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The fact the meeting took place at all was unusual. Somehow, the event had slipped beneath the radar screen of the “mainstream” organizations, who claimed to represent the U.S. Muslim population. These groups worked very hard to monitor U.S. government activities, and had a “war room” style operation to counter remarks about radical Islam wherever they appeared. They regularly smeared journalists and terrorism experts such as Steve Emerson as “anti-Muslim bigots” and “racists.” But Sheikh Mohammad Hisham Kabbani was a fellow Muslim, leader of the Islamic Supreme Council of America. Since 1992, just one year after he arrived in America from his native Lebanon, Sheikh Kabbani had crossed swords with these groups. Until now, however, the blows had fallen within the closeted confines of mosques and Arabic-language media.

The State Department invited Sheikh Kabbani to the Jan. 9, 1999 open forum on Islamic extremism precisely because they had learned he did not fear exposing the Saudi-backed Wahhabi lobby and their ties to terrorist groups that were killing Americans and Jews around the world. In his energetic presentation, wearing a scholarly robes, the white turbaned Kabbani warned U.S. officials that an organized effort was underway to hijack the Muslim community in America. It had been launched by Islamic extremists whose goals were totally incompatible with American values, and whose methods in many instances violated American law. These Saudi-backed Muslim organizations “are declaring war against anyone who will not go with them,” and had taken over “more than 80% of the mosques that have been established in the U.S.,” he said. The struggle for the soul of Muslim America that Kabbani had been waging in the dark for the past seven years burst out into the open in a public fireworks display.²⁷

Sheikh Kabbani traced the origin of extremist Islam to Muhammad ibn Abd-al Wahhab, the 18th century Saudi cleric whose name today comes frequently to the lips of Osama Bin Laden and the Saudi ruling family.

Wahhabism was “hijacking the mike” by pouring huge sums of money into the United States to establish mosques, non-profit foundations and lobbying groups. Groups that had been active for decades on U.S. campuses informing students about Islam had in recent years become the mouthpiece for extremists, thanks to Saudi money and directives. Many of these organizations also were collecting money from major Muslim donors “to send to extremists outside the United States,” he said. “They send it under humanitarian aid, but it doesn’t go to humanitarian aid.” Instead, most of the money was being used to buy weapons and to sponsor terror. “We want to tell you that the Muslim community as a whole is innocent from whatever extremism and extremist ideology is being spread” by such groups. “You are not hearing the authentic voice of Muslims, of moderate Muslims, but you are hearing the extremist voice of Muslims.”

The response from the organizations Kabbani had not yet denounced by name came soon enough. On Feb. 26, 1999, eight groups jointly issued a statement demanding that he retract “false and defamatory allegations” that “could have a profoundly negative impact on ordinary American Muslims.” The list of signatories formed the visible front end of the vast Wahhabi network in America, whose aim was to infiltrate and control American Islam.²⁸ They twisted and deformed Kabbani’s words until their meaning was unrecognizable, but the Lebanese Sufi imam was not surprised. Ever since Kabbani first began insisting that traditional Islam have a seat at the table of American Muslim institutions, he has been subjected to a pattern of vilification, discrimination and outright lies.

At times, the efforts by the Wahhabi lobby to discredit Kabbani, who was a descendent of the Prophet, were so petty they appeared ludicrous. In 1994, the Saudi-backed Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) rejected Kabbani’s request that they invite traditionalist Islamic scholars to address the annual ISNA convention. So instead, Kabbani rented a booth at the conference meeting hall to distribute Koranic literature and respond to questions from

visitors. Virtually the moment the booth opened, Kabbani's people were surrounded by ISNA security officers brandishing walkie-talkies, who demanded that they leave. ISNA Convention manager Hamid Ghazali eventually confessed pathetically: "Is it not enough that so many people are following you and that you are attracting everybody? Do you also need to have a booth?" ISNA's president said he could not allow Kabbani to distribute traditional Sufi Muslim literature at the conference "due to the source of ISNA's funding."²⁹

There was a serious reason behind the smear tactics. Moderate Muslim leaders such as Kabbani presented a threat to doctrine of hate being spread by the Wahhabi Lobby. At rallies and meetings over more than a decade across the United States, Saudi-financed groups have been drumming up support for terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad. They have been raising money from American Muslims and recruiting terrorists, according to the FBI. In 1989, at a convention in Kansas City, Missouri, they worked behind closed doors. Qatar-based Palestinian cleric Yousef al-Qaradawi addressed an enthusiastic crowd in Arabic: "Our hour of judgement will not come until you fight the Jews [and] kill them. Muslims, wherever they are, should actively participate in the battle." A veiled Palestinian commander stood up, waving the Hamas flag in one hand and the Koran in the other. "Greetings... from the occupied land," he began. Then he gave a report "describing in methodical detail Hamas terrorist attacks," that drew enthusiastic cheers from the crowd every time he provided bloody details of how they had killed Jews.³⁰

With a huge influx of cash from Saudi Arabia, leaders of the Wahhabi lobby have gone mainstream and have lost their fear. At an anti-Israel rally in front of the White House in October 28, 2000, American Muslim Council president Abdulrahman Alamoudi derided those in the press and in government who had failed to get the radical message cloaked beneath the slick lobbying campaigns in English. "I have been labeled by the media in New York to be a supporter of Hamas. Anybody supports Hamas here?" When the crowd burst

out with responsive cheers, he shouted: “Hear that, Bill Clinton? We are ALL supporters of Hamas. *Allahu Akbar!*”³¹ At the same rally – less than one year before September 11 – the president of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), Muzammil Sidiqi, added an open threat. “America has to learn... if you remain on the side of injustice, the wrath of God will come. Please, all Americans. Do you remember that? ... If you continue doing injustice, and tolerate injustice, the wrath of God will come.” By “injustice,” he meant U.S. support for Israel. His reference to terrorist attacks against the United States was crystal clear to his audience. The poison of Jew-hatred and violence was spreading like a cancer into the U.S. Muslim community. Sheikh Kabbani was one of the rare leaders who tried to stop it.

In 1998, an ISNA executive suggested that a foreign government was putting pressure on U.S. Muslim groups to prevent them from working with Kabbani’s traditionalist Islamic Supreme Council of America. There was no doubt to which government he was referring: it was the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.³² When Kabbani organized an “International Islamic Unity Conference” in Washington, DC in August, 1998, the pro-Saudi organizations launched an offensive to discourage other Muslim leaders from attending. They spread slanders accusing Kabbani of being a Mossad agent through the Internet and e-mail lists, including “to a huge number of Muslim individuals responsible for mosques and Islamic organizations.”³³ Speakers arriving from overseas told Kabbani they even had been discouraged from attending by an Immigration and Naturalization Service official at Dulles International Airport. “The agent explained that he was a Muslim convert and advised them not to attend, saying it was a “shirk” [idolators] conference and if they want to protect their faith they should not attend.” Just the word “shirk” is enough to instill fear in most Muslims, since idolatry is considered an unforgivable sin. The INS agent gave them the names and telephone numbers of two Islamic ‘scholars’ they could call for more information, both apparently affiliated with ISNA.³⁴ Would-be speakers from the United States told Kabbani they received phone calls “from

the embassy of one Muslim country,” threatening that “if they attended the Islamic Unity conference, their stipends from that nation’s Islamic organization would be cut.”³⁵

Efforts by the government of Saudi Arabia to control the Muslim community in America were already in full swing by the early 1980s, former U.S. diplomat and Muslim convert Dr. Robert Crane explains. Crane says he was approached in 1983 by the Saudi embassy in Washington to run a “cultural center” in the Watergate building. “I soon discovered that this was to be an intelligence operation designed to monitor and influence all the Muslims in America... The objective presumably was to prevent the growing Muslim community in America from opposing the policies and interests of the regime in Saudi Arabia and the private investments of its elites in America.” Crane witnessed a similar effort by the Saudi government “to fund, infiltrate, and control all of the national Muslim organizations” a decade later, when he founded and headed the Muslim American Bar Association. “Perhaps it is better that the full story not be told of the Wahhabi threat to America,” he concluded³⁶

But that full story is now beginning to emerge thanks to the work of a number of experienced investigators, whose work has given courage to moderate Muslim leaders to denounce the Saudi attempt to hijack American Islam, and to government officials who for years have feared retribution from paid agents of the government of Saudi Arabia if they tracked terrorist support networks in the United States.

Steven Emerson was the first to investigate terrorist groups on American soil that were operating under the cover of humanitarian and charitable organizations. His 1994 television documentary, “Jihad in America,” included clandestine footage of pro-terrorist conclaves in Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Chicago, and other American cities. In his latest book, Emerson draws a map of how these terrorist groups have spread across America

and “achieved a new level of coordination, owing to their exploitation of the civil liberties of the United States. None of these small national groups was ever able to coordinate its worldwide efforts with the others until they came to the United States.”³⁷

Thanks to the openness of U.S. society, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, the Islamic Salvation Front of Algeria, the Muslim Brothers in Egypt, the Jama’at Muslimeen of Pakistan and holy warriors from Chechnya to the Philippines have been able to work coordinate their activities, raise money together, spread propaganda and establish clandestine support cells that would ultimately serve the purposes of their most flamboyant avatar, Osama bin Laden. Most Americans will be astonished to learn that both Hamas and Islamic Jihad were created in the United States with financial support from Saudi Arabia, and for years used the United States as a support base. Internal Hamas documents “strongly suggest” that the 1988 Hamas charter, with its direct citation of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, was written in the United States by activists who were funded by the Wahhabi lobby³⁸. The terrorists were among us, and they were joined by two things: hatred of Jews, and utter contempt for the liberties enshrined in the American constitution that allowed them – literally – to get away with murder.

At the University of South Florida, a Palestinian professor of engineering named Osama (Sami) al-Arian had for years been operating as a U.S. base for Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a group which sees Israel and America “as two faces of the same coin.”³⁹ PIJ has claimed responsibility for the murder of hundreds of Jews and Americans. In 1986, al-Arian incorporated the Islamic Concern Project, also known as the Islamic Committee for Palestine (ICP), and a sister organization named the World Islam Studies Enterprise (WISE). The groups shared office space, a post office box, and interlocking directors.⁴⁰

One board member was a well-respected Palestinian academic named Khalil Shikaki, whose brother Fathi was the secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. In January 1993, the ICP magazine ran a full-length interview

with Fathi Shikaki, in which the acknowledged terrorist explained his goals of promoting Islam and murdering Jews. On Oct. 26, 1995, in what appeared to be the work of a Mossad hit squad, Fathi Shikaki was assassinated in Malta. Shortly afterwards, one of Sami al-Arian's closest colleagues "disappeared" from South Florida, reappearing in Damascus where he was proclaimed the new secretary general of Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Ramadan Abdallah Shallah had been an adjunct professor of Middle Eastern Studies at USF, the director of administration of WISE, and a board member of al-Arian's ICP⁴¹. Now he simply took off the mask he wore in America. At public events across America, al-Arian's ICP was raising money for Islamic Jihad, and signed up American Muslims as "sponsors" of Palestinian "martyrs." For revealing these connections, Emerson was accused of "Muslim bashing" and for launching a "McCarthyesque witch hunt."

On May 16, 2002, former Justice Department lawyer John Loftus filed a lawsuit against Sami al-Arian in the Circuit Court for Hillsborough County, alleging that the Saudis were using the Al-Arian network to launder money "for the support of terrorist groups in the Middle East."⁴² He cited an FBI videotape of Al-Arian watching an associate at a fund-raising event, while he "begged for \$500 to kill a Jew."⁴³ A previously classified FBI affidavit described in detail how "ICP has served as a vehicle by which PIJ has raised funds to support terrorist activities in the Occupied Territories."⁴⁴

"[T]he single largest source" of ICP funding came from "what appeared to be a public tax-exempt charity at 555 Grove Street, Herndon, Virginia, which transferred hundreds of thousands of dollars to [ICP] in Florida," Loftus asserted. The address was "used by four interrelated foundations, institutes and charities with more than a billion dollars of assets donated by or through agents of the Government of Saudi Arabia. Each year the 555 Grove street charities donated more than a million dollars to selected organizations such as [ICP] inside the United States."⁴⁵ The Herndon, Virginia address was shared by the SAAR Foundation, the World Muslim League, WAMY, and the IIRO. Until

September 11, the head of the WAMY office was Abdullah Bin Laden, younger brother of the Saudi terrorist.⁴⁶

The FBI took the wraps off its investigation of Al-Arian on Feb. 20, 2003, arresting him and three other alleged terrorist colleagues on 50 counts of racketeering and conspiracy, and indicting four others overseas, including Al-Arian's former colleague at the University of South Florida, Palestinian Islamic Jihad Secretary General, Ramadan Abdallah Shallah. The 120-page indictment alleged that Al-Arian and his co-conspirators had been "operating a racketeering enterprise from 1984 until the present that engaged in a number of violent activities," including "conspiracy within the United States to kill and main persons abroad." Al-Arian was "the alleged leader of the PIJ in the United States," as well as a member of the group's "Shura Council," its worldwide governing body. As chief fund-raiser for the terrorist group, he was alleged to have used his position at the University of South Florida to gain visas to enter the United States for terrorists, and transferred cash into overseas accounts that were used for the planning or support of terrorist operations that killed Americans. A PIJ manifesto discovered during the FBI investigation, "indictated that the only goal of the PIJ was to destroy Israel and end all Western influence (of the "Great Satan-America") in the region regardless to the cost of the inhabitants." The documents released by Attorney General John Ashcroft specifically tied Al-Arian and his group to the "murders of over 100 people in Israel and the Occupied Territories, including two U.S. citizens, Alisa Flatow, age 20, and Shoshama Ben- Yishai, age 16." 587 Commenting on the indictment, a Washington Post lead editorial concluded, "If these allegations prove true, Mr. Al-Arian – far from a victim of a new anti-Muslim McCarthyism – will rank among the more important terrorists ever arrested and prosecuted in this country."⁴⁷

Just in case there was any doubt that Al-Arian might have experienced a change of heart after 9-11, the indictment stated that the PIJ killings have continued. On Nov. 4, 2001, two American citizens, Shoshana

Ben-Yishai,¹⁶ and Shlomo Kaye, 15, were among the victims of a PIJ shooting attack on a bus in the French Hill area of Jerusalem, the indictment alleges. Again on June 5, 2002, Prof. Al-Arian's co-conspirators "murdered 17 people and wounded approximately 45 in a suicide car bombing of a bus in the vicinity of Megiddo Junction near Afula, Israel," the government states⁴⁸.

Still, there was no official mention made of Al-Arian's friends in Saudi Arabia, whom Loftus claims were fronting the cash.

Former National Security Council official Oliver North warned of the Saudi role in financing terror against America in his autobiography *Under Fire: An American Story*, where he claimed that every time he had wanted to go after terrorist organizations he was told to back off because it would embarrass the Saudi government⁴⁹. Former FBI deputy director John O'Neill reportedly told friends that he resigned from government service in 2001 because "he was disgusted with the way the Saudis were being protected."⁵⁰ Arguably the U.S. counter-terrorism official with the greatest knowledge of the Saudi networks, O'Neill's resignation was a great loss to the FBI. He started his new job as head of security for the World Trade Center just one week before the September 11 attacks, and died as he attempted to pull victims from the wreckage.

Despite mounting evidence, the Saudi government continued to believe it could disguise its involvement in anti-US terror. Right after the September 11 attacks, the Saudis hired the PR firm Burson-Marsteller and spent \$2.5 million to buy national newspaper ads to counter the negative image of Saudi Arabia as the home of 14 of the 19 hijackers. They spent another \$3.8 million hiring a Republican spin-shop, Qorvis Communications, through one of Washington's best-connected lobbying law firms, Patton Boggs. Fred Dutton, a former White House advisor to President Kennedy, is the dean of registered Saudi agents in Washington and has fought PR battles before. "This is probably a \$10 million campaign," he told me in May 2002. "But that's peanuts in our politics. For

every dollar the Saudis are spending, the American Jewish community is spending \$10 to influence politicians and public opinion.”⁵¹

By the time the U.S. government began to close in on the Saudi-backed terror support network in the United States, it was already too late.

On September 5, 2001, federal agents from the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Dallas, Texas raided the headquarters of InfoCom Corporation, an obscure internet service provider in Richardson, Texas. It was a massive undertaking, the culmination of an investigation going back several years. 80 agents from several federal agencies cordoned off the street and invested the offices located at 630-525 International Parkway. One team rushed into the air conditioned room where the huge servers hummed and blinked, and pulled them off line. They yanked power plugs out of the walls, to prevent tampering with the mass back-ups. Another team began going through filing cabinets. Yet others started checking the personnel and billing records. The next day, based on documents they had seized, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement issued a Temporary Denial Order – the equivalent of a commercial black listing – against one of InfoCom’s founders, Ihsan Elashi, for having “shipped and attempted to ship goods to Libya and Syria without authorization from the United States.”⁵²

But the export violations, which included the sale of computers and communications gear to nations on the State Department’s list of Terrorist-sponsoring nations, were just the tip of the iceberg. For three days, federal agents copied the contents of computer hard drives, and carted out box after box of documents, only letting frantic company officials put their servers back on line one by one, after the contents had been thoroughly copied. Documents seized at InfoCom provided the feds with critical evidence that allowed them to begin rolling up terrorist support networks in the United States.

A “coalition” of American Muslim groups, led by CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad and AMC – the leading edge of the Wahhabi lobby -

screamed bloody murder. At a televised press conference the next day, they claimed the action was part of an "an anti-Muslim witch hunt promoted by the pro-Israel lobby in America." An FBI spokesperson, Lori Bailey, responded calmly. "This is a criminal investigation, not a political investigation."

The reason for the panic soon became clear. InfoCom shared office space, personnel and board members with the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, a 501(c)(3) to whom contributions were tax exempt. Holy Land and InfoCom were established with seed money from Hamas leader Moussa Abu Marzouk and were run by members of his wife's family, Nadia Elashi Marzouk. Abu Marzouk was arrested in the United States in 1995, carrying documents clearly identifying him as a Hamas operational leader and detailing a \$10 million commercial and non-profit empire in the United States, which he controlled allegedly to finance HAMAS operations. In 1997, after the Israelis declined to extradite him, he was expelled to Jordan. Two years later, the Jordanians expelled him to Syria where today he openly claims responsibility for Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel. He was no small fish, but "one of the highest-ranking officials in Hamas ever since its inception."⁵³

While living in the Chicago area in the 1980s, Marzouk established a wide-ranging support structure for the Islamic resistance movement against Israel (Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya), an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, which as of 1988 became known by its Arabic acronym, HAMAS. Together with his wife's cousin, Ghassan Elashi, Marzook incorporated the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP), an umbrella group that established offices in Illinois, Indiana, Arizona and California and published a magazine called *Ila Filistin*, which "routinely called for the death of 'infidels and Jews.'"⁵⁴ Ghassan's brother Basman Elashi became IAP's president. The organization distributed the Hamas charter in the United States, produced training materials for terrorists, and even sponsored "a Hamas-affiliated music troupe" whose theme song boasts, "We Buy Paradise with the Blood of the Jews."⁵⁵ And all of this had been taking place in the United States, where Hamas supporters insisted they were engaged in protected political speech, not

murder. Marzouk's United Association for Studies and Research (UASR), also established in Illinois, was called by a Hamas detainee in Israel "the political command of Hamas in the United States."⁵⁶ The Executive Director of UASR, Ahmed bin Yousef, was a childhood friend of Marzouk's from Gaza, and denied playing any leadership role in Hamas, although he was mentioned by a detainee in Israel as a "Hamas leader in the United States." Bin Yousef went over to UASR after working as a journalist for the IAP publications.

With \$250,000 provided by Marzouk's wife, the Elashi brothers also established InfoCom Corporation in Richardson, Texas. By the time it was shut down, InfoCom hosted more than 500 websites, including Islamic groups and charities around the world. Al-Jazeera television in Qatar hosted its website and e-mail server with Infocom. Because it was regularly used by Bin Laden's group to transmit Bin Laden's speeches and "Islamic" decrees, Al-Jazeera was often referred to by U.S. government investigators as "Jihad-TV." The four remaining Elashi brothers who worked at Infocom were arrested on December 18, 2002 in connection with the federal investigation into terrorism fund-raising in the United States⁵⁷.

In the United States, CAIR, ISNA, the Muslim Students Association, the Islamic Association for Palestine and the Holy Land Foundation all worked with InfoCom and listed Bayan Elashi as the administrative contact for their websites. Indeed, as the leaders of these groups repeated to the press for many days, the federal task force that closed Infocom and its "mynet.net" servers brought down radical Muslim networks worldwide. "We believe the genesis of this raid lies not in Washington, but in Tel Aviv," a statement released by the pro-Saudi groups said. U.S. law enforcement had become "tools in the hands of a foreign government."⁵⁸

The circling of the wagons was pretty impressive. And it may have had good cause. As a joint Congressional task force found during its investigation of the intelligence failures that contributed to 9-11, Bin Laden's al-Qaeda network was using Arabic-language websites and encrypted e-mail to transmit

coded messages to operatives around the world. In some cases, website owners unwittingly served as portals for al-Qaeda messages of hate.

Infocom/HLF officer Ghassan Elashi was also one of four founders of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) in Texas, which was established in 1994 as “an outgrowth of the Islamic Association of Palestine.”⁵⁹ Both Nihad Awad and Omar Ahmad, who originally worked for Marzook’s IAP, went over to CAIR once it was formed in 1994.⁶⁰ When Federal Judge Kevin Duffy ordered Marzook’s extradition in 1996, CAIR naturally marshaled support. The group established a “Marzuk Legal Fund,” and held a press conference to complain that the extradition order was “anti-Islamic” and “anti-American.”⁶¹

Eleven days after September 11, the FBI arrested another InfoCom employee, Ghassan Dahduli, when he refused to answer questions. The feds were intrigued because Dahduli’s name and phone number were found in the date book of Wadi El-Hage, the private secretary of Osama Bin Laden who was sentenced to life in prison for his role in the 1998 bombings by Al Qaeda of two U.S. embassies in East Africa. El-Hage’s notes included a reference to a “joint venture” between himself and HLF. Dahduli had also been a former head of Marzouk’s Islamic Association for Palestine. Together with Omar Ahmad, who became CAIR board chairman, he had run the American Middle East League for Palestine (AMELP), a charity that appeared to exist only on paper. When the feds placed him under arrest, CAIR board member Mohammed Suleman “expressed concern and support for Dahduli, and argued against his deportation.”⁶² Dahduli was deported to Jordan on Nov. 26. The Jordanian authorities released him one week later when he denied involvement with Hamas or al-Qaeda.

The hard drives, banking documents and internal correspondence seized at Infocom headquarters was churned at light speed after September 11, and led to multiple raids by an interagency counter-terrorism task force called “Green Quest,” set up to track the funding of terrorist organizations.

In December 2001, Green Quest shut down the Holy Land Foundation and froze its assets. Attorney General John Ashcroft explained the link. "The Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, based in Richardson, Texas, shares employees of an Internet company known as Infocom. ...Infocom, like the Holy Land Foundation, received much of its early money from Mousa Abu Marzook, a top Hamas official who, the U.S. courts have determined, was directly involved in terrorism."⁶³

President Bush came down even harder when he announced the crackdown on terror funding at a Rose Garden ceremony on Dec. 2, 2001, although he was careful not to mention the Saudi connection. After calling Hamas "one of the deadliest terrorist organizations in the world today," the President continued:

"Hamas has obtained much of the money that it pays for murder abroad right here in the United States, money originally raised by the Holy Land Foundation. The Holy Land Foundation is registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt charity based in Richardson. It raised \$13 million from people in America last year. The Holy Land Foundation claims that the money it solicits goes to care for needy Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Money raised by the Holy Land Foundation is used by Hamas to support schools and indoctrinate children to grow up into suicide bombers. Money raised by the Holy Land Foundation is also used by Hamas to recruit suicide bombers and to support their families."

HLF denied that it "provides any financial support to terrorist groups or individuals," and members of the Wahhabi lobby began meeting with Treasury and Justice Department officials to get them to back off⁶⁴. But the FBI had done its homework. In an affidavit submitted to Treasury in support of freezing HLF assets, Dale Watson, deputy director for Counter-terrorism, described a pattern of criminal activity going back many years. At one 1993 meeting in Philadelphia secretly recorded by the FBI, Hamas and HLF leaders met and

“decided that most or almost all of the funds collected in the future should be directed to enhance the Islamic Resistance Movement.” In an effort to evade surveillance, “they referred to HAMAS as “SAMAH,” which is HAMAS spelled backwards.” At a 1994 meeting in Oxford, Mississippi, also secretly taped by the FBI, Hamas leader Mousa Abu Marzouk “designated the HLF as the primary fund-raising entity in the United States,” Watson wrote. At a 1995 HLF fundraiser in Los Angeles, Hamas military leader Sheikh Muhammed Siyam told a cheering crowd: “Finish off the Israelis. Kill them all! Exterminate them! No peace ever! Do not bother to talk politics.” Immediately after that speech, an HLF official exhorted the crowd to give to “the cause.” The FBI revealed that Siyam had made five trips from the Middle East to the U.S. that were charged to HLF's corporate credit card.”⁶⁵ This was not “guilt by association,” as Wahhabi lobby spokesman liked to pretend. It was direct involvement in terror.

At the same time, the Treasury Department froze the assets of Beit el-Mal Holdings, an investment company, and its subsidiary, the Al-Aqsa Islamic Bank, which the White House called “a financial arm of HAMAS.” Beit el-Mal had offices in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and “transfers money to and raises funds for associations that the Palestinian Authority itself has identified as belonging to HAMAS,” the White House said..⁶⁶

In Chicago that same month, Green Quest investigators raided the offices of Global Relief Foundation (GRF). "It's clearly related to directing funding to terrorist activity and their associates, and specifically to Al Qaeda," Treasury Department spokesman Tony Fratto said,. The move against GRF was carried out simultaneously with raids on the foundation's offices in Kosovo, which NATO explained were based on “credible information that individuals working for this organization may have been directly involved in supporting worldwide international terrorist activities,” and were “allegedly involved in planning attacks against targets in the U.S. and Europe." GRF denied any links to terrorism. “We are in the business of helping innocent civilians and take

every precaution to ensure our aid does not go to support or subsidize any nefarious activity,” they said.⁶⁷

The feds also hit Benevolence International Foundation, where they discovered videos and literature glorifying martyrdom in operations against Americans and Jews. “According to the charity’s newsletter, seven of its officers were killed in battle last year in Chechnya and Bosnia,” Washington Institute for Near East Policy scholar Matthew A. Levitt told a Congressional panel.⁶⁸ The foundation’s executive director, Enaam M. Arnaout, was subsequently arrested on perjury charges after he sued the United States. Contrary to his statements, “Arnaout had a personal relationship with both Bin Laden and many of his key associates dating back more than a,” and had “reportedly facilitated money and weapons transfers for Bin Laden through the foundation.”⁶⁹

In the Philippines, Benevolence International had been run as a for-profit corporation by Bin Ladin’s own brother-in-law, Mohammad Jamal Khalifa, at the same time he was the official representative of the International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO), a Saudi-government sponsored charity. According to a Philippines National Police Intelligence report, Khalifa managed more than a dozen charitable and for-profit enterprises for Bin Ladin’s behalf, including Benevolence and the Islamic Institute of the Philippines.⁷⁰ In an affidavit filed with Magistrate Judge Ian Levin, the FBI tied the Benevolence International Foundation office in Chicago to Khalifa and to Ramzi Yousef, the terrorist convicted of master-minding the first attack on the World Trade Center in 1993⁷¹. It was a small world.

On March 20, 2002, Green Quest struck a body blow to the Saudi financial network that appeared to be providing the funds to the terrorist support networks. Most of the 15 charities, investment companies, and self-styled “religious” institutions raided that day by more than 150 agents from ten federal agencies and local police departments were located in the suburbs of

Washington, DC, and they were connected in many cases by interlocking boards and executives. In their search for money being laundered in support of terrorism, the feds also carted away documents from a Piedmont Poultry, a chicken farm in Gainseville, Georgia that was part-owned by one of the Saudi principles⁷².

At 360 South Washington Street in Falls Church, Virginia, they hit the offices of the International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO), the same Saudi charity that had funded Osama Bin Laden during his anti-Soviet jihad in the 1980s. Established just before the Afghan war in 1978, IIRO now operates in more than 90 countries out of 45 overseas offices, and has long presented itself as the unofficial conduit for Saudi government aid. The IIRO shared office space with its parent organization, the Muslim World League, whose files were also confiscated.

Simultaneously, the feds raided the School of Islamic and Social Sciences on Miller Drive in Leesburg, Virginia, the only accredited school for training Muslim chaplains for the U.S. Armed Forces. Funded by Saudi Arabia, it was a Wahhabi institution, educating imams in the radical beliefs of the Wahhabi sect. Its President, Dr. Taha Jaber Al-Alwani, doubled as head of the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), whose offices at 500 Grove in Herndon were also raided.

IIIT was under investigation for large donations to the Islamic Committee for Palestine and the World Islamic Studies Enterprise (WISE) in Florida, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad front network run by Sami al-Arian. That same morning, the apartment of IIIT employee Tarik Hamdi was raided by a separate law enforcement team. Prosecutors in New York had named Hamdi in the summer of 2001 as having personally flown to Pakistan in 1998 to bring special batteries to Bin Laden for his satellite telephone, “the phone Bin Laden and others will use to carry out their war against the United States.”⁷³ Their words were unfortunately prophetic, yet another reminder that the Jew-hatred

and fear of Western-style freedoms that form the backbone of radical Wahhabi fundamentalism is also deadly for ordinary Americans.

But the keys to the Kingdom were across the street at 555 Grove Street, which the World Muslim League gave as its mailing address. This was the U.S. headquarters of the SAAR Foundation, a billion-dollar Saudi conglomerate. The SAAR Foundation “was of particular concern because of the close links between the Saudi Royal family and its founder, the Saudi banker Shiekh Suleiman Abdel Aziz al-Rajhi (initials SAAR),” scholar Matthew Levitt told members of Congress.

Shortly before the raid, SAAR filed an amended tax return changing its stated income for the year 2000 from \$15 million, as previously declared, to a whopping \$1.7 billion, and then abruptly announced it had ceased doing business in the United States. No accounting was given for the money. Just days after the raid, Newsweek reported that federal investigators believed the money had been transferred “to obscure entities on the Isle of Man, a notorious money-laundering haven.”⁷⁴ Other sources mentioned transfers to offshore companies owned jointly by SAAR chairman Jamal al-Barzinji, and the Vice President of Malaysia, radical Muslim fundamentalist Anwar Ibrahim⁷⁵. Over a period of many years, SAAR reportedly is suspected of having financed HAMAS and Palestinian Islamic Jihad operations in the United States and in Israel, directly and through cut-outs.⁷⁶ Their lawyer, Nancy Luque, denies the allegations and points out that the federal government has not accused them of any crime. She also claims the \$1.8 billion of SAAR’s tax return never existed, but was generated by a computer error and was later corrected on an amended return.

SAAR and many of the entities raided that day were run by Jamal Barzinji, an Iraqi who was considered a key player in the U.S.-based Wahhabi networks. One of Barzinji’s business partners and office-mates was Samir Salah, who “formerly ran a branch of Al Taqwa in the Caribbbbean, heads a financial firm linked to SAAR, and directed Dar al-Hijra, a mosque in Falls

Church, Virginia, notable for hard-line Wahhabi preaching.”⁷⁷ Al Taqwa was a shell company based in Lugano, Switzerland that was black-listed by the U.S. Treasury Department on Nov. 7, 2001 after U.S. intelligence had “tracked telephone contacts between Al Taqwa and members of Bin Laden’s inner circle.”⁷⁸ On its board was notorious Nazi sympathizer Albert Friedrich Armand Huber, a 74-year old former Swiss journalist who converted to Islam in the 1960s and now calls himself Ahmad. A long-time friend of François Genoud, the Swiss banker who held the copyrights to writings by Hitler, Goebbels and other top Nazi officials, Huber boasts of his efforts to bring together radical Muslims and neo-Nazis. He has partnered with Holocaust deniers in Europe such as Ahmed Rami of Radio Islam in Sweden, and is a dedicated admirer of Sheikh Mohammad Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem who enthusiastically embraced Hitler in the hope of to eradicating world Jewry. Al Taqwa changed its name to Nada management Organization after September 11, apparently in an effort to confuse federal investigators.

Al Taqwa’s parent corporation, the Al Taqwa Bank, was headquartered in the Nassau, Bahamas offices of Arthur Hannah, a former deputy prime minister. Hannah performed a similar service for Dar Al Maal Al Islami, a financial conglomerate controlled by Prince Mohammad bin Faisal al-Saud, the son of former King Faisal who is elsewhere identified as an investor in Osama Bin Laden’s bank in the Sudan.⁷⁹ Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Juan C. Zarate testified before Congress that in 1997 “the \$60 million collected annually for Hamas was moved to accounts with Bank al Taqwa.” In October 2000, he said, “Bank Al Taqwa appeared to be providing a clandestine line of credit to a close associate of bin Laden and as of late September 2001, bin Laden and his al-Qaida organization received financial assistance from the chairman of that bank.” The off-shore firm’s ties to Al-Qaeda convinced the U.S. government’s to freeze Al-Taqwa assets in the United States, Europe, and the Bahamas, he added⁸⁰.

Sharing offices with SAAR was a sister organization called Safa Trust, with virtually the same board, that appeared to be used as a conduit for payments to other organizations. The feds also seized the files from Marjac Investments, a private company owned by Jamal al-Barzinji, who headed both SAAR and Safa Trust, and from other organizations in the Wahhabi network, such as the Success Foundation, whose board members included Abdulrahman Alamoudi, until late 2001 the President of the American Muslim Council. By four PM, journalists, employees and bystanders watched as scores of federal agents carted out boxes of documents to a U-Haul truck parked outside.

Some of the network's money had gone to buy political influence in the purest American tradition. Alamoudi and the Safa Trust each wrote \$20,000 checks to the Islamic Institute in Washington, DC, established in 1999 by GOP activist Grover Norquist and two of Alamoudi's former employees from AMC, Khaled Saffuri and Abdelwahhab Alkebsi. The Institute's stated goal was to mobilize American Muslim support for the Republican Party, and to promote free markets. But it had also received foreign funding, including \$55,000 from Kuwait, more than \$200,000 from Qatar, and at least \$15,000 directly from Saudi Arabia⁸¹. Saffuri tried to deny the Saudi funding until Insight magazine reproduced copies of the checks from the Saudi Hollandi Bank and the Riyadh Bank.⁸² He told me later that "all but \$5,000" of the money had come from an American Muslim who was "traveling abroad."⁸³

As the feds cracked down on the financial networks supporting Islamic extremism, Norquist added his voice to the chorus of condemnation. He arranged meetings with the President, the Secretary of the Treasury, and FBI Director Robert Mueller for top Wahhabi lobbyists, who hoped to get the administration to back off. To his enemies, Norquist became "the chief enabler of Islamic extremists seeking access to the White House," in the words of Stephen Schwartz, a former leftist and a convert to Islam.⁸⁴ Norquist claimed that his goal was to bring Muslim-Americans into the mainstream of the

Republican party, and yet he openly ridiculed mainstream Muslim leaders such as Sheikh Kabbani who reject the extremist Wahhabi clique. His interest in the Middle East appears to have begun at family discussions with a brother-in-law who is of Palestinian origin. Norquist boasts of money he has received as a registered lobbyist for the Wahhabi regime in Qatar to set up conferences that “promote democracy and free markets.”

At a meeting at the editorial offices of Insight magazine on May 13, 2002, which took place at his demand, Norquist complained that Insight’s reporting of his ties to the Wahhabi lobby was “unfair,” and accused the magazine and its reporters – including myself – of “bazaar anti-Muslim attacks.” Saffuri, who accompanied him, tried to distance himself from AMC and Alamoudi. And yet, as I pointed out, while Khaled worked for Alamoudi in 1995 the group had invited Yousef al-Qaradawi, to address an AMC conference. Qaradawi is notorious for spouting vile anti-Semitic lies and preaches violence against America, and yet has been a regular guest of AMC. In a sermon broadcast on Qatar state television on Nov. 1, 2002, he included America among the “enemies of Islam,” and called on the faithful to “wipe them out, destroy their power, and prevent them from committing aggression against your servants.” He ended on this note: “O God, destroy the aggressor, treacherous Jews. O God, destroy the aggressor Americans. O God, destroy the fanatic pagans. O God, destroy the tyrannical Crusaders.”⁸⁵

When I raised the AMC invitation to Qaradawi, Norquist flew into a rage. Any attempt to link him to al-Qaradawi or the AMC was “guilt by association.” Saffuri had left the AMC “years ago,” he added. But by Saffuri’s own account, he went to work for Norquist’s Islamic Institute almost immediately after he left the AMC.

Norquist’s efforts to whitewash the Wahhabi lobby were implicitly rejected by FBI Director Robert Mueller, who in a speech at the American Muslim Council national convention on June 28, 2002, upbraided the group and its supporters for failing to draw the line between terrorism and legitimate

political discourse. “Unfortunately, persons associated with this organization in the past have made statements that indicate support for terrorism and for terrorist organizations,” Mueller said. “I think we can – Muslims and non-Muslims alike – justifiably be outraged by such statements.”

Over the past decade, the Wahhabi lobby has bought political influence wherever it would be most useful. During the Clinton presidency, Alamoudi and other Wahhabi lobbyists raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the 1996 Clinton-Gore re-election campaign, regularly sought photo opportunities with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, and contributed to her 2000 U.S. Senate campaign.⁸⁶ During the 2000 election cycle, Norquist convinced the Bush campaign that the AMC, CAIR and their allies would help sway the Muslim-American vote in favor of Republicans, and Saffuri was named a national advisor to the campaign on Arab and Muslim affairs.⁸⁷ Bush and his wife posed for a photograph with University of Florida professor Sami al-Arian, now under indictment on terrorism-related charges, during a campaign appearance at the Florida Strawberry Festival on March 12, 2000. Ar-Arian’s wife later told *The Washington Post* that she had campaigned for Bush in Florida mosques.⁸⁸

Although Norquist claims that the votes of Muslim Americans tipped the election in Bush’s favor, the record of that support is mixed.⁸⁹ Even Norquist protégé Khaled Saffuri contributed to liberal Democrats such as David Bonior and Sam Gedgejson almost as frequently as he did to Republicans, according to Federal Election Commission records. The same was true for Alamoudi and Islamic Institute director Abdulwahhab Alkebsi, who rallied Muslims to back radical leftist Cynthia McKinney (D, Georgia), who lost her re-election bid after making viciously anti-Semitic remarks.⁹⁰ In Bush’s native Texas, CAIR boasted of having “developed a relationship” with former Democratic Mayor of Dallas Ron Kirk in his bid to replace the retiring Republican U.S. Phil Gramm in 2002, with top CAIR officials contributing to his campaign. After the March 2002 raids, the Muslim Public Affairs Council, one of the groups that had endorsed Bush just weeks before the election, turned

around and slammed the president for having “squandered the support of the American Muslim community,” Executive director Salam al-Marayati said. “The feeling is the endorsement went to the wrong candidate. People feel betrayed by the Bush administration.”⁹¹ During an interview with a California radio station on September 11, Al-Maryati raised the possibility that “Israel might have carried out the destruction of the World Trade Center and the assault on the Pentagon.”⁹² If the aim was to bring the radical Wahhabis into the Republican party – an aim of dubious merit – even there Norquist would appear to have failed.

Most serious, in the view of national security experts such as former Pentagon official Frank Gaffney, were efforts by Norquist, his Islamic Institute and other Wahhabi lobbying groups to prevent the use of “secret evidence” by the Justice Department in terrorism cases. On April 5, 2001, the National Coalition to Protect Political Freedom, a far-left group headed by Al-Arian, gave Norquist an award for his work in opposing the use of secret evidence⁹³. At his meeting with Insight magazine reporters and editors Norquist said that he was “proud” of the award, even though the Coalition included among its members the National Lawyer's Guild, a Communist front organization established during the Cold War, and an astonishing array of groups reportedly fronting for known terrorist organizations.⁹⁴ Among them was the Tampa Bay Coalition for Justice and Peace, a group formed by Al-Arian to spring his brother-in-law, Mazen al-Najjar, from an INS jail. Al-Najjar had been detained using secret evidence in 1997 because of his association with Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader, Ramadan Abdallah Shallah. Norquist joined their efforts, and a founding board member of his Islamic Institute, Suhail Khan, was scheduled to address a Washington, DC rally for Al-Arian’s Tampa Bay Coalition in 1999, according to e-mail messages publicizing the event. (Khan, who was on the campaign staff of Rep. Tom Campbell (R, CA) at the time, said he was out of town when the rally occurred and was not even aware of the invitation). Al-Najjar was released during the waning days of the Clinton

administration but re-arrested on Nov. 24, 2001 and deported nine months later.⁹⁵

Repealing the use of secret evidence was the top priority of the Wahhbi groups. After 9/11, he teamed up with conservative Republican Congressman Bob Barr of Georgia, and the National Lawyer's Guild to oppose secret evidence and its inclusion in the USA Patriot Act. The FBI wanted anted secret evidence as a tool so they could deport suspected members of terrorist support networks who had overstayed their visas. With secret evidence, the FBI could go to immigration courts without compromising the individuals who had become state's witnesses.. Without it, few American Muslims were willing to come forward as witnesses, for fear of retribution from the powerful Wahhabi lobby. Indeed, immediately following 9-11 the major Wahhabi organizations such as CAIR and AMC urged their followers not to cooperate with the FBI. For Hedieh Mirahmadi of the Islamic Supreme Council of America, this was a virtual heresy. "It is our patriotic duty as Americans and our duty as Muslims to speak up against any attempt by extremists to mobilize the Muslim community against our country."⁹⁶

On July 17, 2002, Alamoudi and his friends filed a lawsuit in federal court against George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell for complicity in "genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, racketeering, acts of murder and torture, bodily harm, arson, kidnapping" and other crimes allegedly carried out by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Speaking in Arabic without a translator, Alamoudi said the suit "sends a message to the American Muslim community" that they need not be afraid of the U.S. government any more, and that they can now "challenge the system" through the courts. "We've been doing it politically and now we're going to do it legally," he said.⁹⁷ Here was a leading member of the groups Norquist was trying to bring into the Republican party, filing a lawsuit against a Republican President. It was the final insult.

Stephen Schwartz was fired from Voice of America for his opposition to giving equal airtime to radical Islamists such as CAIR, AMC and their allies. He believes the Wahhabi lobby has had a devastating impact on the American Muslim community.

“A ‘Muslim establishment’ did not exist in America until the mid-1980s when Hamas, the Wahhabi organization fighting Israel, decided to open a political front on U.S. territory, a ‘Wahhabi lobby.’ A constellation of carefully designated entities, funded from the same source, suddenly appeared, radiating ideological aggression in all directions. Like the front organizations fostered in the past by Communism, they each had specific tasks and were designed to appeal to various constituencies. But they had a single program: to create a secure base for planning terrorist operations in Israel, to amass funds and recruits, and finally to control all discussion of Islam and Muslim societies in American media and government. No such aim had ever before been put forward by a Muslim group in America, and no single Christian or Jewish institution had ever staked an exclusivist claim of this kind.”⁹⁸

Norquist’s advocacy of the Wahhabi groups was causing friction within the conservative movement, and national security conservatives, including Gaffney and American Conservative Union president David Keene, began to take their distance. In a stinging oped published on Feb. 20, 2003, Keene blasted “the Wahhabis and their apologists,” a clear dig at Norquist. “These groups are, in the main, acting as de facto defenders of the sponsors of extremist terrorism,” he wrote.⁹⁹

The loop between the Wahhabis and the terrorists was closed in November 2002 when federal investigators leaked classified intelligence information to the press detailing how checks written by Princess Haifa al-Faisal, the wife of Saudi ambassador Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, were then signed over to an associate of two of the September 11 hijackers. Once the

story broke, Saudi foreign policy advisor Adel al-Jubeir told the weekend talk shows that the Princess had innocently sent a \$15,000 check and then made \$2,000 monthly payments from November 1999 through May 2002 to a Jordanian woman who needed medical treatment. He said that the Saudi government had just discovered that the woman's husband had signed over some of the checks to Omar al-Bayoumi, a suspected al-Qaeda contact who threw a welcoming party for two of the September 11 hijackers and rented them an apartment next to his own in San Diego. [Footnote: Michael Isakopf, "9-11 Hijackers: A Saudi Money Trail?" Newsweek web exclusive, Nov. 22, 2002.] Al-Bayoumi left the country for Saudi Arabia in July 2001, and was also believed to have ties to the head of Saudi intelligence, Prince Turki bin Faisal, brother of Princess Haifa.¹⁰⁰

What type of America did the Saudi-backed Muslim organizations want to see? Was it the "diverse, open society" they evoked in their official newsletters, written in English and destined for journalists and government officials? In internal meetings and conferences, many of these same leaders communicated a very different message.

"Let us damn America. Let us damn Israel, let us damn their allies until death," Osama (Sami) al-Arian told the AMC National Convention in 1998, where he had been invited as a guest speaker. The Immigration and Naturalization Service showed a videotape of al-Arian's remarks at a bond hearing in 2000. "Why do we stop?" he went on. The Jews were "monkeys and pigs... Mohammad is leader. The Koran is our constitution. Jihad is our path. Victory to Islam. Death to Israel. Revolution! Revolution! Until Victory! Rolling, rolling to Jerusalem!"¹⁰¹

CAIR Chairman Omar Ahmad addressed a crowd of California Muslims in July 1998 with a similar message. "Islam isn't in America to be equal to any other faith, but to become dominant. The Koran . . . should be the highest authority in America, and Islam the only accepted religion on earth."¹⁰² In

November 1999, he told a CAIR audience in Chicago that suicide bombers deserved admiration and respect. "Fighting for freedom, fighting for Islam – that is not suicide. They kill themselves for Islam."¹⁰³

CAIR and AMC held a joint rally at Brooklyn college in 1998 that featured Egyptian extremist Wagdi Ghuniem. After a vicious anti-Semitic speech, he led the crowd of 500 in singing "No to the Jews, descendants of the apes."¹⁰⁴

Wahhabi lobbying groups have been in the forefront of defending Osama Bin Laden from accusations of terrorism. In October 1998, CAIR demanded the removal of a Los Angeles billboard describing Osama bin Laden as "the sworn enemy" of America. In their words, identifying Bin Laden as a terrorist was "offensive to Muslims." That same year, CAIR simply denied evidence presented by U.S. prosecutors (and by Bin Laden himself in media interviews) of al-Qaeda's responsibility for the twin East African embassy bombings. CAIR National Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper said that September 11 resulted from "misunderstandings of both sides."¹⁰⁵ He told an interviewer, "I wouldn't want to create the impression that I wouldn't like the government of the United States to be Islamic sometime in the future."¹⁰⁶

A joint statement by the entire coalition of Wahhabi front groups, led by CAIR and AMC, took out a quarter page advertisement on the editorial page of the Washington Post on the Friday after the attacks. They condemned "senseless acts of terrorism against innocent civilians." Did that mean that terrorist attacks against military targets, such as the Pentagon, were okay? Rather than denounce those who used Islam as an excuse for murder, they urged the media to be "sensitive" whenever they mentioned the expressions of faith of the terrorists.

Yet CAIR officers don't display the same "sensitivity" when it comes to Jews. Daniel Pipes, who is not Jewish but has observed Middle East politics for two decades, notes that CAIR officers use anti-Semitic labels like others spread jam. "The head of CAIR's Los Angeles office, Hussam Ayloush, routinely uses

the term "zionazi" when referring to Israelis," Pipes says. Similarly, he notes, CAIR defends murderers such as Jamil Al-Amin (the former H. Rap Brown) and raised money for a "defense fund" after his conviction for the murder of an Atlanta policeman. At the ISNA National Convention in Washington, DC in late August 2002, an ISNA affiliate called the National Support Committee for Imam Jamil claimed contributions to Brown's defense were tax deductible. "Your Imam," the group's flier read, showing H. Rap Brown wearing the humble white headdress of a Hajji pilgrim to Mecca. "Caged like an Animal."¹⁰⁷

CAIR has a long record of defending militant Islamic terrorists. It labeled the conviction of the perpetrators of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing "a travesty of justice." Despite their confessions, CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad wrote in the Muslim World Monitor that "there is ample evidence indicating that both the Mossad and Egyptian intelligence played a role in the explosion." Similarly, CAIR called the conviction of Omar Abdel Rahman, the blind sheikh who planned to blow up New York City landmarks, a "hate crime." CAIR's current president, Eric Vickers, has repeatedly refused to condemn Al Qaeda, and believes that investigative reporter Steve Emerson is "more dangerous to America than terrorism."¹⁰⁸ Suicide bombings are terrible, he tells Fox News, but the real problem is the Israelis. "We support the Palestinian Resistance." That is the English translation of HAMAS.

On the home page of its website after September 11, CAIR featured a section telling visitors "what you can do for the victims of the WTC and Pentagon attacks." CAIR advised: "Donate through the Global Relief Foundation" and "Donate through the Holy Land Foundation," and it provided links to the web sites of both groups¹⁰⁹. These were the same "charities" that the FBI Joint Terrorism task force closed down in December. The FBI alleged that funds raised by GRF were going directly to al-Qaeda, the same group that was responsible for the 9-11 attacks!

At the same time, the Wahhabi lobby routinely defames moderate Muslims who reject its extremist agenda. In June 2001, CAIR blasted scholar

Khalid Duran for writing a Guide to Islam for non-Muslims, that was published by the American Jewish Committee in an effort to promote interfaith dialogue. Duran explains what happened next: “CAIR's attack snowballed into a campaign of personal vilification, which eventuated in a Jordanian political leader calling me an apostate (murtadd). Neither CAIR nor Sheikh ‘Abd al-Mun‘im Abu Zant of Jordan's Islamic Action Front had ever read or even seen my book, but the CAIR attack prompted the latter to issue an appeal to Muslims, asking them to unite to kill me.”¹¹⁰

In the Wahhabi Islamic Republic of America, death edicts and religious fatwas were considered legitimate means of dealing with political adversaries, while terrorism is considered “resistance.” It’s all part of what they call the “Islamic World Order,” the name of a new Internet chat room sponsored by the Islamic Circle of North America, WAMY, and other Muslim groups.

President Bush is right. There are no two sides to terror. Either you are with us, or you are against us. He has said this to Pakistani President Parviz Mousharaf. He has said this to Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak. It’s time he said it to Saudi Crown Prince Abdallah and to the Wahhabi lobby in America.