

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TALLAHASSEE DIVISION**

CAIR-FOUNDATION, INC. and
CAIR FLORIDA, INC.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Case No. 4:26-cv-315-MW-MJF

RON DESANTIS *et al.*,

Defendants.

DECLARATION OF CELIN CARLO-GONZALEZ

I, Celin Carlo-Gonzalez, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen and am competent to make this declaration.
2. I am a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation. I represent Plaintiffs in this case.
3. Attached as exhibits are copies of the following:
 - a. **Exhibit 1**, Mitch Perry, *Advocates Fear Florida's Domestic Terrorist Law Could Reach Beyond Muslim Groups*, Florida Phoenix (Apr. 7, 2026), <https://perma.cc/845U-7JZ9>.
 - b. **Exhibit 2**, Video posted by Ron DeSantis (@GovRonDeSantis), X, *Governor DeSantis Signs Legislation to Combat Terrorist Groups and Sharia Law* (Apr. 6, 2026), <https://x.com/i/broadcasts/1yGBeMZRXOOKN> (a screenshot of the initial post announcing the broadcast, and the webpage on which the broadcast appeared, are attached as Exhibit 2).

- c. **Exhibit 3**, Forbes Breaking News, *BREAKING NEWS: DeSantis Unveils New Hardline Anti-Crime Legislation For Florida*, (YouTube, June 16, 2026), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzgIjrSyB80> (a screenshot of the webpage on which the video appeared is attached as Exhibit 3).
- d. **Exhibit 4**, Excerpt of Defendant Ron DeSantis's June 11, 2026 Responses and Objections to Plaintiffs' Requests for Admission, in *CAIR-Foundation, Inc. v. DeSantis*, No. 4:25-cv-00516-MW-MJF (N.D. Fla.).
- e. **Exhibit 5**, Fla. Exec. Order No. 25-244, *Protecting Floridians from Radical Islamic Terrorist Organizations* (Dec. 8, 2025), <https://perma.cc/N5RK-6PLR>.
- f. **Exhibit 6**, Ron DeSantis (@RonDeSantis), X, *Members of the Florida Legislature Are Crafting Legislation to Stop the Creep of Sharia Law* (Dec. 9, 2025, at 1:09 AM), <https://perma.cc/7KUU-WPFY>.
- g. **Exhibit 7**, Video posted by Ron DeSantis (@RonDeSantis), Facebook, *If You Are Here on a Student Visa as a Foreign National, and You're Making Common Cause With Hamas, I'm Canceling Your Visa and I Am Sending You Home* (Nov. 8, 2023), <https://www.facebook.com/RonDeSantis/videos/if-you-are-here-on-a-student-visa-as-a-foreign-national-and-youre-making-common-/375019498247131> (a screenshot of the webpage on which the video appeared is attached as Exhibit 7).
- h. **Exhibit 8**, Press Release, CAIR, *BREAKING: CAIR Says 'Gaza Belongs to the Palestinian People' After Trump Says U.S. Will 'Take Over,' 'Own It'* (Feb. 4, 2025), <https://perma.cc/VZ5X-SS6K>.
- i. **Exhibit 9**, Press Release, CAIR, *CAIR and CAIR-Florida Launch National Days of Action Demanding Immediate Release of 16-Year-Old U.S. Citizen Mohammed Ibrahim* (Nov. 6, 2025), <https://perma.cc/2CS2-L2FV>.
- j. **Exhibit 10**, Press Release, CAIR, *CAIR, CAIR-FL Call Florida Mayor's Attempt to Censor Oscar-Winning Palestinian Documentary 'Racist and Unconstitutional'* (Mar. 13, 2025), <https://perma.cc/27V9-K6UM>.

- k. **Exhibit 11**, Letter from Robert S. McCaw, Government Affs. Dep't Director for CAIR, to Attorney General Pam Bondi (Apr. 7, 2025), <https://perma.cc/JZV6-U6KG>.
- l. **Exhibit 12**, Ron DeSantis (@RonDeSantis), X, *Sharia Law Has No Place in the USA and is Incompatible with the Constitution* (Oct. 9, 2026, at 5:13 PM), <https://perma.cc/MT3D-RZK4>.
- m. **Exhibit 13**, *Tell Ron DeSantis to Stop Wasting Time with Israel First Political Stunts Like 'No Sharia Act,'* CAIR (Oct. 14, 2025), <https://perma.cc/3XRC-W8M7>.
- n. **Exhibit 14**, Liv Caputo, *FL Cabinet Members Question Receipt of Taxpayer Dollars by Islamic Schools*, Florida Phoenix (Oct. 27, 2025), <https://perma.cc/SDC5-NRYE>.
- o. **Exhibit 15**, Wilton Simpson (@WiltonSimpson), X, *As Senate President, Universal School Choice Was One Of My Top Legislative Priorities. Schools That Indoctrinate Sharia Law Should Not Be A Part Of Our Taxpayer-Funded School Voucher Program.* (Oct. 27, 2025), <https://perma.cc/TQH6-NWKA>.
- p. **Exhibit 16**, Ron DeSantis (@RonDeSantis), X, *The Wages of Sharia...* (Dec. 1, 2025, at 10:05 PM), <https://perma.cc/GNV2-8T9Y>.
- q. **Exhibit 17**, Video posted by Florida's Voice, (@FLVoiceNews), X, *JUST IN: Gov. Ron Desantis Announced the Signing of Major Legislation in Florida Banning the Imposition of Sharia Law Statewide, Prohibiting State Funding for Groups Affiliated with CAIR or the Muslim Brotherhood, Outlawing Green New Deal-Style Policies Like Carbon Taxes at the Local Level, and Extending the Statewide DEI Ban to All Local Governments* (Apr. 24, 2026, at 7:48 PM), <https://x.com/FLVoiceNews/status/2047764584358887549> (a screenshot of the webpage on which the video appeared is attached as Exhibit 17).
- r. **Exhibit 18**, Video posted by James Uthmeier (@AGJamesUthmeier), X, *I joined Newsmax to Discuss Florida's Newly Signed Legislation that Bans Sharia Law* (Apr. 8, 2026), <https://x.com/AGJamesUthmeier/status/2041982723892326557#m> (a screenshot of the webpage on which the video appeared is

attached as Exhibit 18).

- s. **Exhibit 19**, Ron DeSantis, (@RonDeSantis), X, *We Have a Responsibility to Defend and Reinvigorate Western Civilization and that Means Protecting Against Creeping Sharia in all its Forms* (Apr. 6, 2026, at 10:47 PM), <https://perma.cc/ZZU2-QRCY>.
- t. **Exhibit 20**, Excerpt of Transcript of Mar. 5, 2026, Florida Senate Session.
- u. **Exhibit 21**, Lawrence Mower, *Florida Gov. DeSantis' Office Authored a 'Terrorist' Bill, Records Show*, Miami Herald (Mar. 11, 2026), <https://perma.cc/JXT8-EFLJ>.
- v. **Exhibit 22**, Excerpt of Transcript of Feb. 26, 2026, Florida House Judiciary Committee Meeting.
- w. **Exhibit 23**, Excerpt of Transcript of Mar. 3, 2026, Florida House Floor Debate.
- x. **Exhibit 24**, Video posted by Ron DeSantis, (@GovernorRonDeSantis), Facebook, *Last night, I joined Sean Hannity on Fox News* (Apr. 8, 2026), <https://www.facebook.com/GovRonDeSantis/videos/last-night-i-joined-sean-hannity-on-fox-news/909300895276300/> (a screenshot of the webpage on which the video appeared is attached as Exhibit 28).
- y. **Exhibit 25**, Ron DeSantis, (@GovRonDeSantis), X, *Governor DeSantis Announces Implementation of Florida Law to Combat Terrorist Organizations* (July 1, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.), <https://x.com/i/broadcasts/1oJMvvjPyjlxQ> (a screenshot of the webpage on which the video appeared is attached as Exhibit 29).
- z. **Exhibit 26**, Ron DeSantis, (@GovRonDeSantis), X, *Last December, I signed an Executive Order to eliminate the influence of radical terrorist ideologies and the organizations that promote them in Florida* (July 1, 2026, at 1:41 p.m.), <https://perma.cc/Z9F3-FBTF>.
- aa. **Exhibit 27**, Ron DeSantis, (@GovRonDeSantis), X (July 1, 2026, at 6:48 p.m.), <https://perma.cc/J5X3-CLML>.

bb. **Exhibit 28**, Press Release, Executive Office of the Governor,
*Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Implementation of Florida Law
to Combat Terrorist Organizations* (July 1, 2026),
<https://perma.cc/2EDK-W3BC>.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed July 2, 2026.

/s/ Celin Carlo-Gonzalez
Celin Carlo-Gonzalez

Exhibit 1

6/26/26, 12:58 PM

Advocates fear Florida's domestic terrorist law could reach beyond Muslim groups • Florida Phoenix

Florida **Phoenix** 

Advocates fear Florida's domestic terrorist law could reach beyond Muslim groups

'Today, bills like this target them. Tomorrow it could be me. But history tells us these measures never stop with just one people.'

BY: **MITCH PERRY** - APRIL 7, 2026 5:21 PM



CAIR-FL executive director Hiba Rahim (center) speaking during a press conference at CAIR's Tampa headquarters on April 7, 2026. (Photo by Dave Decker for the Florida Phoenix)

TAMPA — One day after Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed legislation ([HB 1471](#)) granting a handful of public officials power to designate a domestic terrorist organization, members of a likely target of the law warned it could reach beyond Muslim organizations.

The Florida chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), as well as representatives from Christian and Jewish groups and progressive advocates, issued that warning during a news conference Tuesday.

On Monday, DeSantis [said](#) on the University of South Florida campus that police were “working already” to place that domestic terrorist organization designation on CAIR Florida and the Muslim Brotherhood, putting into statute what he previously attempted to do by [executive order](#) in December. A federal judge [blocked](#) that order last month.

6/26/26, 12:58 PM

Advocates fear Florida's domestic terrorist law could reach beyond Muslim groups • Florida Phoenix

"Today it may be about Muslims, Palestinian advocates, immigrants, students, and nonprofits," said the Rev. Andy Oliver of the Allendale United Methodist Church in St. Petersburg Tuesday at the press conference at CAIR Florida's Tampa office.

"Tomorrow it will be whoever else refuses to be quiet. This is not only a Muslim issue. This is a Florida issue. This is a democracy issue. Because once the state claims the power to brand one disfavored group as beyond the protection of the Constitution, no community is safe for long"

"As Jews, we are ever mindful of the many stages of the Holocaust, and the insidious nature of the propaganda that enabled its evils," said Charlie Rogers of the Progressive Jewish Coalition. "Today, bills like this target them. Tomorrow it could be me. But history tells us these measures never stop with just one people."

DeSantis did note two non-Islamic groups that he said could potentially be labeled domestic terrorist groups – Antifa and Tren de Aragua. Antifa is anti-fascist faction considered not to be one group per se but rather a coalition of left-leaning individuals (that the White House [labeled](#) a domestic terrorist group last year). [Tren de Aragua](#) is an international criminal organization based in Venezuela.

The law, which will go into effect July 1, gives the power to designate a domestic terrorist organization to just five individuals – the chief of domestic security, who would provide written notice to the governor and the three members of the Florida Cabinet. No earlier than seven days later, the governor and Cabinet would vote to approve or reject the designation. Within seven days of their vote, the designation must be published in the Florida Administrative Register. The organization targeted could challenge the decision within 30 days in the Second Judicial Circuit Court in Leon County.

Under Florida law, the head of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement serves as chief of domestic security.

The legislation passed mostly along party lines in the GOP-controlled Legislature last month, with only two Miami Republicans, Sens. Ileana Garcia and Alexis Calayatud, dissenting. However, the bill has caused some concern with Republicans no longer serving in the Legislature.

Unintended consequences?

Former Panhandle House Republican Joel Rudman, a physician who performs in a rock band, said the measure reminded him of the [Parents Musical Research Group \(PMRC\)](#) from the 1980s, which pressured the music industry to post "Parental Advisory" labels on songs they alleged promoted violence, drug use, and sexual deviance.

"I think that when you give that much authority to an elected, or, in the case of this bill, sometimes non-elected officials, I think that's very dangerous," Rudman told a Phoenix reporter

6/26/26, 12:58 PM

Advocates fear Florida's domestic terrorist law could reach beyond Muslim groups • Florida Phoenix

on WMNF radio in Tampa last week.

“Now my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle, I’m sure they’re looking at this bill, saying, ‘These statutes. They can’t be warped. They can’t be abused. We have no intention of abusing them.’ But you have to understand that every bill you pass into law, there’s going to have some unintended consequences, and you have to be prepared for how those statutes are going to be interpreted when you’re not the majority party. ... I think any constitutional conservatives Republicans should have a problem with that bill.”

Rep. Lindsay Cross, D-St. Petersburg, echoed much of her caucus in a posting on social media Tuesday.

“Placing unilateral power in the hands state officials to designate domestic terrorist organizations is unjust and un-American,” she wrote on [X](#). “I stood against this bill on the House floor and its abuse of executive power in Florida.”

DeSantis on Monday also signed an accompanying bill ([HB 1473](#)) into law. That measure creates a public records exemption for “information critical to state or national security” related to the designation of a domestic terrorist organization.

“This allows the governor and his appointees to do all of this under cover of darkness,” said Miranda Margolis of the Tampa chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. “Under this bill, the general public has no oversight over the process for designating a group a domestic terrorist organization and no mechanism to remove the governor’s appointees for abusing their authority.”

Sharia law

Hiba Rahim, executive director of CAIR Florida, said the DeSantis administration and the bill sponsors – Republicans Hillary Cassel from Dania Beach in the House and Erin Grall from Vero Beach in the Senate – are spinning the legislation as an “anti-Sharia law” measure. Rahim noted that only a couple of pages in the 28-page bill address religious law and only one sentence contains the word, “Sharia.”

She said that’s because the new law really isn’t about Sharia at all.

“Our courts already do not allow any foreign law to supersede the Constitution of the land,” Rahim said.

“That protection is already there, my brothers and sisters, and no Muslim from the people to the pulpit advocates bringing Sharia to America. So why do they focus on that? Because it’s a distraction. What this actually is is an anti-free speech law. It’s an anti-due process law. It’s an anti-First Amendment law.

6/26/26, 12:58 PM

Advocates fear Florida's domestic terrorist law could reach beyond Muslim groups • Florida Phoenix

“And that’s why the masses of the people mobilized against it. Because some people were able to see through these lies and deception. But most Floridians were misled by highlighting the smallest, least relevant part of the bill, interjected just to lead people astray, while ignoring the part that truly should alarm every single one of us.”

The provision regarding Sharia law prevents Florida courts from recognizing or enforcing foreign judgements, contracts, or legal provisions that conflict with constitutional protections. Cassel [boasted](#) to Florida’s Voice on Monday that Florida is the first state to ban Sharia law.

“It was really important to myself and my Senate sponsor and the governor’s office that we call out the things that for those of us who are paying attention to what’s going on around the world, that Sharia law is incompatible with our values and our principals here in the United States and we need to say it,” she said.

Exhibit 2

6/29/26, 2:54 PM

Ron DeSantis on X: "Governor DeSantis Signs Legislation to Combat Terrorist Groups and Sharia Law <https://t.co/0MQdB94pkm>" / X



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Ron DeSantis
@GovRonDeSantis



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Ron DeSantis

@GovRonDeSantis

Governor DeSantis Signs Legislation to Combat Terrorist Groups and Sharia Law

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Exhibit 3

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JUNE 16, 2026



GOV. RON DESANTIS (R-FL) HOLDS PRESS BRIEFING TO PROMOTE NEW HARDLINE ANTI-CRIME LEGISLATION

Forbes BREAKING NEWS

0:02 / 47:07

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Exhibit 4

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TALLAHASSEE DIVISION**

**CAIR-FOUNDATION, INC., and,
CAIR-FLORIDA, INC.,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

Case No. 4:25-cv-
00516-MW-MJF

RONALD DESANTIS, in his official
capacity as Governor of the State of Florida.

Defendant.

_____ /

**DEFENDANT’S RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO
PLAINTIFFS’ FIRST REQUEST FOR ADMISSIONS**

Defendant Ronald DeSantis, in his official capacity as Governor of the State of Florida, responds to the First Request for Admissions (“Request”) propounded by Plaintiffs by and through undersigned counsel. These objections and responses are based on information currently available to Defendant. In the event Defendant becomes aware of additional responsive information, Defendant will supplement these objections and responses:

contemplated by the civil rules of procedure and the local rules of the Northern District of Florida.

RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS

- 1. Admit that you issued the Executive Order on December 8, 2025.**

RESPONSE: Admitted

- 2. Admit that the EO does not designate CAIR-Florida as a terrorist organization.**

RESPONSE: Denied.

- 3. Admit that all of the sources you relied upon to determine that CAIR is a “terrorist organization” are identified in the declaration of Jay K. Arnold, Jr., at paragraph 7. Doc. 37-1. (“Arnold Declaration”).**

RESPONSE: Admitted only to the extent that the sources listed were relied upon. Otherwise denied.

- 4. Admit that the Arnold Declaration does not identify any sources showing that CAIR committed an act of violence.**

RESPONSE: Denied. The Arnold Declaration identifies sources which show connections between violent terrorist organizations, who commit acts of terrorism, and Plaintiffs, who support and aid in those acts of terrorism.

- 5. Admit that, at the time you issued the EO, there was no statute in Florida giving the Governor the power to designate a terrorist organization.**

RESPONSE: Defendant objects to this Request on the grounds that it calls for a legal conclusion.

Dated: June 11, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES UTHMEIER
Attorney General

RYAN D. NEWMAN
*Chief Deputy Attorney
General*

DAVID M.S. DEWHIRST
Solicitor General

/s/ Tyler E. Gustafson
JEFFREY PAUL DESOUSA
(FBN 110951)
JASON J. MUEHLHOFF
*Chief Deputy Solicitors
General*
TYLER E. GUSTAFSON (FBN
1049292)
Assistant Solicitor General
CASEY J. WITTE (FBN
1070288)
Solicitor General Fellow
COLEMAN BATSON (FBN
110018)
Special Counsel
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL
The Capitol, PL-01
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 414-3300
jeffrey.desousa@myfloridalegal.com
jenna.hodges@myfloridalegal.com

Counsel for Governor DeSantis

Exhibit 5

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 25-244

(Protecting Floridians from Radical Islamic Terrorist Organizations)

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 874.03(7), Florida Statutes, a terrorist organization is any organized group engaged in or organized for the purpose of engaging in activity involving a violent act or an act dangerous to human life and is intended to intimidate, injure, or coerce a civilian population; influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or affect the conduct of government through destruction of property, assassination, murder, kidnapping, or aircraft piracy; and

WHEREAS, the Society of Muslim Brothers (Muslim Brotherhood) was founded in Egypt in 1928 and has developed into a transnational network with a long history of engaging in or supporting violence, including political assassinations and terror attacks on civilians, for the purpose of establishing a world-wide Islamic caliphate and imposing its Islamist system of belief across the globe, including in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamist ideology is irreconcilable with foundational American principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, especially including the right to religious freedom and the equal protection of the laws; and

WHEREAS, on November 24, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order 14362 to initiate "a process by which certain chapters or other subdivisions of the Muslim Brotherhood shall be considered for designation as Foreign Terrorist Organizations"; and

WHEREAS, the Muslim Brotherhood supports a network of chapters and affiliated political entities and front organizations that engage in terrorism or funnel money to finance terrorist activities; and

WHEREAS, members of the Muslim Brotherhood created Hamas in 1987, the primary goal of which is the destruction of the State of Israel and the eradication of Jews in their historic homeland of Judea and Samaria; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government designated Hamas as a foreign terrorist organization on October 8, 1997; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2023, Hamas murdered over 1,200 men, women, and children in Israel, including 46 Americans, and took 254 hostages, including 12 Americans; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the October 7 attack, Muslim Brotherhood chapters in the Middle East joined attacks against Israel with, or otherwise provided material support to, Hamas, Hezbollah, and other Palestinian groups; and

WHEREAS, organizations affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas have had active fundraising arms in the United States, which have raised funds to support Hamas's terrorist attacks in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, the Palestine Committee, an organization affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and created to support Hamas in the United States, expressly sought to "increase the financial and moral support for Hamas" and oversaw front organizations designed to raise money for Hamas; and

WHEREAS, the Palestine Committee founded the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) in the United States in 1994; and

WHEREAS, CAIR was founded by persons connected to the Muslim Brotherhood and was created, in the words of persons affiliated with CAIR, as "an official U.S. cover representing the Islamic community" to conceal ties to Islamic extremist groups; and

WHEREAS, CAIR was designated as an unindicted co-conspirator by the United States Government in the largest terrorism-financing case in American history, and the court found "ample evidence to establish the association[]" of CAIR with terrorist organizations, *see United States v. Holy*

Land Found. for Relief & Dev., No. 3:04-cv-240, 2009 WL 10680203, at *7 (N.D. Tex. July 1, 2009); and

WHEREAS, individuals associated with CAIR have been convicted of providing, and conspiring to provide, material support to designated terrorist organizations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 943.0311, Florida Statutes, the executive director of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement serves as the Chief of Domestic Security and is responsible for coordinating ongoing assessments of the State's vulnerability to terrorism and its ability to detect and prevent acts of terrorism within or affecting Florida; and

WHEREAS, section 321.05, Florida Statutes, directs the Florida Highway Patrol to conserve the peace and enforce the laws of the State; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution and section 943.0313, Florida Statutes, the Domestic Security Oversight Council is responsible for reviewing the State's domestic security posture and making recommendations to the Governor and Legislature concerning the State's domestic security, including with respect to threats from terrorism.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, pursuant to my solemn constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed and to preserve the public peace, do hereby promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. The Muslim Brotherhood and any chapter or subdivision thereof; the Council on American-Islamic Relations; and any other organization designated by the United States Government as a Foreign Terrorist Organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1189) are hereby designated as terrorist organizations for the purpose of this Executive Order.

Section 2. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Highway Patrol are directed to undertake all lawful measures to prevent unlawful activities in Florida by the terrorist organizations designated in Section 1. Unless prohibited by federal or state law, all other Executive

and Cabinet Agencies shall further undertake all lawful action to prevent any terrorist organization designated in Section 1, or any person known to have provided material support or resources to such organization as defined in section 775.33(1)(c), Florida Statutes, from receiving any contract, employment, funds, or other benefit or privilege from such Executive or Cabinet Agency or any entity regulated by such Executive or Cabinet Agency or from any County or Municipality of the State.

Section 3. The Domestic Security Oversight Council shall conduct a comprehensive review of existing statutory authorities, regulations, and policies for addressing threats from the terrorist organizations designated in Section 1 and submit recommendations for any additional action needed to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 6, 2026.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 8th day of December, 2025.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
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TALLAHASSEE, FL

Exhibit 6

6/26/26, 2:26 PM

Ron DeSantis on X: "Members of the FL Legislature are crafting legislation to stop the creep of sharia law, and I hope that they codify these protections for Floridians against CAIR and the Muslim Brotherhood in their legislation."



← Post

**Ron DeSantis** ✓
@RonDeSantis

...

Members of the FL Legislature are crafting legislation to stop the creep of sharia law, and I hope that they codify these protections for Floridians against CAIR and the Muslim Brotherhood in their legislation.

**Ron DeSantis** ✓ @GovRonDeSantis · Dec 8, 2025**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

Florida is designating the Muslim Brotherhood and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) as foreign terrorist organizations.

...

or an act dangerous to human life and is intended to intimidate, injure, or coerce a civilian population; influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or affect the conduct of government through destruction of property, assassination, murder, kidnapping, or aircraft piracy; and

WHEREAS, the Society of Muslim Brothers (Muslim Brotherhood) was founded in Egypt in 1928 and has developed into a transnational network with a long history of engaging in or supporting violence, including political assassinations and terror attacks on civilians, for the purpose of establishing a world-wide Islamic caliphate and imposing its Islamic system of belief across the globe, including in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamist ideology is irreconcilable with foundational American principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, especially including the right to religious freedom and the equal protection of the laws; and

for coordinating ongoing assessments of the State's vulnerability to terrorism and its ability to detect and prevent acts of terrorism within or affecting Florida; and

WHEREAS, section 321.05, Florida Statutes, directs the Florida Highway Patrol to conserve the peace and enforce the laws of the State; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution and section 943.0313, Florida Statutes, the Domestic Security Oversight Council is responsible for reviewing the State's domestic security posture and making recommendations to the Governor and Legislature concerning the State's domestic security, including with respect to threats from terrorism.

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Section 1. The Muslim Brotherhood and any chapter or subdivision thereof; the Council on

Israel, including 46 Americans, and took 254 hostages, including 12 Americans; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the October 7 attack, Muslim Brotherhood chapters in the Middle East joined attacks against Israel with, or otherwise provided material support to, Hamas, Hezbollah, and other Palestinian groups; and

WHEREAS, organizations affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas have had active fundraising arms in the United States, which have raised funds to support Hamas's terrorist attacks in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, the Palestine Committee, an organization affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and created to support Hamas in the United States, expressly sought to "increase the financial and moral support for Hamas" and oversaw front organizations designed to raise money for Hamas; and

WHEREAS, the Palestine Committee founded the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) in the United States in 1994; and

existing statutory authorities, regulations, and policies for addressing threats from the terrorist organizations designated in Section 1 and submit recommendations for any additional action needed to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 6, 2026.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 8th day of December, 2025.

Ron DeSantis
RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

[Signature]

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REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

NBC NEWS

**Ron DeSantis** November 8, 2023 · 🌐

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If you are here on a student visa as a foreign national, and you're making common cause with Hamas, I'm canceling your visa and I am sending you home.

No questions asked.
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**Steve Indy Langford**

Well, I'm not sure that as governor of Florida he would have that kind of authority. But if he does, I'm fine with it.

2y

2 🍌🍌

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**Daisy Gonzalez**

Ron simply the best! Hope it's a Ron/Nikki ticket to get IT done!

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BREAKING: CAIR Says 'Gaza Belongs to the Palestinian People' After Trump Says U.S. Will 'Take Over,' 'Own It'

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BREAKING: CAIR Says 'Gaza Belongs to the Palestinian People' After Trump Says U.S. Will 'Take Over,' 'Own It'



🕒 February 4, 2025 ⌚ 8:09 pm

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, today said "Gaza belongs to the Palestinian people" after President Trump said the "U.S. will take over The Gaza Strip" and "own it."

(<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-netanyahu-press-conference-ceasefire-hostages/>)

Video: Trump says 'U.S. will take over The Gaza Strip' and 'own it.'

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eL83fUeM6Rs>).

In a statement, **CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad** said:

"Gaza belongs to the Palestinian people, not the United States, and President Trump's call to displace Palestinians from their land either temporarily or permanently is an absolute non-starter. Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the entire Muslim world have made it clear that this delusional idea is unacceptable."

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"If the Palestinian people were ever somehow forcibly expelled from Gaza, this crime against humanity would complete the Israeli genocide of the Palestinians on their own land, spark widespread conflict, put the final nail in the coffin of international law, and permanently scar our nation's international image.

"If President Trump wants to make history with some sort of grand peace deal, he must start by accepting that the way to make permanent peace is to end the Israeli occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people."

Last month, CAIR responded to President Trump floating the idea of ethnically cleansing Gaza (https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-calls-president-trumps-proposal-to-expel-palestinians-from-gaza-delusional-and-dangerous-nonsense/) by moving millions of Palestinians to Egypt and Jordan "delusional and dangerous nonsense."

Last year, CAIR welcomed a detailed submission by South Africa (https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-welcomes-south-africas-submission-to-international-court-of-justice-icj-detailing-evidence-of-israels-gaza-genocide/) to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) outlining evidence of Israel's violation of the 1948 Genocide Convention in its war on Gaza.

Also last year, CAIR applauded the International Criminal Court (ICC) for issuing arrest warrants (https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-applauds-icc-for-rejecting-outside-pressure-issuing-arrest-warrants-for-netanyahus-war-crimes-in-gaza/) for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense minister for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza genocide.

CAIR's mission is to protect civil rights, enhance understanding of Islam, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

La misión de CAIR es proteger las libertades civiles, mejorar la comprensión del Islam, promover la justicia, y empoderar a los musulmanes en los Estados Unidos.

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END

CONTACT: CAIR National Deputy Director Edward Ahmed Mitchell, 404-285-9530, EMitchell@cair.com; CAIR National Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper, 202-744-7726, ihooper@cair.com; CAIR National Communications Manager Ismail Allison, 202-770-6280, iallison@cair.com

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CAIR and CAIR-Florida Launch National Days of Action Demanding Immediate Release of 16-Year-Old U.S. Citizen Mohammed Ibrahim



November 6, 2025 12:34 pm

(Nov. 6, 2025, Tampa, Fla.) – The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and its Florida chapter (CAIR-Florida), the nation's and state's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organizations, today announced the launch of a National Week of Action to demand the immediate and unconditional release of 16-year-old U.S. citizen Mohammed Ibrahim, who has been unjustly detained by Israeli authorities since February 2025.

Mohammed, a Florida native, was only 15 when he was violently seized by Israeli soldiers and has since endured more than eight months of inhumane imprisonment. During that time, he has been denied contact with his family and access to adequate food or medical care. Reports indicate that Mohammed has lost more than 25 percent of his body weight and contracted scabies due to unsanitary conditions and neglect.

The National Days of Action to Free Mohammed Ibrahim, running now through Saturday, Nov. 8, include vigils, rallies, online campaigns, phone banking, and letter-writing initiatives organized across the country. The effort will culminate in a National Day of Action on

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Saturday, Nov. 8, one day before Mohammed's next court appearance in Israel. Rallies and local actions are planned throughout the state of Florida in Tampa, Jacksonville, Orlando, Melbourne, and South Florida to bring Mohammed home.

"No American child should be abandoned in this way," said **Hiba Rahim, CAIR-Florida Deputy Executive Director**. "Mohammed's unlawful detention and mistreatment violate every principle of human rights and international law. If he were not a Palestinian American, he would have been free long ago. We call on the U.S. government to act immediately — with the same urgency it would for any other American child — to bring Mohammed home."

CAIR and CAIR-Florida are urging the U.S. State Department, elected officials, faith leaders, and civil society organizations to speak out and pressure Israeli authorities to secure Mohammed's release.

Throughout the week, participants are encouraged to:

- Post on social media using #FreeMohammedIbrahim and #BringMohammedHome, tagging members of Congress and the U.S. State Department.
- Call their representatives to demand urgent U.S. diplomatic intervention.
- Attend local vigils and rallies across Florida and nationwide to show solidarity.
- Join phone-banking or letter-writing events to keep Mohammed's case visible.

Community leaders, veterans, health care professionals, educators, and faith-based organizations are encouraged to join this nationwide campaign to defend the rights and dignity of an American child.

CAIR- National Deputy Executive Director Edward Mitchell stated: "Every child deserves protection, due process, and dignity — without exception. We will not stop raising our voices until Mohammed is safely back home with his family."

For more information on how to participate in the National Week of Action and access materials for local events, visit CAIR-Florida's social media channels or contact CAIR-Florida's communications department.

CAIR's mission is to protect civil rights, enhance understanding of Islam, promote justice and empower American Muslims.

La misión de CAIR es proteger las libertades civiles, mejorar la comprensión del Islam, promover la justicia y empoderar a los musulmanes en los Estados Unidos.

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CONTACT: CAIR-Florida Communications Director Wilfredo A. Ruiz, (305)502-6749, wruiz@cair.com; Ibrahim Hooper, CAIR Communications Director, ihooper@cair.com. (202)744-7726

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Exhibit 10

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CAIR, CAIR-FL Call Florida Mayor's Attempt to Censor Oscar-Winning Palestinian Documentary 'Racist and Unconstitutional'

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CAIR, CAIR-FL Call Florida Mayor's Attempt to Censor Oscar-Winning Palestinian Documentary 'Racist and Unconstitutional'



🕒 March 13, 2025 🕒 1:52 pm

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and its Florida chapter (CAIR-FL) today condemned an attempt by the mayor of Miami Beach to shut down a movie theatre that showed the Oscar-winning Palestinian documentary No Other Land.

O Cinema, an arthouse theatre, showed the documentary after having initially pulled it due to a letter denouncing the film sent by Mayor Steven Meier. Meier announced a proposal to terminate the cinema's lease and discontinue around \$40,000 in grant funding on Tuesday.

SEE: Florida Theater Faces Closure for Showing Palestinian Film 'No Other Land' – Newsweek (<https://www.newsweek.com/florida-theater-facing-closure-palestinian-film-no-other-land-2044011>)

In a statement, **CAIR-Florida Communications Director Wilfredo Ruiz** said:

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CAIR, CAIR-FL Call Florida Mayor's Attempt to Censor Oscar-Winning Palestinian Documentary 'Racist and Unconstitutional'

"Mayor Steven Meiner fails to unite Miami Beach residents, visitors, or anyone who does not subscribe to his blind support for the genocidal Israeli government. His complete disregard for First Amendment rights and equal protection under the law is evident in this open act of censorship and discrimination. Apparently, Mayor Meier believes he is governing an Israeli city, where the censorship and oppression of Palestinian voices are the norm. Let us remind him that he swore to defend the U.S. Constitution. The freedoms he seeks to suppress are enshrined in the First Amendment and have cost many Americans their blood, sweat, and tears. His shameful actions cannot erase that."

CAIR Deputy Executive Director Edward Ahmed Mitchell said:

"Mayor Meier's attempt to punish a movie theatre for showing a documentary critical of a foreign government is an un-American and unconstitutional attack on free speech and the humanity of Palestinians. The mayor's attempt to censor the reality of the Israeli government's ethnic cleansing in the West Bank is also deeply immoral and racist. We urge the Miami Beach city government to reject this un-American act of censorship."

END

CONTACT: CAIR National Deputy Director Edward Ahmed Mitchell, 404-285-9530, e- Mitchell@cair.com; CAIR Government Affairs Director Robert McCaw, 202-742-6448, rmccaw@cair.com; CAIR National Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper, 202-744-7726, ihooper@cair.com; CAIR National Communications Manager Ismail Allison, 202-770-6280, iallison@cair.com

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New CAIR Podcast Episode Features Miko Peled, Israeli-American Advocate for Palestinian Freedom (https://www.cair.com/press_releases/new-cair-podcast-episode-features-miko-peled-israeli-american-advocate-for-palestinian-freedom/)

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CAIR-San Diego Opinion: The headlines faded. The pain of local Muslims did not. – San Diego Union-Tribune (https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-san-diego-opinion-the-headlines-faded-the-pain-of-local-muslims-did-not-san-diego-union-tribune/)

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Exhibit 11

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.
All praise and thanks belong to God, the Lord of the Worlds.
May peace and prayers be upon Prophet Muhammad and his family.



Council on American-Islamic Relations
453 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
Tele 202-488-8787 Fax 202-488-0833
E-mail: info@cair.com URL www.cair.com

April 7, 2025

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

RE: DOJ Must Investigate Killing of Palestinian-American Teen Omar Mohammad Rabea and Other U.S. Citizens Murdered by Israeli Forces

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, I write to urgently request that the U.S. Department of Justice, in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, launch a full criminal investigation into the killing of **14-year-old Palestinian-American Omar Mohammad Rabea**, who was reportedly shot by Israeli soldiers near the entrance of Turmus Ayya in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and later denied medical treatment, leading to his death.

According to multiple accounts, Omar was participating in a protest alongside two other boys when he was shot in the stomach by an Israeli soldier. While the other boys were shot in the legs, Israeli soldiers reportedly detained Omar and refused to release him to paramedics until it was too late to save his life. Turmus Ayya, where the killing occurred, is home to hundreds of Palestinian-American citizens, including Illinois State Representative Abdelnasser Rashid and his family.

This heinous crime marks yet another unaddressed instance of violence against American citizens perpetrated by Israeli soldiers or illegal settlers, and once again highlights a glaring double standard in the administration of justice.

Despite bipartisan congressional concern and calls from CAIR and over 60 other civil rights, interfaith, and human rights organizations, the DOJ has not pursued a single prosecution in any of these cases. We are especially disheartened that the Biden administration declined to act on previous demands—including support for U.S. Representative André Carson’s **Justice for Shireen Act (H.R. 3477, 118th Congress)**—and continued to defer to Israeli self-investigations that have consistently produced no accountability.

The **failure to act** sends a dangerous message to the world—that the United States government may refuse to protect its own citizens based on their ethnicity, religion, or political identity. We urge the DOJ to affirm the equal worth of all Americans by investigating and prosecuting those responsible for Omar’s killing.

This latest tragedy joins a long and disturbing list of American citizens killed by Israeli government or adjacent actors, including:

- **Shireen Abu Akleh**, Palestinian-American journalist shot in the head by an Israeli sniper while clearly marked as press.
- **Aysenur Ezgi Eygi**, a Turkish-American peace activist shot in the head by Israeli soldiers during a nonviolent protest.
- **Tawfiq Ajaq**, a 17-year-old American fatally shot by an off-duty Israeli police officer.
- **Mohammad Khmour**, another U.S. citizen and teen killed under similar circumstances.
- **Omar Assad**, an 80-year-old Palestinian-American who died after being detained, zip-tied, and abandoned by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank.
- **Rachel Corrie**, a 23-year-old American human rights defender who was crushed to death by an Israeli military bulldozer in 2003 while trying to stop the demolition of a Palestinian home.
- **Jacob Flickinger**, a 33-year-old US-Canadian dual citizen, aid worker with World Central Kitchen, killed in an Israeli airstrike on Gaza in 2024.

We are not calling for special treatment—only equal protection under the law for all Americans, regardless of their ethnic or religious identity. When Americans are murdered abroad, especially by actors from a U.S.-funded foreign military like Israel, our government has an obligation to respond with the full force of U.S. law. Failure to do so perpetuates injustice and undermines the principle that every American life matters.

We respectfully urge the DOJ to:

1. Launch an immediate and full investigation into the killing of Omar Mohammad Rabea.
2. Reopen or initiate criminal investigations into the other aforementioned killings of American citizens by Israeli forces and illegal settlers.
3. Publicly affirm the Department’s commitment to protecting all Americans equally under the law, regardless of their background or ancestry.

We stand ready to assist the Department in pursuing justice in these cases and will continue to advocate for the rights of American citizens who have been ignored and devalued for far too long.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert S. McCaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent.

Robert S. McCaw
Government Affairs Department Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations

Exhibit 12

6/26/26, 12:48 PM

Ron DeSantis on X: "Sharia law has no place in the USA and is incompatible with the Constitution." / X

[←](#) **Post****Ron DeSantis** ✓

@RonDeSantis



Sharia law has no place in the USA and is incompatible with the Constitution.

**Eric Daugherty** ✓ @EricLDaugh · Oct 8, 2025 **BREAKING:** The Florida Legislature is now considering a law to BAN Sharia Law from being enforced in the state.

PASS IT NATIONWIDE.

...

5:13 PM · Oct 9, 2025 · **2.4M** Views

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CAIR Action Alert: Tell Ron DeSantis to Stop Wasting Time with Israel First Political Stunts Like 'No Sharia Act'

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CAIR Action Alert: Tell Ron DeSantis to Stop Wasting Time with Israel First Political Stunts Like 'No Sharia Act'



🕒 October 14, 2025 🕒 12:04 pm

- Civil rights groups say Florida's "No Sharia Act" revives a long-discredited campaign of anti-Muslim hysteria.
- DeSantis accused of using Islamophobia as a political diversion from Israel's war on Gaza.
- CAIR invites DeSantis and Rep Cassel to visit Florida mosques and learn about the beliefs and lives of Muslim constituents.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, and its Florida chapter (CAIR-Florida) today condemned **Governor Ron DeSantis for endorsing** (<https://x.com/RonDeSantis/status/1976335298784362788>) Florida **House Bill 119** (<https://x.com/RonDeSantis/status/1976335298784362788>), the so-called "No

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CAIR Action Alert: Tell Ron DeSantis to Stop Wasting Time with Israel First Political Stunts Like 'No Sharia Act'

Sharia Act," and urged Florida lawmakers to reject this Israel-First political stunt designed to distract the public from Israel's ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza by manufacturing panic about Muslims in America.

TAKE ACTION: (https://secure.everyaction.com/R-iU3hs1_OGsXNPhxbDCQA2) **Urge Florida Lawmakers and Governor DeSantis to Drop the Anti-Muslim "No Sharia Act" and Stop Using Islamophobia to Distract from Israel's Genocide in Gaza** (https://secure.everyaction.com/R-iU3hs1_OGsXNPhxbDCQA2).

HB 119, introduced by Florida Representative **Hillary Cassel**, who ran and won as a Democrat before switching parties, (<https://islamophobia.org/islamophobic-individuals/david-yerushalmi/>) **closely mirrors, by about 80 percent, the language of David Yerushalmi's discredited "American Laws for American Courts" (ALAC)** (<https://islamophobia.org/islamophobic-individuals/david-yerushalmi/>) (<https://islamophobia.org/islamophobic-individuals/david-yerushalmi/>) model legislation. ALAC was designed to stigmatize Muslims by falsely suggesting that American courts could be overruled by so-called "foreign law."

This is not the first time such legislation has surfaced in Florida. Between **2011 and 2014**, lawmakers repeatedly introduced "anti-foreign law" and "anti-Sharia" measures that were widely condemned as unconstitutional and rooted in bigotry before ultimately failing. DeSantis's endorsement marks a **return to a decade-old Islamophobic playbook** at a time when Floridians need unity, not division.

CAIR-Florida notes that both the **Brennan Center for Justice** (<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/anti-muslim-bigotry-taints-florida-ban-foreign-laws>) (<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/anti-muslim-bigotry-taints-florida-ban-foreign-laws>) and **Florida Bar Journal** (https://www.floridabar.org/the-florida-bar-journal/a-phantom-menace-sb-58-hb-351-and-the-application-of-foreign-law-in-floridas-family-courts/?utm_source=chatgpt.com) have criticized these measures as redundant, unnecessary, and tainted by anti-Muslim bias. **American courts are already bound by the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause**, which prevents any foreign or religious law from superseding state or federal law.

The **American Bar Association's 2024 report, "Legalizing Othering: Institutionalized Islamophobia and the Subversion of U.S. Democracy"**, (<https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/resources/human-rights/2024-november/islamophobia-and-subversion-of-us-democracy/>) found that since 2010, **233 anti-Sharia bills** have been introduced in **44 state legislatures**, with **20 enacted in 13 states**—despite being legally unnecessary and rooted in discrimination.

In a joint statement, CAIR-Florida and CAIR National leadership said:

"CAIR and CAIR-Florida condemn Governor Ron DeSantis for endorsing House Bill 119, the disgraceful and bigoted 'No Sharia Act,' a recycled anti-Muslim stunt rooted in lies, fearmongering, and political distraction. We call on the governor to drop his Israel-First schtick and start addressing the real needs of Floridians who are struggling with housing, healthcare, and education instead of pandering to hate.

"Religious freedom is a bedrock principle of our Constitution. No political stunt can change the First Amendment or its guarantee of religious freedom for all. In America, Jews have the right to follow Halakha, Catholics have the right to follow Canon law, and Muslims have the right to follow Sharia, which means 'the way to water' and encompasses prayer, fasting, charity, and ethical living.

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"If Governor DeSantis, Representative Cassel, or any Florida lawmaker has genuine questions about Muslim beliefs, practices, or values, we invite them to visit a local mosque, meet with their Muslim constituents, and learn firsthand about the faith, family life, and civic engagement of Florida's diverse Muslim community. Our doors are open, and we would be happy to enlighten them.

"HB 119 is a nothing burger. It solves no real problem, violates the First Amendment, and would be struck down in court if enacted. Similar measures failed in Florida and across the country because they were redundant, divisive, and transparently Islamophobic.

"This bill has nothing to do with protecting Floridians. It is an Israel-First bait and switch meant to distract the public from what Muslims are courageously saying about Israel's undeniable and criminal genocide of Palestinians and to create panic about Muslims here at home. Reviving this decade-old, unconstitutional culture-war hoax only divides communities and embarrasses our state.

This is not leadership. It is political cowardice and moral failure. CAIR, CAIR-Florida, and all people of conscience will continue to oppose this cynical attempt to divide Floridians, stoke Islamophobia, and undermine religious freedom for everyone."

CAIR notes that anti-Muslim rhetoric by **Governor DeSantis in Florida** (<https://x.com/RonDeSantis/status/1976335298784362788>), **Governor Abbott in Texas** (https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-texas-calls-gov-abbotts-claim-to-sign-a-sharia-law-ban-divorced-from-reality/), and Alabama U.S. (https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-alabama-again-urges-sen-tuberville-to-accept-muslim-communitys-invite-to-visit-mosque-after-senate-speech-denigrating-islam-smearing-american-muslims/) **Senator Tuberville** (https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-alabama-again-urges-sen-tuberville-to-accept-muslim-communitys-invite-to-visit-mosque-after-senate-speech-denigrating-islam-smearing-american-muslims/) marks a **coordinated national resurgence of Islamophobia** designed to shield Israel from criticism and silence Muslim Americans.

As CAIR Deputy Director **Edward Ahmed Mitchell** recently wrote in *Common Dreams*, "Israel's supporters are manufacturing hysteria about Islam and Muslims to protect Israel from criticism by frightening the American public." (<https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/islamophobia-distraction-gaza>)

CAIR-Florida warns that HB 119 would jeopardize interfaith religious rights by casting doubt on faith-based marriage contracts, wills, and burial practices. The bill could also block state courts from considering Jewish Halacha or Catholic Canon law in voluntary arbitration, threatening the freedoms of multiple faith communities, not just Muslims.

Already Ruled Unconstitutional: In the early 2010's, CAIR achieved a landmark legal victory against similar legislation in Oklahoma, where voters in 2010 approved a constitutional amendment banning state courts from considering "Sharia law." Representing plaintiff Muneer Awad, CAIR filed suit arguing that the measure violated the First Amendment's Establishment Clause by expressly condemning Islam and stigmatizing Muslims. In 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit upheld a permanent injunction in *Awad v. Ziriax* (https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-welcomes-court-ruling-striking-down-oklahoma-anti-islam-amendment/), writing that *"the proposed state*

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amendment expressly condemns [Awad's] religion and exposes him and other Muslims in Oklahoma to disfavored treatment.
[/https://www.ca10.uscourts.gov/sites/ca10/files/opinions/01018774570.pdf/](https://www.ca10.uscourts.gov/sites/ca10/files/opinions/01018774570.pdf)"

The *Awad* ruling remains the first and only federal appellate decision on the legality of "anti-Sharia" laws, firmly establishing that such measures are unconstitutional, unnecessary, and rooted in prejudice. It dismantled the early national momentum behind anti-Muslim legislation and reaffirmed that religious freedom in America applies equally to Muslims, Jews, Christians, and all others.

HB 119 now revives that same discredited framework while providing no new legal protections. CAIR, CAIR-Florida, and anyone with common sense will work to oppose this recycled, unconstitutional attempt to divide Floridians along religious lines and distract the public from the real crises facing our nation.

END

CONTACT: CAIR-Florida Media & Outreach Director Wilfredo A. Ruiz, 305-503-6749, wruiz@cair.com ;CAIR National Deputy Director Edward Ahmed Mitchell, 404-285-9530, e-Mitchell@cair.com; CAIR Government Affairs Director Robert McCaw, 202-742-6448, rmccaw@cair.com; CAIR National Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper, 202-744-7726, ihooper@cair.com; CAIR National Communications Manager Ismail Allison, 202-770-6280, iallison@cair.com

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CAIR Action Alert: Tell Congress to Block the U.S.-Israel Military Merger Bills
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June 11, 2026

Take Action: Tell Congress and Trump to Stop Funding Israel's Attacks on Christians, Muslims, and Holy Sites
[\(https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/take-action-tell-congress-and-trump-to-stop-funding-israels-attacks-on-christians-muslims-and-holy-sites/\)](https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/take-action-tell-congress-and-trump-to-stop-funding-israels-attacks-on-christians-muslims-and-holy-sites/)

May 15, 2026

CAIR Action Alert: Thank Senators Who Voted to Block Arms Transfers to Israel, Hold Others Accountable
[\(https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/cair-action-alert-thank-senators-who-voted-to-block-arms-transfers-to-israel-hold-others-accountable/\)](https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/cair-action-alert-thank-senators-who-voted-to-block-arms-transfers-to-israel-hold-others-accountable/)

April 16, 2026

CAIR ACTION ALERT: Tell the Senate to Vote 'YES' This Week on Resolution Opposing More U.S. Bombs for Israel
[\(https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/cair-action-alert-tell-the-senate-to-vote-yes-this-week-on-resolution-opposing-more-u-s-bombs-for-israel/\)](https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/cair-action-alert-tell-the-senate-to-vote-yes-this-week-on-resolution-opposing-more-u-s-bombs-for-israel/)

April 14, 2026

CAIR ACTION ALERT: Urge House Leadership to Bring War Powers Resolution to Vote as War with Iran Intensifies
[\(https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/cair-action-alert-urge-house-leadership-to-bring-war-powers-resolution-to-vote-as-war-with-iran-intensifies/\)](https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/cair-action-alert-urge-house-leadership-to-bring-war-powers-resolution-to-vote-as-war-with-iran-intensifies/)

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CAIR Action Alert: Tell Ron DeSantis to Stop Wasting Time with Israel First Political Stunts Like 'No Sharia Act'

CAIR TX Action Alert: Call on the City of Houston to Pass Immigration Ordinance – Let Police Enforce the Law, Not Immigration (https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/cair-tx-action-alert-call-on-the-city-of-houston-to-pass-immigration-ordinance-let-police-enforce-the-law-not-immigration/)

March 26, 2026

CAIR ACTION ALERT: Tell the Senate to Support Sen. Sanders' Resolution Opposing More U.S. Bombs for Israel (https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/cair-action-alert-tell-the-senate-to-support-sen-sanders-resolution-opposing-more-u-s-bombs-for-israel/)

March 19, 2026

CAIR-AZ Action Alert: Call on Lawmakers to Oppose Bigoted Anti-Muslim Bill (https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/cair-az-action-alert-call-on-lawmakers-to-oppose-bigoted-anti-muslim-bill/)

February 6, 2026

ACTION ALERT: Israel Is Forcing Children to Freeze to Death in Gaza. Tell Congress To Act Now. (https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/action-alert-israel-is-forcing-children-to-freeze-to-death-in-gaza-tell-congress-to-act-now/)

December 19, 2025

CAIR Action Alert: Tell Congress to Demand Rep. Randy Fine's Resignation After His Call for a Genocide of All 'Mainstream Muslims' (https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/cair-action-alert-tell-congress-to-demand-rep-randy-fines-resignation-after-his-call-for-a-genocide-of-all-mainstream-muslims/)

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USCMO Action Alert: How You Can Help CAIR & MLFA Defeat Texas Governor Abbott (https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/uscmo-action-alert-how-you-can-help-cair-mlfa-defeat-texas-governor-abbott/)

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TEXANS TAKE ACTION: CALL ON STATE LAWMAKERS TO REJECT GOVERNOR ABBOTT'S ANTI-MUSLIM HYSTERIA AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL PROCLAMATION (https://www.cair.com/action_alerts/texans-take-action-call-on-state-lawmakers-to-reject-governor-abbotts-anti-muslim-hysteria-and-unconstitutional-proclamation/)

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CAIR Action Alert: Tell Ron DeSantis to Stop Wasting Time with Israel First Political Stunts Like 'No Sharia Act'

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CAIR Action Alert: Tell Ron DeSantis to Stop Wasting Time with Israel First Political Stunts Like 'No Sharia Act'

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Exhibit 14

6/26/26, 1:44 PM

FL Cabinet members question receipt of taxpayer dollars by Islamic schools • Florida Phoenix

Florida **Phoenix** 

FL Cabinet members question receipt of taxpayer dollars by Islamic schools

The state's expanded 'school choice' voucher system allows funding for these schools.

BY: **LIV CAPUTO** - OCTOBER 27, 2025 4:30 PM



📷 AG James Uthmeier, Gov. Ron DeSantis, CFO Blaise Ingoglia, and Ag Commissioner Wilton Simpson at a Cabinet meeting on Sep. 30, 2025. (Photo by Liv Caputo/Florida Phoenix)

All three members of the Florida Cabinet are questioning the legality of the state voucher system that has steered taxpayer-funded scholarships to private Islamic schools that they contend undermine “Western” values.

Attorney General James Uthmeier, Chief Financial Officer Blaise Ingoglia, and Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson, all Republicans and allies of the governor, are wondering whether Florida's universal [school voucher](#) system allowing Floridians to attend certain private schools at discounted rates can be properly extended to the Hifz Academy and Bayaan Academy, Islamic schools in Tampa now accepting these scholarships.

The Cabinet, although powerful, lacks authority to set policy or stymie funding from the state to specific schools. That power resides with the Department of Education, which did not respond to a request for comment.

6/26/26, 1:44 PM

FL Cabinet members question receipt of taxpayer dollars by Islamic schools • Florida Phoenix

“Sharia law seeks to destroy and supplant the pillars of our republican form of government and is incompatible with the Western tradition,” [said](#) Uthmeier, who serves as Florida’s chief legal officer, on social media Monday. “The use of taxpayer-funded school vouchers to promote Sharia law likely contravenes Florida law and undermines our national security.”

However, his office declined to say whether he’d pursue an investigation.

In a statement to the Phoenix, Ingoglia said his office is looking into these schools through a potential audit.

“We have the ability. We’re already looking into it,” said the Spring Hill Republican, who’s led a statewide program of searching through the finances of local governments for potential “waste, fraud, and abuse.”

Simpson, the former Florida Senate president who championed universal school choice, insisted in a statement to the Phoenix: “Schools that indoctrinate Sharia law should not be a part of our taxpayer-funded school voucher program.”

Of note, Florida’s school voucher program applies to 2,278 private schools, and 82% of participating students attend a religious school. Roman Catholic schools are the [single largest](#) religious recipients.

Cabinet members are elected statewide and independent of the governor. DeSantis appointed Uthmeier and Ingoglia earlier this year to fill vacancies.

‘No place in the USA’

This wouldn’t be the first time Florida has nixed voucher funds for schools.

Most recently, DeSantis in 2023 directed the education department to [pull voucher funds](#) from schools with alleged ties to the Chinese Communist Party. Before that, the DOE in 2003 [dropped](#) voucher funds for Tampa’s Islamic Academy of Florida after two of its affiliates were charged (and later convicted) for [terrorism ties](#).

The Republicans’ push to more closely examine the schools’ finances comes amid a broader push to crack down on Sharia Law, Islam’s legal system, derived from the Quran. This was largely sparked by the Oct. 7 massacre by the Islamic militant group Hamas on Israelis two years ago, which led to a war that has only just begun to [wind down](#).

A Florida member of Congress has since filed a bill to outlaw enforcement of Shari’a Law in American systems, and a state representative months later filed [nearly identical](#) language in the Florida Legislature. Neither bill appeared to be based on any example of Sharia law in the U.S., but were described as [preventative](#). Neither measure would apply to school voucher funding.

6/26/26, 1:44 PM

FL Cabinet members question receipt of taxpayer dollars by Islamic schools • Florida Phoenix

The governor's office referred the Phoenix to a post by DeSantis in early October insisting that Sharia law "has no place in the USA" and is "incompatible" with the Constitution, and did not indicate that he would instruct DOE to pull their funding.

The word "Sharia" did not appear on the websites of either [Hifz Academy](#) nor [Bayaan Academy](#).

Where did the controversy come from?

The [RAIR Foundation](#), a right-wing media organization dedicated to opposing communism and "Islamic Supremacy," last week [published](#) a lengthy article and two videos claiming that Florida's school choice vouchers are being used to build "Sharia-run institutions" that "convert public dollars into permanent Islamic infrastructure."

It pointed to two private Islamic schools in Tampa teaching both Islam and traditional school subjects at the K-12 level that accept school vouchers. Hifz was founded in 2011 and teaches 460 students at a rate of \$9,600 per K-6th grader and \$10,000 for every 7th-12th grader. Bayaan was founded in 2015 and teaches 200 students at a rate of \$12,700 per K-5th grader, \$14,700 per 6th-11th grader, and \$7,350 per twelfth grader.

The article claims that Bayaan Academy's principal, Magda Elkadi Saleh, is the daughter of the late Ahmed Elkadi, a founding member of the U.S. Muslim Brotherhood. South Florida congressmen earlier this year attempted to designate the Muslim Brotherhood a [terrorist organization](#) for allegedly supporting terrorist groups.

Such scholarships for religious schools were first made possible by a 1999 law under then-Gov. Jeb Bush for low-income students searching outside the public school system. In 2023, the Legislature expanded the law to allow any Floridian, regardless of income, to apply for vouchers to go to private schools accepting these scholarships.

According to Step Up For Students, the nonprofit that administers most of the state's scholarships, Florida's school choice programs provide an average of between \$7,700 and \$8,500 to students attending non-public schools. More than 122,000 new students started using vouchers in the 2023-24 school year.

Hifz Academy has brought in \$15,711,396 in scholarship funds since 2015 while Bayaan Academy has brought in \$2,668,694 since 2017, according to data from Step Up. Of note, parents decide where the scholarship funds go, not Step Up.

When asked for comment, the Council for American-Islamic Relations referred the Phoenix to a [Huffington Post article](#) on RAIR's founder, Amy Mekelburg, documenting her controversial past; this includes calling former President Barack Obama a "jihadist," attempting to free a man convicted of killing his girlfriend, and encouraging readers to follow a man known to praise Adolf Hitler.

6/26/26, 1:44 PM

FL Cabinet members question receipt of taxpayer dollars by Islamic schools • Florida Phoenix

Update: This story now includes data on the scholarship funds received by Hifz Academy and Bayaan Academy over the past decade.

Exhibit 15

6/30/26, 10:33 AM

Wilton Simpson on X: "As Senate President, universal school choice was one of my top legislative priorities. Schools that indoctrin...

[←](#) **Post****Wilton Simpson** ✓

@WiltonSimpson



As Senate President, universal school choice was one of my top legislative priorities. Schools that indoctrinate Sharia law should not be a part of our taxpayer-funded school voucher program.

**Attorney General James Uthmeier** ✓ @AGJamesUthmeier · Oct 27, 2025

Sharia law seeks to destroy and supplant the pillars of our republican form of government and is incompatible with the Western tradition.

The use of taxpayer-funded school vouchers to promote Sharia law likely contravenes Florida law and undermines our national security.

6:12 PM · Oct 27, 2025 · **7.5K** Views

27



24



118



1

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Exhibit 16

6/26/26, 1:45 PM

Ron DeSantis on X: "The wages of sharia..." / X



Ron DeSantis ✓
@RonDeSantis

...

The wages of sharia...



Fox News ✓ @FoxNews · Dec 1, 2025

'COWARDLY': Syrian woman Ryan Al Najjar was found dead in the Netherlands, submerged in a lake with her hands and feet tightly bound, after she was allegedly targeted by her father and brothers for refusing to wear a headscarf in public-like settings.

...



10:05 PM · Dec 1, 2025 · **244.5K** Views



308



1.1K



6.6K



121



Read 308 replies

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Exhibit 17

6/29/26, 3:10 PM

Florida's Voice on X: "JUST IN: Gov. Ron DeSantis announced the signing of major legislation in Florida banning the imposition of ...

[←](#) **Post****Florida's Voice** ✓

@FLVoiceNews

...

JUST IN: Gov. Ron DeSantis announced the signing of major legislation in Florida banning the imposition of Sharia law statewide, prohibiting state funding for groups affiliated with CAIR or the Muslim Brotherhood, outlawing Green New Deal-style policies like carbon taxes at the local level, and extending the statewide DEI ban to all local governments

@GovRonDeSantis: "There's a lot of other things that we've been doing."



7:48 PM · Apr 24, 2026 · 13.6K Views



48



526



2.3K



35

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Exhibit 18

6/29/26, 2:56 PM

Attorney General James Uthmeier on X: "I joined Newsmax to discuss Florida's newly signed legislation that bans Sharia Law. https..."

[←](#) **Post****Attorney General James Uthmeier** ✓

@AGJamesUthmeier

I joined Newsmax to discuss Florida's newly signed legislation that bans Sharia Law.

8:53 PM · Apr 8, 2026 · **14.8K** Views

28



73



343



8

**Read 28 replies****Don't miss what's happening**

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[Log in](#)[Sign up](#)<https://x.com/AGJamesUthmeier/status/2041982723892326557#m>

1/1

Exhibit 19

6/26/26, 2:44 PM

Ron DeSantis on X: "We have a responsibility to defend and reinvigorate Western Civilization and that means protecting against cr...

**Ron DeSantis**
@RonDeSantis

...

We have a responsibility to defend and reinvigorate Western Civilization and that means protecting against creeping sharia in all its forms.

**Ron DeSantis** @GovRonDeSantis · Apr 6

To uphold the rule of law, our state must operate under one legal system, the Constitution must remain the law of the land, and we must defend our institutions from those who would harm us—especially terrorist organizations that seek to infiltrate and subvert our education [Show more](#)

BANNING SHARIA LAW

Governor Ron DeSantis signed HB 1471, strengthening constitutional protections and establishing new safeguards against terrorist organizations operating in Florida.

FLORIDA'S RECORD

Florida has taken a consistent approach to protecting its institutions and residents:

- Designated the Muslim Brotherhood and CAIR as terrorist organizations in Florida
- Directed all levels of government to deny contracts, taxpayer funding, public employment, and benefits to those providing material support
- Directed law enforcement to use all lawful tools to prevent terrorist organizations from operating or gaining a foothold
- Strengthened oversight of foreign influence in higher education
- Prohibited partnerships between Florida institutions and foreign adversaries
- Ensured taxpayer dollars are not used to support dangerous or destabilizing ideologies
- Expanded law enforcement tools to identify and respond to emerging threats

HB 1471 | STRENGTHENING CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

PROTECTS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- Prohibits courts from applying or enforcing foreign or religious law if it violates constitutional rights
- Blocks foreign judgments, contracts, or legal provisions that attempt to bypass those protections
- Affirms the U.S. and Florida Constitutions as the supreme law in all cases
- Ensures there are no legal loopholes that undermine constitutional protections

INCREASES ACCOUNTABILITY IN EDUCATION

- Prohibits the use of taxpayer funds to support or promote terrorist organizations
- Allows loss of state funding for institutions that violate these provisions
- Requires disciplinary action, including expulsion, for students who promote terrorist violence
- Ensures public funds are not used to reward or subsidize extremist activity
- Keeps campuses focused on education—not foreign influence, propaganda, or ideological indoctrination

STRENGTHENS COUNTERTERRORISM AUTHORITY

- Creates a formal process to designate domestic terrorist organizations operating in the United States
- Empowers FDLE's Chief of Domestic Security to recommend designation when groups pose an ongoing threat to public safety
- Enables enforcement against federally designated foreign terrorist organizations at the state level
- Prohibits state and local governments, and public institutions, from funding or supporting designated organizations
- Allows for dissolution of entities tied to terrorist activity
- Establishes criminal penalties for providing material support or resources
- Provides a clear, enforceable framework to identify and stop threats before they take hold

10:47 PM · Apr 6, 2026 · 124.1K Views

415

1.9K

8.1K

120



Read 415 replies

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Exhibit 20



Transcript of Florida State Senate

Date: March 5, 2026

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8 TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEO-RECORDED
9 TESTIMONY OF THE
10 FLORIDA STATE SENATE
11 MARCH 5, 2026

12
13 SENATE BILL 1632 & 1634
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20 Job No.: 639006

21 Pages: 1 - 79

22 Transcribed by: Christian Naaden

Transcript of Florida State Senate
Conducted on March 5, 2026

74

1 based on their First Amendment protected beliefs.

2 A new state law that grants a small group
3 of executive officials the power to brand
4 organizations as terrorists and then purports to
5 criminalize associations with them would dangerously
6 expand state powers to target Floridians who
7 disagree with the government and subject them to
8 unjustified surveillance, investigation, and
9 criminal and civil fo- -- punishments. What a
10 particular official labels today as terrorism might
11 be deeply influenced by their political, racial,
12 religious, and ideological biases as well as
13 corporate interests. To -- tomorrow, that might look
14 different. And that's why we need to be careful
15 about who we label as terrorists. Also, in
16 reality, the Florida and federal governments already
17 possess abundant investigation and prosecutorial
18 tools to identify, investigate, and prosecute
19 terrorism-related crime whether committed in the
20 United States or abroad. Wrongly designating a group
21 as terrorists or assuming someone is materially
22 supporting terrorism can have serious long-term

Transcript of Florida State Senate
Conducted on March 5, 2026

75

1 consequences.

2 The stigma of being falsely labeled as a
3 supporter of terrorism could have a devastating
4 impact on an individual's personal and professional
5 life.

6 Unfortunately, the state has the -- would
7 have the power to abuse this authority to target its
8 political opponents and rely on the stigma of the
9 designation and fear of criminal charges to cro- --
10 and crippling legal fees to stifle dissent and chill
11 speech and advocacy here in the state.

12 Florida already has more than adequate
13 tools to protect, por- -- to prosecute actual
14 criminal conduct. We don't need this law. Thank you.

15 SEN. BRODEUR: Additional debate? Senator
16 Grall, you are recognized to close on the bill.

17 SEN. GRALL: Thank you, Mr. President. And
18 thank you all for the discussion today and in the
19 prior committees. I am aware of the opinion that
20 came out yesterday about the executive order. And I
21 would note that there has been an injunction that's
22 in place for one of the organizations, but not all.

Transcript of Florida State Senate
Conducted on March 5, 2026

76

1 And so, there is an open question about what our
2 governor will be able to do through executive order.

3 I think that this conversation has given us
4 the opportunity to set up a framework that is very
5 similar to the federal government so that we do have
6 consideration of certain specific facts, certain
7 specific crimes that are defined in statute. We don't
8 -- this bill isn't about one person's opinion of
9 what is terrorism versus another person's opinion of
10 terrorism. That is defined in Florida statute. We
11 have not touched the definition of terrorism.

12 It is one that has -- it's consistent with
13 the federal definition. It's consistent with what we
14 use with regard to the designation of federal -- or
15 foreign terrorist organizations. And so, what this
16 bill seeks to do is to establish a process by which
17 a group of -- you know, it's -- I don't consider our
18 governor and cabinet, I guess, just a group of some
19 executive officials.

20 They are the -- the highest statewide
21 elected officials in the state of Florida, the third
22 largest state in the country. They are elected by

Transcript of Florida State Senate
Conducted on March 5, 2026

77

1 everyone who sends us here. And that's how they will
2 be held accountable for their actions and with these
3 decisions. I mean, yes, these are very significant
4 decision.

5 But they deserve not to be the topic, like
6 I have said, of a press conference or a press
7 release, but of a process -- a deliberative process
8 of consideration of evidence before we throw around
9 the word terrorists, domestic terrorists. We talk
10 about it all the time in this chamber how the -- the
11 rhetoric and the vocabulary sometimes brings the
12 temperature up.

13 What this does, in my firm belief, is it
14 says if you meet these criteria, then we may move
15 forward in a certain way. We should not use words
16 that carry such large implications if, in fact, you
17 have not met the criteria.

18 I think we've done a lot in this -- in the
19 amendments that you seen today in order to make this
20 easier for our universities to understand, for the
21 public to understand about what the expectation is
22 with regard to their interaction with a designated

Transcript of Florida State Senate
Conducted on March 5, 2026

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Chris Naaden, a transcriber, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that to the best of my ability from the audio recordings and supporting information; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome, the above 78 pages contain a full, true and correct transcription of the tape-recording that I received regarding the event listed on the caption on page 1.

I further declare that I have no interest in the event of the action.



June 23, 2026

Chris Naaden

(639006 FL State Senate SB 1632 & 1634 & HB 1471 3-5-26)

Exhibit 21

6/26/26, 2:28 PM

DeSantis office drafted bill to label domestic terrorists | Miami Herald

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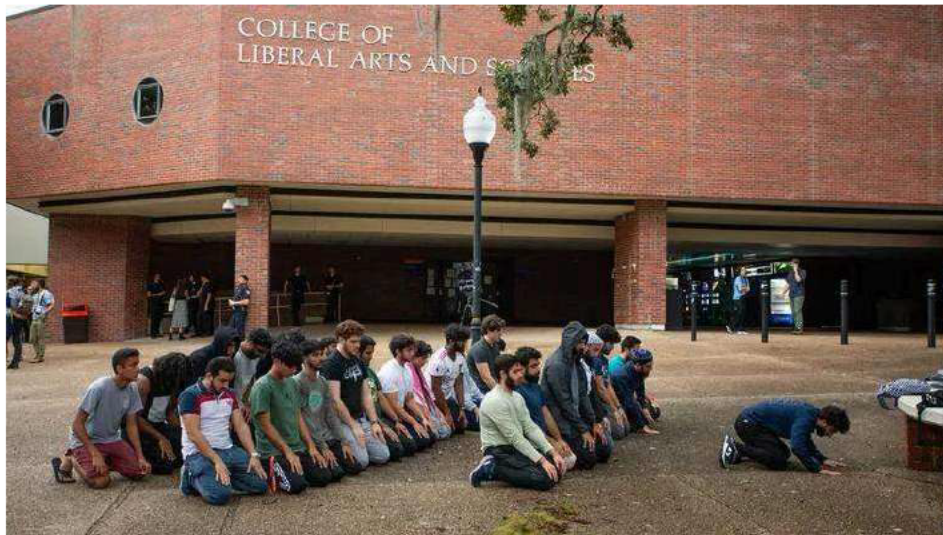
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FLORIDA POLITICS

Florida Gov. DeSantis' office authored a 'terrorist' bill, records show

By Lawrence Mower *Herald/Times Tallahassee Bureau*

Updated March 10, 2026 5:14 PM



Students gather for prayer at the University of Florida's Turlington Hall after a teach-in organized by the Students for Justice in Palestine to discuss the Israel-Hamas war on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, in Gainesville. The DeSantis administration now says the group must be "deactivated" on Florida's public university campuses. [LUIS SANTANA | Times]

TALLAHASSEE

Listen to this article

Gov. Ron DeSantis' office is behind a bill blasted by free speech advocates that would give him new powers to target college students.

Emails obtained through a records request show that DeSantis staffers last year wrote an original draft of SB 1632, which would allow the governor to label groups as "domestic terrorist organizations" and expel college students who support them.

The Senate passed a companion bill, HB 1471, last week. It is a House vote away from heading to DeSantis' desk.

6/26/26, 2:28 PM

DeSantis office drafted bill to label domestic terrorists | Miami Herald

The records shed light on the origins of the legislation, which followed years of pro-Palestinian protests on college campuses that DeSantis has tried to stamp out. In 2023, for example, DeSantis [ordered the removal of two chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine](#) after the head of the state university system said the groups were illegally supporting terrorists.

On Nov. 20, DeSantis' deputy legislative affairs director, Chad Kunde, emailed a draft of SB 1632 to Sen. Erin Grall, a Vero Beach Republican who later sponsored it. Metadata shows the draft was created and edited by members of DeSantis' Office of Policy and Budget.

The governor's proposal included giving him the authority, through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement he oversees, to label groups as "domestic terrorist organizations." The current version requires those designations be approved by the governor as well as members of the Cabinet.

The draft did not mention automatically expelling college students who "support" those organizations, as the latest version does.

Instead, the governor's team proposed higher criminal penalties for people arrested on charges relating to "benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a designated domestic terrorist organization."

Pro-Palestinian protesters who were arrested in 2024 for disobeying a lawful order at the University of Florida, for example, would have seen the charge increased from a second-degree misdemeanor to a first-degree misdemeanor, which carries a penalty of up to a year in jail.

Or protesters arrested for resisting an officer without violence, a first-degree misdemeanor, would instead face a first-degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison.

Those provisions are no longer in the bill.

The bill would also bar supporters of "terrorist organizations" from receiving state funds — a response to reports of Islamic schools receiving vouchers.

Grall and the House sponsor, Dania Beach Republican Rep. Hillary Cassel, have also touted a provision not included in DeSantis' proposal: barring courts from considering religious codes, including Islamic Sharia law, in legal cases.

Grall and Cassel have said Sharia law sometimes comes up in contract and family disputes.

"The Governor's office provided feedback on the language in the bill," Grall said in a text message. "The final bill was responsive to issues raised during committees and on the Senate floor, as well as my collaboration with Representative Cassel."

Cassel did not respond to a request for comment.

6/26/26, 2:28 PM

DeSantis office drafted bill to label domestic terrorists | Miami Herald

DeSantis has billed himself as a champion for free speech. But the legislation has been denounced by free speech groups, including the First Amendment Foundation.

Tyler Coward, lead counsel for government affairs at the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, said the student provisions are “flatly unconstitutional.”

The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held that it is unconstitutional to limit speech, even speech in support of terrorist groups, he noted.

In 1972, the court ruled that campus organizations can’t be denied recognition if chapters at other schools engaged in violence. In 2010, it ruled that “material support” for terrorist organizations included actual support in the form of contributions — not speech or writing.

Grall tried to assuage those concerns last week by clarifying when a student would be considered to be promoting a terrorist organization. It would have to include a student making a statement supporting or approving a terrorist organization’s “extralegal violence.”

Coward said the change is still unconstitutional because it’s a “content-based punishment for speech.”

“As is often the case, last-minute additions like this to fix constitutional problems oftentimes miss the mark,” Coward said.

DeSantis spokesperson Gatlin Nennstiel did not answer questions about the free speech concerns.

“The legislation you reference is part of Governor Desantis’ ongoing effort to keep Florida free and safe,” Nennstiel said in a statement.

He pointed to DeSantis’ executive order in December naming the Council on American Islamic Relations a terrorist organization.

A federal judge temporarily stopped that executive order on free speech grounds last week.

This story was originally published March 10, 2026 at 5:09 PM.

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Exhibit 22

Extract of Statements Made by Representative Hillary Cassel Before

House Judiciary Committee Meeting on February 26, 2026¹

Representative Hillary Cassel: You can still protest in support of ideologies that you believe, but what you can't do on a college campus is if you've been designated through the due process that this bill provides to be named a domestic terrorist organization, which currently, by the way, there is no process currently, the governor signs an executive order, which I support designating the Muslim Brotherhood and care as a domestic terrorist organizations. He signed an executive order. That's our current process. We could go back to that members. But what my bill does is actually create a due process for these organizations. It gives them notice, it gives them a public hearing, it gives them a vote, and it gives them access to judicial review and an opportunity to petition to be removed, and only after they've been designated.

¹ Florida House Committee on Judiciary Meeting, recording of proceeding, at 2:28:44 (Feb. 26, 2026), <https://www.flhouse.gov/VideoPlayer.aspx?eventID=11180>.

Exhibit 23

Extract of Florida House Floor Debate on March 3, 2026¹

Representative Rayner: Is there an evidentiary standard in the bill that governs the chief or the cabinet's designation decision? And if so, can you point to the page number and line?

Representative Cassell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Representative, for that question. This is not a judicial process, so there is no evidentiary standard. However, the bill creates a significant amount of due process prior to the designation of the domestic terrorist organization.

¹ Florida House Committee Floor Debate, recording of proceeding, at 3:41:00 (Mar. 3, 2026), <https://www.flhouse.gov/VideoPlayer.aspx?eventID=11197>.

Exhibit 24

6/29/26, 3:09 PM

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7/1/26, 7:40 PM

Ron DeSantis on X: "Governor DeSantis Announces Implementation of Florida Law to Combat Terrorist Organizations <https://t.co/Wf...>



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Exhibit 26

7/1/26, 3:49 PM

Ron DeSantis on X: "Last December, I signed an Executive Order to eliminate the influence of radical terrorist ideologies and the org..."



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Ron DeSantis ✓
@GovRonDeSantis

...

Last December, I signed an Executive Order to eliminate the influence of radical terrorist ideologies and the organizations that promote them in Florida. This year, I signed legislation to strengthen those protections and give Florida permanent statutory tools to combat terrorism while defending the Constitutional rights of our citizens.

Today, we are officially designating terrorist organizations under Florida law. In addition to CAIR and the Muslim Brotherhood, we are adding Antifa to the list—along with more than 90 Foreign Terrorist Organizations, including cartels.



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7/1/26, 7:45 PM

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FLORIDA FIGHTS TERRORISM

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS ANNOUNCES THE RECEIPT OF THE FIRST NOTICES OF INTENT TO DESIGNATE TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS UNDER FLORIDA'S NEW STATUTORY AUTHORITY ESTABLISHED BY HB 1471.

FLORIDA'S RECORD

Last December, an Executive Order directed state agencies to eliminate the influence of radical terrorist ideologies and organizations operating in Florida by denying taxpayer funding, contracts, and other public support where authorized by law.

Florida has also reduced foreign influence in higher education by restricting partnerships with foreign countries of concern, prohibiting taxpayer-funded programs that benefit foreign adversaries, and strengthening protections against extremist activity on public campuses.

In April, Governor DeSantis signed HB 1471, creating a permanent statutory framework to combat terrorism while protecting the constitutional rights of Floridians. The law:

- Establishes a formal terrorist designation process through FDLE.
- Prohibits foreign or religious legal codes from overriding constitutional rights in Florida courts.
- Prevents public institutions from supporting designated terrorist organizations.
- Creates state enforcement mechanisms and criminal penalties under state law.

TODAY'S ACTION

Today, Governor DeSantis announced the first terrorist organization designations under Florida law. The notices of intent include:

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Muslim Brotherhood
Antifa

Florida has also received notices of intent covering more than 90 federally designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations, including:

- o Cartel de Sinaloa
- o Tren de Aragua
- o Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)
- o Cartel de Noreste
- o Cartel del Golfo

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GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS ANNOUNCES IMPLEMENTATION OF FLORIDA LAW TO COMBAT TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

July 1, 2026

TAMPA, Fla.—Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the State of Florida's intent to implement its new statutory authority to identify, designate, and combat terrorist organizations operating in Florida, marking the first use of powers established by HB 1471.

"Last December, I signed an Executive Order to eliminate the influence of radical terrorist ideologies and the organizations that promote them in Florida. This year, I signed legislation to strengthen those protections and give Florida permanent statutory tools to combat terrorism while defending the Constitutional rights of our citizens," **said Governor DeSantis**. "Today, we are officially designating terrorist organizations under Florida law. In addition to CAIR and the Muslim Brotherhood, we are adding Antifa to the list—along with more than 90 Foreign Terrorist Organizations, including cartels."

Since taking office, Governor DeSantis has prioritized protecting Florida's institutions, safeguarding constitutional rights, and

preventing foreign and extremist influence from taking root in the state.

Last December, Governor DeSantis signed an Executive Order directing state agencies to eliminate the influence of radical terrorist ideologies and organizations operating in Florida. The order designated the Muslim Brotherhood and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) as terrorist organizations for purposes of state executive action and directed state agencies to deny taxpayer funding, contracts, employment, and other public support where authorized by law. State and local agencies were also instructed to use every lawful tool available to prevent terrorist organizations from operating or gaining a foothold in Florida.

"Keeping our community safe starts with identifying the threat," said **Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Mark Glass**. "The safety of our community is strengthened by that knowledge every day, and reinforced by the collaboration between our officers, our federal partners, and—most importantly—the people we serve."

Florida has also acted to eliminate foreign influence within public institutions. The state has prohibited colleges and universities from entering into agreements with institutions affiliated with foreign countries of concern, restricted the use of taxpayer funds for programs benefiting foreign adversaries, and taken action to prevent extremist organizations from operating on public campuses.

Earlier this year, Governor DeSantis signed HB 1471, creating a permanent statutory framework to combat terrorism while protecting the constitutional rights of Floridians.

The legislation:

- Establishes a formal terrorist designation process through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.
- Prevents taxpayer-funded institutions from supporting or promoting designated terrorist organizations.
- Ensures foreign or religious legal codes cannot override the United States or Florida Constitutions in Florida courts.
- Creates state enforcement mechanisms and criminal penalties for providing material support to designated terrorist organizations.
- Under the new law, the Governor and Cabinet may designate terrorist organizations based upon recommendations from the Chief of Domestic
- Security within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The framework allows Florida to recognize federally designated Foreign

- Terrorist Organizations while also identifying additional organizations that threaten the safety and security of Floridians.

Today, based on recommendations from Florida's domestic security professionals, Governor DeSantis announced the intent to designate the following organizations under Florida law:

- Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
- Muslim Brotherhood
- Antifa

Florida has also received recommendations to designate more than 90 Foreign Terrorist Organizations under state law, including but not limited to:

- Cartel de Sinaloa
- Tren de Aragua
- Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)
- Cartel del Noreste
- Cartel del Golfo

Upon confirmation by the Florida Cabinet, these designations will carry the full force of state law. State and local governments will be prohibited from providing taxpayer funding, contracts, or other public support to designated organizations. Public colleges, universities, school districts, and other publicly funded institutions will be prohibited from using public resources to support or promote designated organizations. Organizations designated under Florida law may also be subject to dissolution as provided by statute, and individuals who knowingly provide material support or resources to designated organizations will face criminal penalties established under Florida law.

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