

You deserve a factual look at . . .

## The Truth About the Muslim Brotherhood

**Is it a moderate Egyptian party committed to democracy . . .  
or a jihadist group seeking to create an Islamist empire?**

Many Western pundits claim the Muslim Brotherhood has little power and simply wants to play a peaceful role in Egyptian democracy. But what do the Muslim Brotherhood's history and its leaders' pronouncements tell us? Is their goal to create a free democratic system . . . or is it to hijack democracy in the service of an autocratic Islamist revolution?

### What are the facts?

Founded in Egypt in 1928, the Muslim Brotherhood has been an immensely powerful force in Middle East politics, now boasting chapters in 80 countries. Its mission statement: "Allah is our objective; the Quran is our constitution, the Prophet is our leader; Jihad is our way; and death for the sake of Allah is the highest of our aspirations."

The Brotherhood's founder, Hassan al-Banna, stated that the group's goal was to assert Islam's manifest destiny and create an empire governed by Islamic religious law and unified in an autocratic caliphate. He claimed "It is in the nature of Islam to dominate, not to be dominated, to impose its law on all nations and to extend its power to the entire planet."

In 1948, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood assassinated the Egyptian Prime Minister, and the group has been banned in Egypt since 1954, after it attempted to assassinate Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. A Brotherhood splinter group assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

The Muslim Brotherhood's most influential leader was Sayyid Qutb, a racist, anti-Semite, misogynist and hater of the United States. His pro-Islamist and anti-Western hatred had enormous influence on Ayman Zawahiri, who went on to become a key mentor of Osama bin Laden and is today the number-two leader of al-Qaeda.

**Despite its murderous history, the Muslim Brotherhood claims** to have renounced violence—but it makes notable exceptions, including approval of terrorist acts by its Palestinian wing, Hamas, whose charter calls for the murder of Jews and the obliteration of Israel. What's more, former Muslim Brotherhood Supreme Commander Muhammed Madhi Akef declared he was "prepared to send 10,000 jihad fighters immediately to fight at the side of Hezbollah" during the Lebanese terrorist group's 2006 war against Israel.

Given its history of murder and warlike declarations, the Brotherhood's claim to non-violence rings false. Consider finally a September 2010 sermon by Muslim Supreme Guide Muhammed Badi, who explained that the "change that the [Muslim] nation seeks can only be attained through jihad . . . by raising a jihadi generation that pursues death just as our

enemies pursue life."

**Many commentators assert that the Brotherhood is a weak fringe group**—yet the facts contradict this. Despite the Brotherhood's illegal status in Egypt, it is immensely influential—controlling the country's main lawyers and physicians associations and numerous welfare organizations. In the 2005 election, even under intense persecution by the Mubarak regime, the group's "independent" candidates won 20 percent of the seats in parliament. Indeed, the Muslim Brotherhood is the best-organized, best financed political

group in Egypt, second only to Mubarak's deposed ruling party.

We know that the Bolsheviks in Russia, Nazis in Germany, Islamists in Iran, and Hamas in the disputed Palestinian territories all started

**"It is in the nature of Islam . . . to impose its law on all nations and to extend its power to the entire planet."**

out as minority parties whose rise to power during political upheaval began democratically and ended in dictatorship—following the insidious pattern of "one man, one vote, one time." Given the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamist philosophy and goals, we can expect the same in Egypt, now or in the next few years.

**How would the Brotherhood govern if it came to power?** In 2006, the Muslim Brotherhood demanded that Egypt develop nuclear weapons. Recently a Brotherhood leader told interviewers that the Egyptian peace treaty with Israel would be abolished as soon as a provisional government is formed and that Egypt should prepare for war with Israel.

While Christians make up 10 percent of the Egyptian population and are already victims of discrimination and violent attacks, rule by the Brotherhood would be a nightmare, diminishing their rights to worship publicly or hold high office. As for women, the Brotherhood insists that they be segregated, their bodies completely covered in public, and that girls undergo genital mutilation.

To assess the Muslim Brotherhood's commitment to democracy, we should heed the words of its Spiritual Leader Yusuf al-Qaradawi, who maintains that "The civilizational-jihadist process . . . is a kind of grand jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within and 'sabotaging' its miserable house . . . so that it is eliminated and God's religion is made victorious over all other religions."

*While some pundits minimize the Muslim Brotherhood's threat, there's no doubt that the group fanatically opposes the United States, Israel and Western values, or that it will use both democratic and violent means to defeat them. Nor should we doubt that the Brotherhood is a powerful, well-organized political force that, if given enough power, would use it to crush the democratic process and turn Egypt into an anti-Western, fundamentalist Islamic state. Can we afford this risk?*

This message has been published and paid for by

# FLAME

Facts and Logic About the Middle East  
P.O. Box 590359 ■ San Francisco, CA 94159  
Gerardo Joffe, President

FLAME is a tax-exempt, non-profit educational 501 (c)(3) organization. Its purpose is the research and publication of the facts regarding developments in the Middle East and exposing false propaganda that might harm the interests of the United States and its allies in that area of the world. Your tax-deductible contributions are welcome. They enable us to pursue these goals and to publish these messages in national newspapers and magazines. We have virtually no overhead. Almost all of our revenue pays for our educational work, for these clarifying messages, and for related direct mail.

124

To receive free FLAME updates, visit our website: [www.factsandlogic.org](http://www.factsandlogic.org)