

**ANALYSIS OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD'S
GENERAL STRATEGIC GOALS FOR
NORTH AMERICA MEMORANDUM**

Stephen Coughlin

7 September 2007

-

-

INTRODUCTION

-

The following is a brief analysis of a Muslim Brotherhood document entered into evidence in the *U.S. v Holy Land Foundation* trial (Trial) that the U.S. Justice Department is currently prosecuting in Federal Court. Analysis is based on this document as well as other publicly available documents. (For a broad offering of Trial documents, see <http://www.nefafoundation.org/hlfdocs.html>). The attached documents relate to ISNA and the Trial.

· The first document is a Muslim Brotherhood memorandum that was accepted into evidence in the *U.S. v Holy Land Foundation* (HLF) case. The first 16 pages are in the original Arabic and the second are English language translations of the same. It is dated 22 May 1991 and titled “An Explanatory Memorandum on the General Strategic Goal for the Group in North America” (Memorandum). The document includes an Attachment 1 that contains “**a list of our organizations and the organizations of our friends.**”

- Among those noted in the Attachment are ISNA, MSA, AMSS, AMSE, NAIT, IFC, IPAC, IAP, UASR, ICNA (typo in the second listing) and IIIT. ICNA and ISNA are the only two organizations named in the body of the text. ISNA is additionally represented on the list as IFC (ISNA Fiqh Committee – now the Fiqh Council of North America) and IPAC (ISNA Political Awareness Committee).

· The second document is a signed letter from Members of Congress Pete Hoekstra and Sue Myrick to the Justice Department dated 28 August 2007 formally requesting that Justice stand down from “co-sponsoring” a conference with ISNA due to its very close relationship to the Muslim Brotherhood and

Hamas. Justice attended anyhow. The Memorandum was admitted into evidence at the same time the Letter was sent addressing Congressional concerns.

DISCUSSION

(A) ACCEPTED AS EVIDENCE.

It should be noted that the Memorandum met evidentiary standards to be admissible as evidence in a Federal Court of law.

(B) THE ENUMERATED ENTITIES ARE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD.

As noted, both ICNA and ISNA are identified and described in the body of the Memorandum in these contexts:

- The positive development with the brothers in the **Islamic Circle** in an attempt to reach a unity of merger.
- We have the seed for a “comprehensive *Dawa*’ educational” organization: We have the *Dawa*’ section in **ISNA**.

The enumerated recognition suggests that ISNA and ICNA, as elements of the entity that drafted the Memorandum, are likewise elements of the Muslim Brotherhood. Additionally, the Memorandum refers to the entities designated in Attachment (1) as currently held possessions:

- What encourages us to do that – in addition to the aforementioned – is that **we possess** “seeds” for each organization from the organization we call for [See attachment (1)].

(C) **MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD IN CHARGE IN NORTH AMERICA.**

The Memorandum expressly recognizes the Muslim Brotherhood (*Ikkwan*) as the controlling element. For example, the first authority identified as the basis of the Memorandum is the Muslim Brotherhood:

- The general strategic goal of the Group in America which was approved by the *Shura* Council and the Organizational Conference for the year 1987 in “Enablement of Islam in North America, meaning: establishing the effective and stable Islamic Movement led by the **Muslim Brotherhood** which adopts Muslims’ causes domestically and globally, and which works to expand the observant Muslim base, aims at unifying and directing Muslims’ efforts, presents Islam as a civilization alternative, and supports the global Islamic State wherever it is”.

Next, the Memorandum expressly identifies the Muslim Brotherhood as the leadership element in implementing the strategic goals:

- Also, we must summon and take along “elements” of the general strategic goal of the Group in North America and I will intentionally repeat them in numbers. They are:

- o (1) Establishing an effective and stable **Islamic Movement led by the Muslim Brotherhood.**

The status of the Muslim Brotherhood as being in charge of all Muslim organizations in North America is reinforced in a statement asserting that establishing Islam as a part of America is to be done through a civilization level Jihad:

· In order for Islam and its Movement to become “a part of the homeland” in which it lives, “stable” in the land, “rooted” in the spirits and minds of its people, “enabled” in the lives of its society and has firmly-established “organizations” on which the Islamic structure is built and with which the testimony of the civilization is achieved, the Movement must plan and struggle to obtain “the keys” and the tools of this process in carry out this grand mission as a “Civilization Jihadist” responsibility which lies on the shoulders of Muslim and – **on top of them – the Muslim Brotherhood in this country.**

An analysis of the entities designated in Attachment (1) of the Memorandum, along with those entities that can be reasonably assessed to have spun off from them since 1991, should be assessed to see what organizational presence they represent.

(D) CIVILIZATION-JIHAD: THE STRATEGIC GOAL OF THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD.

Having established its leadership, the Memorandum states the role of the Muslim Brotherhood in North America:

· The process of settlement is a “Civilization-Jihadist Process” with all the means. **The Ikhwan 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.** Without this level of understanding, we are not up to this challenge and have not prepared ourselves for *Jihad* yet. **It is a Muslim’s destiny to perform Jihad** and work wherever he is and wherever he lands until the final hour comes, and there is not escape from that destiny except for those who chose to slack. But, would the slackers and the *Mujahedeen* be equal.

· As part of the process is “[the] conviction that the success of the settlement of Islam and its Movement in this country [America] is a success to the global Islamic Movement and true support for the sought after state [*caliphate*] God willing.”

The first bullet is a clear threat statement of hostile intent while the second speaks to foreign agency to a transnational movement with stated objectives that overlap with al-Qaeda's. When assessing members who belong to organizations known to be identified with the Muslim Brotherhood, the inference should be that their designated leaders have knowledge of its identified roles and missions. It is not reasonable to do otherwise.

The strategic goal of the Muslim Brotherhood in North America is multifold: the destruction of Western civilization through a long-term civilization-killing *Jihad* from within ("by their [our] hands") and through sabotage ("the hands of the believers") and, secondly; to support the global Islamic movement to establish an Islamic super-state, the *caliphate*.

When conducting outreach with organizations identified as being a party to the "strategic goals" identified in the Memorandum, the gain/loss assessment of associating with them should be undertaken in light of their clearly stated hostile intent that includes the subversion of American institutions through outreach, strategic deception and perception management. To undertake outreach with known identified organizations without knowledge of their objectives is to run the extreme risk of strategic manipulation by declared *Jihad* entities in ways that fulfill stated Muslim Brotherhood objectives as enumerated in the Memorandum.

(E) ENUMERATED MB ORGANIZATIONS AND TRUESPEAK.

As part of a presentation designed to change the lexicon of the GWOT (*hiraba* not *Jihad*), Jim Guirard explains that his proposed terms and definitions come from a group of "moderate" Muslims and other experts. He provides a list of contributors as part of his handout. Cross-referencing the names from his *TrueSpeak* list with the list of organizations provided in Attachment (1) of the Memorandum gives cause for concern:

· For example, along with ICNA and ISNA, Attachment (1) also lists the Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS), the United Association for Studies and Research (UASR), the International Institute for Islamic Thought (IIIT), the Muslim Student Association (MSA) and the North American Islamic Trust (NAIT).

If one were to list all of Guirard's contributors who are associated with, for example, the **Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy (CSID)**, one might be able to glean a web of Muslim Brotherhood associations. From the *TrueSpeak* list, it turns out that the following CSID members are also members of identified Muslim Brotherhood entities:

- Muqtedar Khan (AMSS, IIIT), Akbar Ahmed (AMSS, IIIT), Anthony Sullivan (AMSS, IIIT), Robert Crane (UASR, IIIT), Asma Afsaruddin (AMSS), and Layla Sein (AMSS, IIIT).
- Other CSID members listed in the *TrueSpeak* brochure are John Esposito and Radwan Masmoudi.

If one accepts the Memorandum statement that “the big challenge ... is how to turn these seeds or ‘scattered’ elements into comprehensive, stable, ‘settled’ organizations that are connected with our movement,” then it appears that the Muslim Brotherhood succeeded in getting CSID to “fly in our orbit and take orders from our guidance.”

Other notables on the *TrueSpeak* list of “moderate” contributors:

- Shaykh Taha Jabir al-Awani. Chairman, North America Fiqh Council (in 1991 the IFC and still an ISNA affiliate) and was a co-founder and President of IIIT. He was also un-indicted coconspirator number 5 in the al-Arian trial.
- Shaykh Yusuf al-Qaradawi. [US designated supporter of terrorism] Co-founder of ISNA's HQ in Boston along with ISNA founder Alamoudi (convicted and incarcerated for material support to terrorism related offenses).
- Dr. Aboul-Hakin (Sherman Jackson). Trustee of NAIT and the MSA (Muslim Student Association), Board Member of the Fiqh Council of North America (ISNA affiliate)
- Jeremy Henzell. Executive Director AMSS, published by IIIT.

· Sayed Syeed. President of MSA, cofounder ISNA, General Secretary AMSS, Director of Academic Outreach IIT.

It is worth noting that when Mr. Guirard “cites” to authority for the terms and definitions he uses, it is to these individuals and not to reviewable published authoritative sources. This is hearsay.

Based on the Memorandum, it turns out that many of the individuals that provide *TrueSpeak* with the terms and definitions – that Guirard would have us use to conceptualize and orient to the enemy - are known to be associated with threat entities that believe “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.” There are sound reasons to question the uncritical adoption of *TrueSpeak*’s uncritically accepted war on terror lexicon.

(F)[11](#) THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD FOLLOWS THE *MILESTONES*.

As a Muslim Brotherhood document, it should not surprise that it follows Sayyid Qutb’s *Milestone* formula based on progressive revelation (revelation in stages) as first experienced by Muhammad and the first most perfect generation of Muslims. (For a more detailed explanation, see Appendix C [Abrogation and Progressive Revelation] of Thesis) Hence, Part Four, Section 3 “Understanding the historical stages ...” lists 8

stages of development that emphasizes the need for a “gradual and balanced ‘time-frame’” approach that is patterned after the revelation in stages that reflects the “role during the time of Allah’s prophet” who was “the first pioneer of this phenomenon.”

Because the Memorandum is understood to be a Muslim Brotherhood work, the lexicon used to define the terms it uses (for example *jihad*, *dawa*, *dar al-arqam* and *Usras*) should likewise come from the Muslim Brotherhood dictionary (the “threat vocabulary”).

CONCLUSION

The HLF Trial is turning up primary source threat documentation and information that provides new insights into global jihad organizations like the Muslim Brotherhood.

- These documents are beginning to define the structure and outline of domestic jihad threat entities, associated non-governmental organizations and potential terrorist or insurgent support systems.

- The Memorandum also describes aspects of the global jihad’s strategic information warfare campaign and indications of its structure, reach and activities.

- Consequently, outreach strategies must be adjusted in the face of credible information that seeming Islamic humanitarian or professional non-governmental organizations may be part of the global jihad with potential for being part of the terrorist or insurgent support system.

The Memorandum identifies ISNA as an element of the Muslim Brotherhood that the Justice Department already designated as an unindicted coconspirator that Congress has given formal notice that it has knowledge. Outreach as an end in itself can cause those responsible for its success to so narrowly focus on the outreach relationship that they miss the surrounding events and lose perspective. This could undermine unity of effort in Homeland Security, lead to potential for embarrassment for the USG and legitimize threat organizations by providing them domestic sanctuary. In light of unfolding events, disregarding a Congressional request to suspend attendance at the ISNA conference may result in some uncommonly uncomfortable public testimony.

[1] From the *'Umdat al-Salik*, Islamic law defines jihad as “war against non-Muslims ... signifying warfare to establish the religion.” Qur’an Verse 9:5 is among the most pre-eminent and it states: *“But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the pagans wherever ye find them, and seize them and beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem of war; but if they repent, and establish regular prayers and practice regular charity, then open the way for them.”* Islamic law recognizes no authority except that which comes from Allah (Islam is not just a religion but a complete way of life governed by Islamic law that comes from Allah Who is alone sovereign).