

April 16, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Letter In Support of American Muslims for Palestine**

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our strong support for American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) and our unequivocal opposition to your recent statements and announced investigation targeting the organization. Your remarks, delivered at the March 27, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee hearing titled “*Antisemitic Disruptions on Campus*,” unfairly target AMP with claims that are not only baseless but also rooted in harmful and disproven anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian tropes. Your actions risk stifling constitutionally protected speech and association on university campuses, and they cast a chilling pall over the First Amendment rights of countless students, professors, and community members across the country.

**AMP’s Standing in the Community**

AMP is a well-respected national organization that works within the American Muslim and broader American Palestinian communities, and many of our organizations regularly partner with AMP on advocacy. Despite your insinuations, AMP is firmly committed to nonviolent advocacy in pursuit of basic human rights and dignity for the Palestinian people. Its leadership and membership include American citizens who feel obligated, under the Constitution’s protection of free expression, to voice legitimate concerns about our government’s one-sided policies in the Middle East and the ongoing catastrophe faced by the Palestinian people, including acts of genocide, ethnic cleansing, decades-long military occupation, and apartheid.

**Baseless Allegations and McCarthyistic Tactics**

Your comments suggesting that AMP’s leaders have ties to overseas foreign designated terrorist organizations or are connected to other unlawful activity appear to rely heavily on anti-Palestinian, anti-Muslim conspiracy theories and an untested lawsuit filed on May 1, 2024. It is well-established that initial complaints in lawsuits represent the allegations or opinions of the plaintiffs and have not been adjudicated in a court of law. Elevating any unproven complaint to

the level of “proven fact” is not only misleading but also runs counter to fundamental principles of due process and the presumption of innocence.

Regrettably, this approach mirrors the discredited strategies of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, which in decades past used hearsay and suspicion to persecute individuals and organizations unfairly under the guise of “national security.” Today, your comments and investigations into groups like AMP evoke that same era, one in which entire communities were tarred by association and subject to disproportionate, unwarranted government scrutiny without credible evidence of wrongdoing.

### **Undermining First Amendment Freedoms**

Your separate letters to the FBI and Department of Justice, in which you ask how these agencies plan to “*investigate and address threats posed by outside groups to safety on college campuses,*” further insinuate that lawful campus protests for Palestinian rights are not domestically driven but instead orchestrated by foreign actors or a handful of well-meaning students on visas. This is not only inaccurate but also distracts from the real impetus for campus activism: the moral outrage of American-born students, Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and otherwise, at this country’s complicity in the murder, oppression, and prolonged suffering of Palestinian civilians.

History proves that student-led campus movements often spearhead meaningful social change. From the civil rights movement to protests against the Vietnam War, South African apartheid, and the invasion of Iraq, American college students have exercised their right to free speech, assembly, and petition. Their current activism in solidarity with Palestinians follows that same tradition of seeking justice and human rights. The claim that such large-scale, organic protests can be orchestrated by an “outside force” disregards the verifiable reality of widespread public opposition to civilian harm in any conflict, including the U.S.-backed genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, and is patently dismissive of the intelligence, autonomy, and conscience of American youth, who are our future leaders.

### **Pattern of Unsubstantiated Investigations**

Over the past 25 years, under the Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden administrations, many American Muslim, Palestinian, and Arab organizations have been wrongly subjected to law enforcement investigations. Although these extensive inquiries significantly disrupted communities and tarnished reputations, no charges were ever brought against these groups. Such baseless investigations waste public resources, breed fear and mistrust, and perpetuate harmful stereotypes.

Regrettably, your renewed effort to single out a Muslim-led organization engaged in First Amendment-protected advocacy appears more political than substantive, infringing upon our constitutional rights and civil liberties, especially given that AMP's advocacy centers on urgent humanitarian concerns. We object to the normalization of discriminatory scrutiny that equates Muslim and Palestinian identity or advocacy with danger or wrongdoing.

Over the past year, multiple House and Senate committees have escalated these tactics by calling for investigations into Muslim, Palestinian, Arab, and Jewish organizations that advocate for Palestinian human rights. Some lawmakers have supported the illegal deportation of students on visas who attended anti-genocide protests while also attempting to pass legislation, such as the so-called "nonprofit killer bill," in a thinly veiled effort to suppress disfavored speech. Our organizations and communities will not be intimidated or silenced by these actions.

### **Our Call to Action**

In light of these facts, we respectfully urge you to:

1. **Withdraw Your Investigation** into the American Muslims for Palestine. Such an inquiry, based on untested allegations, sets a dangerous precedent and chills speech vital to our democratic discourse.
2. **Acknowledge the Importance of First Amendment Rights** by recognizing the longstanding, constitutionally protected tradition of campus protests and dissent.
3. **Engage in Meaningful Dialogue** with AMP and other Muslim, Palestinian, Arab, and allied American organizations to better understand their concerns and advocacy, rather than relying on partisan or ideologically motivated claims.

We stand united in defense of the American Muslims for Palestine, of our right to freedom of speech, and of all students, academics, and activists who advocate peacefully for justice. Their voices, and ours, deserve respect in the public square without fear of retaliatory inquiries or unsubstantiated allegations.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns with you or your staff.

Sincerely,

### **National Organizations**

Abolitionist Law Center  
American Friends Service Committee

American Muslim Community Foundation  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
CAIR  
CAIR Action  
Charity & Security Network  
Children of Adam  
Combating Islamophobia Forum - The March 15th Forum  
Deen Institute of North America  
Defending Rights & Dissent  
Full Disclosure Films  
Friends of Sabeel North America  
ICNA  
Islamic Association of North America  
Islamophobia Studies Center  
Jewish Voice for Peace Action  
Libyan American Alliance  
MAS  
MPower Change Action Fund  
Muslim Advocates  
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)  
Palestine Legal  
The Mosque Cares | Ministry of Imam W. Deen Mohammed  
United Hands Relief  
USCMO  
U.S. Palestinian Community Network

### **Local, State, and Regional Organizations**

Ahlulbayt Society [OH]  
American Muslim Voice Foundation  
Arizona Muslim Alliance  
Asian Americans United  
AZ Muslim Police Advisory Board  
Borderlands for Equity  
Birmingham Interfaith Human Rights Committee  
Bridges for Yemen  
CAIR-Florida  
CAIR-TX, DFW  
Council for Social Justice New Jersey  
Husaynia Islamic Society of Seattle

Islamic Center of Detroit  
Islamic Center of Passaic County  
Islamic Center of San Diego  
Islamic Council of New England  
Islamic Society of Sheboygan, WI  
Islamic Society of West Valley  
The Islamic Center of Wheaton  
Kurdish community Islamic Center [CA]  
Majlis Ash-Shura: Islamic Leadership Council of New York  
Masjid Al Wadud  
MAS Dallas  
MAS Central New Jersey  
Masjid Fatima  
Masjid Al Muminun  
Muslim Alliance for Black Lives - Dallas/Ft. Worth  
MAS DC  
MAS of Arizona  
Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress  
Northern California Islamic Council  
Noor Islamic Cultural Center  
Pacifica Social Justice  
Prince George's County Muslim Council  
Rally Middletown  
San Jose Nikkei Resisters  
The Mosque Foundation  
QUIT!  
Voices for Justice in Palestine

cc:

Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Department of Justice Attorney General Pam Bondi  
Director of the FBI Kash Patel