

The Coalition Against Genocide:

A Nexus of Hinduphobia Unveiled

A Report by the



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FOREWORD

From 1,700 people in 1900, the Hindu population in America grew to approximately 387,000 by 1980 and 1.1 million in 1997.¹ As of 2008, the estimated U.S. population of Hindus of Indian origin was approximately 2.29 million (based on extrapolations from statistics on residents of Indian and Indo-Caribbean descent).² Estimates vary, but there may also be as many as 1 million practicing Hindu Americans, not of Indian origin, in the U.S.

As a generation of Hindu Americans came of age in the 1980's and 1990's, Hindu temples began to change suburban landscapes, and religio-cultural organizations formed organically within communities.³ Shaped in the crucible of generalized ignorance about Hinduism, its beliefs, and ethos, a group of primarily American born and raised Hindus established the Hindu American Foundation (HAF) in 2003, as the first advocacy organization seeking to establish a credible, articulate, and professional voice for a growing community.

While no advocacy organization could claim to represent the entirety of an inherently diverse American Hindu diaspora, HAF was the first to create a professionalized model, and gained recognition as the “first major national advocacy group looking at Hindu identity,” as Prof. Diana Eck, professor of comparative religion and Founder of the Pluralism Project at Harvard University, told the New York Times in 2010.⁴

A Decade of Hindu American Advocacy

Since 2003, HAF established itself as a respected, action-oriented, and results-driven institution.⁵ With the support of a national membership, HAF opened a permanent office in Washington, DC and supports a full-time professional staff. Its Board, staff, Executive Council, local chapters, and membership represent Hindus of every race, nationality, ethnicity, race, caste, gender, and sexual orientation. HAF's advocacy efforts are guided by the following stated objectives: 1) promote pluralism and mutual respect amongst peoples; 2) ensure an accurate understanding of Hinduism as a living tradition; 3) highlight and secure the human rights of Hindus around the globe; 4) represent the Hindu American community's needs and interests to institutions influencing and making policy; 5) solve contemporary problems by applying Hindu philosophy; and 6) build a sustainable institution that will remain a pre-eminent advocate for Dharma communities for future generations.⁶

¹ http://www.hafsite.org/sites/default/files/HT_Census_USA_Jan08.pdf

² *Id.*

³ http://www.pluralism.org/articles/pechilis_hindu_temples

⁴ http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/28/nyregion/28yoga.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

⁵ To see HAF's Annual Achievements listings: <http://www.hafsite.org/Achievements2012>

⁶ http://www.hafsite.org/about?q=about/who_we_are

The Foundation's track record as an established civil and human rights organization is manifest in the respect and trust it has earned from leaders in public policy, the media, academia and within the realm of interfaith circles. It has routinely been quoted by the U.S. Commission on International Freedom (USCIRF) in its annual reports,⁷ and has spearheaded as well as supported religious freedom initiatives through the International Religious Freedom Roundtable in Washington, D.C. HAF has also been a leading voice on international and domestic civil rights issues, including advocating on behalf of minority women's rights in countries such as Pakistan⁸ and Bangladesh, supporting Muslim and Sikh employment rights in the U.S. through CA Assembly Bill 1964⁹, speaking out against the unconstitutional surveillance of mosques in New York,¹⁰ pushing for immigration reform¹¹ and gun control,¹² and advocating for the inclusion of hate crime reporting against Sikhs, Arabs, and Hindus.¹³ Recently, HAF made international headlines when it expressed disappointment with the Indian Supreme Court's decision not to uphold the decriminalization of consensual homosexual conduct.¹⁴

HAF plays a leading role in educating Americans at large and courts across the U.S. about various aspects of Hindu belief and practice in the context of religious liberty, either as a party to the case or an amicus (friend of the court).¹⁵ Prior to the establishment of HAF, a Hindu voice was missing amongst those of Jews', Christians', Buddhists', and atheists', who had a long history of actively participating in defending religious liberty in the U.S. HAF has also created legal resources for the Hindu American community, including HAF's Know Your Rights guide and R-1 Religious Worker Visa guides.¹⁶ HAF's advocacy has filled this void, providing a Hindu American voice and resource where previously there was none.

HAF has also taken on many public positions to address sensitive issues within the Hindu community, including seeking an end to caste-based discrimination¹⁷ and ending violence and discrimination against women.¹⁸ As one leader at the Foundation said, "Hindu American Foundation clearly has a strong track record of taking independent positions - leftist and radicals throw the label Hindutva at HAF, and right-wing Hindus call HAF knee-jerk liberals! Yet the reality is that HAF is neither. The team at HAF thinks

⁷ [http://www.uscirf.gov/images/2013%20USCIRF%20Annual%20Report%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.uscirf.gov/images/2013%20USCIRF%20Annual%20Report%20(2).pdf)

⁸ <http://www.hafsite.org/human-rights-issues/haf-highlights-persecution-minority-women-pakistan-capitol-hill-briefing>

⁹ <http://www.hafsite.org/media/pr/workplace-religious-freedom-act-2012-passes-ca-state-assembly>

¹⁰ <http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/spying-on-muslims-us-community-groups-seek-probe/article1-1140201.aspx>

¹¹ http://www.hafsite.org/media/pr/20060324_immigration

¹² http://www.hafsite.org/Hindu_Perspectives_on_gun_violence_shared_with_VP

¹³ http://www.hafsite.org/Hindu_Americans_Welcome_FBI_Anti-Hindu_Hate_Crime_Category

¹⁴ http://www.hafsite.org/HAF_Disappointed_by_Indian_Court_Verdict_Homosexuality

¹⁵ For an extensive listing of HAF's legal advocacy, <http://www.hafsite.org/issues/legal> and <http://www.hafsite.org/media/pr/legal-advocacy-history>

¹⁶ http://www.hafsite.org/resources/community/HAF_Law_You

¹⁷ <http://www.hafsite.org/media/pr/not-cast-caste-big-picture-and-executive-summary>

¹⁸ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/suhag-a-shukla-esq/international-womens-day-arise-awake-my-hindu-sisters_b_2831918.html

through positions that have nothing to do with the usual left-right paradigm present in India or the U.S., and therefore HAF rejects any labels.”

Attacks Against HAF by CAG and CAG Members

Indeed principled opposition is expected when litigating issues in the public square, and HAF has, at times, faced stiff opposition from the right and left of the ideological spectrum in response to various positions, reports, and statements released by the Foundation. But as an independent and nonpartisan institution, HAF works with a wide spectrum of organizations representing America’s diverse religions and political ideologies. The Coalition Against Genocide (CAG), is one entity that has consistently opposed HAF initiatives publicly, and goes further in attempting to essentialize HAF as but one manifestation of several India based socio-religious organizations with existential links to the “Sangh Parivar.”

CAG is a loosely knit coalition of approximately fifty organizations, many of which, are non-existent entities, and it maintains no official status as a legal entity. Many of its leaders and spokespersons espouse anti-American, anti-Israel, and anti-India (and anti-Hindu) views.

The repeated efforts of CAG to deconstruct HAF into a purported branch of an imagined monolithic family, is often predicated on family summer camps some leaders of HAF attended as teenagers which were organized by socio-religious organizations such as the Vishwa Hindu Parishad-America (VHP-A); devotional gatherings, scriptural study groups or college student meetings organized as a part of the Hindu Students Council; or participation and leadership in creating the largest network of Hindu temple executives in the United States as a part of the Hindu Mandir (temple) Executive Council (HMEC).

Indeed, in the 1970’s and 1980’s, there was a paucity of organized fora for Hindu religio-cultural expression in the United States and many youths participated in VHP-A activities with necessarily no knowledge or ideological allegiance to socio-political activities in India. The Hindu Students Council was the first, and for over a decade, the only nationally organized institution focused on meeting the spiritual needs of Hindu students on college campuses. And HMEC is today one of the most respected fora of Hindu temple executives from throughout the nation addressing urgent issues concerning these relatively new institutions on the American landscape.

Representing HAF, an American organization led by mostly American born Hindu Americans, not affiliated with any religious or political organizations or entities, HAF leaders consistently and categorically reject any insinuation that HAF is an ideological bedfellow of any organization with existential ties to the political landscape in India. CAG member organizations and their leaders seek to represent HAF as somehow supportive at best and condoning at worst the horrific riots in Gujarat that left over 1000 Muslims and Hindus dead, following the train burning of Hindu pilgrims by a Muslim mob in February 2002. In fact,

HAF has repeatedly and publicly denounced and condemned the riots as a “heinous tragedy.”^{19, 20}

As an initial venture into Hinduphobic activism, CAG leaders, under an avatar entitled “Campaign to Stop Funding Hate,” launched an attempt to delegitimize and destroy the India Development and Relief Fund (IDRF).²¹ IDRF, an American tax-exempt charity that promotes sustainable development in India with donations collected in the United States, survived the attack, while the Hindu American community was put on notice as to the extent CAG would go to malign or destroy organizations that it ideologically opposed.

Constituents of CAG then publicly opposed the efforts of HAF when the Foundation was a litigant against the California State Board of Education to reverse an unfair, closed door process which disenfranchised Hindu groups seeking to offer edits to deeply flawed sixth grade textbooks.²² HAF prevailed in the lawsuit, and ultimately, an estimated 75% of edits suggested by Hindu groups were accepted.²³ Latter sections in this report revisit the history of the textbook adoption process and HAF’s historic role.

Recently, this same coalition announced its support of H. Res. 417, a congressional resolution introduced by Congressmen Joseph Pitts (R-PA) and Keith Ellison (D-MN) attacking India’s record on religious freedom, targeting only Hindus as instigators of violence, and ignoring the impact of Islamist and Maoist terrorism in the country. Amongst other broad-sweeping misstatements of fact, the resolution demands the establishment of religious minority courts to conduct trials and hear appeals, undermining the secular nature of the India’s judicial system. When HAF launched its counter efforts to educate legislators about the inaccuracies, misrepresentations, and omissions in H. Res. 417, a resolution CAG member Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) hired lobbying firm Fidelis Government Relations to push, CAG began publicly criticizing HAF, trying to link it, once again, to the Sangh Parivar.²⁴

So while HAF leads from the front as a progressive organization advocating for issues ranging from religious liberty and human rights, to gun control, immigration and LGBT rights, CAG leaders are absent from all of these issues in the United States. Instead, CAG seems intent on importing personal ideological cultural wars and crusades from India directly into the American context in reflexive opposition, rather than constructive engagement, with HAF. CAG’s real problem may simply be HAF’s emergence as an articulate, credible, and professional Hindu voice that is bringing authentic, apolitical Hindu perspectives into the public sphere.

¹⁹ http://www.hafsite.org/media/pr/20050321_pitts

²⁰ http://www.hafsite.org/media/letters/20060217_indiaabroad_california

²¹ <http://www.letindiadevelop.org/thereport/>

²² http://www.hafsite.org/media/news/20060912_timesofindia_textbooks

²³ <http://www.hafsite.org/media/pr/haf-wins-partial-victory-lawsuit-over-textbooks;>
http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=5de7f84384dbd89a6ebe40861af6078c

²⁴ http://www.indiaabroad-digital.com/indiaabroad/20131213?pg=14&search_term=HAF&doc_id=80865&search_term=HAF#pg12

Understanding that CAG persists in defamatory allegations against HAF as an organization and its leadership, and after receiving numerous queries to HAF offices in light of recently renewed CAG activism, HAF leaders decided to pursue an inquiry into CAG, its constituent organizations, and loose contingent of ostensible leaders and spokespersons. To this end, HAF presents Coalition Against Genocide -- A Nexus of Hinduphobia Unveiled.

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INTRODUCTION

Our bourgeois 'leaders' and their friends in Washington need to get a wake-up call which blows their eardrums: I think we can in our noisy, desi manner concoct something suitable. Let FOIL be that noise!

Website of the Forum of Indian Leftists (FOIL), a member of the Coalition Against Genocide²⁵

[Israel] is an example of a racist military state that sustains itself only through its arms trade and foreign aid. And, it is an example of a state that wants to dictate to its neighbors without caring to live in peace with them. Israel is a state that sooner or later will destroy itself through excessive aggression, racism, and paranoia, which cannot be healthy for anyone. It is the only state that is a self-declared racist one, since it is a state of the Jewish people, not of all its citizens, of whom 20 percent are Arab Palestinians.²⁶

From an article published in the South Asian Magazine for Action and Reflection (SAMAR), a member of the Coalition Against Genocide

Qital [killing] is an essential element of Islam. And sometimes you don't like it. Qital is ordained upon you, though it is hateful to you, but it may happen that you hate a thing which is good for you, and it may happen that you love a thing which is bad for you.... And one example is, now we have 60 or so Muslim countries, and not a single one of them wants to go for Qital and Jihad for Bosnia. Qital is ordained upon you though it is hateful to you.²⁷

Abdul Malik Mujahid, then President of the Islamic Circle of North America;
Co-founder of Muslim Peace Coalition, a member organization of the Coalition Against Genocide; Chair, Board of Trustees, Council for a Parliament of World's Religions

The Coalition Against Genocide (CAG) is a loosely formed internet portal claiming to represent a "spectrum of organizations and individuals in the United States and Canada that have come together in

²⁵ <http://www.proxsa.org/resources/foil/foilpg.html>

²⁶ "Slaughterhouse Gaza", South Asian Magazine for Action and Reflection, January 7, 2009
<http://samarmagazine.org/archive/articles/283>

²⁷ The excerpt is from a speech at the 1995 annual conference of the Islamic Society of North America given by Abdul Malik Mujahid, then-president of the Islamic Circle of North America, found at Investigative Project on Terrorism, Testimony by Steven Emerson, U.S. House Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations of the House Committee on Government Reform, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/testimony/12.pdf>. Please see section III of the report for more details on Abdul Malik Mujahid background and relationship with CAG.

response to the Gujarat genocide to demand accountability and justice.”²⁸ This coalition maintains no official status as a legal entity, but claims approximately fifty constituent organizations, many of which, are non-existent entities (see Appendix A). Leaders of constituent organizations of CAG, whose relevant, abbreviated biographies are presented herein, frequently refer to CAG’s size and diversity, even while an internal review by HAF demonstrates a large number of constituent organizations which can be traced back to many of the same few individuals who hold leadership or founding positions in them.

A survey of the names, objectives, and mission statements of CAG constituent bodies establishes an organizational admixture of prominent Indian American radical leftist and Marxist organizations such as the Forum of Inquilabi Leftists (FOIL; formerly Forum of Indian/Inquilabi Leftists), and Friends of South Asia (FOSA) with Indian Muslim organizations such as the Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) and Muslim Peace Coalition USA (MPC).

While CAG’s list of organizations presents a seemingly diverse and extensive list of organizations aligning within a coalition, a detailed examination of each of the purported constituents of CAG revealed the following key takeaways:

- 19 organizations have no governing entities listed on their website AND are not legally incorporated.
- 31 organizations are not legally incorporated.
- 14 organizations are governed by only one, at most two individuals.
- 5 organizations list the identical person, Shaik Ubaid, CAG spokesperson among their leadership.
- 6 organizations list Shrikumar Poddar as a founder.
- 7 organizations list Biju Mathew as a founder or in a leadership position.
- 4 organizations list George Abraham as a founder or in a leadership position.
- One third of the organizations do not have a functioning website or online presence.
- Many of the organizations are inactive groups that have had no independent activities for more than five years, aside from signing on to CAG campaigns. Examples include:
 - Youth Solidarity Summer (YSS) and Organizing Youth! (OY!) appear defunct, with summer camps last held in 2005.
 - The South Asian Collective (SAC) has had no independent activities since 2005.
 - The Sikh American Heritage Organization (SAHO) has not had a functioning website since 2006.
 - The Vaishnava Center for Enlightenment has had no independent activities outside of CAG and related association campaigns.
 - DC Collective for South Asians (DCCSA) has no website, and has an email list with no

²⁸ “About Coalition Against Genocide”, <http://www.coalitionagainstgenocide.org/about.php>

significant activity since January, 2004.

- Center for Study and Research in South Asia (CERAS, Montreal) and the Coalition for a Secular and Democratic India (CSDI) have no record of independent activities outside of CAG membership.
- The website for Indian Progressive Study Group of Los Angeles (IPSG-LA) has not been updated since June 1997²⁹.
- Dharma Megha and The Vedanta Society of East Lansing are actually the same organization registered under two different names.³⁰
- 24 of the organizations can be traced back to only 6 individuals who hold leadership or founding positions in them (see Figure 1 below).

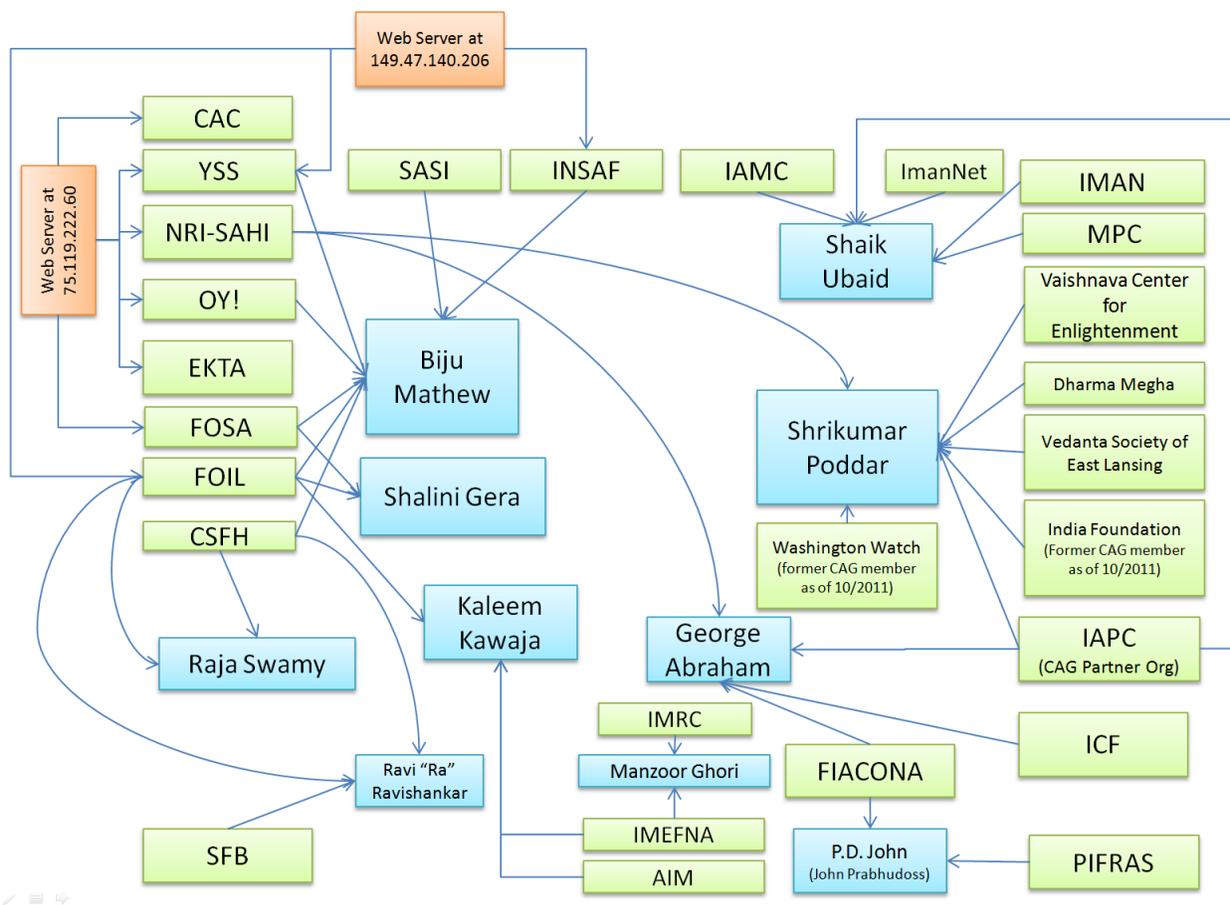


Figure 1. Flowchart of CAG member organizations

- CAG member organization websites hosted on same website, web server or domain/sub-domain:
 - Server on IP Address (75.119.222.60)
 - Youth Solidarity Summer (YSS) (partial site)
 - Organizing Youth (OY!)

²⁹ <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ipsg/newsletter.html>

³⁰ <http://michigan-company.com/dharma-megha-vedanta-society-of-east-lansing.06Lr.company.html>

- Friend of South Asia (FOSA)
 - EKTA
 - Coalition Against Communalism (CAC)
 - NRI's for Secular and Harmonious India (NRI-SAHI)
- Server on IP Address(149.47.140.206):
 - International South Asia Forum (INSAF)
 - Forum of Inquilabi Leftists (FOIL)
 - Youth Solidarity Summer (YSS) (partial site)

It appears then, that rather than the ostensible breadth of a broad coalition, CAG is comprised primarily of defunct entities, shell organizations, or an interrelated network of organizations established or populated by alternating names of a cabal of ideologically aligned individuals. The anticipated inherent conflict of Christian and Muslim organizations that espouse a theological abhorrence of Marxism, finding common cause with radical leftist Indian organizations that express support for the North Korean regime and guerilla movements in Colombia and India, is resolved in a shared effort to oppose Hindu American efforts to improve American textbook presentations of Hinduism or community efforts to fight unfair legislation targeting India.³¹

A survey of several constituent CAG organizations and selected CAG spokespersons or leaders are presented in the subsequent chapter.

³¹ Statements that support the North Korean regime and FARC's resistance to "US imperialism," "UNCLE SWAMI," Chapter 4, Vijay Prashad, *The New Press*, June 5, 2012, also available at Google Books, <http://books.google.com/books?id=h9ImLEPR-4QC&printsec=frontcover&dq=uncle+swami&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ZnuuUrunA4rjoATFgoGgBw&ved=0CDwQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=uncle%20swami&f=false>.

Prominent CAG Organizations

Friends of South Asia

- Friends of South Asia (FOSA) is a member group of CAG promoting a vogue communist and Marxist ideology, while attacking American, Indian, and Israeli policy positions. The following are examples of past FOSA events reflecting these views:
 - “*SELF DETERMINATION IN SOUTH ASIA: South Asia’s Struggle against US-led Imperialism*” a panel discussion featuring the role of South Asia in US imperialist ambitions and the struggle of South Asia against US imperialism, as well as a discussion on how to “build Indian communism”³²
 - “South Asian-Arab Solidarity Against Israeli Apartheid” where anti-Israeli and anti-Indian views were propagated.³³
- Despite FOSA’s claim to be working towards a South Asia that ensures that the “rights of all minorities are respected and protected,” it has never advocated on behalf of religious minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh, and has failed to criticize Islamist groups or the governments of Pakistan or Bangladesh for their systematic repression of minorities.³⁴ Nor has FOSA worked towards equality in South Asia. For instance, it has not advocated for unitary personal laws in India or worked against sharia laws that discriminate against Muslim women. Moreover, it has failed to condemn predatory proselytization (conversion based on force, fraud, coercion and unethical means) and the Chinese occupation of Tibet.

Forum of Inquilabi (Revolutionary) Leftists (interchangeably Forum of Indian Leftists)

- The Forum of Indian Leftists (FOIL) is another key member organizations of CAG and states that it is “a clearinghouse for radical Indian activists in the United States, Canada and England.”³⁵
- It openly supports a Communist/Marxist political ideology and is connected to the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), whose weekly mouthpiece has carried articles by FOIL and its co-founders, Biju Mathew and Vijay Prashad.³⁶ FOIL draws inspiration from other communists, hosting speeches and articles on its website from Fidel Castro and the CPI-M, as well as the Central Secretariat of Inquilabi Communist Sangathan.³⁷

³² FOSA Event Flyer, <http://www.friendsofsouthasia.org/events/selfdeterminationpanel/>.

³³ FOSA Event Posting on “South Asian-Arab Solidarity Against Israeli Apartheid”, <http://cjme.stanford.edu/images/solidarity.jpg>.

³⁴ FOSA, Organization Description, <http://www.friendsofsouthasia.org/>.

³⁵ FOIL website, <http://www.foil.org/resources/foil/foilpg.html>

³⁶ Mathew, Biju, and Prashad, Vijay, “Hindutva For a Few Dollars a Day” March 15, 2001, *People’s Democracy* (Weekly Organ of the Communist Part of India Marxist), http://pd.cpim.org/2001/march25/march25_biju_vijay.htm; Forum of Indian Leftists in America, “Prevent Proliferation of War,” September 21, 2001, *People’s Democracy*, http://pd.cpim.org/2001/sept23/2001_sept23_usattack_foil.htm

³⁷ <http://www.proksa.org/resources/9-11/index.html>

- FOIL's magazine, *Ghadar*, has promoted radical positions, stating in one article "marriage is unethical. If there is one, really powerful thing that you can do ... it is to oppose marriage" and feeding "right into the domestication and globalisation of a US-centred neo-imperialism."³⁸ Its political ideology is supportive of India's Communists and Marxists, and it promotes anti-U.S. and anti-Israel³⁹ positions as well.

Indian American Muslim Council (formerly Indian Muslim Council - USA)

- The Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC), one of the primary constituent organizations of CAG, is well known for its anti-India and Hinduphobic views. IAMC held a convention in 2003⁴⁰ which included anti-India and/or anti-Hindu activists including Angana Chatterjee, Raju Rajagopal, Cedric Prakash, and Shaik Ubaid (IAMC founder and former President).
- IAMC (established by Shaik Ubaid) previously hosted Mohammad Siddiqi, the founder of Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), a banned terrorist organization in India which carried out several bombings and seeks to create an Islamic state in India.^{41, 42}
- IAMC recently hired a lobbying firm in Washington, D.C., Fidelis Government Relations, to promote U.S. House Resolution 417, a resolution that targets Hindus, misrepresents publicly available facts, ignores ground realities, and undermines India's secular judicial system by promoting the empowerment of separate minority courts, which Congressman Ed Royce, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee said, "Weakens, rather than strengthens, the friendship between the United States and India."^{43, 44}
- Similarly, in November 2012, IAMC led a campaign to interfere with India's sovereignty by circulating a letter⁴⁵ from Indian Parliamentarians to President Obama urging him to maintain the current policy of denying a visa to Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi. Nine Members of India's Parliament have since alleged that their signatures on the letter were forged.⁴⁶

Muslim Peace Coalition USA

- Dr. Shaikh Ubaid and Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid are the co-founders of the Muslim Peace

³⁸ "Marriage is Unethical", Chandra, Shefali, *Ghadar*, Volume 9, November 2005,

<http://ghadar.insaf.net/November2005/MainPages/MarriageUnethical.htm>

³⁹ Gree, David. *Ghadar*. Volume 8: April 2005. "Zionism Vs. Intellectual and Political Freedom On American College Campuses"

<http://ghadar.insaf.net/April2005/MainPages/zionism.htm>

⁴⁰ <http://iamc.com/conventions/agenda/>

⁴¹ http://www.start.umd.edu/start/data_collections/tops/terrorist_organization_profile.asp?id=4255

⁴² 2003 Convention Agenda, Indian American Muslim Council, <http://iamc.com/conventions/agenda/>;

⁴³ Lobbying Tracker, Sunlight Foundation Reporting, <http://reporting.sunlightfoundation.com/lobbying/firm/fidelis-government-relations/455147CB-9348-402F-8EA4-C337040C8784>; H. Res. 417, Thomas.gov, [http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th/house-resolution/417/text?q={%22search%22:\[%22H.%20Res%20417%22\]}](http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th/house-resolution/417/text?q={%22search%22:[%22H.%20Res%20417%22]}).

⁴⁴ http://www.usinpac.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&itemid=245&id=2380

⁴⁵ "Anti-Modi Forces in US Unite as Rajnath Lobbies for Visa," July 24, 2013, Rediff News, <http://www.rediff.com/news/report/anti-modi-forces-in-us-unite-as-rajnath-lobbies-for-visa/20130724.htm>

⁴⁶ "Modi Visa Denial Becomes Murkier, MPs Say Their Signature Was Forged," July 24, 2013, *Business Standard*, http://www.business-standard.com/article/politics/modi-visa-denial-becomes-murkier-mps-say-their-signature-was-forged-113072400703_1.html;

Coalition USA (MPC). They also co-founded the Burma Task Force - USA (BTF - USA).

- Imam Mujahid has promoted Indian Muslim Alert Network (see below -- Shaik Ubaid is the Founding President) on a number of occasions through his multimedia company, Sound Vision.⁴⁷
- Imam Mujahid is the President of the board of trustees for the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions (CPWR).⁴⁸
- In September 2013, in response to demands made by CAG, CPWR suddenly withdrew its co-sponsorship of an event by local, Chicago-based Hindu organizations celebrating Hindu saint Swami Vivekananda's 150th birth anniversary. According to earlier phone conversations with CPWR's Executive Director Mary Nelson, HAF learned that she made the decision in consultation in consultation with Mujahid. CPWR and its board of trustees later denied his involvement in the decision to withdraw. The only two Hindu trustees, Professor Anant Rambachan, Chair of the Department of Religion at St. Olafs College in Minnesota, and Ms. Anju Bhargava, an appointee to President Obama's Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Advisory Council, were not consulted and resigned over the handling of the entire ordeal, citing impartiality and unfairness to all parties concerned.^{49, 50}
- Under Mujahid's tenure, Mohammed Ahmadullah Siddiqi, the founder of the banned terrorist organization SIMI (mentioned under IAMC),⁵¹ was invited and joined the CPWR's board of trustees.⁵² Mujahid has also featured Siddiqi on his company Sound Vision's website.⁵³

Association of Indian Muslims of America

- The leadership of the Association of Indian Muslims of America (AIM), a constituent organization of CAG, has expressed support and sympathy for religious fundamentalist groups. Specifically, Kaleem Kawaja, Executive Director of AIM, has openly written in support of and admiration for the Taliban and lamented their fall from power.⁵⁴
- Kawaja has similarly expressed open support for Islamism as a political system and has argued that "establishing an Islamic system of government is not simply an alternative but an imperative" for Muslim societies, thereby disregarding the rights of minorities living in countries with Muslim majorities.⁵⁵

⁴⁷ <http://www.soundvision.com/Community/Newsletter/ArchiveView.asp?ID=39> and <http://www.soundvision.com/community/newsletter/archiveview.asp?ID=47>.

⁴⁸ <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/index.cfm?n=1&sn=7>

⁴⁹ http://www.hafsite.org/Parliament_of_world_religions_reject_Hindu_celebration_Swami_vivekananda

⁵⁰ <http://www.hinduismtoday.com/blogs-news/hindu-press-international/hindu-trustees-of-council-resign/13161.html>

⁵¹ http://www.start.umd.edu/start/data_collections/tops/terrorist_organization_profile.asp?id=4255

⁵² <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/index.cfm?n=1&sn=7>

⁵³ <https://www.soundvision.com/info/media/siddiqibio.asp>

⁵⁴ Kawaja, Kaleem, "Brother Can You Spare a Tear for Taliban," Milli Gazette, <http://www.milligazette.com/Archives/01032002/0103200254.htm>; Kawaja, Kaleem, "Taliban: Are They Good or Bad?" March 2012, *Eastern Crescent*, http://www.markazulmaarif.org/easterncrescent/ec_March_2012/ecMarch12FEA.asp

⁵⁵ Kawaja, Kaleem, "Islam is a Viable Political System," Future Islam,

Key Leaders of CAG and CAG Member Organizations

Dr. Shaik Ubaid

- Dr. Shaik Ubaid, a physician and purported human rights activist, is one of the primary founders and leading figures of CAG. He is also intimately involved with or affiliated with organizations that promote a radical Islamist ideology or have ties to fundamentalist Islamist groups, such as the the Muslim Brotherhood, the Taliban, Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI)⁵⁶, and Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel).
- *Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)* -- Dr. Ubaid previously held a leadership position with ICNA, and continues to be closely affiliated with it through IAMC and the Muslim Peace Coalition - USA. IAMC has frequently participated at ICNA conventions and the Muslim Peace Coalition has collaborated with ICNA on multiple issues.⁵⁷
 - Considered a Muslim Brotherhood front organization, ICNA has reportedly been investigated by the IRS for terror links. In addition, Yehudit Barsky, a terrorism expert, alleges that ICNA is composed of supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami.⁵⁸ Jel, which strives to create Taliban style regimes in South Asia, enjoys extensive links with the Islamist militant network in the region.⁵⁹
 - Former ICNA secretary general, Ashrafuzzaman Khan, is a convicted Bangladeshi war criminal found guilty of committing crimes against humanity and murdering 18 innocent civilians during Bangladesh's 1971 War of Independence.⁶⁰
 - ICNA continues to promote radical texts and Islamism. In his book *American Jihad*, Executive Director of The Investigative Project on Terrorism, Steven Emerson, states: "The ICNA openly supports militant Islamic fundamentalist organizations, praises terror attacks, issues incendiary attacks on western values and policies, and supports the

http://www.futureislam.com/20060109/leaders/kaleemkawaja/islamism_is_a_viable_political_system.asp.

⁵⁶ Students Islamic Movement of India, South Asia Terrorism Portal, <http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/terroristoutfits/simi.htm>;

⁵⁷ Muslim Peace Coalition USA Press Release showing affiliation with ICNA, <http://muslimpeacecoalition.org/media/congress-is-attempting-to-bury-the-bill-of-rights-press-release>; Search Query for ICNA on IAMC's website, <http://iamc.com/?s=ICNA>.

⁵⁸ "An Explanatory Memorandum: On the General Strategic Goal for the Group in North America (in Arabic and English)," A US Government Exhibit on the Muslim Brotherhood in the case, *US v. Holy Land Foundation, et al.* showing connections between ICNA and the Muslim Brotherhood, May 22, 1991, at the Investigative Project, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/20.pdf>; Islamic Circle of North America, Discover the Networks, <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/printgroupProfile.asp?gripid=6380>.

⁵⁹ Terrorist and Extremist Groups – Bangladesh, South Asia Terrorism Portal, <http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/bangladesh/terroristoutfits/index.html>; Bertil Lintner, "Bangladesh Extremist Islamist Consolidation," South Asia Terrorism Portal, <http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/publication/faultlines/volume14/Article1.htm>; Roy, Swadesh, "Broken Goddess and the War Crime Verdict of Bangladesh," Sri Lanka Guardian, (March 13, 2013), <http://www.srilankaguardian.org/2013/03/broken--goddess--and--war--crime--of.html>.

⁶⁰ Venugopal, Arun, "Sentenced to Death in Bangladesh, a War Criminal Remains Free in New York," November 5, 2013, WNYC News, <http://www.wnyc.org/story/sentenced-death-bangladesh-war-criminal-lives-new-york/>

imposition of Sharia [Islamic law]."⁶¹

- At ICNA's 25th National Convention in 2000, an ICNA youth leader said to the audience, "We all want to see our youth to succeed to become doctors, to become engineers; but how many of you can actually say that you want to send your sons to jihad, to Chechnya? How many of you can actually say that you want to send your youth to fight in jihad?"⁶²
- *Indian Muslim Advocacy Network (IMANNet)* -- Dr. Ubaid is the founding President of Indian Minorities Advocacy Network. IMANNet has allegedly been linked to the Chicago-based Consultative Committee of Indian Muslims, a group that has provided moral and financial support to SIMI.⁶³
 - SIMI enjoys ties pan-Islamist militant and extremist groups, including with State Department designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Indian Mujahadeen (IM), and Harkat-ul-Jihad-al Islami Bangladesh (HuJI-B). It is also alleged to have ties to Pakistan's ISI spy agency.⁶⁴
- As noted above, Dr. Ubaid is a co-founder of Muslim Peace Coalition (and current co-chair of the New York Chapter). In his capacity as a leader of the Muslim Peace Coalition, Dr. Ubaid recently spoke at a demonstration organized by Americans United for Human Rights,⁶⁵ a group that avowedly supports Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir in Bangladesh. The Facebook page of Americans United for Human Rights, for instance, speaks out on behalf of Jel and even carries a letter from the "Acting Ameer" (Leader) of Jel.⁶⁶
- In June 2011, following the Norway massacres by mentally unstable, Anders Brevik, Shaik Ubaid used the tragic event to further his own political agenda against Hindu Americans and promote preposterous conspiracy theories. In an article in the Turkish newspaper *Today's Zaman*, for example, Ubaid demanded that the FBI and Department of Homeland Security investigate Hindu and "Hindu-supremacist" groups for playing a role in the Norwegian massacre. Later in the same article, he put forward a conspiracy theory that Hindu organizations in the U.S. have "openly formed alliances with white American hate groups."⁶⁷
- Subsequently, in August 2012, Ubaid once again blamed Hindus for the tragic massacre at the Oak Creek Sikh temple in Wisconsin by propagating baseless theories of a Hindu-White

⁶¹ Emerson, Steven, "ICNA Still Promotes Radical Texts," September 9, 2011, <http://www.steveemerson.com/10290/icna-still-promotes-radical-texts>; Emerson, Steven, American Jihad: The Terrorists Living Among Us, January 29, 2002.

⁶² Schwartz, Stephen, "The Road from Riyadh to Beslan," September 20, 2004, *The Weekly Standard*, <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Protected/Articles/000/000/004/614xeffk.asp#>.

⁶³ "Cops had SIMI Email Intercepts in 2001," *The Times of India*, http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2008-08-23/ahmedabad/27923538_1_simi-activist-muslim-brotherhood-abdulhai-abdulsattar-silavat

⁶⁴ Students Islamic Movement of India, South Asia Terrorism Portal, <http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/terroristoutfits/simi.htm>.

⁶⁵ Post by Sameer, Abu, "A HUGE RALLY DEMANDS THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE IN BANGLADESH," <https://www.facebook.com/AmericansUnitedForHumanRights>

⁶⁶ Americans United for Human Rights Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/AmericansUnitedForHumanRights>; PDF Letter from "Ameer" of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, <https://www.dropbox.com/s/t3xmr6icj1necj0/Letter-to-diplomats.pdf>.

⁶⁷ "US Muslims call for probe on Norway killer's ties with Hindu nationalists," *Today's Zaman*, <http://www.todayzaman.com/news-251812-us-muslims-call-for-probe-on-norway-killers-ties-with-hindu-nationalists.html>.

supremacist alliance, alleging: “Some Hindu extremist groups in the U.S. have joined hands with other Islamophobic hate-peddlers. They should now realize that the hate that they are spreading endangers all South Asians irrespective of their religious backgrounds and will not be limited to hatred against Muslims. Attacks on Muslims and Sikhs are on the rise in the US as a consequence of hate propaganda.”⁶⁸

Angana Chatterji

- Angana Chatterji is a former academic at the California Institute for Integral Studies (CIIS) who was fired for unethical and dishonest conduct, including intimidation of students who disagreed with her opinions.⁶⁹ She is listed as the lead author on a CAG report and has been an active member of Friends of South Asia (FOSA), a CAG organization. Dr. Chatterji is wellknown for espousing Hinduphobic views and has described Indian and Hindu history as “militant and misogynistic.”⁷⁰
- Chatterji similarly espouses anti-American views and is part of the fringe “911 Truth Movement,” previously signing a statement alleging that high-level U.S. government officials “deliberately allowed the September 11 attacks to occur.”⁷¹
- Chatterji has served as an apologist for the violent, separatist movement in India’s state of Jammu & Kashmir through her close affiliation⁷² with Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, a Kashmiri separatist who operated in the United States on behalf of Pakistan’s ISI spy agency. Fai was arrested by the FBI in 2012 and convicted of illegally lobbying for the ISI.⁷³
- According to the FBI’s criminal complaint, Fai received explicit instructions on specific individuals to invite to Kashmir American Council (KAC), an organization founded by Fai, conferences.⁷⁴ The federal complaint further demonstrated several correspondences between Fai and his ISI contacts on the specific issues to be discussed at these conferences and in long-term lobbying

⁶⁸ “MUSLIM and IMMIGRANT ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS CONDEMN MILWAUKEE SIKH TEMPLE MASSACRE”
<http://epfnational.org/uncategorized/muslim-and-immigrant-advocacy-organizations-condemn-milwaukee-sikh-temple-massacre/>.

⁶⁹ Springer, Richard, “CIIS Fires Two Professors After Student Complaints,” December 14, 2011, *India West*,
<http://www.indiawest.com/news/1981-ciis-fires-two-professors-after-student-complaints.html>.

⁷⁰ Chatterji, Angana, “Letter to the California State Board of Education,” February 17, 2006, Friends of South Asia,
http://www.friendsofsouthasia.org/textbook/LetterToCASStateBoard_AC.html.

⁷¹ “Respected Leaders and Families Launch 9/11 Truth Statement Demanding Deeper Investigation into the Events of 9/11,” October 26, 2004, *911Truth.org*. See signatory #19
<http://www.911truth.org/911-truth-statement/>

⁷² J&K Interlocutor Padgaonkar One of Fai’s Speakers,” July 21, 2011, *Indian Express*,
<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/padgaonkar-j&k-interlocutor-is-among-fais-many-guest-speakers/820304/0>; “ISI Vetted Indians on Ghulam Nabi Fai List of Invitees,” August 15, 2011, *DNA India*, http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_isi-vetted-indians-on-ghulam-nabi-fai-list-of-invitees_1576089; Unnithan, Sandeep, “Guilt by Association,” July 22, 2011, *India Today*,
<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/us-based-isi-agent-ghulam-nabi-fai/1/145843.html>

⁷³ FBI Complaint Against Ghulam Nabi Fai, http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/1849.pdf; December 7, 2011, *Times of India*, http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-12-07/us/30485657_1_kashmir-centers-fund-high-profile-conferences-isi-agent

⁷⁴ FBI Complaint Against Ghulam Nabi Fai, http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/1849.pdf; December 7, 2011, *Times of India*.

efforts.⁷⁵ Chatterji consistently spoke at KAC conferences sponsored by Fai and on topics pre-selected by the ISI to promote a separatist agenda on Kashmir. There is a strong correlation between her writings, testimony, and activism before numerous American and international fora and the guidelines established by the ISI for not only KAC, but Kashmir Centre EU.^{76, 77}

- On March 15, 2011, the FBI complaint asserts that Fai sent an email to his ISI contact “advising him that an individual referred to here as “Mary” would be testifying in front of a United Nations working group. Mary is a human rights activist.”⁷⁸ Major General Mumtaz Ahmad Bajwa, head of the ISI’s Security Directorate that oversees Kashmiri militant groups, had previously requested that Fai introduce him to “Mary” in July 2009.⁷⁹ On March 26, 2011, Fai emailed his ISI contact with information describing “Mary’s” testimony at the U.N. working group.⁸⁰ Although the identity of “Mary” has not been revealed, Chatterji did in fact testify and provide a written submission to the United Nations Human Rights Working Group in Mexico City, Mexico in March 2011 and statistics provided in a subsequent report by the working group correlate identically to a report authored by Chatterji.⁸¹

Raja Swamy

- Raja Swamy, an anthropologist currently based in Arkansas, is frequently cited as a key leader of CAG and is believed to be a member of FOIL. As with Angana Chatterjee, he promotes a radical agenda while supporting violent revolution.⁸² His vehement vitriol against India impugns the government for “doing the bidding of imperialist capital”⁸³ while similar hate for Israel is manifest as he labels it “a state that relegates, with impunity, entire populations to the category of expendable human beings to be subjugated, their lands and resources stolen from them and in

⁷⁵ *Id.*

⁷⁶ Ms. Angana Chatterji’s list of Human Rights Briefings and Testimonials, <http://www.anganachatterji.net/wp/writings-selected/human-rights-briefings-testimonials/>; Ms. Angana Chatterji’s list of submissions of human rights reports, <http://www.anganachatterji.net/wp/human-rights-reports/>; UN Working Group Report, March 2011, http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session19/A-HRC-19-58-Rev1_en.pdf;

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

⁷⁸ FBI Complaint Against Ghulam Nabi Fai, http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/1849.pdf. Times Now Video Clip, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7Vgo9p2kRI>.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

⁸¹ FBI Complaint Against Ghulam Nabi Fai, http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/1849.pdf; Ms. Angana Chatterji List of Human Rights Briefings and Testimonials, <http://www.anganachatterji.net/wp/writings-selected/human-rights-briefings-testimonials/>; Ms. Angana Chatterji List of Submissions of Human Rights Reports, <http://www.anganachatterji.net/wp/human-rights-reports/>; UN Working Group Report, March 2011, http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session19/A-HRC-19-58-Rev1_en.pdf.

⁸² <http://ghadar.insaf.net/April2005/pdf/domesticelites.pdf>

⁸³ <http://ghadar.insaf.net/April2005/pdf/domesticelites.pdf>

case of the slightest forms of resistance their bodies destroyed...⁸⁴

- Swamy has previously alleged a grand conspiracy of the United States, India, and Israel to band together and plunder oil wealth, as part of furthering his radical political agenda combined with anti-Hindu propaganda.⁸⁵

Biju Mathew

- Biju Mathew is an Indian American Marxist activist, a board member⁸⁶ with the Brecht Forum's New York Marxist School⁸⁷ that promotes a Communist/Marxist ideology,⁸⁸ an associate professor⁸⁹ at Rider University (New Jersey), and one of the co-founders of FOIL. He is also associated with several other Communist/Marxist groups in the United States and in India. He has a reputation for radical political perspectives that often include violent revolutions against authorities, and his website previously promoted a link to the Unabomber's Manifesto.⁹⁰
- Biju Mathew is currently the defendant in a lawsuit filed by a Chicago-based businessman claiming defamation as a result of Matthew's work with CAG.⁹¹

Vijay Prashad

- Vijay Prashad, another co-founder of FOIL, is a self-described Marxist and anti-Zionist.⁹² Prashad's writings are reflective of his critical views of the U.S. being a hegemonic, imperialist power and his published sympathies of North Korea and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People's Army,⁹³ a State Department designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO).⁹⁴

⁸⁴ <http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2006/swamy300806.html>

⁸⁵ <http://www.proxsa.org/resources/ghadar/v5n2/zionism.html>

⁸⁶ <http://thetaxitakes.com/biju-mathew/>

⁸⁷ <http://brechtforum.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=12486>

⁸⁸ <http://brechtforum.org/links/59>

⁸⁹ <http://www.rider.edu/faculty/biju-mathew>

⁹⁰ Internet Archive Page of Biju Mathew,

<http://web.archive.org/web/19990423204638/http://www1.rider.edu/~webcis/mathew/bijumain.html>

⁹¹ <http://newsindiatimes.com/businessman-files-suit-against-member-of-anti-modi-group/>

⁹² "I came to Marxism against my self-interest. Born into affluence, I was raised in an revolutionary city (Calcutta, India)" *Left history*, Volumes 11-12, pp 61, Dept. of History, Queen's University, 2006; Prashad, Vijay, "UNCLE SWAMI," June 5, 2012, *The New Press*; Facebook Page of Vijay Prashad with a link to an automatically generated Anti-Zionist Page based on member interests: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Vijay-Prashad/105645076135212?v=info>

⁹³ Statement supporting North Korean regime and FARC's resistance to "US imperialism," Prashad, Vijay, "UNCLE SWAMI," June 5, 2012, *The New Press*, also available at Google Books, <http://books.google.com/books?id=h9ImLEPR-4QC&printsec=frontcover&dq=uncle+swami&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ZnuuUrunA4rjoATFgoGgBw&ved=0CDwQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=uncle%20swami&f=false>.

⁹⁴ Foreign Terrorist Organizations, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Counterterrorism, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm>

- Prashad has also called for an end to all U.S. aid to Israel.⁹⁵
- He has published a book in India entitled, *Namaste Sharon: Hindutva and Sharonism Under US Hegemony* (LeftWord).⁹⁶
- Vijay Prashad is an advisor for the U.S. Campaign for the Academic & Cultural Boycott of Israel, a movement seeking to limit freedom of speech and the free exchange of ideas by proscribing academic interactions with educational institutions based in Israel.⁹⁷

⁹⁵ Prashad, Vijay, "My Investment in Israel," April 21, 2010, *Counterpunch*, <http://www.counterpunch.org/2010/04/21/my-investment-in-israel/>

⁹⁶ Prashad, Vijay, "Casual Imperialism," August 16, 2003, Global Policy Forum, <http://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/155/25963.html>.

⁹⁷ <http://www.usacbi.org/advisory-board/>

California Textbook Controversy: A Review

In 2005, Hindu parents and groups publicly joined the textbook adoption process in the state of California. The Hindu American Foundation became a party to the process and resorted to a historic lawsuit against the California State Board of Education prevailing on the merits of the case and being awarded all of its legal fees.

The Hindu American community was shocked when CAG members including FOSA (described above) and other CAG groups insinuated themselves into the process in opposition to Hindu organizations. FOSA filed an amicus brief, not on the merits of the lawsuit, but outlining ad hominem attacks against HAF and other Hindu groups participating in the public process of textbook adoption as they have done with other groups in the past. The brief was rejected outright by the judge as it lacked merit and relevance.⁹⁸

The table below, created by noted author, Rajiv Malhotra,⁹⁹ broadly encapsulates why Hindu groups became involved in the process. Also, presented in Appendix B, is a textual summary of the lengthy process of adjudicating change in California and why HAF remains deeply invested in ensuring an accurate representation of Hinduism sensitive to the emic perspectives of practitioners, historical veracity, and fairness as compared to other traditions.

| Topic | Islam | Judaism | Christianity | Hinduism |
|--|-------|---------|--------------|------------|
| <i>Women are shown equal to men?</i> | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| <i>Oppression of certain groups is discussed?</i> | No | No | No | Yes |
| <i>Beliefs are considered as historical fact?</i> | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| <i>Own leaders' interpretations are emphasized?</i> | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| <i>Treated as a world religion without social/political issues of any foreign country?</i> | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |

H. Res. 417: A Review

CAG's lobbying efforts are not aimed at improving human rights, but instead sought to influence politics in India. After CAG member Indian American Muslim Council hired a lobbyist belonging to the firm, Fidelis

⁹⁸ <http://www.hafsite.org/media/letters/haf-responds-erroneous-times-india-article>

⁹⁹ <http://www.outlookindia.com/article.aspx?230142>

Government Relations,¹⁰⁰ U.S. Representatives Joe Pitts (R-PA) and Keith Ellison (D-MN) introduced a resolution ostensibly to celebrate India's history of religious pluralism, but which actually condemns India's record on religious freedom. The resolution, officially endorsed by CAG, lists several episodes of decades old violence in India overtly blaming Hindus as aggressors, but makes no mention that 80% of religiously motivated attacks in India since 2012 alone were Islamist attacks and the other 20% were perpetrated by Maoist groups.

H. Res. 417 undermines India's sovereignty and interferes in its internal affairs. Among the more blatant demands conveyed in H.Res. 417, is the call for the empowerment of religious minority courts in India to conduct trials and hear appeals. In its opposition to the resolution, HAF questioned whether CAG would place such a demand on the US judicial system, which is secular, like India's. Moreover, HAF challenged CAG as to whether its coalition members voiced serious concern for religious minorities in countries such as Pakistan or Saudi Arabia, where religious minorities struggle to find justice in non-secular, majority-religion courts. HAF also argued that H. Res. 417 cherry-picks violent incidents and fails to mention that communal violence in India is too often the result of community polarization secondary to inciting events.

Conclusion

Subjected to scrutiny by the Hindu American Foundation (HAF), CAG stands exposed in this report as nothing more than an internet based portal, that despite repeated claims to the contrary, is primarily comprised of defunct, non-incorporated or shell groups whose sole purpose is to project a broad coalition. Six of the constituent groups--supposedly independent and distinct--share the same IP address. Extant member organizations openly espouse Marxist ideology or fringe Islamist positions openly advocating anti-American, anti-Israel, and anti-India (and anti-Hinduism) views. A search of the organizational databases would lead to a conclusion that CAG does not enjoy broad based support within the larger Indian American community.

Despite constituent members organizations espousing progressivism--many of which are defunct, CAG leaders are nearly absent from any of the crucial civil rights or constitutional debates ongoing in the United States. While HAF has an established track record in taking prominent progressive positions in human/civil rights, immigration reform, gun control and even LGBT rights, CAG constituents seem more intent on importing ideological agendas and cultural wars from India into the American context.

As this report demonstrates, constituent organizations of CAG share existential, and even overt ties to

¹⁰⁰ <http://reporting.sunlightfoundation.com/lobbying/firm/fidelis-government-relations>

fundamentalist Islamist groups, such as the the Muslim Brotherhood, Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), and Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI). SIMI, a banned terrorist organization in India, has carried out several bombings in India and espouse an Islamic state carved out of India.

CAG, its constituent organizations, and/or leaders consistently oppose the efforts of any Hindu organization to advocate on behalf of the community. As if its *raison d' etre* , rather than proactive engagement in the broader community, CAG busies itself with such adversarial engagement as the aforementioned attack on IDRF, the California textbook adoption process, defending the unilateral disengagement from the Hindu community during the CPWR controversy, and hiring of a lobbyist to push an anti-India resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is as much to respond to the very public activism ascribed to CAG, while exposing the organization as an unrepresentative web of shadowy or non-existent entities, that this report is compiled. All information compiled for this report is from publicly available sources on the world wide web and other resources.

Appendix A - Leadership and Legal Status Chart

Table 1. Coalition Against Genocide Member Organization Leadership and Legal Status

| | Coalition Against Genocide (CAG): Member and Supporting Organizations | Directors/ Founders/ Staff | EIN and/or Legally Incorporated | Functional Website |
|-----|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Alliance for a Secular and Democratic South Asia (ASDSA) | None Listed | None | Yes |
| 2. | Alliance of South Asians Taking Action (ASATA) | None Listed | None | Yes |
| 3. | Association of South Asian Progressives (ASAP) | N/A | None | No |
| 4. | Building Bridges of Understanding Coalition (BB) | None Listed | None | Yes |
| 5. | Coalition for a Secular and Democratic India (CSDI) | N/A | None | No |
| 6. | Center for Study and Research in South Asia (CERAS, Montreal) | N/A | None | No |
| 7. | DC Collective for South Asians (DCCSA) | N/A | | No |
| 8. | EKTA | None Listed | None | Yes |
| 9. | Indian Progressive Study Group of Los Angeles (IPSG-LA) | None Listed | None | Yes |
| 10. | International South Asia Forum (INSAF) | None Listed | None | Yes |
| 11. | NRI's for Secular and Harmonious India (NRI-SAHI) | Shrikumar Poddar*, George Abraham* | None | Yes |
| 12. | Organizing Youth (OY) | None Listed | None | Yes |
| 13. | Project REACH | N/A | None | No |
| 14. | Sikh American Heritage Organization (SAHO) | N/A | None | No |
| 15. | South Asian Collective (SAC) | None Listed | None | Yes |
| 16. | South Asian Magazine for Action and Reflection (SAMAR) | None Listed | None | Yes |
| 17. | South Asian Network for Secularism and Democracy (SANSAD, Canada) | None Listed | None | Yes |
| 18. | The Organization of Universal Communal Harmony (TOUCH) | N/A | None | No |
| 19. | Coalition against Communalism (CAC) | None Listed | None | Yes |
| 20. | Friends Of South Asia (FOSA) | None Listed | Yes | Yes |
| 21. | Indian Muslim Relief and Charities (IMRC) | None Listed | Yes | Yes |
| 22. | Voices for Freedom (VFF) | None Listed | Yes | Yes |
| 23. | Association of Indian Muslims of America (AIM) | Shaikh Ubaid | Yes | Yes |
| 24. | Campaign to Stop Funding Hate (CSFH) | *Raja Rajaswamy, Angana Chatterji, Biju Mathew, Vijay Prashad | None | Yes |
| 25. | Indian Christian Forum (ICF) | *George Abraham | None | No |
| 26. | Forum of Inquilabi Leftists (FOIL) | Vijay Prashad; Biju Mathew | None | Yes |
| 27. | Foundation for Pluralism | Mike Ghouse | None | Yes |

| | | | | |
|-----|--|---|-------------------------------|-----|
| 28. | India Foundation (former CAG member) | *Shrikumar Poddar | None | No |
| 29. | Indian Muslim/Minority Advocacy Network (IMAN) | *Shaikh Ubaid | None | No |
| 30. | Muslim Peace Coalition (MPC) | *Shaikh Ubaid; Imam Malik Mujahid | None | Yes |
| 31. | National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) | Board Listed | None | Yes |
| 32. | South Asian Progressive Action Collective (SAPAC) | Aparna Sharma | None | Yes |
| 33. | Students for Bhopal (SFB) | Board Listed | None | Yes |
| 34. | World Tamil Organisation (WTO) | Board Listed | None | Yes |
| 35. | Youth Solidarity Summer (YSS) | *Biju Mathew | None | No |
| 36. | Dharma Megha | *Shrikumar Poddar, Dan Warmels | Yes | No |
| 37. | Interfaith Freedom Foundation (IFF) | Lawrence Swaim | Yes | No |
| 38. | Supporters of Human Rights in India (SHRI) | Hyder Khan | Yes | No |
| 39. | Tikkun | Rabbi Michael Lerner | Yes | Yes |
| 40. | Vaishnava Center for Enlightenment | *Shrikumar Poddar | Yes | No |
| 41. | Vedanta Society of East Lansing | *Shrikumar Poddar, Dan Warmels | Yes | No |
| 42. | American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origin (AFMI) | Board Listed | Yes | Yes |
| 43. | Center for Religious Freedom (Freedom House) | Board Listed | Yes | Yes |
| 44. | Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) | Board Listed | Yes - Lost 501c3 status | Yes |
| 45. | Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America (FIACONA) | Board Listed, includes George Abraham | Yes | Yes |
| 46. | Genocide Watch | Board Listed | Yes | Yes |
| 47. | Indian American Muslim Council | Board Listed, includes Shaik Ubaid | Yes | Yes |
| 48. | Institute on Religion and Public Policy (IRPP) | Board Listed | Yes | Yes |
| 49. | Manavi (An organization for South Asian women) | Board Listed | Yes | Yes |
| 50. | Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) | Board Listed | Yes | Yes |
| 51. | Sneha (A network for women of South Asian Origin) | Board Listed | Yes | Yes |
| 52. | Policy Institute for Religion and State (PIFRAS) | Board Listed | Cannot confirm | Yes |
| | Indian American Coalition for Pluralism (IAPC) CAG partner organization) | *Shrikumar Poddar, Shaikh Ubaid, George Abraham | No | No |
| | Washington Watch (Former CAG member as of 10/2011) ¹⁰¹ | *Shrikumar Poddar, Devesh Poddar | Incorporated in MI | No |

¹⁰¹ <http://janlokpals.blogspot.com/2011/10/1062-coalition-against-genocide-letter.html>

| | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|--|----|
| | India Foundation (Former CAG member as of 10/2011) ¹⁰² | *Shrikumar Poddar | | No |
|--|---|-------------------|--|----|

* Leadership not listed, but available on world wide web.

¹⁰² <http://janlokpals.blogspot.com/2011/10/1062-coalition-against-genocide-letter.html>

Appendix B - Summary of Events of HAF v. California State Board of Education

Background

- Every six years the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California State Board of Education (SBE) adopt a number of textbooks for use in public schools.
- The Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission (Curriculum Commission or CC), an advisory body to the SBE, makes recommendations for specific edits and corrections to be made in the textbooks.
- One of the components to the corrections process is the opportunity for public comment. Christian, Jewish and Muslim groups have long been participating.
- According to constraints imposed in this process by the SBE, proposed edits may not add any new substantive material, but may only correct any misrepresentations or inaccuracies in the current text.
- In order to make significant changes to the textbooks, including the addition of discussions absent in the portrayal of Hinduism, the Framework needs to be changed. The Framework is essentially an outline of how a topic is to be covered. Currently, the Framework for Hinduism requires little discussion of the positive intellectual, scientific and philosophical contributions of Hindu civilization and poses Buddhism and Jainism as improvements or “civilizing forces” of Hindu society (see pages 76-81¹⁰³ to compare the portrayal of all major world religions). In the units on Hinduism and Ancient India, students are required to, among other things, discuss the significance of the Aryan invasions; explain the major beliefs and practices of Brahmanism in India and how they evolved into early Hinduism, outline the social structure of the caste system; know the life and moral teachings of the Buddha and how Buddhism spread in India, Ceylon, and Central Asia. The Framework for Hinduism will be revisited in California in 2008.
- In 2005, two independent Hindu groups, the Vedic Foundation (VF) and the Hindu Education Foundation (HEF), unrelated to one another or to the Hindu American Foundation (HAF), participate by reviewing and proposing edits and corrections for sixth grade social studies textbooks that dealt with India and Hinduism.

Early September 2005

- VF and HEF, along with Christian, Muslim and Jewish groups submit reports to the California Department of Education identifying extensive inaccuracies on Hinduism and India in the textbooks. September 30, 2005
- CC holds hearing in Sacramento where comments from the public are heard. Representatives of HAF, VF, HEF, Jewish groups, Sikh groups, and publishers speak in support of respective proposed edits and corrections.
- Due to the high volume of public comments received from all involved advocacy groups, CC forms an Ad Hoc Committee (AHC) consisting of select CC members and a Content Review Panel Expert (CRPE) to review the proposed edits and corrections.
- CRPE scholars prescreened for conflicts of interests with the publishers and advocacy groups. The academic expert retained as the CRPE for Hinduism is Dr. Shiv Bajpai, Professor Emeritus in History, California State Northridge.

October 2005

- AHC and CRPE Bajpai review the VF and HEF proposed edits and corrections, approving most proposed edits and corrections and rejecting those changes that do not meet academic scrutiny or do not meet state guidelines.¹⁰⁴
- CC submits the recommendations of the AHC and CRPE Bajpai to the SBE.

November 8, 2005

¹⁰³ <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/fd/documents/hist-social-sci-frame.pdf>

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/documents/socialcontent.pdf>

- CDE releases a memorandum¹⁰⁵ detailing all of the recommended edits and corrections submitted to SBE by the CC for approval.¹⁰⁶

November 9, 2005

- SBE President Ruth Green reads a letter from Professor Michael Witzel, a Professor of Sanskrit at Harvard University, which accuses the Hindu groups involved in the public corrections process of submitting unscholarly changes and of being politically and religiously motivated. Witzel, in his letter, also threatens an “international education scandal” if the proposed changes are accepted by the SBE. (Noteworthy: no mention is made in the letter of specific edits or corrections, which concern Witzel or the remaining cosignatories)
- In response to Witzel’s letter, the SBE delays approval of CC recommended edits and corrections on Hinduism and asks the CC to once again review the edits and corrections.
- CC recommended edits and changes for Christianity, Judaism and Islam are approved during this meeting.

November 2005

- CDE and SBE, behind closed doors and without informing either participating Hindu group or CRPE Bajpai, retain a second panel of CRPEs: Professor Witzel, Professor Wolpert of UC Los Angeles who is a co-signatory to Witzel’s letter and Professor Heitzman of UC Davis who is a supporter of Witzel’s letter. (Noteworthy: none of the members of the second panel are scholars of or have expertise on Hinduism)

November 22, 2005

- CDE releases a memorandum¹⁰⁷ containing new final recommendations, as determined by Witzel, Wolpert and Heitzman, to be submitted to the SBE.

December 1, 2005

- HAF issues a letter¹⁰⁸ to SBE President Ruth Green and all members of the CC calling attention to the lack of due process and fairness being afforded to the Hindu groups as well as the conflict of interest in contracting as CRPEs individuals who themselves are advocates with a stated interest in rejecting the proposed edits and corrections.

December 2, 2005

- CC meets to address final edits and corrections on Ancient India and Hinduism.
- CC conducts a line item review of all proposed edits (third review in entire process).
- A CC member highlights scientific and archaeological evidence supporting edits and corrections submitted by Hindu groups.
- CC defers to practicing Hindus over “scholars” as the final authority on explaining their religious beliefs to sixth graders.
- CC submits results of this meeting to SBE.
- SBE has not addressed or released to the public the changes recommended during this meeting.

December 20, 2005

- SBE continues to refuse open communication with Hindu groups. HAF retains the law firm of Olson, Hagel and Fishburn, LLP of Sacramento, California to represent the HAF in its interactions with the SBE.

January 5, 2006

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.hafsite.org/pdf/CDE%20Last%20Minute%20Memo.pdf>

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.hafsite.org/pdf/CDE%20Memo.pdf>

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.hafsite.org/pdf/CDE%20Last%20Minute%20Memo.pdf>

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.hafsite.org/pdf/Letter%20to%20SBE.pdf>

- Upon being alerted of a private meeting between the SBE and Witzel (see January 6, 2006), law firm representing HAF sends a letter¹⁰⁹ to SBE President Ruth Green with regard to private meeting and highlights that any substantive decisions regarding the content of textbooks may only be made in a public forum.

January 6, 2006

- An unprecedented closed-door meeting is held with select SBE members, Professor Bajpai and Witzel. HAF, VF and HEF representative are not invited, despite requests to be present.
- Essentially a fourth review of the proposed edits and corrections is conducted in which Professors Bajpai and Witzel debate each line item before SBE members. Where no compromise or concession is met, it has been alleged that the text will remain as it appears currently. Results of this private meeting have not yet been made public. Several edits that more accurately portrayed Hinduism, may have been deleted, according to some sources.

January 11, 2006

- Prior to the January 12th public SBE meeting, law firm representing HAF sends a second letter¹¹⁰ to SBE President Ruth Green urging a fair and open process. Firm also mentions the issue of some unaddressed edits submitted by VF that have not yet been considered.

January 12, 2006

- Lawyers from firm representing HAF attend public meeting and urge SBE for a fair and open process during public comments.
- SBE President Ruth Green announces the creation of a new sub-committee. SBE appoints a five SBE member committee, which will make recommendations to the full SBE to consider at its next meeting on March 8-9, 2006.
- No further detail has been given as to the impact of the final recommendations of the CC as of December 2, 2005 or the private meeting between select SBE members, Professor Bajpai and Witzel held on January 6, 2006

February, 2006

- HAF announces its Legal Defense and Education Fund Drive¹¹¹ to meet mounting expenses of HAF's legal efforts, to prepare for future legal battles involving textbooks in other states and to continue HAF's strong track record in taking a Hindu American voice to the Supreme Court and the U.S. Congress in matters involving religious liberty and human rights and to the media in presenting fair and balanced coverage of Hinduism.
- The law firm representing HAF continues to explore all legal and non-legal avenues in pursuing fairness and openness in the remaining process.
- HAF garnering letters¹¹² supporting the proposed corrections and edits and original recommendations of the AHC and CRPE Bajpai from well-reputed educators of Hinduism studies; Hindu spiritual leaders; temple boards; practicing Hindus; groups that promote human rights and pluralism and fight racism, hate and bigotry; anti-defamation groups; and elected officials.

March 17, 2006

- HAF files suit against the California State Board of Education (SBE)¹¹³ in California Superior Court in Sacramento. Suit filed on the basis that a fair and open process was not followed in adopting textbooks that introduce Hinduism to sixth grade students. Complaint further alleges that as a result of procedural flaws and violation of the Open Meeting Act, the textbooks will not meet the standards required by the California Education Code and the Standards of Evaluation of

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.hafsite.org/pdf/Letter%20to%20Green.January%206.2006.OH.pdf>

¹¹⁰ <http://www.hafsite.org/pdf/Letter%20to%20Green.January%2011.2006.OH.pdf>

¹¹¹ http://www.hafsite.org/media_press_release_california_update.htm

¹¹² http://www.hafsite.org/campaigns_education_california.php

¹¹³ http://www.hafsite.org/media_press_release_california_lawsuit.htm

Instructional Materials with respect to Social Content.

March 21, 2006

- Motion for a temporary restraining order denied.¹¹⁴ The restraining order would have preserved the status quo and halted the printing of any of the textbooks until the court has considered the merits of the complaint in a hearing scheduled for April 21, 2006. The motion was denied, without a judgment on the merits of the complaint, based on a declaration submitted by California State Board of Education (SBE) lawyers that printing had not yet commenced and would not until mid-May. Hearing on the merits scheduled for April 21, 2006.

Decision

- In his ruling on Hindu American Foundation, et al., v. California State Board of Education, Judge Patrick Marlette of the California Superior Court upheld HAF's claim that the textbook adoption process was flawed and illegal. Marlette wrote that the California SBE, "at all times relevant to this matter has been conducting its textbook approval process under invalid 'underground regulations.'" He withheld an opinion on the violation of the open meeting act deciding that since the entire process was already "invalid" a specific ruling would be redundant.
- Marlette also ruled that the "relief" demanded by HAF—that is to reject the textbooks adopted under an illegal process—would be disruptive not only to those affected sixth graders, but potentially every California public school student using any and every textbooks adopted under the SBE's unlawful policies. Judge Marlette wrote, "The Court therefore determines...that respondent [SBE] should be permitted a reasonable opportunity to correct the deficiencies in its regulatory framework governing the textbook approval process...while maintaining the current system in the interim."
- According to some counts, 70% of the edits and corrections submitted by the Hindu groups were incorporated into the textbooks published and adopted in the 2005-2006 adoption cycle.

¹¹⁴ http://www.hafsite.org/media_press_release_california_tro.htm