



Muslim Brotherhood Leader praises *Bin Ladin*

Some religious and political figures expressed their resentment towards the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood leader *Mahdi Akef* for praising *Usama Bin Ladin*, describing him as a *mujahid* fulfilling his duty against the occupation. Islamic Philosophy professor *Amina Nusseir* was dumbfounded by the leader's statement and warned that the frailty of Arab societies is leading them to react towards every empty statement made. The majority leader in the Egyptian parliament ' *AbdelAhad Gamal Eldin*, responding to the report in *Al-Sharq al-awsat*, rejected *Akef's* portrayal of *Bin Ladin* as a *mujahid*, stating that *Bin Ladin* created the opportunity for the enemies of Islam to slander the religion.

Source: Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, May 24, 2008
<http://www.asharqalawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&article=472017&issueno=10770>



Haykal: Embracing Hizbullah is an Arab Must

Describing the Lebanese *Doha* agreement as nothing short of a miracle, writer/journalist *Muhammad Hassanein Haykal* stated that it is imperative for the Arabs to embrace *Hizbullah* rather than fight it, in order to achieve a power balance with Israel. *Haykal*, who is known to champion Pan-Arabism at any cost and for his constant criticism of the West, presented his views on several hot topics confronting the Arab World in an open meeting with Egyptian Judges this past Tuesday. *Haykal* called for a dialogue between the Arab countries and the Iranian regime. He wondered why the prospect of Iran acquiring a nuclear bomb in the distant future is more menacing to the Arabs than the nuclear arsenal presently in Israel's possession. He also dismissed any U.S. attack on Tehran, explaining that "the American goal is to get rid of the present Iranian regime without exhibiting animosity towards the Iranian people." *Haykal* also sounded pessimistic regarding the possibility of any rapprochement between *Hamas* and *Fath*. On the subject of the Sudan, he predicted that radical changes are imminent due to the inability of the present government to deal with the situation.

Source: IslamOnline.net – May 28, 2008
http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?c=ArticleA_C&cid=1209358023732&pagename=Zone-Arabic-News/NWALayout



Sufism back in Style

Al-Azhar University made the announcement that a Sufism satellite station will be launched by the beginning of the New Year. The announcement is expected to generate criticism from Salafi movements and Islamists who oppose Sufism and consider the practice heretical. A conference on Sufism which concluded today recommended that Sufism be considered a cultural source in Islam and advocated the reprinting of Sufi literature. The reporter *Ahmad El-Sayed* contended that Sufism is practiced in Egypt by a few million Muslims; the mosque of " *Al-Sayed Al-Badawi*" located in Tanta (100km from Cairo) is considered their main stronghold. The fact that *Al-Azhar* sponsored the conference and made the announcement is significant in the sense that it condones a practice that is guaranteed to raise objections by Islamists and confirms that it has the tacit approval of the government.

Source: Al-Arabiya – May 29, 2008
<http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2008/05/29/50656.html>

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