



**CAIR Legal Defense Fund**  
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October 2, 2024

**Special Agent in Charge Joseph E. Carrico**  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
2868 Elm Hill Pike  
Nashville, TN 37214

*Via Mail*

**RE: Asad Khan**

Mr. Carrico,

We write to inform you of an incident involving two FBI agents you oversee. These FBI agents are trying to interrogate my client about his social media posts regarding America's support for Israel's genocide in Gaza. This is protected speech, and Asad Khan declines the FBI's illegal request to be questioned about his political speech online.

On July 29th, two FBI agents visited Mr. Khan's family home in Nashville, Tennessee. At the time, Mr. Khan was travelling and not home. The FBI agents, nevertheless, questioned Mr. Khan's family about him, as if he was a fleeing felon—Where is he? When was he last here? When will he be back?.

One FBI agent then explained that the reason they were looking for Mr. Khan was because the FBI was concerned that his social media posts were "anti-American." The FBI agents requested that my client contact a US embassy in a foreign country and agree to be interrogated there in order to "close" the matter.

Mr. Khan is sharply critical of Israel's genocide in Gaza and the ongoing support the United States continues to provide. In addition, as a retired US Marine officer, he has also called for public accountability of various government and military officials. These views are reflected in Mr. Khan's speech online, including in comments made to public officials directly. But this kind of political speech regarding a matter of public concern sits on the "highest rung of the hierarchy of First Amendment values." *NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co.*, 458 U.S. 886 (1982). "Speech concerning public affairs is more than self-expression; it is the essence of self-government" *Garrison v. Louisiana*, 379 U.S. 64 (1964).

We view the FBI's effort to interrogate Mr. Khan about how his political speech online as illegal and demand that your agency not repeat its violation.

Respectfully,

/s/ Gadeir Abbas  
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