

Brotherhood of Hate: Muslim Brotherhood's Hatred for Jews and Israel Flourishes in "New" Egypt

Introduction

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The overthrow of Hosni Mubarak's regime by the Egyptian people in February 2011 marks a turning point in the political development of the Muslim Brotherhood, the country's largest and best organized religious, social and political movement. Since the upheaval, the Brotherhood has sought to quickly assert its influence and define the role it will play in Egypt's post-revolutionary political system. On June 24, 2011, one of the Brotherhood's very own leaders, Mohamed Morsi, was elected president of Egypt.

Although the group has vowed to promote peaceful co-existence and stability within Egypt by means of fostering better relations between Muslim and Christian citizens, the Brotherhood's leadership continues to articulate its historical and ideological opposition to the existence of the State of Israel and to the 1979 Camp David peace accord between the two countries.

For example, a Brotherhood rally held at the prestigious Al Azhar mosque days before the start of legislative elections featured several members of the Hamas leadership and Al Azhar clergy urging supporters to liberate the Al Aqsa mosque and to prevent the Judaization of Jerusalem.

Similarly, in response to the September 9, 2011, attack on the Israeli embassy by enraged protesters, the Brotherhood released a statement claiming the "demonstrations were justified" and criticized the government's "reluctance to withdraw the Egyptian ambassador from Israel." In another statement, widely published in the Arab press, the Brotherhood said, "...Egypt has changed, the entire region will change, and there is no room left for [Israel's] arrogance and aggression."



Muslim Brotherhood rally in Alexandria

Moreover, the Brotherhood's leadership has taken advantage of Egypt's newfound political, civic and media freedoms to publically promote conspiratorial claims against both Israel and Jews, and to express support for terrorist groups committed to the destruction of the Jewish state. In addition to public statements by its leadership, the Brotherhood's media arm has increasingly served as a platform for such sentiment as well.

To further promote this agenda, and to circumvent the ban on religiously affiliated political parties in the new Egypt, the Brotherhood established the Justice and Freedom Party (FJP), which describes itself as a pluralistic party open to all Egyptians and secured a majority of seats in the Egyptian parliament. Several former Brotherhood officials from the organization's 15-member Guidance Council have assumed key roles within the new party, and have used their positions in the FJP to reiterate the Brotherhood's long-standing hostility toward Zionism and support for terrorist organizations that serve as obstacles to peace and stability in the region.

FJP's stance on Israel's right to exist is documented in its official political program, labeling Israel as a "racist colonizing expansionist entity" and calling for implementation of the Palestinian right of return.

Due to the atmosphere of uncertainty that continues to shroud Cairo in the wake of the Brotherhood's electoral success, it remains to be seen what the impact of a Muslim Brotherhood led Egypt will have on domestic affairs, regional stability and the security of the state of Israel.

In Their Own Words

In the wake of the power vacuum that has engulfed Egypt following the revolution, there has been a steady escalation of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel themes in public discourse and by Muslim Brotherhood leaders in particular. Although the official platform of the Brotherhood and its new political party, the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), is couched in terms of democracy and peace, the organization continues to lash out against Israel and Jews, and to express support for terrorist organizations dedicated to the destruction of the Jewish state.

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- **"O you Zionists who usurp and act aggressively to our holy places... every drop of blood shed by the hand of the Zionist on the land of the beloved Palestine will be cursed by Allah** no matter how long it takes or how many years: the blood of the Deir Yassin massacre, the massacre at the Ibrahim Mosque, Qana in south Lebanon, the blood of the prisoners in Sinai, the blood of the Golan Heights, in Gaza and the West Bank, and in every inch of the land of Palestine that has been irrigated in the blood of martyrs..." (*Risalat al Ikhwan, October 11, 2012*)

- Mohammad Badie, eighth General Guide of the Brotherhood

- "We see all those who are honorable and free in the world; Muslims, Christians and Jews, stand up against the **crimes of the Zionist gangs in the raped lands** [settlements] and Muslim and Christian sanctuaries, and their siege over the land and their killing [of the people] ... The Muslims would be happy if the central goal of Muslim leaders was the recovery of the Al-Aqsa mosque and **its liberation from Zionist filth**, and the imposition of Islamic sovereignty throughout all of beloved Palestine." (*Risalat al Ikhwan, July 5, 2012*)



Mohammad Badie

- Mohammad Badie

- "**We reject normalization under any name, and refuse to visit Jerusalem while it is under Zionist occupation**, even if the visit happens to be without visas from the Zionist entity" (*IkhanWeb, April 20, 2012*)

- Farid Ismail, Deputy of the National Security Committee of the Egyptian parliament and member of the parliamentary Commission of the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP)

- "**We do not recognize Israel at all. It is a raping, occupying, criminal enemy entity.** I shall never tolerate for myself to sit with a criminal and we shall not deal with Israel under any circumstances...The peace treaty absolutely does not obligate me and the people will give their opinion about this." (*Al Hayat interview, January 1, 2012*)

- Rashad Bayoumi, Deputy Chairman of the Muslim Brotherhood

- "This [prisoner exchange with Hamas] proved that **Israel understands nothing but the language of force and resistance**; and this language is capable, God willing, of liberating the Palestinian people suffering under Zionist captivity." (*Risalat al Ikhwan, October 20, 2011*)

- Mohammad Badie

- **Existence of a state for Jews is against all rules of states all over the world.** (*Radio Free Europe interview, August 15, 2011*)

- Essam el Erian, Deputy President of the Freedom and Justice Party and former member of the Brotherhood's Guidance Council

- "**The Egyptian nation supports and welcomes Iran's anti-Zionist stance** because the two nations view the formation of the Zionist regime on the Palestinian territories as a brutal act and against the interests of the regional nations and Muslims." (*Al Masry Al Youm, July 13, 2011*)

- Kamal al Halbawi, Brotherhood spokesman at the time, speaking during an official Brotherhood visit to Iran

- "Both nations [Iran and Egypt] underline the necessity for Muslim nations to maintain solidarity and unity to **annihilate this cancerous tumor (Israel)**... **Every night when I go to bed, I pray to wake up the next day to see Israel is wiped off the map.**" (*Al Masry Al Youm, July 13, 2011*)

-Kemal al Halbawi

- "The *Isra'* (the prophet Muhammad's night journey to Jerusalem) demonstrates that the land of Palestine is the land of Arabism and Islam, which **requires this area to be in the possession of its [Arab/Muslim] owners in order for the way to the Al-Aqsa mosque to be secure.**" (*Risalat al Ikhwan, June 24, 2011*)

-Mohammad Badie

- "The next victory – with God's permission – inevitably is the retrieval of Palestine and Jerusalem and the Golan and all lands occupied by Israel. This will no longer be a wild dream, rather a hope that's in sight after the people proceed and know **their path to end Israeli superiority and doubt of Israel's continuation and survival will be a sure thing.**" (*Risalat al Ikhwan, June 10, 2011*)

-Mohammad Badie

- "**My dream is to live together as we did before the state of Israel... Americans and Europeans exported the conflict created by Hitler to our land.**" (*Washington Post interview, May 4, 2011*)

- Essam el Erian

Anti-Semitism has also been voiced by Brotherhood leaders during interviews and at several rallies.

- "The time has come for the Islamic ummah to band together for Jerusalem and Palestine since it has been dominated by **the Jews and they have increased their corruption throughout the world, shedding the blood of the people, trampling sanctuaries and holy places, desecrating even either own sanctuaries through their actions, and crossing the limits of their tyranny by making the Al Aqsa mosque a place for Jewish prayer**....this teaches and confirms to the believers that recovering the sanctuaries and preserving the honor and blood from the hands of the Jews will never cross the corridors of the United Nations or be heard in negotiations... the **Zionists do not understand anything but force** and won't back away from their aggression [...] and they will never will, except through holy jihad and high sacrifices and all forms of resistance..."(*Risalat al Ikhwan, October 11, 2012*)

-Mohammad Badie

- "[Muhammad] held treaty after treaty with the Jews... which the prophet and the Muslims adhered to faithfully, **while the Jews breached all treaties.**



Essam el Erian

Then began the epic stories of jihad and fighting to protect the message [Islam] from the enemies..." (*Risalat al Ikhwan, November 24, 2011*)

- Mohammad Badie

- **Israel cannot tolerate peace... Because they want to live in war. It is the history of Jewish people."** (*NBC interview, July 9, 2011*)

- Essam el Erian

- **"Allah has warned us the tricks of the Jews, and their role in igniting the fire of wars...The Almighty said: 'Every time they light the fires of war, Allah extinguishes them; and they labor hard to spread corruption on earth and Allah does not love the spreaders of corruption."** (*Brotherhood rally, June 2, 2011*)

-Mohammad Badie

- **"I do not imagine the Americo-Zionist alliance wants our blessed revolution to reach its objectives, in the forefront of which are: that we enjoy freedom in our land, that we be independent in our decision and that we have sovereignty over our homelands... it's a Jewish plot to divide Muslims, old and new, and that their intentions are evident from Napoleon to Zionism's founder Theodore Herzl."** (*Brotherhood rally, June 2, 2011*)

-Mohammad Badie

Essam el Erian, Deputy President of FJP and former senior member of the Brotherhood's Guidance Council, has voiced his support for terrorist organizations bent on destroying Israel:

- **" Hamas is a resistance group fighting for freedom and liberation of their lands from occupation. And the West must revise their knowledge about Hamas, [so] that war and terrorism come to an end. And mixing cards and putting Hamas and other resistance groups among terrorist groups, this was a fatal mistake of the West."** (*Radio Free Europe interview, August 15, 2011*)

-Essam el Erian

- **"They [Hamas] are fighters for liberty. Their land is occupied by the real terrorists. Real terrorists who kill innocent farmers in Qana and children in Egypt. They [Israel] killed children in school here in 1968. They are the real terrorists [...] Israelis kill children. They killed 300 children in Gaza."** (*PajamasMedia Blog interview, July 14, 2011*)

-Essam el Erian

Brotherhood leaders have also made conspiratorial accusations against Israel:

- **"The Zio-American scheme will not rest when it sees signs of freedom shadowing Arab and Islamic societies.** Thus the conspiracies started and an ambassador [U.S. Ambassador Anne Patterson] was chosen, whose miserable history testifies of the crimes she committed in Pakistan and Afghanistan in order to continue the march of sedition in Egypt." (*Ikwonline op-ed, February 15, 2012*)

- Rashad Bayoumi

- **"... All of Egypt considers Israel a strategic enemy... Israel never has nor will want any good for Egypt what with the exporting of cancerous pesticides and its conspiracies and spies and schemes to cause differences between the people and the military the list is endless."** (*FJP interview, November 29, 2011*)

-Ashour Mohamed Al Halawany, Secretary General of the Freedom and Justice Party's Monofeya branch

- **"The deteriorating conditions of our Arab nation awakened the conscience and zeal of the people. It broke down the barriers, sparked revolutions, and uncovered the sensitive facts of the Zio-American plots.** This weakened the dictatorial power [of the U.S.] which supported those rulers who neglected their country's national interests..." (*Risalat al Ikhwan, September 23, 2011*)

- Mohammad Badie

- **"Our primary enemy is the Zio-American project which seeks to control the whole region in order to establish 'Greater Israel' and the new Middle East..."** (*Risalat al Ikhwan, October 7, 2011*)

-Mohammad Badie

- **"We know that you [the Supreme Council of Armed Forces] follow carefully the Zionist enemy's refusal toward any change to the humiliating and degrading relations equation, which made Egypt's president into a strategic treasure, and that they [the Zionists] are behind the gas pipeline bombings to demonstrate the weak grip of control over the country and they are sending spies after spies to sabotage and divide the revolution, and to pit the people against one another."** (*Risalat al Ikhwan, July 15, 2011*)

-Essam el Erian

- **"Those who allege that holding parliament elections first will cause bloodshed, citing security fears, are Zionists and remnants of the old regime..."** (*Al Masry Al Youm, July 4, 2011*)

-Mohamed Morsi, chairman of the Freedom and Justice Party and former member of the Brotherhood's Guidance Council

While some Brotherhood members have either refrained from commenting or been vague about the group's outlook on the peace accord between Israel and Egypt, others have viewed the treaty and all that it entails as a crime against Egypt and its citizens.

Brotherhood Media

In the wake of newly relaxed media laws in Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood and its affiliated Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) have been able to use various media at their disposal, clearly illustrating the organization's hostile agenda.

This apparatus, which includes Web sites in both Arabic and English, helps promote the group's historical and ideological opposition to Israel. Key among these sites is IkhwanWeb, the Brotherhood's English-language Web site that serves as a platform to disseminate information about the FJP to a Western audience.

- A July 21, 2011, opinion piece alleged Israeli meddling in Sudan during the decades of conflict in the African nation. **"Israel has played a major role in this conflict in Sudan in order to break up the integrity of this country,"** according to the piece.

IkhwanOnline, the Brotherhood's primary Arabic-language Web site, includes articles featuring anti-Semitic and anti-Western writings. A recent overhaul of the site includes a new multimedia page containing photos glorifying jihad, interviews with Muslim Brotherhood and [Hamas](#) leaders and videos of Brotherhood events.

- November 26, 2011 – A video clip of a Brotherhood rally held at the Al Azhar mosque shows thousands of supporters chanting against Israel's plans to demolish the Mughrabi Gate bridge in Jerusalem's Old City. The event "Al Aqsa Support Friday" was attended by several members of the Hamas leadership and Al Azhar clergy. Hamas representative Khalil Ismail Al Haya, urged Muslims to **"launch a campaign similar to Saladin's campaign to liberate the Al Aqsa mosque."** Abdul Rahman Al Ber, the Mufti of the Brotherhood, demanded **"the Islamic people to act fast to face the plans to Judaize Jerusalem and called for martyrdom and the sacrifice of blood for the sake of Al Aqsa."** The video clip also shows supporters holding placards that read: **"Oh Jews of Khaiber, the army of Muhammad is here"** and **"Oh lousy Jews, the blood of the Muslims is not cheap."**
- A July 11, 2011, article sought to stoke anti-Israel sentiments among the Egyptian public by suggesting that Israel was behind a new wave of demonstrations in Tahrir Square. **According to the article, three "thugs" with tattoos of the Star of David, carrying knives and foreign currencies were caught in the square.** The article further alleges that bombs and tear gas marked with the Star of David were also found in the possession of a television reporter who was inciting protesters to attack the police and to storm the Ministry of Interior.



Oh Jews of Khaiber, the army of Muhammad is here

- May 28, 2011 – An article originally published on IslamWay, a Web site that promotes the Islamic faith and doctrine, titled "Relations Between the West and the Zionist Entity" claimed that Western support for Israel and Jews comes as a result of guilt after centuries of Christian persecution of the Jewish people. The article cited the age-old anti-Semitic claim of Jewish media domination and an outright denial of the Holocaust:

The Jews are in the habit of taking over the media and inflating all the terrible incidents that have happened to them, but they have also fabricated incidents, which they have sealed by giving rise to the story of the "Holocaust," which the Nazis perpetrated against them... the main chord played by Jews to gain popular support for their State, and even convince the Jews themselves that they need to establish their own State.

The Brotherhood's Arabic-language newsletter, *Risalat al Ikhwan*, publishes articles by prominent Brotherhood and FJP leaders. The newsletter also serves as a platform for the organization to voice its opinions regarding international matters. For example:

- November 24, 2011 – On the occasion marking Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh's reception of a delegation of Egyptian religious scholars, an article was published quoting Haniyeh telling the visitors that **"the Land of Palestine is an Islamic waqf (endowment) and it is not allowed to give up even 1 inch of it, and its capital is al Quds (Jerusalem)."** In addition, when explaining Hamas's position regarding a two-state solution and peace with Israel, the article quotes Haniyeh saying, **"When we say that we accept a state with the borders of '67 and Jerusalem as its capital, it is according to two conditions: No recognition of the Israeli entity and the Right of Return of the refugees, which is their right and their case is affirmed and holy."** Haniyeh also claimed that "liberating Gaza and the prisoners was due to the steadfastness and resistance" of Hamas against Israel.
- October 7, 2011 - In his weekly editorial, Mohammad Badie described political developments impacting the region. **"The global forces of the Zionists and the Americans are coming to a defeat...starting with the isolation of 'Israel' and the loss of its great supporters in the region."**
- August 19, 2011 - On the occasion marking the 42nd anniversary of the Al Aqsa Mosque fire in Jerusalem, an opinion piece by the Brotherhood's chief ideologue [Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi](#) called upon Arab rulers to use oil as a weapon in the fight for Jerusalem. The piece, which denied any Jewish connections to the holy city, ended with the well-known anti-Semitic *Hadith* (sayings of the Prophet) by a companion of the prophet Muhammad, Abu Hurayrah: **"The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, said, 'The hour will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them, even when the Jews hide behind the rocks and the trees, the rocks and the trees will say: O' Muslim, O' servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.'"**
- July 22, 2011 – An article in response to a UNESCO designation of historical sites in the city of Jerusalem denounced the UN and urged the continuation of jihad and resistance against Israel, "The Brotherhood rejects and strongly condemns what was announced by the UNESCO representative to the United Nations designating Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist entity...Such unfair decisions do not impose a void of, nor do they rob the rights of [the

Palestinians], and by all means the rights of its peoples' return to its fortified position of resistance and jihad; and **in time all will regret assisting this Zionist entity's violation of the rights and occupation of the lands**, and its injustice toward the Palestinian people, the rightful and original owners of the land."

Muslim Brotherhood in a Free Egypt

In an effort to sidestep the ban on religiously affiliated political parties in the new Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood has established the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP). The FJP promotes itself as a pluralistic political party open to all Egyptians, Muslim and Christian; however, the FJP receives its ideological and financial backing from the Muslim Brotherhood and its leadership.

Although the FJP is open to accepting non-Muslim members (the party's Vice-President is Coptic Christian leader Rafiq Habib), the party is opposed to a non-Muslim or Copt becoming head of state. In order to broaden its public appeal to non-Muslims, the FJP has also removed the image of the Qur'an and the word "Islam" from their logos and mottos.

Nonetheless, high level Brotherhood members like Sobhi Saleh, who was elected by Egypt's military council to be on the national constitution amendment committee, have stated that the Brotherhood will implement *Shariah* law in Egypt if it comes to power, presumably through the election of the FJP.

Perhaps the most telling of the FJP's positions is the party's stance on Israel's right to exist, as documented in detail in the FJP's official political program:



Freedom and Justice Party leadership

- "The issue of Palestine is the most important issue of Egyptian national security, in addition to being an Arab or Muslim cause, because **the Zionist Entity is a racist colonizing expansionist entity**, possessing weapons of mass destruction, **which has caused the outbreak of many wars in the region**, affecting the geographical, political, social and economic situation, disrupting development programs and displacing people from their homes, in addition to the acquisition of Islamic and Christian holy places in Palestine. Therefore **the party sees the need to make all efforts to resolve this issue and ensure the rights of Palestinian self-determination and the return of refugees to their homes, establish their state and its capital Jerusalem, restore all the holy places of Muslims and Christians in Palestine** and the evacuation of the entire region (Middle East) of weapons of mass destruction."

Brotherhood members who have assumed prominent positions in the FJP are now able to meet with public figures and officials, where they have an opportunity to advance the Brotherhood's platform on domestic and international issues. For example, in an official meeting with the French Ambassador to Egypt in June 2011, FJP Chairman Mohamed Morsi alluded to the Brotherhood's position vis-à-vis the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. "The nature of the relationship with Israel," Morsi said, "would be determined by the next parliament if the Muslim Brotherhood came to power or shared it in any way."

While some Brotherhood members have either refrained from commenting or been vague about the group's outlook on the peace accord between Israel and Egypt, others have viewed the treaty and all that it entails as a crime against Egypt and its citizens. In June 2011, Essam el Erian, Deputy President of the Freedom and Justice Party and former member of the Brotherhood's Guidance Council, stated that the FJP views the export of Egyptian gas to Israel as a crime committed by the former regime against Egyptians.

In an October 11 article on FJP's official Web site, FJP blamed Israel and the West for creating conditions that encourage sectarian strife between Muslims and Coptic Christians in Egypt. **"One of the most prominent reasons fueling sectarian strife and clashes in Egypt without doubt is the intervention of foreigners (the West and Zionists), which the Supreme Council of Armed Forces, the Prime Minister, and the Brotherhood warned would ignite and fuel strife between the Muslims and Copts to thwart the revolution."** The article further promoted the conspiratorial view that intelligence operations carried out by the U.S. and Israel aim to recruit Egyptian youth online in order to foil Egypt's revolution:

"It is no secret that events of sectarian strife and the numerous security violations that have recently occurred in Egypt... are carried out unequivocally through intelligence operations by American and Israel...The youth should be warned about being contacted via 'Facebook' by others that may have a Mossad member from a unit dedicated for the recruitment of Arab youth, especially if they were revolutionaries or political activists."

Not all Brotherhood members, however, use the FJP to as a means to be politically active. Unfettered freedom of movement in Egypt has allowed Brotherhood members and supporters to travel around the country and speak at engagements to promote the Brotherhood's ideology and platform. In a March 10, 2011, speech at Alexandria University, Mohammad Selim al Awa, a prominent Islamic thinker and Muslim Brotherhood member, stated that he believes the 1979 peace treaty with Israel should be nullified, and that the peace treaty is really a *hudna* (ceasefire between two warring sides). Al Awa also advocated for Egypt to build stronger relationships with all resistance movements, suggesting that these groups use Egypt as a base to launch attacks against Israel.

History

The Muslim Brotherhood was founded by Hassan al Banna, the son of a pious Imam, in 1928. As a child, al Banna was heavily influenced by the religious teachings of his father and later became involved in politics as an adolescent during Egypt's colonial rule by the British. Al Banna became disenchanted with what he perceived as a weakened state of Muslims while he was studying at Dar al-Ulum College. It was at Dar al-Ulum when he began forging relationships with prominent Islamic scholars that would go on to shape his political and religious philosophy. In 1928, while working as a school teacher in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia, al Banna founded the Society of Muslim Brotherhood.

The Muslim Brotherhood was also intended to be an alternative to the Wafd Party, a secular nationalist political party formed in 1919 as an opposition group uniting Egypt's Christian and Muslim population against the British occupation. The difference with the Brotherhood was that it offered an Islamic approach to the struggle against colonialism, and it would subscribe to violence in pursuit of establishing its vision for Egypt. A key figure in synthesizing the Brotherhood's philosophy and charter was Seyyed Qutb, an Islamist theorist whose radical anti-Western ideas would go on to influence the ideological foundation of groups like Al Qaeda. In fact, most of the Muslim Brotherhood's guiding principles and philosophy come

from Qutb's 1964 book, *Milestones*, where he laid out a plan and made a call to action for the recreation of a Muslim world based solely on the Qur'an.

The Muslim Brotherhood's objectives and ideology are summed up in its adopted motto:

"Allah is our objective. The Prophet is our leader. Qur'an is our law. Jihad is our way. Dying in the way of Allah is our highest hope."

After a failed assassination attempt against Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser, the group was banned in 1954 and driven underground. New laws were passed during the Anwar Sadat and Hosni Mubarak regimes that marked police harassment and severe punishment for anyone openly associated with the Brotherhood. Although driven underground, the Brotherhood continued to provide social services to many poor Egyptians, a traditionally rural and religious sector that readily identified with the Brotherhood's Islamist message. Politically, while virtually non-existent in Egypt's political arena, the Muslim Brotherhood began to emerge in politics after suffering deadly suppression by the Mubarak regime. After senior leaders formally renounced and abandoned the use of terror, the Brotherhood began fielding parliamentary candidates as Independents during elections.



Official symbol of Muslim Brotherhood

The increased participation in political life did not result in the abandonment of the Brotherhood's hostility toward Israel, which remained unchanged under the Mubarak regime. For example, in an article that appeared on IkhwanWeb in October 2009, the Brotherhood's then chairman Mohamed Mahdy Akef stated, **"Concerning the group's views and stance on the issues of internal reform or any other developments... Our stance on the issues of Copts, women, Zionist enemy and all other issues at stake is clear for all."**

Akef reiterated this position in a post-revolution interview:

We believe that Zionism, the United States, and England are gangs that kill children and women and men and destroy houses and fields...Zionism is a gang, not a country. So we will resist them until they do not have a country.

Similarly, in a Friday sermon given at a fundraising event in September 2010, Mohammed Badie, the Brotherhood's eighth General Guide, urged followers to reject negotiations with Israel and called for an end to normalization:

It is your obligation to stop the absurd negotiations, whether direct or indirect, and to support all forms of resistance for the sake of liberating every occupied piece of land in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, and all [other] parts of our Muslim world. The sources of your authority, as all religious scholars have agreed, are the Koran and the Sunna, and not U.N. resolutions or the dictates of the Zionists or Americans. This can be achieved if you declare the Palestine cause and the causes of the [other] occupied Islamic nations your primary concern. You must stand behind your free peoples and their various institutions in their repeated calls for boycotts, an end to normalization, and support for the resistance and its representatives... You must revoke all the agreements of capitulation.... especially the Camp

David Accords... which go against the Egyptian constitution and U.N. resolutions, and do not therefore obligate Egyptian senior officials.

In another September 2010 statement, Badie expressed the Brotherhood's support for terrorist groups fighting Israel.

Resistance is the only solution against the Zio-American arrogance and tyranny...The peoples know well who is [carrying out] resistance and who has sold out the [Palestinian] cause and bargained over it. We say to our brothers the mujahideen in Gaza: be patient, persist in [your jihad], and know that Allah is with you...

Badie, who took over leadership of the Brotherhood in January 2010, has stated that the organization will **"continue to view the Jews and Zionists as their first and foremost enemies"** and that **"Jihad means making sacrifices in order to restore what has been stolen [Palestine]."**

An example of this seen in an article by contributing writer Ismail Ali Muhammad, a Brotherhood member and professor at Al Azhar University:

An educational series ran for one week between October 20-25, 2010, titled "The Manners of the Jews as Outlined in the Teaching of the Old Testament and Talmud." This series, containing six parts, promotes rabid anti-Semitism and conspiracies under the guise of education. The first article in the series, "Authenticity of Perversion and Corruption in Jewish Personality," claims that it is in the inherent nature of the Jews to **"never give up trying to spread corruption on Earth... [they are] unable to live peacefully and have good relations with anyone that encounters them... it is a personality that has always been a source of evil and harm to all societies."** Furthermore, the article mentions the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," a forgery suggesting Jewish plans for world domination, as an example of "the bodies of work they [the Old Testament and Talmud] have produced..." The fourth article of the series, "Hostility, Savagery and the Desire to Spread Death and Destruction," demonizes Jews by claiming that **"In the veins of the Jews, in their blood, there is an ugly, horrible savagery that is entrenched deep in their being and conscious."** The article further uses the classic blood libel accusing Jews of engaging in ritual murders as part of their holiday preparations, **"Jewish rabbis consider it permissible to kill or slaughter people to drain them of their blood and use it to make Matzo to be eaten for the Passover holiday."**

The movement's ideology has produced sister organizations in the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Syria and Libya. The most notable of these is [Hamas](#), the Palestinian arm of the Muslim Brotherhood and an extremist Islamic terrorist organization that calls for the eradication of the Israeli state. Although Hamas's origins are from within the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, the Brotherhood's leadership refutes any organizational link between the two, maintaining that Hamas only shares an ideological bond with its Egyptian counterpart. However, there has been an increase in communication and cooperation between the leadership of the Brotherhood and Hamas. For example, Hamas announced in December 2011, that the Palestinian organization has joined the "global Muslim Brotherhood" movement and added "Muslim Brotherhood – Palestine" to its official name.

The Muslim Brotherhood's Jordanian arm, also known as the Islamic Action Front (IAF), is the Hashemite Kingdom's largest and best organized mainstream opposition group. Most notably, in recent years the IAF

has repeatedly called for the Jordanian monarch to cancel the kingdom's peace treaty with Israel. In the wake of the Israeli embassy attack in Cairo on September 9, 2011, Murad al Adhaylah from the IAF's executive office urged the Jordanian government to "clean out the Zionist spy den" from Amman, adding that "It is a disgrace that the Israeli embassy remains in Amman under the continuing Zionist attacks on the sovereignty and interests of Jordan." Al Aghaylah concluded that "the compass of the revolutions is pointing toward the liberation of Palestine."

The Muslim Brotherhood's Syrian arm has largely suffered brutal suppression under the Baathist Assad regime. That has continued in the wake of widespread anti-regime protests sweeping Syria. Relatively small and unorganized in comparison to its counterparts in Palestine, Jordan and Egypt, the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood nonetheless adheres to its core anti-Zionist and Islamists ideology. In light of the political turmoil facing Syria, the Syrian Brotherhood has taken a stand against the Assad regime and what its leadership claims is support from Israel, Europe and America for Damascus.

The Syrian Muslim Brotherhood also enjoys political support from the Egyptian arm, where the leadership has organized protests outside the Syrian Embassy in Cairo against the Assad regime's brutal crackdown and suppression efforts. During a Brotherhood-led protest against the Syrian crackdown on Hama in August 2011 supporters chanted "O coward Bashar, send your army to the Golan," calling on the Syrian leader to direct his army's deadly assault against Israel instead of his people.

With the fall of the Qaddafi regime in Libya, the long dormant Libyan Muslim Brotherhood held its first conference in Benghazi in early November 2011. The conference outlined the movement's political agenda, elected new leadership, expanded the number of members to the Shura Council and drafted its social and political platform. Although this was the 9th conference for the Libyan Brotherhood, it was the first conference to be held in Libya. Internal elections resulted in the selection of Bashir Al Kaity as the movement's General Observer, a title that denotes recognition of the authority of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. Similar to the Egyptian branch of the movement, the Libyan Brotherhood announced that it will participate in Libya's new political process by establishing an independent political party.

Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi

The Muslim Brotherhood draws its governing ideology largely from the body of works produced by Seyyid Qutb, an Islamist theorist whose ideas also influenced the formation of groups like Al Qaeda, and the teachings of Muslim Brotherhood founder Hassan al Banna.

However, the Brotherhood's present ideological stands have been largely influenced by leading Islamic theologian and prominent Muslim Brotherhood member [Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi](#). Qaradawi is an anti-Semitic, anti-Israel theologian who joined the ranks of the Brotherhood in its heyday under the guidance of al Banna.

Through his speeches and writings, Qaradawi has promoted violence against Jews and Israelis with numerous fatwas (legal opinions) permitting suicide bombings, and he has voiced support for terrorist organizations like Hamas, who are bent on destroying the Jewish state. While in exile in Qatar, Qaradawi continued to provide the Muslim Brotherhood and its leaders with ideological and theological guidance.



Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi

Upon Qaradawi's return to his native Egypt in February 2011 after decades of exile, he led the first Friday prayers of the post-Mubarak era, exclaiming through loud speakers in Cairo's Tahrir Square, **"I have hope that as God has delighted me to see a liberated Egypt, [so too will God] delight me with a conquered Al Aqsa,"** in Jerusalem.

For an in-depth background of Sheik Yusuf Qaradawi, click [here](#).

Response to Operation Pillar of Defense

In November 2012, Israel Defense Forces began Operation Pillar of Defense to bring an end to the barrage of rocket fire from the Hamas-governed Gaza Strip. Although the Israeli military operation received support from many countries in the European Union and from the United States, several senior leaders and members of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and its political party, the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), have made a series of statements denouncing Israel's military operation.

By the end of the first full day of hostilities between Israel and Hamas militants, Egypt withdrew its ambassador to Israel and several Egyptian government officials voiced support for Hamas' activities.

The following is a sampling of some statements made by senior members of the Muslim Brotherhood and the FJP:

- On November 16, President of the FJP Sa'ad Katatni released a statement on behalf of a coalition of Egypt's political parties, condemning Israel and denouncing "scandalous American and Western support for the terrorist Zionist entity, which is a rapist of the indigenous Palestinian rights." Katatni also said that the coalition wants "Arab and Muslim governments ... to take steps to punish the Zionist entity," and called on the "Arab League to withdraw the Arab Initiative, which no longer exists due to Zionist insolence ..."
- "We believe Palestinians [ha]ve [a] right to self-defense, HAMAS is [a] resistance movement waging guerilla warfare against illegal occupation." (November 16, 2012)

-Muslim Brotherhood official Twitter account

- For Israel, the Egyptian Revolution meant that "they could not practice their daily hobby of killing our people in Palestine." (November 14, 2012)

-Mohammad Saif al-Dawla, aide to Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi

- "The Zionist entity is exercising the usual crime and bloodshed ... Egypt should withdraw the ambassador and freeze relations, open crossings, and protect and support the resistance." (*November 14, 2012*)
 - Sobhi Salah, senior Brotherhood and FJP member
- Israel is "turning the tables and renewing the war on terror again and [causing] instability...regional intelligence agencies [are] assisting the Entity in order to divert attention from the crimes committed in Syria." (*November 14, 2012*)
 - Essam el Erian, Deputy President of the FJP and senior Brotherhood member

On November 14, an official Muslim Brotherhood statement released on the escalation of the conflict blamed the outbreak of violence on Israel and called on Egypt to cut all relations with Israel:

- Today there was "a dangerous escalation of the Zionist army, which has been built on killing and terrorism since its first day ..."
- "We don't envision anything less than cutting diplomatic and trade relations with this usurping entity. The Egyptian government must be the first to do this ..."