



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

Dear Attorney General Paxton:

“The Texas Attorney General is the only elected official charged with regulating” nonprofits that may be violating the law, like CAIR.¹ The Texas Constitution authorizes you to investigate and seek judicial forfeiture of CAIR’s nonprofit charter.² Our state laws empower you to inspect, examine, and copy records of nonprofits.³ A nonprofit that refuses to comply “forfeits the right … to do business in this state,” and individuals who refuse to comply also commit a crime.⁴ Texas law empowers you to issue civil investigative demands to compel organizations like CAIR to produce documents, answer questions, or provide testimony regarding potential civil violations.⁵ Your office may even seek a lien against all existing property the nonprofit has in this State.⁶ You have used these tools before; I urge you to use them to combat CAIR.⁷

Voluminous documents detail the dangers posed to Texans by the Muslim Brotherhood, CAIR, and their affiliates. We must not allow them to go unaddressed. As you know, President Trump has acted to combat threats posed by groups supporting terror. As part of that effort, he issued an Executive Order beginning the process to designate and deprive Muslim Brotherhood chapters “of resources, and thereby end any threat [they] pose to United States nationals or the national security of the United States.”⁸ Following his directive, the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of the Treasury imposed terrorist designations against the Lebanese, Jordanian, and Egyptian chapters of the Muslim Brotherhood on January 13, 2026.⁹

In a press release explaining the designations, the U.S. Department of the Treasury stated the truth about the Muslim Brotherhood and affiliates: “Chapters of the Muslim Brotherhood purport to be legitimate civic organizations while, behind the scenes, they explicitly and enthusiastically support terrorist groups like Hamas.”¹⁰ Hamas, a branch of the

¹ John W. Vinson, *The Charity Oversight Authority of the Texas Attorney General*, 35 ST. MARY’S L. J. 243, 244 (2004); *see also id.* at 253–263 (collecting Attorney General oversight tools for non-profits).

² TEX. CONST. art. IV, § 22; *see* TEX. GOV’T CODE § 402.023.

³ TEX. BUS. ORGS. CODE §§ 12.151–12.153.

⁴ *Id.* §§ 12.155, 12.156.

⁵ TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE § 140B.052 (civil RICO); TEX. BUS. & COMM. CODE § 17.61 (DTPA).

⁶ TEX. BUS. ORGS. CODE § 12.201.

⁷ *See, e.g., Annunciation House, Inc. v. Paxton*, No. 2024DCV0616 (205th Judicial District Court).

⁸ Executive Order No. 14362, *Designation of Certain Muslim Brotherhood Chapters as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists*, 90 Fed. Reg. 55033 (Nov. 24, 2025), <https://perma.cc/4N2N-BW7L>.

⁹ Press Statement, U.S. Dep’t of State, *Terrorist Designations of Muslim Brotherhood Chapters* (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://perma.cc/SR2R-XRF3>.

¹⁰ Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of Treasury, *Treasury and State Departments Designate Muslim Brotherhood Branches as Terrorist Organizations* (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://perma.cc/A94Q-Y3YC>.

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Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza, was designated a foreign terrorist organization by the United States in 1997 and is the group responsible for kidnapping and murdering American citizens in its surprise attack on October 7, 2023.¹¹

Aside from regional Muslim Brotherhood “chapters,” there are other entities pretending to engage in charity by day, while sponsoring terror by night. For example, federal investigators and court filings identified CAIR, a so-called civil liberties organization, as a subsidiary of the Muslim Brotherhood and a “front group” for Hamas in the United States.¹² A federal court later found there was “ample evidence to establish” that CAIR is associated with Hamas, after considering internal documents plainly listing CAIR under the Muslim Brotherhood’s umbrella.¹³

For decades, the Muslim Brotherhood has created a system of shell entities, including purported charities and civic organizations, that support terrorist groups like Hamas, push Sharia law in Texas, and promote violence and harassment of Texans. Regardless of the façade CAIR attempts to portray in press releases, CAIR cannot be allowed to use its “nonprofit” status as a shield for sponsoring terror, advancing radical Islamism in Texas, or fronting for the Muslim Brotherhood.

That is why I designated “the Muslim Brotherhood and its successor organization CAIR” as foreign terrorist organizations and transnational criminal organizations under state law.¹⁴ It is also why I called upon U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to suspend CAIR’s status as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit.¹⁵ In a letter to Secretary Bessent, I highlighted three CAIR entities that, according to IRS records, purport to operate in Texas.¹⁶ On the Comptroller’s website, two of those entities (in Houston and Austin) are listed as being authorized to conduct business here. The third entity (in Dallas) is not listed in Texas records, despite telling the federal government that it operates in Texas. Meanwhile, a fourth and a fifth CAIR entity, presumably operating as nonprofits here, have Texas registration details but no apparent federal taxpayer number. That prompts concerning questions. Why should unregistered entities be operating in Texas at all? And why are purported Texas nonprofits not registered with the IRS? More fundamentally, why should a group designated as a terrorist organization be allowed nonprofit status in Texas at all?

There are many questions that need to be answered about entities with ties to terrorism masquerading as nonprofits in Texas. Thank you in advance for addressing this issue.

Respectfully,



Greg Abbott
Governor

¹¹ U.S. Dep’t of State, Bureau of Counterterrorism, *Foreign Terrorist Organizations*, <https://perma.cc/2S5N-D5SY>.

¹² Lorenzo Vidino, *The Hamas Networks in America: A Short History*, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIV. PROGRAM ON EXTREMISM (Oct. 2023), <https://perma.cc/6B4C-9F88>; Lara Burns et al., *CAIR—Why History Is Important*, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIV. PROGRAM ON EXTREMISM (Nov. 2025), <https://perma.cc/GBU6-3X4C>.

¹³ *United States v. Holy Land Found. for Relief & Dev.*, No. 3:04-cv-240, 2009 WL 10680203, at *7–8 (N.D. Tex. July 1, 2009).

¹⁴ Office of the Texas Governor, Proclamation (Nov. 18, 2025), <https://perma.cc/PSN7-WUHR>.

¹⁵ See Press Release, Office of the Texas Governor, *Governor Abbott Sends Letter to U.S. Secretary Bessent Requesting Suspension of CAIR’s Tax-Exempt Status* (Dec. 2, 2025), <https://perma.cc/7NUH-6D66>.

¹⁶ Letter from Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, to Scott Bessent, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Treasury, at 1 n.4 (Dec. 2, 2025), https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/Scott_Bessent.pdf.