

Did Obama's Presidential Directive Mandate Outreach to Islamists?



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Secretary General of the Egyptian Revolutionary Council
Flashes Rabia MB resistance sign

US State Department Jan. 27, 2015 Source: Facebook screenshot

Our NER colleague Dr. Richard L. Rubenstein has called Obama, “the most radical American President, ever”. That was in an [interview](#) we conducted with him in 2010 that went viral on YouTube. One of the reasons for Dr. Rubenstein’s assessment was the extent to which the President had surrounded himself with like minded senior staff and advisers who condoned outreach to the Muslim Ummah. That was evident early in his first Administration given a trip to Ankara in April 2009, followed by his address at Cairo University in June where he declared a new foreign policy accommodating the concept of Islamist Democracy. Dr. Rubenstein’s major book on [Jihad and Genocide](#) elucidated the anti-Democratic underpinning of Qur’anic doctrine. Especially concerning him were the Muslim Brotherhood and derivatives, Al Qaeda, Hamas and the Shia Mahdist apocalyptic doctrine espoused by the Islamic Regime in Iran. A revolutionary Islamist regime bent on achieving nuclear hegemony and possible destruction of Israel. He also ascribed the President’s willingness to accommodate these views because of his early introduction to Islam as the adopted son of an Indonesian oil executive in his late mother’s second marriage. Rubenstein’s prescient analysis depicted President Obama accommodating Islamist movements as a peculiar form of demopathy, using both violent and

civilizational jihad. That is reflected in his [Presidential Policy and Study Directives](#).

Dan Greenfield delved into the underpinnings of the Obama radical accommodation of Islamism in a *FrontpageMagazine* article published on June 8, 2015 entitled, [“Directive 11: Obama’s Secret Islamist Plan”](#):

Directive 11 brought together activists and operatives at multiple agencies to come up with a “tailored” approach for regime change in each country. The goal was to “manage” the political transitions. It tossed aside American national security interests by insisting that Islamist regimes would be equally committed to fighting terrorism and cooperating with Israel. Its greatest gymnastic feat may have been arguing that the best way to achieve political stability in the region was through regime change.

What [little we know](#) about the resulting classified 18-page report is that it used euphemisms to call for aiding Islamist takeovers in parts of the Middle East. Four countries were targeted. Of those four, we only know for certain that Egypt and Yemen were on the list. But we do know for certain the outcome.

Egypt fell to the Muslim Brotherhood, which collaborated with Al Qaeda, Hamas and Iran, before being undone by a counterrevolution. Yemen is currently controlled by Iran’s Houthi terrorists and Al Qaeda.

We have witnessed what the secretive Presidential Directive 11 has achieved in public and private meetings with radical Muslim Brotherhood clerics and leaders, both during and following the Arab Spring revolt in these countries from 2010 to the present. To facilitate the objectives of Directive 11 Obama had brought onto his White House and Department staffs members of MB affiliates in the US. He also reached out to

academic centers promoting the views that there were “good Islamists”. Groups like the [Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy](#) at Georgetown University, headed by Prof. John Esposito, funded in part by the State Department. After a New York Federal Appeals court decision in 2009, the Administration lifted a visa ban inviting Oxford University Professor Tariq Ramadan, a grandson of the founder of the MB, Hassan al Banna, to participate in [CSID forums](#) and take an endowed Chair at Notre Dame University.

Egypt elected in June 2012 an Islamist government headed by former Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Morsi that sought to impose Sharia law on the Constitution. The Morsi government stealthily backed MB jihad pogroms against the Coptic Christian minority burning churches, destroying businesses, murdering men, raping and forcing conversion on female victims. Ironically, Morsi’s Defense Minister, Col. Gen. Abdel Fattah Al- Sisi rejected Islamism and led a coup on July 3, 2013 jailing and prosecuting hundreds of Muslim Brother leaders including Morsi. Many of whom, including Morsi are now awaiting possible death sentences for a massive jail break that freed them in January 2011. Al Sisi in a dramatic January 2015 speech at Al Azhar University raised the matter of reform of Qur’an doctrine before an audience composed of leading Sunni clerics at Al Azhar University in Cairo. Despite this Egyptian counter-revolution both the US National Security Staff and State Department invited former Muslim Brotherhood Morsi regime political figures and clerics to assist in developing ‘messaging’ to contend with Al Qaeda, its affiliates and the self-declared Islamic State. We wrote about those instances in NER articles and Iconoclast blogs. What follows are the latest episodes arising from Obama’s Presidential Directive 11. One concerns the withdrawal of funding of a US backed program seeking to create an alternative Shia civil polity to Iranian proxy Hezbollah that dominates Lebanon. The other concerns the kerfuffle surrounding meetings of Muslim Brotherhood leaders in both

January 2015 at the State Department and private meetings at the CSID in Washington this June.

US withdrew aid to Lebanese Shia NGO seeking to extricate them from the clutches of Hezbollah.

Lebanon next door to Israel appears to be dominated by Iran's proxy Hezbollah that has infiltrated the country's military. This is a disheartening failure in the wake of the 2005 Cedars Revolution in Lebanon prompted by the [assassination](#) of Lebanese premier Rafik Hariri. Hariri was assassinated by Syrian intelligence agents of the Assad régime. With the plummeting Christian population in Lebanon, demise of the former Amal Shia militia, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah filled the vacuum backed with hundreds of millions of dollars of annual support from Iran. An Iran that delivered hundreds of thousands of weapons, coupled with North Korean expertise building tunnels and fortifications in Southern Lebanon. Nasrallah's recklessness triggered the Second Lebanon War in 2006 with the abduction and murder of two Israeli IDF reservists.

Despite Hezbollah's control over Lebanon there had been a limited US program seeking to arouse Shia opposition to Hezbollah through the auspices of the State Department funded [International Republican Institute](#) (IRI), chaired by US Senator John McCain, (R-AZ). IRI, like the International Democratic Institute counterpart, seeks to advance democracy abroad. Both Institutes are outgrowths of the successful program in the 1980s that toppled the Polish Communist regime with church and Solidarity Movement support. Unfortunately, in the wake of the Arab Spring both Institutes had been involved in training candidates for the predominately Muslim Brotherhood and Salafist dominated Egyptian parliament elected with now ousted President Mohammed Morsi in June 2012. They were subsequently purged when the Morsi regime was overthrown a year later in July 2013 in a coup led by now Egyptian President Al-Sisi.

The Lebanese anti-Nasrallah Hayya Bina Shia program, funded by the IRI, lost US funding that it had received since 2007. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, it [received \\$640,000](#) between June 2013 and December 2015. The IRI notified Hayya Bina director Lokman Slim in April 2015 that the Obama Administration was terminating its support for the program. The letter Slim [received](#) from the IRI read, "the State Department requests that all activities intended [to] foster an independent moderate Shia voice be ceased immediately and indefinitely". Could it be that as Obama moves closer to Iran and its proxy Hezbollah given the looming P5+1 nuclear agreement, that it will brook no local dissent in Lebanon among the Shia? That should not be surprising. Obama's Middle East policy czar, Robert Malley, during his stint at the Soros-funded International Crisis Group. held [discussions](#) with Hezbollah. Despite the later being on the State Department list of designated terrorist organizations.

Egypt objects to continuing Muslim Brotherhood Washington visits with US officials

The Egyptian government has been angered by continued meetings of former Muslim Brotherhood leaders with State Department funded groups and, in some instances, with White House National Security staff. In January 2015, the State Department [hosted](#) a visiting delegation of Muslim Brotherhood leaders from the former Morsi government. Prior to and following his ouster, the White House National Security team and the State Department met with Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood clerics and legislator who was a former terrorist..

On June 8, 2015 the Egyptian foreign ministry requested an audience with US Ambassador to Cairo [R. Stephen Beecroft](#) to express concern and outrage at the visit of another Muslim Brotherhood delegation to Washington. State Department Jeff Rathke spokesperson was peppered with questions by journalists at Daily Press Briefings on both June 9th and 10th,

about the Cairo foreign ministry meetings with Ambassador Beecroft and private meetings in Washington at the (CSID). Rathke responded to one such question saying:

Well, again, we've met with this group in the past. We haven't changed our policy. We will continue to meet with groups across the political spectrum. No – but we don't have any plans to meet with this group at this particular time.

[Watch](#) this C-Span video clip of a June 9, 2015 State Department Daily Press Briefing with Press Spokesman Jeff Rathke in an exchange with journalists:

John Rossomando in an *Investigative Project on Terrorism* [article](#) noted the members of the Muslim Brotherhood delegation and the involvement of the CSID:

Egypt sought the recent meeting with Ambassador Stephen Beecroft to show its displeasure with American policy toward the Brotherhood, which it labels a terrorist organization.

Delegation [Amr Darrag](#), whose handling of drafting and ratifying Egypt's December 2012 [Wael Haddara](#), a Canadian Brotherhood member who served as an adviser to deposed President Mohamed Morsi.

Referencing the earlier January meetings, the *IPT* article noted:

Emails obtained by *Middle East Briefing*, a publication of the Dubai-based Orient Advisory Group, [met in January](#) with a Muslim Brotherhood delegation whose trip had been [reported](#) in April.

Former State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki [interview](#) with Egypt's Mekameleen TV that the State Department agreed with their position that Egyptian President Abdel

Fatah al-Sisi had not brought stability and that his removal would pave the way for a transition to democracy.

Conclusion:

President Obama, Robert Malley, and State Department Assistant Secretary for Near East Policy, former US Ambassador to Egypt Anne Patterson, have led this country dangerously astray believing there are 'good Islamists' like the Brotherhood, Hamas and Hezbollah, Iran's proxies. By extension that would include the Islamic Republic of Iran on the verge of becoming a nuclear hegemon. This has jeopardized relations with valued allies in the region, Israel, the Kurds in Iraq, Sunni members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Egyptian Al Sisi government. Is this part of a radical plan by the President to insinuate Islamic theocratic doctrine upending Judeo Christian values at the core of our Constitution?