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August 12, 2025

BY EMAIL

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Mr. Sam Westrop
Middle East Forum
c/o S. Derek Bauer, Esq.

Dear Messrs. Bauer and Westrop:

As you each know, we represent Human Appeal USA (“HAUSA”). We write to respond for HAUSA to questions recently posed by Mr. Westrop by email. While we will address specific points, the overarching point is that Mr. Westrop should desist from making the false suggestions that HAUSA is Islamist, supports terrorism, or is a “branch” of a “Human Appeal franchise” that includes other affiliate organizations in the Middle East or Australia. None of those things are true, which is precisely why Mr. Westrop has absolutely no evidence for any of those notions. Should he state or imply any of those ideas, HAUSA will not tolerate such conduct and will hold Mr. Westrop accountable for such defamatory statements and implications.

We emphasize this point because the premise of Mr. Westrop’s July 24, 2025 email is that there is some overarching organization called Human Appeal that is a “franchise” with “branches in the UK and the US” and elsewhere. Mr. Westrop’s attempt to tie HAUSA to other organizations with “Human Appeal” in the organization’s name is not new and instead has already been the subject of previous statements made by Mr. Westrop addressed in our prior correspondence. For your ease of reference, I am attaching the previous letters from us to the

Middle East Forum (MEF) and its counsel dated July 24, 2025, June 26, 2025, March 27, 2025, and February 24, 2025.

Broadly, the questions in Mr. Westrop's recent email reveal an intention to attempt to tie HAUSA to Human Appeal International (HAI-UAE), an entirely separate entity based in the United Arab Emirates, and in particular to events involving HAI-UAE several decades ago. HAUSA is an independent organization with an independent board of directors and is based in Mission Viejo, California, and which was only recently *formed in 2022*. HAUSA is affiliated with Human Appeal United Kingdom (HAUK),¹ but has nothing to do with HAI-UAE or Human Appeal Australia and never has had anything to do with those entities.

In responding to Mr. Westrop's emails, we do so in the awareness of the transparent bias that has animated his previous writing about HAUSA and other organizations in which members of the Muslim faith play important roles. Notwithstanding Mr. Westrop's past false statements about HAUSA, we request that he receive and review this letter with an open mind and that he abandon his preconceived false narrative about HAUSA. Below are HAUSA's specific responses to Mr. Westrop's recent emails.

Recent Background

On July 24, Mr. Westrop sent an email stating that he would publish an "extended article" on what is characterized in his email as the "Human Appeal franchise"—focused on what is further described as "Human Appeal's branches in the U.K. and the U.S." That email enumerates six sets of comments intermixed with comments, preceded by his request to "explain the following." After receipt and that same day, July 24, we sent a letter addressed to Mr. Bauer, emphasizing that the stated premise of the article as described in Mr. Westrop's email—that there exists some overarching organization or franchise called Human Appeal that has "branches in the UK and the US"—is demonstrably false.

¹ HAUK is a charity regulated by the Charity Commission of England and Wales, is in good standing, is subject to strict annual auditing, and has provided comprehensive disclosures about its activities since it was founded in 1991. HAUK, like HAUSA, is not affiliated with (nor does it support) Islamist extremism, Hamas, Islamism and/or terrorist violence and is not affiliated with HAI-UAE which is based in the United Arab Emirates.

Nevertheless, only six days later, despite that content of our July 24 letter to Mr. Bauer, Mr. Westrop emailed the trustees of HAUK, referring to “Human Appeal’s branches” and to what the email calls the “Human Appeal franchise.” Mr. Westrop’s stubborn refusal to accept that HAUSA and HAUK do not have “branches” in the Middle East and are not part of some broader franchise is evidence of the apparent malice he bears toward HAUSA and HAUK.

Responses to Emailed Questions

Your statements and questions (from July 24, 2025) are in bold below, followed by our response:

1. Human Appeal’s UK accounts indicate millions of dollars of financial contributions to the Gaza-based Islamic Zakat Society (also known as the Gaza Zakat Committee). IZS is run by a leading Hamas cleric, Hazem Al-Sirraj, and the charity is publicly involved with senior Hamas leaders.

Human Appeal UK (HAUK), which is affiliated with Human Appeal, USA (HAUSA), has supported and funded certain food and shelter projects in conjunction with the Islamic Zakat Society (IZS) which is based in Gaza, such as 150 family food parcels distributed in April 2023. This is consistent with the humanitarian missions of HAUSA and HAUK.

The Islamic Zakat Society is an independent NGO that works with multiple Western charities including several United Nations bodies. It is not affiliated with or linked to Hamas or Hamas leaders, and any suggestion to the contrary is false. The UN’s Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia website lists IZS as a partnering entity.² The UN conducts stringent due diligence on partnering entities and would not work with or associate with NGOs linked to terrorist groups. Similarly, HAUK and HAUSA conduct due diligence and screening before partnering with any entity in order to ensure that such entity is a well-respected organization with an excellent reputation, and such screening and due diligence would reveal any affiliation with a terrorist organization such as Hamas and would cause HAUK and HAUSA to refuse to work with such organization. The diligence performed by HAUSA and HAUK is vigorous: it uses the same due diligence solution that international banks and governments used to screen for sanctioned

² See <https://archive.unescwa.org/islamic-zakat-society>

entities, to assure that it does not accidentally partner with such entities on any of its charitable work.

HAUSA and HAUK have no knowledge of the person referenced in the question, Hazem Al-Sirraj. HAUSA and HAUK also have no knowledge that IZS is known as “Gaza Zakat Committee” and have never heard or seen that name used.

In a similar question Mr. Westrop sent recently to the trustees of HAUK on or about July 29, 2025, Mr. Westrop named a different NGO, the Al Zakah Committee of Jerusalem. Neither HAUSA nor HAUK have ever worked with, supported, or contributed funds to the Al Zakah Committee of Jerusalem or entities with similar names.

2. In recent letters to the Middle East Forum, Human Appeal USA’s attorneys, Carter Ledyard & Milburn emphasized that Human Appeal has never had any relationship with the Union of Good, a designated terrorist financing umbrella organization. However, archived copies of one of Human Appeal own U.K websites from 2001 clearly list both the “Union of Good” as well as its “101 Days Campaign” (which, as the U.S. Treasury Department notes, is a Union of Good alias). Another archived page on the Human Appeal UK website, linking to that Union of Good/101 Days campaign page, states “British charities come together to form the Union for Good (UK).” Is Human Appeal still involved with the Union of Good? If not, when did it cease its involvement?

HAUK is not and never was affiliated with or a member of the 101 Days Campaign or the Union of Good. We know of no archived pages (and have never seen any such pages) from HAUK’s website that suggests any link to the 101 Days Campaign or the Union of Good. If you have any copies of archived pages that you believe to suggest this, please provide them to us so that HAUSA may address your allegation more specifically.

As we have previously explained by letter, the false allegation that HAUK was involved in the 101 Days Campaign stems from an MEF-affiliated defamatory article from 2013 which claims that a Muslim youth group raised funds for the 101 Days Campaign and the youth group stated they would donate the funds to a charity called Human Appeal. The same article links to a report as proof of this on

the ABC news site of Australia relating to Human Appeal Australia.³ Human Appeal Australia is an entirely separate and distinct entity from HAUUK, and HAUUK has no affiliation with Human Appeal Australia, does not share any branding or logo with it, and does not in any way support it. As with the old and discredited “Union of Good allegation” previously made by you, it is based on an intentional and knowingly false conflation of HAUUK with other separate entities having no relationship with HAUUK.

When it was suggested, in 2008, that HAUUK was on a list of Hamas-linked organization referred to as the Union of Good, the Charity Commission of England and Wales conducted an investigation and concluded that HAUUK was not a member of the Hamas-linked Union of Good.⁴ Reflecting this conclusion, in 2012, a British publication, the Jewish Chronicle, published an apology in which it admitted that its statements about HAUUK being a terrorist organization that funded terrorist activities were untrue.⁵

3. In those same letters, Carter Ledyard & Milburn stated Human Appeal has “no affiliation or relationship of any kind with HAI-UAE.” However, we note in an archived page of the Human Appeal UK’s website from December 2004, Human Appeal lists Human Appeal International UAE as one of its “regional offices.” And an archived copy of humanappeal.org from 2013 links to the websites of Human Appeal UK and Human Appeal UAE, implicitly listing them as branches of the same organization. Historical WHOIS data shows that humanappeal.org was registered in 2011 by Human Appeal’s office in the U.K. The phone numbers on these archived pages for Human Appeal UAE matches the phone number still registered today to Human Appeal International in the UAE.

³ <https://web.archive.org/web/20031002025817/http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2003/s951368.htm>

⁴ https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2010-04-06/debates/10040627000033/UnionOfGood?highlight=letter%20from%20andrew%20hind%20dated%2029%20march%202010&__cf_chl_f_tk=ehzUmqzXuYuSxMZer61970XLfUbdJGN0RiL4uFprKpc-1754070480-1.0.1.1-qjBhDkuRBiClQWH3gqkemDmFTFioRqkyey2vB_82ue8#contribution-10040627000407

⁵ <https://url.us.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/-8ILCNkE3DHMnllPHmfkTyBojA?domain=thejc.com>

The premise of this question, that a single purported entry on the website of HAUK from 2004, could somehow constitute proof of an affiliation or relationship between HAUSA, founded 18 years later in 2022, and any other organization is illogical and nonsensical. The fact that when HAUSA, at its founding in 2022, affiliated with HAUK, does not mean that HAUSA thereby formed relationships with any and all organizations with which HAUK once theoretically or allegedly had some purported relationship in decades past.

But in any event, even as to HAUK alone, the suggestion is demonstrably false. HAUK is simply not a division of or in any way affiliated with HAI-UAE. HAUK also does not share any branding or logo with HAI-UAE and does not in any way support HAI-UAE. MEF has not provided any evidence to support its claim that HAUK is a division or branch or affiliate of a Middle East entity. While the two entities' names both include the words "human appeal" they are completely unrelated. This has been conveyed many times to MEF.

We know of no archived pages (and have never seen any such pages) from HAUK's website that suggest any affiliation with HAI-UAE or that HAI-UAE is a regional office of HAUK. But before falsely tying HAUK to HAI-UAE through this notion, please provide us with a copy of the purported archived page or pages, so that we may further identify the nature of the error that is being made in suggesting it as proof of some non-existent tie between HAUK and HAI-UAE.

If MEF persists with this allegation, that would reveal that Mr. Westrop and MEF are either determined to publish false allegations or at least have deliberately failed to conduct proper diligence before propagating the falsehood that HAUK is part of HAI-UAE, an entity created by decree of the ruler of the Emirate of Ajman in 1984. Obviously, HAUK's origin is entirely different, as a UK based and regulated charity founded in 1991—subjected since to the stringent regulatory review by the British government.

Finally, any implications you have drawn from WHOIS or other websites are entirely false.

4. Human Appeal CEO Mohammed Ashmawey's LinkedIn page discloses his job, from October 2016 to March 2018, as a "senior management consultant" at the International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) in Kuwait. In 2012, IICO organized a ceremony honoring Hamas leaders,

including the late Ismail Haniyeh and Mohammed Sinwar, organizers of the October 7 terror attacks.

Dr. Ashmawey is a well-recognized humanitarian with decades of experience in the non-profit charity sector and has worked with many different faith communities. In 2022, at the AidEx conference, the world's leading humanitarian aid and disaster relief event, Dr. Ashmawey was awarded the 2022 Humanitarian Hero of the Year Award.

The alleged facts recited in this question do not remotely support the conclusion that HAUSA is affiliated with or supports HAMAS—which it does not. Instead, and according to the question, Dr. Ashmawey served as a Senior Management Consultant for the International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) from October 2016 to March 2018 (approximately 17 months). He was not in any way affiliated with IICO in 2012, when according to your question, the alleged IICO event occurred. In sum, an event in 2012 involving IICO has nothing to do with HAUSA, an organization that would not even be born for a decade hence, nor with its CEO, especially since he had no involvement with IICO at the time of the 2012 event referenced in your question.⁶

The point is so important that it bears repetition: HAUSA and its CEO, Mohammed Ashmawey, do not support and are not affiliated in any way with terrorist organizations such as Hamas. HAUSA and its CEO are committed to HAUSA's core mission: to raise funds to ameliorate hunger, homelessness, and the consequences of natural disasters, as well as to establish sustaining development programs in poverty afflicted regions throughout the world.

5. Muin Kamel Mohammed Shabib claims to have served as a top official at Human Appeal in the UK for many years. According to the FBI, however, Shabib reportedly attended a Hamas meeting in Philadelphia in the 1990s

⁶ Moreover, the IICO is a well-respected entity which partners and collaborates on humanitarian projects with which various United Nations bodies, including the UNRWA, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, and UNHCR. See <https://www.unrwa.org/international-islamic-charity-organization-iico>; <https://www.unicef.org/gulf/press-releases/unicef-and-iico-announce-wide-ranging-partnership>; <https://unhabitat.org/news/05-aug-2022/un-habitat-iico-partner-to-improve-living-conditions-of-palestinians-in-the-gaza>; <https://www.unhcr.org/kw/en/private-sector/international-islamic-charity-organization/#:~:text=Overview,with%20a%20local%20charity%2FNGO>

famously wiretapped by the FBI. The FBI states that Shabib “admitted to supporting HAMAS financially and political” and reportedly served as “a senior HAMAS activist ... formerly in charge of HAMAS’ Central Sector (Ramallah-Jerusalem) in the West Bank.”

HAUK knows of no former officials that previously worked for Hamas or subsequently went on to do so. That said, it is false and irresponsible to suggest that HAUK supports a particular entity merely on the basis that one of HAUK’s former employees might have subsequently affiliated with such entity, after leaving HAUK’s employment. HAUK cannot control the actions of persons who previously worked for HAUK, but emphatically, HAUK does not in any way support or affiliate with Hamas or other terrorist groups or persons that support terrorism.⁷

The source of this question is dubious as it is described in Mr. Westrop’s question as “according to the FBI.” Please send us the evidence that the FBI did indeed allege what your question contends that it alleged. We cannot assume that the FBI ever made these statements—just based on inclusion of this notion in your question. To our knowledge, the *only* report about this claimed statement is from MEF. While Mr. Westrop’s email purports to describe the statement as having been made in the “1990s” and attributes this to an FBI report, his own question creates doubt about the facts it asserts: if there were an actual FBI report, it would very likely have a specific date and not attribute such a statement vaguely to somewhere during an entire decade, as expressed in this question.

Moreover, and as Mr. Westrop is well aware, MEF’s knowing spreading of false allegations has been well documented. As reported in a recent George Mason University study, entitled *Mapping Anti-Muslim Discrimination and Information Manipulation, and its Impact on Humanitarian Aid and Development* (the “GM Study”),⁸ MEF is one of the leaders in “manipulat[ing] information used to target Muslim-led humanitarian relief and development” organizations. The GM Study

⁷ According to a LinkedIn profile, a person by the name of Dr. Moin Shubib (different from the spelling used in the July 24 Westrop email and possibly a different person) was reportedly an official of HAUK before 2010. A person of that name, is currently head of a UK based NGO called “EAP” according to the LinkedIn profile.

⁸ <https://jliflc.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Fitzgerald-WhitePaper2.pdf>

describes how MEF works with other anti-Muslim organizations such as the Investigative Project on Terrorism (“IPT”) founded by Steven Emerson and inflammatory content from Emerson and IPT is often featured on MEF’s websites. The GM Study further reveals that MEF is a funder of IPT and explains how IPT and MEF have succeeded in fabricating lies and falsehoods and getting such defamatory content published by media outlets.

As explained in the GM Study, Associated Press reporters, in 1997, accused Emerson of “fabricating a dossier, which Emerson claimed contained purported FBI documents that detailed American Muslim organizations with alleged ‘terrorist sympathies.’” In 2025, MEF and IPT fed a similar fabricated Shabib narrative to ELNET, which was posted on its website: however, once confronted with the fact that this was false, ELNET apologized to HAUK and removed the article from its website.

The GM Study provides several other examples, over three decades, of Emerson manipulating information and disseminating falsehoods to media outlets to launch false attacks on Muslims. The GM Study also indicates that you [Sam Westrop] have a “documented history of making false and defamatory allegations against prominent British Muslims” and have been held responsible by a UK court for libel for falsely linking a person to Islamist terrorism.

6. Human Appeal USA events have featured Ammar Shahin. Shahin, Imam of the Islamic Center of Davis, called in 2017 for the eradication of Jews, according to a translation of his sermon published by the Middle East Media Research Institute. Shahin posted pictures on his social media of the early hours of Hamas’s attack on October 7th, later urging “support for Gaza” and claiming that “victory is near.”

Shahin is in no way affiliated with HAUSA. You do not appear to believe otherwise, but yet, consistent with your preconceived narrative, your question suggests that you will falsely attempt to tie HAUSA to purported statements by Shahin that have nothing to do with HAUSA.

While Shahin appeared at some charity events at which HAUSA also had a presence, Shahin’s remarks at those events did not endorse Hamas, make reference to the Hamas terrorist attack of October 7, 2023, or include any hateful or violent rhetoric. HAUSA emphatically denounces such rhetoric and terrorism.

With respect to the 2017 sermon you reference, that was before HAUSA existed. In any event, we are aware that, as was widely reported, Shahin issued a public apology for his comment back in 2017.⁹

In sum, HAUSA does not endorse or condone hateful and violent rhetoric, and instead condemns calls for violence against Israelis, Jews or any other group of people.

7. Thank you so much. I plan to publish on Friday, July 25th. If you're unable to send your comments in time, we'd be willing to append them to the article post-publication.

As conveyed in our various letters, we have explained in detail that HAUSA and HAUk are not Islamist organizations and in no way support Islamism, Hamas, terrorism or terrorist activities. HAUSA and HAUk do not support and are not affiliated with HAI-UAE or any other international entity that includes Human Appeal in its name.

Please provide us with the information requested in this letter before any publication, so that we may comment on any actual documents that exist, as opposed to how Mr. Westrop characterizes documents we have not seen. If you continue to publish statements about HAUSA and HAUk that are false, harmful, and defamatory, we will pursue all available legal remedies. Please direct any future questions or comments to me.

All rights reserved.

Very truly yours,



Alan S. Lewis

ASL:bp
Attachments

⁹ <https://www.abc10.com/article/news/local/davis-imam-publicly-apologizes-for-anti-semitic-sermons/103-460325212>

July 24, 2025 Letter

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July 24, 2025

BY EMAIL

S. Derek Bauer, Esq.
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Dear Mr. Bauer:

As you know, we represent Human Appeal, USA (“HAUSA”). Several times in the last year we have written to your client, the Middle East Forum (“MEF”) - and to others that have also published articles by Sam Westrop, in which Westrop makes knowingly false and defamatory statements about HAUSA.

Earlier *today*, July 24, Westrop sent an email stating that he would publish an “extended article” on what he labels “Human Appeal’s branches in the U.K. and the U.S.” Westrop’s email seeks “comment,” which he offers to include in his article, but only to the extent he decides that the comment is “useful.” Although Westrop’s email poses six enumerated categories of questions, asking HAUSA to “explain,” his email indicates this his article will be published on July 25 – *just one day* after his posing of this long series of questions.

Certain things are apparent from Mr. Westrop’s email: given his stated intention to publish his “extended article” just one day after sending this email, the theme of his story is predetermined and fixed. Mr. Westrop could not possibly process, evaluate and then investigate information provided to him in response to his series of questions, and then fulfill his self-imposed publication deadline of one day later. Is thus clear that nothing that HAUSA says in any response to Westrop’s questions will deter him from publishing yet another defamatory article about HAUSA. This is also apparent from the content of the purported questions in Westrop’s email: the information he purports to seek has already been provided

to him, in the form of the previous letters we have sent to MEF and the other publications that have published his articles.

In any event, the premise of the article Westrop promises to write, that there is some overarching organization called Human Appeal that has “branches in the UK and the US” and purportedly elsewhere is demonstrably and provably false. In particular, the questions in his email reveal that Westrop intends to tie HAUSA to Human Appeal International (HAI-UAE), an entirely separate entity based in the United Arab Emirates, and in particular to events involving HAI-UAE several decades ago. By contrast, HAUSA is an independent organization with an independent board of directors and is based in Mission Viejo, California, and which was only recently *formed in 2022*. HAUSA has nothing to do with HAI-UAE and never has had anything to do with that organization, Mr. Westrop has no basis for concluding otherwise and evidently does not care whether his accusations are true or not. In other words, his portrayal of HAUSA will be a product of the actual malice he bears.

I’ll nevertheless elaborate on some of the reasons why the accusations suggested in Westrop’s email are demonstrably false, and will subject him and MEF to liability for defamation, should such accusations be published.

First, the suggestion, in Westrop’s questions that HAUK supports Hamas terrorism based on contentions tying HAUK to Islamic Zakat Society for Gaza is a baseless fake conspiracy. The Islamic Zakat Society is an independent NGO that works with multiple Western charities including several UN bodies. HAUK has sporadically distributed food aid in conjunction with this NGO, such as 150 family food parcels in April 2023.

Second, the purported official US cables from Wikileaks that Westrio references refer only to HAI-UAE and not to HAUSA (or to Human Appeal, United Kingdom (HAUK)). See

https://search.wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/05ABUDHABI2169_a.html
https://search.wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/06DUBAI2853_a.html

Third, HAUK is not a division of Human Appeal international of UAE nor any other Middle East charity. MEF has not provided any evidence to support its claim that HAUK is a division of a Middle East charity. Instead, the questions and Westrop’s previously made defamatory statements rely on a coincidence of similar

names. MEF is either determined to publish false allegations, or at least has deliberately failed to conduct proper diligence before propagating the falsehood that HAUK is part of HAI-UAE. Such diligence would reveal that there are several other charities around the world using a similar name that are also unrelated to Human Appeal UK such as Human Appeal Australia and Human Appeal Bangladesh. Each has its own entirely separate operations, governance etc.

Fourth, HAI-UAE was created by decree of the ruler of the Emirate of Ajman in 1984. No UAE decree was ever issued to create Human Appeal UK which is a UK regulated charity founded in 1991.

Fifth, so-called FBI documents like the ones referenced by Westrop have been proven to be fabricated misinformation disseminated by right-wing think tanks and cannot be treated as verified or reliable. A George Mason University study describes how a network of mutually funded think-tanks like MEF work with other malicious think tanks such as the Investigative Project on Terrorism (“IPT”) to spread misinformation about certain charities. MEF funds IPT. The study explains how IPT and MEF have succeeded in fabricating lies and falsehoods and in getting such defamatory content published by media outlets. As explained in the study, Associated Press reporters, in 1997, accused the IPT think tank founder of “fabricating a dossier, which he claimed contained purported FBI documents that claimed to detail Muslim organizations with alleged ‘terrorist sympathies.’” The study provides several other examples, over three decades, of manipulation of information and disseminating falsehoods to media outlets to launch false attacks on charities and NGOs in which persons of the Muslim faith are involved.

Sixth, the source of the confused lie about HAUSA or HAUK being a member of the 101 Days campaign is an MEF affiliated article from 2013 which claims that a Muslim youth group raised funds for the 101 Days campaign and the Youth Group said they would donate the funds to a charity called Human Appeal. The same article links to a report as proof of this on the ABC news site of Australia. However, Human Appeal Australia is an entirely separate and distinct entity from HAUK. In sum, it is evident that the source of this allegation about the 101 Days campaign, just like the old and discredited “Union of Good allegation” previously made by Westrop, is based on an intentional and knowingly false conflation of HAUK with other separate entities having no relationship with

HAUK. Indeed, this article, seemingly relied on by MEF for its allegations is only about Human Appeal Australia:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20031002025817/http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2003/s951368.htm>

Seventh, all of the sources cited by Westrop pre-date the 2022 formation of HAUSA (some going back as far as 1996). Many of the sources cited cannot be found and others include unverified allegations and speculation—again, all relating to HAI-UAE, not HAUSA

When it was suggested, in 2008, that HAUK was on a list of Hamas-linked organizations referred to as the Union of Good, the Charity Commission of England and Wales conducted an investigation and concluded that HAUK was *not* a member of the Hamas-linked Union of Good.¹ In 2012, a British publication, the Jewish Chronicle, published an apology in which it admitted that its statements about HAUK being a terrorist organization that funded terrorist activities were untrue.²

HAUSA is non-political and non-partisan and is committed to its core mission: to raise funds to ameliorate hunger, homelessness, and the consequences of natural disasters, as well as to establish sustaining development programs in poverty afflicted regions throughout the world.³

MEF's continued publication of articles by Mr. Westrop characterizing HAUSA as an Islamist organization that supports terrorist organizations and activities —notwithstanding HAUSA having provided information debunking such assertions, refuted such statements, explained the harmful impact, and demanded retractions and corrections (coupled with Mr. Westrop's notoriety for defamatory allegations) —reinforces and confirms MEF's actual malice in disseminating false and defamatory content about HAUSA. Should MEF publish an article alleging or suggesting the defamatory statements suggested in Westrop's email, or similar to

¹ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2010-04-06/debates/10040627000033/UnionOfGood?highlight=letter%20from%20andrew%20hind%20dated%2029%20march%202010#contribution-10040627000407>

² <https://www.thejc.com/news/human-appeal-international-an-apology-qita3d2c>

³ <https://humanappealusa.org>

false allegations he has previously made against HAUSA, HAUSA will hold Westrop and MEF accountable.

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Very truly yours,



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June 26, 2025 Letter

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June 26, 2025

BY EMAIL

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Dear Mr. Sholder:

As you know, we represent Human Appeal, USA (“HAUSA”), which has repeatedly been the subject of defamatory articles published by your client, the Middle East Forum (“MEF”). The latest example is an article dated June 10, 2025, authored by Sam Westrop and bearing the headline: *Texas State Government Gives \$13 Million to Islamist Mosques and Community Groups*.¹ This article makes a number of demonstrably false and grossly disparaging statements about HAUSA — most notably that HAUSA is an “Islamist” organization and that it has been accused of involvement or affiliation with terrorist organizations and their proxies. Accordingly, we write to demand that MEF take immediate corrective action to remedy its defamation of HAUSA. HAUSA will evaluate MEF’s cooperation in that regard, as a part of its decision whether to pursue legal remedies that would include the filing of a defamation lawsuit.

As we explained in our letters dated February 24, 2025 and March 27, 2025 (attached), HAUSA is emphatically not an Islamist organization and is not affiliated with any terrorist organizations or those that support terrorist activities. Those letters were in response to another defamatory article published by MEF on February 1, 2025, authored by Mr. Westrop with the headline: *Terror Finance at the State Department and USAID*. Notwithstanding our letters and documentation demonstrating the falsity of these allegations, MEF refused to remove such article from its website, declined to retract the false statements about HAUSA, and failed to issue a corrective statement. Now, MEF’s new publication of similar defamatory falsehoods shows a deliberate disregard of the falsity of the statements and actual malice.

As previously explained to MEF, HAUSA is non-political and non-partisan and is committed to its core mission: to raise funds to ameliorate hunger, homelessness, and

¹ <https://www.meforum.org/fwi/fwi-research/texas-state-government-gives-13-million-to-islamist-mosques-and-community-groups>

the consequences of natural disasters, as well as to establish sustaining development programs in poverty afflicted regions throughout the world.²

This new article repeats the falsehood that “Human Appeal” (well understood as a reference to HAUSA in the context of the article) is an “Islamist charitable franchise.” At this point, there is no doubt that MEF published this damaging accusation without actually believing it to be true. In light of our previous correspondence regarding similar false allegations made in the past, by the time MEF published this accusation again, it knew that its truth was dubious, or at best for MEF it did not care whether it was true or not and took no steps to determine whether there were any facts that could support this notion – there are none. As we fully explained in our February and March letters, HAUSA is not in any respect an “Islamist” charity or otherwise an advocate for Islamism. An “Islamist” is generally understood to be a person or organization with a political agenda and ideology that supports Islamic fundamentalism, the influence of Islamic law in politics and government, and the reordering of society pursuant to Islamic law.³ HAUSA has nothing to do with supporting or advocating Islamism and to do so would be wholly contrary to its charitable status. It is entirely devoted to its core mission of providing immediate and sustainable relief to suffering populations around the globe. To label HAUSA as an Islamist charity is harmful to its reputation, operations, and non-profit status under American law. MEF continues to make this false contention, having no factual basis to believe it is true because, evidently, MEF does not care that it is not true.

The premise of the new article is to allege that certain recipients of Texas State government U.S. federal funding are organizations that support Islamist extremism and terrorist activities. HAUSA is not a named organization receiving Texas State funds, and its inclusion is entirely unnecessary to the article. Nevertheless, in the section discussing Clear Lake Islamic Center (“CLIC”), one of the named organizations, the article falsely suggests a connection between CLIC and HAUSA and defames HAUSA.

The article falsely states that HAUSA is CLIC’s “partner” and points to a Facebook post regarding a December 2024 event involving speaker Sami Hamdi which was hosted by CLIC and in which HAUSA was a designated charity of choice for an ad-hoc event.⁴ This does not mean or suggest that the organizations are *partners*; HAUSA has no partnership or affiliation of any kind with CLIC. The article suggests that HAUSA supports Hamas because it alleges that Mr. Hamdi is a “pro-Hamas activist” and points to a Canadian news article alleging that Mr. Hamdi celebrated the October 7th Hamas

² <https://humanappealusa.org>

³ <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/islamist>; <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/islamist>; <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Islamism>

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/UmmAisha/posts/pfbid02fSDzdyGisv6aZqb1qD1jRvRacE5DryFfeZzn45gZdTyskT1c1cqiuFWqv8FPZcxl>

attack.⁵ The same Canadian news article, however, indicates that Mr. Hamdi categorically refuted the allegations. The suggestion that HAUSA supported or supports the October 7 terrorist attack by Hamas or any other act of terrorism is deeply offensive, has no basis in reality, and is entirely false. Moreover, in no way does HAUSA support Hamas (and there is no basis for such a suggestion).

Further, the December 2024 event had absolutely nothing to do with Hamas; it very clearly involved a discussion of “What Trump’s Second Term Means for Muslims in America” and involved fundraising for the people of Gaza and Sudan, which are both experiencing a dire humanitarian crisis. This is entirely consistent with HAUSA’s mission of ameliorating the suffering of people and providing humanitarian aid to places of need throughout the world, only a small portion of such aid being directed to Gaza or other places where Islamic terrorist organizations may be present. The suggestion that HAUSA supports Hamas or those who are Hamas activists is defamatory and harmful to HAUSA’s reputation because Hamas is a known terrorist organization.

The article also labels HAUSA as an entity “repeatedly accused of involvement with terrorist organizations and their proxies” and, for this statement, cites its own accusations from a fabricated news article from 2013 also authored by Sam Westrop. As you know, these “accusations” included in MEF’s 2013 article were in fact challenged by Human Appeal United Kingdom (“HAUK”), HAUSA’s UK affiliate, which obtained corrections of statements falsely linking it to Hamas and terrorist activities. When it was suggested, in 2008, that HAUK was on a list of Hamas-linked organizations referred to as the Union of Good, the Charity Commission of England and Wales conducted an investigation and concluded that HAUK was *not* a member of the Hamas-linked Union of Good.⁶ In 2012, a British publication, the Jewish Chronicle, published an apology in which it admitted that its statements about HAUK being a terrorist organization that funded terrorist activities were untrue.⁷

HAUSA does not support any person or entity that supports or is involved with Islamism, Islamist extremism or terrorism. As you are aware, *internationally*, there are some other organizations with “Human Appeal” as part of their names. For example, there is an organization named Human Appeal International (HAI-UAE) that is based in the United Arab Emirates. While HAI-UAE apparently *has* been accused of funding terrorist organizations, HAUSA has not; it has *no* affiliation or relationship of any kind with HAI-UAE. We have made this point to MEF previously, and in response you have

⁵ <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/universities-cancel-speeches-over-hamas-atrocities-celebration>

⁶ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2010-04-06/debates/10040627000033/UnionOfGood?highlight=letter%20from%20andrew%20hind%20dated%2029%20march%202010#contribution-10040627000407>

⁷ <https://www.thejc.com/news/human-appeal-international-an-apology-qjta3d2c>

been unable to point to any basis for thinking, incorrectly, that HAUSA has a relationship with HAI-UAE.

This new article includes the same type of inflammatory and damaging statements about HAUSA which HAUSA has previously refuted to MEF, including in my February and March letters to MEF. This new article again relies on the same dishonest tactics for which MEF has been widely criticized. As reported in a recent George Mason University study, entitled *Mapping Anti-Muslim Discrimination and Information Manipulation, and its Impact on Humanitarian Aid and Development* (the “GM Study”),⁸ MEF is one of the leaders in “manipulat[ing] information used to target Muslim-led humanitarian relief and development” organizations, such as HAUSA. As noted by the GM Study, the author of the article, Sam Westrop, has a “documented history of making false and defamatory allegations against prominent British Muslims” and has been held responsible by a UK court for libel for falsely linking a person to Islamist terrorism.

MEF’s continued publication of articles by Mr. Westrop characterizing HAUSA as an Islamist organization that supports terrorist organizations and activities — notwithstanding HAUSA having provided information debunking such assertions, refuted such statements, explained the harmful impact, and demanded retractions and corrections (coupled with Mr. Westrop’s notoriety for defamatory allegations) — reinforces and confirms MEF’s actual malice in disseminating false and defamatory content about HAUSA. MEF’s false suggestions that HAUSA is pro-Hamas and endorses anti-Israel or Islamist terrorism continues to be extremely harmful, causing donors to question HAUSA’s affiliations, activities and intentions, reducing funds available for humanitarian aid projects, and negatively impacting its operations and mission.

Accordingly, in order to correct the record, minimize confusion, and begin to repair the reputational harm to HAUSA caused by the publication of this article (and your February article), we demand that you remove from your website (or any other website) the articles whose content you now know to be false or misleading about HAUSA. We also demand that you issue a public correction, indicating to readers that the statement that HAUSA is Islamist and that its CEO supports anti-Israeli terrorism or any form of terrorism are untrue. We further demand that you communicate this correction to other organizations or websites that have republished the article and request that they remove the article and publicize the correction.

Please respond to this letter by July 11, 2025. Failure to do so will be understood as a refusal to mitigate the harms inflicted by the malicious publication of the article, following which HAUSA will pursue all available legal remedies. We have tried in good faith to avoid litigation through our letters addressing MEF’s false

⁸ <https://jilflc.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Fitzgerald-WhitePaper2.pdf>.

statements. But please be warned, HAUSA's patience with MEF's publication of deliberate falsehoods is not inexhaustible.

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Very truly yours,



Alan S. Lewis

ASL:md:bp
Attachments

March 27, 2025 Letter

Alan S. Lewis

Partner
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March 27, 2025

BY EMAIL

Scott J. Sholder, Esq.
60 Broad Street, 30th Floor
New York, NY 10004
(ssholder@cdas.com)

Dear Mr. Sholder:

On March 3, acting on behalf of your client the Middle East Forum (“MEF”), you responded to the letter we had previously sent on behalf of Human Appeal, USA (“HAUSA”) and its CEO concerning an article published by MEF on February 1, 2025 (the “Article”). Your letter expresses your client’s refusal to retract the Article’s statements branding HAUSA as an Islamist extremist organization and purported supporter of terrorism, but the reasons recited in your letter for that position are invalid, for reasons that should not be a surprise to your client. In short, MEF’s refusal to retract is grounded in reliance on the conclusory, unreliable and demonstrably biased statements of others closely affiliated with MEF, all the while ignoring the well respected and carefully researched conclusions from respected academic and governmental bodies in the United States and United Kingdom. In this and other ways, your letter reinforces the conclusion that your client’s statements about HAUSA and Dr. Ashmawey are not the result of some innocent mistake, but instead, actual malice. I write to elaborate on these points, and to then underscore and reiterate our demand that MEF take immediate corrective action to remedy its defamation of HAUSA and Dr. Ashmawey.

The stated premise of the Article is to identify organizations that use federal funding to support Islamist extremism and terrorism. The Article included a discussion of HAUSA and its CEO (in the section about Mercy USA) for the very apparent purpose of falsely conveying to the reader that HAUSA is such an organization. But as demonstrated in our recent letter to MEF, HAUSA is not an Islamist organization, does not finance terror, and has no affiliations with persons or organizations who engage in such behavior. As our letter also demonstrated, Dr. Ashmawey does not support terrorism directed against Israel or Israelis (or otherwise support terrorism of any kind). HAUSA is non-political, non-ideological, and non-partisan. HAUSA and its CEO have a single mission, which is focused directly and exclusively on helping to ameliorate the suffering of the world’s poor through global humanitarian assistance.

You justify MEF's defamatory characterization of HAUSA based on articles and quotes containing fabrications from sources funded or backed by MEF, a dishonest tactic regularly employed by MEF in the past. Reliance on such articles, which are not in any way credible, confirms the actual malice of MEF in publishing defamatory statements about HAUSA.

MEF's conduct in knowingly spreading false information has been well documented. As reported in a recent George Mason University study, entitled *Mapping Anti-Muslim Discrimination and Information Manipulation, and its Impact on Humanitarian Aid and Development* (the "GM Study"),¹ MEF is one of the leaders in "manipulat[ing] information used to target Muslim-led humanitarian relief and development" organizations, such as HAUSA. This objective and well-respected university study explains how MEF and its founder Daniel Pipes work to "cast doubt on the reputation of Muslim-led charities by attempting to link them with extremism and even terrorism"—precisely as MEF has done in the subject Article. As noted by the GM Study, the author of the Article, Sam Westrop, has a "documented history of making false and defamatory allegations against prominent British Muslims" and has been held responsible by a UK court for libel for falsely linking a person to Islamist terrorism.

The GM Study also describes how MEF works with other malicious anti-Muslim think tanks such as the Investigative Project on Terrorism ("IPT") founded by Steven Emerson. It is well established, as indicated in the GM Study, that MEF funds IPT and inflammatory content from Emerson and IPT is often featured on MEF's websites. The GM Study explains how IPT and MEF have succeeded in fabricating lies and falsehoods and getting such defamatory content published by media outlets. As explained in the GM Study, Associated Press reporters, in 1997, accused Emerson of "fabricating a dossier, which he claimed contained purported FBI documents that detailed American Muslim organizations with alleged 'terrorist sympathies.'" And the GM Study provides several other examples, over three decades, of Emerson manipulating information and disseminating falsehoods to media outlets to launch false attacks on Muslims.

MEF included a discussion of HAUSA's CEO in the Article for the obvious purpose of falsely suggesting to the reader that HAUSA supports Islamist extremism. You cite an *unnamed* source in a 1997 New York Times article for the statement that a speaker at Muslim Arab Youth Association called for the extermination of Israelis. The Article states that this event was "under [Dr.] Ashmawey's watch" to suggest that this event, and the alleged hate speech (conveyed by some unnamed source), was organized by and endorsed by Dr. Ashmawey. But by relying on statements purportedly made by others at an event that occurred as far back as 30 years ago in order to disparage Dr. Ashmawey, MEF further revealed its bad faith in accusing him and HAUSA (an organization that did not exist 30 years ago) of extremist rhetoric. In any

¹ <https://jilflc.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Fitzgerald-WhitePaper2.pdf>.

event, the false implication of the Article that HAUSA supports terrorism was not an innocent error, as it is well known to MEF that the accusation leveled in the Article was fabricated by IPT and planted in the New York Times, as explained in the GM Study.

As explained in our February 24 letter to MEF, there are other organizations with “Human Appeal” as part of their names with which HAUSA and HAUK have no affiliation whatsoever. For example, Human Appeal International (HAI-UAE) is based in the United Arab Emirates and apparently has been accused of funding terrorist organizations, however, HAUSA and HAUK have absolutely no affiliation or relationship of any kind with HAI-UAE. Likewise, Human Appeal Australia is not related to or affiliated with HAUSA or HAUK. Your letter, consistent with past MEF statements, deliberately confuses or conflates HAUSA/HAUK with HAI-UAE or other organizations in order to confuse the reader and harm HAUSA, merely because some among its leadership belong to the Islamic faith. This, again, confirms MEF’s bias-driven intent to defame HAUSA.

You contend that the MEF does not state that HAUSA or Dr. Ashmawey support Islamic terrorism. However, your letter directly contests our statement that HAUSA “is not affiliated with Islamist terrorism,” indicating that such a statement “rings hollow.” This effectively proves our point. You also cite, as evidence of HAUSA’s support of terrorism, to a 2015 Daily Telegraph article stating that “Human Appeal has a record of links with the terrorist group Hamas.” This Daily Telegraph article is yet another example of media manipulation, with fabricated content planted by IPT or other MEF funded entities, a well-established tactic of MEF as explained above.

HAUSA and Dr. Ashmawey do not dispute that Dr. Ashmawey held a leadership position with Islamic Relief. However, that fact does not in any way prove (or even suggest) that HAUSA and Islamic Relief share the same mission or affiliations, that HAUSA is an Islamist organization, or that HAUSA supports or is affiliated with Islamist terrorist and extremist groups.

A British government agency, the Charity Commission of England and Wales, conducted an extensive investigation, after which it concluded that HAUK was *not* a member of the Hamas-linked Union of Good. This is also confirmed on the British parliamentary record. Yet your letter, reciting MEF’s preconceived position, rejects this fact and conclusion, stating (against all evidence) that the Charity Commission’s findings were “clearly erroneous.” Again, this underscores that MEF maintains (without any evidence) that HAUSA and HAUK are members of the Union of Good and support Islamist terrorism—which is false and defamatory. To defend the Article on this basis further demonstrates MEF’s intention to defame HAUSA, with no regard for or interest in the truth—a casebook illustration of actual malice.

Similarly, it is a fact that the Jewish Chronicle published an apology in which it admitted that its statements about HAUUK being a terrorist organization that funded terrorist activities were untrue. Yet, your letter contests that this is itself untrue, confirming MEF's malicious and false position that HAUSA supports terrorist organization such as Hamas. In support for this position, you cite to a 2013 Islamist Watch article by none other than Sam Westrop, the author of the subject MEF Article, who has a well-documented history of making statements falsely linking various people and organizations to Islamist motivated terrorism.

In sum, your letter only reinforces and confirms the defamatory intent of the Article, the bad-faith reason why it referenced HAUSA, and the recklessness and bias by MEF in disseminating defamatory content about HAUSA and HAUUK. HAUSA will not tolerate MEF's publication of false and defamatory content. We renew our demand that MEF cease and desist from publishing false and reckless statements about HAUSA and HAUUK, including statements attempting to link them to organizations that support terrorism.

We also reiterate our previous demand that MEF remove the Article from its website, retract the statements in the Article about HAUSA (which are entirely unnecessary to the Article), or issue a fully corrective statement apologizing publicly for the false accusations leveled against HAUSA and its CEO. Failure to do so will be understood as a refusal to mitigate the harms inflicted by the malicious publication of the Article, following which HAUSA will pursue all available legal remedies.

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Very truly yours,



Alan S. Lewis

ASL:md:bp

February 24, 2025 Letter

Alan S. Lewis

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New York, NY 10005
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February 24, 2025

BY EMAIL & FEDERAL EXPRESS

Middle East Forum
1650 Market Street, Suite 3600
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Attn: Jim Hanson, Chief Editor
(info@meforum.org)

Dear Mr. Hanson:

We represent Human Appeal, USA (“HAUSA”), one of the subjects of an article published by the Middle East Forum (“MEF”) on February 1, 2025. Authored by Sam Westrop and bearing the headline: *Terror Finance at the State Department and USAID*,¹ the article makes a number of demonstrably false and grossly disparaging statements about HAUSA and its CEO Mohamed Ashmawey—most notably the libelous claim that HAUSA is an “Islamist” organization and that it and its CEO support anti-Israeli terrorism. Accordingly, we write to demand that MEF take immediate corrective action to remedy its defamation of HAUSA and Dr. Ashmawey, absent which HAUSA intends to pursue all legal remedies.

HAUSA is emphatically not an Islamist organization, does not finance terror or any other extremist activity, and is not affiliated with any such organizations, and its CEO does not support terrorism of any kind, including terrorism directed against Israel. Instead, HAUSA is an independent organization based in Mission Viejo, California.² It is non-political and non-partisan, and HAUSA and its CEO are committed to HAUSA’s core mission: to raise funds to ameliorate hunger, homelessness, and the consequences of natural disasters, as well as to establish sustaining development programs in poverty afflicted regions throughout the world.³

¹ <https://www.meforum.org/fwi/fwi-research/terror-finance-at-the-state-department-and-usaid>

² <https://humanappealusa.org>

³ <https://humanappealusa.org>

The premise of the article was to identify organizations that receive U.S. federal funding and use such funding to support Islamist extremism and terrorist activities. In the section discussing Mercy USA, the article suggests a connection between HAUSA's CEO, Mohamed Ashmawey, and an event in which a Hamas leader called for the extermination of Israelis, yet there is no basis whatsoever for this false, reckless, and defamatory statement. While Dr. Ashmawey served as President of the Muslim Arab Youth Association in the 1990s, he focused the organization on local community social issues and not political issues, does not recall any speaker making such outrageous comments at any event, and in no way condones such hateful rhetoric. And he has not been involved with such organization since 1998—27 years ago. Also, HAUSA has no affiliation with Mercy USA, does not receive U.S. federal funds, and does not support Islamist extremism or terrorism of any kind.

The article specifically refers to “Human Appeal” as an “Islamist charity”—an unsubstantiated and damaging allegation. HAUSA is not in any respect an “Islamist” charity or otherwise an advocate for Islamism. An “Islamist” is generally understood to be a person or organization with a political agenda and ideology that supports Islamic fundamentalism, the influence of Islamic law in politics and government, and the reordering of society pursuant to Islamic law.⁴ HAUSA literally has nothing to do with supporting or advocating Islamism and to do so would be wholly contrary to its charitable status. It is entirely devoted to its core mission of providing immediate and sustainable relief to suffering populations around the globe. To label HAUSA as an Islamist charity is harmful to its reputation, operations, and non-profit status under American law.

As you are presumably aware, *internationally*, there are some other organizations with “Human Appeal” as part of their names. For example, there is an organization named Human Appeal International (HAI-UAE) that is based in the United Arab Emirates. While HAI-UAE apparently *has* been accused of funding terrorist organizations, HAUSA has not; it has *no* affiliation or relationship of any kind with HAI-UAE. The only entity with which HAUSA has any affiliation is based in the UK—Human Appeal United Kingdom (HAUK). HAUK is in good standing and registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. HAUK provides comprehensive disclosures about its activities and its financing and, like HAUSA, is not affiliated with (nor does it support) Islamist extremism and/or terrorist violence.⁵ And HAUK, like HAUSA, has absolutely no affiliation with HAI-UAE, and—to avoid any potential for such

⁴ <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/islamist>; <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/islamist>; <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Islamism>

⁵ <https://humanappeal.org.uk>; <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/5038915>

confusion—in 2015, it changed its name from Human Appeal International to Human Appeal United Kingdom.

HAUK, in fact, has previously challenged and obtained corrections of statements falsely linking it to Hamas and terrorist activities. When it was suggested, in 2008, that HAUK was on a list of Hamas-linked organizations referred to as the Union of Good, the Charity Commission of England and Wales conducted an investigation and concluded that HAUK was *not* a member of the Hamas-linked Union of Good.⁶ In 2012, a British publication, the Jewish Chronicle, published an apology in which it admitted that its statements about HAUK being a terrorist organization that funded terrorist activities were untrue.⁷

Further underscoring that HAUSA is not affiliated with Islamist terrorism is that the poverty relief operations of HAUSA and HAUK have historically been dispersed widely throughout the Globe, with a substantial presence in Pakistan but only a relatively tiny portion of its efforts devoted to relief work in Gaza where Hamas is based or elsewhere where Islamic terrorist organizations may be active. Only recently has the work in Gaza increased because of the dire humanitarian crisis that has unfolded there. In undertaking its work, HAUK does so in conformity with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Code of conduct which has strict humanitarian principles.⁸ Also, its work is conducted in accordance with the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability.⁹ In its critical lifesaving work across the Globe, HAUK is registered with many government authorities (as well as in its home jurisdiction of the United Kingdom). None of those governments has had any cause for concern regarding HAUK, in fact HAUK has been welcomed and recognized for the work it does to support the poor and needy. This makes the reference in your article suggesting wrongdoing by Human Appeal even more abhorrent and requires immediate redress.

The article—which brands HAUSA as an Islamist charity and recklessly promotes a conspiracy theory about Dr. Ashmawey—reflects a complete lack of due diligence and has damaged the reputation and operations of HAUSA. The article, published in the U.S. for U.S. readers, was published without basic fact-checking and without contacting HAUSA in advance of publication in order to avoid confusion. Moreover, MEF evidently

⁶ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2010-04-06/debates/10040627000033/UnionOfGood?highlight=letter%20from%20andrew%20hind%20dated%2029%20march%202010#contribution-10040627000407>

⁷ <https://www.thejc.com/news/human-appeal-international-an-apology-qjta3d2c>

⁸ https://www.ifrc.org/code-conduct-signatories?webform_submission_value=human+appeal&webform_submission_value_1=

⁹ <https://www.chsalliance.org/about/our-members/human-appeal/>

failed to do any diligence on the author, Sam Westrop,¹⁰ who, according to public records, has previously made defamatory statements linking people to Islamic terrorism and been found responsible for libel by at least one court—in the United Kingdom. The article's false suggestion that Human Appeal is an Islamist organization whose CEO endorses anti-Israeli terrorism will cause donors to question the activities, intentions, and affiliation of HAUSA, reducing funds available for humanitarian aid projects and operations and negatively impacting their humanitarian mission.

Accordingly, in order to correct the record, minimize confusion, and begin to repair the reputational harm to HAUSA caused by the publication of this article, we demand that you take every available step to mitigate, as much as is possible, that reputational harm. First, it is essential that you remove from your website (or any other website) the article whose content you now know to be false or misleading about HAUSA and/or Dr. Ashmawey. Second, we demand that you issue a public correction, indicating to readers that the statement that HAUSA is Islamist and that its CEO supports anti-Israeli terrorism are untrue. Third, we demand that you communicate this correction to other organizations or websites that have republished the article (including, but not limited to, YourNews)¹¹ and request that they remove the article and publicize the correction.

Please respond to this letter by March 3, 2025. Failure to do so will be understood as a refusal to mitigate the harms inflicted by the malicious publication of the article, following which HAUSA will pursue all available legal remedies.

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Very truly yours,



Alan S. Lewis

ASL:md:bp

¹⁰ <https://www.5rb.com/case/mohamed-ali-harrath-v-1-stand-peace-limited-2-samuel-westrop/>; [Mohamed Ali Harrath v \(1\) Stand for Peace Ltd \(2\) Samuel Westrop - 5RB Barristers](https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2016/1/7/cambridge-city-council-breitbart/)

¹¹ <https://yournews.com/2025/02/18/3239500/usaid-grants-millions-to-charities-with-links-to-terrorist-organizations/>