



# Political Islam Online

## Muslim Brotherhood – Crisis at the Top

Recently, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt has been confronted with a multiplicity of controversies, as reported in the newspapers “*Al-Hayat*” and “*Al-Masri al-Yum*.” The situation has escalated into a vigorous debate between the leader of the movement, *Mahdi ‘Akif*, and his deputy in charge of the Political Bureau, *‘Isam Al’Aryan*.

Earlier this month, the controversy surrounded the party’s platform, in particular the establishment of an Iranian-style supreme religious council, and a prohibition against Christians and women serving as president. That dogmatic debate turned political when the topic turned to Israel. The dichotomy between *‘Akif* and *Al’Aryan* is graphically illustrated in the following statements:

***‘Isam Al’Aryan*: “If the Muslim Brotherhood becomes the ruling party, they will recognize Israel.”**



***Mahdi ‘Akif*: “The Muslim Brotherhood’s dictionary does not include the word *Israel*.”**

*‘Akif*      *Al’Aryan*

*Al’Aryan* has attempted to separate politics from religion by differentiating between the Community of the Muslim Brotherhood, which is a religious movement that does not recognize Israel, and its associated political party. *Al’Aryan* said that, if the political party attains power, it must honor all treaties between Egypt and Israel. He added that, as would be the case with any other political party, the Brotherhood’s political party must deal with reality, even if that means altering its position (on Israel) once in power.

In contrast, *‘Akif* is intransigent. He states: “We are with the resistance everywhere and insist on the return of all stolen rights (*i.e.*, control of Palestine) to the Arab/Muslim nation.

Regardless of the amount of dissatisfaction with the present regime, it seems unlikely that the Egyptian population will accept the type of unworkable ideology espoused by *‘Akif*. It is precisely the lack of vision exhibited by those such as *‘Akif* that led political writer *Khalil Al-‘Anani*<sup>1</sup> to predict the decline of the Islamists. *‘Akif*’s position may serve to accelerate that process.

Source: Almasry-alyoum – Author: *Ahmad Al-Khatib* - Date: 10/18/2007  
<http://www.almasry-alyoum.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=79753>

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<sup>1</sup> [PI Online article](#) - Are the Arab Islamist Movements in Decline? From Jordan to Morocco, a Study by *Khalil Al-‘Anani* October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007

