Muslims Are Not a Pawn in Egypt's Political Dispute



(A Statement Regarding the U.S. Administration's Commendation of Egyptian Government for Unjust Decisions Targeting the Muslim Brotherhood, and Concerns That They May Be Used for Restriction of Muslims in the West)
The Muslim Brotherhood (MB) condemns a comment posted by Massad Boulos, US senior advisor for Arab and African affairs, on X on Saturday, 14 November 2026 in which he commended the Egyptian authorities' decision of permanently placing the Muslim Brotherhood on the so-called "terrorist entities", a politically motivated charge leveled by Egyptian security services against hundreds of Egyptian citizens who demand the opening up of freedoms, political reform, and putting an end to the repression that has persisted since 2013.
The truly lamentable stance taken by a prominent US official follows remarks made by US President Donald Trump on several occasions during the congressional midterm elections – remarks in which he accused Muslim candidates of belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood. Though these attempts failed to prevent Muslim candidates from achieving electoral success, however, they raise significant concerns regarding the spread of Islamophobia and the targeting of Arab and Muslim communities in the United States.
These American statements and stances emerge within the context of an unprecedented campaign targeting broad segments of the Muslim population in Europe. They serve to bolster a decision – issued by the Cairo Criminal Court, which lacks the relevant jurisdiction – to place 35 entities and 36 individuals based in Europe on "Terrorist Lists" for a period of five years. Most of these entities are civil Islamic institutions and councils – including those representing imams, families, women, and students – that operate openly and in full compliance with the law across 27 countries.
The fact that a high-ranking U.S. official has endorsed this process – without expressing any reservations regarding its scope or the absence of guarantees for a fair trial – is something that cannot be overlooked.
A politicized decision in an internal dispute
The Egyptian political regime's designation of the Muslim Brotherhood (as terrorist entity) is less a judgment on terrorism and more a new chapter in an internal political conflict that has persisted since July 2013, when Egypt's first elected president (Dr. Mohamed Morsi) was ousted. For over a decade, Egyptian and international human rights organizations have documented how the so-called "Terrorist Lists" in Egypt have expanded to include

peaceful dissidents, human rights defenders, and athletes. They have also highlighted how the Egyptian Court of Cassation has repeatedly overturned mass¯designation decisions, and how, in November 2024, the authorities removed 716 individuals from these lists in a single stroke ¯after it was discovered that the lists included people who had already died.

No U.S. administration – one that professes a commitment to civil liberties and the rule of law – has the right to adopt the designations applied by a foreign government to its own opponents as if they were established legal facts. What a political authority in Cairo decides regarding its adversaries cannot serve as a standard for what takes place in Washington, Detroit, Berlin, or Paris.

Why we worry about American Muslims

Some might view this as an external Egyptian affair, but the experience of the past year proves otherwise. Following President Donald Trump's signing of an executive order on 24 November 2025, to study the designation of some Muslim Brotherhood chapters – and the subsequent designation by the Departments of State and Treasury on 13 January 2026, of the Brotherhood's branches in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon as terrorist entities – the governors of Texas and Florida moved quickly to label local Islamic organizations as terrorist.

Trump's populist statements have triggered an unprecedented wave of Islamophobia that has spread beyond America to Europe. In American political discourse, the term "Muslim Brotherhood" has effectively become a malleable accusation—one leveled against any Muslim active in the public sphere, as well as any Islamic organization that advocates for the rights of Muslims or Palestinians. Consequently, any official American endorsement of designations issued by authoritarian governments – which engage in widespread domestic repression – lends additional legitimacy to this narrative. It also opens the door to the targeting of mosques, charitable organizations, students, and political candidates based on alleged affiliations for which there is no evidence.

The timing is no coincidence

This escalation comes just a few days after the November 3, 2026, midterm congressional elections, in which at least seven Muslims won seats in the US Congress. The elections were preceded by a campaign in which Republican candidates made Islam and Muslims an electoral issue – to the point that Greg Abbott, the governor of Texas (who lost his seat by the way), even pledged to "completely ban Sharia" in his state.

Today, American Muslims are exercising their constitutional right to political participation with unprecedented success. We fear that the response to this success may be an expansion of the scope of suspicion, and recalling the "Brotherhood Scarecrow" to delegitimize elected representatives and the institutions that have helped mobilize Muslim voters.

The same recipe in Israel

The use of the "Brotherhood Scarecrow" is not limited to the United States. In the Israeli Knesset elections that was held on 27 October 2026, the bloc led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fell to 53 out of 120 seats – down from 68 seats his coalition parties had held in the outgoing Knesset. Netanyahu employed the "Brotherhood Scarecrow" to rally voters for his racist, right¯wing governing coalition. Furthermore, in November 2025 – following President Trump's announcement of his intention to designate certain branches of the Muslim Brotherhood – Netanyahu pledged to "complete the process" of banning the Brotherhood within Israel. On Sunday, 15 November 2026, the occupation's Defense Minister, Israel Katz, explicitly cited the banning of the Muslim Brotherhood within Egypt to warn against any political partnership with Arab parties, describing the MB as the "sister movement to Hamas".

Thus, the cycle is complete: a political decision is made in Cairo, blessed by Washington, and subsequently wielded in Tel Aviv against Arabs – while in Texas and Florida, it is used to shut down American civil rights organizations. The common denominator here is not the fight against terrorism; rather, it is the transformation of political engagement by Muslims and Arabs – whenever it proves successful – into a "security" charge, fueled by political machinations that, regrettably, originate from the land of Al¯Azhar Al¯Sharif – for centuries the shield of Muslims

and the beacon of their moderate tradition.

Our stance on rejecting terrorism is not subject to blackmail

The Muslim Brotherhood reiterates its categorical rejection of violence and terrorism in all their forms, regardless of their source. It affirms it is an Islamic group that is committed to the true essence of Islam and its moderate approach rooted in the Holy Quran and the noble Prophet's traditions (Sunnah) – and advocates for peaceful political reform pursued exclusively through legal and constitutional means. This position is deeply rooted in its core convictions and is not subject to coercion or blackmail from any party whatsoever.

The Brotherhood calls upon the U.S. administration, federal officials, and state governors to cease using the "Muslim Brotherhood" as an accusation to stigmatize civil rights organizations, mosques, and Muslim candidates – all without evidence or fair legal process.

We also call for U.S. foreign policy to be grounded in the principles of fair trial, freedom of thought, and freedom of belief – rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and inherent to every human being. It is unacceptable for the U.S. to endorse mass-designation decisions – issued in the absence of the accused and without any publicly disclosed evidence – that strip thousands of Egyptians of their fundamental rights and freedoms. In fact, these individuals are subject to both domestic and transnational political repression – a situation that previously led the U.S. State Department to suspend (part of) the US aid offered to Egypt, pending improvements in the human rights record of the governing authorities – which places the U.S. administration in an unprecedented state of contradiction.

Allah Is the Greatest, and Praise Be to Allah

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