

# ISLAMOPHOBIA

Thought Crime of the Totalitarian Future



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## *Islamophobia: Thought Crime of the Totalitarian Future*

In George Orwell's futuristic nightmare, *1984*, citizens are watched by a secret police for "thought crimes" committed against the totalitarian state. These thought crimes are simply attitudes and ideas the authorities regard as politically incorrect.

Orwell wrote *1984* during the height of the Cold War and its vision reflected an all-too-real fact of life. The Soviet police state had spread its tentacles over hundreds of millions of captive peoples. Tens of millions of them whose ideas failed to conform to the prescriptions of the totalitarian state were sent to labor camps and firing squads for committing thought crimes. Their offense was to be "anti-Soviet" – to speak out against socialism, or its rulers, or to fail to parrot the views and opinions

approved by the regime.

During the Cold War, America led a coalition of democracies to oppose Communism because America's founders had made the principle of liberty the cornerstone of their Republic. The very first article of the American Bill of Rights was not to have one's speech restricted by the power of the state.

This First Amendment freedom guaranteed citizens the right to dissent from orthodoxy, to criticize the powerful, and to tell the truth as they saw it without fear of reprisal. This freedom is the absolute and indispensable basis of every other freedom that Americans enjoy. For without the right to dissent from the opinions of the state, every other freedom can be taken away. Without this right, every dissent from the policies and practices of the state would be a thought crime.

“Islamophobia” is the name that has been given to a modern-day thought crime. The purpose of the suffix in the term “Islamophobia” is to suggest that any fear associated with Islam is irrational – whether that fear stems from the fact that its prophet and current-day imams call on believers to kill

infidels, or because the attacks of 9/11 were carried out to implement those calls. Worse than that, it is to suggest that such a response to those attacks reflects a bigotry that itself should be feared.

Those with a perspective on history, however, will take a different view. In the fall of 2005 global Muslim riots resulted in the deaths of over 100 people. The riots were triggered by the publication of cartoons in Denmark depicting the Islamic prophet Muhammad.<sup>1</sup> In the wake of these religiously inspired outrages, a group of internationally reknowned writers issued a manifesto called, “Together Facing the New Totalitarianism.”<sup>2</sup> One of the writers, Salman Rushdie, had himself been the target of such attacks after the Islamic leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, issued a fatwa calling on all Muslims to kill him. His offense? Insulting the prophet Muhammad in a novel. Rushdie was forced to go into hiding for several years and was only able to regain his freedom after the Ayatollah’s demise, although every year the Islamic Republic of Iran renews the death sentence.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_Jyllands-Posten\\_Muhammad\\_cartoons\\_controversy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Jyllands-Posten_Muhammad_cartoons_controversy)

<sup>2</sup> <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/europe/4764730.stm>

The manifesto issued by Rushdie and his fellow writers said: “After having overcome fascism, Nazism, and Stalinism, the world now faces a new global totalitarian threat: Islamism.... We, writers, journalists, intellectuals, call for resistance to religious totalitarianism and for the promotion of freedom, equal opportunity and secular values for all. We refuse to renounce our critical spirit out of fear of being accused of ‘Islamophobia,’ a wretched concept that confuses criticism of Islam as a religion and stigmatization of those who believe in it. We defend the universality of the freedom of expression, so that a critical spirit can exist in every continent, towards each and every maltreatment and dogma.”<sup>3</sup>

## **Political Islam**

Islam is often defended as a religion no different from Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and most other faiths. But this overlooks the fact that unlike other modern faiths, Islam is a political religion. Islam has had no reformation since its founding in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century, and Muslims recognize no separation between religion and

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

state. In its canonical texts and teachings, Islam regards all other religions (and non-religions) as “infidel” creeds, and instructs believers to regard themselves at war with those who will not submit to the Muslim God. Unlike Christians or Jews, Muslim leaders seek to establish a global Islamic state or “caliphate” that would impose Islamic law on individuals everywhere and thus criminalize heretical thoughts.

Political Islam’s global ambition is openly stated. The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has said: “Have no doubt... Allah willing, Islam will conquer what? It will conquer all the mountain tops of the world.”<sup>4</sup> In 1990 the 56 member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) met in Egypt and adopted the “Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam.” The Cairo Declaration states that, “all human beings form one family whose members are united by their subordination to Allah.”<sup>5</sup>

These are religious statements, but they are made by *political* authorities. Moreover, they

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<sup>4</sup> “Iran’s New President Glorifies Martyrdom,” Middle East Media Research Institute, July 29, 2005.

<sup>5</sup> *Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam*, August 5, 1990.

are in complete accord with traditional Islamic theology. In his 1955 book *War and Peace in the Law of Islam*, Majid Khadduri, an internationally renowned scholar of Islamic law, wrote: “The Islamic state, whose principal function was to put God’s law into practice, sought to establish Islam as the dominant reigning ideology over the entire world.... The jihad was therefore employed as an instrument for both the universalization of religion and the establishment of an imperial world state.”<sup>6</sup>

Because the tenets of Islamic belief are not open to question, and because as a religion Islam prescribes moral behavior for every aspect of individual and social life, Islamic law – *sharia* – is by its very nature totalitarian. A religion that recognizes no principle of separation from governmental authority, whose prescriptions dictate what is proper for every aspect of private life is the very definition of totalitarian rule. Where Islam becomes the religion of the state, violations of Islamic doctrine and heretical thoughts are inevitably seen as crimes against the state.

## The Organization of the Islamic Conference

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<sup>6</sup> Majid Khadduri, *War and Peace in the Law of Islam*, Johns Hopkins University press, 1955. P. 51.



(now called The Organization of Islamic Cooperation) is composed of the fifty-six Islamic nations plus the Palestinian Authority.<sup>7</sup> At present, only Saudi Arabia and Iran, along with Islamic northern Sudan and most of Somalia, are states where Islamic law is fully implemented. Other Islamic states, such as Pakistan, Egypt and Indonesia are currently governed by a mixture of Western and Islamic law. Even in such “moderate” majority-Muslim states, however, Christians are violently persecuted as infidels and non-Muslims in general are denied basic rights. Even in these states, apostasy is not tolerated. Converts from Islam to other religions are routinely threatened, harassed, jailed and even executed under existing state law. In short, even in “moderate” Muslim states the penalty for deviation from the accepted religious orthodoxy is severe, and in each of these states there are radical Islamic movements pushing for more stringent conformity to Islamic law.

Not a single one of its members, with the arguable exception of Lebanon, which is unique in having a significant Christian population, can be considered a democracy in the western sense.

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<sup>7</sup> It changed its name in July 2011 from the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Even secular Turkey denies equality of rights to Christians in numerous ways. Not a single one of the 56 Islamic states or the Palestinian Authority is tolerant towards gays, women or other minorities or treats them as equals.

Since the demise of the Soviet Union, the Islamic states of the OIC have comprised the largest voting bloc at the United Nations. Wielding its influence, the OIC has succeeded in having Israel condemned more than 200 times in formal UN resolutions, more than all of the other member states combined. But the same Islamic voting bloc has ensured that the terrorist regimes in Iran, Gaza and the West Bank have not been censured even once.

Through the OIC, the Islamic states have also been working for several years to persuade the members of the UN to criminalize “Islamophobia.”

## **Islamophobia and the Muslim Brotherhood**

The Muslim Brotherhood is a global organization and the leading force behind political totalitarian Islam. It is also the fountainhead of terrorist Islam, and in particular the Islamic terror groups al-Qaeda and Hamas.

The Brotherhood was founded in Egypt in 1928 by Hasan al-Banna. Al-Banna was an open admirer and supporter of Adolf Hitler, and had *Mein Kampf* translated into Arabic in the 1930s. His disciple, Haj Amin al-Husseni, the patriarch of Palestinian nationalism, spent the Second World War in Berlin recruiting Arabs for Hitler's legions.

Al-Banna's ambition was to create a global Islamic empire instituting sharia as a global law: "It is a duty incumbent on every Muslim to struggle towards the aim of making every people Muslim and the whole world Islamic, so that the banner of Islam can flutter over the earth and the call of the Muezzin can resound in all the corners of the world: God is greatest [*Allahu akbar*]!"<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Brynjar Lia, *The Society of the Muslim Brothers in Egypt*, Ithaca Press, 1998. P. 79.

The motto of the Muslim Brotherhood inspires its members to achieve this plan: “Allah is our goal. The Prophet is our leader. The Qur’an is our law. Jihad is our way. Dying in the way of Allah is our highest aspiration.”

Al-Banna’s movement grew quickly in Egypt, but after a member of the Brotherhood assassinated the Egyptian prime minister on December 28, 1948, the organization was outlawed. However, since the days of President Gamel Abdel Nasser (1956-1970), the Brotherhood has been so popular among Egyptians that the Egyptian government has looked the other way as the group terrorized Coptic Christians and others, and enforced Islamic strictures upon the population as a whole.

It was only when the Brotherhood showed signs of becoming strong enough to seize state power that the Egyptian government cracked down. In 1966, the Brotherhood’s leading theorist, Sayyid Qutb (also an admirer of Hitler), was arrested and executed for calling for the overthrow of the existing regime and its replacement with one that fully implemented Islamic law. But the popularity of the Brotherhood persisted. Nasser’s successor Anwar Sadat, signed a peace agreement with Israel, which led to his assassination by Islamic

hardliners. Shortly before his assassination, Sadat released all the members of the Brotherhood who had been languishing in Egyptian prisons, and even promised the Brotherhood that Islamic law would be fully implemented in Egypt.

After 9/11, the Brotherhood launched a campaign to sanitize its image and present itself as a moderate organization. Its intention was to enter the political process, a goal that was finally achieved with the fall of Sadat's successor, Mubarak, in order to further its goal of converting Egypt into an Islamic state. Immediately after Mubarak's fall, the Brotherhood became the leading political force in Egypt, its influence manifest in the reopening of Egypt's relations with Iran for the first time in 34 years. This entente coincided with Cairo's ending of the arms blockade of Gaza that had been designed to keep weapons from flowing to the Islamic terrorist group Hamas – itself a Brotherhood creation.

Hamas identifies itself as a creature of the Brotherhood in its founding charter: “The Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] is one of the wings of the Muslim Brothers in Palestine. The Muslim Brotherhood Movement is a world organization,

the largest Islamic Movement in the modern era.”<sup>9</sup> Al-Qaeda founders Abdullah Azzam and Osama bin Laden, and top leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, were all members of or trained by the Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>10</sup>

The Brotherhood’s reach also extended into Shi’ite Iran. Navab Safavi, founder of the Iranian Islamic group Fedayan-e Islam, which was active in Iran in the 1950s, was strongly influenced by the Brotherhood; Safavi himself went on to become a close associate of the Ayatollah Khomeini. Khomeini, of course, was notorious for calling America after the name of the large pillar that Muslims stone during the pilgrimage to Mecca: the “Great Satan” – that is, the leader of the anti-totalitarian, anti-Sharia, infidel world.

The Muslim Brotherhood’s designs on the Great Satan are spelled out in a captured internal document the FBI seized in the Northern Virginia headquarters of the Holy Land Foundation in 2005. The Holy Land Foundation was the largest Islamic “charity” in America but was at the same time a

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<sup>9</sup> Hamas Charter (1988). <http://www.thejerusalemfund.org/www.thejerusalemfund.org/carryover/documents/charter.html>

<sup>10</sup> “Washington’s Schizophrenic Approach Toward the Muslim Brotherhood,” *IPT News*, September 28, 2010.

front for raising funds for the terrorist organization (and Muslim Brotherhood creation) Hamas. The seized document was presented as evidence in the trial of the HLF in 2007. The Foundation was accused of illegally supporting a terrorist organization, Hamas. The trial resulted in convictions of the HLF leaders.

The captured document was titled, “An Explanatory Memorandum on the General Strategic Goal for the Group in North America.”<sup>11</sup> In it, Muslim Brotherhood members were told: “The general strategic goal of the group in America, which was approved by the Shura Council and the Organizational Conference for the year [1987] is Enablement of Islam in North America, meaning: establishing an effective and stable Islamic Movement led by the Muslim Brotherhood, which adopts Muslim causes domestically and globally, and which works to expand the observant Muslim base, aims at directing and unifying Muslims’ efforts, presents Islam as a civilizational alternative, and supports the global Islamic state wherever it

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<sup>11</sup> Mohamed Akram, “An Explanatory Memorandum on the General Strategic Goal for the Group in North America,” May 22, 1991, Government Exhibit 003-0085, U.S. vs. HLF, et al. P. 7 (21).

is.”<sup>12</sup> And further: “[Muslims] must understand that their work in America is a kind of grand jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within and ‘sabotaging’ its miserable house by their hands and the hands of the believers so that it is eliminated and Allah’s religion is made victorious over all other religions.”

To realize the goal of destroying Western civilization and establishing a global Islamic state, the Brotherhood memorandum called for the creation of front organizations that would insinuate themselves into the institutional framework of host societies and of American society in particular. Among the groups the Memorandum identified as being part of this network of Brotherhood fronts in America were the Muslim American Society, the Muslim Students Association, the Islamic Society of North America, the Islamic Circle of North America, and the Islamic Association for Palestine, the parent group of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> “A Project for an Explanatory Memorandum for the General Strategic Goal for the Group in North America Mentioned in the Long Term Plan.” <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/viewSubCategory.asp?id=1235>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. The document is analyzed in <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/viewSubCategory.asp?id=1235>



Another front group identified in the memorandum – the International Institute for Islamic Thought – invented the term “Islamophobia.”<sup>14</sup>

## **A Global Movement Against Islamophobia**

Abdur-Rahman Muhammad is a former member of the International Institute for Islamic Thought. He was present when the word “Islamophobia” was created, but now characterizes the concept of Islamophobia this way: “This loathsome term is nothing more than a thought-terminating cliché conceived in the bowels of Muslim think tanks for the purpose of beating down critics.”<sup>15</sup> In short, in its very origins, “Islamophobia” was a term designed as a weapon to advance a totalitarian cause by stigmatizing critics and silencing them.

Although it was invented in the early 1990s, “Islamophobia” did not become the focus of an active Brotherhood campaign until after 9/11. Since

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<sup>14</sup> Claire Berlinski, “Moderate Muslim Watch: How the Term ‘Islamophobia’ Got Shoved Down Your Throat,” *Ricochet*, November 24, 2010. “The neologism ‘Islamophobia,’ did not simply emerge *ex nihilo*. It was invented, deliberately, by a Muslim Brotherhood front organization, the International Institute for Islamic Thought, which is based in Northern Virginia.”

<sup>15</sup> Claire Berlinski, *op. cit.*

then it has become “a matter of extreme priority” for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation according to its Secretary General, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu.<sup>16</sup> By 2010, the campaign had already achieved notable success. In November of that year, the U.N. General Assembly voted to condemn what it called the “vilification of religion.”<sup>17</sup> Every majority-Muslim state, without exception, supported the resolution.

A Reuters report claimed that the resolution’s language had been softened before it was finally submitted. The term “defamation” had been changed to “vilification” in order to win more support from Western nations. But the two words are essentially synonyms, and both are dangerously subjective. What actually constitutes “defamation” or “vilification” would presumably be left up to some UN body to determine, in other words essentially to the Islamic states.

The resolution is a step towards making criticisms of “matters regarded by followers of any

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<sup>16</sup> Patrick Goodenough, “New Name, Same Old Focus for Islamic Bloc,” CNSNews.com, June 30, 2011.

<sup>17</sup> “UN resolution against Islamophobia, Judeophobia and Christianophobia,” Reuters, November 24, 2010.

religion or belief as sacred” into criminal acts.<sup>18</sup> So defined, and made into law, it would be an anti-blasphemy statute. Such statutes are presently on the books in several Islamic states. On the other hand, anti-blasphemy laws are the very reason why the American founders created the First Amendment.

They themselves were refugees from religious persecution and wanted to make sure the new republic they had created could not sanctify a particular creed and use it to persecute dissenters. That is what American democracy is essentially about.

To sugarcoat its bitter pill, the UN resolution against “vilification” condemned not only “Islamophobia,” but “Judeophobia and Christianophobia.” But this was merely a sop to Western sensibilities and bothersome notions of free speech, not something that the Muslim framers of the resolution took seriously. Massacres of Christians in Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan and Indonesia, and terror attacks against Passover seders in Israel, along with other acts of Muslim hatred towards other religions never led to calls for UN censure from the OIC. When Andres Serrano’s *Piss Christ*

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<sup>18</sup> Patrick Goodenough, “New Name, Same Old Focus for Islamic Bloc,” CNSNews.com, June 30, 2011.

became a *cause celebre*, or a thousand anti-Semitic caricatures appeared in Arab government media (including the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, which was run as an eleven-part mini-series on Egyptian TV), there were no expressions of OIC or UN outrage or formal condemnations.

The clear aim of the UN's anti-blasphemy resolution was to proscribe *Islamophobia* in non-Muslim countries, not to curb hatred against Jews, Christians and other religions by Muslims. On the contrary, blasphemy laws defined to include the expression of basic Christian and Jewish beliefs are already on the books in many areas of the Islamic world. Saudi Arabia, to take an extreme case, allows no non-Muslim religious expression at all, since Muhammad commanded that Jews and Christians be expelled from the Arabian peninsula, and that there be only one religion there. Thus it is illegal to build a Christian church in Saudi Arabia, or to bring a Bible across its borders, and no Jew or Christian is permitted to set foot in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina lest they be defiled. In Pakistan, a blasphemy law has been used to victimize numerous innocent Christians, sometimes simply for affirming the Christian faith. The punishment is often death.

## Islamophobia Defined

Just as the Muslim Brotherhood had affinities with Nazi totalitarians, so they absorbed and embraced Marxist indictments of the capitalist West. Their instructors were first their Communist allies and then post-Communist, “social justice” progressives.<sup>19</sup> Islamic jihadist pronouncements regularly incorporate the analyses of American leftists. Among the books recommended in Osama bin Laden’s *fatwas* are Mearsheimer and Walt’s conspiratorial text on how the Jewish lobby controls Washington’s policy in the Middle East and Noam Chomsky’s *Hegemony or Survival: America’s Quest for Global Dominance*.<sup>20</sup>

Indeed, the anti-Islamophobia movement has been built on the foundations created by progressives and, as a result, is already well advanced in the West. In 1996 the Runnymede Trust, a leftist group in England, established a “Commission on British Muslims and Islamophobia.” Its elaborate definition of Islamophobia has since become a

<sup>19</sup> David Horowitz, *Unholy Alliance: Radical Islam and the American Left*, 2004. Andrew McCarthy, *The Grand Jihad: How Islam and the Left Sabotage America*, 2010

<sup>20</sup> The book was *Hegemony or Survival: America’s Quest for Global Dominance*, 2003. Chomsky is also an enthusiast of Hezbollah.

model for Muslim Brotherhood fronts like CAIR and the Muslim Students Association in their drive to impose anti-Islamophobia strictures on everyone and suppress critics of the Islamic jihad. Under the Runnymede definition, Islamophobia includes any one of these eight components:

1. Islam seen as a single monolithic bloc, static and unresponsive to new realities.
2. Islam seen as separate and other – (a) not having any aims or values in common with other cultures (b) not affected by them (c) not influencing them.
3. Islam seen as inferior to the West – barbaric, irrational, primitive, sexist.
4. Islam seen as violent, aggressive, threatening, supportive of terrorism, engaged in ‘a clash of civilizations’.
5. Islam seen as a political ideology, used for political or military advant-

age.

6. Criticisms made by Islam of ‘the West’ rejected out of hand.

7. Hostility towards Islam used to justify discriminatory practices towards Muslims and exclusion of Muslims from mainstream society.

8. Anti-Muslim hostility accepted as natural and ‘normal’.<sup>21</sup>

Note, at the outset, how contradictory these proscriptions are. The very first Runnymede injunction seeks to ban all references to Islam as a “single monolithic bloc.” But then, with one exception, every other Runnymede proscription presents Islam as a single monolithic bloc: “Islam seen as separate;... Islam seen as inferior;... sexist; Islam seen as violent,” “Criticisms made by Islam of ‘the West’ rejected out of hand” ..., These statements presume that Islam is a unitary entity, and can, for example, make judgments about the West with a single voice that are rejected out of

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<sup>21</sup> *Islamophobia, A Challenge for Us All*, The Runnymede Trust, n.d. <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/projects/commissionOnBritishMuslims.html>

hand. These definitions of Islamophobia are made as though there were no separatist Muslims to be concerned about, no violent Muslims to fear, no doctrines associated with “Islam” that are backward and sexist, and no Muslim criticisms of the West that should be rejected out of hand.

There is a reason why the Runnymede statement and its imitators take a monolithic view of Islam. It serves their primary goal, which is to conflate criticisms of some Islamic doctrines and opposition to Islamic terrorists with attacks on Muslims as such. As the signers of the Rushdie manifesto put it: “‘Islamophobia’ [is a] wretched concept that confuses criticism of Islam as a religion and stigmatization of those who believe in it.” Thus critics of Islam’s relegation of women to second-class citizenship are labeled anti-Muslim even though they are defending Muslims, and opponents of Islamic terror are called Islamophobes.

Each one of the Runnymede criteria is so vague as to be easily applied to any criticism of Islam. Is Islam sexist – i.e., do women have diminished rights in Muslim societies and cultures? It is undeniable that they do. But in the Runnymede view to say so is *Islamophobic*. Is Islam engaged in a clash



of civilizations? The leaders of Islamic jihadist organizations like the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas and Hezbollah, and the rulers of Muslim states like the Sudan and Iran proclaim that they are in a civilizational war with West. But to recognize this fact is *Islamophobia*. Is Islam a political ideology? It is the ideology of political organizations like the Muslim Brotherhood, the Taliban and states like Saudi Arabia and Iran. Islamic apologists all over the world criticize the idea of the separation of religion and state, and compare Islam favorably to Christianity precisely *because* Islam has a political doctrine and Christianity does not. Yet to note this fact is anti-Muslim.

There is no mystery as to how the Runnymede principles will be interpreted. They have already been used to condemn every critic of the Islamic oppression of women, Islamic support for suicide bombings and other acts of terror, and of Islamic intolerance. Such critics are *Islamophobes*.

## **Outlawing Cartoons and Films**

The OIC campaign against Islamophobia began in earnest at its annual meeting in March 2008

in Senegal. At this meeting, the OIC declared its intention to craft a “legal instrument” to fight against the threat to Islam “from political cartoonists and bigots.”<sup>22</sup> The reference was to the Danish cartoons of Muhammad that appeared in 2005, touching off international protests by Muslims worldwide, which included riots, the burning of embassies, and even murders of non-Muslims, including a Catholic nun. “Muslims are being targeted by a campaign of defamation, denigration, stereotyping, intolerance and discrimination,” fumed Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, who gave attendees “a voluminous report by the OIC that recorded anti-Islamic speech and actions from around the world. The report concludes that Islam is under attack and that a defense must be mounted.”<sup>23</sup> The attack by Muslims on non-Muslims and the 100 plus fatalities caused by the protests went un-noted and un-deplored.

Ihsanoglu even compared the appearance of the Danish cartoons to the 9/11 atrocity, warning that “the Islamic world took the satirical drawings as a different version of the September 11 attacks against them.” He then urged the European Union

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<sup>22</sup> Rukmini Callimachi, “Defame Islam, Get Sued?,” Associated Press, March 14, 2008.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

to adopt new laws against Islamophobia.”<sup>24</sup>

At the Senegal conference, Ihsanoglu declared: “Islamophobia cannot be dealt with only through cultural activities but (through) a robust political engagement.” Political engagement meant a campaign to restrict freedom of speech. Abdoulaye Wade, president of Senegal and OIC chairman, explained: “I don’t think freedom of expression should mean freedom from blasphemy. There can be no freedom without limits.”<sup>25</sup> In a July 2008 briefing on Capitol Hill, Pakistani Embassy representative Asma Fatima defended the anti-cartoon outrages as necessary and called for restrictions on speech that insulted Islam: “The ideal of freedom of speech is precious to you, but it’s not value-neutral. You don’t have to hurt people’s sentiments and bring them to the point where they have to react in strange ways.”<sup>26</sup>

The OIC’s new anti-Islamophobia campaign also focused on *Fitna*, a short film by Dutch politician Geert Wilders. The offense committed by the film

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<sup>24</sup> “‘Offensive Cartoons Like 9/11 of Islamic World,’” *The Journal of Turkish Weekly*, February 14, 2006.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> “Religious Speech Debated,” *Washington Times*, July 17, 2008.

consisted of quotes of passages from the Qur'an exhorting Muslims to violence and then depictions of the contemporary violence directly inspired by those passages. The OIC condemned *Fitna* in "the strongest terms," claiming that Wilders' film was "a deliberate act of discrimination against Muslims," and was intended only to "provoke unrest and intolerance."<sup>27</sup> There was no suggestion that the citations from the Qur'an were inaccurate or that the incidents depicted hadn't taken place. Physical threats against Wilders by Muslims resulted in the Dutch government providing him with a 24-hour security detail. The same threats forced Wilders to live in hiding, separated from his family.

It was extraordinary enough that a member of the Dutch Parliament and leader of the nation's third largest party would have to live in hiding, but the indictment was even more outrageous than that. It charged that Wilders had "intentionally offended a group of people, i.e. Muslims, based on their religion"; had "incited to hatred of people, i.e. Muslims, based on their religion"; and had "incited to discrimination...against people, i.e. Muslims, based on their religion." It also claimed that he had incited people to hate Muslims because of their

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<sup>27</sup> "Muslims condemn Dutch lawmaker's film," CNN, March 28, 2008.

race.<sup>28</sup> All this was based on statements Wilders had made about Islam that were entirely true and accurate; the Netherlands came quite close to criminalizing the speaking of unpleasant truths.

But instead of defending Wilders' right to his opinions, many Western officials rushed to support the OIC's condemnation. Ihsanoglu noted that the anti-free speech campaign had made "convincing progress at all these levels mainly the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, and the UN General Assembly. The United Nations General Assembly adopted similar resolutions against the defamation of Islam." He added: "In confronting the Danish cartoons and the Dutch film 'Fitna', we sent a clear message to the West regarding the red lines that should not be crossed. As we speak, the official West and its public opinion are all now well aware of the sensitivities of these issues. They have also started to look seriously into the question of freedom of expression from the perspective of its inherent responsibility, which should not be overlooked."<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> "Geert Wilders receives summons: a sledgehammer blow to the freedom of speech," Jihad Watch, December 4, 2009.

<sup>29</sup> Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, "Speech of Secretary General at the thirty-fifth session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference," June 18, 2008.

Doudou Diène, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of “racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,” went further, suggesting that even quoting the Qur’an accurately but in a critical manner was an act of bigotry:

One may note that a number of Islamophobic statements have been falsely claimed to be scientific or scholarly, in order to give intellectual clout to arguments that link Islam to violence and terrorism. Furthermore, the manipulation and selective quoting of sacred texts, in particular the Qur’an, as a means to deceptively argue that these texts show the violent nature of Islam has become current practice.<sup>30</sup>

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the international campaign against free speech was the readiness of western politicians of a leftist bent, including government leaders, to support the

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<sup>30</sup> Doudou Diène, “Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Forms of Intolerance: Follow-Up To and Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,” United Nations Human Rights Council, August 21, 2007.

Muslim assault and to impose restrictions on their own people. This was especially egregious in the Netherlands, the scene of shocking acts of Islam-related violence.

The gay politician Pim Fortuyn was murdered in 2002 by a leftist Dutchman, Volkert van der Graaf, who explained that he had done it on behalf of the country's Muslims, to stop their "scapegoating" by Fortuyn. In 2004 an Islamic jihadist, Mohammed Bouyeri, murdered filmmaker Theo van Gogh – also gay – in broad daylight on a street in Amsterdam, because van Gogh had insulted Islam with his film, *Submission*, criticizing the Islamic treatment of women.

The trial of Geert Wilders ended in an acquittal in June 2011, on which occasion he said: "It is my strong conviction that Islam is a threat to Western values, to freedom of speech, to the equality of men and women, of heterosexuals and homosexuals, of believers and unbelievers." These claims are founded in the behavior of the OIC and the failure of any Muslim authority to defend Wilders, in the clear and elaborate strictures about women and homosexuals in Islamic teachings and Islamic law, and in the persecution of non-believers,

Christians in particular, in Muslim countries such as Egypt, Pakistan, and Indonesia, all of which go un-noted and un-lamented in the pronouncements of the 56 Muslim states (and the Palestinian Authority) included in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Nonetheless, Wilders' post-trial utterance is precisely the sort of statement that led to his indictment. Even as the Dutch court acquitted him, moreover, it affirmed the false and dangerous premises that underpinned the prosecution, including the idea that one could and should face legal action for saying things that others deemed offensive. Amsterdam judge Marcel van Oosten explained: "The bench finds that your statements are acceptable within the context of the public debate. The bench finds that although gross and denigrating, it did not give rise to hatred."<sup>31</sup>

In other words, the presiding judge would not have hesitated to fine or jail Wilders if he had determined that his words gave rise to "hatred." Thus the false and dangerous premise of Wilders' indictment is still in place in Dutch law. Upon his acquittal, Wilders said: "Today is a victory for

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<sup>31</sup> "Victory for free speech - Dutch MP," AAP, June 23, 2011.



freedom of speech. The Dutch are still allowed to speak critically about Islam, and resistance against Islamization is not a crime.”<sup>32</sup> At least for now.

## **Islamophobia Witch Hunts**

In many European countries governments already preemptively silence critics of Islam in the name of fighting racial hatred. In June 2002, well before the OIC had begun its Islamophobia campaign in earnest, Muslims in Switzerland targeted the Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci for her post-9/11 book, *The Rage and the Pride*. In it, she had argued that Europe was being colonized by Muslims who refused to assimilate into their host societies, and remained hostile to their cultures and values.

Citing Swiss laws against racism, the Islamic Center of Geneva demanded that Fallaci’s book be banned. Hani Ramadan, grandson of Muslim Brotherhood founder Hassan al-Banna, declared that “Fallaci is insulting the Muslim community

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<sup>32</sup> Pamela Geller, “Geert Wilders Verdict: Not Guilty All Counts! Eureka! ‘Today is a victory for freedom of speech,’” AtlasShrugs.com, June 23, 2011.

as a whole with her shameful words.” The Islamic Center called on Swiss authorities not only to ban her book, but to prosecute those who were distributing it. Swiss officials moved to have Fallaci extradited to face trial, but failed in their attempt.<sup>33</sup> Then, in May 2005, the Italian government itself indicted Fallaci for writing a book that “defames Islam.”<sup>34</sup>

The campaign to silence Fallaci spread to France, where a group calling itself the Movement Against Racism And For Friendship Between Peoples (MRAP) also filed racism charges, arguing that “Freedom of expression is and will remain a fundamental right . . . but when this great writer resorts to outrageous stigmatization of Islam, the limits of what is tolerable are breached.”<sup>35</sup> In the end, Fallaci escaped prosecution only because she fled Europe and took refuge in America, where the Bill of Rights still prevailed. Shortly before she died of cancer in 2006, she predicted that when the

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<sup>33</sup> “Swiss Muslims File Suit Over ‘Racist’ Fallaci Book,” *IslamOnline*, June 20, 2002.

<sup>34</sup> “Oriana in Exile,” *American Spectator*, July 18, 2005.

<sup>35</sup> “Swiss Muslims File Suit Over ‘Racist’ Fallaci Book,” *IslamOnline*, June 20, 2002.

case came to trial, she would be found guilty.<sup>36</sup>

The guardians of “tolerable” speech had better luck against Sixties screen siren Brigitte Bardot, who was convicted five times in her native France for “inciting racial hatred” – in every case for remarks considered denigrating to Muslims. In June 2008, a court fined the 73-year-old Bardot 15,000 euros (around \$23,000) as punishment for writing that the Islamic community in France was “destroying our country and imposing its acts.”<sup>37</sup> The court apparently didn’t consider the possibility that imposing Islamic law was precisely what many Muslims in France had in mind. Although they had not moved, like their coreligionists in Britain, to establish separate Sharia courts, they enforced many Sharia provisions in the *banlieus*, the majority-Muslim areas encircling most major French cities.

These prosecutions were ongoing. Wilders noted shortly after his acquittal that “Danish journalist Lars Hedegaard, Austrian human rights activist Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff and others... have recently been convicted for criticizing

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<sup>36</sup> “Prophet of Decline,” *Wall Street Journal*, June 23, 2005.

<sup>37</sup> “Bardot Fined Over Racial Hatred,” BBC News, June 3, 2008.

Islam.”<sup>38</sup> In October 2009, journalist Jonathan Turley noted that Ireland had passed a blasphemy law, and that “in Holland, Dutch prosecutors arrested cartoonist Gregorius Nekschot for insulting Christians and Muslims with cartoons, including one that caricatured a Christian fundamentalist and a Muslim fundamentalist as zombies who want to marry and attend gay rallies.” Christian fundamentalists, of course, were not the ones complaining. Turley added that, “the ‘blasphemy’ cases include the prosecution of writers for calling Mohammed a ‘pedophile’ because of his marriage to 6-year-old Aisha (which was consummated when she was 9). A far-right legislator in Austria, a publisher in India and a city councilman in Finland have been prosecuted for repeating this view of the historical record.”<sup>39</sup>

Such prosecutions have already come to North America as well. On February 14, 2006, a Canadian magazine, the *Western Standard*, became one of the few publications in the Western world to reprint the Danish Muhammad cartoons. The Islamic Supreme

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<sup>38</sup> Geert Wilders, “In Defense of ‘Hurtful’ Speech,” *Wall Street Journal*, June 24, 2011.

<sup>39</sup> Jonathan Turley, “Yes to Free Speech, No to Blasphemy Laws,” *USA Today*, October 19, 2009.

Council of Canada and the Edmonton Muslim Council complained that the *Standard's* publisher, Ezra Levant, was “Islamophobic,” sparking an investigation of Levant by the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission. In America, Yale University press published a scholarly book about the Muhammad cartoons, but refused to print the cartoons themselves in the text.

During his interrogation by a commission investigator, Ezra Levant delivered a ringing defense of freedom of speech. Many voices were raised in protest against the prosecution, including even some on the left, such as that of Megan McArdle, a senior editor of *The Atlantic*.<sup>40</sup> Facing a groundswell of support for Levant, the Islamic Supreme Council withdrew its complaint.<sup>41</sup> But an even higher profile case was brought against *Maclean's* magazine in Canada for running an excerpt from *America Alone*, a book by the popular columnist Mark Steyn.

Charging that Steyn’s “flagrantly Islamophobic” writing subjected Canadian Muslims to “hatred and

<sup>40</sup> Megan McArdle, “Restoring my libertarian street cred,” *The Atlantic*, January 16, 2008.

<sup>41</sup> Syed Soharwardy, “Why I’m withdrawing my human rights complaint against Ezra Levant,” *Toronto Globe and Mail*, February 15, 2008.

contempt,” the Canadian Islamic Congress (C.I.C.) filed complaints against *Maclean’s* with three separate Human Rights Commissions.<sup>42</sup> One of the Canadian Islamic Congress’s complaints was about Steyn’s comment that in Europe, “the number of Muslims is expanding like mosquitoes.”<sup>43</sup> *New Republic* writer Jim Henley labeled Steyn a “racist” because of this phrase.<sup>44</sup> One small problem with these attacks was the mosquito remark was a quote from Mullah Krekar, a Muslim jihadist who continues to reside in Norway, despite longstanding efforts to deport him.

Moreover, Krekar’s prediction of Islam’s demographic conquest of Europe is hardly original. As far back as 1974, Algerian leader Houari Boumédiène declared at the United Nations that “One day, millions of men will leave the Southern Hemisphere to go to the Northern Hemisphere. And they will not go there as friends. Because they will go there to conquer it. And they will conquer it with their sons. The wombs of our women will

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<sup>42</sup>“Neocon Book Offends Canada Muslims,” *IslamOnline*, January 1, 2008.

<sup>43</sup> “Clueless Would-be Censors Attack Mark Steyn Again,” Western Standard blog, Mark Steyn, “The future belongs to Islam,” *Macleans*, October 20, 2006.

<sup>44</sup> Jim Henley, “Sympathy for the Devil,” *Unqualified Offerings*, December 8, 2007. <http://www.highclearing.com/index.php/archives/2007/12/08/7517>

give us victory.”<sup>45</sup>

In fact, this is a commonly expressed aspiration of Islamic supremacists. It wasn't Steyn who said that “Islam will return to Europe as a conqueror and victor,” or that “The conquest this time will not be by the sword but by preaching and ideology.” These are sentiments expressed by Al-Jazeera's Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, who is widely hailed as a “moderate” reformer in the West and is a close friend of former London Mayor Ken Livingstone.<sup>46</sup> Qaradawi is also on record saying that the Holocaust was God's punishment of the Jews and that “Allah willing, the next time it will be by the believers.”<sup>47</sup> Nor was it Steyn who said that Muslims “will control the land of the Vatican; we will control Rome and introduce Islam in it.” This was said by a Saudi Sheikh, Muhammad bin Abd Al-Rahman Al-Arifi, imam of the mosque of the King Fahd Defense Academy.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Lorenzo Vidino, “Forceful Reason,” *National Review*, May 4, 2004

<sup>46</sup> “Leading Sunni Sheikh Yousef Al-Qaradhawi and Other Sheikhs Herald the Coming Conquest of Rome,” Middle East Media Research Institute Special Dispatch Series No. 447, December 6, 2002.

<sup>47</sup> Oren Kessler, “Analysis: Yusuf al-Qaradawi – a ‘man for all seasons,’” *Jerusalem Post*, February 20, 2011.

<sup>48</sup> Steven Stalinsky, “The Next Pope and Islamic Prophecy,” *FrontPageMagazine.com*, April 14, 2005.

In the end, Steyn’s offense was identical to Wilders’—to quote the statements of Muslims themselves revealing agendas that many Westerners would find worrisome.

The actions of the Canadian Islamic Congress show the great lengths to which Western-based Muslim advocacy groups will go to carry water for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in its campaign to silence public discussion of jihadists’ self-stated goals in their holy war against the West. The Canadian Islamic Congress doesn’t file complaints against the jihadists who actually advocate an Islamic conquest of Europe; it just goes after western critics of these agendas. In other words, it is “Islamophobia” to reveal the unpleasant reality of the Islam-inspired war against the West.

### **Islamophobia and National Security**

Stigmatizing critics of the Islamic jihad as “Islamophobes” not only threatens free speech; it cuts large holes in our security defenses against a terrorist attack. In April 2009, Barack Obama appointed Arif Alikhan, the deputy mayor of Los Angeles, as Assistant Secretary for Policy Development at the Department of Homeland



Security. While serving as Los Angeles' deputy mayor, Alikhan (who once called the jihad terror group Hezbollah a "liberation movement") blocked a Los Angeles Police Department project to assemble data about the ethnic makeup of mosques in the Los Angeles area. This was not an attempt to conduct surveillance of the mosques or monitor them in any way. LAPD Deputy Chief Michael P. Downing explained that it was actually an outreach program: "We want to know where the Pakistanis, Iranians and Chechens are so we can reach out to those communities."<sup>49</sup> But Alikhan and other Muslim leaders claimed that the project manifested racism and "Islamophobia," and the LAPD ultimately discarded all plans to study the mosques and gain invaluable contacts in the Muslim community that might prevent terrorist attacks. Alikhan's reward for this disservice was to be appointed by President Obama to a key role at Homeland Security, the department charged with managing the defenses of the entire country. And in December 2010, the Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution condemning "Islamophobia."<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> "Los Angeles police plan to map Muslims," Associated Press, November 9, 2007.

<sup>50</sup> Joe R. Hicks and David A. Lehrer, "Hyperbole rules in Muslim debate," *Los Angeles Daily News*, December 26, 2010.

The effect of the multifaceted societal onslaught against critical observations about Islamic jihadists has been a weakening of necessary defenses. On November 5, 2009, Army psychiatrist Nidal Malik Hasan gave a neighbor a copy of the Qur'an and told her, "I'm going to do good work for God."<sup>51</sup> Later that day, he entered a center at Fort Hood in Texas where soldiers receive medical examinations before deploying overseas. Shouting "Allahu akbar," Hasan pulled out a handgun and began firing.<sup>52</sup> Before he was finished he had murdered thirteen unarmed American soldiers and wounded 30. Yet long before this massacre, Hasan had displayed unmistakable signs of sympathies for jihadist terror. Major Hasan routinely harassed his colleagues with harangues about Islam, and proclaimed that he was "Muslim first and American second."<sup>53</sup> His business card read "SOA," a well-known acronym among jihadists for "Soldier of Allah."<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Nick Allen, "Fort Hood gunman had told US military colleagues that infidels should have their throats cut," *Telegraph*, November 8, 2009.

<sup>52</sup> James C. McKinley Jr. and James Dao, "Fort Hood Gunman Gave Signals Before His Rampage," *New York Times*, November 8, 2009.

<sup>53</sup> Nick Allen, "Fort Hood gunman had told US military colleagues that infidels should have their throats cut," *Telegraph*, November 8, 2009.

<sup>54</sup> "Inside the Apartment of Nidal Malik Hasan," *Time Magazine*, n.d.  
[http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1938378\\_1988330,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1938378_1988330,00.html)

Hasan gave a PowerPoint presentation to his colleagues in which he proposed to show “what the Qur’an inculcates in the minds of Muslims and the potential implications this may have for the U.S. military.” In it, he argued that Muslims must not fight against other Muslims (as is mandated by Qur’an 4:92), and that the Qur’an also mandates both defensive and offensive jihad against unbelievers, in order to impose upon those unbelievers the hegemony of Islamic law. He quoted the Qur’anic verse calling for war against the “People of the Book” (that is, mainly Jews and Christians) until they “pay the tax in acknowledgment of [Islamic] superiority and they are in a state of subjection” (9:29).

According to reports of his talk, Hasan seems then to have told the assembled (and no doubt stunned) physicians that Muslims had a religious obligation to make war against and subjugate non-Muslims as inferiors under their rule. An official who spoke to some of those who attended the lecture said that “Hasan apparently gave a long lecture on the Qur’an and talked about how if you don’t believe, you are condemned to hell. Your head

is cut off. You're set on fire. Burning oil is burned down your throat."<sup>55</sup> According to the Associated Press, "he gave a class presentation questioning whether the U.S.-led war on terror was actually a war on Islam. And students said he suggested that Shariah, or Islamic law, trumped the Constitution and he attempted to justify suicide bombings."<sup>56</sup> above all, he warned that Muslim soldiers should not be sent to fight for the U.S. in Muslim countries, invoking the earlier jihad murders by another Muslim serviceman, Sgt. Hasan Akbar, of his commanding officers in Kuwait as evidence of what could happen if they were forced to do so.

It was fear of being accused of "Islamophobia" that prevented Major Hasan's Army superiors from acting upon the warning signs of his commitment to jihad. According to the Associated Press, "a Defense Department review of the shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, has found the doctors overseeing Maj. Nidal Hasan's medical training repeatedly voiced concerns over his strident views on Islam and his inappropriate behavior, yet they continued to give him positive performance evaluations that kept him moving through the

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<sup>55</sup> Tom Gjelten, Daniel Zwerdling and Steve Inskeep, "Officials Begin Putting Shooting Pieces Together," National Public Radio, November 6, 2009.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

ranks.”<sup>57</sup> In other words, he rose through the Army ranks even as he justified suicide bombing and spouted hatred for America while wearing its uniform. He was even promoted from Captain to Major *after* the notorious lecture at the school of medicine.

While his colleagues and superiors noted his statements, and were worried about them, “no one in Hasan’s chain of command, appears to have challenged his eligibility to hold a secret security clearance even though they could have because the statements raised doubt about his loyalty to the United States.”<sup>58</sup>

What was the reason for the silence in the face of all these warnings? If Nidal Hasan had been removed from his position or merely reprimanded in the months or years before he massacred thirteen people in cold blood at Fort Hood, it isn’t hard to imagine what might have happened. Groups like the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) would have been quick to charge the Army with *Islamophobia*. The mainstream media would have

<sup>57</sup>“In Hasan case, superiors ignored own worries,” Associated Press, January 11, 2010.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

embarked on a full-bore witch-hunt about the alleged persecution of Muslims in the military, interviewing the teary-eyed mothers of Muslim soldiers killed in the line of duty while fighting for the U.S. in Iraq or Afghanistan. Army Generals would have had to answer questions about alleged discrimination against Muslims in the military on the Sunday morning talk shows. And ultimately the President of the United States would order a special effort to make Muslims in the military feel welcome.

Worse still, those who might have complained about Hasan would have faced public abuse, smearing by CAIR and MPAC as Islamphobes, and possibly even disciplinary action from their superiors. Chris Matthews, Jon Stewart and Bill Maher would have subjected them to nationally broadcast ridicule. All Army personnel would have been ordered into sensitivity training, perhaps run by CAIR itself.

It isn't hard at all to imagine such a scenario, because it has played out in real life more than once. For years now CAIR, MPAC and other Islamic advocacy groups have done all they could to demonize everyone who speaks honestly about the

threat of jihad and Islamic supremacism. For CAIR and MPAC the Fort Hood massacre was in a very real sense a mission accomplished: “Islamophobia” was duly avoided. Nidal Hasan was not removed from his post, and no steps were taken to protect anyone from him. The U.S. Government’s official report on the Fort Hood massacre doesn’t mention Islam or jihad or terrorism even once. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano declared: “This was an individual who does not represent the Muslim faith.”<sup>59</sup> The U.S. Army Chief of Staff, George Casey, went further: “Our diversity, not only in our Army, but in our country, is a strength. And as horrific as this tragedy was, if our diversity becomes a casualty, I think that’s worse.”<sup>60</sup>

So recognizing signs of Muslim hostility (which, of course, is Islamophobia) is worse than mass murder. That is the judgment of the U.S. Army Chief of Staff.

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<sup>59</sup> Daniel Bardsley, “Fort Hood killer ‘does not represent Muslims’: American security chief,” *The National*, November 9, 2009.

<sup>60</sup> “General Casey: diversity shouldn’t be casualty of Fort Hood,” *Reuters*, November 8, 2009.

## CAIR's Islamophobia Campaign

The Muslim Brotherhood front CAIR is the leader of the anti-Islamophobia campaign in the United States. CAIR presents itself as a mainstream civil rights organization for Muslims, “similar to a Muslim NAACP,” in the words of CAIR spokesman, Ibrahim Hooper.<sup>61</sup> The group says its mission is “to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.”<sup>62</sup>

Like so many pronouncements from Brotherhood fronts, this is just a smokescreen for CAIR's real agendas. On June 4, 2007, the Justice Department named CAIR an unindicted co-conspirator in the Holy Land Foundation case. The Foundation was accused and then convicted of funding the terrorist organization Hamas, a Brotherhood offshoot. Federal prosecutors identified CAIR as an organization created out of “the U.S. Muslim Brotherhood's Palestine Comm-

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<sup>61</sup> Daniel Pipes and Sharon Chadha, “CAIR: Islamists Fooling the Establishment,” *Middle East Quarterly*, Spring 2006.

<sup>62</sup> “Our Vision, Mission, and Core Principles,” Council on American-Islamic Relations, [www.cair.com](http://www.cair.com).



ittee and/or its organizations.” To set itself up in business, CAIR had received half a million dollars from the Holy Land Foundation making it the participant in a criminal conspiracy on behalf of Hamas.<sup>63</sup> When confronted with this fact by terrorism analyst Steven Emerson in 2003, CAIR cofounder and Executive Director Nihad Awad declared: “This is an outright lie. Our organization did not receive any seed money from the Holy Land Foundation. CAIR raises its own funds and we challenge Mr. Emerson to provide even a shred of evidence to support his ridiculous claim.” Emerson then produced the canceled check.<sup>64</sup>

CAIR was created in 1994 as a spinoff of a Hamas front group, the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP). Founded in 1981 by Hamas operative Mousa Abu Marzook, the IAP was shut down in 2005 by the U.S. government for funding terrorism.<sup>65</sup> In 1994 at Barry University in Florida, Nihad Awad conceded, “I’m in support of [the]

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<sup>63</sup> Josh Gerstein, “Islamic Groups Named in Hamas Funding Case,” *New York Sun*, June 4, 2007.

<sup>64</sup> “HLF’s Financial Support of CAIR Garners New Scrutiny,” The Investigative Project on Terrorism, October 12, 2007.

<sup>65</sup> “Islamic Association For Palestine (IAP),” DiscoverTheNetwork.org. <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/printgroupProfile.asp?groupid=6215>

Hamas movement more than the PLO.”<sup>66</sup> In 1998, CAIR cofounder and longtime Board chairman Omar Ahmad told a Muslim audience: “Islam isn’t in America to be equal to any other faith, but to become dominant. The Qur’an should be the highest authority in America, and Islam the only accepted religion on earth.”<sup>67</sup> Since 9/11, CAIR executives have learned to be more careful with their public utterances, and today Ahmad denies uttering the quote. But the journalist who reported it stands by the accuracy of her story.<sup>68</sup>

In 2007 six Muslim clerics sued US Airways after they were removed from a flight for behavior that could only be described as mimicking the behavior of airline terrorists. The lawyer for the “Flying Imams,” as they became known, was Omar T. Mohammedi, who has served as president of CAIR’s New York chapter.<sup>69</sup> The imams also

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<sup>66</sup> Daniel Pipes and Sharon Chadha, “CAIR: Islamists Fooling the Establishment,” *Middle East Quarterly*, Spring 2006.

<sup>67</sup> Art Moore, “Did CAIR founder say Islam to rule America?,” *WorldNet-Daily*, December 11, 2006.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>69</sup> Liza Porteus, “US Airways Passengers Who Reported ‘Suspicious’ Imam Activity May Be Sued,” FoxNews, March 19, 2007. Omar Mohammedi was identified as the President of CAIR-NY in the Speaker Biographies published at the National Association of Muslim Lawyers conference, “Advancing Justice & Empowering the Community,” March 31-April 2, 2006.

attempted to sue the anonymous passengers who reported them, but House Republicans pushed through a measure protecting whistleblowers in such circumstances.<sup>70</sup> If the imams' suit had been successful it would have essentially placed Muslims beyond the pale of security-related scrutiny; anyone who reported suspicious behavior by a Muslim in an airport or airplane would have risked being sued as an "Islamophobe."

Six years before this, CAIR was already on the offensive in a campaign that made clear its real aim: to suppress any association between Islam and the terrorists who acted in its name. In 2001, Tom Clancy's novel about Islamic terrorists, *The Sum of All Fears*, was being made into a movie. CAIR launched a successful campaign to pressure the filmmakers into changing the terrorists of the script into some other kind of villain. Despite the fact that the film was targeted for a post-9/11 audience, the filmmakers bowed to CAIR's pressure and re-cast the villains as neo-Nazis. Film director Phil Alden Robinson wrote abjectly to CAIR, "I hope you will be reassured that I have no intention of promoting negative images of Muslims or Arabs, and I wish you the best in your continuing efforts to combat

<sup>70</sup> Major Garrett, "Congress to Protect Citizens Who Report 'Flying Imams'-Type Suspicions," FoxNews, July 25, 2007.

discrimination.”<sup>71</sup>

In June 2011, CAIR published a report on Islamophobia in America. It was called *Same Hate, New Target: Islamophobia and its Impact in the United States*. The title reflected a main theme of the anti-Islamophobia campaign, which is to portray the effort to silence critics of Islamic jihad as following in the footsteps of the civil rights struggles of the past. As OIC Secretary General Ihsanoglu explained “Islamophobia represents a contemporary manifestation of racism and the phenomenon must be addressed in that context.”<sup>72</sup>

The CAIR report was published with an introduction by Niwad Awad, who thanked Dr. Hatem Bazian for his input. Bazian, an instructor at UC Berkeley, is a ubiquitous speaker for terrorist support groups like the Palestine Solidarity Movement. He gained notoriety in 2004 when he called for “an Intifada in this country” in a speech at Berkeley.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> Reihan Salam, “The Sum of All PC: Hollywood’s reverse racial profiling,” *Slate*, May 28, 2002.

<sup>72</sup> Patrick Goodenough, “New Name, Same Old Focus for Islamic Bloc,” *CNSNews.com*, June 30, 2011.

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.campus-watch.org/article/id/9732>

The CAIR report is careful to begin with a gesture of fairness, suggesting that not every critic of Islam is an Islamophobe (“it is not appropriate to label all, or even the majority of those, who question Islam and Muslims as Islamophobes”), but then fails to provide a single example of what those legitimate questions might be or to identify a single individual whose criticisms of Islam might be so regarded. It then defines Islamophobia as “close-minded prejudice against or hatred of Islam and Muslims,” and lists the eight sweeping principles of the Runnymede document as tests of closed-mindedness.<sup>74</sup>

Not surprisingly, CAIR has repeatedly and consistently used the vagueness of those principles to characterize as “prejudice” and “hatred” any resistance to the global jihad, including virtually all of the anti-terror legal measures and policy procedures adopted by the United States government beginning with the Patriot Act. In its report CAIR displays its own open-mindedness by demonizing as “Islamophobic” every public figure who has worked effectively against Islamic terrorism and supremacism.

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<sup>74</sup> *Same Hate, New Target: Islamophobia and its Impact in the United States, January 2009-December 2010*, Council on American-Islamic Relations, June 2011. pp. 11-12

In a section titled “The Worst” – meaning the worst Islamophobes – CAIR’s report smears Daniel Pipes (“the grandfather of Islamophobia in America”), Robert Spencer (“intellectualized Islamophobia”), Steven Emerson (“anti-Muslim propaganda mouth-piece”), former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Frank Gaffney (“loony-tunes bigotry”), Brigitte Gabriel (“makes no attempt to hide her efforts to de-humanize Muslims), Newt Gingrich (“a consumer of the Islamophobic narrative”), and Pamela Geller (“an anti-Islam activist”).<sup>75</sup>

Robert Spencer is a co-author of this booklet. The CAIR report claims that “[Robert] Spencer offers an intellectualized Islamophobia through ‘selectively ignoring’ Islamic texts and principles that do not fit his view of Islam as the enemy” i.e., as purveyor of violent jihadist doctrines.<sup>76</sup> As in so many instances of CAIR’s claims, this is simply a fabrication. In his books *Onward Muslim Soldiers* and *The Complete Infidel’s Guide to the Koran*, Spencer discusses the peaceful and tolerant verses of the Qur’an in detail. But he also explains how

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<sup>75</sup> Ibid. pp. 16-18

<sup>76</sup> *Same Hate, New Target: Islamophobia and its Impact in the United States, January 2009-December 2010*, Council on American-Islamic Relations, June 2011. P.16.

mainstream Muslim exegetes regard the peaceful verses, which are confined to the earlier sections of the Qur'an as being superseded by the later violent ones. Instead of responding to these observations and possibly challenging them, CAIR prefers to demonize the messenger and warn others not to consider his analysis and its implications.

CAIR's principal charge against Spencer is that he "operates the blog 'Jihad Watch,' which is notorious for its depiction of Islam as an inherently violent faith that is a threat to world peace."<sup>77</sup> The irony, of course, is that so many Muslims behave on a daily basis as if Islam *were* an inherently violent faith. If they were to stop acting on this belief, 'Jihad Watch' would have nothing to report and would cease to exist. But it is characteristic of CAIR's Islamophobia campaign to pretend that "Islamophobes" – not the Islamic jihadists – are the problem.

CAIR also condemns Spencer for participating in a 2006 conference honoring the murdered Pim Fortuyn. CAIR doesn't mention, of course, why Fortuyn was murdered, for to do so would have revealed that the real targets of violence in the

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<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

Netherlands are non-Muslim critics of Islam, not Muslims.

A comment on CAIR's report by its legislative director, Corey Saylor, reveals its bottom line, which is to silence critics of Islamic supremacism and global jihad: "This report shows that Americans who embrace pluralism must act together to prevent Islamophobia from being accepted in mainstream society." In other words, in the name of tolerance Americans are being asked to suppress the criticism of Islamic jihadism that CAIR finds objectionable.<sup>78</sup> To speak out against Islamic jihad and Islamic supremacism, in this Orwellian perspective, is to discriminate against Muslims.

Worse, it is to collude with anti-Muslim terrorists. As of July 2011 there had been more than 17,000 terrorist attacks by Islamic jihadists since the September 11 attacks, with an even greater number of victims.<sup>79</sup> During the same period, there had been no terrorist attacks against Muslims – at least not by non-Muslims. But on July 22, 2011 a violent attack against alleged supporters of the "Islamization" of Norway took place in Oslo and

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<sup>78</sup> *Islamophobia, A Challenge for Us All*, The Runnymede Trust, n.d.

<sup>79</sup> <http://www.thereligionofpeace.com/Pages/TheList.htm>



Utoya.<sup>80</sup> The attack was committed by a deranged individual named Anders Behring Breivik who blew up a government building in Oslo, killing 8 and then proceeded to the youth camp of the reigning Norwegian political party on the island of Utoya where he killed 68 others.<sup>81</sup>

Two days later, the *New York Times* ran a front-page story attempting to link Robert Spencer and other anti-jihad writers to the killings. The evidence? A 1,500-page manifesto written by the killer, which contained clippings of articles with references to Spencer's writings on Islam and Islamic jihad. The majority of the references actually appeared in a single article in which Spencer was quoted alongside Condoleeza Rice and Tony Blair.<sup>82</sup> Others were contained in an article by a third party, in which Spencer was quoted on historical background information about Islam.

Not a single Spencer quote called for violence against Muslims or their supporters. Indeed not a

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<sup>80</sup> <http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/norway/index.html?inline=nyt-geo>

<sup>81</sup> <http://www.newsinenglish.no/2011/07/26/death-toll-declines-after-early-confusion/>

<sup>82</sup> <http://frontpagemag.com/2011/07/26/in-defense-of-robert-spencer/>

single one of the Oslo killer’s victims was a Muslim.<sup>83</sup> Yet, without any other evidence, the *Times* article claimed that these scattered references to Spencer’s scholarly descriptions of Islam “deeply influenced” a mass murderer. The *Times* article was titled “Killings in Norway Spotlight anti-Muslim Thought in the U.S.” In other words, according to the *Times*, Robert Spencer had committed a thought crime.<sup>84</sup>

There is no doubt that the *Times* would have been outraged if anyone had suggested that Al Gore was responsible for the terrorist attacks committed by the Unabomber because Gore’s writing on the environment was cited in *his* manifesto, or that Noam Chomsky was complicit in Osama bin Laden’s crimes because the late terrorist had recommended a Chomsky book in one of his *fatwas*. The difference is that while Gore’s and Chomsky’s views mirrored the *Times*’ own attitudes, the *Times*’ attack on Spencer was on a target who had already been identified as an Islamophobe, and thereby worthy of burning.

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<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/25/us/25debate.html?\\_r=2&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/25/us/25debate.html?_r=2&hp)

## **The Islamophobia Campaign on American Campuses**

Following its grand strategy of “destroying the Western civilization from within,” the Muslim Brotherhood created the Muslim Students Association as the first of its network of organizations to carry out the mission. Universities are receiving money from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to promote its anti-Islamophobia campaign. For example, the OIC funneled \$325,000 through CAIR to Georgetown University to finance anti-Islamophobia efforts. But the activists directly involved in those efforts on college campuses are groups like the Muslim Students Association and its aggressive ally, Students for Justice in Palestine. These are sponsors of “Israel Apartheid Weeks” designed to demonize the state of Israel and accuse Jews of stealing Muslim land.

In the spring of 2011, student legislators at three University of California campuses – Davis, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles – passed identical resolutions against Islamophobia. The text of each of the resolutions was lifted almost verbatim from the Runnymede definition, and was sponsored by

the Muslim Students Association and a coalition of leftwing student groups.

The UCLA resolution was passed on May 24. Two weeks earlier, David Horowitz had delivered an hour-long lecture at the university, sponsored by Bruin Republicans. The speech was videotaped and *Frontpagemagazine.com* posted the video and an unedited transcript of the speech on its website.

The “Resolution Against Islamophobia” was sponsored by the Muslim Students Association and passed the student government council at UCLA by a 10-0 vote. The resolution declared, “UCLA is a UC Campus Against Islamophobia.” Among the “Whereas” clauses justifying its necessity, the resolution cited the speech Horowitz had given opposing Israel Apartheid Week as “Islamphobic.”

The UCLA resolution described “Islamophobia” in these words taken almost verbatim from the Runnymede proclamation:

Islamophobia is defined as ideologies, beliefs, and actions that perpetuate inaccurate and xenophobic views

toward the culture and practice of Islam and the personification of its followers, such as being seen as monolithic, seen as a separate and ‘other’ culture that does not share common values, seen as inferior to the West, seen as violent, aggressive, and supportive of terrorism, seen as sexist and oppressive of women, seen as a political ideology used for political advantage, anti Muslim hostility, and exclusionary or discriminatory practices against Muslims from mainstream society;

In other words, the UCLA student government has declared itself against statements about Islam that are “inaccurate,” by which it means statements to the effect that Islamic law discriminates against women and gays, that Islamic texts denigrate “infidels” and encourage violence against them, that Islamic imams support terrorism, or that Islamic political parties regard Islam as a political ideology.

UCLA students are no longer permitted to notice – or more accurately to say out loud – that

the ruling Islamic party in Gaza, Hamas, is actually political. Nor may they link the Islamic teachings codified by a warrior named Muhammad urging his followers to slay infidels and cut off their heads to Islamic terrorists who invoke those beliefs when slaying infidels by cutting off their heads.

Absurd and dangerous as this effort to outlaw free speech was, not a single elected student government leader voted against this resolution. Not one.

This is how the UCLA resolution characterized the Horowitz speech:

Whereas, On Wednesday May 11th controversial speaker David Horowitz made false allegations on campus against the Muslim Students Association and the Afrikan Student Union, and further instilled hate against Muslims by stating that, “Islam is a

sick, sick culture”

No evidence was provided – nor does any exist – that Horowitz made any allegations against the

Afrikan Student Union, let alone false ones.<sup>85</sup> The resolution did provide a citation for the alleged Horowitz statement that Islam is a sick culture, and was linked to an audio version of the speech Horowitz had given on May 11. In the speech, Horowitz discussed the practice of suicide bombing, which had become the weapon of choice for the second Palestinian Intifada. Horowitz observed that American leftists who support the Palestinians excuse the practice by arguing that the Palestinians are “desperate” and have “no choice” but to use this weapon. Horowitz criticized these justifications:

People have been oppressed  
for thousands of years, horribly  
oppressed. Enslaved. Massacred.

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<sup>85</sup> Leaders of the Afrikan Student Union protested a statement Horowitz had made ten years earlier. The statement in its entirety said this: “If not for the dedication of Americans of all ethnicities and colors to a society based on the principle that all men are created equal, blacks in America would not enjoy the highest standard of living of blacks anywhere in the world, and indeed one of the highest standards of living of any people in the world. They would not enjoy the greatest freedoms and the most thoroughly protected individual rights anywhere.”

And yet, in thousands of years of recorded history, there has never before, never, been a people that has strapped bombs onto its own children, told them to go ahead and blow up other children. And if you do, you're going to go to heaven. And if you're lucky enough to be male, you're going to get 72 virgins. That is sick. That's a sick death cult is what --

(Applause)

Well, every one of you who applauded ... [and so forth]<sup>86</sup>

It is obvious from this excerpt of the transcript of Horowitz's speech that the "sick" reference refers to the practice of suicide bombing and its rationale, which views suicide bombers as martyrs who will enter Paradise. The reference is specifically to the Palestinian culture of death, obviously framed by the Hamas version of Islam. In other words, what the Muslim Students Association and the resolution

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<sup>86</sup> <http://frontpagemag.com/2011/05/24/confronting-the-anti-israel-jihad-on-campus/>



were actually saying was that Hamas's death cult version of Islam *is* Islam. Horowitz didn't say this; the Muslim Students Association and the UCLA student legislators in effect did.

These students aspire to be political leaders. They are students at one of the top dozen schools in America, and there didn't seem to be an adult around to teach them what a democracy was or what a totalitarian concept like "Islamophobia" portends. And that should be troubling to all Americans.

### **Unholy Alliances**

The Muslim Brotherhood's grand strategy memorandum contains a section emphasizing the crucial importance of gaining "a mastery of the art of coalitions" in order to achieve the jihadists's goal – conquest of the non-Muslim world. The coalitions referred to are of Muslim organizations, but perhaps the chief asset of the jihadists is a coalition of non-Muslims – European and American progressives – who support the anti-Islamophobia campaign. This coalition has a venerable antecedent in the support progressives provided to the Soviet totalitarians during the Cold War.

In 2008, the leftwing watchdog organization Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) published a lengthy “report” called *Smearcasting: How Islamophobes Spread Bigotry, Fear, and Misinformation*. The FAIR report focused on a list of “Islamophobia’s Dirty Dozen,” which began with FoxNews anchors Bill O’Reilly, Sean Hannity and Glenn Beck, and went on to include the two authors of this essay, investigative reporter Steven Emerson, scholar Daniel Pipes, authors Michelle Malkin and Mark Steyn and others.<sup>87</sup> The FAIR “study” was entirely made up of quotes lifted out of context or misreported in the first place, and then presented as self-evident examples of anti-Muslim bigotry. Thus an observation made by David Horowitz (described as “the Islamophobia movement’s premier promoter”) is presented as a claim by Horowitz that “between 150 million and 750 million Muslims support a holy war.” What Horowitz actually said is that public opinion surveys in the Muslim world after 9/11, including one conducted by al-Jazeera, reported that between 10% and 50% of Muslims considered Osama bin Laden a hero.

In December 2010, the *Huffington Post* ran a

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<sup>87</sup> [http://smearcasting.com/pdf/FAIR\\_Smearcasting\\_Final.pdf](http://smearcasting.com/pdf/FAIR_Smearcasting_Final.pdf)

lengthy diatribe by Max Blumenthal called “The Great Islamophobic Crusade,” which began with the claim that “Nine years after 9/11, hysteria about Muslims in American life has gripped the country.” According to Blumenthal, “this spasm of anti-Muslim bigotry... [is] the fruit of an organized, long-term campaign by a tight confederation of right-wing activists and operatives who first focused on Islamophobia soon after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, but only attained critical mass during the Obama era.”<sup>88</sup> It did so, according to Blumenthal, because of conservative resentment over Obama’s election and because “representatives of the Israel lobby and the Jewish-American establishment launched a campaign against pro-Palestinian campus activism that would prove a seedbed for everything to come.” According to Blumenthal, “[Islamophobia] reflects an aggressively pro-Israel sensibility, with its key figures venerating the Jewish state as a Middle Eastern Fort Apache on the front lines of the Global War on Terror....”<sup>89</sup>

Not surprisingly, Blumenthal’s list of conspirators mirrored the “Worst” list of the CAIR

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<sup>88</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/max-blumenthal/the-great-islamophobic-cr\\_b\\_799277.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/max-blumenthal/the-great-islamophobic-cr_b_799277.html)

<sup>89</sup> Blumenthal, op. cit., p. 2

report and included several of the “Dirty Dozen” from the FAIR document. Among those Blumenthal identified as members of the cabal were Robert Spencer, Pamela Geller, Newt Gingrich, David Horowitz and the Dutch politician Geert Wilders. Like every attack on Islamophobia, Blumenthal’s did not devote a single sentence to examining the analyses or answering the arguments laid out in a library of books written by the targets of their defamation.

Six months later the Southern Policy Law Center published an “Intelligence Report” called “Anti-Muslim Bigotry.” The SPLC had distinguished itself in a previous report by tarring establishment conservative organizations like the American Enterprise Institute as “racist.” The new report summarized the Blumenthal article and featured one of its own: “The Anti-Muslim Inner Circle” by Robert Steinback.<sup>90</sup> Steinback lists ten members of this inner circle (including Robert Spencer, David Horowitz and Brigitte Gabriel)

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<sup>90</sup>“Anti-Muslim Bigotry,” <http://www.broowaha.com/articles/10147/anti-muslim-bigotry-splc-intelligence-report>; “Anti-Muslim Inner Circle,” <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-report/browse-all-issues/2011/summer/the-anti-muslim-inner-circle>. For a response to the fabrications in the SPLC report see <http://www.jihadwatch.org/2011/06/splc-fronts-for-the-jihad-smears-freedom-fighters.html>

who have never been in a room together and in most cases have never met or even corresponded. It is a “circle” whose sole agenda is the defamation of its members.

In September 2010, the Hamas-associated CAIR published a “Guide to Challenging Islamophobia.”<sup>91</sup> One month later, the Center for American Progress, a Democratic Party brains trust, put on a panel called “Challenging Islamophobia.”<sup>92</sup> The panel included an Episcopal priest and Wajahat Ali, author of a blog that, among other complaints, bemoaned the “persecution” of the American Taliban John Walker Lindh, and referred to him as “an innocent victim of America’s ‘war on terror.’”<sup>93</sup> A third panelist was Haris Tarin, Washington Office Director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, an organization that has declared “Israelis are the worst terrorists in the world,” and described Hezbollah as “a liberation organization.”<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> <http://www.cair.com/ArticleDetails.aspx?ArticleID=26616&&name=n&&currPage=1&&Active=1>

<sup>92</sup> <http://www.americanprogress.org/events/2010/10/islamophobia.html>

<sup>93</sup> <http://goatmilkblog.com/2011/07/11/americas-detainee-001---the-persecution-of-john-walker-lindh/>

<sup>94</sup> <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/printgroupProfile.asp?grpId=6177>

## Manufacturing Hate Crimes

A major feature of the anti-Islamophobia campaign is the misrepresentation of the status of Muslims in America. Thus, according to the O.I.C.'s Ihsanoglu, "Muslims are being targeted by a campaign of defamation, denigration, stereotyping, intolerance and discrimination."<sup>95</sup> According to CAIR's 2011 Islamophobia report "In 2009 and 2010, Muslims continued to face barriers to their full and equal participation in American society."<sup>96</sup> According to Max Blumenthal, "hysteria about Muslims in American life has gripped the country."

Neither the barriers nor the hysteria, however, prevented President Obama from appointing Arif Alikhan, a Muslim with a record of opposing anti-terror efforts as Assistant Secretary for Policy Development at the Department of Homeland Security. Nor did they prevent the president from appointing to the Homeland Security Advisory Council Kareem Shora. As Executive Director

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<sup>95</sup>Rukmini Callimachi, "Defame Islam, Get Sued?," Associated Press, March 14, 2008.

<sup>96</sup>*Same Hate, New Target: Islamophobia and its Impact in the United States, January 2009-December 2010*, Council on American-Islamic Relations, June 2011. P. 29.

of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Shora has consistently joined CAIR and other Islamic supremacist groups in lobbying against anti-terror initiatives. Nor did they prevent the President from appointing as special envoy to the O.I.C., Rashad Hussain. Husain had distinguished himself by decrying the alleged “persecution” of convicted terrorist and Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Sami al-Arian. Nor did barriers to Muslims and anti-Muslim hysteria, prevent President Obama from making Dalia Mogahed his adviser on Muslim affairs. In October 2009, Mogahed declared on British television that most Muslim women worldwide associate Islamic law with “gender justice.”

Obama even included the leader of a Muslim Brotherhood front – Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) president Ingrid Mattson – as one of the clerics chosen to pray at the National Cathedral on his Inauguration Day. Obama also sent his Senior Adviser Valerie Jarrett to be the keynote speaker at ISNA’s national convention in 2009. Huma Abedin, deputy chief of staff to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton comes from a prominent Muslim Brotherhood family. Moreover, these examples do not begin to exhaust the

Brotherhood’s penetration of the highest levels of the political establishment.

Such instances aside, the idea that anti-Muslim prejudice is an urgent problem that needs to be aggressively addressed is greatly exaggerated. According to the 2009 FBI report on “hate crimes,” Jews, not Muslims, made up three-fourths of victims of what are classified as religiously motivated hate crimes – not a few of which were committed by Muslims against Jews. By contrast, hate crimes against Muslims made up only eight percent of crimes thus classified, or a total of 132 in a nation of 300 million people.<sup>97</sup>

To support its case that rampant Islamophobia is a problem, the leading Muslim civil rights organization, CAIR, has not hesitated to fabricate anti-Muslim hate crimes. In 2005, Daniel Pipes and Sharon Chadha published an article identifying six incidents falsely described as hate crimes in CAIR’s 2004 report. These included “the July 9, 2004 case of apparent arson at a Muslim-owned grocery store in Everett, Washington,” in which “investigators quickly determined that Mirza Akram, the store’s

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<sup>97</sup>“Blacks, Jews most likely victim of US hate crimes: FBI,” Agence France-Presse, November 22, 2010.



operator, staged the arson to avoid meeting his scheduled payments and to collect on an insurance policy. Although Akram's antics had already been exposed as a fraud, CAIR continues to list this case as an anti-Muslim hate crime. In another incident, a Muslim-owned market was burned down in Texas in August 2004. Although the Muslim owner was arrested the following month for having set the fire himself, CAIR included the case in its report.<sup>98</sup>

If CAIR sincerely wanted to diminish the concerns that reasonable Americans may have about the Islamic jihad and the extent of its support in the Muslim community, they could do so effectively by condemning the jihad instead of attacking its opponents. They could direct their indignation towards those Muslims who commit violent acts in the name of Islam. They could repudiate the statements their own leaders have made expressing their desire to see the Constitution replaced by Islamic law. They could state clearly and unequivocally that American and Israeli civilians are innocent victims of Islamic terrorists, and condemn their sister organization Hamas for

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<sup>98</sup>Daniel Pipes and Sharon Chadha, "CAIR's Hate Crimes Nonsense," FrontPageMagazine.com, May 18, 2005.

targeting them and for calling for the “obliteration of Israel.” They could promote the teaching in mosques and madrassas that Muslims must coexist peacefully as *equals* with infidels on a permanent basis. And they could oppose blasphemy laws, such as the anti-Islamophobia resolutions they are promoting, which are a direct assault on the American Bill of Rights.

## Conclusion

In 2009, the Obama Administration departed from other Western nations and joined Egypt in supporting a resolution in the U.N.’s Human Rights Council to recognize exceptions to free speech for “any negative racial and religious stereotyping.”<sup>99</sup> Egypt has long prosecuted journalists and others for insulting Islam. One Egyptian journal was banned for publishing a poem that compared God to a villager who feeds ducks and milks cows. In praising the resolution, the Egyptian ambassador to the U.N. observed that “freedom of expression has been sometimes misused” and that

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<sup>99</sup> Jonathan Turley, “Just Say No To Blasphemy: U.S. Supports Egypt in Limiting Anti-Religious Speech,” USA Today, October 19, 2009

an understanding of the “true nature of this right” would require government restrictions. Instead of dissenting from his attack on free speech, the US Ambassador praised “this joint project with Egypt” as an attempt to achieve “tolerance and the dignity of all human beings.”<sup>100</sup>

This troublesome attitude was reaffirmed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in July 2011 when she commented on attempts by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to criminalize Islamophobia. Secretary Clinton spoke of “the false divide that pits religious sensitivities against freedom of expression.”<sup>101</sup> But from the point of view of the Islamic states this is not about religious sensitivities. It is about religious *obligations*, and therefore the only way to end the divide is to restrict freedom of expression.

In a column drawing attention to this resolution called “Just Say No To Blasphemy Laws,” George Washington University law professor Jonathan Turley wrote: “Thinly disguised blasphemy laws are often defended as necessary to protect the

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<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

<sup>101</sup> <http://frontpagemag.com/2011/07/22/the-cartoonphobia-war-goes-on/>

ideals of tolerance and pluralism. They ignore the fact that the laws achieve tolerance through the ultimate act of intolerance: criminalizing the ability of some individuals to denounce sacred or sensitive values. We do not need free speech to protect popular thoughts or popular people. It is designed to protect those who challenge the majority and its institutions.” Turley concluded: “Criticism of religion is the very measure of the guarantee of free speech – the literal sacred institution of society.”<sup>102</sup>

The rise of secular messianic movements like Communism, socialism and progressivism has paralleled the decline of organized religion. Not coincidentally their worldviews bear a striking resemblance to the creeds they replaced. It is not surprising, therefore, that the chief sponsors of blasphemy laws and the attitudes associated with them have been the movements associated with the political left.

It is no accident that the movement to outlaw Islamophobia should be deeply indebted to the secular left and its campaign to stigmatize its opponents by indiscriminately applying repugnant

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<sup>102</sup> Ibid.

terms to them like “racist.” Therefore, the left has sponsored the creation of “hate crime” laws as precursors of the desire blasphemy laws. “Hate crime” laws are by their very nature crimes against thought. A crime of violence is a crime whatever the motivation. Making it a “hate crime” merely criminalizes the alleged motive.

The very term “Islamophobe” has roots in leftist political jargon, as a variation on the term “homophobe.” But “homophobe” is itself a coinage derived from similar categories – “racist” and “sexist” – which the left has detached from any meaning other than disagreement with its own agendas, and which it has then deployed to stigmatize and silence its critics. Islamophobe is but the latest of these weapons.

The demagogue Huey Long once said that if totalitarianism came to the United States, it would come calling itself anti-totalitarianism – or tolerance. Islamophobia is the perfect totalitarian doctrine as it is the first step in outlawing freedom of speech – and therefore freedom itself – in the name of religious tolerance.



