

# **Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)**

## **Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists**

**[https://www.cair.com/press\\_releases/cair-to-announce-complete-victory-in-constitutional-challenge-to-federal-terror-watchlist/](https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cair-to-announce-complete-victory-in-constitutional-challenge-to-federal-terror-watchlist/)**

## **Public Facing Advocacy Writing**



**(WASHINGTON, DC, 9/4/19) On Thursday, September 5**, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) will hold a noon news conference at its Capitol Hill headquarters to outline the practical and constitutional implications of the Muslim civil rights organizations complete victory in its challenge to the federal government's terror watchlist in *Elhady v. Kable* (E.D.Va.).

### **US judge: Terror Watchlist Violates Constitutional Rights**

**<https://www.nyl.com/nyc/all-boroughs/ap-top-news/2019/09/04/us-judge-terror-watchlist-violates-constitutional-rights>**

Judge Anthony Trenga of the Eastern District of Virginia ruled that the government has unconstitutionally failed to provide watchlisted persons with notice and an opportunity for individuals to challenge their status. The judge granted CAIR's motion for summary judgment in the case of 23 American Muslims who were unjustly labeled as suspected terrorists by their government, causing extensive harm to their families, careers, and ability to travel.

**SEE: Judge Trengas Opinion**

<https://tinyurl.com/WatchlistOpinion>

**WHAT:** CAIR News Conference Announcing Watchlist Victory

**WHERE:** CAIRs Capitol Hill Headquarters, 453 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington DC 20003

**WHEN:** Thursday, September 5, Noon

**WHO:** CAIR Executive Director, CAIR Legal Team, Affected Clients

**CONTACT:** CAIR National Litigation Director Lena Masri, 202-642-4934, [lmassri@cair.com](mailto:lmassri@cair.com); CAIR Senior Litigation Attorney Gadeir Abbas, 720-251-0425, [gabbas@cair.com](mailto:gabbas@cair.com); CAIR Trial Attorney Carolyn Homer, 202-516-4724; CAIR-MI Executive Director Dawud Walid (248) 842-1418.

**BACKGROUNDER:**

The vagueness of the standard for inclusion in the TSDB, coupled with the lack of any meaningful restraint on what constitutes grounds for placement on the Watchlist, constitutes, in essence, the absence of any ascertainable standard for inclusion and exclusion, which is precisely what offends the Due Process Clause, wrote Judge Trenga.

CAIRs legal team has finally brought an end to the secretive watchlist, which is effectively a Muslim registry created in the wake of the widespread Islamophobia of the early 2000s, said **CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad**. What a remarkable way to honor CAIRs 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019.

CAIR has a half-dozen other watchlist cases pending in federal courts across the country, and this opinion will pave the way for our continued victories, said **CAIR National Litigation Director Lena Masri**. Today's opinion is a victory for the more than one hundred American Muslims we represent and for the thousands of American Muslims who are currently stigmatized by the watchlist.

Every step of this case revealed new layers of government secrets, including that the government shares the watchlist with private companies and more than sixty foreign countries, said **CAIR Senior Litigation Attorney Gadeir Abbas**. CAIR will continue its fight until the full scope of the government's shadowy watchlist activities is disclosed to the American public.

The fundamental principle of due process is notice and the opportunity to be heard, said **CAIR Trial Attorney Justin Sadowsky**. Today's opinion provides that due process guarantee to all Americans affected by the watchlist.

The watchlist's arbitrary criteria has long enabled the government to target Muslims based on their faith and then build a secretive network map of their associations, said **CAIR Trial Attorney Carolyn Homer**. Today, the government's unlawful surveillance of the Muslim community has begun to be curtailed.

CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

La misión de CAIR es proteger las libertades civiles, mejorar la comprensión del Islam, promover la justicia, y empoderar a los musulmanes en los Estados Unidos.

On November 9, CAIR will hold its 25th anniversary gala in Washington, D.C.

**SEE: CAIRs 25th Annual Gala**

[https://www.cair.com/25th\\_anniversary\\_banquet](https://www.cair.com/25th_anniversary_banquet)

**END**

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