

Islamism and the Infiltration Challenge

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Notes for Remarks to the 2009 CIVITAS Annual Conference
Toronto, ON
2 May 2009



Thank-you for this invitation to discuss an area of growing concern, one that is already defining, for better or worse, the very life and future of each and every person in this room.

Before proceeding with this thought, perhaps I should explain how I come to talk about our lives and future.

I am of French-Canadian, Roman Catholic background, some would say a Québécois pur laine - "Old Stock". A small-L liberal-pluralist democrat, I have spent a lifetime dedicated to interreligious and intercultural outreach and understanding. Interfaith work led me to spend years in the multi-faith, multicultural democracy that is India. There, amidst Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikhs and other friends, Christians find evidence of some of their earliest roots - Thomism, and other cousin branches of the faith.

All this pulled me to the subcontinent in a way that was hopeful, but not naïve. If Buddhists and Bahais, Christians and Jews could function in the dominant Hindu culture, there were nonetheless undeniable problems. I remember the tumultuous wake of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination, the angry mob that

surrounded the facility where I lived, demands that a lone Muslim living under our protection, be handed over to the doubtful mercies of the gang.

In my business travels well before 9/11, I saw other evidence of radicalism, some of it explicitly murderous, some of it subtle, supple, almost seductive. Thanks primarily to Muslim friends, I awoke to warnings of the worldwide spread of such pathological Islamic strains of Sunni Islam as Salafism, Saudi-Wahabbism, and the role of the extremist Muslim Brotherhood whose front organizations now proliferate in Canada and the US. From Iran, Khomeinism casts its long shadow over Shia Islam and, through Tehran's nuclear ambitions, over the rest of us.

After the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the 1998 East Africa embassy attacks, and 9/11, the trend was there for anyone who dared look. Following the 2004 slaughter of Russian schoolchildren in Beslan, the former Editor of Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper, Abd Al-Rahman Al-Rashed, could write that "Obviously not all Muslims are terrorists but, regrettably, the majority of the terrorists in the world are Muslims."^[1]

But there is something more complicated going on than direct and immediate violence. We are, here, in Canada, today, facing a hostile ideological enemy that has a great deal in common with the extremist groups I have mentioned, but whose *modus operandi* is often more subtle and insidious - not immediately violent.

A starting point in understanding this is the captured 1991 strategy document of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB), the extremist organization from which derive a host of apparently respectable Islamic representative groups. In truth, front organizations of the Brotherhood, have active public relations and influence operations in Canada - like the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) and the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR). Such groups are known as three-piece-suited Islamists. The 1991 strategy document offers the Muslim Brotherhood's plans for the Islamist "settlement" - that is, the physical and ideological colonizing - of Canada and the United States. It says:

*The process of settlement is a 'Civilization-Jihadist Process,' with all the word means. The Ikhwan [- the Brotherhood -] must understand that their work in American is kind of a 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 God's religion is made victorious over all other religions...*²

This could well be a prescription for violence, for the MB has been involved in violence. But the MB can be very subtle, establishing, for example, conditions that would facilitate alienation and radicalization among Muslims and, especially, Muslim youth. At a minimum, the supremacist, rejectionist dimension of radical thought can encourage Muslims' hostility, a groundless sense of persecution, and contribute to "Islamistizing" pressure.

Radicals have a good deal of material to work with. A 2007 Environics poll indicates that 12% of Canadian Muslims could justify the alleged Toronto 18-type of plot - plans to blow up CBC

headquarters here in Toronto, the Toronto Canadian Security Intelligence Service facility, blow up Parliament and behead Canada's prime minister. Extrapolating, that would be between 49,000 and 119,000 Canadian Muslims prepared to justify such terrorism against their country.³

The situation is unlikely to improve, especially considering demographics. Look at immigration, with particular reference to a numerically-stable group, like Canadian Jews. Through virtually world-beating per capita immigration - almost 260,000 people immigrate a year - the Canadian Muslim population has leapt from 98,000 in 1981, about a third of the Jewish population, to over 800,000, today - double the number of Jews. In eight years - in 2017 - there will be 1.4 million Muslims, four times more than Jews.⁴ Political influence will shift - is shifting - correspondingly.

Prospects for radicalism are worsened by the fact that larger, and in some ways, more self-isolating colonies of Muslims could mean greater potential to misunderstand the mainstream "other", and for undiluted self-radicalization. Indeed, such possibilities bring to mind the writings of Muhammad Taqi Usmani, a retired sharia justice of Pakistan's Supreme Court. He is a man routinely described as a leading moderate scholar of Deobandi Islam, the biggest Muslim group in the United Kingdom. A British journalist summed up the former judge's position as being that, "Muslims should live peacefully in countries such as Britain, where they have the freedom to practise Islam, only until they gain enough power to engage in battle."⁵

All of this points to a further concern: the growing risk that infiltration and influencers will find their way into the most sensitive reaches of government and business infrastructure. After all, every religious, ethnic and cultural group can be expected to be represented in government and private sectors in numbers proportional to their presence in the general population. Any significant deviation in this would suggest a constitutional breach of some sort. What becomes of the 12% of that Environics' poll, or even of those who are

merely ambiguous on issues of loyalty to this country?

Infiltration

In the United States, evidence of Islamist-related infiltration is already clear.

Hezbollah-connected Lebanese immigrant Nada Nadim Prouty was convicted after penetrating both the FBI and CIA.

Abdurahman Alamoudi, was convicted after facilitating infiltration of the State Department - and the Muslim chaplain corps of the military, where many of those approved by his organization are presumably still ensconced.

David Hossain Safavarian, high-level White House employee was sentenced for lying to investigators. It turned out he'd lobbied for Alamoudi.

Faisal Gill was suspended from a senior top-secret Homeland Security job for failing to reveal terrorist connections, notably to Alamoudi.

Senior Airman, USAF, and Guantanamo interpreter, Ahmad Al-Halabi, was convicted in relation to classified documents.

Ahmed Fathy Mehalba, Guantanamo civilian Defence interpreter, convicted of lying to investigators and travelling to Cairo with classified documents.

Sadeq Naji Ahmed of the USAF and Transportation Security Administration, praiser of bin Laden and 9/11 "martyrs".

Warith-Deen Umar, Federal Bureau of Prisons, praising the 9/11 assault.

Dr. Esam Omeish, President of Muslim Brotherhood's Muslim American Society, resigned from Virginia's Commission of Immigration after discovery of a videotape of Omeish's telling a crowd of Washington, DC, Muslims, "...you have learned the way, that you

have known - that the jihad way is the way to liberate your land."⁶

Last year former Phoenix, Arizona Palo Verde nuclear generating station engineer Mohammad Reza Alavi was convicted after taking restricted access codes to his country of origin, Iran.

Earlier this month, former US Navy sailor Hassan Abu-Jihaad was convicted of giving intelligence about naval movements - including of a Canadian warship - to potential jihadist enemies.

And many still remember allegations that some FBI translators of Middle East languages cheered at their desks, when news came through that the World Trade Centre had been struck on 9/11.

Britain has fared no better

By 2007, UK government investigations aimed at securing power, transport, water and other sensitive infrastructure exposed serious infiltration involving people of concern who "may have become radicalised while already in employment, thus evading the strict vetting procedure for applicants for security-sensitive posts."⁷ Britain's Telegraph asserted that - "MI5 is understood to have unmasked al-Qaeda sympathisers who joined its ranks during a recruitment drive aimed at young British Muslims, following the London bombings," and that London's renowned Metropolitan Police were investigating several of its own officers,[ii] following visits to Pakistan, a major terror source country. In fact, this past September, columnist Melanie Phillips concluded with this chilling thought:

There are signs that Islamist thinking is infiltrating the police. Up to eight police officers and civilian staff working in the Metropolitan Police and other forces have been reported as having links to extremist groups, including al-Qaeda. Within the Metropolitan Police counter-terrorism department, its Muslim Contact Unit employs two Salafist officers in the belief that they can help counter Islamist radicalism. Given that Salafists are committed to the overthrow of

the West and its replacement by an Islamic society, this beggars belief.⁹

Infiltration should not be a surprise. Cagey Islamists, like the Muslim Brotherhood, have made the importance of this clear. And explicitly violent ones, like al-Qaeda's operational strategic thinker Abu Bakr Naji, certainly have. Naji says

(We) should infiltrate the police forces, the armies, the different political parties, the newspapers, the Islamic groups, the petroleum companies (as an employee or as an engineer), private security companies, sensitive civil institutions, etc. That actually began several decades ago, but we need to increase it in light of recent developments.¹⁰

Evidence of infiltration and influence is here in Canada. Consider this list:

Recently-convicted Canadian-born terrorist Momin Khawaja worked as a software consultant at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ottawa.

The Harper Government, despite having one of the best counter-extremist records, allowed something called the Muslim Communities Working Group (MCWG) to be quietly installed at the heart of this Department. The MCWG's small staff have included a rabidly anti-Israeli person, and an individual believed to have been a representative of the Council on American-Islamic Relations Canada (CAIR-CAN), the Canadian chapter of a US organization designated an unindicted co-conspirator by the US Justice Department. According to the departmental website, the MCWG "organizes educational initiatives and events aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of Islam," an unprecedented tax-paid privileging of one religion. The Muslim Communities Working Group invited, among others, an executive director of the Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC) to speak to departmental personnel. The CIC was one of two organizations condemned by the federal government for its support of radicalism and anti-Semitism.

The RCMP, like other government entities - and especially like certain NGO's involved in multi-faith initiatives - stumbled into outreach programs that came to embrace members of terrorist-apologist organizations. That Force's National Security outreach team were even quoting CAIR-CAN's notoriously unreliable and divisive "studies" that were apparently designed to exaggerate a Muslim victimhood that was, in relative terms, close to non-existent.¹¹

Bloc Québécois MP Maria Mourani, sent fellow parliamentarians an e-mail update of the Israel-Hamas conflict, complete with links to videos glorifying Hamas-sponsored Islamic extremism.

Khaled Mouammar, President of the Canadian Arab Federation (CAF), an organization condemned by Immigration Minister Jason Kenney for fellow-travelling with Islamist apologists and Jew-haters, was for years on the Immigration and Refugee Board. CAF is trying to get Hamas and Hezbollah off Canada's list of banned terrorists, so one can only imagine the criteria Mr. Mouammar applied when determining who was safe to let into Canada.

Then there is the problem of radicals' influencing and gaining respectability from some of the naïve and unprepared churches, think-tanks and NGOs that get involved in multi-faith outreach. In the most recent reported year, alone, about \$150,000 in federal Heritage Canada tax money was funding what seems to be a one-employee Calgary organization with a small donations' base of perhaps hundreds of dollars. The Centre for Faith and the Media (CFM) has been getting this kind of public largesse to do trans-Canada presentations on, and a study of, the treatment of Muslims and Islam in Canada's media.

The disturbing Council on American-Islamic Relations Canada has had active involvement in this enterprise, and provided virtually all the "talent" for at a least one CFM roundtable targeting Muslims, journalists and - alarmingly - journalism students. Rather than responding to exposure of this by admitting the problem and thereby limiting the ability of radical Islamic groups to profit from the error, CFM Executive Director Richelle Wiseman has proffered fact-

challenged statements that all but do CAIR-CAN's laundering work for them. Her response even invokes, in implicit defence of the CFM, the names of doubtless-unsuspecting journalists who participated in CFM events.¹²

You can see the significance of this kind of backfiring outreach. Almost all of the Islamist leaders who have achieved legitimacy, have done so by participating in multi-faith dialogues. We have helped our enemies up the ladder of legitimacy.

But why might you not have heard about some of these infiltration and influence problems? The answer seems to be a combination of political correctness, and externally-imposed constraints.

As Salman Rushdie has said, Islamists' misleading victimhood narrative - "Islamophobia" and all the rest - quieters those who would otherwise raise the alarm about radicalism.¹³ It heads off responsible discussion about Koranic and other Islamic sources used by extremists to justify their supremacist and rejectionist orientations.

Libel lawsuits targeting media and commentators, were a weapon of choice in North American-wide use by organizations like the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and its Canadian arm. By 2005, David Frum, the National Post, Canadian intelligence specialist David Harris, and an Ottawa radio station were victims of this, a fact making the Centre for Faith and the Media's CAIR-CAN apologetics all the more piquant. CAIR and CAIR-CAN shut down their suits and, as one commentator puts it, got out of the lawsuit business, when they belatedly realized that court rules of disclosure could ultimately expose their own radical origins, links and agendas.

Besides, Islamists discovered something better than courts: free speech-stultifying human rights' commissions whose "prosecutions" would be paid for by government and not impose disclosure requirements on complainants. The travails of Mark Steyn and Ezra Levant before Canada's human rights' commissions, are well known to this audience.

All of this has meant a shortage of key information about infiltration and subversion, at a critical time in our defence of Western liberal democratic society, civilization and traditions. That is why our website, Point de Bascule (PDB), was born: to give responsible, considered voice to these problems and our plight.

After less than two years' operation, PDB is a leading voice in the worldwide francophone counter-jihad movement. It has received strong supporting comments from those well-known French-speakers, Mark Steyn and Daniel Pipes, and leading Canadian journalists, among many others. Here are some reasons.

With its network of contacts from a variety of national and faith groups - most notably including Muslims - PDB gets the word out through its website and its close relations with English- and French-language media at home and abroad. Let me give you an idea what can be done - and what we do.

PDB sponsored a Montreal conference in October with an all-Muslim panel that exposed radical infiltration of Canadian institutions. Our revered friend and ally, Dr. Salim Mansur, was a panellist.

Many revelations and insights were garnered from this. Panellist and author Tarek Fatah revealed why Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Chair Barbara Hall came out with her bizarrely prejudicial statement against Maclean's magazine for publishing excerpts from Mark Steyn's bestselling *America Alone*. Recall that the complaint was made by the radical Canadian Islamic Congress, and that Hall dismissed the complaint, but shocked observers by gratuitously - without hearing evidence or permitting Maclean's to appear - damning the magazine as essentially anti-Islamic.

The moderate Muslim Canadian Congress (MCC) condemned the Commission, and said that, "in editorializing and coming out to bat for Canada's Islamists, the OHRC is sending a very dangerous message to moderate Muslims who reject Sharia and do not take inspiration from

overseas Islamic countries or groups."¹⁴ The MCC continued: "The OHRC decision must be cause for celebration in Osama Bin Laden's cave and among the soldiers of the world Jihadi movement that love to spread the falsehood that Canada is at war with Islam and that Muslims in Canada live under a cloud of racism and persecution. Nothing can be further from the truth".¹⁵

So, what was our Ontario Human Rights Commission thinking? At the Point de Bascule press conference, Tarek Fatah offered an explanation. He said,

... if you're scratching your heads, reading the outrageous attacks on Maclean's magazine by Barbara Hall, ... let me share with you the news that the Ontario Human Rights Commission is itself infiltrated by Islamists, and I say that on the record. One of its commissioners ... is an admirer of Ayatollah Khomeini and has close links to the Canadian Islamic Congress. This is the CIC that filed the complaint against Maclean's, and this man was sitting as judge and jury. Another Commissioner also has close links to the CIC and is a former President of the Canadian Arab Federation - again, closely linked to the Canadian Islamic Congress. But how many Canadians know this is happening?

*And, [as] if that was not all, let me assure you that the senior policy advisor at the Ontario Human Rights Commission who wrote the document that Barbara Hall signed, is openly supportive of Sharia law - in fact, he comes to work dressed in Saudi attire.*¹⁶

So now you understand how infiltration and influence operations can work to shape your government's thinking, policy and action.

PDB has done more than reveal this. It exposed infiltration of Canada's New Democratic Party (NDP), including its fielding of Hezbollah-supporting candidates, and allegations of attempts to take over the Party. PDB is following attempts by Islamist fellow-travellers to take over Conservative riding associations in an important Western Canadian city. It is documenting apparent efforts by certain Muslim police officers to silence Muslims complaining

about radical imams, and even to silence, in one case, a Muslim who was assaulted by an Islamic radical.

And to test and expose the manipulations and inconsistencies of certain Canadian human rights commissions, PDB scored an international victory. In 2008, PDB discovered a radical Montreal imam's book that was full of frightening, searingly racist, christophobic, judeophobic, virulently and debasingly sexist and anti-gay text. Aware of human-rights' commissions' past, single-minded pursuit of Christians and others, PDB launched a test-case complaint to the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC). Public disbelief, then rage - and public education - followed when disgusted citizens of good faith learned that the CHRC had rejected the complaint. Despite ample and compelling evidence, the CHRC justified this dismissal by claiming that no "identifiable groups" were targeted in the imam's book, and that, as a result, the publication did not breach relevant human-rights' law. Citizens recognized the CHRC's position for what it was, and condemned the Commission's self-evident application of a double standard favouring Islamic radicalism.

Wide-ranging responses are needed to all of this. We must start with a need to end the silence, and ensure that public education brings home what the threat of government and institutional penetration portends for our future. Citizens need to embrace a "show-me" attitude to politicians of all parties, without exception, an attitude that requires the disclosing of the identities of organizations and interests with whom politicians meet. We need to demand a moratorium on immigration until a new immigration and refugee system can ensure that our intake can be both screened properly, and integrated in ways consistent with public safety, ideological moderation, social harmony and sound economics.

ENDNOTES

¹"The Painful Truth is that All of the Terrorists are Muslims," by Abd Al-Rahman Al-Rashed, former Editor of the London-based daily, Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, in Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (London), 4 September 2004. In Middle East Media Research Institute, Arab and Muslim Reactions to the Terrorist Attack in Beslan, Russia. memri.org (Special Dispatch Series No. 780, 8 September 2004) <http://www.memri.org/bin/articles.cgi?Page=archives&Area=sd&ID=SP78004>.

²"Understanding the role of the Muslim Brother in North America," dealing with "Civilization-Jihadist Process," in Muslim Brotherhood (1991). An Explanatory Memorandum On the General Strategic Goal for the Group In North America 5/22/1991 [Govt. Exhibit 003-0085. 3:04-CR-240-G U.S. v. HLF, et al. Bate#1SE-SW/1B10/0000413]. nefafoundation.org (May 22). http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/HLF/Akram_GeneralStrategicGoal.pdf.

³ David Harris, "Is Canada Losing the Balance between Liberty and Security?," in Immigration Policy and the Terrorist Threat in Canada and the United States, eds. Alexander Moens and Martin Collacott (Vancouver: Fraser Institute, 2008), 129-159 at 136-137, especially footnote 7. Digital document: http://www.fraserinstitute.org/Commerce.Web/product_files/ImmigrationTerroristThreatChapter8.pdf. Harris relies, in part, on Licia Corbella, "Disturbing Reality Buried," Calgary Sun, 18 February 2007. Original Corbella article link, http://calsun.canoe.ca/News/Columnists/Corbella_Licia/2007/02/18/pf-3642930.html, is dead, but article remains at <http://canadiancoalition.com/forum/messages/21364.shtml>.

⁴ Statistics in this paragraph were developed by former Canadian ambassador, Martin Collacott, from material that appeared at <http://www.demographia.com/db-canreliq.htm> and <http://www.acs-aec.ca/Polls/30-03-2005.pdf>, and was based on Statistics Canada data. Personal correspondence.

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⁶ IPT News, "IPT Footage Takes Down Omeish," 27 September 2007, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/494/ipt-footage-takes-down-omeish>.

⁷ Ben Leapman, Al-Qaeda supporters working at strategic sites. [telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk), April 29, 2007, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/04/29/nterr29.xml>.

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⁹ Melanie Phillips, "Look Here," article.nationalreview.com, 11 September 2008, <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=ZWUzMzZiMzdhdhYWNIMGNINjhiNzRIYjg3YmU2YTMwYzc=>.

¹⁰ Abu Bakr Naji, The Management of Savagery, Trans. William McCants (Cambridge, Mass.: John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies, Harvard University, May 23, 2006), http://ctc.usma.edu/publications/pdf/Management_of_Savagery.pdf.

¹¹ For information about the way in which misconceived and incompetently-managed RCMP outreach activity is undermining Canada's national security, see Winston Smithson, "RCMP Outreach Follies," [investigativeproject.org](http://www.investigativeproject.org), 12 June 2009, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/1067/rcmp-outreach-follies>.

¹² The Centre for Faith and the Media-Heritage Canada Affair was exposed by former Muslim Canadian Congress President Farzana Hassan, in Farzana Hassan, "Heritage Canukistan?," [investigativeproject.org](http://www.investigativeproject.org), 23 March 2009, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/1011/heritage-canukistan>. The response to Hassan, by Centre for Faith and the Media Executive Director Richelle Wiseman, "On the vapour trails of rumour," 2 April 2009, is available at that URL, as a posting to the Hassan article. Long-time Canadian intelligence and counterterrorism commentator David B. Harris offers an unsparing reaction - some of it based on first-hand experience - to Wiseman's response, and comments on the way in which Wiseman's defence has predictably been leveraged as cover by the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CAN) and CAIR-CAN's Executive Director, Mr. Ihsaan Gardee: David B. Harris, "Fronts, Dupes and Doublespeak: The Strange Case of CAIR-CAN ... and Its Friend," pointdebasculecanada.ca, 15 July 2009, <http://pointdebasculecanada.ca/spip.php?article1142>.

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¹⁴ Muslim Canadian Congress, "MCC shocked at OHRC decision to trumpet Islamist cause," [muslimcanadiancongress.org](http://www.muslimcanadiancongress.org), 9 April 2008, <http://www.muslimcanadiancongress.org/20080410.pdf>.

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