

Faith Under Fire

The Global Threat to Religious Freedom

Saturday, 10 March 2012

Mt. Prospect, Illinois



The Center for Security Policy welcomes you to ***Faith Under Fire***. In Islamic countries, Christians and other religious minorities are deprived of fundamental rights and sidelined from public life; they endure violent attacks against their churches and homes. In a year's time, we have witnessed an escalation in the violence, bloody attacks, murder of Christians and the destruction of their churches and homes throughout the Middle East and Africa. Religious and ethnic cleansing of indigenous Christian communities in Islamic countries is a reality in 2012. We are witnessing events which may precipitate a foreseeable genocide of these indigenous communities in the near future. Proactive engagement on these matters by citizens in the US and our Congress is crucial, as we must be a Voice for the Voiceless!

Conference Agenda

9:15am **Welcoming Address**
Eric Voogd

****The Honorable Fred Grandy is the moderator for panels today.****

9:30am **Testimony from the Region and Background on Indigenous Communities**
Dr. Ashraf Ramelah, Cynthia Farahat, Juliana Taimoorazy

10:40am **Break**

10:50am ***Silenced: How Apostasy and Blasphemy Codes are Choking Freedom Worldwide***
Paul Marshall

11:25am **Strategy for the Future**
Keith Roderick

12:00pm **Lunch**
Paul Marshall Book Signing

1:00pm **Action Steps to Prevent Genocide**
US Congressman Peter Roskam, US Congressman Joe Walsh and Paul Marshall
Ms. Isabelle Ishtar: *Faith Under Fire*

2:00pm **Islamic Persecution of Religious Minorities in Doctrine and History**
Clare Lopez

2:15pm **Policy Issues and Opportunities for Intervention**
Clare Lopez, Dr. Ashraf Ramelah, Juliana Taimoorazy, Keith Roderick, US Congressman Walsh

3:20pm **Break**

3:30pm **Special Presentation**
Frank Gaffney

3:50pm **Q&A**
Frank Gaffney

4:15pm **Concluding Remarks**

The Speakers

Cynthia Farahat is a fellow at the Middle East Forum and the Center for Security Policy. She is the co-founder of the Liberal Egyptian Party. She is the past program coordinator and officer at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty in Cairo, a multi-national free market think tank. She was a founder of the Masr El-Om Party. Her articles are in the *National Review*, *Middle East Quarterly*, and Arab press. In December 2011, she testified before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission about Coptic plight.

Frank Gaffney is the Founder and President of the Center for Security Policy in Washington, DC. He is the host of Secure Freedom Radio, a nationally-syndicated radio program and the publisher and associate author of [Shariah: The Threat to America](#). He actively contributes to the security policy debate in his capacity as a weekly columnist for the Washington Times, TownHall.com, and Newsmax.com. He is a contributor to BigPeace.com; his columns are periodically in WorldNetDaily.com, and FrontPageMagazine.com. His op-ed articles appear in the Wall Street Journal and many publications. He appears often on national and international media such as Fox News, CNN and the BBC. In April 1987, Mr. Gaffney was nominated by President Reagan to become the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy.

The Honorable Fred Grandy is the Executive Vice President at the Center for Security Policy. He is a prior four term Iowa Congressman and successful actor on the *Love Boat*. For the past eight years he has informed and entertained Washington, DC radio audiences on his popular daily morning show The Grandy Group. He is the past President and CEO of the internationally known Goodwill Industries International. He has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland's School of Public Affairs.

Isabelle Ishtar has been singing since the age of 2. Only 13, she recently performed at the **"Never Again" Artists for Peace Concert** with such Great Legends including Stevie Wonder, Chaka Khan, Eric Benet. She has performed at the Gallo Center of Arts, at the Harmony of Two Rivers Concert in California. Isabelle has also worked with Overshadowed Productions and acted in "Oliver!"

Clare Lopez is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Security Policy and The Clarion Fund. She is co-author of [Shariah: The Threat to America](#) with a strategic policy focus on Iran. She is a member of newly-formed Congressional Task Force on National and Homeland Security with a focus on EMP threat. She is a strategic policy & intelligence expert with a focus on national defense, Islam, Iran, & counterterrorism issues.

Paul Marshall is a Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom, Washington, DC. He has spoken on religious freedom, international relations, and radical Islam before government bodies including Congressional committees, the U.S. State Department, the Helsinki Commission, INS and DHS Asylum Bureaus. In November, 2011, Oxford University Press published his *Silenced: How Apostasy and Blasphemy Codes are Choking Freedom Worldwide* co-authored with Nina Shea.

Dr. Ashraf Ramelah is the founder and President of Voice of the Copts, a human rights organization with offices in Italy and the United States. He addressed the European Parliament in 2010 and was the keynote speaker in the Italian Parliament in 2011. In November 2011, he testified before the Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, House of Commons, Canada. His articles appear in the *American Thinker*, *Family Security Matters*, *Canada Free Press*, the Italian media, and Arab media.

The Very Rev. Keith Roderick, an Episcopal priest, was a Cold War human rights activist on behalf of Soviet citizens facing religious persecution under Communist rule. Since 1993, Roderick has served as Secretary General of the Coalition for the Defense of Human Rights, a consortium of over fifty-five organizations working for the rights of minorities living in Islamic countries. His appear in *National Review*, *The American Thinker* and other publications.

US Congressman Peter Roskam proudly represents the Sixth District of Illinois in the US House of Representatives and is the Chief Deputy Majority Whip, the fourth-ranking Republican leader in the House. Congressman Roskam serves on the Ways & Means Committee and is the co-chair of the Republican Israel Caucus. Before his election to Congress in 2006, Roskam was a member of the Illinois Senate from 2000-2006, serving as the Republican Whip and Floor Leader. He served in the Illinois House before that from 1993 to 1998.

Juliana Taimoorazy, an Assyrian Christian, came to the United States from Tehran in 1989. After volunteering for Catholic Charities in Chicago and mentoring young Iraqi Christian women arriving from refugee camps in Turkey and Syria, Juliana founded the Iraqi Christian Relief Council, a nonprofit organization based in Chicago with a mission to work with American entities to raise awareness about the plight of the Iraqi Christians, ask for prayers and funds to be delivered to Iraq for food, shelter and medicine.

Eric Voogd has lectured and written about the Persecuted Church and honor killings and traveled extensively in twenty-two countries. He is a board member for the Voice of the Copts. At 14, he worked with Open Doors USA and smuggled Bibles into China. During his undergraduate studies, he worked with the leadership of the underground church in China. Today, he is assisting US Congressman Frank Wolf and members of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to prevent the genocide of indigenous Christian communities in Muslim countries.

US Congressman Joe Walsh is a member of the US House of Representatives from the 8th District of Illinois. He has dedicated his professional life to service and advocacy. He has advocated on behalf of a wide range of public policy issues and causes, most notably advancing market-based solutions to education reform and urban poverty. He is a member of the Homeland Security, Oversight and Government Reform, Small Business committees in the House of Representatives. He is a member of the Republican Israeli Caucus and Tea Party Caucus.



About Us: The Center for Security Policy

The Center for Security Policy is a non-profit, non-partisan national security organization that specializes in identifying policies, actions, and resource needs that are vital to American security and then ensures that such issues are the subject of both focused, principled examination and effective action by recognized policy experts, appropriate officials, opinion leaders, and the general public.

The Center was founded in 1988 and has worked to great effect since then in the establishment of successful national security policies through the use of all elements of national power – diplomatic, informational, military, and economic strength.

Mission of the Center for Security Policy:

To identify challenges and opportunities likely to affect American security, broadly defined, and to act promptly and creatively to ensure that they are the subject of focused national examination and effective action.

The philosophy of "Peace through Strength" is not a slogan for military might but a belief that America's national power must be preserved and properly used for it holds a unique global role in maintaining peace and stability.

Today's national security threats compel us to ensure we are strong and prepared. We as a nation must also work to undermine the ideological foundations of totalitarianism and Islamist extremism with at least as much skill, discipline and tenacity as President Reagan employed against Communism to prevail in the Cold War.

The role of the Center for Security Policy is to help our government, countrymen and other freedom-loving nations conceptualize, conduct and succeed on this front. The Center's dedicated staff, associates and advisors constitute the Special Forces in this war of ideas – equipped with the experience, imagination, expertise, agility and drive not just to advance strategies for victory, but to get them adopted and implemented.

SHARIAH
THE THREAT TO AMERICA
REPORT OF TEAM B II



True Lies – The Paradox of Debating Shariah

The Quran makes it difficult for non-Muslims to have sincere discussions with shariah-compliant Muslims because of a theological rationalization for lying.

Under shariah, lying is not only permissible, but *obligatory* for Muslims in some situations. This complicates efforts to understand the true nature of the threat – and to have confidence in those Muslims at home and abroad with whom the government hopes to make common cause.

Shariah has two standards of truth and falsehood. In general, the Quran disapproves of Muslims deceiving other Muslims. It declares, "Surely God guides not him who is prodigal and a liar." Yet Quranic passages and statements attributed to Mohammed in reliable hadiths provide exceptions even to the usual prohibitions on lying to fellow

Muslims. Authoritative classical Islamic texts such as the 14th century *Reliance of the Traveler* provide practical examples of where lying even to Muslims can be appropriate. *Reliance* also shows further examples in quotes from

Mohammed, one of which is, “I did not hear him permit untruth in anything people say, except for three things: war, settling disagreements, and a man talking with his wife or she with him (in smoothing over differences).”

Besides lying, there is also guidance in *Reliance* about giving a misleading impression: “Scholars say that there is no harm in giving a misleading impression if required by an interest countenanced by Sacred Law.”

The issue of lying as a morally justified obligation under shariah leads us to another deceptive concept, known in Arabic as *taqiyya*, that national security professionals must understand in order to combat the enemy more effectively.

Team B notes that the authoritative Sahih Al-Bukhari wrote that Mohammed personally authorized a permissive attitude toward telling the truth: “The Prophet said, ‘If I take an oath and later find something else better than that, then I do what is better and expiate my oath.’”

These exceptions are sufficiently broad to cover most cases in which lying would be expedient.

Shariah demands, moreover, that its adherents lie where it will be advantageous in dealings with infidels whose submission is a Quranic obligation. Consider the legal guidance provided in *Reliance*. In the *Reliance* sub-book titled “Holding One’s Tongue,” one finds sections on “Lying” and “Permissible Lying.” These cite the iconic Islamic legal jurist Imam Abu Hamid Ghazali:

“This is an explicit statement that lying is sometimes permissible for a given interest. . . . When it is possible to achieve such an aim by lying but not by telling the truth, it is permissible to lie if attaining the goal is permissible (N: i.e., when the purpose of lying is to circumvent someone who is prevent one from doing something permissible) and obligatory to lie if the goal is obligatory.”

An example of the Quranic basis for the shariah standard of lying is: “Allah has already sanctioned for you the dissolution of your vows.” Indeed, in some places, it is Allah himself who is described approvingly as a capricious deceiver: “Say, ‘God leads whosoever He wills astray.’”

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****Please visit www.shariahthethreat.org to learn more about Shariah: The Threat to America, Report of Team B II.****

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS TO PUBLISH FIRST WORLD SURVEY ON EFFECTS OF APOSTASY AND BLASPHEMY CODES IN BOTH THE MUSLIM AND WESTERN WORLDS

SILENCED

How Apostasy and Blasphemy Codes Are Choking Freedom Worldwide

By Paul Marshall and Nina Shea

With a foreword by Indonesia's late President Abdurrahman Wahid.

Oxford University Press | Paperback Original | November 3, 2011 | 439 pages | \$35.00 | ISBN13: 9780199812288

The 1989 fatwa against Salman Rushdie and the deadly 2006 Danish cartoon riots brought worldwide attention to the fatal potency of Muslim bans on “blasphemy” and “apostasy.” Though these events made global headlines they are by no means the only examples of their kind taking place in recent times. These and related charges such as, “insulting Islam,” “defamation of religion,” or “hurting Muslims’ religious feelings” are not limited to censoring irreverent caricatures of Islam’s Prophet Mohammed: they are increasingly used as key tools by authoritarian governments and extremist forces in the Muslim world to acquire and consolidate power. These charges, which draw on disputed interpretations of Islamic law and carry a traditional punishment of death, are used to crush or intimidate religious converts and heterodox groups, as well as political and religious reformers. The effect goes far beyond what might narrowly be called religious matters to cover a whole range of freedoms, including, most critically, freedoms for the individual of speech, press and religion. It has also contributed to the recent growth of more repressive forms of Islam, as these charges are used to silence more liberal or reform-minded religious opponents.

SILENCED: HOW APOSTASY AND BLASPHEMY CODES ARE CHOKING FREEDOM WORLDWIDE provides the first survey of the global range and effects of apostasy and blasphemy charges in the contemporary Muslim world, in international organizations, and in the West.

SILENCED encompasses Muslim-majority countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Greater Middle East [including Jordan, Morocco, Turkey, and Yemen], Africa, South and Southeast Asia and more. The authors argue that we need to understand the context, history, impact, and mechanics of the blasphemy phenomenon in modern Muslim societies to know how effectively to respond to pressure to submit to Muslim taboos regarding expression in the West. The book covers the persecution of Muslims who convert to another religion or simply stop

practicing their religion, as well as “heretics,” including those accused of claiming a prophet after Mohammed, such as Bahai’s and Ahmadis. It describes how vaguely worded and far reaching religious speech codes favor extremists in the ideological struggle now taking place within Islam. It also documents the repressive political effects in Muslim societies of blasphemy and apostasy codes, coercively applied through a variety of laws, as well as through non-governmental threats and vigilante violence. The book describes hundreds of victims including political dissidents, religious reformers, journalists, writers, artists, movie makers, and religious minorities.

Finally, it addresses the evolution toward new blasphemy codes in the West: the increasing use of religious hate speech laws, which commonly function as surrogate Islamic blasphemy laws; long standing pressure by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to make Western countries and international organizations enforce laws to restrict speech on behalf of Islam; and the rise in threats of violence and threats to stifle expression that casts anything claiming to be Islamic in a negative light. It discusses Western legal cases brought against a growing number accused of transgressing Muslim blasphemy strictures, including Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Mark Steyn, Ezra Levant, Brigitte Bardot, Geert Wilders, Phillipe Val, and others. It details the twenty -year push by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation within the United Nations to universalize blasphemy bans. It documents violent attacks and threats based on blasphemy accusations against Ahmed Aboutaleb, Ekin Deligoz and other Muslim politicians in European capitals, the producers of the South Park animated TV show in Hollywood, an Ivy League university press, a French philosopher, a Dutch filmmaker, a British Episcopal bishop of Pakistani decent, and many others. It shows the effect of this in promoting self-censorship on the issue of Islam in a broad array of institutions, venues, and outlets. It concludes with two essays by noted Islamic scholars, Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd and Abdullah Saeed, who, along with Abdurrahman Wahid in the foreword, point to Islamic authority that does not compel temporal punishment for apostasy and blasphemy offences.

Paul Marshall is Senior Fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom, Hudson Institute.

Nina Shea is Director of the Center for Religious Freedom, Hudson Institute.

THE AUTHORS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

SILENCED: HOW APOSTASY AND BLASPHEMY CODES ARE CHOKING FREEDOM WORLDWIDE

by Paul Marshall and Nina Shea

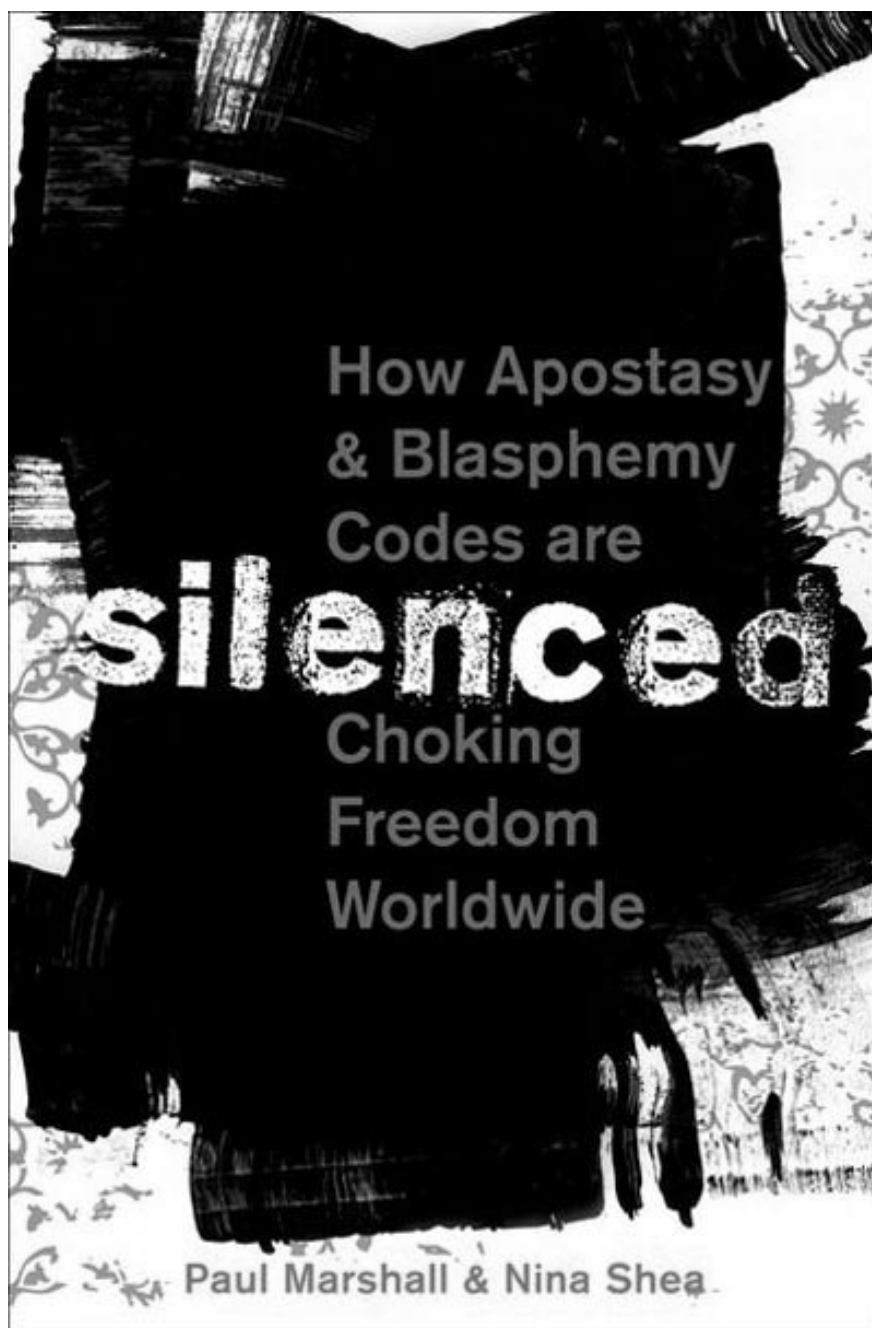
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“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Proverbs 31:8-9

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

Edmund Burke



“The book offers an extensive survey of blasphemy and its effects on Muslim societies and individuals, with a consideration of analogous developments in the contemporary West.... As the book makes clear, evidence of arbitrary use of blasphemy is evidence also of contested state jurisdiction. This is a most valuable study.”

—*Lamin Sanneh, D.
Willis James Professor of
Missions & World
Christianity, Yale
University*

“Islamists, claiming they want only respect for their religion, are imposing brutal punishments for apostasy and blasphemy in the non-Muslim as well as the Muslim world. In this eloquent and definitive work Marshall and Shea make a powerful case that for us to accommodate this, anywhere, would be disastrous—weakening truly moderate Muslims and those of us who support them, and seriously crippling our own freedoms of speech and religion.” —*R. James Woolsey,*

Chairman, Foundation for Defense of Democracies; Former Director of Central Intelligence