

Jihad and the terrorists among us

E.J. SMITH

Nidal Hassan is a hero. He is a man of conscience who could not bear living the contradiction of being a Muslim and serving in an army that is fighting against his own people.

Yemeni-American cleric
Anwar al-Awlaki

You probably can't believe what you're hearing, seeing, and reading. I can't. That the media are reporting on the Fort Hood massacre with such an even tone of political correctness is incredible.

A New York Times editorial says, "In the aftermath of this unforgivable attack, it will be important to avoid drawing prejudicial conclusions from the fact that Major Hasan is an American Muslim whose parents came from the Middle East."

Thirteen Americans are dead, 29 Americans are wounded, and the lives of all 42 families will never be the same again. Ever. The longer terrorists can hide behind our respect for diversity and fairness, paralyzing political correctness, and fear of racial profiling, the easier targets we all become.

The facts behind this tragedy add up to much more than one person's struggle with life.

Cleric al-Awlaki's sermon "Constants on the Path of Jihad" is the Bible for lone-wolf Muslim extremists. It is the English interpretation of the Arabic version written by the founder of al-Qaida's network in Saudi Arabia, Yousef al-Ayyiri.

Al-Awlaki argues, "Jihad does not end with the disappearance of a person. Jihad must continue regardless because it does not depend on any particular leader or individual. ... Jihad does not depend on

any particular land. It is global. When the Muslim is in his land, he performs jihad. ... No borders or barriers stop it."

Jarret Brachman, author of "Global Jihadism" and consultant to the U.S. government about terrorism, says, "For years now al-Qaida has been calling their movement to arms sowing seeds across the global movement. What is clear, however, is that the seeds are now starting to sprout."

U.S. citizen David Coleman Headley, 49, of Chicago, is the principal defendant accused of planning an attack on a Danish newspaper that published cartoons of the prophet Mohammad. He's also accused of conspiring in the November 2008 terrorist attacks that left 166 people dead in Mumbai.

He went to Pakistan and was trained by al-Qaida affiliate Ilyas Kashmir. A former Pakistani army trainer of Afghan mujahideen, Kashmir is one of the most dangerous Islamic militants operating in Pakistan's restive tribal areas.

Headley planned to attack a newspaper over a cartoon. As an American, does he know that freedom of speech is a constitutional right?

And why did the United States let Headley back into the country after he trained with Kashmir in Pakistan?

Najibullah Zazi, 24, a legal resident of the United States and a Colorado shuttle bus driver, received direct training in Pakistan from high-ranking al-Qaida operative Mustafa Abu al-Yazid. His case is the most advanced U.S. plot since 9/11. Growing up in America, Zazi worshipped at an Afghan mosque in Flushing, Queens, New York, and attended Flushing High School. After 9/11, members of his mosque became

divided over their support for the Taliban and Osama bin Laden.

And all along, I thought the Taliban and bin Laden were enemies of America.

In Sudbury, Mass., an affluent suburb of Boston not far from where I went to school at Babson College, Tarek Mehanna, 27, was arrested for participating in conspiracies to attack a U.S. shopping mall and assassinate federal officials. He has been out on bail awaiting trial for allegedly lying to the FBI about the whereabouts of Daniel Maldonado. They used to watch jihadi videotapes together in Mr. Mehanna's living room and "talked about the glory of dying for the sake of Allah," report The Wall Street Journal. Maldonado, of New Hampshire, is serving 10 years in jail for training with terrorists to overthrow the Somali government.

Why was Mehanna free on bail while plotting to kill Americans at a mall?

Money flowing from charities to mosques of the intolerant radical Wahhabi or Salafist Muslim faiths must be tracked and followed. Let's cut the red tape between U.S. agencies and get on the same page. If there is evidence showing money flowing between terrorists and charities, then those charities should be put out of business in America. Funding terrorism is illegal, plain and simple.

The number of Americans with extremist views who are free to roam untouched is increasing. Radical Wahhabi or Salafist beliefs stand against everything America stands for: most importantly freedom. How long are we going to let ourselves be a target at home?

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re that would have let Washington negotiate drug prices for Medicare.

"Private competition works," Grassley said at the time. "The government has very little experience and a dismal track record figuring out what to pay for drugs." He obviously didn't mean the Canadian government.

Other Republican senators in favor of having tawabargain down drug prices on behalf of their American constituents include Arizona's John McCain and Maine's Olympia Snowe. Both oppose the public option as government interference in American health care.

In their semi-defense, do note that McCain and Snowe supported the bill to let the federal government negotiate Medicare drug prices. We'll take principle wherever we can find it.

The new plan to drop the public option and instead expand Medicare puts fans of ideological belling off balance. An understandably confused CBS interviewer asked Howard Dean how he felt about his beloved public-option idea being gutted. The former Vermont governor and Democrats' point-man on health care said the following things:

"Medicare is a government-run, single-payer plan. ... You don't have to reinvent another bureaucracy to do it." And, "This is what should have been done in the first place."

Could the fight over health care end as a comic opera with most everyone happy?

Insurance-company stocks immediately rose on the news that the Senate may have found an alternative to the public option. The private insurers clearly believe that the public option could have succeeded in forcing them to curb their premiums. (And we can thus assume that it could have saved money for taxpayers and employers.)

The insurance industry may free its captive lawmakers to vote for health-care legislation that liberals also like. And those who've been rowing around the "s" word may now back the more socialistic alternative of a bigger Medicare. Whatever you want to call this health-care reform, that's fine with me.

oma Harrop is a member of The Journal's editorial board and a syndicated columnist.

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dents, and a tuned-out, uninformed population.

Most of these could be fixed at the level of our existing city and state institutions except for, alas, the last. We the people don't collectively care enough to take the necessary steps to save the "sinking ship" mentioned in Mr. Achorn's column.
At any rate, no one can say

