

What can you do to stop the right wing motivated attack by the IRS against people of faith and conscience?

The most important thing you can do to help is to call your Congressional Representatives and Senators!

"My name is _____ and I live in the _____ congressional district. I am calling to condemn Congressional Representatives Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Sue Myrick (R-NC) (now retired) for initiating a politically motivated audit of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) by the IRS. I have learned that the audit was in fact triggered by letters written by these two representatives to the Commissioner of the IRS, the US Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, alleging that IFCO "may be raising funds for Hamas", (an organization designated as terrorist by the US government). This is outrageous! Why is a US federal agency being used by right wing extremists to attack IFCO, a community organization with nearly half a century of faith-based, progressive work? This is an attack on the civil and religious freedom of us all waged by a tiny, vicious group of Muslim-hating fanatics!

I reject this right wing motivated IRS attack on people of faith and conscience and urge you to do all you can to end this attack!

Below is some background information and talking points that you can use to include in your calls, emails, and posts.

IFCO is one of the first progressive foundations in the US founded and controlled by People of Color Faith Leaders and Progressive Organizers, but now the IRS is threatening to revoke our 501c3 status because of our social justice work.

For many years, OFAC, the Office of Foreign Assets Control has been used by right wing US members of Congress to harass and intimidate IFCO leaders and members of our caravans to prevent us from working with our brothers and sisters in Cuba and organizing to end the US blockade of Cuba – a policy which 198 countries have condemned in the United Nations. These right wing extremists have not succeeded in shutting IFCO down with OFAC. Now, they are now using the IRS, which is especially targeting IFCO's work with the Latin American Medical School program in Cuba and even a US-based healthcare group.

At the behest of some of the most conservative, right wing members of Congress -- including the notorious Sue Myrick (R-NC) -- whose bashing and baiting of Muslim and immigrant communities finally led to her stepping down from

Congress just last year -- the IRS began auditing IFCO because of its fiscal sponsorship of the Viva Palestina group, beginning in 2009. This UK-based charity helped organized the delivery of \$1 million in food, medicine and essential supplies to the Palestinian people featuring some of the leading humanitarian figures of our time, like author Alice Walker, NYC City Councilman Charles Barron, British MP George Galloway, former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney and others, during some of the fiercest attacks on the civilian population in Gaza.

Right wing and Tea Party politicians like Sue Myrick have painted Viva Palestina as a terrorist front group for Hamas and because of IFCO's fiscal sponsorship of the group, pressured the IRS to revoke IFCO's 501 c3 status.

The UN recently declared 2014 the International Year in solidarity with the Palestinian People, and in resisting this US government attack on us for our work with Viva Palestina, we're doing our part in the ongoing struggles of solidarity!

Please email us to confirm your communication with your Congressional members so that we can track the results.

Again, thanks for your trust, your love, and your support!!