



Commentary

Division in Muslim Brotherhood

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The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt is a social, economic and religious movement whose main objective is to impose Shari'ah- Islamic law derived from the Quran and the Sunnah all over the world. The purpose of the Brotherhood is the essence of world domination and their ambition is limitless. The Brotherhood was founded by a school teacher Hassan al-Banna in 1928, in order to repudiate the Western influences that were overshadowing the social dominance of Islam during the British rule. More than 80 years ago, the brotherhood was formed as an Islamic revivalist movement concentrating on religion, education, and social services at first; but with the rise in the membership, it soon moved towards the political sphere targeting the Egyptian government. In 1936, the movement had only 800 members, it gradually increased to over 2 million in 1948, and today it is a Sunni Islamist movement, with branches in over 70 countries. According to Hassan al-Banna, "It is the nature of Islam to dominate, not to be dominated, to impose its law on all nations and to extend its power to the entire planet."

The Brotherhood was found guilty for a number of ferocious attacks including the assassination of the Egyptian Prime Minister Mahmud Fahmmi al-Nuqrashi in 1948, after he had ordered the termination of the group. This led to the assassination of Al-Banna himself and in the 1950s, the movement went underground. In the 1980s, the Brotherhood denied involvement in the violent activities and pursued a political front, but was banned by the former President Hosni Mubarak. The appointment of Mohammed Morsi, a Muslim Brotherhood member as the President of Egypt in 2012 led to a chaos in the country; after which the country's municipal council deposed Morsi. After a month of Morsi's

disposition, Egyptian security forces raided two camps of dissenters in Cairo resulting in a massive massacre known as the Rabba incident. The mass killing has been recorded by Human Rights Watch as "one of the largest killings of demonstrators in a single day in recent history" and that it was "a violent crackdown planned at the highest levels of Egyptian government". Morsi's empty promises and his disregard for Egypt's elite constituents were the main reasons of his decline. However, after the Rabba incident, the government of Egypt has conducted several raids against Muslim Brotherhood members over the past three years. But most of these arrests instead of resulting in deaths have resulted in hastily pronounced prison sentences.

The coup d'état of Morsi and his government after only one year of his rule, in July 2013 escalated the ever so increasing conflict between the Muslim Brotherhood and Egyptian state institutions. After this, the eradication of the movement began with the murder of thousands of the supporters of the young wing, the arrest of over tens of thousands of Islamist opponents, the banning and its classification as a terrorist group, and the elimination of its economic and social infrastructure. The Egyptian government has not abandoned its determined pursuit of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, despite the threat that the campaign poses to the country's security and stability. The death of one of the group leaders could fracture the Muslim Brotherhood even more and drive some of its members into the arms of extremist recruiters.

On October 3 2016, the leader of the group's youth wing, Mohamed Kamal was targeted for arrest in an interior Ministry raid. During the operation, gunfire broke down in the Al-Basateen area of Cairo, in which Kamal and another Brotherhood member Yaseer Shehata were executed; circumstances of which are speculative. The killings were defined by the Muslim Brotherhood as a pre-planned attack and according to them- the men were killed in custody. The deaths of the two members could stir more unrest among their fellow members of the Brotherhood. The Muslim Brotherhood has lost its initial ambition of spreading religious awareness and educational stability. They have diverted their beliefs to the violent activities, consequences of which are death of tens of thousands of people in every sphere of life. Though the involvement of the Muslim Brotherhood in the acts of terrorism in Egypt is a matter of discussion on both sides of the debate, the involvement of the members of the Brotherhood in some violent acts is evident. The Institute for National Security Studies stated "some of the small terrorist cells operating in the Nile Valley region were founded by some former Muslim Brotherhood activists." Also according to the INSS, over the past 2 years many former activists have amalgamated with Ansar Bait al-Maqdis- the Islamic State branch in the Sinai Peninsula.

Because of this dangerous union, global Jihadi groups associated with the Islamic state and Al-Qaeda have made arduous attempts to fill in the space left empty in the decline of the Brotherhood's rule. The Jihadi groups aim is to target and spread terror throughout the globe, not just Egypt. Therefore, the decline of Brotherhood in Egypt has left the young members of the group angry and prey to Jihadi schemes. Had the Brotherhood tried to reintegrate its initial goals, the fear of world terrorism would have been reduced to a certain level. With its decline under Egypt's government, the risk to exploit the crisis of

political Islam has become easier in other countries as well. Egypt's efforts to eliminate the Muslim Brotherhood with their violent retaliation may be the reason of the Islamic state's attaining more power, which is more powerful than the Brotherhood.

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