



“HAMAS IS COMIN”

The Legacy of Daniel Pearl and the Fight Against Antisemitism Today

Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing

“Never To Be Silent: Stemming the Tide of Antisemitism in America”

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“I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation.”

– Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, 1986 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech

Introduction

Chairman Grassley, Senator Durbin, and esteemed members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today on an issue that is urgent and existential—the rise of antisemitism in America and the dangerous ideological networks fueling hate, funding hate, and fomenting hate.

On the streets of our nation’s capital last summer, a young activist climbed atop a monument and scrawled a chilling warning in red paint: “**HAMAS IS COMING.**” The message was not just a threat; it was a declaration of war—against Jews, against Israel, and against the very values of democracy and freedom that define this nation.

That same ideology took my dear friend, **Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl**, twenty-two years ago. His captors saw his American citizenship, his Jewish identity, and his Israeli roots as a crime. They filmed his brutal execution, believing they had silenced him.

But his last words—“**My father is Jewish. My mother is Jewish. I am Jewish.**”—echo through time as a call to action.

Today, I am here because the same hatred that murdered Danny has metastasized. It no longer lurks in the shadows of terrorist hideouts overseas—it marches openly in our streets, recruits on our college campuses, and infiltrates our institutions under the guise of “social justice.” It has become well-funded, highly organized, and emboldened by foreign influence.

I have spent 22 years investigating this global ideological network of hate. My research has uncovered **a vast ecosystem of more than 1,500 organizations operating within the United States**, spreading antisemitic propaganda, radicalizing young minds, and receiving foreign funding to push an agenda of extremism. These groups are not just activists; they are **agents of malign influence** waging an ideological war against Jews and against the United States.

This hearing is not just about condemning antisemitism—it is about **naming, exposing, and dismantling** the networks that enable it. If we fail to act, history will not judge us kindly. The warning signs are here. The threats are real. The time to confront them is now.



Figure 3: Screenshot from USCP CCTV of SNOW (circled in yellow) Grabbing the Flag from the Halyard



Figure 4: Screenshot from Open-Source Footage Showing SNOW Holding and Removing it from the Halyard.



Figure 5: Screenshot from Open-Source Footage of SNOW's Initiative to Light the Flag on Fire



Figure 6: Screenshot from Open-Source Media of SNOW



Figure 7: Screenshot from Open-Source Footage of SNOW Taking Lighter Fluid from an Unidentified Individual



Figure 8: Screenshot from Open-Source Footage Showing SNOW Dousing the Flag with Lighter Fluid



Figure 9: Screenshot from Open-Source Footage of SNOW and SUSPECT 2 Lighting the Flag on Fire



Figure 10: Screenshot from Other Open-Source Footage of SNOW (Circled in Yellow) and SUSPECT 2 (Circled in Blue) Lighting Flag on Fire



Figure 11: Screenshot from Open-Source Footage Depicting SNOW (Circled in Yellow) Dragging Pedestal while SUSPECT 2 (Circled in Blue) Paraded Around the Burning Flag

Exhibits included in the FBI criminal complaint affidavit

The Threat Today

This past July, Zaid Mohammed Mahdawi, 26, the president of the Richmond chapter of American Muslims for Palestine, drove up I-95 North to the nation's capital to join anti-Israel crowds as they took to the streets of Washington, D.C., to protest Israel.

He climbed atop a monument at Columbus Circle in front of Union Station and spray-painted an ominous message: **"HAMAS IS COMING."**

He punctuated the warning with the red, inverted triangle that the terrorist organization uses as a symbol to mark its targets.

Nearby, [Michael Snow Jr.](#), a [member](#) of the Party for Socialism and Liberation in Durham, N.C. burned a U.S. flag to ashes, while others tackled U.S. Park Police officers trying to arrest

agitators and spray-painted other menacing graffiti on memorials, including ‘DEATH 2 AMERIKKKA.’”

Last fall, in Falls Church, Va., FBI agents stormed the apartment of an 18-year-old Egyptian freshman at George Mason University, Abdullah Ezzeldin Taha Mohamed Hassan, and arrested him mid-stream in a video call as he was planning an attack on Jews at the Israeli Consulate in New York City.

Across town, in Springfield, Va., Fairfax County police officers raided the apartment of two sisters, Jena and Noor Chanaa, who were leaders at the George Mason University chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine and confiscated weapons, Hamas and Hezbollah flags and literature with the message: “death to Jews” and “Death to America.”

Years ago, in my mosque in Morgantown, W.V., I picked up a Qur’an from the government of Saudi Arabia that edits the first chapter to tell Muslims to not go off the straight path “like the Jews.” The preachers downloaded sermons from Saudi Arabia that equated Jews to “apes and pigs.”

This hatred of Jews, the state of Israel and America has struck a haunting cord for me.

Daniel Pearl

On Jan. 23, 2002, I was in Karachi, Pakistan, reporting while on book leave from my job as a reporter for the Wall Street Journal. I waved goodbye to a close friend, Daniel Pearl, never to see him again.

Danny was kidnapped that day off the streets of Karachi. Twenty-two years ago last month, three men entered a compound on the outskirts of Karachi where Danny was held in captivity.

They carried two weapons: a knife and a camcorder.

The man who wielded the knife later bragged about killing Danny with his “blessed right hand.” He was Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks.

His intent was clear: to make an example of Danny, to turn his very identity into a crime.

Danny’s American citizenship, his Jewish heritage, his roots in Israel—his very existence—were enough to condemn him in their eyes. They took his life, beheading him.

But what remains, what they could never erase, are Danny’s final words.

“My father is Jewish. My mother is Jewish. I am Jewish.”

After the murder, the men wiped the blood from the floor and laid down their prayer rugs and turned toward Mecca, believing they had done something divine in my faith of Islam.

They hadn't. They had committed an act of pure evil.

Twenty-two years later, everything has changed, and yet, nothing has changed.

Global Ideological Network of Hate

The same ideology that murdered Danny now marches on the streets of our cities and thrives on our college campuses after the heinous attacks on Oct. 7, 2023, in Israel.

A network of men and women has taken aim at Jews and at Israel, just as they did with Danny two decades ago.

For 22 years since Danny's murder, I have been investigating the network and well-funded web of propaganda that today puts younger Dannys in their crosshairs—on university quads, in our institutions and in our streets.

From New York City to Berkeley, Ca., I have traced the growing reach of this network and have created a database showing the penetration of malign foreign influence funding and propaganda in U.S. educational institutions and the country.

These are some of my findings so far:

1. About 1,500 organizations in the United States foment hate against Jews and the state of Israel.
2. The organizations have beachheads on at least 500 U.S. campuses of higher education, including Georgetown University, Columbia University, Harvard University and Yale University.
3. Of these organizations, about 30% are self-proclaimed Socialist, Marxist and Communist organizations.
4. About 30% are supporters of the Islamist ideology that believes in political Islam in governance with illiberal values that deny women, the LGBTQ community, Jews and others their rights.
5. The rest, or about 40% of the organizations, are Islamist and Socialist adjacent, working closely together.

You don't have to believe me. Look at their signs. They tell you their funding, foreign interests and propaganda tactics.

They include organizations such as:

1. The ANSWER Coalition, a self-described Marxist group, which got the permit from the National Park Service for the “HAMAS IS COMIN” protest;
2. The Party for Socialism and Liberation, which sends its foot soldiers to protests in busses, the young man burning the American flag in D.C. last summer;
3. Samidoun, a Palestinian group based in Ramallah, now designated a sham charity by the U.S. Treasury Department, protesting against Kamala Harris and the Democrats in Chicago last summer;
4. Code Pink and The People’s Forum, funded by billionaire Neville Roy Singham, sitting in Shanghai funding a “global web of Chinese propaganda,” as the [New York Times](#) described his work;
5. The Council on American-Islamic Relations, established in a secret meeting in Philadelphia referring to Hamas backwards, “Samah,” to try to trick law enforcement;
6. American Muslims for Palestine, which sent the “HAMAS IS COMIN” activist to D.C., and Students for Justice in Palestine, which stokes protests on campuses, both founded by a U.C. Berkeley academic, Hatem Bazian, who came to the U.S. as a student to destroy the state of Israel.
7. And countless – in fact about 1,500 – others.

These are just a few examples. I have collected evidence in granular detail. These organizations have created an ecosystem of radicalization that enables the antisemitism we now see erupting in our streets. They have created an army we now see on campuses. They are not just activists. They are certainly not grassroots organizers.

They are agents of malign foreign influence, operating within our borders with impunity. They take foreign money. They push foreign agendas. And they cloak their true motives under the language of “human rights” and “justice” while actively working to undermine our democracy.

We also have to address the elephant in the room that these groups have made significant political contributions and exercised considerable political influence to members of Congress to make certain that conversations such as this one on anti-semitism are blunted.

They use the tactics of psychological warfare to engage in moral inversion and become victims, as they now do for this hearing, claiming they are denied “free speech” rights and “academic freedoms” as they try to lay assault on Jews and the state of Israel.

This is deeply personal for me. I have been a lifelong Democrat. I am a progressive Muslim, Muslim feminist and classical liberal. We cannot accept a political movement that operates on a hierarchy of human value that places Jews and Israelis at the bottom. We cannot remain silent while history repeats itself.

Recommendations

This is why I am calling for urgent policy action.

1. End the abuse of 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Organizations that foment social discord and act as foreign proxies should not be granted tax-exempt status. The U.S. government should investigate and revoke the nonprofit status of any group engaged in antisemitic incitement or foreign-influenced radicalization.
2. Enforce the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Individuals and organizations operating as de facto agents of foreign governments and terrorist organizations must be required to register under FARA. Even media figures like Al-Jazeera host Mehdi Hasan, who provide platforms for these actors, should be scrutinized under these laws.
3. Recognize proxy organizations of the Muslim Brotherhood as a national security threat. Many of these groups are not simply civil rights organizations—they are ideological arms of an international political movement that has long sought to infiltrate and destabilize Western democracies.
4. Establish full transparency, real-time tracking of antisemitic networks and rapid response to their psychological operations and propaganda. I am developing a project through the Pearl Project that will serve as a database to track and expose these networks—where their funding comes from, who their leaders are, what their strategies entail, and we can inoculate the public. We need total transparency, and Congress must support and enact laws that bring these networks into the light.
5. Prosecute lawbreakers, including organizations that get permits for demonstrations that incite violence, violate university policies and rules, destroy public property and stoke hate and division.

The world has seen this before.

I *have* seen this before.

We have a choice: to stand idly by, or to fight back with truth, with policy, and with moral clarity and moral courage. I will continue to investigate, expose, educate and inoculate and stand ready to work with your staff to remove the scourge of anti-semitism from the United States.

Daniel Pearl's last words are not just a memory. They are a call to action.

“My father is Jewish. My mother is Jewish. I am Jewish.”

Let us never forget. Let's not let history repeat itself.

Asra Q. Nomani – Biography

Born in Bombay, India and raised in Morgantown, West Virginia, Asra Q. Nomani is a former *Wall Street Journal* reporter, recognized globally for her courageous investigative reporting.

Ms. Nomani is the author of the book, *Woke Army: The Red-Green Alliance That is Undermining America's Freedom*, published by Post Hill Press, uncovering a disinformation and character assassination campaign against Muslim reformers, ex-Muslim feminists, Jewish leaders and others who challenge an Islamic extremism that promotes sexism, anti-Semitism and the criminalization of members of the LGBTQ+ community.

She has previously written two books – *Tantrika: Traveling the Road of Divine Love*, chronicling her manifesto for women's rights, and *Standing Alone: An American Woman's Struggle for the Soul of Islam*, calling for all people of moderation to stand up against extremism in their communities.

A former professor in the practice of journalism at Georgetown University, she is cofounder of the Pearl Project, an initiative in which she led an investigation of her friend and colleague Daniel Pearl's kidnapping and murder by extremists, and she continues to advocate for justice for Mr. Pearl and against anti-Semitism.

She co-authored a book, *The Truth Left Behind: Inside the Kidnapping and Murder of Daniel Pearl*, chronicling the lives of the extremists who ensnared the journalist. She traveled to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to report on the trial of Pearl's alleged killer, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and wrote a moving essay, "[This is Danny Pearl's Final Story](#)," in the *Washingtonian* magazine about the ripple impact of violence and trauma.

Ms. Nomani publishes groundbreaking columns and investigative work in a newsletter on Substack, "Asra Investigates." She is a contributor to the Jewish Journal where her work exposing the network behind anti-semitism in the U.S. can be found at [JewishJournal.com/dispatches](https://www.jewishjournal.com/dispatches).

Ms. Nomani received her BA from West Virginia University, where her father was a professor and her mother was a boutique owner on High Street in downtown Morgantown. She has an MA in international communications from American University, where she studied propaganda, cross-cultural communications and the intersection of media, technology and politics.

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