

Rashad Hussain, Esq.  
Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom-Designate  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hussain:

In the course of your confirmation hearing as Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom (AAL), a number of topics relevant to an evaluation of your nomination were not addressed. We are therefore asking that you respond to the following pressing questions prior to the full Senate's consideration of your nomination, both considering the unique nature of this position and its importance to furthering one of the cornerstones of our constitutional Republic and safeguarding American values, more generally:

- 1) President Obama noted when he appointed you to be his Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) that you are "a hafiz of the Koran," meaning someone who has memorized that book in its entirety. This is evidence of remarkable devotion to your faith. We ask that you clarify whether you agree or disagree with certain tenets of Islamic Law (known in Arabic as Sharia) that are drawn from the Koran and other sacred texts. Specifically:
  - a. Do you agree with interpretations of Sharia that take a supremacist position toward followers of other religions?
  - b. For example, do you consider adherents to other faiths to be kafir (infidels), who must be treated as dhimmis (inferior to Muslims) with limited legal rights, and that they should be compelled to submit to Islam or suffer severe punishment, including death?
  - c. Do you consider Muslims who convert to another faith to be apostates who should be punished with the death penalty?
  - d. Do you consider Muslims who disagree with the prevailing interpretation of Islam in their communities or who profess that they are atheists or agnostics to be apostates?
  - e. As a committed Muslim, in the execution of your office as AAL, will you be able to consider members of all faiths or of no faith equally worthy of U.S. protection from persecution by state and non-state actors?
  
- 2) In light of differences in the understanding of personal rights and freedoms under Sharia rules versus those protected under international laws concerning human rights and religious freedom, what standard would you advocate for when issues arise affecting the freedom of non-Muslims to practice their faiths – especially in Muslim-majority nations – if confirmed as Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom?

3) You mentioned in the course of your confirmation hearing that you would be guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Universal Declaration differs significantly from the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights issued by the OIC.

- a. Having worked extensively with the OIC when it drafted the Cairo Declaration, what is your understanding of these differences?
- b. What are the legal and practical implications of its caveat that all human rights are to be observed only to the extent they are consistent with Sharia?
- c. Do you believe that the U.S. should accept this caveat in its dealings with nations that are signers of the Cairo Declaration?
- d. Or will you seek to hold all nations to the standards enumerated in the Universal Declaration?

4) As President Obama's Special Envoy to the OIC you interacted with many representatives of Sharia-adherent governments. What is your current relationship with the OIC and such governments?

5) How would you characterize the policy and theological positions of the Muslim Brotherhood in relation to the Universal Declaration and the Cairo Declaration?

- a. What organizations operating in the U.S. seek to further the policy and theological goals of the Muslim Brotherhood?
- b. Do you believe that they seek to change international or domestic U.S. religious freedom standards?

6) In your previous official and personal capacities, it is our understanding that you may have been in contact with leading members of the Muslim Brotherhood and/or its front groups here in the United States.

- a. During your pre-confirmation clearance process, how did you describe what, if any, your current relationship is with those individuals and groups?
- b. Which specific groups and relationships did you disclose?

7) Do you believe that groups promoting the positions of the Muslim Brotherhood should be able to freely interact with and influence the U.S. government – notably at the White House, the National Security Council, and the State Department, including with the Department's Office of International Religious Freedom (OIRF) and the office of the Ambassador at Large for IRF?

- a. Do you think it appropriate for OIRF or the AAL for IRF to coordinate or otherwise collaborate with elements of the Muslim Brotherhood, be they based domestically or internationally?

8) If confirmed, how will you and OIRF deal with Sharia-adherent individuals, officials, governments, and/or international organizations, especially if their Sharia-adherence extends to support for violent jihad against other faiths or against Muslims from different belief systems (e.g. Shia, Sunni, Ahmadi, etc.) or those who no longer conform to prevailing community beliefs or norms?

9) How would you recognize an offensive influence operation aimed at you or other officials of the Office of International Religious Freedom by jihadist organizations?

a. If you became aware of such an operation, how would you respond to it?

10) What do you consider to be the extent of anti-Semitism in the world today?

a. What are the most dangerous manifestations of anti-Semitism today?

11) Do you agree that anti-Semitism appears to be increasingly acceptable, not only in many Muslim nations, but in Western ones, including America?

a. If so, why do you think that is the case?

12) How would you, if confirmed to be the next Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, seek to prevent anti-Semitic attitudes and activities across the globe?

13) Under Sharia, it is a capital offense to leave Islam. Would you be able and willing to reject such a punishment and otherwise use your office to represent and seek to protect so-called "apostates" from Islam?

a. Would you call on Islamic scholars and authorities to reject the death penalty for those who non-violently choose to leave Islam?

14) Sharia law is sometimes interpreted to permit faithful Muslims to punish and even kill those who blaspheme against Islam. In your testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, you professed a commitment to work against blasphemy laws. Yet, the OIC historically has championed such laws as part of their efforts to "criminalize" criticism of Islam. If confirmed as AAL for IRF, would you expressly reject the OIC's Sharia-blasphemy agenda and seek the repeal of blasphemy laws worldwide?

15) The House and Senate have passed, with overwhelming bipartisan support, two resolutions (H. Res. 512 and S. Res. 458), which call for the global repeal of apostasy and blasphemy laws. Yet, in your testimony before the Senate, you favorably cited the OIC-sponsored Marrakesh Declaration. That document was a product of the OIC's longstanding effort to criminalize so-called "Islamophobia." To that end, the Declaration calls on "representatives of the various religions, sects and denominations to confront all forms of religious bigotry, vilification, and denigration of what people hold sacred, as well as all speech that promotes hatred and

bigotry.” How will you work to protect the rights of those who do not believe in Islam or any other religion to express their views, especially those who have left such a religion or belief or converted to another?

16) Saying “Muhammed is not a prophet of God” can result [in a death sentence](#) in twelve Muslim-majority countries. Since countries that treat leaving Islam (apostasy) or questioning that religion or belief (blasphemy) as capital offenses are all members of the OIC, will you use your experience at the OIC and relationships with its members to urge these countries to repeal these laws?

17) In your capacity as Special Envoy to the OIC, you were among the U.S. officials who [promoted](#) on September 12, 2012, the false narrative that the murderous and pre-planned jihadist attack in Benghazi which resulted in the death of the US Ambassador to Libya and others was actually a spontaneous – and, by implication, an understandable – response to an anti-Islam video with, as you put it, “disgusting images.” Do you repudiate that position today?

18) Do you believe that violence such as that displayed in Benghazi is not condoned by Islamic law? Specifically, would you as AAL for IRF condemn violence in response to speech, images or writings that some Muslims find offensive – to cite but three examples, the murders of French school teacher Samuel Paty, British street preacher Hatun Tash, and Tahir Naseem, an American citizen in Pakistan – and work to ensure that such hate crimes are never excused or legitimized?

19) When you were serving in the Obama administration, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton expressed solidarity with the OIC and others and supported punishing those who allegedly engage in so-called “Islamophobic” speech by using “old fashioned techniques of shaming and peer pressure” to silence them. Do you reject such efforts to restrict freedom of speech?

We respectfully request that you provide responses to these questions before the Senate is asked to vote on your nomination.

Sincerely,

**ORGANIZATIONS**

*Save the Persecuted Christians*

*The Nazarene Fund*

*The Jesus Alliance*

*NSIC Institute*

*American Defenders for Persecuted Humans*

*Jubilee Campaign*

*North American marketing Specialists Inc*

*Iraqi Christian Relief Council*

*Moral Action Ministry*

*Katartismos Global (KGI Global)*

*Believers' Fellowship*

*YoreChildren*  
*Faith Harvest Church*  
*Frontier Partners International*  
*Project Moses Colorado*  
*DFS*  
*Revealing Light Ministries*  
*Set My People Free*  
*John Pofi Foundation Inc*  
*New Wineskin Missionary Network*  
*Captive Nations Coalition of the CPDC*  
*RuralWatch.news*  
*International Committee on Nigeria (ICON)*  
*Mission Africa International*

**INDIVIDUALS with TITLES**

*Kevin Jessip, Chairman of the Board, Save The Persecuted Christians*  
*Frank Gaffney, President, Save the Persecuted Christians*  
*Dede Laugesen, Executive Director, Save the Persecuted Christians*  
*Caroline Cox Baroness, House of Lords, UK Parliament*  
*Rudolph Atallah, COO, The Nazarene Fund*  
*Col. Michael Onisick, USAF (Ret.)*  
*S. Bryan Hickox, Chairman of the Board, The Jesus Alliance*  
*William Brown, Organizer, Christian Activist Network of New England*  
*Kevin Freeman, Founder, NSIC Institute*  
*Shakeel Rafael, President, American Defenders for Persecuted Humans*  
*Ann Buwalda, Executive Director, Jubilee Campaign*  
*Eric Metaxas, Author of "Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy"*  
*Jerry Amodeo, SVP, North American marketing Specialists Inc*  
*Juliana Taimoorazy, President, Iraqi Christian Relief Council*  
*Kim Bongiorno, Co-Founder, Moral Action Ministry*  
*Faith McDonnell, Director of Advocacy, Katartismos Global (KGI Global)*  
*Jonathan Friedt, Pastor, Believers' Fellowship*  
*Elizabeth Yore, Attorney, YoreChildren*  
*Gregory Young, Pastor, Syndicated Radio Host, International Bishop, Faith Harvest Church*  
*Michael L Parks, President, Frontier Partners International*  
*Richard Blake, President, Project Moses Colorado*  
*Mark Singer, co-founder, Moral Action Ministry*  
*Joe Caddell, President, Joshua Initiative*  
*Linda Harvey, President, Mission America*  
*Glen Bartholomew, Consultant, DFS*  
*Ron Polomsky, Colorado Knights of Columbus*  
*Jarvis Williams, Sharia Crime Stoppers*  
*Kim Bongiorno, Buyers Information Service, Inc*  
*Mary Wierbicki, The United West*

*Lawrence Brown, E-Motive Business Concepts*  
*George Parker, Executive Director, Revealing Light Ministries*  
*Hulda Fahmi, International Director, Set My People Free*  
*Paul Pickern, CEO, All Pro Pastors International*  
*John Pofi, CEO, John Pofi Foundation Inc*  
*Sandra Wezowicz, Israel Education Director- Aglow International, Aglow International*  
*Amy Beam, author "The Last Yezidi Genocide"*  
*Jenny Noyes, Executive Director, New Wineskin Missionary Network*  
*Se Hoon Kim, director, Captive Nations Coalition of the CPDC*  
*Douglas Burton, Senior Editor, RuralWatch.news*  
*Stephen Enada, International Committee on Nigeria (ICON)*  
*Dr. Oluwasayo Ajiboye, Mission Africa International*

### **PRIVATE CITIZENS**

*Ellen Hayman*  
*Mike Ramirez*  
*Jill Tanenbaum*  
*Ken Wallace*  
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