

John J. Vecchione
2523 Buckelew Dr.
Falls Church, Va. 22046

June 24, 2002

MUR #

5281

General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

Re: Complaint Against American Muslim Council and Palestine Media Watch

Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g(a)(1), the undersigned Complainant believes that several corporate entities have made impermissible corporate contributions in connection with the campaign of Earl Hilliard for Congress in the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, and alleges as follows:

1. On information and belief, the American Muslim Council (the "AMC") is a 501(c) organization, incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia with its principal place of business at 1212 New York Ave., N.W., Suite 400 Washington, DC, 20005.
2. On or about June 13, 2002 this corporate entity utilized its corporate resources to make a communication to the general public expressly advocating Muslim Americans to support Congressman Earl F. Hilliard in his federal election campaign. The AMC not only utilized the services of its Executive Director, Eric Erfan Vickers to solicit members of the general public, but also, on information and belief, utilized AMC computer equipment and servers to disseminate e-mail messages to the general public urging support for Congressman Hilliard.
3. As set forth in an e-mail message (Exhibit A, attached hereto) from Mr. Vickers to the "Muslim Community in America," an AMC ACTION ALERT expressly advocated the election of Congressman Hilliard, stating "CONGRESSMAN HILLIARD NEEDS OUR URGENT SUPPORT." The e-mail further states that "[o]ur community's financial support will make the difference in whether Mulims keep a friend in Congress or face a new foe." In addition to stating that "urgent assistance is necessary because the election is this month, June 25th," the e-mail provides the telephone, fax, postal address and e-mail address of the Hilliard campaign.

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FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL
JUL 1 11 05 AM '02

4. Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 441b, corporations are prohibited from making any contributions in connection with a federal election. As the communications sent by the AMC were sent to members of the general public, rather than limited to members of the AMC, the AMC has made an impermissible expenditure of corporate funds in connection with the Hilliard campaign.

5. On information and belief, Palestine Media Watch (PMW) is a corporation with its principal place of business at P.O. Box 628, Wayne, PA 19399 that established, maintains and controls www.pmwatch.org, a web site maintained on the world wide web.

6. As of June 20, 2002, upon accessing the PMW web site, one is greeted with a message stating "Congressman Hilliard Needs Your Support." See Exhibit B (attached hereto) This message is linked to another web site, www.votehilliard.org. Upon clicking the site, the address is specified as <http://www.pmwatch.org/pmwatch/votehilliard/> See Exhibit C (attached hereto)

7. On information and belief, PMW also established, maintains and controls the web site www.votehilliard.org. VoteHilliard.org expressly advocates the election of Congressman Hilliard for office. In addition to urging viewers of its site to "support," "donate," and "contribute" to Congressman Hilliard, the web site provides the campaign address of Congressman Hilliard's campaign and makes suggestions for specific contribution amounts to Hilliard's campaign. See Exhibit D (attached hereto).

8. Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 441d, any communication involving general public political advertising that expressly advocates the election or defeat of a candidate for federal office, or that solicits contributions through such advertising, must clearly and conspicuously give the reader of the communication adequate notice of the identity of persons who paid for the communication.

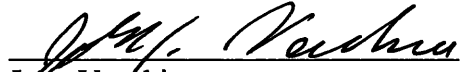
9. Although votehilliard.org states that it is not affiliated with the Hilliard for Congress Campaign, the site does not state at all, let alone clearly state, what person or persons are paying for the communications expressly advocating the election of Congressman Hilliard on the votehilliard.org web site in violation of 2 U.S.C. § 441d.

10. In the event these expenditures of funds were made without the cooperation or with the prior consent of, or in consultation with, or at the request or suggestion of the Hilliard campaign, PMW has also failed to properly report such expenditures in violation of 2 U.S.C. § 434(c).

11. As PMW is also, on information and belief, an incorporated organization, PMW has also made corporate contributions in connection with a federal election in violation of 2 U.S.C. § 441b.

WHEREFORE, the American Muslim Council and the Palestine Media Watch have violated the laws of the Federal Election Campaign Act, the undersigned requests the Commission investigate these organizations and issue the appropriate fines and penalties.

Respectfully submitted this 24th day of June, 2002




John Vecchione
2523 Buckelew
Falls Church, VA 22046

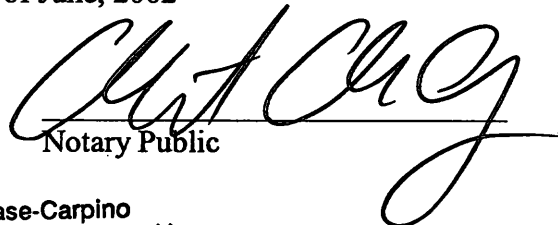
DECLARATION

Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g(a)(1), I swear to the contents of the foregoing complaint and declare under penalty of perjury that these contents are true and correct.

Executed this 24th day of June, 2002


John J. Vecchione

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of June, 2002


Notary Public

Christine Chase-Carpino
Notary Public, District of Columbia
My Commission Expires 07-14-2006

>>> "AMC Media Dept." <media@amconline.org> 06/13/02 02:10PM >>>
In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

ACTION ALERT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION Faiz Rehman, Communications Director
June 13, 2002 Tel: 202-789-2262. Fax: 202-789-2550
media@amconline.org

AMC ACTION ALERT !!!

CONGRESSMAN HILLIARD NEEDS OUR URGENT SUPPORT

ELECTION: JUNE 25TH

To: Muslim Community in America

From: Eric Erfan Vickers, Executive Director

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

As-Salaam Alaikum.

Alabama Congressman Earl F. Hilliard needs the urgent financial support of the Muslim community to maintain his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressman Hilliard was first elected in 1992 as Alabama's first African-American Member of Congress since the "Reconstruction" era that followed the end of the civil war in the United States. He serves on the House Committee on International Relations and is a member of the Agriculture Committee.

Because of his unwavering support of issues dear to the Muslim community in America, Congressman Hilliard has been under a vicious political attack from his opponent who is receiving substantial help from AIPAC (American Israeli PAC), the Jewish lobby. Congressman Hilliard was one of the few members of Congress to vote against the Congressional Resolution supporting Israel in the aftermath of the massacre at Jenin, and he has worked to end the sanctions on Lybia.

6/21/02

Congressman Hilliard is in a very tight Runoff Election that is set for June 25, 2002. Our community's financial support will make the difference in whether Muslims keep a friend in Congress or face a new foe.

Contact information to make a contribution to Congressman Hilliard's campaign:

Telephone: (205) 326-8823

FAX: (205) 326-8823

Postal address: P.O. Box 11705, Birmingham, AL., 35202-1705

E-Mail: hilliardforcongress@yahoo.com

Our urgent assistance is necessary because the election is this month, June 25th.

Let it not ever be said that the Muslim community did not rise to fight against those who target our supporters.

Eric Erfan Vickers
Executive Director

The American Muslim Council (AMC)

1212 New York Ave, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005

Join AMC today...online

<https://opaline.site-secure.net/halfpricedomain/memform.htm>

Our efforts depend on your support. Please donate to AMC

Palestine Media Watch -- P.O.Box 628 Southeastern PA, USA -- (610) 993 - 0608 --
pmwatch@zworg.com



Re-occupation of Palestinian land is no mere "retaliation"

"You know, it's not by accident that the settlements are located where they are. They safeguard the cradle of the Jewish people's birth and also provide strategic depth which is vital to our existence. The settlements were established according to the conception that, come what may, we have to hold the western security area, which is adjacent to the Green Line, and the eastern security area along the Jordan River and the roads linking the two. And Jerusalem, of course. And the hill aquifer."

Ariel Sharon, April 13, 2001 -- Haaretz

Only those who choose to ignore very recent and not so recent history, who elect to trump common sense, who insist on turning their eyes away from the obvious, can pretend that the decision by the government of Israel to re-occupy Palestinian land was a mere "reaction", a "retaliation", a "response" -- to use the favorite words of AP and other news outlets here in the United States -- and was motivated only by a desire to stop violence.

The real reason why Mr. Sharon insists on dealing with Palestinians only through violence and destruction can be easily gleaned if only one were to bother and check the plentiful record. Indeed, "Sharon is Sharon is Sharon", as an April 13, 2001 Haaretz article spelled out to those willing to look at reality full face. Here is an informative excerpt from that article:

Sharon is the same Sharon and for him the War of Independence hasn't yet ended. In a comprehensive interview, ***the prime minister describes the main points of his plan: Jerusalem, the Jordan Rift Valley and the Golan Heights are ours. Not even one of***

the settlements will be evacuated because they all have strategic and Zionist value. It is impossible at this time to bring about the end of the conflict, nor is separation from the Palestinians a viable concept. What then? Time is on our side. (April 13, 2001)

[Read full action call and respond >>>](#)

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- [Register as an op-ed writer and write for US papers](#)
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- [Call an ombudsman or an editor TODAY!](#)
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- [CNN's pathetic pandering](#)
- [Pure racism - cartoonist accuses Palestinian of being congenital haters](#)
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- [Massive wave of international support for Palestinians scarcely reported on by US media](#)
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- [Israeli children: "Dear soldier, please kill a lot of Arabs"](#)
- [Violent hate mail sent to pmwatchers](#)
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- [Violence in words](#)
- [JDL chairman behind bars for terrorist attempt on US soil](#)
- [The JDL's FAQ page](#)
- [Alex Odeh Memorial Statue Vandalized in "Hate Crime"](#)

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- [HDIP.ORG](#)
- [Robert Fisk articles](#)
- [Palestine Chronicle](#)
- [ArabNews](#)

Other media watch groups

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- [Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting](#)
- [Media Monitors Network](#)
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Join the Palestine Media Watch action calls list

Enter your email address and click on the flag to join



[More from Palestine Media Watch](#)

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"Monitoring of media, and attempts to correct for error or imbalance, are difficult and demanding tasks, essential ones for a democratic society. That is particularly true for sensitive issues about which

there are, rightly, strong and often conflicting judgments. I have been impressed with the care and sophistication of the work of PMWatch, and its constructive achievements. Extension of its valuable work would be a substantial contribution to public understanding and policy formation in areas of immense significance."

Prof. Noam Chomsky, MIT, Linguistics

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[Contribute]



[WRITE TO R
Hilliard]

-[Tell a
friend]

[Tell a friend]

Don't let AIPAC snuff out another principled voice



Five-year term incumbent, Democrat Earl Hilliard (AL. 7th), one of literally a handful of Congressmen today with the moral and political courage to stand up to the Israel aymen corner in the US Congress, is facing a serious challenge from his two-time rival (1998 and 2000) for the Democratic nomination for the 7th District seat in Alabama.

The challenger, Artur Davis, a 34 year former federal prosecutor, is clearly hoping to capitalize on the new radical pro-Israel mood that is sweeping Congress and the White House. Indeed, Mr. Davis confesses that his voting record would be similar to Hilliard's, with the main differentiating issue being Middle East policy. (See full story below.)

Mr. Davis, whose fundraising efforts are now being helped by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and other pro-Israel groups in Alabama and nationwide, has openly promised to adopt the mainstream Congressional line on Israel.

Rep. Hilliard, by contrast, was one of only 20 to vote against a massively pro-Israel resolution in the House on May 11, 2002, and one of 11 members of the U.S. House of Representatives to vote in December against a resolution "expressing support of Israel in the fight against terrorism."

Please do not let AIPAC claim yet another victim.

[DONATE] [WRITE TO Rep. Hilliard]
[Tell a friend]

Pro-Israel Lobby Backing Challenger in Alabama Race

By BENJAMIN SOSKIS

Other brave voices

- David Bonior (D-MI)
- Tom Campbell (R-CA)
- William Clay (D-MO)
- John Conyers (D-MI)
- John Dingell (D-MI)
- Amo Houghton (R-NY)
- Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL)
- Chris John (D-LA)

Other bra voices

- George Miller (D CA)
- James Moran (VA)
- John Mu (D-PA)
- Robert N (R-OH)
- Ron Paul TX)
- Donald Payne (NJ)
- Nick Jo Rahall (WV)
- Dana Rohraba (R-CA)
- Fortney Stark (D CA)
- John Sununu

- Paul Kanjorski (D-PA)
- Dennis Kucinich (D-OH)
- Barbara Lee (D-CA)
- Cynthia McKinney (D-GA)

FORWARD CORRESPONDENT

<http://www.forward.com/issues/2002/02.05.10/news7.html>

The Democratic primary in Alabama's Seventh Congressional district is being closely watched by Israel's supporters, who view it as a chance to unseat an incumbent with ties to Arab countries and a spotty record of support for the Jewish state.

The race for the Seventh, a majority-minority district based in Birmingham and in the surrounding Black Belt — so named for its fertile soil and its large proportion of African-American residents — pits a five-term incumbent, Earl Hilliard, against his opponent from the 2000 primary, Birmingham attorney Artur Davis.

While most incumbents breeze through primaries, Hilliard looks vulnerable, news that apparently pleases the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobbying powerhouse. For the last several years, Hilliard's support for Israel has been tepid at best, while his support for Arab interests has grown. He visited Libya several years ago, and has expressed sympathy for the cause of the Palestinians. Davis, meanwhile, has positioned himself as an outspoken backer of the Jewish state.

"Hilliard has been a problem in his votes," said one Jewish political activist who's been following the race, "and with guys like that, when there's any conceivable primary challenge, you take your shot."

In the 2000 primary, Davis received 34% of the vote, but recent events have made this year's race even more competitive and promise to make the homestretch to the June 4 primary contentious. A redistricting plan imposed earlier this year removed from the Seventh several of the counties that polled heavily for Hilliard, and added voters to the counties where support for Davis was strongest. Hilliard is also trying to banish the cloud lingering over him from a House ethics committee reprimand he received last year for misusing his campaign funds. Despite Hilliard's advantage as the

(R-NH)

- Maxine Waters (CA)
- Melvin (D-NC)

incumbent, as of March 31 Davis had managed to raise nearly \$100,000, nearly half as much as Hilliard.

Not surprisingly, Davis has raised considerable amounts of money from the Jewish community, both within Alabama and nationwide.

"This race has gotten people's attention," said Ira Forman, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

Last month, in comments to reporters at AIPAC's annual convention in Washington, Davis thanked Birmingham's Jewish community for its support. The Seventh includes inner-city sections of Birmingham, Montgomery and Tuscaloosa.

But if the pro-Israel lobby has taken its shot by giving Davis financial support, last month the Hilliard campaign allegedly responded with a shot of its own.

According to several Davis campaign staffers, at a meeting of the Alabama New South Coalition, an African-American political action group that supports Hilliard, a consultant for the Hilliard campaign distributed a one-page flier entitled: "Davis and the Jews, No good for the Black Belt." The flier seeks to paint Davis, a Harvard-educated lawyer and former assistant U.S. attorney — who, like Hilliard, is African-American — as an out-of-touch interloper, taking his cues from Jewish backers. The flier touts Hilliard's willingness to stand up against the "total domination policy of Israel" endorsed by both President Bush and Davis. It also seeks to establish a connection between Hilliard's sympathy for the Palestinians and black solidarity, stating that "it was Israel that stood with apartheid in South Africa."

The flier also asserts that Davis's past experience as a federal prosecutor makes him unpopular among African-Americans. "Asking blacks to vote for [Davis]," it quips, "is like asking a chicken to vote for Colonel Sanders." "[Davis] came out of oblivion, his only work experience was putting black

folks in jail and now he tells us that Jews are our best friend," the flier concludes. "This man is very, very, very dangerous."

Hilliard has called the flier "deplorable," and claims he has no knowledge of the flier's provenance, although it was signed by "Wagg and Wash," which the Davis campaign claims refers to two Birmingham Democratic pollsters employed by Hilliard, Hezekiah Waggstaff and Washington Booker.

As Hilliard told the congressional newspaper Roll Call, referring to the results of a recent poll, "Right now, I'm 12 points up, why would I need to do something inflammatory and stupid?" In fact, Hilliard actually placed the blame for the controversy surrounding the flier on his rival. As he told Roll Call, "This guy is trying to inflame Jews who are supporting him against me so he can get their money.... Shoot, he probably wrote it himself."

Davis called that suggestion "palpably ridiculous."

Whether his campaign was responsible for the flier or not, Hilliard's willingness to deal with Arab states that support terrorism has been noted by many of his fellow congressmen. In 1997 Hilliard visited Libya, despite the State Department travel ban, on a trip funded by a Tunisian businessman who wanted to expand his dealings in Muammar Gadhafi's domain. A congressional investigation concluded that because Hilliard did not have his passport stamped for entry, and did not conduct any financial transactions within the country, he did not violate American sanctions.

Even so, his actions and his insistence that he would not hesitate to visit the country again — upon his return, he told reporters, "Libya is an African nation. It carries no negative connotation in my community"— raised eyebrows among his congressional colleagues. He reaffirmed his ties to the country last July, when he was one of six congressman who voted against extending sanctions for Libya and Iran.

Nor have his positions on Israel placed him any closer to his party's mainstream. Last December, Hilliard was one of only a handful of representatives to vote against a resolution "expressing support of Israel in the fight against terrorism."

The leaders of Birmingham's Jewish population, for their part, insist that their relationship with the black community is as strong as ever. At least one, however, blamed Hilliard for stoking divisions between the communities.

"Earl Hilliard is trying to force a wedge between the two groups," said David Kahn, a Birmingham businessman and Davis supporter. "He knows that he's in trouble."

Hilliard's opponent agrees. "The strategy is desperate," Davis said. "This to me underscores two things. It underscores the level of condescension he has for people in this district and second, it shows desperation... Hilliard is out of touch on the Middle East. This will backfire."

DAVIS TAKES CAMPAIGN TO WASHINGTON

Author: MARY ORNDORFF News Washington correspondent

Birmingham News (AL)

Volume 115, Issue 36

April 24, 2002

Section: News

Page: 4-C

Index Terms:

ELECTIONS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 7

ARTUR DAVIS

Article Text:

WASHINGTON - Artur Davis, a two-time congressional challenger from Birmingham, worked the Washington political community Tuesday by taking his underdog campaign to donors, media and a pro-Israel lobby group.

Davis, a 34-year-old former federal prosecutor, is trying to unseat Rep. Earl Hilliard, DBirmingham, in the Democratic primary race for the 7th Congressional District. Sam Wiggins is also in the June 4 contest, and the winner will face a Libertarian candidate, Lauren Orth McCay, in November.

Davis received about 34 percent of the vote in his first attempt and lost to Hilliard by about 15,000 votes. This time will be different, he's telling political newsletters on Capitol Hill, because he learned from his mistakes in 2000, the shape of the district has changed and Hilliard has since been rebuked by a House ethics panel.

"We're trying to identify this as a race to watch," Davis said.

If the raw numbers show Hilliard won easily two years ago, Davis dissects them to his advantage. He trailed the incumbent by 1 percentage point in Jefferson County, even more of which is now included in the 7th District. In Tuscaloosa County, where Hilliard beat Davis 51 percent to 42 percent, about 40,000 people were added when the lines were redrawn. And Montgomery, where Davis had the least support last time, is no longer in the district.

Davis said his voting record would be similar to Hilliard's and "strongly Democratic." But one obvious difference is on Middle East policy.

Davis on Tuesday attended the American Israel Public Affairs Committee meeting in Washington that also attracted dozens of Democratic and

Republican members of Congress and White House
Chief of Staff Andrew Card.

"I have received support from the Jewish
community in Birmingham and the rest of country,
and I wanted to thank them personally," Davis said,
calling Israel a strong U.S. ally.

Hilliard was one of 11 members of the U.S. House
of Representatives to vote in December against a
resolution "expressing support of Israel in the fight
against terrorism."

Davis also was scheduled to attend a fund-raiser
today hosted by a Washington law firm with
business connections to Birmingham, but he
declined to identify the host. He has fund-raisers
next week in New York.

Caption: Artur Davis Working Capitol Hill

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Record Number: 436253

**[voteHilliard is NOT affiliated with the Hilliard for
Congress Campaign]**

[Contribute]



[WRITE TO Rep. Hilliard]

[Tell a friend]

Donate to Re. Hilliard's campaign - [Tell a friend]



Congressman Hilliard has a JUNE 4th PRIMARY so please send your support as soon as possible -- \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1000, any amount you can send will help. But please ACT NOW!

IMPORTANT: You must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident to contribute. Corporate contributions are prohibited by law. Campaign contributions are not tax-deductible. The Federal Elections Commission requires that contributions include the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

Please send checks payable to "Hilliard for Congress" to the following address:

**Hilliard for Congress
1625 Castleberry Way
Birmingham, AL 35214**

**[DONATE] [WRITE TO Rep. Hilliard]
[Tell a friend]**

Other brave voices

- David Bonior (D-MI)
- Tom Campbell (R-CA)
- William Clay (D-MO)
- John Conyers (D-MI)
- John Dingell (D-MI)
- Amo Houghton (R-NY)
- Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL)
- Chris John (D-LA)
- Paul Kanjorski (D-PA)
- Dennis

Other brave voices

- George Miller (D-CA)
- James Moran (VA)
- John Mu (D-PA)
- Robert N (R-OH)
- Ron Paul TX)
- Donald Payne (NJ)
- Nick Jo Rahall (WV)
- Dana Rohrab (R-CA)
- Fortney Stark (D-CA)
- John Sununu (R-NH)
- Maxine

- Kucinich
(D-OH)
- Barbara
Lee (D-
CA)
- Cynthia
McKinney
(D-GA)

- Waters (
- CA)
- Melvin
(D-NC)

**[voteHilliard is NOT affiliated with the Hilliard for Congress -
Campaign]**