

Editorial Links Brotherhood to 'Terrorist' Groups

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[Editorial: "The Brothers and Terrorism Are Two Sides of the Same Coin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tentacles of the clandestine relations between the [Muslim] Brothers and terrorist groups both at home and abroad are coming to light every day. The honest Egyptian citizen stands confused between what the leaders of this banned group say in public and what they actually do in secret, recalling God's saying "Grievously odious is it in the sight of God that ye say that which ye do not" [Koranic verse].

The Egyptian citizen has not yet forgotten the Brothers' history of terrorism, whether before or after the 23 July 1952 revolution. When the Brothers' leaders were released in the 1970's, it was thought that they would lead lives as good citizens in a state that was at the time persistently heading toward democracy and a multiparty system. But they persisted with an awkward insistence on rallying their ranks once again, working underground, and reviving their outlawed group.

When the Brothers saw that the wave of democracy was high, they began to sing the praises of democracy and the multiparty system. Naturally no one believed them, not only because their entire history is against democracy, but also because—which is the most important—events have shown their lies and eagerness to change their colors and hide as much as they can. Events also proved that they establish secret links with terrorist groups both at home and abroad.

We were willing to forget that all the terrorist groups emerged from the robes of the Muslim Brothers, beginning with Sayyid Qutb in the 1960's and ending with Shukri Mustafa in the 1970's and those who followed

their line in the 1980's and 1990's. However, developments have shown us that ignoring the Brothers' history of terrorism is the kind of negligence we should avoid.

Security authorities have discovered in past years that, after regrouping its ranks and refusing to incorporate itself into Egyptian political society, the banned Brothers group has begun to adopt a multi-directional strategy as part of the so-called empowerment plan.

The first direction: Establishing secret ties with terrorist groups and providing them with every possible support behind the facade of social solidarity with the detainees' families. This is despite their knowledge that a great share of the aid presented to these families goes to financing terrorist operations. Moreover, the banned Brothers groups tend to be generous in their aid to enable lavish spending on terrorist operations.

This explains to us why the Brothers' leaders have declined to strongly denounce terrorist acts. They are content with mere verbal denunciation of the terrorist crimes which they feel have great negative impact on the public in Egypt;

The second direction: Infiltrating trade unions, seeking to control them and devote their activities and funds to serving the goals of establishing ties between these trade unions and terrorist elements. An example of this is what happened with the Lawyers and Engineers unions and their success in infiltrating the Journalists Association in recent elections;

The third direction: Using the Brothers' international movement centers abroad, whether in London, Bonn, or other European capitals in contacting fugitive terrorist leaders abroad, namely the terrorist Jihad Organization leaders. The case of the al-Suways group, which the security authorities have arrested recently, has unearthed that close relationship between the Brothers and the media center they set up in London. The case also unearthed the continuous contacts with fugitive terrorist Yasir Sirri, who resides in London, and the facilitating of the transmittal of his instructions to the jihad cadres at home; and

The fourth direction: Seeking to gain control of the People's Assembly elections to create for themselves, through their membership in parliament, a forced legitimacy that will enable them to distort our democratic experiment. All their preparations to run for the next People's Assembly elections as an organization have expressed their desire to show a fiscal and political force on the grounds that it is a major step in the empowerment plan they have been working on for many years.

The outlawed Brothers group has exploited the state's tolerance to rally its ranks, make itself a force able to

propagate acts of subversion and terrorism and ideas hostile to the democratic regime, and act to compromise the country's and citizens' security.

The time has come for that group to choose between incorporation into our political and party system and a political and military confrontation that will not cease until we protect the people from its dangers and its conspiracies with terrorism and terrorists. The Brothers and terrorism, as events have shown, are two sides of the same coin.