

Egypt: Friend or Foe of America?

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1. Egypt Is Undermining America's War Against Terrorism

* **Egypt won't help identify terrorists:** The Egyptian government airline, Egypt Air, is refusing to provide the U.S. with passenger lists when its planes begin flights to America, even though federal officials have requested the information in order to help identify terrorists.
(*New York Times*, October 18, 2001)

* **Egypt won't fight terrorist groups:** Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher told the London-based newspaper *A-Sharq Al Awsat* on November 13, 2001 that Egypt has no obligation to fight the organizations that appear on the State Department's list of terrorist groups.

* **"America's torture of Al-Qaeda prisoners worse than Hitler's treatment of Jews":** A columnist in the Egyptian government daily *Al-Ahram*, Anis Mansour, wrote on January 26, 2002:

"The Americans transferred the prisoners from Afghanistan to the Guantanamo Bay base in Cuba. I saw this base in 1963, during the Tricontinental Conference in Havana. It's a nice base. No one expected it to be turned into a base for torturing Al-Qaeda members from Afghanistan, in a way unprecedented in history--worse than what Hitler did to his rivals from among the Jews and Christians."

"Hitler's soldiers burned, strangled, and then killed. But America's prisoners were transferred in planes, on [a trip] lasting twenty hours. Under normal circumstances, the trip would not have been exhausting. But what was done to the prisoners is abominable!

"They are blindfolded, their ears covered, and their noses sealed. They can't see, can't hear, and can't smell; they are in masks of iron. Their hands, arms, necks, and legs are shackled in heavy choke chains.

"Twenty hours of sensory deprivation is sufficient to damage the senses of any man. If the Americans add another 20 hours, [one doesn't know] whether he is alive or dead. If we then remove the shackles, he will not know how--or where--to walk!

"In the solitary confinement cells, the darkness is absolute. Suddenly, [the Americans] shine a brilliant light and make aggressive [loud] noise for a few moments; then quiet and darkness are restored. Those moments are enough to make the prisoners blind, deaf, and brain-damaged.

"[Even] America's friends have condemned this inhuman treatment of the prisoners of war...

"These prisoners of war cannot go to American courts to demand that the Constitution be applied, because they are not on American soil - rather, at Camp X-Ray, which is designed to turn them from men to beasts within hours!"

(*Translations : Middle East Media Research Institute.*)

* **"U.S. is spreading anthrax":** An article accusing the U.S. of deliberately spreading anthrax was published in the November 2001 issue of the Egyptian science magazine *Al-'Ilm*, which is edited by the publishers of the Egyptian government-sponsored daily newspaper *Al Gomhouriya*. Samir Ragab is editor-in-chief of both publications, and the chairman of the executive board of *Al-'Ilm* is Egypt's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Mufid Shihab.

The article claimed: "The cases of anthrax infection in the U.S. emerged simultaneously with the beginning of the American war against Afghanistan. News coming from Afghanistan mentions symptoms of a strange disease ... causing fever, headaches, and hemorrhaging." According to the article, the alleged U.S. germ

warfare in Afghanistan is “not the first such incident ... The U.S. used germs against Vietnam, North Korea and China.” The article also claimed that “The U.S. took over the state of Ottawa [*sic*] to conduct experiments there with deadly biological weapons.”

* **“Bush is arrogant and conceited”**: An article in the Egyptian government daily *Al-Ahram* (Sept. 25, 2001) accused President Bush of “arrogance and conceit” for urging the international community to side with America against the terrorists.

* **“America is the oppressor”**: A columnist in the Egyptian government newspaper *Al-Ahram Al-Arabi* (Sept. 22, 2001) declared: “For many long years, America made many peoples in the world cry. It was always America that carried out the acts; now acts are being carried out against it. A cook who concocts poison must one day also taste that poison! The world has discovered that the strength of the oppressed is great when the situation becomes unbearable.”

* **“U.S. is the same as the terrorists”**: The Egyptian government newspaper *Al-Akhbar* (Sept. 25, 2001) published an article equating the United States and the terrorists: “The U.S. and terrorism suffuse a foul atmosphere throughout the world. The smiles have disappeared from the faces of the peoples who wait, across the world, for the disaster that either the terrorists or the U.S. will visit upon them. The U.S. has become like the terrorists.”

* **“America is dropping poisoned food packages in Afghanistan”**: The editor of *Al-Ahram* (who “owes his position as editor of Egypt’s most well-known newspaper to Mr. Mubarak,” according to the *Washington Post*) declared that the American food packages being dropped in Afghanistan may have been “genetically treated, with the aim of affecting the health of the Afghani people. If this is true, the U.S. is committing a crime against humanity.” (*Washington Post*, Oct. 30, 2001)

2. Egypt Incites Hatred Against America

* **Vicious racism against Colin Powell**: An article in the Egyptian government newspaper *Al-Akhbar* on Feb. 27, 2001, commenting on Secretary of State Powell’s visit to the Middle East, declared: “Powell is even more stupid and deceitful than Mrs. Madeleine Albright. Two days ago, he ... revealed that he has the brain of a bird. Colin Powell, the black American ... acted like a stupid teenager.”

An article in the newspaper on March 2, 2001, by its editor in chief, Galal Duweidar, said “the cursed yarmulke that Powell put on his head during his visit to Israel causes whoever wears it to lose his righteousness, to forget justice, and to free himself of any wisdom or logic.”

Another article in the February 27, 2001 issue of *Al-Akhbar* asserted: “The American Secretary of State shed his skin, tore himself from his roots, and today he represents only himself and has no connection to the Black American community which led the revolution for democracy, equality and human rights in the world ... He did not hesitate to demonstrate humiliation and submission when he recently visited Israel; he stood humble, a Jewish yarmulke on his head, in front of the memorial of the false Holocaust of the Jews in World War II ... Powell arrived as Secretary of State in order to complete what Powell the General began, when he was Chief of Staff: wiping out any chance for the resurrection of the Arab ‘corpse,’ which Powell hopes to sacrifice in the Jewish temple!”

An article in the March 11, 2001 issue of *Al-Akhbar* called Powell “arrogant” and accused him of “stupidity, ignorance of the rules of diplomacy, and intervention in what is none of his business ... We Arabs must teach him a lesson so that he understands that his command of the forces that opposed the Iraqi invasion of

Kuwait does not qualify him to be king of the Arab world and the Gulf.”
(*Translations: Middle East Media Research Institute*)

* **“America shot down the plane”**: To deflect attention from the growing evidence that the pilot of EgyptAir 990 deliberately crashed the plane in 1999, the Egyptian government newspaper *Al-Jumhuriya* suggested that “a U.S. surface-to-air missile, or maybe a laser ray, brought down the plane.” The Egyptian government weekly *Al-Musawwar* asserted that either “the airliner strayed into a no-fly zone and was instantly destroyed to keep some deadly military information secret” or “New York air traffic controllers intentionally sent the plane in harm’s way,” since Jews “have strong networks of communications at U.S. airports.” (*Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 24, 1999)

* **Threatening America**: Osama Al Baz, a senior aide to Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak, helped incite hatred against America by threatening, on Egyptian Television: “If the United States agrees to cover for Israel and protect it from international law, American interests could be harmed.”
(*Ha’aretz*, Nov. 24, 2000)

3. **Egypt Befriends America’s Enemies**

Iraq: Egypt has repeatedly denounced America’s sanctions against Saddam Hussein, and has refused to host gatherings of the Iraqi opposition. The Egyptian government weekly *Al-Ahram Al-Arabi* (May 20, 2000) accused the U.S. of committing war crimes against Iraq, such as the alleged use of depleted uranium in the Gulf War.

Libya: Egyptian Interior Minister Habib Adly met with his Libyan counterpart, Mohammed Masirati, on February 2, 2002 in order to “bolster security cooperation.” They signed an agreement “for cooperation between the two

intelligence services,” and Masirati aid that “cooperation between the security agencies of Egypt and Libya is deep.” (*Middle East Newslines*, Feb.4, 2002)

Hosni Mubarak was the most senior world leader to defy the international air embargo on Libya.
(Associated Press, July 9, 1998)

When one of Moammar Qadaffi’s leading opponents, Mansour Kikhia (who had defected to the U.S. in the early 1980s) visited Egypt in 1993, the Egyptian authorities abducted him and sent him to be executed in Libya. Hosni Mubarak accused the CIA of leading information about Egypt’s abduction of Kikhia as part of a conspiracy to pressure Egypt to release an Israeli Muslim jailed in Egypt on phony espionage charges.
(*Washington Post*, Oct. 9, 1997)

Iran: Egypt’s foreign minister met with his Iranian counterpart last year and announced that improved relations between Cairo and Teheran are “necessary and important.”

North Korea: Central Intelligence Agency director George Tenet said in Congressional testimony on February 6, 2002, that Egypt continues to closely cooperate with North Korea in the development of ballistic missiles. Congressional staffers also reported that in closed hearings, “U.S. intelligence officials reported that Cairo had sought No-Dong missile engines from Pyongyang.” A January 2002 CIA report found that “During the first half of 2001, Egypt continued its long-standing relationship with North Korea on ballistic missiles. Cairo continues to maintain a deployed force of Scud Bs and Cs.”
(*Middle East Newslines*, Feb.12, 2002)

Anti-American votes at the U.N.:
At the United Nations, Egypt votes against America’s position 68% of the time, according to a study by the Heritage Foundation.

4. Egypt's Praise of Terrorists

* **"Heroic" suicide bombers:** An editorial in the Egyptian government newspaper *Al Ahrām* on Aug. 17, 2001, praised Palestinian Arab suicide bombings as "heroic operations of Martyrdom." It asserted: "All that we have left to say to the sons of Palestine is that although everybody has abandoned you, do not be sad and do not wait for anybody's help...Kill your enemies wherever you may find them. This is a life and death conflict between you and them and it will no be over through calming attempts. The only thing that will force your enemy to surrender and to accept your demands is force, whatever the sacrifices may be."

* **"Suicide bombings are a ray of hope":** A columnist in the Egyptian government newspaper *Al Ahrām*, referring to the suicide bombing at the Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem that killed 15 people, including two Americans, declared: "I cannot hide my happiness about the martyrdom operation that took place in Jerusalem ... The operation that took place in Jerusalem was, for me, a ray of hope and a life-saver ... Why do we shed a tear over the innocent victims who sat in the pizza restaurant on Thursday? It should be known that these citizens, like every Israeli man and woman, are accomplices in the crime of the robbery of Palestine."

(Translations :Middle East Media Research Institute.)

* **"Annihilate the Jews":** After a neo-Nazi, Buford Furrow, shot up a Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles in 1999, wounding five people, four of them children, the August 13, 1999 issue of the Egyptian government newspaper *Akhbar Al-Yom* declared that Furrow "has a goal to annihilate the Jewish race in the United States. I ask God to assist him in his efforts to attain this goal. Let us all join together saying, 'May it be God's will'."

(Reuters, August 20,

1999)

* **"Hezbollah is right":** During a visit to Lebanon last year, Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak praised the Hezbollah terrorists as "the resistance" and declared that "the resistance has a right" to attack Israelis. (*New York Times*, Feb.20, 2000) Hezbollah, which is on the official U.S. list of terrorist groups, carried out the October 1983 bomb attack on the U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon, killing 241 Americans. It has also carried out hundreds of attacks against Israelis.

* **"Israel causes terrorism":** Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak said the Palestinian Arab terrorist bombing in Tel Aviv that wounded 21 Israelis on Aug. 27, 1998, was "the natural result" of Israeli policies. (*Al Gomhuriya*, Aug. 28, 1998) An article in the Egyptian Government newspaper *Al Ahrām Weekly*, Dec. 4-10, 1997, called on Arabs to "confront the religious foundations of the Israeli state, which have sparked off various forms of terrorism in the region."

5. Egypt Sheltered Killer of Americans

Abu Nidal, a Palestinian Arab terrorist leader who has directed attacks that killed numerous Americans and Israelis, "had been living in Cairo for more than a year" during 1997-1998, according to the *New York Times* (January 27,1999). The *Times* noted that "Abu Nidal was once America's most wanted terrorist. A 1989 State Department report called his organization the most dangerous in the world, and a 1991 report calculated that it had been responsible for more than 100 attacks and the deaths of more than 280 people since 1974."