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Foreign Lines of Influence:

CAIR Action's Unlicensed National Political Operation and Indicators of Turkish State Alignment



IAN Intelligent
Advocacy Network

Inside CAIR Action:

A National 501(c)(4) Operating Outside the Law

Unlicensed Political Solicitation • Shared CAIR Leadership • Emerging Foreign-State Alignment • Platforming Extremism

BLUF

- **CAIR Action is a 501(c)(4) political organization** that is operating a *national* political-solicitation and voter-mobilization enterprise **without the licenses, registrations, or legal authority required in any of the 22 states where it raises money or conducts political activity.**
- The organization **does not hold even the basic business license required to lawfully operate in Washington, D.C.**, where it is incorporated and from which it directs its nationwide 501(c)(4) operations.
- As a 501(c)(4), CAIR Action is permitted to engage in political activity **but only if it complies with state and federal solicitation, registration, and reporting laws**, which it is currently evading across the entire country.
- **CAIR Action is structurally inseparable from CAIR National**, sharing senior leadership, board governance, communications infrastructure, and operational resources - raising questions of improper coordination between a 501(c)(3) and a 501(c)(4).
- CAIR Action's endorsements have already **helped elevate extremist and, in several cases, openly antisemitic political figures into office**, demonstrating real electoral impact.
- The organization's ecosystem exhibits a **converging pattern of foreign-state alignment** - including sponsorships from Turkish Airlines (state-linked), political programming hosted at the Turkish government's Diyanet Center of America, multiple CAIR leaders' appearances on Turkey's state-run broadcaster (TRT World), and technical indicators showing CAIR Action's official accounts routing through the Turkey App Store.
- **Taken together, these factors indicate that CAIR Action is functioning as an unregistered national 501(c)(4) political-influence machine operating entirely outside the regulatory framework Congress requires — with**

evidence of growing foreign-linked ties that warrant immediate federal scrutiny.

Executive Summary

CAIR Action's emergence as a national political vehicle represents a structural shift in how the Council on American-Islamic Relations conducts electoral influence. Rather than functioning as a fully separate political arm, CAIR Action operates within the same broader ecosystem as CAIR National, with overlapping personnel, shared messaging, and coordinated strategic objectives that move fluidly across both entities.

Developed jointly by the Network Contagion Research Institute (NCRI) and the Intelligent Advocacy Network (IAN), this report examines the structure, conduct, and compliance failures of CAIR Action and its related CAIR affiliates within the broader national network directed by CAIR National.

This structure has produced a political organization that behaves like a national campaign apparatus while leaving no regulatory footprint. Across 22 states, CAIR Action solicits donations, collects membership dues, issues endorsements, and coordinates voter mobilization without the registrations, licenses, or disclosures required of political nonprofits. Even in Washington, DC, where the group is incorporated and from where it directs its nationwide activity, CAIR Action does not possess the basic business license required to operate legally. Every solicitation and every action conducted from that jurisdiction therefore carries legal risk.

CAIR Action's political endorsements have had real and measurable electoral consequences. The organization has helped elevate candidates whose public statements include extremist and openly antisemitic rhetoric. This demonstrates that the group is not merely expressing political views but is actively shaping electoral outcomes.

Overlaying this domestic posture is a leadership environment with long-standing proximity to Turkish state-linked institutions. CAIR chapters have benefited from sponsorships by partially state-owned Turkish Airlines. CAIR has held youth leadership and political programming at the Diyanet Center of America, which is owned and operated by the Turkish government. Senior CAIR and CAIR Action figures have appeared repeatedly on TRT World, Turkey's state-owned international broadcaster. Technical indicators also show CAIR Action's accounts routing through the Turkey App Store. None of these elements alone demonstrate wrongdoing, but together they show a pattern of foreign-state alignment that heightens concern when paired with CAIR Action's unlicensed national operation.

Taken together, these dynamics form a coherent picture. CAIR Action is a national 501(c)(4) political organization operating across the country without the legal and transparency framework required of such entities. Its structural relationship with CAIR National, its regulatory evasion, its role in elevating extremist political actors, and its alignment with foreign state-linked institutions indicate a situation that requires immediate federal oversight.

Finding 1: Multi-State Activity Conducted in Violation of State and Federal Solicitation Laws

1. Washington, D.C. — Incorporated, But Operating Illegally and Exposed to Multi-State Enforcement

Despite being incorporated in Washington, D.C., CAIR Action has never obtained the Basic Business License (BBL) required to legally operate or solicit funds in its home jurisdiction — a deficiency confirmed by the D.C. Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection in September 2025 (in writing) and again in November 2025 (by phone).¹ Although CAIR Civic, Inc. formally changed its name to CAIR Action, Inc. on August 20, 2024, **no further public filings for CAIR Civic appear in any state or federal registry.**²

Nevertheless, CAIR Action continues to solicit donations and paid memberships, issue national political endorsements, and run voter-influence campaigns through its website, email lists, and digital platforms — all originating from Washington, D.C., where it lacks the legal authority to operate.

This creates **two critical vulnerabilities**:

A) Federal Criminal Exposure

- By conducting unlicensed, interstate fundraising and voter-mobilization activity from a jurisdiction where it lacks legal authority to operate, CAIR Action triggers:
 - **Wire Fraud** — *18 U.S.C. §1343*
 - **Deceptive Solicitation** — *FTC Act §5*
 - **False Statements to IRS** — *26 U.S.C. §7206* (if tax-exempt status is misrepresented)

¹ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gC096Sy-kX2xKwxdwbZejXQzHG_qyLvn/view

² https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o1cPS5R065i4cDJknf9DW5Yx_GhJucqd/view?usp=sharing

B) State Enforcement Exposure Nationwide

Because CAIR Action is not legally authorized to operate even in its home jurisdiction, **every state where it solicits can treat its fundraising and political influence as presumptively unlawful** — and since CAIR Action is openly presented as CAIR National’s political arm, **any unauthorized solicitation or electioneering it conducts becomes CAIR National’s responsibility.**

2. California — Nominal Registration, Illicit Solicitation

CAIR Action is registered in California **only** as an out-of-state nonprofit corporation.^{3 4} It is **not registered** with the Attorney General’s Registry of Charitable Trusts—required within 60 days of receiving funds in the state— has not filed the mandated **CT-1** to begin charitable operations, and CAIR Action has received **no authorization** to solicit funds, according to a letter from the California Attorney General’s Office dated November 3, 2025, which states:

“The Charitable Trusts Section has determined that neither it nor the Registry of Charities and Fundraisers have any documents responsive to your request.”⁵

Yet within California, CAIR Action continues to solicit donations and paid memberships, issue political endorsements, and direct voter-targeted mobilization campaigns—despite having no charitable authorization or solicitation registration—generating potential federal exposure across multiple agencies — including:

- DOJ and FBI concerns involving wire-fraud schemes
- FTC scrutiny for deceptive fundraising practices
- IRS red flags for false reporting and concealed political expenditures

3. The Remaining 21 States — Zero Compliance, Active Operations

Across its website, CAIR Action embeds “Donate Now” and “Become a Member” solicitations directly on the state-specific pages listing its political endorsements (e.g., cairaction.org/michigan) and all other states.⁶ These pages function as **live fundraising portals in every jurisdiction where CAIR Action claims activity.**

CAIR Action publicly lists operations in 22 states.⁷ Yet in the 21 states beyond California, multiple searches revealed **no** required corporate registration, state

³ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/100TQ21mVW2LnaEWwl1qyhSnSnkVHowNy/view>

⁴ https://drive.google.com/file/d/16kKshQDHVYL1_WQO-iAth_qn62H5DK2K/view

⁵ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JyEfhJHjXWIGeYLIqP-nIIPWAthHh4CFS/view>

⁶ <http://cairaction.org/michigan>

⁷ <https://cairaction.org/endorsements/>

charitable filings or solicitation licenses, and no legal authorization of any kind. Despite this complete absence of compliance, CAIR Action continues to solicit money, promote paid memberships, and engage voters while portraying itself as a lawful national political entity.

This pattern constitutes an unlicensed interstate political-solicitation enterprise operating entirely outside the legal framework required for entities seeking funds across state lines.

4. Federal Violations Summary

CAIR Action's unregistered, multi-state fundraising and political-mobilization operation creates exposure across several federal agencies. Its activities implicate potential violations in the following areas:

- **DOJ / FBI** — Interstate scheme to defraud
- **FTC** — Deceptive fundraising practices
- **FEC** — Undisclosed electioneering and political operations
- **IRS** — False statements and concealed political expenditures

5. Why Federal Action Is Required

The pattern of activity documented here reflects more than isolated state-level noncompliance. CAIR Action's fundraising and political operations are national in scope, affect interstate commerce and U.S. elections, evade state-by-state oversight by operating across jurisdictions, and trigger enforcement authority reserved for federal agencies in cases involving political fraud and deceptive interstate solicitation.

Finding 2: Platforming Hate: A Few of CAIR Action’s Extremist Endorsements

These CAIR Action–endorsed candidates have now won office, showing the group’s readiness to elevate radical — and in some cases openly antisemitic — figures into public power.



Hussam Ayloush, *Elected 2025/2026 Assembly District Delegate, CA Democratic Party, CEO of CAIR-CA*

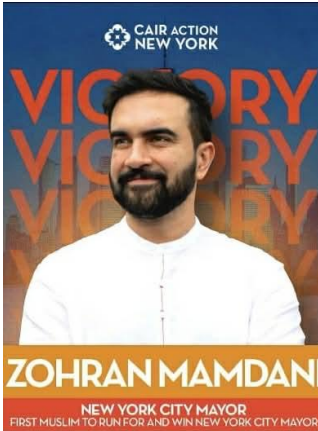
Hussam Ayloush—the CEO of CAIR-CA and Executive Director of CAIR-Greater Los Angeles—has a long record of hateful rhetoric⁸.

In November 2023 he stated:⁹ “The myth or the claim ‘Israel has the right to defend itself’: no. An occupier never has the right to defend itself.”

“Israel should be attacked. If you continue to occupy people's land, every means according to international law to defend and resist the occupation is [in] your hand...You want to pick up arms and defend your people and your land, that is a legitimate right.”

⁸ <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DRDpc-ugdl1/?igsh=YmZ1a3M3MmY0eGpx>

⁹ <https://www.jns.org/cairs-los-angeles-leader-israel-does-not-have-right-to-defend-itself/>



Zohran Mamdani, Elected NYC Mayor

At a 2023 Democratic Socialists of America panel, Mamdani attributed police brutality in New York City to the Israeli army.

“For anyone to care about these issues, we have to make them hyper-local. We have to make clear that when the boot of the NYPD is on your neck, it’s been laced by the IDF.”¹⁰

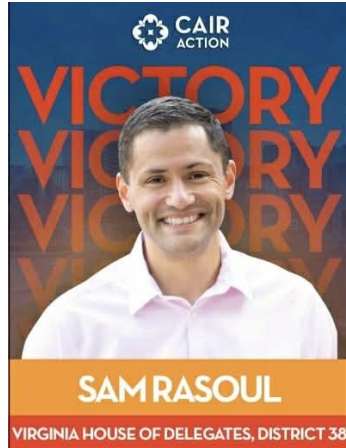


Abdullah Hammoud, Elected Dearborn Mayor, Second Term

During a September 2025 council meeting, Hammoud told local Christian minister Ted Barham, “You’re not welcome here ... the day you move out of the city will be the day I launch a parade.” Barham had objected to honoring Arab American News publisher Osama Siblani, citing Siblani’s 2022 statement praising armed “resistance” — “Everyone should fight within his means ... stones ... guns ... planes, drones ... rockets.” Barham argued the city should not celebrate someone he views as a promoter of extremist violence.¹¹

¹⁰ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/what-nyc-mayor-elect-zohran-mamdani-has-actually-said-about-jews-israel-and-antisemitism/>

¹¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6379743677112>



Sam Rasoul, Elected to Virginia House of Delegates, District 38

“Zionism has proven how evil our society can be,” Rasoul wrote in a July 26 Instagram post that described Zionism as a “supremacist ideology created to destroy and conquer everything and everyone in its way.”¹²



Katie Wilson, Elected Seattle Mayor

In a private communication, Wilson labeled Israel’s actions in Gaza as “genocide”, endorsed campaigns to sever police cooperation with Israel, and stated she is “open” to BDS-style divestment alongside “land back actions and reparations” — explicitly tying those measures to organized political mobilization and community pressure to drive success.¹³

¹² <https://jewishinsider.com/2025/08/virginia-sam-rasoul-zionism-education-committee-democrat/>

¹³ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gZvmTrWQD72DlxNWYjrTJ8x-iwwqw8rG/view>

Finding 3: Shared Leadership and Entangled Organizational Structure

At least eight shared personnel between CAIR Action and CAIR, include:

- Edward Ahmed Mitchell (Deputy Director of CAIR and CAIR Action board member¹⁴)
- Ahmed Rehab (Executive Director of CAIR-Chicago¹⁵ and CAIR Action Advisory Board member¹⁶)
- Ali Aljarrah (Vice Chairman of CAIR-NJ¹⁷ and State Lead/Senior Advisor for CAIR Action NJ^{18,19,20})
- Sameeha Rizvi (Civic Engagement Organizer at CAIR Texas²¹ and CAIR Action Texas Policy and Advocacy Coordinator²²)
- Samya Mohammad (CAIR Maryland Advisory Board member²³ and CAIR Action Senior Consultant for Policy & Advocacy²⁴)
- Manal Fakhoury (CAIR National Board of Directors Chair²⁵ and CAIR Action Board of Directors Secretary^{26,27})
- Eyas Abdeen (CAIR National Board of Directors Treasurer²⁸ and CAIR Action Chief Financial Officer²⁸)
- Emad Sabbah (CAIR National Board of Directors Vice Chair²⁹ and unspecified CAIR Action corporate officer³⁰)

¹⁴ <https://www.cair.com/ourstaff/edward-ahmed-mitchell-deputy-director/>

¹⁵ <https://www.cairchicago.org/our-staff/ahmed-rehab>

¹⁶ <https://cairaction.org/press-release/cair-action-lambasts-the-dnc-for-blatant-erasure-of-palestinian-suffering-calls-on-harris-walz-campaign-to-heed-voters-desire-for-change/>

¹⁷ <https://cair-nj.org/our-board/>

¹⁸ <https://www.instagram.com/p/DMbVFyPRT49/>

¹⁹ <https://newjerseyglobe.com/campaigns/cair-action-nj-endorses-ali-in-jersey-city-sixteen-candidates-for-assembly/>

²⁰ <https://cairaction.org/press-release/for-immediate-release-cair-action-nj-announces-election-wins-and-preliminary-muslim-exit-survey-results-from-2025-general-election/>

²¹ <https://cairtx.org/about-us/our-team>

²² <https://cairaction.org/press-release/cair-action-texas-condemns-partisan-mid-decade-redistricting-proposal/>

²³ https://www.cair.com/press_releases/breaking-cair-iman-network-welcome-just-closure-of-probe-targeting-johns-hopkins-physician-who-protested-gaza-genocide/

²⁴ <https://googlegroups.com/a/isb.org/group/community/attach/c6da0bd77db2/CAIR%20ACTION%20LAUNCH.pdf>

²⁵ https://www.cair.com/national_board_of_directors/dr-manal-fakhoury-3/

²⁶ https://drive.google.com/file/d/16kKshQDHVYL1_WQO-iAth_qn62H5DK2K/view

²⁷ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o1cPS5R065i4cDJknf9DW5Yx_GhJucqd/view

²⁸ https://www.cair.com/national_board_of_directors/eyas-abdeen-national-board-member/

²⁹ https://www.cair.com/national_board_of_directors/emad-sabbah-national-board-member/

³⁰ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/100TQ21mVW2LnaEWwl1qyhSnSnkVHowNy/view>

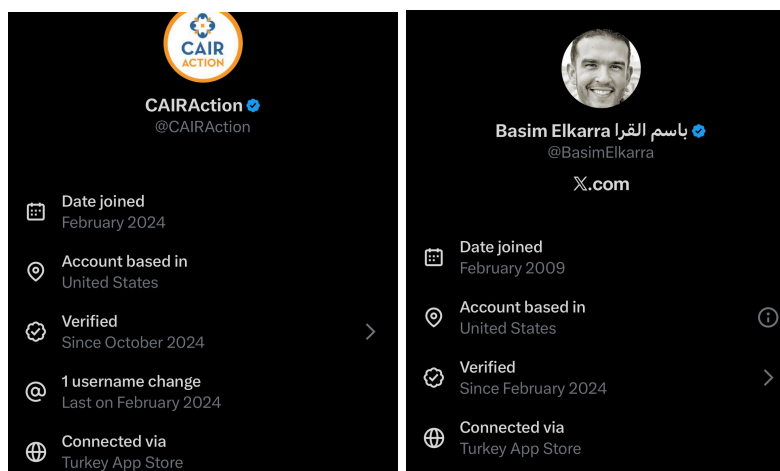
23 of the 84 (27%) published statements (press releases, “Action Alerts”, and editorials) on the CAIR Action website since its inception in late 2024 were published jointly with CAIR.

Finding 4: Foreign Funding Streams and External Influence Ties

The evidence demonstrates that foreign-state-linked institutions have provided financial and in-kind support to the organizational ecosystem that houses CAIR Action. This does not directly allege direction or command by a foreign government, it demonstrates that CAIR and CAIR Action consistently align with, host, promote, praise, and benefit from the very Turkish state-linked institutions that provide them with finance, media platforms, and facilities.

Evidence shows that CAIR Action and the senior leadership of CAIR National maintain a pattern of sustained financial, political, and organizational ties with institutions funded or controlled by the Government of Turkey. These ties include event sponsorships, leadership engagements, and coordination with Turkish state-aligned media and companies, especially **Turkish Airlines**.

In addition, new technical indicators reveal that CAIR Action’s political communications infrastructure is being accessed through the **Turkey App Store**, further underscoring the need for federal review. CAIR Action responded several days later via X, stating that the CAIR Action Director (presumably Basim Elkarra) had set up the account while visiting family in Istanbul³¹. However, this explanation leaves lingering questions as the “Account based in”, not the “Connected via”, feature is the one vulnerable to user travel; it also does not sufficiently explain why a U.S. citizen only just visiting family abroad would maintain an account and likely a saved payment method (given the CAIR Action X account’s paid premium status) on the Turkish app store.



³¹ <https://x.com/cairaction/status/1993077930935906806>

Turkish Airlines as a State-Linked Vehicle

Turkish Airlines is Turkey’s state flag carrier and is treated as a state-related company: roughly half of its shares are held by the Turkish government through its sovereign wealth fund, with the remainder publicly traded. As a result, U.S. investigators and compliance professionals already view Turkish Airlines as a **government-linked instrument of influence**, not a neutral commercial sponsor. The airline has appeared in **FARA exhibits**³² as a **reported sponsor** and features prominently in the **federal corruption and foreign-influence case surrounding New York City Mayor Eric Adams**³³, where heavily discounted Turkish Airlines travel and upgrades are alleged to have formed part of a scheme tied to Turkish government interests. In that context, Turkish Airlines’ role as a repeat sponsor and partner of CAIR chapters is not benign corporate philanthropy; it is a **state-linked funding stream**.

Foreign-Funded Sponsorships and Organizational Support

Multiple CAIR chapters — including CAIR-Chicago, CAIR-LA, and CAIR-NY — have relied on **Turkish Airlines**, a partially state-owned entity, as a key sponsor. Documented examples include:

- **“Official Sponsor”** of CAIR-Chicago’s 8th Annual Banquet, helping raise **\$235,000** in total revenue³⁴.
- **Bronze+ Sponsor** of CAIR-NY’s 25th Anniversary Gala (2023)³⁵, donating between **\$2,500–\$5,000**.³⁶
- **Organizational sponsor** for CAIR-LA (2016)³⁷
 - Providing airline tickets for CAIR-LA used for fundraising raffles (2014).³⁸



³² <https://efile.fara.gov/docs/6296-Exhibit-AB-20150521-1.pdf>

³³ <https://www.cityandstateny.com/media/general/2024/9/eric-adams-federal-indictment.pdf>

³⁴ <https://www.cairchicago.org/blog/blog/2012/03/success-banquet-wrap-up-thank-you>

³⁵ https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cairnewyork_thanks-to-turkish-airlines-for-being-a-bronze-activity-7123292223323942912-wnoi

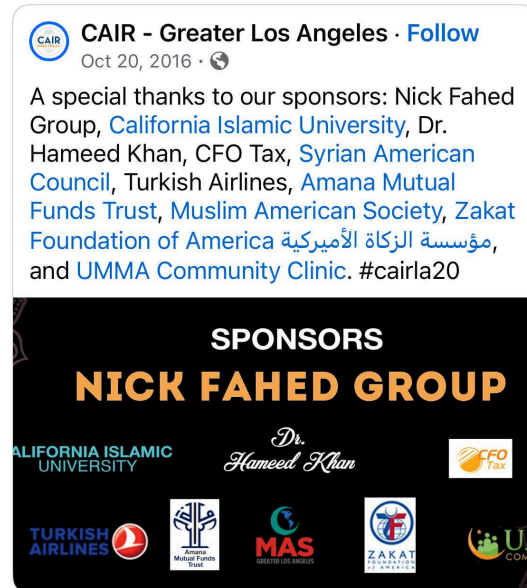
³⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1112764610920483&set=pcb.1112764700920474>

³⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/cairgla/photos/a.259334470172/10157641681965173/>

³⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/599734824/posts/10152561817314825/>

<  **Hussam Ayloush**  Oct 20, 2016 • 

Thank you to those whose support make it possible for CAIR-LA to promote understanding, justice, and freedom. We couldn't challenge bigotry, injustice, and ignorance without such support. Thank you.



Direct Collaboration with a Foreign Government Ministry: The Diyanet Center of America

The Diyanet Center of America (DCA) is run by Turkey's Directorate of Religious Affairs³⁹, and serves as the U.S. campus for Turkey's Directorate of Religious Affairs (Diyanet), a fully Turkish-state owned ministry⁴⁰. The facility in Maryland was built with Turkish-state support, inaugurated by Turkish-government officials, and functions as a cultural-religious complex hosting education, community, and leadership programs.

CAIR chapters have repeatedly held youth-leadership and political-social programming at DCA (in **2016**⁴¹, **2019**⁴², **2024**⁴³, and **2025**⁴⁴). Given DCA's institutional

³⁹ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/us-turkish-religious-head-calls-for-muslims-to-reunite/1028996>

⁴⁰ <https://nordicmonitor.com/2025/02/erdogans-notorious-religious-authority-eyes-global-expansion-aiming-to-reach-2-1-million-abroad-in-2025/>

⁴¹ https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cairs-2nd-maryland-muslim-youth-leadership-symposium-myls-a-success/

⁴² https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-5th-annual-maryland-muslim-youth-leadership-symposium-myls-a-success/

⁴³ https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-9th-annual-muslim-youth-leadership-symposium-myls-on-capitol-hill-a-success-thanks-to-sponsors-support/

⁴⁴ https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-thanks-sponsors-community-for-successful-conclusion-of-10th-annual-youth-leadership-symposium-myls/

linkage to the Turkish government and the broader role of the Diyanet in Turkey's global diaspora influence strategy, this partnership constitutes **direct interaction** with a foreign-government entity⁴⁵ in the context of U.S. domestic political-mobilization.

TRT World: Foreign-State Media Amplification

TRT (Türkiye Radyo ve Televizyon Kurumu) is Turkey's **state-owned international broadcaster**, funded by the Turkish government and widely recognized as aligned with President Erdoğan's political messaging. It functions as **Ankara's foreign-facing influence channel**, similar to RT (Russia), CGTN (China), or PressTV (Iran).

Hussam Ayloush, a senior CAIR leader and CAIR Action-endorsed political figure, gave **three exclusive interviews** to TRT World. In these appearances which CAIR reposted on its website, Instagram, and Facebook — Ayloush:

- Urged the *international community* to block U.S. arms transfers to Israel;^{46,47,48,49}
- Called a sitting U.S. president “one of the most dangerous world leaders” and “an embarrassment to America.”^{50,51,52}
- Posted pro-Erdogan content on X in 2023:⁵³
 - “**@RTErdogan** is by far even more popular in other Muslim countries because his success, respect for democracy, love for his country, dignified politics, and proud Muslim identity are everything they don't see in their respective autocratic, corrupt, and incompetent rulers. **#Turkey**

Beyond Ayloush, other senior CAIR and CAIR Action figures also maintain recurring relationships with **TRT World**. **Edward Ahmed Mitchell**, CAIR National's Deputy Director and a board advisor to CAIR Action, appeared in **three TRT World**

⁴⁵ <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/diyanet-center-of-america-dca>

⁴⁶ https://ca.cair.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2024_CairAnnualReport_Final_v5-compressed.pdf

⁴⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aV7xh53EFGc>

⁴⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/cairgla/videos/cair-la-executive-director-hussam-ayloush-discusses-pager-attacks-across-lebanon/1030711188547125/>

⁴⁹ <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DAFCMkey6TY/>

⁵⁰ <https://ca.cair.com/news/trt-world-cair-las-hussam-ayloush-discusses-trumps-meeting-with-king-of-jordan-regarding-gaza/>

⁵¹ <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DF9lsxEvnxS/>

⁵² <https://www.facebook.com/cairgla/videos/cair-la-executive-director-hussam-ayloush-comments-on-president-donald-trumps-me/637270875467385/>

⁵³ <https://x.com/hussama/status/1662918632610082816>

interviews promoted across CAIR National’s media channels.^{54,55,56} **Ahmed Rehab**, Executive Director of CAIR-Chicago and a CAIR National communications lead, gave a TRT World interview in 2019.⁵⁷ **Nihad Awad**, Executive Director and co-founder of CAIR, gave an exclusive **TRT World interview** during a U.S. election cycle.⁵⁸ Additional CAIR affiliates, including **Zainab Chaudry** (two interviews^{59,60}) and **Zanah Ghalawanji** (exclusive interview⁶¹) likewise engaged with TRT World.

In summary, **nine of the eleven** identified interviews between named CAIR officials and TRT World were specifically centered on **political messaging concerning Israel or pro-Palestine advocacy** that was aligned with Turkish geopolitical ambitions. The two remaining interviews not about Israel were also political in nature, featuring commentary on Donald Trump. These interviews **spanned a decade** – 2015 through 2025 – and required participation from **six different representatives** of CAIR.

Taken together, these repeated appearances across CAIR’s leadership and affiliates demonstrate a **systematic, multi-person pattern of engagement** with Turkey’s state-run international broadcaster, further reinforcing the foreign-alignment profile already established through CAIR’s state-linked partnerships and CAIR Action’s Turkey-linked technical indicators.

CAIR Action’s Director, Nihad Awad’s Turkey Ties

Nihad Awad — who sits at the top of the entire CAIR ecosystem — has maintained a decade-long pattern of high-level engagement with the Turkish government and its state institutions. This includes meetings with President Erdoğan at the UN General Assembly (2016⁶², 2017⁶³), participation in the Diyanet Center of America’s inauguration alongside Turkish officials⁶⁴, engagement with

⁵⁴ https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-video-un-warns-israels-blockade-of-aid-to-gaza-could-lead-to-famine-trt-world/

⁵⁵ https://www.cair.com/press_releases/video-cairs-edward-ahmed-mitchell-condemns-trumps-gaza-relocation-plan-on-trt-world/

⁵⁶ https://www.cair.com/press_releases/video-cairs-edward-ahmed-mitchell-responds-to-trumps-renewed-muslim-ban/

⁵⁷ <https://www.cairchicago.org/blog/2019/1/trt-world-now-boycott-israel-bill-interview-with-ahmed-rehab>

⁵⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQPDJGGZQs>

⁵⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/CAIRNational/videos/video-cairs-maryland-director-interviewed-on-netanyahus-joint-address-to-congress/1043708850424779/>

⁶⁰ <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DQDVJ8CjAOy/>

⁶¹ <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C1IWwMLsclu/>

⁶² <https://x.com/NihadAwad/status/778795027799609344>

⁶³ <https://x.com/NihadAwad/status/1043511892554203137>

⁶⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/CAIRNational/photos/a.92140837694/10153670981997695/>

Turkey's religious-affairs leadership⁶⁵, and attendance at pro-Erdoğan diaspora events⁶⁶.

Across the last decade, CAIR's top leadership - including Nihad Awad and senior CAIR-aligned officials - have repeatedly and officially met with Turkish government officials in formal settings⁶⁷, hosted Turkish delegations^{68,69}, honored Turkey's religious-affairs leadership⁷⁰, presented the Republic of Turkey with a Humanitarian Award at a CAIR Annual Banquet^{71,72}, and conducted outreach through the Turkish consulate⁷³. Taken together, these moments do not indicate wrongdoing, but they demonstrate long-standing institutional proximity between CAIR's leadership and the Turkish state — a backdrop that becomes relevant when evaluating CAIR Action's present Turkey-linked footprint.

These historical ties create the strategic backdrop for the contemporary indicators documented in this report:

- CAIR Action's Turkey-linked technical footprint,
- CAIR's programming inside a Turkish-government facility (Diyanet Center),
- Multiple CAIR officials appearing on Turkey's state-run broadcaster (TRT World), and
- State-linked sponsorships from Turkish Airlines.

When the present-day facts are viewed against Awad's established history, the pattern becomes clear: CAIR Action's current political operation is emerging from a leadership environment with durable, multi-channel proximity to the Turkish state - elevating the foreign-influence risk tied to its unlicensed nationwide political activity.

⁶⁵ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/us-turkish-religious-head-calls-for-muslims-to-reunite/1028996>

⁶⁶ <https://x.com/NihadAwad/status/760197169936605186>

⁶⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/CAIRNational/photos/a.92140837694/10153670981997695/>

⁶⁸ https://www.cair.com/american_muslim_news/turkish-delegation-visits-cair-invites-u-s-muslims-to-business-fair-in-turkey/

⁶⁹ <https://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2016/09/08/turkish-delegation-launches-drive-to-discuss-gulens-extradition-in-washington>

⁷⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/CAIRNational/videos/video-cair-hosts-reception-for-dr-mehmet-g%C3%B6rmez-head-of-rel/10153669351737695/>

⁷¹ https://www.cair.com/press_releases/almost-1000-turn-out-for-cairs-sold-out-21st-annual-banquet/

⁷² <https://www.dailysabah.com/diplomacy/2015/10/18/turkey-receives-2015-humanitarian-award-of-cair-for-refugee-efforts>

⁷³ https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-calif-religious-leaders-offer-condolences-at-turkish-consulate/



Nihad Awad with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in 2016 (top-left), Turkish Ambassador to the U.S. Serdar Kılıç in 2015 (top-right), then-Head of Religious Affairs for the State of Turkey Mehmet Görmez in 2016 (bottom-left) and with his successor then-Head of Religious Affairs Ali Erbas in 2018 (bottom-right).

Conclusion

CAIR Action is operating as a national 501(c)(4) political organization that raises money, mobilizes voters, and promotes candidates across the United States without the legal authority or regulatory compliance required by state or federal law. Its activities originate from Washington, DC, where the organization does not hold the business license needed to operate lawfully. Every solicitation, endorsement, and mobilization campaign conducted from that jurisdiction and from the 22 states in which it is active therefore occurs outside the boundaries of the legal framework that governs political nonprofits.

CAIR Action is closely linked to CAIR National through shared leadership, decision making, and communications. This relationship blurs the separation between a charitable 501(c)(3) and a political 501(c)(4). That creates compliance risks related

to coordination, political expenditures, and the use of charitable resources for political purposes. CAIR Action has also played a direct role in elevating candidates who have expressed extremist and antisemitic positions, demonstrating that these operations carry real political consequences for the communities they target.

These issues are amplified by a pattern of foreign state alignment within the leadership environment from which CAIR Action operates. The organization benefits from Turkish state linked sponsorships, holds programming at a Turkish government facility, promotes content through Turkey's state owned broadcaster, and displays Turkey related technical indicators on its official communications accounts. These factors do not, on their own, establish wrongdoing, but they significantly increase the risk profile of an organization that is already conducting political activity across state lines without the required public oversight.

All of these concerns together describe a political influence operation that functions outside the transparency and compliance standards established by Congress for 501(c)(4) organizations. This situation deserves immediate federal review to determine the full scope of CAIR Action's fundraising, political activity, and organizational relationships, and to ensure that these activities comply with United States law.

Referral Recommendations

- **Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation**
A review is appropriate based on indications that CAIR Action is operating as an unlicensed national political enterprise and may be soliciting funds across state lines without legal authority.
- **Federal Trade Commission**
A consumer protection inquiry is warranted due to evidence of misleading or unregistered solicitation activity that affects individuals in multiple states.
- **Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division**
A review is necessary due to concerns related to false statements, concealed political expenditures, and the absence of required documentation for tax exempt political operations conducted in numerous jurisdictions.