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[Peter King questions decision not to prosecute CAIR, others](#)

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House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Peter King (R-N.Y.) is questioning what he says was a decision by the Justice Department not to bring criminal charges against the Council on American-Islamic Relations, one of its founders and two other groups over their alleged ties to Hamas.

King [sent a letter](#) Friday to Attorney General Eric Holder seeking "full transparency" about the reported Justice Department decision not to seek an indictment of CAIR co-founder Omar Ahmad, the North American Islamic Trust and the Islamic Society of North America.

King wrote:

I have been reliably informed that the decision not to seek indictments of the Council on American Islamic Relations ("CAIR") and its co-founder Omar Ahmad, the Islamic Society of North America ("ISNA") and the North American Islamic Trust ("NAIT"), was usurped by high-ranking officials at Department of Justice headquarters over the vehement and stated objections of special agents and supervisors of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as the prosecutors at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Dallas, who had investigated and successfully prosecuted the Holy Land Foundation case. Their opposition to this decision raises serious doubt that the decision not to prosecute was a valid exercise of prosecutorial discretion.

King asked specifically whether White House officials played any role in the decision.

[Pajamas Media reported last week](#) that the Justice Department's Criminal Division formally declined prosecution of Ahmad last year, rejecting efforts by prosecutors in Dallas to seek an indictment in the case.

While King contends that a decision was also made to pass up prosecution of CAIR, NAIT and ISNA, the Pajamas report did not cite any decision beyond that about Ahmad.

All three groups have previously denied any connection to terrorism or Hamas. POLITICO has been unable to reach Ahmad for comment.

The three groups appeared on a list of unindicted co-conspirators filed by prosecutors in a case in which the Holy Land Foundation and five of its officials were convicted for providing material support to Hamas. [A federal appeals court later said the list should not have been filed publicly](#), but [a federal judge in Dallas said there was "ample evidence"](#) connecting the groups to Hamas via the Muslim Brotherhood.

[CAIR was a major topic of discussion, and criticism, at King's recent hearings on radicalization in America's Muslim community.](#)