investigating and Prosecuting Terrorists – “Intimidation” and “A Chilling Message”

In 2006 two Pakistani-American men, Hamid Hayat and his father Umer, were put on trial in Lodi, California, for terrorism offenses and lying to the FBI. Hamid had attended a terrorist training camp in Pakistan for six months in 2003-4 and then returned to the United States, where the government said he planned to carry out terrorist attacks.

The allegations presented in court were chilling:³

U.S. Magistrate Judge Peter A. Nowinski denied a bail request for the elder Hayat, saying he was a flight risk and a danger to the community.

"He just returned from Pakistan where he built a new home and contributed financial assistance to an Al Qaeda sponsored program training his son and others to kill Americans whenever and wherever they can be found," Nowinski said.

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"Hamid advised that he specifically requested to come to the United States to carry out his jihadi mission," according to the affidavit. "Potential targets for attack would include hospitals and large food stores."

Iraq, Afghanistan and the disputed Kashmir region were among other locales camp attendees could choose to carry out their missions, according to what Hamid Hayat told agents.

³ <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,158880,00.html#ixzz1N6KNfKOc>

The affidavit discusses weapons training Hamid Hayat received and says, "during his weapons training, photos of various high ranking U.S. political figures, including President Bush, would be pasted onto their targets."

As the trial began, Basim Elkarra cast the FBI investigation as "intimidation" of Muslims:⁴

"It was clear intimidation, having the FBI around the mosque," said Basim Elkarra, executive director of the Council for American-Islamic Relations' Sacramento Valley chapter. "And it affected everyone. It was intimidation, and it worked. Some people feel it was a message to other Muslims."

The FBI strongly rejected such claims:

He [FBI Special Agent John Cauthen] said the FBI took pains to meet with anyone with concerns or complaints about the FBI's surveillance and conduct in Lodi.

"To say the investigation was different or the intent was to cause a chilling effect, it doesn't connect from where I'm sitting," said Cauthen from his Sacramento office. "We're not on a fishing expedition, hanging out in Lodi waiting for something to happen. We're just doing what's logical based on the evidence and facts in front of us."

Hamid was subsequently convicted and sentenced to 24 years in prison. The jury was hung in Umer's trial. He later pleaded guilty at a retrial for the same offences in exchange for release for time already served.

Elkarra was dismayed by the conviction and sentence of Hamid, as the *New York Times* reported:⁵

Basim Elkarra, executive director of the Sacramento chapter, of the Council on American Islamic Relations, said the sentence sent a chilling message.

"The entire Muslim community in Lodi is watching this," Mr. Elkarra said. The court, he said, "sent a clear message to the Muslim community. You do not speak to an F.B.I. agent unless you have an attorney present."

After the conviction Elkarra also expressed sympathy for Hamid Hayat, called for the FBI informant in the case to be prosecuted, and suggested the big mistake Hayat made was to talk to the FBI:⁶

Basim Elkarra, executive director of the Sacramento Valley chapter of CAIR, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said, "We're shocked. The informant lied to the FBI, but he took them too deep into this case, and there was no turning back."

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"If the imams were the masterminds, why would they let them go and get this gullible young man?" Elkarra said. He conceded Hamid Hayat said "some pretty outrageous stuff. I'll be the first one to hit him upside the head when he gets out of jail." But, Elkarra added, "He really thought by answering the FBI's questions, he was going to" keep himself out of jail.

Elkarra said local Muslim leaders will ask the government "to charge Naseem Khan with making false statements and lying to the FBI. It will probably never happen, but it's symbolic. We're pinning the blame on him."

⁴ <http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060212/OPED0305/602120325/1001/NEWS01>

⁵ <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/11/us/11lodi.html>

⁶ http://www.ghazali.net/archives2006/html/lodi_muslims_fear.html

The “Spiritual Work” of Extremists Linked to Al Qaeda and the Taliban

The investigation of the Hayats also led to the arrests of three other men for immigration violations. All three subsequently agreed to be deported to Pakistan, their native country.

Two of the men, Mohammed Adil Khan and Shabbir Ahmed, were imams in a Lodi mosque. The third was Adil's son. The FBI believed the men were extremists linked to Al Qaeda:⁷

On Tuesday, the lead FBI agent on the investigation into Ahmed and Khan testified that the two were working to set up a school in Lodi to further spread extremist Islamic thought. The agent, Gary Schaaf, also said the agency believes Khan and Ahmed had been part of an al-Qaida chain of command and had received information that Ahmed may have been planning a terrorist attack.

There were Taliban connections as well.⁸

Government lawyers pointed out that the Jamia Farooqia madrassa, where Ahmed taught for 11 years after studying under Adil Khan, had produced a number of students who went to Afghanistan to fight against the Soviet occupation and later on behalf of the fundamentalist Taliban.

Ahmed said he had been too preoccupied with his studies to have any interest in going to Afghanistan. But he acknowledged that Adil Khan had, for a time, been a close friend of a Taliban leader.

Ahmed's extremism had been noted for some time in the mosque. CAIR's Sacramento office was not interested in helping:

Naheem "Nick" Qayyum, a mosque board member, said he and other mosque members had heard about Ahmed's earlier condemnation of the United States and praise for the Taliban well before the FBI's investigation went public.

Qayyum said he approached CAIR for some help with the mosque's imam situation. He said he believed CAIR leaders had some influence with Adil Khan, who in turn had a close relationship with Ahmed.

"I asked CAIR to help out in the community because he (Adil Khan) was causing a lot of problems," Qayyum said. "At that time, CAIR pretty much told me to go away."

In fact, Khan was close to CAIR Sacramento, including Elkarra, who claimed ignorance of his past:

The president of the CAIR's Sacramento chapter, Dr. Hamza El-Nakhal, had actually worked with Adil Khan for several years prior to the FBI's investigation. In late June, about two weeks after the arrests in Lodi, El-Nakhal told the Davis City Council to consider the arrests in Lodi as a reason to reaffirm the city's opposition to the Patriot Act.

During a meeting reported on by the Davis Enterprise newspaper, El-Nakhal said he had known Adil Khan for more than 20 years and believed him to be a respected leader. The CAIR president also said that Lodi's Muslim community was under siege.

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http://web.archive.org/web/20080508034409/http://www.lodinews.com/articles/2005/08/13/terrorism/1_cair_050813.txt

⁸ <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/07/16/MNGJ8DP5IJ1.DTL&ao=2>

And at a reception in May 2004 to welcome Elkarra as the CAIR's executive director, Mohammed Adil Khan read a recitation from the Quran. Elkarra said Adil Khan is well-known in the Sacramento-area for his spiritual and community work, and that El-Nakhal got to know him through interfaith projects.

"No one's going to know their past back in Pakistan," he said.

CAIR did step in after the arrests, making divisive claims that were not supported by evidence:

After federal agents arrested Adil Khan and Ahmed on immigration charges, Qayyum said CAIR moved strongly into the media spotlight. He said CAIR made headlines with claims that residents were the subject of intense questioning and harassment by the FBI.

"They kind of blew the thing out of proportion for whatever reason," he said. "Maybe they were just trying to get their name out there."

Despite the claims of FBI heavy-handedness, CAIR could not provide specific information to back those claims up.

And Qayyum said he wasn't happy when Elkarra held a news conference at the Lodi Mosque, making it the subject of the intense gaze of several TV cameras.

In fact, some local Muslims were so angry about CAIR Sacramento's divisive troublemaking that they considered demonstrating outside its offices:⁹

Qayyum said the Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, shouldn't be defending the two imams, who he thinks have tried to take control of the local Islamic community. The imams have been controversial in part because they came to Lodi from Pakistan.

Khan also spearheads efforts to build the Farooqia Islamic Center, where some Muslims hope to create a religious school. Lodi Muslim Mosque board members have sued over those plans, accusing Farooqia supporters with deception and fraud.

More than 3,000 Muslims from Pakistan live in the Lodi area. The community has been divided in part over the Farooqia center, but also over whether the community should be led by outsiders or those who grew up in area.

Qayyum said that Khan and Ahmed "divided our families – brothers against brothers, sisters against sisters. If (CAIR) is going to go out to support these people, we're going to protest. We're going to try to get 400 to 500 people to go to the office in Sacramento. That's not a joke, either.

"As far as I'm concerned, (Khan and Ahmed) hijacked our religion and tried to hijack us."

Farooqia supporters dispute that they've been deceptive in planning for their center in southwest Lodi. Those supporters have spoken out this week on behalf of Khan and Ahmed and say the complaints are coming from a minority.

CAIR's executive director, Basim Elkarra, declined to comment Friday about the disputes.

Qayyum said some local Muslims have called Elkarra to protest CAIR's support of the imams.

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<http://web.archive.org/web/20061230183411/http://online.recordnet.com/articlelink/061105/news/articles/061105-gn-3.php>

While Khan and his son agreed to be deported to Pakistan, Ahmed contested the charges. Later he gave up and he was deported too. This distressed Elkarra, who praised Ahmed even at this stage and criticised the government.¹⁰

"Unfortunately for Muslims in America these days, you're guilty until proven innocent," Elkarra said. "You can label someone a threat to society without providing the proper evidence. We're concerned especially that the older imam (Adil Khan) was driven out. He was a pioneer in interfaith work.

"The government is sending the wrong message to the Muslim community. If these guys were connected to al-Qaida, then lock them up. File criminal charges against them and lock them up. But don't make reckless charges and ruin people's lives without evidence."

Elkarra even accused the authorities of targeting an "entire community":¹¹

"Law enforcement authorities have every right to follow up on legitimate leads in a criminal investigation, but to target an entire community and conduct a 'round up the usual suspects' approach will only serve to intimidate those whose cooperation is sought," said Basim Elkaara, Executive Director of CAIR's Sacramento Valley office.

The authorities flatly rejected such allegations:

U.S. Attorney McGregor Scott, who is prosecuting the case against the Hayats, defended the deportations as legitimate and necessary.

"The overarching goal in anti-terrorism efforts is to detect, disrupt and prevent potential terrorist activities," Scott said. "It is our considered judgment that this goal is best served in the investigation of Muhammed Adil Khan and Shabbir Ahmed by their deportations to Pakistan, and resulting restrictions on their ability to ever return to the United States.

"Whatever they may have planned in Lodi was never allowed to take hold. Our citizens are safer as a result of Khan and Ahmed no longer being on U.S. soil."

Dismissal of Concerns about CAIR

Concerns about CAIR's links to terrorism have been expressed for many years. By 2005 criticism was mounting and the evidence record was growing.

At that point Elkarra simply dismissed the concerns rather than stress that his organisation was trying to improve:¹²

Elkarra said a few members of CAIR may have been convicted for terrorist connections, but with more than 100,000 members, it's hardly fair or accurate to try and create terror links for the whole group based on just a few people.

"We can't take account for every single member," he said.

¹⁰ <http://www.sacbee.com/2005/08/16/v-print/6481/lodi-man-agrees-to-be-deported.html>

¹¹ <http://www.aclu.org/national-security/civil-rights-groups-file-freedom-information-act-request-wake-reports-fbi-harassme>

¹²

http://web.archive.org/web/20080508034409/http://www.lodinews.com/articles/2005/08/13/terrorism/1_cair_050813.txt

This is striking when the cases are extremely serious and involve employees and prominent members of CAIR, not obscure members with few or no formal responsibilities in the organisation.

Consider some of the cases in the public eye by 2005:¹³

[Texas CAIR chapter founder] Ghassan Elashi, who attended a 1993 Philadelphia meeting called by Hamas to discuss derailing U.S. peace initiatives, was convicted in 2004 on six criminal counts, including making false statements, conspiracy to violate the Export Administration Regulations and the Libyan Sanctions Regulations, and conspiracy to file false shipper's export declaration forms. He was a defendant again in the 2007 Hamas-support trial of the Holy Land Foundation (HLF), where jurors were unable to reach unanimous verdicts on the charges against him. [He was subsequently found guilty in a second trial.]

Elashi served as HLF chairman and treasurer and vice president of Infocom, a computer export company. He was sentenced to 80 months in prison for making illegal computer shipments to Libya and Syria and conspiring to send money to Mousa Abu Marzook, an admitted Hamas leader.

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Randall Royer, the former CAIR communications specialist, has a more colorful criminal history. Police who stopped his car for a traffic violation in 2001 found an AK-47-style rifle and 219 rounds of ammunition inside. Then, in 2003, he was indicted on charges stemming from participation in the ongoing jihad in Kashmir -- specifically, doing propaganda work for Lashkar-e-Taiba, a Specially Designated Global Terrorist group, and personally firing at Indian positions in Kashmir.

Pleading guilty to weapons and explosives charges in 2004, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison. In later grand jury testimony, Royer admitted that the cell's primary goal was to fight with the Taliban against United States forces in Afghanistan

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Bassam Khafagi pleaded guilty to bank and visa fraud charges in September 2003, after his arrest and indictment earlier that year. "At the time of his arrest," the Associated Press reported, "he was community affairs director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations."

Khafagi also served as a founding member and president of the Islamic Assembly of North America. That group was investigated on charges of money laundering and recruiting terrorists over the Internet and the FBI raided its offices in February 2003.

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Mohammad El-Mezain, the former chairman and director of endowments for HLF, conducted fundraising at a 2004 CAIR-New York event, soliciting over \$100,000 for CAIR. He was indicted soon afterward for providing material support to Hamas. Acquitted of most counts against him in the HLF trial, he faces retrial on a charge of conspiring to provide material support to a terrorist group.

Rabih Haddad served as a fundraiser for CAIR's Ann Arbor chapter. He co-founded the Global Relief Foundation (GRF), one of the largest Islamic charities in the United States -- but one that the U.S. government has investigated of funding violent jihadism.

In December 2001 the FBI raided GRF's headquarters and arrested Haddad, then its chairman, on a visa violation. He was deported to Lebanon after an immigration judge found that he presented "a substantial risk to the national security of the United States." The Treasury Department said Haddad had been a member of Makhtab Al-Khidamat, the precursor organization to Al Qaeda.

¹³ <http://www.investigativeproject.org/624/some-cair-officials-convicted-of-crimes>

Fundraising With Known Extremist Siraj Wahhaj

In November 2010 Siraj Wahhaj was a speaker at a fundraising dinner for CAIR Sacramento.¹⁴ He is shown in the picture below at the event with Elkarra. Wahhaj also spoke at a CAIR Sacramento fundraising dinner in 2009.¹⁵



Wahhaj is a New York imam, a former member of CAIR's advisory board, and a well-known extremist.

Most notably, Wahhaj was very closely connected to the New York bombing plots of the early 1990s, when terrorists planned to attack the headquarters of the UN, the Lincoln and Holland tunnels, the George Washington Bridge, and the New York offices of the FBI.

Wahhaj was named as an "unindicted co-conspirator" by the authorities when the terrorist group was apprehended and brought to trial.

In fact, Wahhaj acted as a character witness in court for Omar Abdel Rahman, the spiritual leader of the group:¹⁶

Five months later, the imam appeared as a defense witness in the landmarks-conspiracy trial, held in a packed Manhattan courtroom heavily fortified against possible terror attacks. The imam testified that it had been an honor to host Sheik Abdel-Rahman at Masjid At-Taqwa, and described him as a "respected scholar" known for having memorized the Quran. "He is bold, as a strong preacher of Islam, so he is respected that way," Imam Wahhaj testified.

This is one the things Rahman said at Wahhaj's mosque:

The blind Sheik Abdel-Rahman, who became a celebrity in certain Islamic circles as he toured the U.S. in the early 1990s, gave a provocative lecture at the mosque. Standing before about 150 congregants, the sheik suggested that Muslims should rob banks to benefit Islam. Imam Wahhaj says he interrupted to point out that there were convicted felons in the audience, and the sheik, laughing, retracted the remark.

Wahhaj also knew three other members of the terrorist group and had favourable words for two of them:

Still, over the years, Imam Wahhaj has welcomed some significant players on the militant Muslim scene into his Brooklyn mosque. Clement Hampton-El, an African-American Muslim who in the 1980s fought with the Muslim resistance against the Russians in Afghanistan, regularly worshipped at At-Taqwa upon his return to the U.S. He was sought out by young and old for his advice as an "elder in the community," says Imam Wahhaj.

¹⁴ <http://www.wrmea.org/component/content/article/364/10320-northern-california-chronicle-cair-sv-reflects-on-past-successes-future-challenges-at-eighth-annual-banquet-.html>

¹⁵ http://www.wrmea.com/archives/March_2009/0903038.html

¹⁶ <http://www.religionnewsblog.com/4820/one-imam-traces-path-of-islam-in-black-america>

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The imam called Mr. Hampton-El "one of the most respected brothers" in his congregation. He also testified that he had met a third defendant, Siddig Ibrahim Siddig Ali, and that he had a favorable impression of a fourth, Ibrahim El-Gabrowni. All four were convicted and sentenced to prison terms.

Wahhaj cannot even bring himself to condemn Osama bin Laden:

While decrying the events of Sept. 11, the imam takes great pains to remain neutral about Osama bin Laden. He says the al Qaeda leader's videotaped boasting about the attacks may have been a media ruse: "I'm just not so sure I want to be one of the ones who say, 'Yeah, he did it. He's a horrible man.' "

The US, by contrast, is to be condemned even for liberating Kuwait from Iraq in 1991. For Wahhaj, Operation Desert Storm was part of a "diabolical plot" against Islam:¹⁷

in 1991, speaking to the Islamic Association of North Texas, Wahaj called Operation Desert Storm "one of the most diabolical plots ever in the annals of history," and that the war was "part of a larger plan, to destroy the greatest challenge to the Western world, and that's Islam." Just as the USSR fell, so too will the U.S., Wahaj said, "unless America changes its course from the new world order and accepts the Islamic agenda."

Rejection by California Politicians

In 2006 Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer's office issued a "certificate of accomplishment" award to Elkarra. Criticism quickly followed. She decided to rescind the award, as reported by *Newsweek*:¹⁸

Boxer's office confirmed to NEWSWEEK that she has withdrawn a "certificate of accomplishment" to Sacramento activist Basim Elkarra after learning that he serves as an official with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). After directing her staff to look into CAIR, Boxer "expressed concern" about some past statements and actions by the group, as well as assertions by some law enforcement officials that it "gives aid to international terrorist groups," according to Natalie Ravitz, the senator's press spokeswoman.

CAIR, which has 32 offices around the country and bills itself as the leading Muslim-American civil- rights group, has never been charged with any crimes, nor have any of its top leaders. But a handful of individuals who have had ties to CAIR in the past have been convicted or deported for financial dealings with Hamas—another reason cited by Boxer for her action. The senator directed her staff to withdraw the certificate—which she routinely gives to community leaders in California—and asked that a statement she had previously made endorsing CAIR be stricken from the group's Web site, Ravitz said in an e-mail.

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Boxer tells NEWSWEEK she never saw the letter to CAIR signed in her name or was even aware of the award to Elkarra before it was sent out. "I feel terrible about this," she says. "We just made a mistake. I was not in the loop. That was an automatic signature [on the letter]." But Boxer stands by her decision to withdraw the award and to distance herself from CAIR, saying she was influenced by previous critical statements about CAIR made by her Democratic colleagues Sens. Richard Durbin of Illinois and Charles Schumer of New York. "To praise an organization because they haven't been indicted is like somebody saying, 'I'm not a crook,'" Boxer says. "I'm going to take a lot of hits for this. But I'm just doing what I think is right."

¹⁷ <http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2001/09/26/muslims/index2.html>

¹⁸ <http://www.newsweek.com/2006/12/28/cair-play.html>

In 2010 Ami Bera, a Republican candidate for Congress, returned a \$250 campaign contribution from Elkarra:¹⁹

Bowing to Republican demands, congressional candidate Ami Bera has returned a \$250 campaign contribution from an official with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) because of the group's alleged ties to Hamas.

The Elk Grove Democrat, who is trying to unseat Republican Rep. Dan Lungren of Gold River, returned the money to Basim Elkarra, executive director of the Sacramento chapter of CAIR.

"Our campaign is gaining a lot of momentum, and when we were flagged that there was an issue, we sent the money back," Lucinda Guinn, Bera's campaign manager, said today.

Bera returned the money after the California Republican Party last week urged Bera to give it back or give voters an explanation.

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According to the Republican Jewish Coalition, the organization has links to groups that support terrorism. And other top-ranked Democrats, included Sens. Charles Schumer of New York and Dick Durbin of Illinois, have criticized the group for its activities.

"Zionism Is Racism"

Zionism is an ideology with backers ranging from Israeli left wingers in the peace movement to uncompromising figures on the right wing. For Elkarra, though, it is wholly insidious. In 2003 he reportedly offered this extreme view:²⁰

"Understanding Zionism helps us understand the complexity of the current situation. One should learn from the apartheid in South Africa that a racist ideology achieves nothing but suffering for all people involved."

Inviting a Convicted Hamas Operative to Address Berkeley Students

Elkarra was a student activist when he was at Berkeley. He served as president of the university's Muslim Students Association.

In 2000 the association invited Mohammad Salah, an American Hamas operative who had been convicted and jailed for five years in Israel for terrorism offences, to speak at a conference titled "Continued Resistance in Palestine". Elkarra was the moderator of the event.²¹

In the early 1990s Salah was an associate of Mohammed Sawalha, the prominent British Islamist and Hamas operative, as detailed in a US indictment of Salah.²²

Making Use of Crime in Politics

Elkarra has used a common Islamist tactic of tracing far right extremist crime to mainstream politicians in order to control debate. In March 2011 a man was charged with firebombing a

¹⁹ <http://blogs.sacbee.com/capitolalertlatest/2010/08/bera-returns-campaign-contribu.html>

²⁰ http://www.americansagainsthate.org/cw/profiles_cw.php

²¹ <http://www.washington-report.org/component/content/article/213/3314-amr-moussa-discusses-peace-and-proseperity-at-san-franciscos-commonwealth-club.html>

²² http://www.justice.gov/usao/iln/indict/2004/marzoook_et_al.pdf

Planned Parenthood office in Madera, California. He is also suspected of throwing a brick and leaving abusive messages at a mosque in the town. This was Elkarra's reaction:²³

Basim Elkarra, the executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Sacramento, attended the news conference and called on political leaders to choose their words more carefully. He said inflamed rhetoric could provoke such attacks. He noted the incidents at the Islamic center coincided with protests about a proposed Islamic center near the site of the 9/11 attacks in New York City. He added that the current House hearings on radical Islam also may spark violence.

²³ <http://www.fresnobee.com/2011/03/10/2304094/arrest-made-in-islamic-center.html>