TALKING POINTS · NOVEMBER 2026

The Middle East Forum in 2026

Middle East Forum

1 On federal money

HHS opened a review of CAIR in June after MEF brought the evidence to HHS officials and Congress. MEF's *Hidden Handouts* traced $79 million in HHS-originated grants to 14 Islamist organizations.

Source: Middle East Forum, "HHS Launches Investigation into CAIR for Grant Abuses and Terror Links Following MEF Campaign," June 11, 2026, https://www.meforum.org/press-releases/hhs-launches-investigation-into-cair-for-grant-abuses-and-terror-links-following-mef-campaign

2 On Congress

On October 13, nine House members based a letter to HHS on MEF's report and asked the department to suspend the active awards it names.

Source: Middle East Forum, "Congress Presses RFK Jr. to Widen CAIR Probe, Citing MEF's 'Hidden Handouts' Report," October 20, 2026; Office of Rep. Chip Roy, October 13, 2026, https://www.meforum.org/press-releases/congress-presses-rfk-jr-to-widen-cair-probe-citing-mefs-hidden-handouts-report

3 On terror finance

Treasury designated Qawafil al-Khair on January 21, a Gaza charity MEF had exposed as a Hamas institution raising money in Britain.

Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Treasury Exposes and Disrupts Hamas's Covert Support Network," January 21, 2026, https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0368

4 On Iran

MEF's Iran Freedom Project has placed more than 470 Starlink terminals inside Iran. MEF's *Blood Money* and the Iran Ledger name more than 1,000 regime officials, forces, banks, and companies.

Source: Middle East Forum, "MEF Exposes the Record of Iran's Crimes against Humanity and the Money That Sustains Them," October 7, 2026, https://www.meforum.org/press-releases/mef-exposes-the-record-of-irans-crimes-against-humanity-and-the-money-that-sustains-them

5 On campuses

Campus Watch estimates Georgetown received more than $971 million from Qatar over 20 years. Section 117 disclosures should be enforced and published.

Source: Campus Watch, "Qatar's Multidimensional Takeover of Georgetown University," Middle East Forum, January 20, 2026, https://www.meforum.org/mef-reports/qatars-multidimensional-takeover-of-georgetown-university

6 On allies

Israel, Greece, Cyprus, and the United States met at the Knesset in February, in cooperation with MEF, to coordinate against Turkish pressure.

Source: "Israeli, Greek, Cypriot, US Gov't Officials Gather in Knesset as Turkish Threat Rises," Jerusalem Post, February 11, 2026, https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-886268

7 On the tool that works

Suspension and debarment already exist. They act on conduct and ties to designated groups, not on speech, and require a preponderance of the evidence.

Source: 2 CFR 180.850; Federal Acquisition Regulation 9.406-3, https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-I/part-180

8 On reach

MEF scholars appeared 2,171 times in outside media in 2026, and MEF's Hill Desk briefs 1,906 congressional staffers every week.

Source: Middle East Forum media-hits database, January 1 to November 9, 2026

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

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