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VIRGINIA POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE PORTAL

The Man Behind 702 Park Avenue

Ayman Nassar, the Islamic Leadership Institute of America, and the planned Islamic center in Norton

An investigation into who bought the old Bank of America building in Norton, Virginia: his record, his own words, his tie to the campaign to free Aafia Siddiqui, his ties to CAIR, his 2024 exit from a Maryland hate-crimes commission, and what Norton residents can ask for next. Every claim is sourced. Where a claim is only alleged, we say so.

86 years federal prison sentence for Aafia Siddiqui, whose release the foundation Nassar chairs works for	**19 days** from Nassar's appointment as an acting Maryland hate-crimes commissioner (July 31, 2024) to his resignation (August 19)	**$300,000** price ILIA paid for 702 Park Ave NW, Norton, per the circuit court clerk	**0** votes Norton City Council has taken on the project, because none was required

November 25, 2026

Words used in this paper

Term	What it means
ILIA	The Islamic Leadership Institute of America, Inc., a Maryland nonprofit Ayman Nassar founded. IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN) 27-0447273.
CAIR	The Council on American-Islamic Relations, a national Muslim advocacy group with state chapters, including CAIR Maryland.
The Aafia Foundation	The Aafia Foundation, Inc., a Maryland nonprofit (EIN 47-4843512) named for Aafia Siddiqui. It calls her conviction wrongful.
MEF	The Middle East Forum, a Philadelphia-based think tank. Its political arm, MEF Action, led the 2024 campaign against Nassar.
SDNY	The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York (Manhattan), where Siddiqui was tried.
FMC Carswell	Federal Medical Center Carswell, a federal prison for women in Fort Worth, Texas.
BOP	The Federal Bureau of Prisons.
BCYF	The Baltimore Children and Youth Fund, a nonprofit that hands out Baltimore City tax money to youth programs.
DOC	The Virginia Department of Corrections, which runs Red Onion and Wallens Ridge state prisons in Wise County.
SCC	The Virginia State Corporation Commission, which registers corporations doing business in Virginia.
Form 990 / 990-EZ	The yearly public tax return a nonprofit files with the IRS. The 990-EZ is the short form.
FOIA	Virginia Freedom of Information Act requests for public records.
Record	Confirmed in a court, government or official filing, or in the person's own words on video or in his own published statement.
Reported	Reported by a news outlet or a critic. We name who reported it. We have not independently confirmed it.
Self-reported	Said by Nassar or ILIA about themselves. Not independently confirmed.

What we found

Bottom line. The man who bought the old Bank of America building in Norton is Ayman Nassar, founder and chief executive of the Islamic Leadership Institute of America. He is also the chairman of the Aafia Foundation, a group that calls Aafia Siddiqui's conviction wrongful. Siddiqui is serving 86 years in federal prison for trying to kill U.S. soldiers and FBI agents in Afghanistan in 2008, and in 2022 a gunman took four people hostage in a Texas synagogue to demand her release. In 2024 Maryland's attorney general put Nassar on the state hate-crimes commission, and he resigned 19 days later after critics published his social media posts. On video, in a 2022 lecture, he called people who promote same-sex relationships "evil people" who "will be destroyed in this life and the hereafter." His group says its prison program already teaches Islam to inmates at Red Onion and Wallens Ridge state prisons in Wise County, the county that surrounds Norton.

None of that made the Norton purchase illegal. The building sits in a business district that allows churches and schools, the sale was between private parties, and no city board had to vote [1][2][7]. Norton residents are entitled to know who they are dealing with, and they are entitled to ask the city and the state for the records below. They are not entitled to block a lawful purchase because they dislike the buyer's religion, and this paper does not argue that they should.

The findings, each sourced.

1. **Nassar chairs the Aafia Foundation.** The foundation's own website lists "A Nassar, Chairman" [18]. An ILIA web page calls him a board member of the foundation [45]. A Fox 45 Baltimore (WBFF) report in March 2025 calls him its chairman [40]. The foundation says Siddiqui "was unfairly imprisoned and tortured for being wrongfully convicted of 'attempted murder'" [18]. Its 2021 tax return, the only one the IRS has posted in full, does not list him; it lists another man as chairman [19]. So we can confirm the role today, not when it began.
2. **Under U.S. law, Aafia Siddiqui is a convicted felon.** A Manhattan federal jury found her guilty on all counts on February 3, 2010, including attempted murder of U.S. nationals and of U.S. officers and employees. Judge Richard M. Berman sentenced her on September 23, 2010 to 86 years [10][11]. In 2004 the FBI director publicly called her "an al Qaeda operative and facilitator" [13]. As of November 25, 2026 the Federal Bureau of Prisons lists her at FMC Carswell with a projected release date of June 30, 2082 [14].
3. **Siddiqui's release was the demand in a 2022 synagogue hostage-taking.** On January 15, 2022, Malik Faisal Akram took four people hostage at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, and told FBI negotiators he wanted Siddiqui released [15][16]. The Aafia Foundation's then-leader posted, "No violence in #Aafia's name" [17]. Nothing we found ties Nassar to that attack.
4. **Nassar's posts are real as far as anyone can tell, but we saw them only in a critic's screenshots.** MEF published screenshots of five LinkedIn posts in August 2024 [24][31–35]. In them, Nassar wrote that "Palestinians are taken as body organ donors then murdered," that "Biden is indeed a traitor to our values," "I feel ashamed to be an American," and that "If you are working in America, everyday two hours of your 8-hour workday is dedicated to murdering children and creating chaos across the globe." The posts are no longer on LinkedIn, and we found no archived copies [30][40]. In the coverage we read, Nassar did not deny writing them. He said critics "mischaracterized my work and affiliations" [29].
5. **His words on gay people are on video.** In an October 9, 2022 webinar called "Gender Identity and Islam," Nassar said "promoters of the same gender attraction from our understanding, from what we just read in the Quran are evil people," and "They are evil people and they will be destroyed in this life and the hereafter" [37]. MEF's summary that he called gay people "animals" who "must be destroyed" goes further than the tape. He compared the people of Lot to "creatures of ... immediate response of like animals" and said they "will be destroyed," which in context means divine punishment, not a call to act [37]. We quote what he said, not the summary.
6. **His CAIR tie is real but small, as far as the record shows.** Nassar said in a 2014 interview that he volunteered at CAIR among more than a dozen nonprofits [42]. His personal website lists "Council on American Islamic Relations – Maryland Chapter" among his nonprofit engagements [43]. MEF says he "was a member" of CAIR Maryland [24]. In his 2024 resignation post he named CAIR among "four credible hard working Islamic nonprofits" he said were smeared alongside him [29]. We found no record that he was a CAIR officer, board member or employee.

7. **The Maryland job lasted 19 days.** Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown, not the governor, named Nassar an acting commissioner on July 31, 2024 [22][23][27]. MEF Action published its case against him on August 15 and launched an email petition [24]. On August 19, Brown accepted Nassar's resignation [26][27]. Nassar called the campaign "a coordinated Islamophobic campaign of hate and online bullying" [26][27].
8. **ILIA is small and runs largely on donations.** In 2025 ILIA reported $303,099 in revenue, $262,626 in expenses and $410,539 in assets, and paid Nassar $61,248 as "CEO Chairman of the Board" [54]. Its 2025 return says it amended its articles "to reflect its affiliation and operations in the Commonwealth of Virginia" [54].
9. **ILIA says it already works inside Red Onion and Wallens Ridge state prisons in Wise County.** ILIA says it runs Islamic studies courses at Red Onion and Wallens Ridge with Muslim Chaplain Services of Virginia, and that 56 inmates enrolled in one fall 2025 registration drive [50][51][53]. We found no Department of Corrections record of the arrangement; that is a records request below.

What this does not mean. It does not mean Nassar has been charged with or convicted of any crime. None of the coverage we read reports a charge, and we did not search court records, so we make no claim either way. It does not mean every Muslim in Wise County shares his views, or that the people who will pray at 702 Park Avenue answer for his posts. It does not mean CAIR, Maryland's attorney general or Norton's city government did anything unlawful. It means the man leading this project has a public record that Norton deserves to see in full, and has not had to answer for it there.

Part 1. Who is Ayman Nassar?

What he says about himself. Nassar told a business blog in 2014 that he is "originally from Egypt, but spent my childhood between Atlanta, Chicago and Cairo," and that he earned a bachelor's and master's degree in electronics and communications from Ain Shams and Cairo universities "in the early Nineties" [42]. He told Cardinal News in 2026 that he "grew up in Chicago" [2]. His personal site says he "held senior technology management roles at IBM, Northrop Grumman, Ericsson" [44], and in 2014 he named "Ericsson, Northrop Grumman, RPM Consulting, HP, IBM and several dynamic tech startups" [42]. ILIA bios say he holds "two master's degrees, in electrical engineering; and engineering management systems engineering" [45]. All of this is self-reported. We did not confirm any employer or degree.

ILIA. ILIA's 2025 tax return gives its "Year of formation: 2009" and "State of legal domicile: MD" [54]. The IRS recognized it as tax-exempt in May 2011 [60]. ILIA says it has sites in Baltimore, Ellicott City and Columbia, Maryland; Dallas, Texas; and Staunton, Virginia, at 11 North Central Avenue [47]. Its Virginia page now also lists Norton (702 Park Ave NW) and a Richmond address, 8401 Mayland Drive [48]. The Richmond address is the same building as the registered agent shown in a business-records aggregator for ILIA's Virginia registration; we read that registration only through the aggregator, which says ILIA, a Maryland corporation, registered in Virginia on May 21, 2025 as a "Stock Corporation" [61]. A nonprofit would normally register as a nonstock corporation, so the SCC record is worth pulling (see Part 8).

Related programs. Nassar says he founded the Youth Crisis Line in 2015 [46]. ILIA runs a "Gender Identity Resource Center" website that offers help for "Unwanted Same Gender Attraction" through the Youth Crisis Line and links to his 2022 webinar [38]. ILIA instructor Mahmoud Abdel-Hady, imam of the Maryum Islamic Center in Ellicott City, called Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack "a great victory" in an

October 21, 2023 lecture, Newsweek reported; Newsweek noted he was listed as an ILIA instructor [39]. Nassar gave a sermon at the same center on gender identity [38].

Part 2. Timeline

Figure 1. Ayman Nassar, ILIA and the Aafia Siddiqui case: key dates, 2008 to 2026

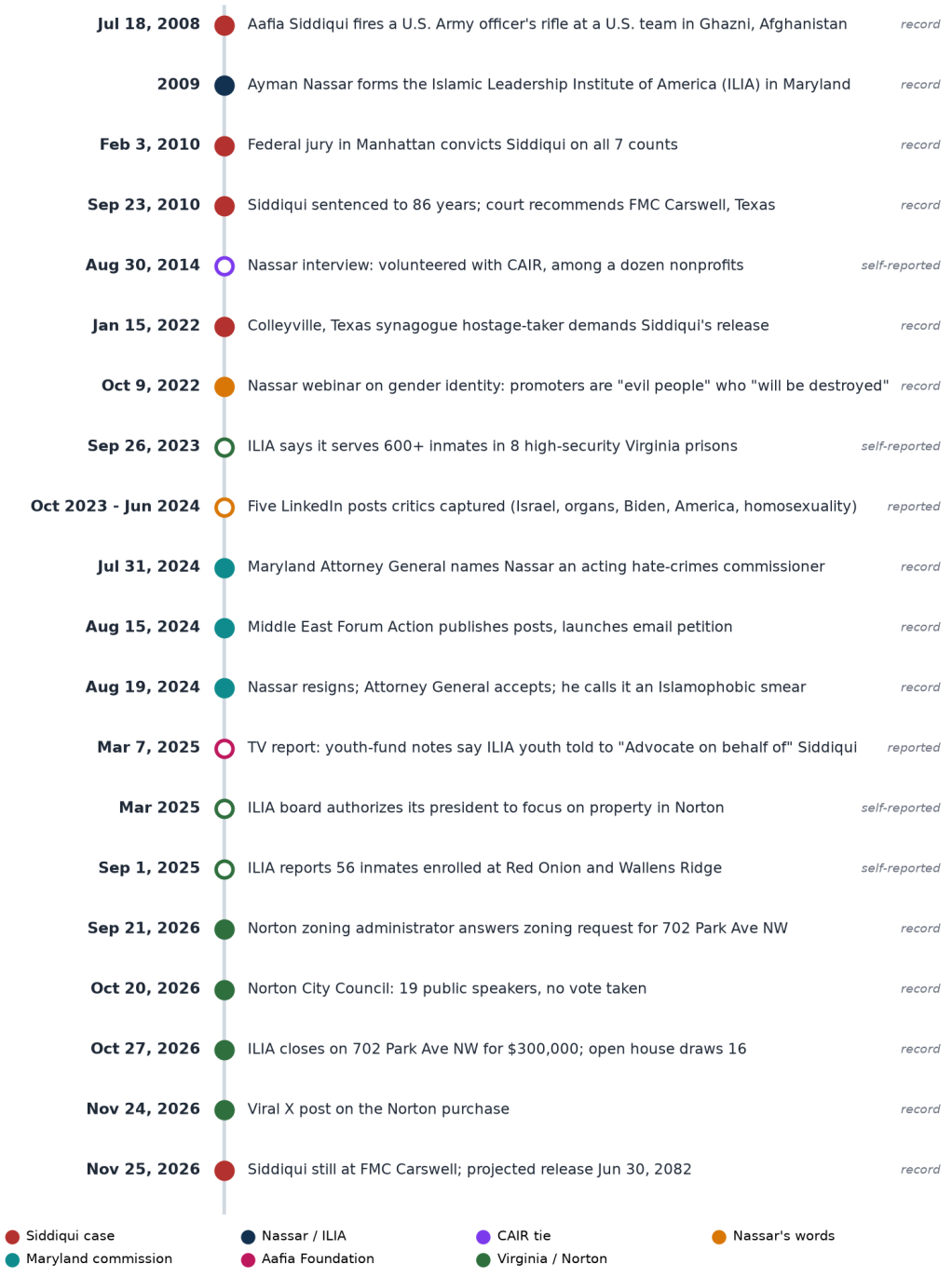

Figure 1. Key dates, 2008 to 2026. Filled dots are confirmed in a record or in Nassar's own recorded words; open dots are reported by others or self-reported. Every entry has a source in the table below.

All times are Eastern. LinkedIn post dates come from the post ID numbers in the links MEF gave with its screenshots (LinkedIn IDs carry the time a post was made). Those dates are our calculation and are marked "derived."

Date	What happened	Source	Status
Early 1990s	Nassar earns electronics and communications degrees from Ain Shams and Cairo universities, he says	[42]	Self-reported
Jan 2003	Siddiqui leaves the Boston area, the FBI director later says	[13]	Record (FBI statement)
May 26, 2004	FBI Director Robert Mueller names Siddiqui among seven people the FBI is seeking: "an al Qaeda operative and facilitator"	[13]	Record
Jul 17, 2008	Afghan police detain Siddiqui in Ghazni with notes on a "mass casualty attack" and U.S. landmarks	[10]	Record
Jul 18, 2008	Siddiqui grabs a U.S. Army officer's M-4 rifle and fires at a U.S. interview team	[10][11]	Record
Aug 4, 2008	Siddiqui brought to Manhattan to face charges	[10]	Record
2009	Nassar founds ILIA in Maryland	[54][46]	Record (990)
Jan 13 to Feb 3, 2010	Siddiqui's 14-day jury trial; guilty on all counts Feb 3	[10]	Record
Sep 23, 2010	Siddiqui sentenced to 86 years; court recommends FMC Carswell	[10][11]	Record
May 2011	IRS recognizes ILIA as tax-exempt	[60]	Record
Aug 30, 2014	Nassar interview: he volunteered at CAIR and a dozen other nonprofits	[42]	Self-reported
2015	Nassar founds the Youth Crisis Line	[46]	Self-reported
Feb 2016	IRS ruling date for the Aafia Foundation	[19]	Record
2021	Aafia Foundation's 2021 return lists Mauri Saalakhan as president and another man as chairman; Nassar not listed	[19]	Record
Oct 2021	ILIA says it began working in Southwest Virginia	[3]	Self-reported
About 2021	Nassar says a Christian group asked him to serve Muslim inmates at Red Onion and Wallens Ridge, about five years before 2026	[2]	Self-reported
Jan 15, 2022	Colleyville synagogue hostage-taking; Akram demands Siddiqui's release	[15][16]	Record (inquest)
Jan 15, 2022	Aafia Foundation leader Hena Zuberi posts "No violence in #Aafia's name"	[17]	Reported
Oct 9, 2022	Nassar's "Gender Identity and Islam" webinar	[37]	Record (video)
Sep 26, 2023	ILIA says it serves 600+ inmates at "eight high security and supermax prisons" in Virginia with Muslim Chaplain Services of Virginia	[53]	Self-reported
Oct 20, 2023, 5:48 PM	LinkedIn post: "the colonized portion aka Israel," "apartheid land"	[33]	Reported (screenshot); date derived
Oct 21, 2023	ILIA instructor Abdel-Hady calls Oct. 7 "a great victory"	[39]	Reported
Dec 2023	ILIA says its "Muslim Connector" newsletter reached 1,200 Virginia prisoners	[53]	Self-reported

Date	What happened	Source	Status
Mar 9, 2024, 7:46 PM	LinkedIn post: "Palestinians are taken as body organ donors then murdered"	[31]	Reported (screenshot); date derived
Apr 3, 2024, 7:11 PM	LinkedIn post: "Biden is indeed a traitor to our values. I feel ashamed to be an American."	[32]	Reported (screenshot); date derived
Jun 3, 2024, 5:52 PM	LinkedIn post comparing slavery, "zionists" and "homosexuality"	[35]	Reported (screenshot); date derived
Jun 29, 2024, 8:49 AM	LinkedIn post: two hours of every American workday "dedicated to murdering children"	[34]	Reported (screenshot); date derived
Jul 31, 2024	Attorney General Brown names Nassar an acting commissioner	[22][23] [27]	Record (press)
Aug 15, 2024	MEF Action article and email petition against Nassar	[24]	Record
Aug 19, 2024, 11:30 AM	Nassar posts his resignation on LinkedIn	[29]	Record (search copy); time derived
Aug 19, 2024	Brown accepts the resignation	[26][27] [28]	Record (press)
Aug 20, 2024	MEF says 6,000+ emails and X posts were sent in 48 hours	[25]	Reported (MEF claim)
Aug 24, 2024	U.K. inquest into Akram hears he demanded Siddiqui's release	[15]	Record (press)
Oct 9, 2024	MEF says Nassar deleted the posts and releases an ILIA factsheet calling non-heterosexual orientation "a disorder"	[30][36]	Reported
Oct 2024 (approx.)	BCYF site visit to an ILIA program; notes include "Advocate on behalf of Aafia Saddique and Jamil El-Amin"	[40]	Reported (WBFF, from public records)
Jan 2025	Siddiqui's clemency petition denied by the outgoing administration, Pakistani media report	[62]	Reported
Mar 7, 2025	WBFF reports BCYF gave ILIA $162,500 since 2023; Nassar says ILIA does not "endorse, advocate for, or take an official stance on" Siddiqui	[40]	Reported
Mar 13, 2025	WBFF reports on Saalakhan, an ILIA guest speaker, praising the Taliban in 2021	[41]	Reported
Mar 2025	ILIA's board authorizes its president to focus on property in Norton	[3]	Self-reported
May 21, 2025	ILIA registers in Virginia	[61]	Reported (aggregator)
Sep 1, 2025	ILIA reports 56 inmates enrolled at Red Onion and Wallens Ridge	[51]	Self-reported
Oct 24, 2025	ILIA reports a session for 50 inmates at Red Onion	[52]	Self-reported
Nov 2025 and Feb 2026	ILIA food drive in Norton; food handouts in Big Stone Gap, Coeburn and St. Paul	[1]	Reported
May 14, 2026	Nassar signs ILIA's 2025 tax return as chief executive	[54]	Record
Sep 21, 2026	Norton zoning administrator answers a zoning question about 702 Park Ave NW in writing	[1]	Record (mayor's statement)
Oct 20, 2026	Norton City Council meeting: 19 public speakers, no vote	[7]	Record (minutes)
Oct 22, 2026	ILIA site shows $209,897 raised toward a $320,000 goal	[1]	Reported

Date	What happened	Source	Status
Oct 26, 2026	ILIA statement to WJHL lays out its four goals, including "a local hub for Muslims to worship"	[3]	Record (his statement)
Oct 27, 2026	ILIA closes on the building; open house at Cafe Azalea draws 16	[2][5]	Record (clerk via press)
Nov 24, 2026, 10:56 AM	@libsoftiktok posts about the purchase	[9]	Record
Nov 25, 2026	BOP lists Siddiqui at FMC Carswell, release date June 30, 2082	[14]	Record

Part 3. Who is Aafia Siddiqui?

Aafia Siddiqui is a Pakistani-born scientist who studied in the Boston area. In May 2004, FBI Director Robert Mueller named her among seven people the bureau was looking for and said, "Aafia Siddiqui is an al Qaeda operative and facilitator, she attended colleges in the Boston area, and is believed to have left Boston in January of 2003" [13]. Critics often call her a "Most Wanted Terrorist"; what the record shows is that the FBI publicly sought her in 2004. We did not confirm she was ever on the FBI's formal Most Wanted Terrorists list.

On July 17, 2008, Afghan authorities detained her in Ghazni with "handwritten notes that referred to a 'mass casualty attack'" and listed U.S. sites "including Plum Island, the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, Wall Street, and the Brooklyn Bridge," plus notes on "dirty bombs," according to the U.S. Attorney [10]. The next day, the U.S. Attorney said, she "grabbed a U.S. Army officer's M-4 rifle and fired it at another U.S. Army officer and other members of the U.S. interview team," and "During the shooting, SIDDIQUI exclaimed her intent and desire to kill Americans" [10].

She was not charged with terrorism. The jury convicted her of seven crimes: attempted murder of U.S. nationals, attempted murder of U.S. officers and employees, armed assault, using a firearm during a crime of violence, and three counts of assault [10][11]. The judgment in United States v. Siddiqui, case 08 cr 826, gives 20 + 20 + 20 + 10 + 8 + 4 + 4 years, all consecutive, "for a total term of imprisonment of 86 years," and recommends FMC Carswell [11]. Her lawyers argued she suffered from mental illness [40].

Her case became a cause in Pakistan and among some American activists. On January 15, 2022, British citizen Malik Faisal Akram held four people hostage at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville for about 11 hours and "told FBI negotiators he wanted the release of Dr Aafia Siddiqui," a British inquest heard [15]. CBS News reported he threatened to kill the hostages "when there had been no progress on Siddiqui's release" [16]. The hostages escaped; Akram was shot dead [15]. CAIR and the Aafia Foundation's then-leader condemned the attack [17].

Part 4. The Aafia Foundation and Nassar's role

What it is. The Aafia Foundation, Inc. is a Silver Spring, Maryland 501(c)(3) with an IRS ruling date of February 2016 [19]. Its founder is El-Hajj Mauri' Saalakhan [18]. Its website says Siddiqui "was unfairly imprisoned and tortured for being wrongfully convicted of 'attempted murder.' In fact, her only 'crime'

was raising awareness about relief for humanitarian issues and promoting dawah" [18]. It lists former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark as a past adviser [18].

Nassar's title. The foundation's "Meet Our Board of Directors" section lists "A Nassar, Chairman" first [18]. An ILIA staff page says he is a "board member at ILIA and The Aafia Foundation," and in the next sentence lists the foundation among boards he "was a former board member at" [45]. WBFF called him its chairman in March 2025 [40]. The 2021 return lists "Jamal Musa Chairman," Saalakhan as president with $12,700 in pay, and two others [19]. **Start date: unknown.** We confirmed he holds the title now, not when he took it. The IRS full-text system shows no foundation return after 2021, and ProPublica's summary shows $0 revenue for its latest period [19]. That gap is a records item.

What it does. MEF says the foundation's Facebook page is "filled with pro-Hamas screeds" and that it claims Siddiqui's prosecution was a "Zionist" plot [24]. WBFF reported that Saalakhan blamed her sentence on a "Zionist judge who was openly biased against the defendant" in a 2019 Facebook post and praised a Taliban leader in 2021 [41]. Those posts are Saalakhan's, not Nassar's, and we saw them only as quoted by WBFF.

Siddiqui in ILIA's youth work. WBFF obtained BCYF site-visit notes through a public records request. It reported the notes included an instruction to "Advocate on behalf of Aafia Saddique and Jamil El-Amin" and that Saalakhan was a guest speaker [40][41]. ILIA advertised a "Letter Writing Night" saying "People like Imam Jamil Al Amin, Kenny Collins, and Aafia Siddiqui need your help" [40]. Nassar told WBFF the session was a youth "case study" and that ILIA "does not endorse, advocate for, or take an official stance on any individual, including Aafia Siddiqui" [40]. BCYF said ILIA had met its contract [40]. Readers can weigh "does not ... take an official stance" against his chairing a foundation built to free her.

His own public words about Siddiqui. We did not find a speech or post in which Nassar personally discusses Siddiqui. That is a gap, not a finding.

Part 5. Nassar's statements, word for word

How to read this section. "Video" means we heard it ourselves on the original recording and give the time stamp. "Screenshot" means we saw it only in an image published by MEF, the group that campaigned against him; the original LinkedIn post has been taken down and we found no archived copy. Each screenshot shows his name, photo and LinkedIn headline. WBFF also reported the posts "appear to be deleted" [40].

#	Date (derived)	His words, exactly as shown	Seen in	What critics said	Source
1	Oct 20, 2023	"Why are businesses not allowed to operate in the Gaza and rest of Palestine, but can operate in the colonized portion aka Israel? ... Kudos to Nestlé for pulling out for apartheid land."	Screenshot	MEF: "referred to Israel as 'the colonized portion' of Palestine or the 'apartheid land'"	[33] [24]
2	Mar 9, 2024	"Same kidnappings that happened to Africans, only difference Africans were taken as slaves; Palestinians are taken as body organ donors then murdered. #modernracism #racism #freepalestine #genocide" (sharing a Shaun King post)	Screenshot	MEF: "a classic anti-Jewish trope"	[31] [30]

#	Date (derived)	His words, exactly as shown	Seen in	What critics said	Source
3	Apr 3, 2024	"This is horrible, horrible, horrible. More than a genocide. How can one of us go by our day knowing that our tax money is funding this. Biden is indeed a traitor to our values. I feel ashamed to be an American." (sharing a post that said Gaza's port was built "using rubble & body parts of the natives")	Screenshot	MEF said this was a "May" post; the post ID dates it to April 3	[32] [24]
4	Jun 3, 2024	"The white race was able to justify slavery 200 years ago / The zionists were able to justify genocide and occupation 75 years ago / The special interests are able to justify homosexuality 20 years ago"	Screenshot	MEF quoted it as "special interests [were] able"; the screenshot says "are able," and MEF left out the "zionists" line	[35] [24]
5	Jun 29, 2024	"If you are working in America, everyday two hours of your 8-hour workday is dedicated to murdering children and creating chaos across the globe. #taxreform #no2taxes"	Screenshot	MEF: "equal animus for the United States"	[34] [24]
6	Oct 9, 2022	"it ranges from their disgusting people to immodest to impure" (34:46). "They're insane. They're ignorant. They will be destroyed" (35:35). "promoters of the same gender attraction from our understanding, from what we just read in the Quran are evil people. That's how Allah ... describe them. We cannot sugarcoat it. They are evil people and they will be destroyed in this life and the hereafter." (45:35)	Video	MEF: called gay people "disgusting," "disgraceful," "animals" who "must be destroyed"	[37] [25]
7	Aug 19, 2024	"a coordinated Islamophobic campaign of hate and online bullying from anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim groups spearheaded by Middle East Form, led by Benjamin Baird, solely because of views on the atrocities and human rights violations inflicted against the Palestinian people"	His statement, as printed by two newspapers	His defense	[26] [27]
8	Oct 26, 2026	"a local hub for Muslims to worship, an outreach outlet for non-Muslims who are interested in connecting with Muslims across the region"	His statement to WJHL	Stated plan for Norton	[3]
9	Oct 27, 2026	"As Muslims, we have obligations towards non-Muslims. And what a lot of Christians might not realize is that Christians and Jews specifically have higher rights than other people when it comes to relationships."	WJHL video report	Norton open house	[4]

Notes on item 6. The quotes come from our own machine transcript of the YouTube video, checked against YouTube's captions at the same time stamps. Both agree on the quoted words. A few small words ("their" or "they're") may differ when you listen. Nassar was explaining the Quran's account of Lot. "Animal" appears when he says "an animal gets thirsty" (about 35:00) and when he says Lot's people turned into "creatures of what of just immediate response of like animals, right? A lion sees a deer, it just runs on it" (42:24). He said "will be destroyed," describing God's judgment. He did not say "must be destroyed." He also said "when it comes to a relationship, Allah ... has not decreed that it is okay for anyone to have a relationship with someone from the same gender, regardless of their faith and their belief" (45:18), and that "It is every human to worship whoever they want" (45:01) [37].

ILIA's factsheet. MEF published an ILIA graphic titled "Gender Identity vs Gender Role" that says, "In Islam, males are attracted to females and vice versa. Any differences to this concept are considered a

disorder," and "a normal healthy human is one whose gender and sex align" [36]. ILIA's Gender Identity Resource Center still lists a "Gender Identity vs Gender Role" item as of November 25, 2026 [38]. We did not open the item itself.

His defense, in full context. In August 2024 he said the pressure came from groups "which have mischaracterized my work and affiliations" and that it "sends a chilling message to those who are targeted by hate" [29]. He told The Baltimore Banner the "online harassment and smear campaign" would distract from the commission's work [26]. In March 2025 he gave a different reason to WBFF: he left "because I found that the commission would not be an effective platform to promote anti-hate and the impact of hate on youth" [40]. In Norton, he told Cardinal News that Islam, Christianity and Judaism forbid homosexual acts and that "Islam aims to help people with those desires, not condemn them," in Cardinal's paraphrase [2].

What we call it. We let the words speak. Calling Americans' working hours "dedicated to murdering children," saying he is "ashamed to be an American," and calling a sitting President "a traitor to our values" are anti-American statements by any plain reading. Saying Israel takes Palestinians "as body organ donors then murdered" repeats an organ-harvesting accusation that MEF and others call an antisemitic trope [30]; we found no evidence for the claim. Readers can judge the rest.

Part 6. CAIR: what the record shows

Claim	Evidence	Verdict
Nassar volunteered with CAIR	His 2014 interview: "I started volunteering at over a dozen non-profits from Catholic Relief Services to Big Brother Big Sister and from the Council on American Islamic Relations to Dar us Salaam" [42]	Confirmed (his own words)
He worked with CAIR Maryland	His website's "Industry Engagements" lists "Council on American Islamic Relations – Maryland Chapter" under nonprofits [43]	Confirmed (his own site); nature of the work not stated
He "was a member" of CAIR Maryland	MEF, with a LinkedIn photo we could not see [24]	Reported by a critic; not confirmed
He defended CAIR publicly	His Aug 19, 2024 post named CAIR among "four credible hard working Islamic nonprofits" he said were smeared [29]	Confirmed (search-engine copy of his public post; the live post needs a login)
He cites CAIR's data	His resignation page cited a rise in hate "as reported by Council on Islamic American Relations (CAIR)" [44]	Confirmed (search copy)
He was a CAIR officer, director, staffer or its representative on the Maryland commission	No record found. He was appointed as ILIA's chief executive, not for CAIR. CAIR's seat had been removed by law (House Bill 763) before he was named [23][24]	Not supported

Bottom line on CAIR. A volunteer and defender, not a leader, on the evidence available.

Part 7. ILIA's money and people

Tax year	Form	Revenue	Expenses	Assets at year end	Nassar's title	Nassar's pay	Source
2020	990	$201,538	$146,794	$347,086	Academics & Research Chief (40 hrs/wk)	$30,442	[59] [60]
2021	990-EZ	$164,249	$208,150	$343,445	Chief Student Experience Officer (30 hrs/wk)	$55,998	[58] [60]
2022	990	$244,693	$217,685	$383,372	Academics and Research Chief (12 hrs/wk)	$18,350	[57] [60]
2023	990	$289,915	$269,461	$385,698	Chief, Research, Academics & Prgms (21 hrs/wk)	$44,950	[56] [60]
2024	990-EZ	$177,847	$243,640	$326,821	Chief, Research, Academics & Prgms (20 hrs/wk)	$62,535	[55] [60]
2025	990	$303,099	$262,626	$410,539	CEO Chairman of the Board (40 hrs/wk)	$61,248	[54]

Table 2. Revenue, expense and asset figures are as filed. The 2025 return shows prior-year expenses as "0," which does not match the $243,640 ProPublica lists for 2024 [54][60].

What the returns show:

- **Nassar now runs the board and the staff.** In 2025 he was both chief executive and chairman of the board. In 2020 through 2024 other people held the chair or presidency [54–59].
- **Contributions drive the budget.** In 2025, $267,207 of $303,099 came from contributions and grants [54]. BCYF, which hands out Baltimore City tax money, gave ILIA $162,500 from 2023 to early 2025, WBFF reported [40].
- **Inconsistencies to ask about.** The 2025 return reports 0 employees but $61,248 in salaries [54]. Its 2022 return lists a board member and "President" named Jannah Nassar, who shares his last name; we did not establish any relationship [57].
- **The Norton building is not in these numbers.** The purchase closed in October 2026, after the latest return [2][54]. As of October 22, 2026, ILIA's website said it had raised $209,897 toward a $320,000 goal for the Southwest Virginia project [1]. WCYB said more than 190 donors supported it [5].
- **Prison work is in the returns.** The 2025 return describes "inmate coaching counseling and educational publications" in "Maryland and Virginia" [54].

Part 8. Norton: the building, the meeting and the plans

The building. City land records list parcel 465-11-8-1, 702 Park Ave NW, as owned by "ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC." of 4903 Liberty Heights Avenue, Baltimore; zoned B-2; built 1926; deed book 4406; total assessed value $452,000 [8]. Cardinal News reported a $499,500 assessment before the sale; the city's current figure is $452,000 [1][8]. Either way, $300,000 was below

the assessment. The seller was Park Avenue Associates LLC [1]. The Bristol Herald Courier also confirmed the $300,000 price with the clerk's office [6].

No vote, by law. Mayor Joe Fawbush said the September 21 zoning letter "was not a building permit, site-plan approval, certificate of occupancy or blanket authorization of every aspect of a future project ... at this time, neither the Norton City Council, the Norton Board of Zoning Appeals, nor the Norton Planning Commission has been required to take any action" [1]. Building official Winfred Collins said ILIA "will be required to apply for a change of use building permit if they intend to change the layout of the building" [2]. B-2 also allows "philanthropic uses with special permission through the zoning office" [1].

The meeting. The October 20, 2026 minutes record 19 public speakers and no vote. By our count of addresses in the minutes, 7 of the 19 listed Norton [7].

The plans. ILIA told WJHL it wants a "Community Empowerment Center" built in phases over five years, with worship space, youth programs, food security, "affordable housing, crisis stabilization" [3]. Nassar told Cardinal News the first floor will have "classrooms, a prayer area" and that "Eventually, the institute will also provide a housing option" [2]. WCYB reported plans for "daily prayers, Friday services" [5]. Nassar estimated "50 to 100 Muslims live in Wise County and Norton" [2]. The nearest mosque is in Johnson City, Tennessee, about 90 minutes away [2].

The prisons. Cardinal News reported that Nassar "has been visiting Virginia's coalfield region for about five years, after a Christian organization in the area requested services for Muslim inmates at Red Onion State Prison and Wallens Ridge State Prison, both in Wise County, and other state correctional facilities, he said" [2]. ILIA's own pages say it works "in collaboration with Muslim Chaplain Services of Virginia" and that "we are the only Muslims who go to these facilities" [50][53]. ILIA describes both as supermax prisons [53].

The trigger post. On November 24, 2026 at 10:56 AM, @libsoftiktok posted that "Residents begged the Norton, Virginia city council to stop" the center and "The building was bought days later, and no vote was needed" [9]. Those facts check out; the post did not say the city had no legal role, and it did not name Nassar or his record.

Part 9. What's verified and what's only claimed

Claim (from early reporting and social media)	Status	What the record shows	Source
Nassar founded ILIA in 2009	Verified	990: "Year of formation: 2009"	[54]
He worked at IBM and Northrop Grumman	Self-reported	His own bios; no employer record checked	[42][44]
ILIA is based in the Baltimore / Howard County area	Verified	990 addresses in Clarksville and Ellicott City (Howard County) and Baltimore	[54][60]
ILIA has a presence in Staunton	Verified (ILIA's site)	11 North Central Avenue, Staunton	[47][48]
Prison outreach at Red Onion and Wallens Ridge	Self-reported, specific	ILIA pages and Nassar's statements; no DOC record seen	[2][50][51][53]
Bought 702 Park Ave for $300,000, below assessed value	Verified	Clerk via Cardinal; GIS shows ILIA as owner	[2][8]

Claim (from early reporting and social media)	Status	What the record shows	Source
Zoning already allowed it; no council vote	Verified	Mayor's statement; minutes	[1][7]
Residents spoke against it Oct 20, 2026	Verified, with context	19 speakers; some in favor; 7 listed Norton addresses	[7]
Sale closed shortly after	Verified	Closed Oct 27, 2026	[5]
50 to 100 Muslims locally; nearest center in Johnson City	Self-reported estimate	Nassar's estimate; Cardinal on Johnson City	[2]
Appointed to the hate-crimes commission in 2024	Verified	By Attorney General Brown, July 31, 2024, as acting commissioner (not by the governor)	[22][27]
Resigned amid criticism; MEF among critics	Verified	Resigned Aug 19, 2024	[26][27]
Chairman of the Aafia Foundation	Verified (current); start date unknown	Foundation's site; WBFF	[18][40]
Siddiqui called "Lady al-Qaeda"	Nickname used by media and critics	Not a legal finding	[24]
Antisemitic / anti-American posts	Words verified in critic screenshots only	Originals deleted; not denied in coverage we read	[31–35]
Called homosexuality a disorder	ILIA factsheet, in critic screenshot	Item still listed on ILIA site	[36][38]
Called gay people "animals" who "must be destroyed"	Overstated	Video: "evil people" who "will be destroyed"; "animals" used as an analogy	[37]
Prior ties to CAIR Maryland	Partly verified	Volunteer and listed engagement; no office held	[42][43]
He called it an Islamophobic campaign over Palestine	Verified	His words, printed by two outlets	[26][27]
FBI "Most Wanted Terrorist" (MEF)	Not confirmed	FBI publicly sought her in 2004	[13]
Criminal record for Nassar	Not checked	No court searches run; we make no claim either way	Part 10

Part 10. What we could not verify

- The original LinkedIn posts. They are deleted, and the Wayback Machine has no copies. We saw only MEF's screenshots.
- When Nassar became Aafia Foundation chairman, and whether the foundation still files with the IRS.
- Any public statement by Nassar personally about Siddiqui.
- Any Virginia Department of Corrections approval, volunteer badge, chaplaincy agreement or contract for ILIA or Nassar.
- ILIA's Virginia SCC record itself (seen only through an aggregator), and its Maryland and Virginia charity registrations.

- The deed for 702 Park Ave NW (deed book 4406), including the exact recording date and any lender.
- Nassar's employers, degrees, patents and teaching posts.
- Court records. We did not run automated searches on Virginia's court system, whose terms forbid it. CourtListener and the Maryland Judiciary Case Search were not reachable from our tools. We make no claim either way about any court record.

Part 11. What Norton residents and officials can do

Records requests Norton residents can file (Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Va. Code § 2.2-3704).

1. City of Norton: the September 21, 2026 zoning letter and the request it answered; all correspondence with ILIA or Nassar since March 2025; any change-of-use, building permit or certificate-of-occupancy application for 702 Park Ave NW; the full text of the mayor's October 20 statement.
2. Wise County/City of Norton Circuit Court Clerk: the deed for 702 Park Ave NW (deed book 4406) and any deed of trust. Land records are public and can be copied at the clerk's office.
3. Virginia Department of Corrections: any volunteer, chaplaincy or religious-services agreement, approvals or background-check clearances (not the private results) for ILIA, Nassar or Muslim Chaplain Services of Virginia at Red Onion, Wallens Ridge and Keen Mountain; the approval file for ILIA's distance-learning courses and the "Muslim Connector" newsletter; and DOC's policy for screening religious volunteers.
4. Virginia SCC: ILIA's application for a certificate of authority and its annual reports, to see why it is listed as a "Stock Corporation."
5. Virginia Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs: whether ILIA is registered to raise money from Virginians for the Norton project, or claims an exemption.

Questions for Norton City Council and staff, in public session.

1. Has the city received any application to change the use, layout or occupancy of 702 Park Ave NW? If so, when will it be decided and by whom?
2. Will any housing, lodging or "crisis stabilization" use at the building need a permit, inspection or zoning decision? Which body decides it?
3. Will the city post every future filing on this property on its website as it arrives?
4. Do any council members or staff have a financial interest in nearby property or in the sale? (Our earlier Norton brief found a council member's business-zoned parcel about 200 meters away. That is a flag for any future vote, not an allegation.)

What the Virginia Department of Corrections should disclose. Which outside groups teach religion to inmates at Red Onion and Wallens Ridge, under what agreement, who approved their course materials, and whether DOC reviewed a volunteer leader's public statements before approval. These are fair questions for any faith group in a supermax prison, Christian or Muslim.

Questions Nassar should answer in Norton, in public.

1. Do you still believe the posts MEF published, including that "Palestinians are taken as body organ donors then murdered" and that American workers spend two hours a day "murdering children"?
2. As chairman of the Aafia Foundation, do you believe Aafia Siddiqui is innocent of shooting at U.S. soldiers and FBI agents? Will the Norton center host any Aafia Foundation event or speaker?
3. Will the Norton center teach the "Gender Identity vs Gender Role" material or refer local youth to counseling for "Unwanted Same Gender Attraction"?
4. Who are the "more than 190 donors," and has any foreign donor given to the Norton project?
5. Will ILIA publish its Norton budget, its board and its housing plans before it asks the city for anything?

For Virginia lawmakers. Consider asking DOC for a public list of religious-volunteer organizations by prison, and whether its screening covers public advocacy for people convicted of attacking U.S. personnel.

Methodology and limits

We read primary records first: the U.S. Attorney's 2010 release, the criminal judgment, the FBI director's 2004 remarks, the Bureau of Prisons locator, ILIA's and the Aafia Foundation's IRS returns through ProPublica's Nonprofit Explorer, Norton land records and minutes, and the full webinar video. We then read news and critics, and labeled them. We did not contact Nassar, ILIA, MEF or any official. We did not file any records request. We did not use Virginia's court-records system for automated searches. LinkedIn post dates are calculated from post ID numbers and are approximate to the minute. The webinar quotes come from a machine transcript checked against YouTube captions; anyone can check them at the time stamps given. Our earlier Norton City Council brief supplied the minutes count and land-record readings. Private citizens who spoke in Norton are not named. We describe statements and conduct; we do not claim to know anyone's motives.

Exhibits: the screenshots critics published

These images were published by the Middle East Forum in August and October 2024. The original posts have been deleted. We reproduce them so readers can see exactly what was captured, not because we vouch for their completeness.

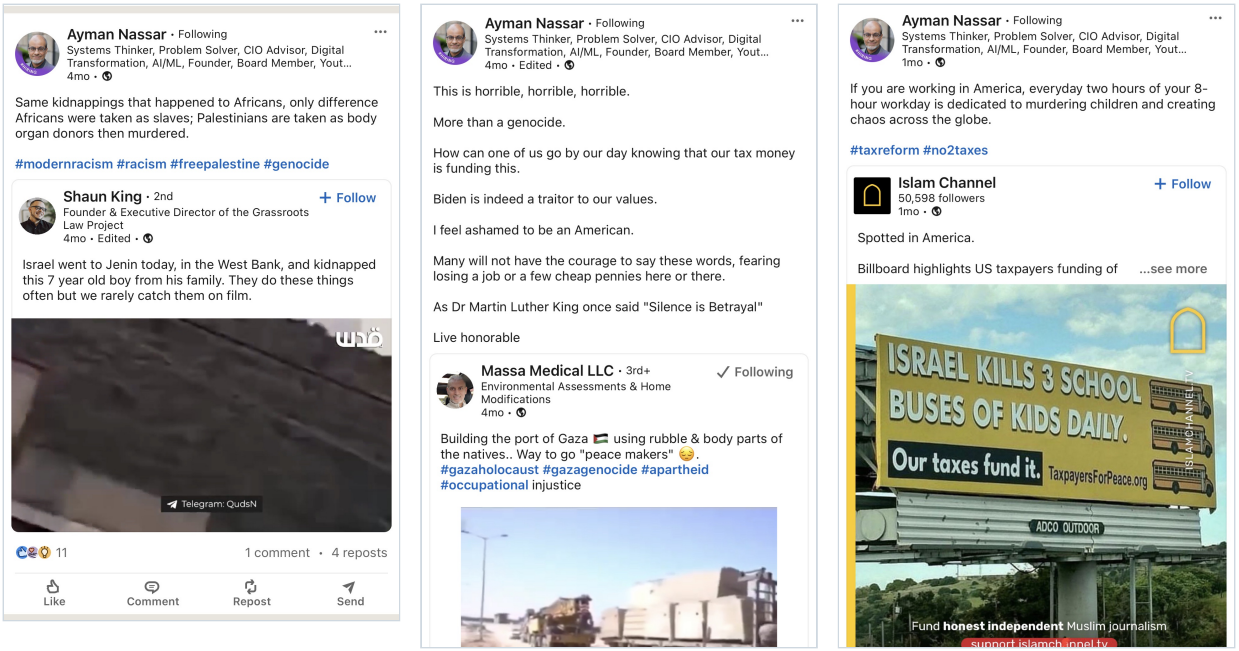

Exhibit A. Left: Mar 9, 2024 post on Palestinian "body organ donors" [31]. Center: Apr 3, 2024 post, "I feel ashamed to be an American" [32]. Right: Jun 29, 2024 post on the "8-hour workday" [34]. Dates derived from post IDs.

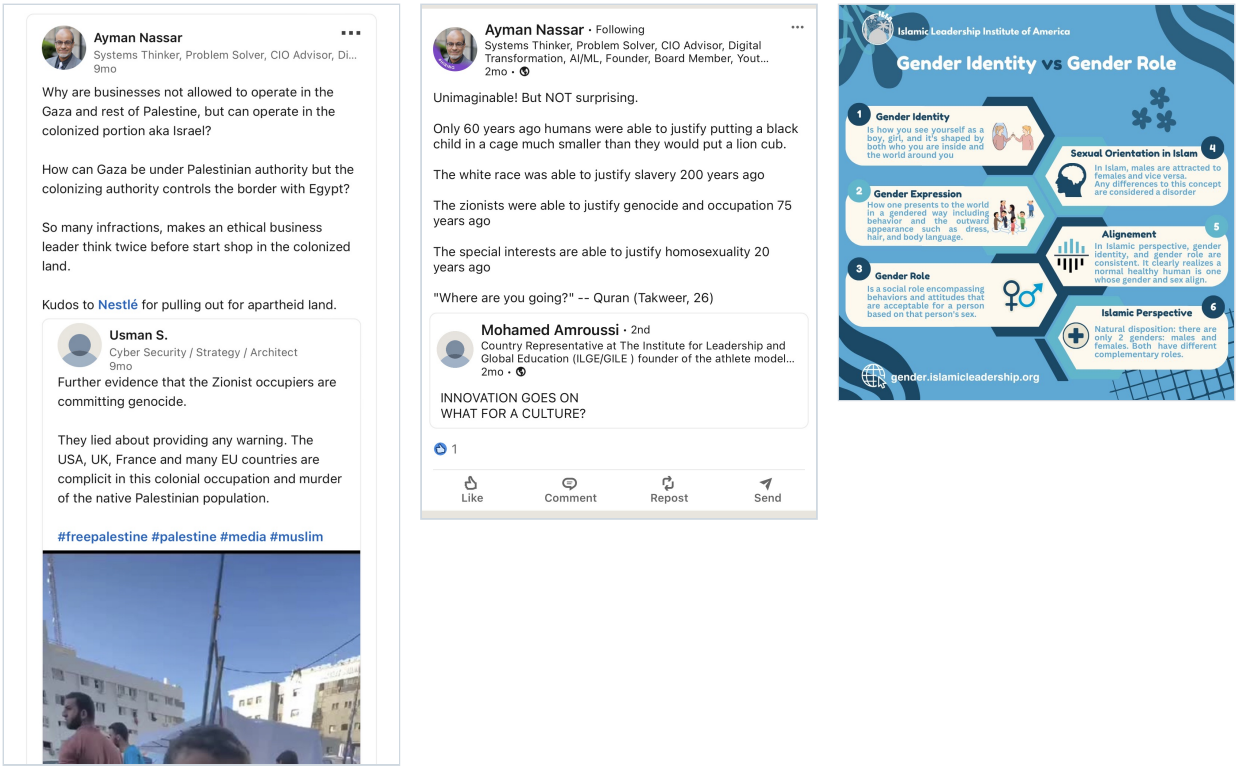

Exhibit B. Left: Oct 20, 2023 post on "the colonized portion aka Israel" [33]. Center: Jun 3, 2024 post comparing slavery, "zionists" and "homosexuality" [35]. Right: ILIA "Gender Identity vs Gender Role" factsheet [36].

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