

# Faith, Survival, and Commitment to Israel

Amisar Cyrus Nourani Ben Azariah

| DATE OF BIRTH     | PLACE OF BIRTH      |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| February 14, 1992 | Kansas City, Kansas |

When my full name is entered into Google or other public internet search engines, certain unusual, incomplete, or decontextualized results may appear. Those results can create confusion about my religious identity, personal history, and convictions. I offer this declaration in my own words to provide accurate context, clarify the public record, and remove any misunderstanding.

I was born in Kansas City, Kansas, to parents of Persian and Russian heritage. From childhood, I was raised privately according to Jewish religious rules and obligations, to the fullest extent my fearful parents believed they could safely teach and preserve them. Because I was a neurodivergent child, and because my parents feared that others might perceive my appearance as recognizably Jewish, they believed I faced additional vulnerability and taught me to guard my identity carefully.

While incarcerated, I believed my life was in immediate danger. I had no access to a Jewish community or clergy and no safe way to practice or openly affirm my Jewish faith. Under those conditions, I created and used an outward Muslim and Sufi identity because I believed it was the only identity that could offer enough acceptance and protection for me to survive.

That outward identity was created under extreme stress, coercion, and torture; it was not an expression of my faith or a rejection of Judaism. After I filed a federal lawsuit against the groups involved, through which I identified and alleged corruption, I was coerced into making statements about that identity. Those statements should not be treated as a voluntary or reliable account of my beliefs, loyalties, or religious identity.

I am and remain proudly Jewish. My experience strengthened my conviction that Jewish people must be able to live openly and safely, without concealing who they are in order to survive. For that reason, I firmly support Israel's right to exist as the secure, sovereign, and democratic homeland of the Jewish people.

My commitment to Israel is firm and central. I support the State of Israel's right and responsibility to defend its citizens, territory, and sovereignty against terrorism, hostile aggression, and threats to Jewish life. I support strong Israeli security and defense capabilities, close cooperation with the United States, and an enduring U.S.-Israel partnership grounded in shared democratic values and mutual security.

I also believe Israel's long-term strength is advanced by building constructive American relationships and deepening alliances among the democratic nations of the free world. Responsible diplomacy, strategic cooperation, and moral clarity should reinforce Israel's defense, strengthen Jewish security, and protect free societies from antisemitism, terrorism, and religious extremism.

My position is unequivocally pro-Israel: defend Jewish life, strengthen Israel's security, preserve religious freedom, deepen American relationships, and advance responsible diplomacy from a position of strength.

My experience deepened my commitment to freedom of conscience. Every person must have the right to practice a faith, decline a faith, or protect a religious identity when disclosure could place that person in danger. I will carry these principles forward by supporting Jewish continuity, Israel's security and defense, the strength of the free world, and lasting American partnerships built on trust, clarity, and resolve.