

## **MOSQUES ARE SWELL – AND WE NEED MORE OF THEM: OBAMA AND THE GROUND-ZERO JIHAD SUPPORT CENTER**

**By Don Feder**  
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Last week, President Barack Obama (whose middle name can only be mentioned in non-election years) weighed in on the Ground Zero Mosque and Jihad Support Center.

President America-Is-Not-A-Christian-Nation is shocked and saddened that some object to a 13-story, mega-mosque just a stone's throw from where 19 Muslims murdered 3,000 Americans in the name of Islam less than a decade ago. Try as he might, our president just can't see a connection between the murders and the mosque.

“As a citizen and president, I believe that Muslims have the same right to practice their religion as everyone else ... that includes the right to build a place of worship ... in lower Manhattan,” the law professor lectured. “This is America, and our commitment to religious freedom must be unshakable.”

Not unshakable in every instance. Mr. Obama has yet to comment on the case of Christian missionaries who were arrested for peacefully handing out copies of the Gospel of St. John on a public street near an Arab festival in Dearborn, Michigan. Most of Obama's appointees are dedicated to driving Christianity underground.

But then, Christianity doesn't share Islam's commitment to truth, justice and the American way.

Obama's comments on the Ground Zero Mosque came at last week's Ramadan dinner in the White House. (BTW, this president has yet to attend a National Day of Prayer event.) In the presence of ambassadors from fun places like Saudi Arabia and Indonesia, the president again reminded us of the swellness of Islam.

“These rituals remind us of the principles that we hold in common, and Islam's role in advancing justice, progress, tolerance and the dignity of all human beings,” Obama bloviated. Unless he issues one of these Islam-is-sweetness-and-light declarations regularly, the president feels he hasn't fulfilled his solemn duty to “fight against negative stereotypes of Islam,” as he pledged in his Cairo speech last year.

If the creed of Muhammad promotes justice, tolerance and human dignity (admittedly all good things), then the more mosques the merrier. There should be a mosque on every street corner. Then the nation would be awash in progress, justice and tolerance.

Strangely, the overwhelming majority of Americans reject the president's reasoning. On hearing his pro-mosque pronouncement, Democratic candidates facing their own 9-11 on November 2, wondered why Obama didn't just put them out of their misery.

In a CNN/Opinion Research Poll released last week, 70% said they're opposed to building the \$100-million, mosque and culture center near the site of Islam's greatest triumph since the conquest of Constantinople. They might even believe, in the words of a protestor at an anti-Ground Zero mosque rally, that such a structure would "spit in the face" of 9-11 victims.

The funding for the Cordoba House Initiative is murky, though it's believed most of it comes from tolerant Saudis and progressive Indonesians. Its imam, Egyptian-born Feisal Abdul Rauf, says the mega-mosque will usher in "a new discourse in the relationship between the United States, New York City, and the Muslim world."

But what issues from the imam's mouth is the same thread-bare rationalizations for terrorism and distortions of history we've heard from Muslim spokesmen ad nauseam.

His imamness won't acknowledge that Hamas is a terrorist gang (perhaps he thinks it's the Islamic equivalent of the Salvation Army).

Speaking of the slaughter at the World Trade Center, Imam Rauf informs us, "The Islamic method of waging war is not to kill innocent civilians. But it was Christians in World War II who bombed civilians in Dresden and Hiroshima, neither of which were military targets."

The atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima to convince the Emperor and his cabinet to end a war that Japan couldn't win, and, in so doing, spare the million or so lives that would have been lost on both sides if we'd had to invade the home islands. That aside, the bombings of Dresden and Hiroshima were based on military, not theological, decisions. No one issued a fatwa on their inhabitants.

From the imam's avowal, we must assume that those who died on 9-11 -- along with the victims of suicide bombings which were once a weekly occurrence in Israel, the four Coptic Christians gunned down leaving their church after Christmas services, and Daniel Pearl -- either weren't innocent civilians, or their murders were the work of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Imam Rauf has also told us that a president of the United States must issue an "America culpa" for our long history of backing dictators in the Muslim world. "U.S. polices were an accessory to a lot of innocent lives dying (*sic.*) in the world. Osama bin Laden was made in the USA."

It must come as a great comfort to the families of 9-11 victims to know that the imam of the Ground Zero mosque believes their country was an accomplice to the murder of their loved ones, while Islam was totally blameless.

What else do we know of the cleric who would bring a new dialogue between the U.S. and Islam?

Raufie-boy has ties to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), an organization that was listed as an un-indicted co-conspirator in a Department of Justice case brought against a Moslem "charity" accused of funding Hamas. He's also part of a group that supported the flotilla, run by Hamas sympathizers, trying to break the Israeli blockade attempting to keep weapons out of Gaza.

Imam Rauf has devised something called the Sharia Index to ascertain how closely countries follow Islamic law. The imam has compared Sharia to natural law and the Declaration of Independence, which would make bin Laden and company Betsey Ross and Molly Pitcher.

An undercover mosque-monitor reports that in a recent Friday sermon, Rauf denied that Muslims perpetrated the 9-11 attacks. (According to a 2007 Pew Research Center survey, only 40% of U.S. Muslims believe Arab men carried out the attacks.) Let's have a shout-out to the voice of moderate Islam.

In an August 10 story ("Across America, Mosque Projects Meet Opposition"), *The New York Times* -- which is frequently mistaken for Al Jazeera -- reports that the mass hysteria and madness of crowds isn't limited to the Ground-Zero-Take-That-Infidel-Dog Project. In Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Sheboygan, Michigan and Temecula, California, mosque construction has been opposed.

Perhaps opponents of these houses of worship know that a recent survey, undertaken by the Mapping Sharia in America Project, found that in a random sampling of 100 mosques and Islamic schools, one in four were hotbeds of anti-Western extremism -- hard to believe of institutions established mainly with Saudi money, many with ties to the Muslim Brotherhood, but there it is.

The Project sent former FBI, CIA and Army intelligence agents (fluent in Arabic or Urdu) into U.S. mosques, where they heard sermons supporting suicide bombers and maintaining that women are inferior to men and Jews are subhuman, found literature calling for an Islamic caliphate which will one day encompass the United States, and uncovered evidence of fundraising for jihadist groups.

There's been a frenzied wave of mosque-building in America. Of the 1,200 mosques operating in Great Satan-land, 80% were built in the past 12 years. Saudi Arabia has poured \$70-\$80 billion into mosque construction. The imams are mostly from Egypt or Saudi Arabia, where tolerance and justice have reached dizzying heights.

Here's a sampling of the peace-and-justice initiatives going on in American mosques:

- In 2007, a group of West Point cadets did an overnight at a Jersey City mosque, as part of their losing-the-peace curriculum. According to a Religion News Service story, Imam Mohamed Alhayek of the city's Islamic Center, a Jordanian by birth, "told them he believed the United States should leave Iraq and had destabilized the region by supporting regimes that don't allow people to establish governments based on Islam." One, two, many Talibans?
- In October 2009, Imam Luqman Aameem Abdullah, spiritual leader of the Masjid Al Haqq Mosque in Detroit, was killed in a shoot-out with the FBI. Agents were trying to arrest Abdullah on charges including conspiracy to sell stolen goods and illegal possession of firearms. The Dillinger of Detroit reportedly told followers that revolution was coming to America and he was willing to die for the Ummah.
- In July, the Masjid Al-Noor mosque in Memphis sponsored a "Weekend with Mohammed al-Hanooti." Al-Hanooti was an un-indicted co-conspirator at the 1990s trial of Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman (the Blind Sheikh), who tried to blow up the World Trade Center in 1993. According to FBI surveillance, he's attended various meetings with Hamas fundraisers. From 1995 to 1999, al-Hanooty was imam of the renowned Dar al-Hijrah mosque in Falls Church, Virginia, of which more will be said shortly.
- A number of businessmen connected with Brooklyn's Al-Farooq mosque allegedly funneled over \$20 million to al-Qaeda. The mosque's spiritual leader, Sheik Muhammad Ali Hasan Al-Moayad, has been accused of promoting terrorism, including supporting the Blind Sheik.
- In an interview (using a hidden microphone) a seven-year-old girl at the Al-Farooq mosque in Nashville, Tennessee, begins crying as she describes beatings from teachers. In one interview, the child refers to "my husband."
- But the gold medal goes to the aforesaid Dar al-Hijrah Islamic Center – which deserves to be designated the National Mosque. Among its distinguished imams is Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S. born cleric currently preaching from a cave in Yemen, where he rails against the West and venerates al-Qaeda. While he was at the Falls Church mosque, his congregation included two of the 9-11 terrorists. It's also believed that Major Nidal Malik Hasan, awaiting trial for the murder of 13 soldiers at Ft. Hood last November, attended the Dar al-Hijrah mosque and firing range while al-Awlaki was there. A friend of Major Hasan said the

Army shrink's eyes "lit up" when he spoke of his deep respect for al-Awlaki's teachings.

Trying to find a mosque that isn't somehow involved in terrorism (advocacy, fundraising, etc.) is like looking for a Southern Baptist church with a strip club in the basement. Mosques – what a great investment in America's future.

Why shouldn't Muslims get to build a victory mosque as close as possible to the site of Ground Zero? Consider the way Christians and other infidels are allowed to practice their faith in the Muslim world.

In Egypt, incidents like the murder of the Copts leaving Christmas services are a regular occurrence. In a nation with 7 to 10 million Christians, it takes a presidential decree to begin construction on a church.

In Jakarta earlier this month, Muslim religious authorities and a mob forced the government to close a Protestant church. A madrassa had recently opened in the neighborhood and – well – this town's not big enough for both of us.

There are 1,300 mosques in Saudi Arabia, the land of Islam's birth, and zero churches – which are officially verboten. (I can't remember the last time King Abdullah hosted a Passover Seder in his palace.) Holding Christian services in the privacy of someone's home is a capital offense. Bibles and crosses are confiscated at the border, and often spat on before being thrown in the trash. Christians and Jews are forbidden to enter Mecca, lest their presence pollute Islam's holiest city.

An estimated 4.8 million Pakistani Christians live in a state of siege. Christian men are regularly accused of blasphemy against the Prophet (another capital offense). Christian women are frequently gang-raped in an effort to convince them of the beauty of Islam. Here, as well as throughout the Islamic world, Muslims who convert to another faith are charged with apostasy and executed, unless they're smuggled out of the country.

The Ground Zero Mosque is an obscenity because of the symbolism. But mosques built anywhere in the U.S. are only slightly less troubling. For the record, and so there's no misunderstanding, the problem isn't militant Islam, or Islamic extremism or Islamic fundamentalism or something called Islamism – it's Islam, that which is practiced in mosques.

Still, if Obama and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg (the dumbest Jew in America) have their way, the Ground Zero mosque could be a learning experience.

Someone should buy a vacant lot in the vicinity and put up a billboard with an arrow pointing at the mosque and a photo of the smoldering ruins of the World Trade

Center with the caption: "This Gives You That." Build it and they will come -- and blow-up something big.

*This commentary originally appeared at GrassTopsUSA*