

Hillary Knows Saudis Fund Global Jihadi Terror

Sept. 24—A senior U.S. intelligence official told *EIR* recently that, since 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has been fully aware that Saudi Arabia is the number one source of funds for global jihadi terrorism, and that she attempted to do something about it—in stark contrast to President Obama.

We present two statements by Clinton from 2009.

On April 23, 2009, in testimony before a House Appropriations Subcommittee, Clinton acknowledged the Saudi role in creating what became al-Qaeda. In discussing the situation with Pakistan and Afghanistan, she stated:

“Let’s remember here, the people we are fighting today, we funded 20 years ago, and we did it because we were locked in a struggle with the Soviet Union. . . . And it was President Reagan in partnership with Congress, led by Democrats, who said: ‘You know what—it sounds like a pretty good idea. Let’s deal with the ISI and the Pakistan military, and let’s go recruit these mujahideen. That’s great, let’s get some from Saudi Arabia and other places, importing their Wahhabi brand of Islam so that we can go beat the Soviet Union.’”

“And guess what: [The Soviets] retreated; they lost billions of dollars, and it led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. So there is a very strong argument which is, it wasn’t a bad investment to end the Soviet Union, but let’s be careful with what we sow, because we will harvest.”

Second, the same intelligence source pointed to a Dec. 30, 2009 State Department cable from the Sec-

retary to State Department and Treasury Department officials, which he described as “the real smoking gun” on Saudi terror funding. The 11-page secret cable, referred to as an “action request,” was published by Wikileaks and the London *Guardian* on Dec. 5, 2010:

“In August 2009,” the cable began, “Special Representative to the President for Afghanistan and Pakistan (S/SRAP) Ambassador Richard Holbrooke in coordination with the Department of Treasury established the interagency Illicit Finance Task Force (IFTF). The IFTF is chaired by Treasury A/S David Cohen. It focuses on disrupting illicit finance activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan and the external financial/logistical support networks of terrorist groups that operate there, such as al-Qa’ida, the Taliban, and Lashkar e-Tayyiba (LeT). The IFTF’s activities are a vital component of the USG’s Afghanistan and Pakistan (Af/Pak) strategy dedicated to disrupting illicit finance flows between the Gulf countries and Afghanistan and Pakistan.”

In the next section of the memo, Clinton singled out Saudi Arabia: “While the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) takes seriously the threat of terrorism within Saudi Arabia, it has been an ongoing challenge to persuade Saudi officials to treat terrorist financing emanating from Saudi Arabia as a strategic priority. . . . [D]onors in Saudi Arabia constitute the most significant source of funding to Sunni terrorist groups worldwide.

“More needs to be done since Saudi Arabia remains a critical financial support base for al-Qa’ida, the Taliban, LeT and other terrorist groups, including Hamas, which probably raises millions of dollars annually from Saudi sources, often during Hajj and Ramadan.”

—Jeffrey Steinberg and Edward Spannaus