

February 2, 2026

Department of Justice
National Security Division
FARA Unit
175 N Street, NE
Constitution Square, Building 3 - Room 1.204
Washington, DC 20002

Sent via email: fara.public@usdoj.gov

Re: Request for Investigation and FARA Determination Regarding Canary Mission

Dear Sir or Madam:

We, the undersigned civil rights, faith-based, academic, and advocacy organizations, write to formally request that the Department of Justice investigate whether Canary Mission is required to register as an agent of a foreign principal pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), *22 U.S.C. § 611 et seq.* Newly revealed evidence reported by Drop Site News raises serious concerns that Canary Mission’s operations targeting American individuals and institutions are coordinated from Israel and conducted for the political benefit of the Israeli government.¹

For years, Canary Mission has operated as a political hit list, systematically targeting American students, professors, activists, and professionals—particularly Muslims, Arabs, Palestinians, and their allies—for engaging in constitutionally protected speech opposing war crimes, mass civilian harm, and U.S. foreign policy. Through a covert network of unlisted internal websites, including one known as “BlackNest,” Canary Mission internally tracks its activities, documents strategic planning, and explicitly celebrates deportations, firings, denials of entry, and other punitive outcomes as measures of its political impact.

More recent data obtained by [Drop Site News exposes BlackNest](#) as a disciplined, hierarchical, and professionalized political influence operation meant solely to protect the Israeli government from criticism. The materials reveal internal command structures, branding and narrative warfare teams, university-specific targeting campaigns, and strategic expansion roadmaps. Most strikingly, internal system timestamps correspond to Israeli time zones, strongly indicating that Canary Mission’s backend infrastructure and operational control are based overseas, even as its political warfare is directed squarely at people in America.

FARA exists precisely to address this type of potential activity carried out in the United States for the benefit of a foreign government. The statute requires registration by any entity acting as

¹ Jacqueline Sweet, “BlackNest: Inside Canary Mission’s Secret Web of Unlisted Sites,” *Drop Site News*, January 6, 2026, <https://www.dropsitenews.com/p/canary-mission-blacknest-doxxing-israel-potestors-united-states>

an “agent of a foreign principal” that engages in political activities intended to influence the U.S. government or the American public. An agent does not need to have a formal or publicly acknowledged agreement with a foreign government. Under 22 U.S.C. § 611(c), agency may be established through conduct, funding, direction, or alignment with foreign political objectives. Political activity is broadly defined under 22 U.S.C. § 611(o) and includes efforts to influence public opinion or policy concerning domestic or foreign affairs.

Canary Mission’s actions may meet this threshold. The organization compiles detailed dossiers on U.S. residents, smears these individuals for criticizing the Israeli government, and distributes these hateful profiles to employers, universities, donors, and government actors. The foreseeable and intended outcome is to punish and deter lawful political advocacy, particularly speech critical of the Israeli government.

Unsealed court records from a 2025 federal trial revealed that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) relied extensively on Canary Mission’s database when compiling dossiers on pro-Palestinian foreign students and academics for deportation and visa revocation efforts. Testimony in that case confirms that a DHS “tiger team” used data sourced from Canary Mission to identify more than 75% of the names targeted for enforcement actions, despite the site’s anonymous nature and lack of verification.²

Serious concerns are further raised by Canary Mission’s opaque funding structure. Public disclosures filed abroad reportedly show that the organization received approximately one million dollars in foreign donations in a single year - far exceeding what has been disclosed in U.S. tax filings. Investigative reporting by Jewish Currents has documented substantial donations from individuals closely connected to major pro-Israel institutions, including a significant contribution from Michael Leven, a hospitality executive who has served on the boards of organizations such as Birthright Israel.³ The use of foreign charities and pass-through entities to obscure funding sources raises serious questions about the possible evasion of U.S. disclosure laws.

The harm Canary Mission has caused to American citizens for the benefit of the Israeli government is tangible and ongoing. Students have been silenced. Careers have been derailed. Communities have been intimidated into political withdrawal. The chilling effect on First Amendment-protected speech is severe, particularly for Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian communities that already face disproportionate surveillance and discrimination.

² Josh Gerstein and Kyle Cheney, “Trump officials used shadowy website to target pro-Palestinian academics for deportation, court records show,” *Politico*, July 7, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/07/09/pro-palestinian-deportation-documents-trial-00445238>

³ Alex Kane, “Canary Mission’s Newest Funders,” *Jewish Currents*, April 4, 2025, <https://jewishcurrents.org/canary-missions-newest-funders>

We therefore respectfully request that the Department of Justice:

- Open a formal investigation into Canary Mission's status under FARA;
- Issue a written determination as to whether Canary Mission qualifies as an agent of a foreign principal;
- Require registration and full disclosure if the statutory criteria are met; and
- Pursue enforcement action pursuant to *22 U.S.C. § 618* for any willful failure to comply.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

14 Friends of Palestine, Marin, CA
American Center for Justice
American Muslim Voice Foundation
American Muslims for Palestine
Ancestral Foodways
Arizona Muslim Alliance
Arizona Muslim Police Advisory Board
Association of Muslim American Lawyers
Baltimore Nonviolence Center
Bridges for Yemen
Burlington Friends Meeting
CAIR Action
Center for Security, Race and Rights
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy
Code Pink
Connecticut Palestine Alliance
DAWN
Delawareans for Palestinian Human Rights
Dignidad/ The Right to Immigration Institute
Disciples Palestine Solidarity Movement
Ensaaf
Episcopal Peace Fellowship Palestine Israel Network
Fight for the Future
Franciscan Justice Circle Mid-Hudson Valley, NY, USA
Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)
Free Uyghur Now
Generation Common Good
Healthcare Across Borders
Hindus for Human Rights
Husaynia Islamic Society of Seattle
Indiana Center for Middle East Peace

Islamic Shura Council of Southern California
Islamophobia Studies Center
Jewish Voice for Peace Academic Council
Libyan American Alliance
Majlis Ash-Shura of New York
MPower Change Action Fund
Muslim American Society of Arizona
Muslim Civic Coalition
Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA)
Muslim Public Affairs Council
Muslim Students Association of the U.S. & Canada
NH Peace Action
NorCal Sabeel (Northern California Friends of Sabeel)
Not In My Name, New Hampshire
Pakistan Canada Association - Al Masjid Al Jamia Vancouver
Palestinian American Community Center
Palestinian American Organization Network
Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace
Palestine Justice Network, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Partners for Palestine
Pax Christi Hudson Valley, NY, USA
People for Justice and Peace in Palestine
RocUbuntu
San Diego Faith Leaders for Palestine
Shine a Light on Palestine
Taxpayers Against Genocide
The March 15th Forum - Combating Islamophobia
The Palestine Justice Network of the Presbyterian Church USA Bay Area
Tunisian United Network
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East
United Church of Christ Movement for Palestinian Solidarity
United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)
United Methodists in Action for Palestine
Urban Village Church
US Council of Muslim Organizations
V'ahavtah: A Judaism Beyond Zionism Synagogue
Voices for Justice in Palestine