

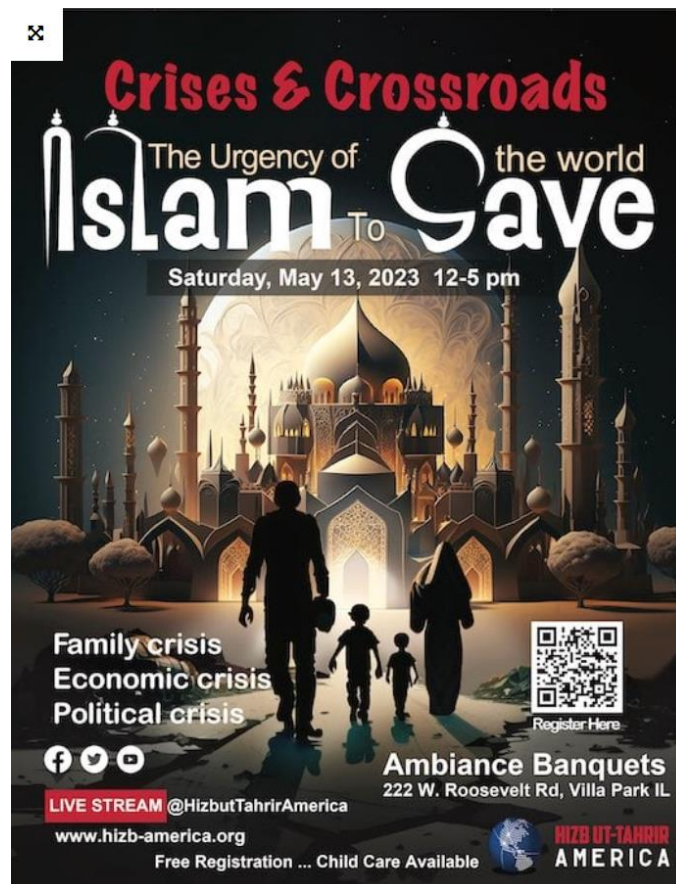
May 5, 2023

Ambiance Banquets  
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(630) 903-6290

**Re: Hizb ut-Tahrir Khilafah Conference**

Dear Management of Ambiance Banquets:

On behalf of the Counter Extremism Project (“CEP”)—a bi-partisan, non-profit policy organization formed in 2014 to confront the growing threat from extremism—I am writing today with regards to the global Islamist group Hizb ut-Tahrir (“HT”) and HT’s U.S. chapter, HT America, which plans to host its annual Khilafah (“Caliphate”) Conference at your venue on Saturday, May 13, 2023.



*Hizb ut-Tahrir Khilafah Conference 2023 Promotional Advertisement  
(HT America Website)*

HT supports the restoration of an Islamic Caliphate under a strict interpretation of Islamic law (Sharia). In its own words, “Hizb ut-Tahrir is a global, Islamic political party working to resume the Islamic Way of life [i.e. Sharia] by reestablishing the state of Khilafah (Caliphate) upon the method of the Prophethood in the Muslim world.” (HT America Website, “[The Annual Khilafah Conference](#),” 5/16/2016) HT’s political objectives are underpinned by its claim that “[t]oday Islam is the only alternative for humanity to come out of the misery that we all live in and to live as dignified human beings on the face of this Earth.” (*Ibid*) Moreover, HT America has specifically called on Muslims to “counter Secular liberal values” and “disassociate themselves from the Liberal (Democrat) or Right wing (Republican) agendas.” (HT America, “[Muslims of Dearborn, Michigan Standing Firm for the Protection of our Children: Islam Vs. The Secular LGBTQ Agenda](#),” 10/17/2022) HT Britain Media Representative Yahya Nisbet has equated democracy with “mob-rule” while denigrating the “failed notion of free speech.” (HT Britain, “[THE CHAMPIONS OF FREE SPEECH HAVEN’T A LEG TO STAND ON](#),” 8/12/2022).

HT, and HT America specifically, have openly called for the elimination of democracy and democratic values while promoting a virulently antisemitic platform. Demonstrating HT’s antisemitism, its rhetoric specifically targets Israel’s Jewish identity and the Jewish people as a whole, rather than the State of Israel or the Israeli government. While HT America has declared its aversion to all forms of violence, HT’s Central Media Office has promoted rhetoric calling on Muslims to “mobilize armies for jihad against the Jews.” (HT Central Media Office, “[Hizb ut Tahrir in Wilayah Lebanon Commences a Ramadan Evening Gathering in Tripoli: 'How can we be Miserable while the Book of Allah is our Method?'](#)(Translated),” 4/9/2023) Another HT Central Media Office communique last month called for demonstrations “in support of the blessed Masjid al Aqsa and call for the mobilization of the armies to liberate it from the **filth of the Jews**.” (HT Central Media Office, “[Minbar Ummah: Demonstration in the city of Al-Bab in Support of Masjid al Aqsa and the Armies!](#),” 4/7/2023—emphasis added) A communique from this past February issued a declaration to Muslims that Palestine will “remain a thorn in the side of the Jews, America, the colonizers and the normalizers as a whole, and no colonizer or traitor will settle in it.” (HT Central Media Office, “[On the Anniversary of the Destruction of the Khilafah Palestine Will be Liberated by the Khilafah, So mobilize The Ummah and Its Armies to Establish it](#) (Translated),” 2/17/2023) HT Britain propaganda in 2018 called for “armies to mobilise” for “the removal of the Jewish entity.” In Australia, HT leaders have endorsed the death penalty for Muslim apostates and **declared Jews to be “the most evil creatures of Allah.”** (*Daily Mail*, “[‘Ex-Muslims Should Be Free from Death Threats’: Malcolm Turnbull Urged to Ban Islamic Extremist Group Hizb ut-Tahrir After Its Leader Called For People Who Had Left the Faith to Be Killed](#),” 3/30/17; *Daily Mail*, “[‘They will pay with blood’: Islamic leader's online rant calling the Jewish people ‘the most evil creatures of Allah’](#),” 3/12/2015—emphasis added)

HT is a notorious breeding ground for many individuals who have gone on to form or join more explicitly violent enterprises, including notorious ISIS executioner Mohammed Emwazi (a.k.a. “Jihadi John”) and al-Muhajiroun founder Omar Bakri Mohammed. As *The Times* of London reported in September 2018, HT “has launched a recruitment drive in an inner-city neighbourhood that is **linked to more homegrown terrorists than anywhere else in the UK.**” (*The Times*, “[Extremists Hizb ut-Tahrir targeting inner-city youth in Birmingham](#),” 9/22/2018—emphasis added) Lord Carlile of Berriew, former U.K. Independent Reviewer of Terror Legislation, confirmed that such language – pervasive throughout HT chapters – crosses the

threshold into hate speech. (*The Times*, “[Extremists Hizb ut-Tahrir targeting inner-city youth in Birmingham](#),” 9/22/2018)

While HT has a right to free speech and is legally permitted to operate in the U.S., commercial businesses like yours have no obligation to provide platforms for the propagation of hateful, antisemitic, and potentially radicalizing speech. In previous years, HT America has held its Khilafah Conference at U.S. hotels but, unsurprisingly, other leading American corporations including the Marriott Hotels chain have rightfully refused to provide the venue for HT and its brand of Islamism. For example, the Marriott in Oak Brook, Illinois, canceled HT America’s conference in 2010.<sup>1</sup> In 2018, the Holiday Inn & Suites in Carol Stream, Illinois, canceled HT America’s reservation.<sup>2</sup>

In view of the foregoing, CEP therefore sincerely hopes you will refrain from allowing HT to use your venue for its Khilafah Conference. Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter. We would appreciate hearing from you no later than May 9, 2023.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ambassador Mark D. Wallace

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-2012-06-14-ct-met-islamic-conference-canceled-20120614-story.html>

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.counterextremism.com/press/cep-statement-holiday-inn-hotel-cancellation-hizb-ut-tahrir-event>