# MEMRI Latest News:

Posted: Thursday, March 21, 2002
**Special Dispatch No. 358: The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood Presents New Suicide Bombers Unit at Al-Azhar University**

The Lebanese daily Al-Mustaqbal, which is owned by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Al-Hariri, recently published an exclusive on a Muslim Brotherhood demonstration at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, during which the new "Martyrdom Organization" (in Arabic, "Tanzim Al-Istishadiyun") was introduced.(1) Following are excerpts of the article:

"A group of members of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, which is banned in Egypt, revealed for the first time? that it is secretly training some of its young people to carry out combat operations. The Muslim Brotherhood presented eight of them [March 18, 2002] to hundreds of demonstrators at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, and stressed that they were preparing for the 'struggle against Israel.'"

"The students who belong to the [Muslim] Brotherhood movement organized a demonstration at Al-Azhar University in support of the Palestinian Intifada, like those held at various Egyptian universities."

"The Muslim Brotherhood offered the Al-Mustaqbal daily exclusive coverage of the demonstration, saying it would be 'different than all previous demonstrations.'"

"Some 1,000 students heard a speech, via cellular phone, by Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, who congratulated the Egyptian students for their activities."

"Eight of the young students appeared with their faces covered by a black cloth, and on their heads were red bands upon which was written, 'Jihad is our way.'"

"The eight demonstrated martial arts? karate and judo and their ability to break boards, free hostages from their captors, and carry out surprise attacks against armed soldiers? The demonstration lasted for half an hour, and was accompanied by loudspeakers [broadcasting] a song praising Hamas, to the exultation of the students. Finally, after removing their face coverings and changing their clothes, the eight dissolved into the crowd."

"Al-Mustaqbal managed to interview one of the eight? who said that he was 'one of the first of the martyrs [suicide bombers] to choose to die in order to defend the Muslim Palestinian people.'"

"When asked whether this [the demonstration] was a provocation to the Egyptian authorities, and whether this implies that the Muslim Brotherhood is choosing a return to domestic violence, he answered: 'Our preparations are directed only against the Israeli enemy. We support Fatah, Hamas, [Islamic] Jihad, and the other factions of the Palestinian resistance. We want only to liberate Palestine.

We do not permit the blood of Muslims, and therefore we will not carry out domestic violence?"

Endnote:

(1) Al-Mustaqbal (Lebanon), March 19, 2002.

Posted: Wednesday, March 20, 2002

**Special Dispatch No. 357: Editor of Saudi Government Daily Al-Riyadh: Statement on 'Purim' Blood Libel Articles**

Following MEMRI's recent reports on antisemitism in the Saudi government daily Al-Riyadh (See MEMRI Special Dispatch 354 and MEMRI'S press release) - The Voice of America broadcast an official U.S. editorial calling upon Saudi Arabia and the Arab nations to "?stop newspapers and radio and television stations? from inciting hatred and violence against Jews."(1) On the same day, the editor of Al-Riyadh issued a statement, which was also sent to MEMRI, regarding the articles. Following is the Al-Riyadh editor's statement on the 'Purim' articles:

Al-Riyadh Editor-in-Chief Turki Al-Sudairi: 'News of Aggressive Incitement'

"I was out of Saudi Arabia when my colleague Hani Wafa called me and told me that an international news agency had picked up a news item about an article by an American journalist in the National Review publication that proposed dropping nuclear bombs on the city of Mecca, sacred to Muslims. Wafa asked me whether this news item was fit for publication. I asked him whether other agencies had picked up the same item, or [expressed] similar opinions, and he answered no. I was amazed that the next day all the Arab papers published this item, with no clarification that this was a private opinion?"

"I knew that publishing a hasty news item like this might lead to attacks on people, [although they] are not of the same opinion. Our role is not to distance others from us, but to reduce the distance from them - and arrive at mutual understanding, not shared hostility."

"Later I was surprised to receive a call from the manager of the Al-Riyadh office in New York, my colleague Ahmad Al-Yami, who asked me who this Umayma Al-Jalahma was, and what she had written on March 10."

"I said that I would give him an answer in a few hours, but what was the reason for all these questions? He said that some American authorities had called to verify whether Al-Riyadh had published an article stating that Jews drink human blood and mix it into their food on what Al-Jalahma called the holiday of 'Purim.'"

"I checked the article and found it not fit for publication because it was not based on scientific or historical facts, and it even contradicted the rituals of all the known religions in the world, including Hinduism and Buddhism."

"The information included in the article was no different from the nonsense always coming out in the 'yellow literature,' whose reliability is questionable."

"The understanding of this serious mistake escaped Ms. Al-Jalahma, as did the understanding that Jews everywhere in the world are one thing, while Jews belonging to the Zionist movement that acts to annihilate the Palestinians are something else, and completely different."

"In Israel itself there are moderate Jews such as Yisrael Shahak, who fought Zionist racism and exposed it in many of his studies. There are others like Shahak, and our dispute with phenomena such as Sharon must in no way cause us to generalize the emotions of hatred to all Jews."

"Furthermore, in principle, an idiotic and false news item regarding the use of human blood in the food of other human beings, whoever they may be, should not be published, since this does not exist in the world at all?"(2)

Another Article by Dr. Jalahma: 'The U.S. Should Expell The Jews'

Earlier this month, Dr. Umayma Jalahma wrote another article that appeared in Al-Riyadh. Following are excerpts:

"Perhaps my words will be presented as racist and antisemitic by some who forget that I myself am a Semite, a daughter of Arabia. Therefore, it would be prudent for me to intersperse in my column quotes from

Westerners regarding our neighbor - a neighbor who settled next to us against our will, plundering our land, murdering our youth, deporting our children, and burning our homes."

"I will quote men who have earned the esteem of their peoples, and indeed, the esteem of other peoples as well...:"

"First, George Washington, 'The Father of the Nation,' as the Americans call him. He said the following about the Jews: 'The destructive influence of the Jews over our lives and future is greater than the danger of all our enemies' armies combined. Indeed, this [Jewish danger is hundreds of times more serious and more destructive to our liberty and to the cause to which we are dedicated. What sorrows and pains [me] is that considerable time has passed, but our states, or at least each state on its own, have not attempted to fight and annihilate the Jews - even though [the Jews] have proven to be a group of lethal insects who [pose] the gravest of dangers to the U.S. and its security.'"

"This is frank and candid testimony that is not open to [different] interpretations. It was delivered by the first president of the U.S. I do not believe there is a single person in America who doubts the integrity of this man."

"Second, the statesman Benjamin Franklin.(3) What did Franklin have to say about the Jews? I submit to you some of the things he said during the 1789 [sic] convention for the declaration of the American constitution:"

"'I fully support the positions of General Washington, whose aim is to protect this young nation from all the treacherous conspiracies being plotted against it by its only enemy - and I mean, gentlemen, the Jew. In every country in which the Jews have settled, moral values have completely deteriorated, and anarchy, irresponsibility, and deceit in commercial transactions have become widespread. The Jews have mocked the values of our Christian religion, upon which our country was founded, while ignoring our rules altogether. This way, they have succeeded in creating a country of their own within our country. They are notorious for employing all financial measures necessary to strangle a country in which the first signs of resistance [to the Jews] appear. If you do not expel them from our country, in 200 years our grandchildren will become slaves in their fields, while they, the Jews, will remain in their homes, gleefully rubbing their hands, awaiting their payment. I warn you, gentlemen, that if you do not make haste and expel the Jews from our country today and forever, your children will curse you in your graves. The Jews are a danger to this country, and I stress the need to deport them and prevent them from entering or staying, through an explicit clause in this constitution.'"(4)

Endnotes:

(1) AFP, March 19, 2002.

(2) Al-Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), March 19, 2002, http://server1.alriyadh.com.sa/leqa/leqa.asp.

(3) For more information on this topic see MEMRI Special Dispatch 339.

(4) Al-Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), March 2, 2002.

Posted: Thursday, March 14, 2002

**Special Dispatch No. 356: Egyptian Government Daily Praises the Martyrdom Attack on Jerusalem Cafe: 'A Heroic Operation'**

A recent editorial in the Egyptian government-sponsored daily Al-Akhbar, titled "Advice to General Zinni on his New Mission,"(1) read:

"The heroic operation carried out by the military arm of the Hamas movement, the 'Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam Brigades, in West Jerusalem is an important turning point in Palestinian resistance activities."

"This is because it was 50 meters away from the official residence of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, in one of the most [heavily] defended areas in Israel. This means that the resistance movements have developed and are capable of striking painfully at Israel, even close to the homes of the leaders of the bloodthirsty Israeli regime."

"Maybe this operation did not [cause] the most bloodshed, but the important point here is the site where it was carried out. The target was a well-known café near Sharon's residence. This was a direct message to the Israeli leadership: The Palestinians, who have nothing to lose, are capable of making horror, the Israelis' daily bread."

"This message has two parts. The first part is that if Israel can get to Arafat and turn his Gaza headquarters to ruins, the resistance can reach the residence of the blood-shedder Sharon. The second part of the message is that there is no safe place left for Israelis?"

"Despite this picture, Sharon still, in his stupidity, persists with a military solution, continuing to attack while disregarding all international counsel. Thus, the region has entered an equation with only two solutions: Either Sharon succeeds in setting off the powder keg in the Middle East, or influential international bodies, led by the U.S., the E.U., and Russia, intervene to stop the insane Israeli war?"

"We hope that the Bush administration will translate [into practice] the positive declarations stating that Sharon's terrorist attacks on the Palestinian people will lead only to more bloodshed. Everyone understands that President Mubarak's efforts have made Bush aware of the failure of the [non-intervention] strategy he declared when he took office?"

"But the dangerous state the conflict has reached proves the justice of President Mubarak's approach: He warned of the possibility that the conflict could get out of control and threaten not only the Middle East but also international security and peace."

"We hope that Zinni?will keep this advice in mind."

Endnote:

(1) Al-Akhbar (Egypt), March 12, 2002.

**Special Dispatch No. 355: Egyptian Government Weekly: The U.S., Israel, and Turkey "The True Axis of Evil"**

In the Egyptian government weekly Al-Ahram of March 7-13, columnist Galal Nassar explains that the real 'axis of evil' is not Iran, Iraq, and North Korea, but the strategic relationship of the U.S., Israel, and Turkey. Following are excepts of the article:

The U.S. - Turkish Plans to Carve Up Iraq and Then Iran

"Standing at the doorsteps of the White House, following an audience with U.S. President George W. Bush last month, Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit proudly announced that Turkey is now a 'global' force. Turkey is now an established partner in the U.S. efforts to rearrange international politics, fight terror, and smother the evil threesome of Iraq, Iran and North Korea. But evil is in the eye of the beholder. For Arabs and Middle Easterners in general, the emerging security pact of the United States, Israel, and Turkey holds woeful consequences."

"Turkey is still facing a grinding economic crisis. Still, the Ecevit-Bush talks were only marginally concerned with such minor bilateral issues. Rather, the two men focused on momentous international tasks, on regions where the United States intends to make a move or two, get the global chessboard sorted out, and generally make life easier for itself and those ready to play along."

"Turkey is more than ready. Ankara will lead the international forces after the end of the UK command mandate in Afghanistan. It has a finger in other global pies: Central Asia, the Middle East, the Mediterranean, the Balkans, Cyprus, the Aegean Sea, the Caucasus plateau, the oil of the Caspian Sea. And just out of the oven, the main course in this sumptuous global banquet is the joint offensive against Iraq."

"Plans for an imminent offensive against Saddam Hussein's regime are afoot. Ecevit reviewed these plans during his Washington visit. Military planners envisage supplying the 70,000 Kurdish fighters in northern Iraq, and the smaller force of irregular fighters in southern Iraq, with weapons and money and sending them against Saddam Hussein, with aerial U.S. support. In a later stage, U.S. Special Forces and columns of Turkish tanks would march on Baghdad?"

"Bush and Ecevit seem to have finalized plans for a joint offensive against Baghdad. They are likely to have discussed ways of imposing a strategic military, economic, and political blockade on Tehran. That is two-thirds of the axis of evil taken care of. North Korea can be left to the devices of closer neighbors in the Asia-Pacific Rim."

An Axis of Evil in the Making: U.S. - Turkey - Israel

"What we have here is not an axis of evil under attack; rather, what we have is an axis of evil in the making. Cooperation among the United States, Israel and Turkey has been sharpened through successive security and military agreements. Turkey’s role is central to the plans of this axis. It is the thin end of the wedge that can take the axis to places it could not have gone, at least not so easily. Turkey, with its Islamic creed, secular constitution, imperial history and European location, can act as a primary scalpel in the reconstructive surgery the United States envisages for the Middle East. It is a role Turkey has been auditioning for for some time through its previous cooperation agreements with Israel. The distinctive feature of Turkish foreign policy right now is its desire to promote its national interests, even at the expense of its traditional loyalties and historic commitments."

"The conflict between secularism and fundamentalism within Turkey has made it a model for historic contradictions. The rivalry between secularists and traditionalists, between state institutions and conventional loyalties, is not new to the region. But it has assumed a heightened urgency in Turkey, where the Islamist Refah Party has once made a successful bid for the country’s government?"

Turkey’s Campaign Against Syria, Iran, & Iraq Alarms the Arabs

"Turkey, situated at the edge of the world’s arguably most industrialized continent on earth, seems ready to sacrifice its entire Islamic and Arab links for a geopolitical/military threesome with the United States and Israel. The army, patron of the Turkish constitution, is an active supporter of these new strategic bonds. Turkey’s military institution played a key role in consolidating ties with Israel. Senior military commanders have actively sponsored training and cooperation programs with Israel. These same commanders are now spearheading the campaign against Syria, Iran, and Iraq; their pretext being that all of these countries support the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and its perceived ’terror.’"

"The implications of the Turkish-Israeli-U.S. axis are alarming for the Arabs. Turkey is the wild card that can effectively upset the regional odds. Let us look at the agreements, security arrangements and plans that have so far been forged by the United States, Turkey and Israel. The essence of the security cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel, and the earlier military cooperation agreement between Turkey and Israel, reflect changes in the U.S. strategy in the Middle East... Israel, Turkey and the United States are holding periodic naval drills in the Mediterranean, the latest of which was a few days ago, following Ecevit’s visit to Washington. Arab countries, while monitoring such actions closely, are making little secret of their displeasure."

The Arab and Iranian Position

"From the Arab and Iranian point of view, this is the new ’axis of evil,’ for it presents a direct threat to Arab and Iranian national security. The threat could not have been worse-timed, for it comes at one of the lowest points of the Middle East peace process. The Turkish-Israeli-U.S. axis opens the Turkish aerial space to the Israeli air force. It can thus provide Israel with a chance to attack any country in the Arab region, particularly next-door Syria and Iraq. Iran, mindful of the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, cannot miss the significance of such arrangement for the safety of its own nuclear installations and arms industry."

"The new axis aims to encircle the Middle East from the north. Israel has been making parallel efforts to encircle the region from the south, through cooperation with Eritrea, Ethiopia and other African states. This sits well with the new Israeli security doctrine. It also interlocks nicely with other security pacts being forged in Central Asia, the Caspian Sea, and the Indian subcontinent, in which other regional players, such as India, the interim government in Kabul, and a number of Central Asian countries, are involved?"

Arab - Iranian Ties Must Be Bolstered

"How would the Arabs, and Iran, get out of this fix? There is a number of ways. One is to bolster Arab-Iranian ties. There are signs that closer ties are developing between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria on one hand, and the Iranians on the other. An Egyptian-Syrian-Iranian-Gulf axis may emerge to confront the Israeli-Turkish-U.S. one. Egypt and other Arab countries have agreed to attend the Islamic summit in Tehran. Iranian officials are regularly exchanging visits with officials of several Arab countries, particularly Abu Dhabi."

"A second line of defense is to appeal to Turkey's cultural heritage; that is, to persuade it that its historic bonds and traditional loyalties matter. Arab pressures may range from moral persuasion to a collective boycott of Turkish goods and economic interests."

"The Arabs and Iran may also be tempted to play the Kurdish card. Syria, Iraq, and Iran all have leverage in the Kurdish question and can use it to reach some understanding with Turkey. This prospect is perhaps the reason why Turkish military commanders are so eager to get into Iraq and eliminate this bargaining chip for good. There is more to the prospective invasion of Iraq than meets the eye." (1)

Endnote:

(1)www.ahram.org.eg/weekly, 7-13 March 2002.

Posted: Wednesday, March 13, 2002
**Special Dispatch No. 354: Saudi Government Daily: Jews Use Teenagers' Blood for 'Purim' Pastries**

In an article published by the Saudi government daily Al-Riyadh,(1) columnist Dr. Umayma Ahmad Al-Jalahma of King Faysal University in Al-Dammam, wrote on "The Jewish Holiday of Purim." Following are excerpts of the article:

Special Ingredient For Jewish Holidays is Human Blood From Non-Jewish Youth

"I chose to [speak] about the Jewish holiday of Purim, because it is connected to the month of March. This holiday has some dangerous customs that will, no doubt, horrify you, and I apologize if any reader is harmed because of this."

"During this holiday, the Jew must prepare very special pastries, the filling of which is not only costly and rare - it cannot be found at all on the local and international markets."

"Unfortunately, this filling cannot be left out, or substituted with any alternative serving the same purpose. For this holiday, the Jewish people must obtain human blood so that their clerics can prepare the holiday pastries. In other words, the practice cannot be carried out as required if human blood is not spilled!!"

"Before I go into the details, I would like to clarify that the Jews’ spilling human blood to prepare pastry for their holidays is a well-established fact, historically and legally, all throughout history. This was one of the main reasons for the persecution and exile that were their lot in Europe and Asia at various times."

"This holiday [Purim] begins with a fast, on March 13, like the Jewess Esther who vowed to fast. The holiday continues on March 14; during the holiday, the Jews wear carnival-style masks and costumes and overindulge in drinking alcohol, prostitution, and adultery. This holiday has become known among Muslim historians as the "Holiday of Masks."

## How the Jews Drain the Blood From Their Young Victims

"Who was Esther, and why the Jews sanctify her and act as she did, I will clarify in my article next Tuesday,(2) Allah willing. Today, I would like to tell you how human blood is spilled so it can be used for their holiday pastries. The blood is spilled in a special way. How is it done?"

"For this holiday, the victim must be a mature adolescent who is, of course, a non-Jew - that is, a Christian or a Muslim. His blood is taken and dried into granules. The cleric blends these granules into the pastry dough; they can also be saved for the next holiday. In contrast, for the Passover slaughtering, about which I intend to write one of these days, the blood of Christian and Muslim children under the age of 10 must be used, and the cleric can mix the blood [into the dough] before or after dehydration."

## The Actions of the Jewish Vampires Cause Them Pleasure

"Let us now examine how the victims’ blood is spilled. For this, a needle-studded barrel is used; this is a kind of barrel, about the size of the human body, with extremely sharp needles set in it on all sides. [These needles] pierce the victim’s body, from the moment he is placed in the barrel."

"These needles do the job, and the victim’s blood drips from him very slowly. Thus, the victim suffers dreadful torment - torment that affords the Jewish vampires great delight as they carefully monitor every detail of the blood-shedding with pleasure and love that are difficult to comprehend."

"After this barbaric display, the Jews take the spilled blood, in the bottle set in the bottom [of the needle-studded barrel], and the Jewish cleric makes his coreligionists completely happy on their holiday when he serves them the pastries in which human blood is mixed."

"There is another way to spill the blood: The victim can be slaughtered as a sheep is slaughtered, and his blood collected in a container. Or, the victim’s veins can be slit in several places, letting his blood drain from his body."

"This blood is very carefully collected - as I have already noted - by the ’rabbi,’ the Jewish cleric, the chef who specializes in preparing these kinds of pastries."

"The human race refuses even to look at the Jewish pastries, let alone prepare them or consume them!"(3)

Endnotes:

(1) In an October 24, 2001 online article, "Saudi mufti bans killing non-Muslims," the BBC referred to Al-Riyadh as a "government-controlled newspaper."

(2) In the second part of the article (March 12), the columnist tells the story of the Book of Esther and concludes, "Since then, the Old Testament, the Jewish holy book, requires the Jews to glorify this holiday and show their joy. This joy can only be complete with the consumption of pastries mixed with human blood."

(3) Al-Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), March 10, 2002.

Posted: Tuesday, March 12, 2002

**Special Dispatch No. 353: Al-Qa?ida Activist, Abu ’Ubeid Al Qurashi: Comparing Munich (Olympics) Attack 1972 to September 11**

In the fourth issue of the on-line publication "?Al-Anssar - For the Struggle Against the Crusader War,? columnist Abu ’Ubeid Al-Qurashi(1) wrote an article in which he compares the Munich operation to September 11.

Both September 11 and Munich ’72 Were Media Victories

"?Seemingly, the [Munich Olympics] operation failed because it did not bring about the release of the prisoners, and even cast a shadow of doubt on the justness of the Palestinian cause in world public opinion. But following the operation, and contrary to how it appeared [at first], it was the greatest media victory, and the first true proclamation to the entire world of the birth of the Palestinian resistance movement...?(2)

"In truth, the Munich operation was a great propaganda strike. Four thousand journalists and radio personnel, and two thousand commentators and television technicians were there to cover the Olympic games; suddenly, they were broadcasting the suffering of the Palestinian people.(3) Thus, 900 million people in 100 countries were witness to the operation by means of television screens. This meant that at least a quarter of the world knew what was going on in Munich; after this, they could no longer ignore the Palestinian tragedy.?

"The September 11 [operation] was an even greater propaganda coup. It may be said that it broke a record in propaganda dissemination? With few exceptions, the entire planet heard about it.?

"It appears that the Munich operation and the New York raid share some aspects and differ in others. From the international point of view, the Munich operation took place in a cold war atmosphere in which two world powers, America and the U.S.S.R., struggled against each other??

"However, the New York raid took place in a completely different international atmosphere. America had gained exclusivity in [world] leadership, and had, more than at any other time, revealed its tyranny, its contempt of others, and its aspiration to create facts on the ground??

September 11 Restored Arab and Islamic Glory

"While the Munich operation failed to accomplish its goals, the New York raid was very well planned, and accomplished its planners’ goals in full. It painfully challenged America, and was an unprecedented slap that had, and will still have, ramifications for the entire world. Unlike the Munich operation, which was limited and had limited national demands, the New York raid had broad goals and aspirations; it rang the bells of restoring Arab and Islamic glory? They did not aspire to gain Western sympathy; rather, they sought to expose the American lie and deceit to the peoples of the world - and first and foremost to the Islamic peoples??

Al-Qa?ida's and the Taliban's resistance to the crusader campaign? will doubtless go down in history as a model of war between unequal sides? Al-Qa?ida can take over the enemy's [technological] means and use them against him, while the enemy cannot do the same. The mujahedeen can do this because they have come to understand the enemy's mentality and how his society functions; yet the enemy has no way of deterring the believer or influencing his mentality.?

"After the Munich operation, the Western countries knew how to contain Palestinian rage, at least temporarily: they opened international diplomatic forums to the leaders of the resistance. The best proof of this is Arafat's visit to the U.N., and his speech to the General Assembly, a mere 18 months after the Munich operation. The flow of recognition of the PLO increased, and by the late 1970s 86 countries had recognized the PLO, as opposed to only 72 that recognized Israel.?

"In contrast, this time it is difficult to contain Islamic rage, because of the high threshold of the goals: completely and comprehensively eliminating Western colonialism in the Islamic region, and distancing the West once and for all from regional affairs??

"Some may think that the absence of international and regional support for Jihad, in contrast to past support for the [Palestinian] resistance, is a weak point [for the Jihad movement]. Yet the opposite is true. This fact exempts the mujahedeen from the need to offer any concessions, or to continually lower the threshold of their demands so that it leads to a fall -as happened to many resistance organizations that succumbed to the pitfalls of treachery and subjugation, and lost their principles??

September 11 Proves Muslim Superiority Over the West

"Some commentators maintain that the direct goals of the New York raid were shattering the idols in the mind of the peoples and arousing them from their slumber. This is indeed what happened. From the New York raid, it can be concluded:

* "No form of surveillance can provide early warning or permit rapid decision making. Even the Echelon satellite surveillance system, which cost billions of dollars? did not manage to stop the 19 mujahedeen wielding knives.

* "The Americans' marketing of the war is totally inefficient. America could not even find an acceptable name for the campaign. Neither 'Crusader War,' 'Absolute Justice,' or 'Infinite Justice' allowed the American propaganda apparatus to overcome the feelings of hatred for America. They could not even remove internal American qualms.

* "The Islamic nation is struggling against globalization, and it continues with its negative attitude towards Western rhetoric and explanations. The Westerners' rage increased once it became clear to them that [Muslims] could use the same computers that they did without espousing the same values. Against all their assessments, [Islamic] culture cannot be shattered by technology.

* "The West ignores the power of faith. Western civilization, which is based on the information

revolution, cannot distance the Muslims from the Koran. The book of Allah brings to the hearts of Muslims a faith deeper than all the utopian descriptions and than the [lies] of the tyrannical Western propaganda machine.

* "Symbols never lose their value. Sheikh Osama [bin Laden] has become a symbol for the repressed from the four corners of the Earth - even for non-Muslims.

* "The Western propaganda machine’s size did not keep it from being defeated by Sheikh Osama with what resembled a judo move. The aggressive Westerners became accustomed to observing the tragedies of others - but on September 11 the opposite happened?"

History Will Prove September 11 Justified

"There are data attesting to the importance of the Munich operation in the history of the resistance movement, and the extent of its influence on the entire world. It is known that a direct consequence of this operation was that thousands of young Palestinians were roused to join the fedayeen organizations? The number of organizations engaging in international ’terror’ increased from a mere 11 in 1968 to 55 in 1978. Fifty-four percent of these new organizations sought to imitate the success of the Palestinian organization - particularly the publicity the Palestinian cause garnered after Munich.?

"This increase in ’terror’ activity after Munich will doubtless recur, particularly if we take into account that the New York raid was a political, economic, and military disaster for America, 10 times greater than that of the Munich operation... It will gradually give rise to an all-out struggle against the American crusader campaign which, if it continues to spread, will strike at the heart of America."(4)

Endnotes:

(1) According to the London Arabic-language daily Al-Quds Al-Arabi, Al-Qurashi is a bin Laden activist, and Al-Anssar is published by Al-Qa’ida. The London daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat also identified Al-Qurashi as one of bin Laden’s top aides.

(2) Abu Iyad with Eric Rouleau, My Home and My Land: A Narrative of the Palestinian Struggle (New York: Times Books, 1981). Footnote in original article.

(3) John K. Cooley, Black September: The Story of the Palestinian Arabs (London: Frank Cass). Footnote in original article.

(4) Al-Anssar February 27, 2002.

Posted: Friday, March 08, 2002

**Special Dispatch No. 352: Egyptian-American Writer: The Egyptian Regime Encourages Persecution of Christian Copts**

Recently, an Egyptian writer living in New York City wrote a critical account of the Egyptian government’s treatment of its Christian Coptic minority, in the Arabic-language London daily "Al-Quds Al-Arabi." Following are excerpts of the article:

"?On February 10, 2002, the news agencies reported attacks on Copts in a village in the Al-Minia district. Copts' homes, cars, and churches were burned, and 10 Copts were hurt? I would like to analyze the reasons why this scenario of attacks on Copts has been repeated time and again, from the Al-Khanka incident of 1972 to the most recent occurrence? "

"1. Lack of a clear penal policy: In self-respecting societies, there is no dialogue or compromise whatsoever with a criminal who commits an act punishable by law. Yet in Egypt? the real criminal ends up going free, and the ones brought to trial are youths against whom the judge has no evidence whatsoever? All this, when everyone knows who really committed the crimes - not one of whom, for some unknown reason, is brought to trial or punished."

"2. Equal treatment for attacker and attacked: Since President Sadat's espousal of the accursed policy of equalizing [the attacker with the attacked] - which developed into claims about [clashes between] 'extremists from both sides,' our lives became a nightmare. By what logic, law, or religion is the attacker compared to the attacked? After every brutal attack on the Copts come arrests of groups from both sides; this show ends in the victim relinquishing his rights? This means that the state is not neutral, and it encourages crime against the Copts."

"3. Rewarding the aggressor...: Every time, the state rewards the extremists for their crimes instead of punishing them. Thus, the extremists manage to impose their will. In the village of Al-Timsahiya, in the Assyut district, when the [Muslim] mob went wild because of the height of a church, it was agreed to make the mosque's minaret higher so that it would be taller than the church. In exchange for rebuilding the church [destroyed by a Muslim mob] in the recent attack, the housing minister launched a fundraising campaign for the construction of a mosque."

"Why should they [the Muslim mob] refrain from running wild if it ends in the burning of Christian homes and churches, while at the same time they accomplish their goal [building a mosque]?"

"I should note that I am not opposed to making mosques taller. As far as I'm concerned, they can reach the sky. What worries me is that this is done in surrender to the will of the extremists, and constitutes an improper reward for the aggressor."

"4. Oppressive, arbitrary laws: Clearly, the laws for establishing Christian houses of worship in Egypt are oppressive and unconstitutional. Because of this injustice, the Christians have paid dearly, in blood and property, for attempts to establish houses of worship?"

"5. Government behavior that fosters extremism: When the government destroys a four-story church in Shubra Al-Khayma - which angered President Mubarak, who ordered it rebuilt at state expense although more than a year had passed since the incident; when, a few months ago, that same government destroys the walls and foundations of the Al-'Ubur Church; when the government prevents the Church of the Virgin in Al-Zeytoun from being made higher on the pretext that it would interfere with air traffic - although the church is quite far from the airport (!); when it builds a mosque in the middle of the road in Al-'Abbasiya so that it faces the cathedral; when the government thinks with this kind of mentality - what signals does it send to the [Muslim] mob?"

"6. The Embracing Show: The Egyptian government maintains that the Copts should be satisfied and thank God for gestures that are a great honor for them. What is the matter with this Coptic greed?! Isn't it enough for them when the sheikhs embrace the priests in front of the television cameras?? After all this, they whine about the burning of a few houses, the destruction of a church, and a few people wounded or murdered when a church is opened or rebuilt?! We [i.e. Muslim Egyptians] have a philosophy according to which we burn the Copts' homes and churches and then apologize to their clerics?. Be grateful to Allah that we do not annihilate you!"

"7. Interest in image, disregard of essence: All that interests the Egyptian regime is its image abroad; the facts on the ground are a secondary issue. To this end, the regime recruits businessmen to take out advertisements in leading American and European newspapers on various occasions, to say that all is well. It launches delegations at the expense of the Egyptian foreign ministry and with funds from the Coptic taxpayer to say that everything is just fine and we have come to establish a cultural dialogue!! They deny the known facts and disseminate words of deceit. Unfortunately for them, since September 11 these methods are of limited effect?"

"8. The renovation and rebuilding tax: For every attempt to build or rebuild a church, Copts must pay in lives and property, even though they have building permits. In July 2000, Coptic citizen Fakhri 'Iyad paid with his life for his attempt to build a church in the village of Sol in Al-Fayyoum district. The same thing happened in August 2000, at the Qasr Rashwan Church in Al-Fayyoum. The church was attacked, then seven (Coptic) homes were attacked. Four people were wounded. Thus, while a church is being renovated, some Coptic homes are burned in exchange, or people pay with their lives."

"9. Recurring rituals: Special rituals have begun to emerge in all attacks on Copts. One of these is incitement against the 'infidel Copts' from the mosques' loudspeakers? Likewise, the security apparatuses are soft on the aggressors, and collaborate with them. Furthermore, telephone lines are cut so that no calls for help are possible. An additional ritual is blaming the Christians for provoking the Muslims - [as if] it were they who started the attacks. By God, how can a church bell calling people to prayer every week constitute provocation of Muslims? Is the mere existence of the Copt also a provocation?"

"10. [Conclusion]: I read that an American commentator wrote that during the Sadat era, an understanding was formed between Egypt and Saudi Arabia regarding the elimination of the Christian presence - primarily Egypt's Copts - in the Middle East. This understanding expanded after Sadat's death. Sadat himself is quoted as saying [he intended] to make the Copts bootblacks and beggars."

"So, Saudi Arabia provided financial backing for religious radicalism in Egypt. Unfortunately, three decades later? Egypt has become the largest exporter of extremist sheikhs? The Saudi funds helped paint Egyptian life in the colors of religious extremism."

"In conclusion, I will say openly that the state is mistaken, and everyone in Egypt is mistaken, if they think that encouraging the majority to persecute the minority will lead to the submission of the Copts. This behavior will lead to collective suicide, and the destruction of Egypt?"(1)

Endnote

(1) Al-Quds Al-Arabi (London), March 7, 2002.

Posted: Tuesday, March 05, 2002

**Inquiry and Analysis No. 88: Egyptian Press: 'Since Egyptian Gays Have No Rights, Their Rights Need No Defense'**

In 2001, Egyptian authorities carried out wide-scale arrests of members of "homosexual organizations" the arrested were tried, convicted, and sentenced to prison. Another wave of arrests took place in January 2002. Recently, French composer and multimedia artist Jean Michel Jarre, who produced the opera celebration of the millennium at the Great Pyramids, spearheaded a protest action against the arrests. The protest was joined by many French celebrities. Jarre also declared his intentions to discuss gay rights with Egyptian leaders.

A few days later, Egyptian film producer Yusef Shaheen told AFP that he supported Jarre's activities and explained that whenever the Egyptian authorities find themselves in political or economic trouble, they contrive a moral scandal to cover their failures. Since then, Jarre, Shaheen, and homosexuality itself have been the object of harsh criticism by the Egyptian press.

The Perverts Must Be Investigated

Muhammad Abd Al-Mun'im Murad, a columnist for the Egyptian government daily Al-Akhbar, wrote, "I do not know why this perversion [homosexuality] has spread so conspicuously, either here in Egypt or globally... What is regrettable is that this distressing phenomenon is accompanied by campaigns. . . defending the perverts' right to do as they wish with their bodies?"

"A man must remain a man, and a woman must remain a woman. Each gender is entitled by Islamic religious law to protect the [nature] of the sex Allah made him or her. . ."

"Similarly, Egyptians see procuring between an active and a passive pervert or procuring between a man and a woman for the purpose of sexual perversion and for depravity as one of the most loathsome acts of which anyone can be accused. People who have in the past found themselves imprisoned [in Egypt] were stunned by the depravity committed by the perverts, both secretly and openly. Those accused of sex crimes and vice are the lowest of the low [in prison], and they are treated worse than murderers, thieves, swindlers, counterfeiters, or burglars. Crimes of sexual perversion are the worst a man can commit in the eyes of conservative Egyptians. . . A man must remain a man. Moreover, the quality of manliness is connected in peoples' consciousness with honor, morality, and loyalty... The causes of the spread of this perversion in our country must be investigated."(1)

The West's Defense of These Perverts Causes Nausea and Repulsion In Egyptians

Al-Akhbar columnist Suniya 'Abbas addressed Jarre directly: "Who are you to protest [the treatment of homosexuals in Egypt]? Who told you that perverts have rights in Egypt, that you should defend them?! Who told you we would accept your protest, or the protest of the entire world, and defend the perverts?! Who told you this protest would be echoed by any [Egyptian] official?!? Egypt permitted you to produce the millennium show, but it will not allow you to meddle with its legal rulings. Oh Mr. Jean, oh 'Frenchman': This is an Egyptian legal ruling, and it was handed down only after the evidence proved their guilt. This guilt arises from the monotheistic religion, and any reasonable, mentally balanced man who respects his religion and protects morality condemns this act. In short, your protest is religiously and morally unacceptable - even if you are a famous producer, as the papers claim!! Your fame will not increase, and you will earn no respect from the public because you defend the perverts. On the contrary - even if the West recognizes this deed [homosexuality] and grants rights to [its perpetrators], the countries of the East are revolted and shamed by it."(2)

Al-Akhbar columnist Wagih Abu Zikra wrote: "With nausea and repulsion, I have followed the news of the perverts arrested in the Al-Bouhayra district, and how the pathological report determined their guilt? What moral debasement has this group reached? What kind of people are they, with no religion, moral values, or honor? And yet there are people in the West who defend them - even hold a march in Paris in their honor, claiming human rights. What human? What rights?! I don't care what they say in the West? Where are human rights in all things regarding what is going on in Palestine?! Why aren't there demonstrations for the rights of the Palestinian child?!? Where are human rights in the Guantanamo detention camps?!?"(3)

Yusef Shaheen was the target of severe censure. Hisham Mubarak wrote in Al-Akhbar, "...I do not understand why Shaheen left his post behind the camera to become a political and economic commentator - as if we had any lack of commentators. [I do not understand why he] declared to the French news agency, after shedding traditional Egyptian dress and donning 'French' dress, that every time an economic problem crops up, they - meaning the Egyptians - try to hide it with a scandal that will inflame the people. . ."

"Excuse me, Brother Joe [i.e. 'Joseph' Shaheen]? If the government wanted to fabricate a scandal to conceal its economic failure, it would have looked for well-known individuals? instead of encountering new faces in the world of perversion, of whom we have never heard?"(4)

In the A'akhir Sa'a weekly, Hassan 'Allam also attacked Shaheen: "?Oh, the shame! When a man reaches old age, he usually turns to Allah [to ask forgiveness] for his sins? But Yusef Shaheen, aged 75, went to Paris so that the perverts 'would make use of him!"

"If you have no shame, Yusef Shaheen, do whatever you like. All monotheistic religions prohibit the perversion of homosexuality? but Yusef Shaheen has his own school of religious thought, and a religion different from the monotheistic religions. So he defends perverts, homosexuals, and lesbians."

"If Yusef Shaheen is a Christian, then I remind him that? both the Old and New Testaments include about 10 perfectly clear passages on this matter, most of which discuss penalties deterring the sin of the perversion."

"Perhaps the homosexuals find limited support in liberal Europe and therefore their voices rise? But in Egypt the situation is completely different, just as in the other Eastern cultures. We despise them, and they arouse our loathing and nausea."(5)

Shaheen did not receive support even from the Egyptian Human Rights Oraganization, which kept its distance from the cause of the imprisoned homosexuals. Hafez Abu Sa'deh, the organization's director, explained, "Egypt's human rights organizations cannot defend the perverts because we adhere to the values and traditions customary in Egypt. Furthermore, the laws are largely drawn from Islamic religious law. Thousands of people need the protection of the Egyptian human rights organizations, primarily in matters of violations of liberty? and it is fitting that we take it upon ourselves to handle these cases rather than defend those accused of perversion. If we support the perverts, the Egyptians will boycott, and be repulsed by, the human rights organizations."(6)

Leading Egyptian Government Officials and Scientists: 'Perverts, [namely homosexuals] Must Be Thrown Off Mountaintops, Killed, or Burned'

The Egyptian papers quoted numerous clerics and "scientists" who attempted to explain homosexuality. Sheikh Muhammad Abd Al-Magid Zaydan, of the Egyptian Ministry for Religious Endowment, discussed forms of punishment for homosexuality: "Despite Western criticism, imprisonment is not a severe enough punishment to deter these perverts. Islamic law states that they should be thrown from a high place. The clerics agreed that anyone who commits this abomination must be thrown off a mountaintop. Others maintain that the wall of a house should be knocked down on him."(7)

Dr. Abd Al-Hadi Misbah, a lecturer at Al-Azhar University’s faculty of medicine, took a "scientific" approach. "It is known that sexual perversion damages the anus, because Allah made the anus delicate in order to allow the passing of the things that exit from it. But during the perverted act, transfer of the microbes in the blood that comes out of the anus occurs. We, as men of medicine and religion, must base our defense of religion on science, because the West tries to destroy religion and justify such acts [homosexuality] with science. We must confront the research of the West with our own scientific studies that refute their false claims?"(8)

Dr. Sayyid Subhi, lecturer in psychiatry at Al-Azhar, added: "It is difficult to believe that the perverted behavior found someone to defend it? It is natural for a male to desire a female. Allah cursed the men who make themselves into women, and the women who make themselves into men, because the honor of [man], whom Allah created, is violated when a pervert attempts to carry out the idiocy of his perversion. Such a man makes himself into a female. Furthermore, a man of honor is one who fulfils the role of husband and father. If these perverts proliferate, the honor of the entire society will be violated, and the life [of the homosexual] will become valueless? These perverts are characterized by aggressiveness and destructiveness. We must pay attention to this risk. There are attempts by the media and the Internet to conduct missionary activity to promote these perverted acts. Efforts must be increased to caution our children against this accursed disease and to raise them on religious and moral values?"(9)

Dr. ’Ali Al-Sibki, lecturer on Islamic culture at Cairo University, presented the various approaches to executing homosexuals. "The wisdom of prohibiting homosexuality stems from the fact that the continuation of human propagation depends on the relationship between man and woman? For this reason, deviation from this behavior constitutes heresy, which requires the penalty set out by Islamic religious law? There is a [scholarly religious] dispute regarding how they should be killed: One opinion is that the penalty for fornication should be applied to homosexuals, as [the act involves] penetration of a bodily orifice prohibited by religious law? Another opinion is that the perpetrator of the deed, and the one to whom it is done, should be killed. A third opinion is that the homosexual should be burned? A fourth opinion is that he should be thrown from the highest wall, due to the loathsome nature of the deed."(10)

Endnotes:

(1) Al-Akhbar (Egypt), February 7, 2002.

(2) Al-Akhbar (Egypt), February 7, 2002.

(3) Al-Akhbar (Egypt), February 17, 2002.

(4) Al-Akhbar (Egypt), February 14, 2002.

(5) A’akhir Sa’a (Egypt), February 20, 2002.

(6) Al-Haqiqa (Egypt), February 16, 2002.

(7) Al-Haqiqa (Egypt), February 16, 2002.

(8) Al-Usb'u (Egypt), February 18, 2002.

(9) Al-Usb'u (Egypt), February 18, 2002.

(10) Al-Usb'u (Egypt), February 18, 2002.