



Inside Track

Federal Government Sued for Promoting Islamic Religious Activity

In 2008, the Michigan-based Thomas More Law Center (TMLC) filed suit in federal court against Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve. The suit alleged that over a million dollars of the \$70 billion in bailout money provided to American International Group (AIG) was used to support Islamic religious indoctrination within the United States. Specifically, the complaint pointed to AIG's funding and promotion of "Sharia-compliant financing." The lawsuit stated: "The use of these taxpayer funds to approve, promote, endorse, support, and fund these Sharia-based Islamic religious activities violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution."

In May 2009, the Department of Justice (DOJ) sought dismissal of the lawsuit, but the judge hearing the case denied its request. He stated that the lawsuit properly alleged a federal constitutional challenge to the use of taxpayer money, in that some money had been used to promote Islamic religious indoctrination. Lawyers for TMLC then compiled voluminous evidence to support its charge. But, on January 14, 2011, the court reversed its earlier ruling and claimed that no evidence of religious indoctrination had been shown and, if there was any, it could not be attributed to the federal government. In addition, the judge claimed that the amount of money used to support the religious activities, \$153 million of the \$70 billion doled out to AIG, was "de minimus" — that is, inconsequential when the entire amount is considered.

Robert Muise, senior trial counsel for TMLC, then stated: "Based on the incredible amount of evidence we presented, much of which DOJ could not refute, and in light of the strength of the court's prior ruling, we expect the court to ultimately rule in our favor and hold that the federal government violated the U.S. Constitution by using federal tax money to fund Islamic religious activities. As soon as we read the court's adverse opinion, we filed an immediate appeal." The appeal process is expected to take at least a year.

A Sense of Perspective Is Needed Regarding Japan's Radioactive Fallout



Written by [Alex Newman](#) on April 18, 2011

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AP Images

The earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan killed more than 10,000 people and left more than that number unaccounted for. The twin disasters also severely impacted the country's infrastructure and economy. The rebuilding efforts will undoubtedly take years.

The damage wrought by the violent and titanic forces of nature, as anyone not marooned on a desert island knows, includes the stricken Fukushima nuclear power plant. That plant was designed to withstand an 8.2-magnitude quake on the Richter scale, which was considered the worst-expected earthquake scenario for a 500-year time frame. But the unprecedented 9.0-magnitude quake that wreaked havoc on Friday, March 11, was much more powerful than the nuclear plant's design withstandability — more than six times more powerful. (The Richter scale, recall, is logarithmic.) In addition, the plant, located next to the ocean, was struck by the tsunami.

The aftermath? A “nuclear disaster” according to the major media, which have not only warned of an imminent — and “catastrophic” — nuclear meltdown, but have practically melted down themselves in their frantic and frenzied coverage of the radioactive fallout that has already occurred.

The alarmist reports of the fallout — including even radioactive water and food — have heightened the fears of the public, many of whom have little understanding of radiation and its effects. And not just in Japan — but even in the United States, where many have bought potassium iodide pills to protect themselves from radiation making its way across the vast Pacific.

This is not to say that the radiation escaping from Fukushima should be ignored or downplayed by the media. But it should not be overplayed either. Some perspective is in order. Thus far, no one has died from the radiation released at Fukushima, not even at the plant itself let alone in the surrounding area. And no one has gotten sick from that release. That is much better than the more than 10,000 lives that were lost owing to the earthquake and tsunami. Yet the major media fail to make this contrast while hyperventilating about the Fukushima “disaster” to such an extent that it almost seems as if the nuclear crisis dwarfs the earthquake and tsunami.

But what if a meltdown were to occur? What would happen then? And even if no one dies *today* as a result of Fukushima, how many babies might be born deformed as a result of exposure of radiation, and how many cancer deaths might result a generation from now?

Ed Hiserodt, author of *Underexposed: What if Radiation Is Actually Good for You?* will examine



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Fukushima and the health hazards in his cover story in the next (May 9) issue of The New American, based on the best-available information and without sensationalism.

UN-Obama Intervention Helps al-Qaeda in Libya



AP Images

Anti-American Islamic extremists including al-Qaeda could easily come to power in Libya, owing to the UN-Obama intervention there. Ironically, perhaps, Moammar Gadhafi has been claiming for weeks that al-Qaeda and drug use were responsible for the uprisings. Most observers assumed the allegations were deliberate lies or the delusions of a madman trying to keep the reins of power. But it turns out that the claims of al-Qaeda involvement were at least partially correct.

The man identified in news reports as the leader of Libya's rebellion, Abdel-Hakim al-Hasidi, actually battled U.S. and coalition forces during the invasion of Afghanistan a decade ago. He was captured in 2002, handed over to U.S. authorities, and eventually released in Libya in 2008. Now, al-Hasidi, with U.S. and international air support, is supposedly leading the anti-Gadhafi revolution.

Prior to Western intervention becoming official, a Reuters report citing Qatar-based Gulf News said that senior al-Qaeda commander Abu Yahya al-Libi released a videotaped message urging rebels in Libya to continue the battle. He also warned that failure to topple the Gadhafi regime would be unacceptable. "The Libyan people have suffered at the hands of Kaddafi for more than 40 years.... He used the Libyans as a testing ground for his violent, rambling and disgusting thoughts," the alleged terrorist leader [said](#) in the video. "Retreating will mean decades of harsher oppression and greater injustices than what you have endured." The al-Qaeda leader also blasted the U.S. government and other Western regimes — now fighting the same battle he praised — for propping up dictatorships in the region.

More recently, Libyan rebel leader al-Hasidi, who fought U.S. troops in Afghanistan, offered another startling revelation. He admitted in an interview with an Italian newspaper (*Il Sole 24 Ore*) that Islamic warriors from Libya, whom he had recruited to battle Western forces in Iraq, are now actually fighting alongside U.S. and international forces to help topple Gadhafi.

The *Daily Telegraph*, in an article entitled "Libyan rebel commander admits his fighters have al-Qaeda links," quoted al-Hasidi as saying that his warriors "are patriots and good Muslims, not terrorists." He also praised al-Qaeda — an organization created, funded, armed, and trained by the U.S. government



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decades ago — saying they are “good Muslims ... fighting against the invader.”

According to U.S. and British government sources cited by the paper, al-Hasidi is part of the al-Qaeda-linked Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG). The organization represents the second largest contingent of foreign fighters in Iraq battling coalition forces.

A study by the U.S. military concluded that the Libyan group had an “increasingly cooperative relationship with al-Qaeda.” In 2007, that “culminated in the LIFG officially joining al-Qaeda.” Al-Qaeda, it should be noted, said earlier this month that the Libyan rebellion would lead to imposition of “the stage of Islam” there.

In 2004, then-CIA Director George Tenet actually warned the Senate Intelligence Committee about the same Libyan group. “One of the most immediate threats [to U.S. security] is from smaller international Sunni extremist groups that have benefited from al-Qaeda links. They include ... the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group,” he said.

The organization is officially on the State Department’s list of terrorist organizations. But according to countless news reports, the U.S. government was covertly funneling arms to the Libyan rebels even prior to the Western military intervention, via Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and other nations. Yet even NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander for Europe and commander of U.S. European Command, Admiral James Stavridis, admitted during Senate testimony that intelligence reports revealed “flickers” of the potential involvement of al-Qaeda and other known terror groups.

“Protection for the malcontents, including Al Qaeda militants, holed up in Benghazi [in Libya] is the worst rationale for any intervention in the annals of American history,” charged Yoichi Shimatsu, an expert on Islamic militancy in North Africa, in an analysis for New America Media. “If this twisted logic was to be transferred to Afghanistan and Iraq, the Marines should be saving Taliban outposts from the Afghan Army or providing security for car-bomb drivers against the Iraqi police.”

If and when the Gadhafi regime crumbles, al-Qaeda and its affiliates could easily seize power, massive oil reserves, and advanced weaponry. Prominent figures including the dictator of Chad said that al-Qaeda has already seized arms — including missiles — from Libyan military depots in areas held by rebels. Chemical weapons may well be involved too, since Gadhafi is known to have produced vast stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction that were not all destroyed.

But regardless of what happens in North Africa, the point is *not* that Libyan rebels — some of whom are clearly tied to known terror groups — are wrong in attempting to overthrow a brutal regime. After all, Gadhafi has oppressed the nation for decades. The real problem, for Americans at least, should be that the U.S. government has no business intervening militarily in an internal conflict on the other side of the globe, particularly considering that the intervention includes aiding terrorist elements.



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