ONE-PAGE BRIEFING · NOVEMBER 2026

From Research to Results

The Middle East Forum's 2026 Engagement Report

Middle East Forum

2,171	1,906	27,114	92M
outside media items	Hill staffers briefed weekly	constituent messages	Google search appearances

THE PROBLEM

The regimes, terror networks, and Islamist movements of the Middle East now reach directly into American institutions. In 2026 the regime in Tehran killed thousands of its own citizens and kept attacking shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. Hamas networks raised money through charities. Islamist organizations drew federal grants, and foreign governments paid billions to American universities. Officials need findings they can act on, with the sources attached.

KEY FINDINGS

1. **Federal agencies acted on MEF research.**
HHS opened a review of CAIR in June after MEF brought the evidence to HHS officials and Congress. On October 13, nine House members cited MEF's *Hidden Handouts*, which traced $79 million in HHS-originated grants to 14 Islamist organizations, and asked HHS to suspend the active awards.

2. **Treasury designated a Hamas charity MEF exposed.**
On January 21, the Treasury Department designated the Gaza charity Qawafil al-Khair, which MEF had exposed as a Hamas institution raising money in the United Kingdom.

3. **MEF opened a line into Iran.**
MEF's Iran Freedom Project has placed more than 470 Starlink terminals inside Iran. MEF helped convene the Iran Freedom Congress, and published *Blood Money* and the Iran Ledger, which name more than 1,000 regime officials, forces, banks, and companies.

4. **Congress and statehouses used MEF evidence.**
Two House Judiciary subcommittee hearings cited MEF data. MEF scholars testified before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and the Texas House, and a Knesset assembly of Israeli, Greek, Cypriot, and American officials met in cooperation with MEF.

5. **MEF reached policymakers directly and at scale.**
2,171 outside bylines, quotes, interviews, and citations in 696 outlets; 8,782 Hill Desk briefs to congressional staff; 27,114 constituent messages through MEF Action; and 91.6 million appearances in Google search results.

6. **MEF led its peers in search and AI answers.**
meforum.org draws more search traffic than FDD, the Washington Institute, or the Middle East Institute, and AI platforms named MEF more often than any peer organization.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Use suspension and debarment.**
Every grant-making agency should screen recipients for ties to designated terrorist organizations and use its existing suspension and debarment authority where the evidence meets the standard. HHS should complete its CAIR review and examine the other awards named in *Hidden Handouts*.

2. **Keep designating the charities that fund Hamas.**
Treasury should continue to designate charities, at home and abroad, that raise money for Hamas, as it did with Qawafil al-Khair.

3. **Enforce foreign-gift disclosure.**
The Education and State Departments should enforce Section 117 reporting and publish what they find, starting with the largest Gulf partnerships, such as Qatar's Education City campuses.

4. **Keep Iranians connected and name the perpetrators.**
Washington and its allies should sustain satellite internet and broadcasting into Iran and sanction the officials, forces, banks, and companies documented in the Iran Ledger.

5. **Back the Eastern Mediterranean partners.**
The United States should deepen its coordination with Israel, Greece, and Cyprus against Turkish pressure in the region.

Request a private briefing on these findings for your staff or agency.

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