

Is the Muslim Brotherhood Active in Canada?

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Author's note: I examine the subjects raised in this paper from a Canadian perspective, and in so doing rely in part upon studies I made more than a year ago. Some of these subjects are under active investigation and reporting in Europe and America, and as such may influence Canadian perspectives from time to time. An earlier version of this paper was published on-line by Unpublished Ottawa.¹

Islamic Organizations

A useful comprehensive analysis of the Islamic strategy for global conquest, including the roles of principal Islamist organizations Islamic Movement, the Muslim Brotherhood, al-Qaeda and Islamic State, is contained in Stephen Coughlin's analysis *Burning Down the House: A Strategic Overview of the Threat, the CVE, and Strategic Incomprehension in the War on Terror*.²

The dawah mission is Muslims' main effort in the expansion of Islamic power. ("Dawah" means the proselytizing or preaching of Islam; it literally means "issuing a summons" or "making an invitation.") While dawah carries with it the mission of "preaching" Islam to gain converts, it is also associated with the ideological subversion elements of "civilization jihad," or "stealth jihad," as it is sometimes called.

The group most closely associated with the dawah mission in the United States is the

Muslim Brotherhood. The Muslim Brotherhood in America is best known through its front organizations, which include the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Muslim American Society (MAS), International Institute for Islamic Thought (IIIT), Fiqh Council of North America (FCNA), North American Islamic Trust (NAIT), and organizations inside the Islamic Movement, such as the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC).³ The roles of Canadian Islamic organizations have been less comprehensively analyzed.

Those of us who distinguish between Islam (the religion, or more accurately, the way of life) and terrorist jihadism (manifesting the excesses of some Muslims) frequently call upon "ordinary Muslims" or "moderate Muslims" and their organizations and imams to be proactive and prominent in promoting a viable peaceful alternative brand of Islam. Where do principal Muslim organizations in Canada stand?

Let us examine that question with reference to the Muslim Association of Canada, one of the principal Muslim organizations in this country. Let's begin with its almost two-year-old "Statement" of 28 January, 2015, at the time viewable on its home page.⁴ Here it is:

The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) is a religious, educational, social, charitable and non-profit organization that operates only in Canada.

Our organization has worked to strengthen the communities we live and work in since 1997.

A primary tenet of MAC is community involvement and service not only with the Muslim community, but with every community, regardless of faith or background.

MAC is a wholly Canadian organization. We are opposed to violence of all kinds. We are opposed to terrorist activity of any kind, especially any threats against the safety and security of fellow Canadians.

MAC is serving Canada community through our many programs, events and services delivered through our Islamic Schools, Mosques and Community Centers.

MAC is a national, grassroots organization currently operating in 11 Canadian cities, with a vision to establish an Islamic presence in Canada that is balanced, constructive and integrated, though distinct, within the social fabric and culture of Canada.

The foregoing statement of purpose has since been superseded by the present Statement, which is similar but refers specifically to the Muslim Brotherhood. The revised Statement reads as follows:

The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) is a religious, educational, social, charitable and non-profit organization. MAC provides services and programs designed to assist in the holistic educational and spiritual development of the Muslim individual and family. A primary tenet of MAC is community involvement and service not only with the Muslim community, but with every community, regardless of faith or background.

MAC's roots are deeply enshrined in the message of Prophet Mohammad. It's [sic] modern roots can be traced to the vigorous intellectual

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revivalist effort that took hold in Muslim societies starting in the early twentieth century. This revival aimed at reconciling faith with the challenges of modernity and providing a clear articulation of balance and moderation in understanding Islam. In the Arab world, this revival culminated in the writings of the late Imam Hassan al-Banna and the movement of the Society of Muslim Brothers (commonly known as the Muslim Brotherhood). Al-Banna's core messages of constructive engagement in society, focus on personal and communal empowerment, and organizational development had a deep impact on much of the Muslim world.

MAC is a wholly Canadian organization that operates only in Canada. Although MAC cooperates with many associations for the benefit of its members, communities, and society at large, it has no organizational link or affiliation with other organizations. MAC offers an approach that emphasizes the holistic message of Islam within the context of a pluralistic society and hence, a message that respects all faiths and Canadian institutions, traditions, and values. MAC believes that the personal development of every individual is key to a real and fruitful involvement in the community. It brings a balanced, constructive and engaged understanding of Islam that aims to inspire Muslims in Canada and throughout the world.⁵

MAC's Relationships and Activities

So far, so good? Or at least, no harm nor threat? Let's dig a little deeper. For more than a decade, MAC was an important contributor to the International Relief Fund for the Afflicted and Needy Canada (IRFAN-Canada) whose principal function was to serve as the Hamas

fund collector in this country.⁶ Note the deceptive “Afflicted and Needy” name of the organization. It is common knowledge that Hamas seeks not only the elimination of the state of Israel and all Jews wherever they may be found, but also the destruction of Western civilization.⁷ The Canada Revenue Agency revoked IRFAN-Canada’s charity status in April 2011 after having concluded that it financed the terrorist organization Hamas.⁸

MAC is an active organization with many prongs. Here’s one published summary, taken from a Quebec perspective (the paragraphs that refer to the funding of Hamas have been excised):

1. MAC controls several schools in Quebec (and across Canada) – at least one is funded by the Quebec government.

2. MAC controls several daycare centres in Quebec – at least one receives Quebec government funding.

3. MAC organizes summer camps at which Islamic preachers, already internationally known for their ultra-radical discourses, have been invited to preach in front of ‘young’ participants.

4. MAC regularly hosts, supports and invites known ultra-radical preachers – at least on two occasions, these speakers were the subject of a motion condemning their pres-

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ence on Canadian soil by the Quebec National Assembly.

5. MAC controls the leading halal certification agency in Quebec. Certification is paid for. This is a principal source of MAC funding.

6. MAC also received important sums of money, through its schools, from countries such as Saudi Arabia and one or more organizations having direct links with Al-Qaeda.⁹

Days after MAC’s former president, Wael Haddara, resigned, he became a key advisor to Muslim Brotherhood

leader Mohamed Morsi, who became Egyptian President.¹⁰ This manifests Mr Haddara’s intimacy with the International Muslim Brotherhood network and agenda.

One of the more fascinating sources of revenue for MAC is halal certification. “Halal” ostensibly means “pure and hygienic” and, like “kosher” for Jews, serves as an identifier of food purportedly fit for Muslim consumption. By way of example, “Association

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des viandes halal,” controlled by Abou-Baker-Assedique mosque in Montreal, is a Montreal halal-certification organization.¹¹ The mosque is part of a Muslim “cultural centre” that in addition to cultural activities, also provides the halal certification –



Menu-board and brochure from Alia Halal Meat and Deli Mart; Victoria, BC

i.e., one enterprise is involved in two separate activities: (1) management of recreation and culture; and (2) meat inspection and certification. The certification agency is controlled by the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC), which owns the building in which the certification agency and the cultural centre are based. The administrators of the certification agency are former MAC directors and/or have publicly endorsed MAC's positions in the past.

What happens to the halal certification fees collected by this and other certification organizations?¹² The money goes to terrorist organizations. MAC's halal certification program is part of a global Muslim Brotherhood strategy. In 2010, in Islamabad, Mustafa Ceric, the Grand Mufti of the Islamist organization *The Islamic Community of Bosnia Herzegovina* urged Muslims "to conquer the world through Halal movement."¹³ It appears that most infidels are content to accept halal certification as a legitimate operation.¹⁴

For various reasons, major food companies obtain halal certification. Among them are Cadbury's, Kraft Foods, McCain Foods, Panebo, Campbell's, by way of example.¹⁵ Similarly, major restaurant chains become halal-certified, among them Swiss Chalet, Roosters, McDonalds, Quiznos.¹⁶

Canadian companies are not the only ones being ripped off by Islamic organizations that demand halal certification. For example, Danish food producers such as Danish Crown, Rose Poultry and Arla are annually forced to pay substantial sums into the organization Muslim World League, which advocates oppression of women, the death penalty for homosexuals and the elimination of democracy. The Danish companies succumb to this because Saudi Arabia requires that Danish companies that want to export halal products to the wealthy Saudi monarchy pay substantial funds to the Danish branch

of the Muslim World League in order to be halal-certified.¹⁷

Of course, Halal certification is not the only MAC objective. MAC also seeks the progressive implementation of sharia in Canada.¹⁸ As noted above, in this regard, MAC declares that its ideological origin goes back to the founding of the Muslim Brotherhood (1928) and that it strives to implement Islam as understood by its founder Hassan al-Banna (1906-1949). In his 50-point manifesto, Hassan al-Banna urges his supporters to abolish political parties and replace them by a single-party system. He favours the modification of laws so that they conform to sharia, and calls for the formation and multiplication of associations dedicated to promoting the spirit of jihad amongst the youth.¹⁹ In his essay *On Jihad*, al-Banna explains that it is an obligation for Muslims to fight against the infidels even if they do not fight against Muslims.²⁰ In another text (*To What Do We Invite Humanity?*), Hassan al-Banna refers to Adolf Hitler as a role model for Muslims looking for “success and fortune.”²¹ The Muslim Brotherhood was allied with the Nazis and served them during World War II.²²

Some of MAC’s executives have multiple interests. Chiheb Battikh was not only the head of the educational department for MAC, a member of MAC’s Board of Directors, and an administrator for several MAC schools; he was also part of the Executive Committee (EC) of the MAC as well.²³ (The EC is distinct from the Board of Directors.)²⁴

Mr Battikh became director of Canadian Institute of Islamic Civilization (CIIC),²⁵ a MAC substructure in Montreal.²⁶ The CIIC is a think tank²⁷ in which Islamist leaders with expertise in various fields develop tactics in order to adapt to the Canadian reality the strategies of Islamization decided by the Muslim Brotherhood leadership in Doha (Qatar) or elsewhere.²⁸

When Chiheb Battikh was arrested in December, 2012, he was still the head of MAC’s Education department. On 21 March 2014, the CBC announced that Mr. Battikh had pleaded

guilty to attempting to kidnap the 3-year-old grandson of a Quebec billionaire for a \$500,000 ransom.²⁹

So, can we count on the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) to profess, practise and support a “moderate” version of Islam, and to refrain from supporting organizations practising terrorist jihad, sharia, and other extreme excesses of Islam? Does the organization live up to the Statement of Purpose reproduced in the first frame of this message?

No, I don’t think so either. What we know from the End Note publications listed below is that various Islamist organizations in Canada often choose names and policy statements that deflect attention away from the Muslim Brotherhood and the more extreme manifestations of Islam, presumably with the objective of camouflaging their core purpose and hoping that such will not be revealed.

Robert Barrigar, now retired, previously practised intellectual property law and is the author of a continually updated book on patent law. A former member of the Faculty of Law of the University of Victoria, Robert also served the Government of Canada as special counsel on legislative reform, is a former President of the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada, and served on Council of the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys and as President of its Canadian section. Robert was inducted into the Bertha Wilson Honour Society in 2014. One of his principal outside interests has been the environment and he was a National Trustee of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and President of its Ottawa-Hull Chapter. He was a consultant in the preparation of the Manifesto for Earth (<http://www.ecospherics.net/pages/EarthManifesto.html>)

Endnotes

1 <http://unpublishedottawa.com/letter/1842/there-support-canadas-muslim-community-moderation>

2 unconstrainedanalytics.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Strategic-Overview-Coughlin-010216.pdf (04 February 2016).

Former intelligence officer and noted specialist on Islamic law Stephen Coughlin, before retiring as an intelligence officer in the US Army Reserves, was assigned to the Intelligence Directorate (J2) of both the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) and US Central

Command (CENTCOM), where he had responsibility for intelligence support to strategic communications and information operations as it related to the War on Terror, as well as operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and related areas.

3 Ibid.

4 <http://www.macnet.ca/English/Pages/Home.aspx> [quoted content may not be accessible]

5 <http://www.macnet.ca/English/Pages/About%20MAC.aspx>

6 <http://www.torontosun.com/2015/01/28/canadian-muslim-group-funnelled-300k-to-hamas-linked-charity-documents>; <http://www.torontosun.com/2015/02/10/rcmp-probe-into-islamist-financing-didnt-end-with-irfan-source>

7 <http://www.acpr.org.il/resources/hamascharter.html> There is a discussion of the Hamas perspective and pertinent parts of the Hamas Charter in Barrigar, How the Grinch Stole Peace, Humanist Perspectives issue 195, Winter 2015-16, p. 29. Ibid.

8 <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/chrts/whtsnw/trrst-ntty-eng.html>

9 <http://solsticewitch13.blogspot.ca/2014/03/special-report-on-muslim-association-of.html>

10 <http://pointdebasculecanada.ca/former-mac-president-wael-haddara-was-senior-advisor-to-ousted-muslim-brotherhood-backed-egyptian-president-mohammed-morsi/>

11 <http://pointdebasculecanada.ca/muslim-association-of-canada-a-contributor-to-hamas-fund-collector-controls-halal-certification-in-quebec/>. See also <http://www.globalmbwatch.com/2012/04/05/recommended-reading-muslim-association-of-canada-a-contributor-to-hamas-fund-collector-controls-halal-certification-in-quebec/>

12 https://www.mrctv.org/videos/halal-slaughter-hamas-monetary-gain?vdt=video_tab_block|block_2

See also <http://pointdebasculecanada.ca/muslim-association-of-canada-a-contributor-to-hamas-fund-collector-controls-halal-certification-in-quebec/>; and <http://islam4infidels.com/proof-halal-funds-terrorism/>. [As an alternative to the preceding URL, go to <http://islam4infidels.com>; select HALAL from the top menu, then select PROOF HALAL FUNDS TERRORISM. This content is repeated at <http://concernedcanadiancitizens.com/2014-wrap-up/> As this is a long report, once you are there, FIND “Muslim Association of Canada” in order to be led to this content.]

13 <http://pointdebasculecanada.ca/mustafa-keric-urged-muslims-to-conquer-the-world-through-halal-movement/>

14 See, e.g., <https://archive.is/lXg3H>

15 See, e.g. http://www.muslimconsumergroup.com/products_list.html; https://www.facebook.com/BoycottHalalCanadaQuebec/photos?ref=page_internal

16 See, e.g., http://www.muslimconsumergroup.com/chain_restaurants.html

17 <https://moneyjihad.wordpress.com/2013/08/22/pay-to-play-saudi-arabia-shakes-down-denmark-for-halal-fees-to-terror-linked-mwl/>

18 <https://counterjihadreport.com/tag/muslim-association-of-canada-mac/?iframe=true&preview=true>

19 https://wikiislam.net/wiki/50_Point_Manifesto_-_Hassan_al-Banna

20 <http://www.citizenwarrior.com/2007/10/hasan-al-banna-on-jihad.html>

21 <http://pointdebasculecanada.ca/hassan-al-banna-praises-hitler-as-a-model-for-attaining-fortune-influence-and-success/>

22 <http://www.billionbibles.org/sharia/hitler-muslim-brotherhood.html>

and: <https://themuslimissue.wordpress.com/2013/07/19/the-muslim-nazi-connection/>

23 <http://pointdebasculecanada.ca/chiheb-battikh-an-overview-of-the-muslim-association-of-canada-and-the-other-islamist-organizations-run-by-the-alleged-montreal-kidnapper/>;

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/point/177150/director-canadian-institute-islamic-civilization-danielgreenfield/>;

<http://www.rightsidenews.com/editorial/world-opinion-and-editorial/chiheb-battikh-leader-of-the-muslim-association-of-canada-s-education-department-convicted-of-kidnapping/>.

24 <http://www.rightsidenews.com/editorial/world-opinion-and-editorial/chiheb-battikh-leader-of-the-muslim-association-of-canada-s-education-department-convicted-of-kidnapping/>. This site lists Mr Battikh’s various connections with MAC.

25 Ibid.

26 <http://muslimlink.ca/directory/ottawa/religious/local-orgs/3381-ciic>

27 <http://www.theciic.com/approach>

28 These relationships are discussed at <http://tsecnetwork.ca/2015/09/21/chiheb-battikh-and-the-muslim-brotherhood-in-canada-drawing-the-links-between-kidnapping-and-organizational-fund-raising/>

29 See Endnote 24