

U.S., International Outcry To Expose Saudi Role in 9/11

Jan. 26—The role of the Saudi Kingdom in 9/11 is closer now than ever before to being revealed, as pressure builds on all sides for release of the classified 28 pages of the Congressional Joint Inquiry Report on 9/11 which deals with the funding of the 2001 mass terror attack on the United States.

As we reported three weeks ago (*EIR*, Jan. 8), last year, a core group of Congressmen, led by Reps. Walter B. Jones (R-N.C.), Steven Lynch (D-Mass.), and Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), joined by leaders of the 9/11 families, during the course of 2014, spearheaded a drive for release of the suppressed section. On Dec. 2, 2013, Jones and Lynch introduced H. Res. 428, calling on President Obama to declassify the 28 pages. By the end of the 113th Congress, the list of bipartisan co-sponsors was 21. And on Jan. 6, 2015, Jones joined by Lynch and Massie, introduced an identical measure, H. Res. 14, into the 114th Congress. Since then, three additional members of Congress, Alan Grayson (D-Fla.), John Conyers (D-Mich.), and Mark Pocan (D-Wisc.) have become co-sponsors.

Since then, the hue and cry for release of the sequestered pages, and pointed questions about the role of Saudi Arabia in promoting jihadist terror have reach deafening volumes. Here are highlights:

From the United States:

CNN: On Jan. 25, White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough once again dodged the question of releasing the 28 pages, when questioned by CNN host Michael Smerconish, who asked: “Does the passing of King Abdullah mean the administration now will release the 28 pages pertaining to the Saudis and September 11?”

CNN International: Terry Strada, leader of the 9/11 Families United for Justice Against Terrorism, Jan. 20, stated, “Yes, Saudi Arabia funds terrorism. . . . The world has a right to know the role of Saudi Arabia in funding terrorism. . . .”

allgov.com: Published a story on Jan. 24, detailing alleged links of the new Saudi ruler, King Salman, to the 9/11 attacks. After citing the suppression of the 28 pages by Bush and Obama, the article noted that “Salman was one of several defendants sued in the U.S. for allegedly supporting Al-Qaeda. After paying more than \$215 million in claims by families of those killed in the attacks, Lloyds of London filed a suit seeking reimbursement from multiple parties, including Salman.”

Buzzflash: Author Steve Thresher headlined “9/11: New Report Will Blow Information of Saudi Arabia’s Involvement,” is widely circulating on the Internet as of Jan. 24. It links to recent articles on the September 2014 and January 2015 Capitol Hill press conferences of Sen. Bob Graham and Rep. Walter Jones, et al.

Commentary: On Jan. 19, writer Michael Rubin (of the American Enterprise Institute) wrote, “Journalists should not let any candidate off the hook. Every aspirant to the presidency should pledge him- or herself to full transparency and to complete the historical reckoning from 9/11 that all the victims, their families, and, indeed, every American deserves.”

And on the **AEI website** Rubin added: “As the election campaign begins and both Republicans and Democrats begin the traditional game of footsie with supporters, donors, and the press, perhaps each and every presidential aspirant should take a pledge: release the missing 28 pages of the 9/11 report on their first day in office. And if they are not willing to take that pledge, perhaps they can explain why deference to Saudi sensitivities continues to trump full transparency if not accountability for the largest and most consequential terrorist attack ever perpetrated on American soil. . . .”

OpEdNews: Jan. 21 published “Retired Senator Bob Graham slams the White House Over Non-Release of 28 Redacted Pages of 9-11 Report.” Author David William Pear reported that Graham is putting on a “full-

court press” to get the redacted 28 pages of the 9-11 Commission report released to the public, as these “are suspected of revealing that Saudi Arabia was involved in the financing and aiding of at least some of the 9-11 hijackers.” Pear documents the stonewalling and cover-up by both the Bush and Obama administrations, and quotes extensively from Graham’s remarks at the Jan. 7 press conference on Capitol Hill with Reps. Walter Jones and Stephen Lynch.

Huffington Post: “World Post” ran a piece, “How Saudi Wahhabism Is the Fountainhead of Islamist Terrorism,” in which the author writes: “The fountainhead of Islamic extremism that promotes and legitimizes such violence lies with the fanatical ‘Wahhabi’ strain of Islam centered in Saudi Arabia. And if the world wants to tamp down and eliminate such violent extremism, it must confront this primary host and facilitator.” It cites former Sen. Bob Graham and the fight to release the 28 pages.

Bloomberg: A Jan. 21 article by Eli Lake “Why Obama Can’t Say ‘Radical Islam.’” “It sounds strange,” he wrote, “But as Emile Nakhleh, who was one of the CIA’s top experts on political Islam between 1993 and

2006, told me [concerning the 9/11 attacks]: “In some cases, such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the purveyors of Wahhabism were longstanding American allies. ‘There was the two-ton elephant in the room, and that is Saudi Arabia,’ Nakhleh said.”

International Coverage

Russia’s Sputnik News: Jan. 24, headlined, “Obama Goes to Saudi Arabia Despite Connection to 9/11, Human Rights Issues.” After reporting that President Obama decided to cut short his visit to India, to lead the U.S. delegation to Riyadh, to meet with the newly crowned King Salman, provided a detailed account of the fight to release the 28 pages, citing the efforts of Rep. Walter Jones and reporting that “several members of Congress have said they were ‘shocked’ when they read them. Reportedly, they include a CIA memo that claims high-level Saudi diplomats and intelligence officers helped the hijackers logistically and financially.”

Le Figaro: Jan. 22, Washington correspondent Laure Mandeville reported on the Jan. 7 Graham/Jones press conference calling for the declassification of the 28 pages, then noted, “After the terrorist attacks which struck its French partner, the role of Saudi Arabia—another U.S. ally—in the export of Wahhabism and neo-Salafism, which are spreading like poison throughout the world and into Europe’s poor immigrant suburbs, is at the center of the reflections and the dilemmas of both the Obama administration and the national security community in Washington.” *Figaro* then cites a source close to U.S. intelligence, who says that “a strategic shift is underway in Washington regarding the assessment of the role of Saudi Arabia in the promotion of jihadist terrorism. Whereas only five or seven years ago, the links between the promotion of Saudi Wahhabism and groups like Al-Qaeda were generally seen as distant, today these connections are largely borne out and leading to a change in strategy that acknowledges that the propagation of Wahhabism and neo-Salafism has been a long-term major threat which must be defeated.”

Zeit Online: Theo Sommer, former publisher and editor of *Die Zeit*, Jan. 20, headlined, “The Saudis Nurture the Jihad,” and wrote, “The Saudis have created the monster of Salafist terrorism. . . . Saudi Wahhabism has become the foster mother of Salafi terrorism.”

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