In the Name of God, The Compassionate, The Merciful

Council on American-Islamic Relations
California Chapter
http://ca.cair.com

November 6, 2025

The Honorable Members of the United States
Senate and House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Marco Rubio
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Re: Urgent Call to Free Journalist Sami Hamdi and Confront Anti-Muslim Hate in U.S. Policy

Dear Members of Congress and Officials of the U.S. Department of State,

We, the undersigned faith-based, civil rights, and immigrants' rights and community organizations, write to express our deep alarm and outrage at the detention of British Muslim journalist Sami Hamdi by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on October 26, 2025.

Mr. Hamdi, a respected journalist and political commentator, was detained while traveling in the United States on a speaking tour, shortly after addressing the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) – Sacramento Valley/Central California gala and before he was scheduled to speak at CAIR-Florida's annual banquet. His arrest appears to have been politically motivated and rooted in anti-Muslim bias, rather than any legitimate immigration concern.

A Dangerous Precedent for Press Freedom and Equal Treatment

In the days following his detention, self-described "Israel First" extremist Laura Loomer publicly boasted that ICE acted upon her demands that Mr. Hamdi's visa be revoked after she spread anti-Muslim conspiracy theories about him.[1] She also claimed to have personally influenced high-ranking officials within the Department of State and Department of Homeland Security to act against Palestinian and Muslim travelers.

If these claims are true, this represents a disturbing breach of integrity and independence within U.S. agencies, empowering extremist voices driven by anti-Muslim bias to shape immigration and foreign

[1] Loomer, L. [@LauraLoomer]. (2025, October 26). *I have just been told that Muslim Brotherhood official Sami Hamdi… was just ARRESTED by ICE @ICEgov agents* [Post]. X (formerly Twitter). https://x.com/LauraLoomer/status/1982463477303189899

policy decisions. The weaponization of federal institutions to silence journalists, activists, or community voices critical of Israeli government policies endangers not only Muslim Americans, but also the fundamental principles of free expression and democracy.

On Saturday, November 1, a federal court issued an order blocking ICE from transferring Hamdi out of California while his case proceeds.[2] In the order, the court stated that it believes Hamdi's legal team has raised serious questions regarding whether his detention was retaliation for protected speech under the First Amendment. The judge also indicated that some form of court-ordered protection "may be appropriate" if ICE continues to hold him.

Standing Against Bigotry and for Justice

American Muslims have witnessed an alarming resurgence of Islamophobia in public discourse and policymaking—a resurgence that not only threatens our communities, but the very moral fabric of our nation. The treatment of Sami Hamdi is not an isolated incident; it is a symptom of a deeper pattern of anti-Muslim discrimination that must be confronted, challenged, and dismantled.

Our Demands

We call on Members of Congress and the Department of State to:

1. Demand the immediate release of Sami Hamdi and require a full public accounting of the circumstances surrounding his detention.
2. Ensure that immigration and visa decisions are made based on evidence instead of political pressure or bigoted conspiracy theories targeting Muslims or critics of Israel's actions in Gaza.
3. Publicly denounce extremists like Laura Loomer and investigate any infiltration of U.S. immigration and foreign policy decision-making by anti-Muslim actors or organizations aligned with foreign interests.

We urge all elected officials and agencies to act swiftly and decisively to reject anti-Muslim hate in all its forms, uphold the rule of law, and reaffirm the United States' commitment to human rights and freedom of the press.

Sincerely,

18 Million Rising
Ahlulbayt Society

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[2] Council on American-Islamic Relations – California. (2025, November 1). *CAIR-CA, co-counsel welcome judge's ruling recognizing First Amendment questions in Sami Hamdi case, blocking ICE from transferring journalist pending hearing.* https://ca.cair.com/press-release/cair-ca-co-counsel-welcome-judges-ruling-recognizing-first-amendment-questions-in-sami-hamdi-case-blocking-ice-from-transferring-journalist-pending-hearing/

Al Hilaal Masjid Darus Salaam
Alenteshar Al Arabi Newspaper
All for Gaza All for Palestine Global Network
Al Maghfirah Cemetery Association
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
American Muslim Engagement and Empowerment Network (AMEEN Action)
American Muslim Voice Foundation
American Muslims for Palestine (AMP)
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action)
Ar-Rahman Islamic Center
Arab American Civic Council
Arab Resource and Organizing Center Action
Asian American Liberation Network
Asian Law Alliance
Association of Muslim American Lawyers
Atawasul Center
Bala Rising
Bay Area Labor for Palestine
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Berkeley Society of Friends (Quaker's)
Beyt Tikkun: A Synagogue without Walls
The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
CAIR Action
CAIR - California
CAIR - Florida
CAIR - Minnesota
CAIR - New Jersey
CAIR - Philadelphia
CAIR - Washington
California Center for Movement Legal Services
California Coalition for Women Prisoners
California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)
Catalyst Project
Center for Constitutional Rights
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Center for Islamic Life at Rutgers University
Central New Jersey Democratic Socialists of America
Challenging Islamophobia Together Chicagoland
Chavurah for Free Palestine

Chinese for Affirmative Action
Chinese Progressive Association
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
Council for Social Justice New Jersey
Council of Sacramento Valley Islamic Organizations (COSVIO)
Dar Al Farooq
Darulislam Masjid
DarusSalam Foundation
Defending Rights & Dissent
Democratic Socialists of America, San Francisco Chapter
Diablo Valley College
Doctors Against Genocide
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Empowering Marginalized Asian Communities (EMAC)
Evergreen Islamic Center
Face-to-Face: Jewish Palestinian Reparations Alliance, Kehilla Community Synagogue
Faith in Action East Bay
First Mennonite Church of San Francisco
Freedom for Immigrants
Friends of Wadi Foquin
Greater Sacramento Muslim Public Affairs Committee
Ground Game LA
Haiti Action Committee
Harbor Institute for Immigrant & Economic Justice
Healthcare Workers for Palestine Bay Area
HEART to Grow
Hmong Innovating Politics
HUMAN AGENDA
Islamic Circle of North America Sacramento (ICNA)
ICNA CSJ Michigan
ICNA San Francisco Bay Area
Immigrant Defense Project
Immigration Resource Center of San Gabriel Valley
Inland Valley Muslims
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
International Islamophobia Studies and Research Association
International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network
Islamic Center of Boca Raton
Islamic Center of Conejo Valley

Islamic Center of Glendale
Islamic Center of Hawthorne
Islamic Center of Irvine
Islamic Center of Morris County
Islamic Center of Riverside
Islamic Center of San Francisco
Islamic Center of Yorba Linda
Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California
Islamic Organization of North America
Islamic Shura Council of Southern California
Islamic Society of Allentown
Islamic Society of Delaware
Islamic Society of Lake Elsinore
Islamic Society of West Valley
Islamophobia Studies Center
Islamophobia Studies Journal
Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)
JVP Bay Area Chapter
JVP Central Ohio
JVP LA
JVP Santa Barbara
JVP SE Ohio
JVP South Bay
Jews and Muslims and Allies Acting Together (JAMAAT)
Just Cities
Kadima Reconstructionist Community
Kavkaz Islamic Center
Kehilla Community Synagogue
Kol Tzedek
La Raza Community Resource Center
Latino Coalition of Los Angeles
Legal Services for Children
Lifeline For Palestine
Lighthouse Mosque
Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention
Majdal Center
Malaysian Islamic Foundation of North America
Manara West
Muslim American Society (MAS)
MAS Arizona

MAS Central Florida
MAS Central New Jersey
MAS Columbus
MAS Dallas
MAS DC
MAS Detroit
MAS Greater Los Angeles
MAS Houston
MAS Katy Center
MAS Los Angeles
MAS Maryland
MAS New Jersey
MAS New York
MAS Public Affairs
MAS Queens
MAS San Antonio
MAS San Diego
MAS Social Services Foundation
Masjid Al Tawheed
Masjid Gibrael
Masjidul Taqwa of San Diego
Meztli Projects
Miami Valley Immigration Coalition
MPower Change Action Fund
Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice
MUNA Youth
Muslim Action Committee
Muslim Action Committee, Chino Hills
Muslim Advocates
Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley
Muslim City Fest
Muslim Civic Coalition
Muslim Community Association of San Francisco Bay Area
Muslim Community of Folsom
Muslim Counterpublics Lab
Muslim Leadership Council of San Diego
Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA)
Muslim Student Association at UC Santa Cruz
Muslim Student Association, California State University Fullerton
Muslim Student Union, Wichita State University

Nasr Institute
National Arab & Muslim American Green Party Caucus
National Immigration Law Center
National Lawyers Guild, Bay Area Chapter
National Lawyers Guild, International
Neighborhood Fridge
New York Muslim Action Network (NYMAN)
North New Jersey Democratic Socialists of America
Northern California Islamic Council
Oasis Legal Services
Omar Bin Al-Khattab Islamic Center
Open Immigration Legal Services
Orale: Organizing Rooted in Abolition, Liberation, and Empowerment
Orange County Justice for Palestine
Orange County Rapid Response Network
Our Common Beliefs
Palestinian American Women's Association
Palestinian Christians for Justice
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans - PANA
Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW!
Pedraza Law Corp
Peninsula Solidarity Cohort
People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights
Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Pomona Economic Opportunity Center
Prayers For Peace Alliance
Prayers for Peace Alliance
Project Ishmael
Project Islamic Hope
Project New Village
Prophet Muhammad (s) Center
Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism!
Rahma Community Center
Resistencia En Accion NJ
Revolutionary Love Project
Rockaway Islamic Center
ROSIE
Sabil USA
Sacramento Area League of Associated Muslims (SALAM)
Sacramento Letters to Incarcerated Muslims

San Francisco Public Defender's Office
San Jose Nikkei Resisters
San Ramon Valley Islamic Center
Seattle Democratic Socialists of America
Secure Justice
Seeking Sakinah
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)
Shia Association of Bay Area
Shomeret Shalom
Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign
Showing Up for Racial Justice Bay Area
Shura Council of Southern California
Soil & Soul
Somos Familia Valle
South Asian Fund for Education, Scholarship, and Training
South Florida Muslim Federation
Southeast Community Development Corporation
Southwest Coalition for Palestine
Step Forward
Stop AAPI Hate
Strawberry Moon Media
Students for Justice in Palestine
Students for Justice in Palestine - University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Sunrise Movement Sacramento
Tawhid Community
Tayba Foundation
Thai Community Development Center
The Humanization Matters Collaborative
The Interfaith Center of New York
The Mosque Foundation
The Organization of Muslim Gentlemen
The Resistance-Northridge Indivisible
The TransLatin@ Coalition
Tikkun Olam Chavurah
Tri-City Islamic Center
UC Ethnic Studies Council
Unitarian Universalist Association
Unitarian Universalist EcoSocialist Network
Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East
Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East Mt Airy, Philadelphia Chapter

United Educators of San Francisco
US Council of Muslim Organizations
Vermont Peace/Antiwar Coalition
Vermonters for justice in Palestine (VTJP)
Viet Voices
VietRISE
Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services
We Are All Gaza, We Are All Palestine Network
We Love Our Neighbors Inc.
West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship
Wisconsin Muslim Civic Alliance
Worksafe
Yaqeen Institute
Young Muslims
YUSRA Organizing
Yusuf Mosque