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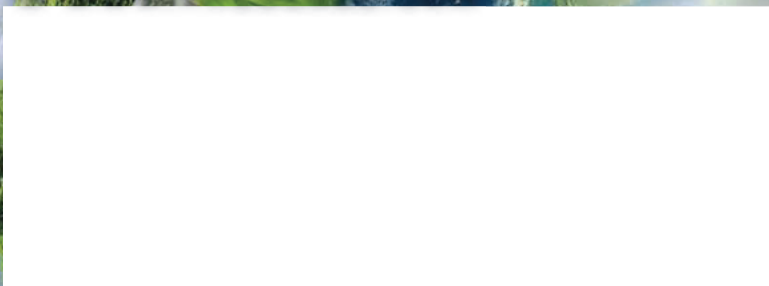
CLIMATE WARS

More leaked e-mails and a U.N. global warming conference: What could go wrong?



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INTERNATIONAL

THE TWO-DECADE-OLD **UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM** KNOWN AS **AGENDA 21** IS RELATIVELY **UNKNOWN TO MOST AMERICANS**. BUT THE **GLOBAL SCHEME** HAS THE POTENTIAL TO **WIPE OUT FREEDOMS OF ALL U.S. CITIZENS**.

BY MIKE OPELKA

Imagine waking up in a country where a high-ranking government official stands in front of citizens and rails against personal property rights:

“The American system of justice must be changed to conform to that of the rest of the world, and there must be a shift in attitudes. Individual wants, needs and desires are to be conformed to the views and dictates of government planners. In the process of implementing Sus-

tainable Development, *individual rights will have to take a back seat to the collective.*”

The shocking line that individual rights should be relegated to the rear has actually been attributed to an *American* high-ranking, public official: Miami-Dade County Clerk of Courts Harvey Ruvin.

The powerful Mr. Ruvin reportedly delivered that statement in 2002 at the 10th Anniversary of Agenda 21’s roll out (UNCED Rio+10 Summit-Johannesburg).

Curiously, Ruvin’s profile on the Miami-Dade website says nothing about his association with Agenda 21 or the controversial International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), a collective of local governments and national and regional local government organizations committed to radical environmental policies to eliminate private property rights. However, ICLEI is quite proud of Mr. Ruvin. From the ICLEI website:

“Harvey Ruvin, distinguished member of ICLEI’s Advisory Group, has been named to the Florida Energy Commission. After serving 20 years on the Miami-Dade County Commission, chairing its Environment and Energy Committees, Mr. Ruvin now serves as Miami-Dade County’s Clerk of Courts,



LAND GRAB



where he has implemented technologies that both save money and are good for the environment. Mr. Ruvin helped found ICLEI in 1990, and now chairs the County's efforts on Climate Change."

Ruvin was honored to comment about his association with ICLEI—but apparently only on their website: "I am honored by this opportunity to serve. The Florida Energy Commission can be a key player in shaping a climate and energy policy that would put Florida in the forefront as our state, nation and world face up to these critical challenges."

POWER OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

While Ruvin seems to believe that America and Americans must change to follow the will of the rest of the world, the opinions of the Founding Fathers were very clear on the topic of private property rights.

George Washington stressed the importance of private property when he said, "Private property and freedom are inseparable."

And John Adams was also adamant on this issue, having affirmed, "Property must be secured, or liberty cannot exist."

Considering the creeping threat to property rights, Americans should ask themselves some practical questions about real-life situations:

Can the government shut off your air conditioning or cut back your heat?

Can you be forced to move from a sprawling property with your own water and enough land to grow what you need into a high-density urban setting where everyone lives and works inside a small area?

Can the government tell you what kind of car to drive and where you can travel on your vacation?

Some would argue that the answer to all three of those questions is already leaning towards a resounding "yes."

So-called "smart meters" are being installed at a blinding pace around the country with the potential to curtail energy use based on the decision of someone other than the customer. The possibility exists

for appointed government officials to impose their standards of power use over individuals based on their perceived view of what is *best for the collective*.

Restrictions are worming into regulations all around the country via non-elected officials intending to change the way Americans own and use property.

Government-imposed fuel-economy standards and other regulations are forcing car manufacturers to alter the kinds of cars they can build, eliminating the free market and giving the government control over what kind of cars consumer can buy.

And all of this can be tied back to something called Agenda 21.

WHAT IS AGENDA 21? WHO BACKS IT?

The seeds for Agenda 21 were planted back in 1987 when the writings of Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, first vice president of the Socialist International, caught the eye of the United Nations.

Brundtland wrote an environmental extremist U.N. report titled, "Our Common Future," which the global body used as a springboard for using environmentalism as a tool to control the world's people and establish a global government.

The resulting U.N. program, Agenda 21, is a grand plan for global "sustainable development," which President George H.W. Bush (and 177 other world leaders) agreed to in 1992. In July 1993, President Bill Clinton brought the global scheme directly into the U.S. government when he signed an executive order creating the President's Council on Sustainable Development, which avoided any review or discussion by Congress

or the American people.

"Sustainable development" sounds like a nice idea—that is, until you scratch the surface and find that Agenda 21 and sustainable development are actually cloaked plans to impose the tenets of social justice and socialism on the world.

The Agenda 21 plan openly targets private property—which should surprise no one. For more than 35 years, the United Nations has made their stance very clear on the issue of individuals owning land. A report from a 1976 U.N. conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, on human settlements contains lays out the position:

"Land ... cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressures and inefficiencies of the market.

"Private land ownership is also a principal instrument of accumulation and concentration of wealth and therefore contributes to social injustice; if unchecked, it may become a major obstacle in the planning and implementation of development schemes.

"The provision of decent dwellings and healthy conditions for the people can only be achieved if land is used in the interest of society as a whole."

As if the United Nations' role in creating Agenda 21 weren't enough, consider also that the major international organization pushing for this radical program, ICLEI, has received millions of dollars from George Soros' Open Society Institute, including a \$2.1 million grant in 1997.

This relatively unknown but massive network has managed to embed itself into cities and counties all across the country, likely because many cities do not understand exactly what ICLEI is and how it operates.

Headquartered in Bonn, Germany, ICLEI is an international organization that offers training and support to municipalities that want to enact Agenda 21's programs.

A global plan the size of Agenda 21 could not be implemented without the large, well-funded ICLEI. And ICLEI is already quite deeply entrenched in America. They proudly announce their history and plans on websites tied to member cities:

“ICLEI USA was launched in 1995 and has grown from a handful of local governments participating in a pilot project to a solid network of more than 600 cities, towns and counties actively striving to achieve tangible reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and create more sustainable communities. ICLEI USA is the domestic leader on climate protection and adaptation, and sustainable development at the local government level.”

Austin, Texas, is one of the hundreds of local governments that seems to have fallen for the ICLEI arguments for Agenda 21 and has been heavily consuming the “Communitarianism” Kool-Aid. An Austin political action committee called Texans for Accountable Government (TAG) saw what was happening and attempted to stop the Austin City Council from adopting some Agenda 21-friendly initiatives.

Prior to a council vote on some of the initiatives, one of TAG’s members, John Bush, delivered a succinct presentation on ICLEI and Agenda 21 that was virtually ignored by the city officials. Bush’s appeal to the council attempted to sway the opinions of the voting members by appealing to a traditional Texas value—land ownership—and showing how that would be threatened by Agenda 21:

“Among the stated objectives of Agenda 21 is the ‘re-wilding of America’ under the Wildlands Project. This project would remove human beings from over half of the land in America and deem these areas core wilderness zones. Regardless of where you’re family farm once was, human beings will not be allowed to set foot in these areas. There would also be highly controlled

and monitored buffer zones around these areas where travel would be severely limited.”

Bush’s short argument against the proposed local law was immediately followed by a lopsided 7-0 vote adopting the United Nations-backed plans.

In California, proponents of Agenda 21 are working to implement plans to create schemes for sustainable management of “open spaces.” The definition of what will be considered an

innovation. Though rural communities face numerous challenges, they also present enormous economic potential. The Federal Government has an important role to play in order to expand access to the capital necessary for economic growth, promote innovation, improve access to health care and education, and expand outdoor recreational activities on public lands.”

Warning bells should have been sounding all across rural

dent and the Agriculture secretary might want to designate to serve on this powerful council.

Within the 25 designated members of the council are some curious ties to Agenda 21 and the structure being built to implement it:

» **VALERIE JARRETT:** From the White House Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs, Jarrett served on the board of an organization called Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). LISC uses the language of Agenda 21 and ICLEI as their website details their work to build “sustainable communities.”

» **MELODY BARNES:** The head of the Domestic Policy Council, Barnes is a former vice president at the George Soros-funded Center for American Progress.

» **HILDA SOLIS:** Labor Secretary Solis received an award in 2000 for her work on “environmental justice.”

» **NANCY SUTLEY:** White House Council on Environmental Quality chief Sutley served on the board of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District and was one of the biggest supporters of low-flow toilets that are now credited with costing more money than expected while causing some nasty problems.

Is it possible that concerns about E.O. 13575 are just typical anti-big-government paranoia? Consider the “mission and function” of WHRC as laid out by the president:

“The Council shall work across executive departments, agencies, and offices to coordinate development of policy recommendations to promote economic prosperity and quality of life in rural America, and shall coordinate my Administration’s engagement with rural communities.”

“Economic prosperity” and a better “quality of life,” that all sounds fairly innocent and well-intentioned. But continuing deeper into the order, one finds the council is charged with

“WITHOUT THE CONTINUED VIGILANCE OF FREEDOM-LOVING AMERICANS, THIS MOVEMENT THREATENS TO OVERWHELM PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS THAT OUR FOUNDERS KNEW ARE CENTRAL TO OUR LIBERTY.”

“open space” has sparked heated exchanges between those directing the planning meetings and citizens who want private property rights to be respected and protected.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND AGENDA 21

Agenda 21 also appears to have received a significant endorsement from the Obama administration in early June of 2011.

On June 9, 2011, President Obama signed Executive Order 13575, establishing the White House Rural Council (WHRC) and taking control over almost all aspects of the lives of 16 percent of the American people. The media and the public missed it thanks to the focus on the Anthony Weiner scandal.

Section 1 of E.O. 13575 states: “Sixteen percent of the American population lives in rural counties. Strong, sustainable rural communities are essential to winning the future and ensuring American competitiveness in the years ahead. These communities supply our food, fiber, and energy, safeguard our natural resources, and are essential in the development of science and in-

America with the use of the phrase “sustainable rural communities”—code words for the true fundamental transformation of America. And the third sentence also makes it quite clear that the government intends to take greater control over “food, fiber, and energy.” The last sentence in Section 1 further clarifies the intent of the order by tying together “access to the capital necessary for economic growth, health care and education.”

One might expect that the WHRC would be populated by experts in the various fields that might prove helpful to the folks who live and work outside of large urban areas. Well, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will chair the group, but the 25 members appointed to serve on this very influential body are the heads of the executive branch departments, offices, agencies and councils, not leaders in rural development.

Not only was nary a single department in the federal government excluded from the WHRC, but also the administration inserted a wild-card option, leaving a membership spot open to *anyone* the presi-

four directives, the first two of which pose the greatest threat of growing federal influence over private property in rural areas.

» **DIRECTIVE NO. 1:** “make recommendations to the President, through the Director of the Domestic Policy Council and the Director of the National Economic Council, on streamlining and leveraging Federal investments in rural areas, where appropriate, to increase the impact of Federal dollars and create economic opportunities to improve the quality of life in rural America.”

The vague language here also sounds non-threatening. There is a hint of a “rural stimulus plan” in the making. Will the federal government start pumping money into farmlands under the guise of “creat[ing] economic opportunities to improve the quality of life in rural America”?

» **DIRECTIVE NO. 2:** “coordinate and increase the effectiveness of Federal engagement with rural stakeholders, including agricultural organizations, small businesses, education and training institutions, health-care providers, telecommunications services providers, research and land grant institutions, law enforcement, State, local, and tribal governments, and nongovernmental organizations regarding the needs of rural America.”

Virtually every aspect of rural life seems to now be part of the government’s mission. And while all of the items in the second directive sound like typical government speak, Americans should be alarmed when they read the words “nongovernmental organizations” (NGOs). NGOs are unelected, but typically government-funded groups that act like embedded community organizers. And NGOs are key to Agenda 21’s plans.

In the world of business, Agenda 21 is not a free-market friend, preferring private-public partnerships where the government decides which companies will receive tax breaks and are allowed to stay in business. In light

of this, the cozy relationship between the current administration and GE (a company that earned billions of dollars and paid no tax in 2010) should raise eyebrows. Additionally, White House efforts to tell Boeing in which state they can operate bolsters the image that Agenda 21 ideals are already making serious headway in America.

ARE AGENDA 21 AND ICLEI SECURITY THREATS TO AMERICA?

In addition to the potential for restricting personal property rights and removing basic freedoms to choose how and where one lives, Agenda 21 and ICLEI may also present a significant security risk to America.

Charles Winkler, a retired Defense Department analyst who worked as a specialist in Russia and the Middle East, has studied ICLEI and Agenda 21. In November 2011, Winkler publicly discussed the potential national security problems with ICLEI’s presence in America.

At one meeting in Virginia, Winkler offered some surprising information about one high-ranking ICLEI representative, regional officer Jie “Megan” Wu:

» Wu, who as recently as last summer was leading seminars for ICLEI, has a history as an official for the People’s Republic of China, an official member of the Chinese delegation dealing with foreigners in multi-lateral negotiations;

» she studied in a university that was subordinate to the People’s Republic of China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and where, according to Winkler, linguists are trained for government service;

» she appeared to still be a citizen of China and trained in dealing with foreigners by a state school; and

» at one point, Wu, an apparent Chinese national, was charged with overseeing a territory for ICLEI from Georgia up to Maine and inland.

Winkler explained at the

meeting that a retired officer for the Russian GRU (Moscow’s large foreign military intelligence operation) told him that any Chinese national trained in “dealing with foreigners” has a counter-intelligence association or an official link back to the government.

Winkler says that his immediate concern with Wu is related to national security—specifically: Why does ICLEI have a representative for the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast region that is a citizen of China and one that may be trained in counter-intelligence?

Some claim Winkler is paranoid. But his worries about a Chinese national acting as the main representative for ICLEI and having access to potentially sensitive information about hundreds of Defense locations do not seem far-fetched when one considers:

» The Defense Department operates at least 200 facilities within the territory once covered by Ms. Wu (and *still covered* by ICLEI);

» ICLEI gathers data on utilities, ports, rail and airport operations, as well as planning for additional development of these areas; and

» the information is compiled locally and sent to ICLEI’s foreign headquarters.

Winkler also reports that within the past two months, Russia arrested a Chinese national trying to get secret government documents on missile systems while posing as an interpreter—just as Wu was doing.

Combine this and the reality that all of ICLEI’s data is sent to the group’s world headquarters with the fact that nobody in our government seems to know who has access to all of the potentially sensitive intelligence being gathered, and security officials in America have legitimate serious concerns about ICLEI.

Curiously, in June 2011, Wu was replaced by a new regional director named Eli Yewdall. Yewdall’s Internet-accessible history shows ties to far-Left groups

such as Climate Justice and various other “direct action” climate movement organizations. He has also worked as a local organizer in New York and was arrested in a protest at the IRS. As a student in 2002 he declared that the United Nations is the “only democratic body in existence.”

IS THE TIDE TURNING AGAINST AGENDA 21 AND ICLEI?

In recent months, citizen groups across the country have organized and become involved in the removal of towns and cities from membership in ICLEI. There are several Facebook groups working to illuminate the real purpose of Agenda 21 and ICLEI, including “Wake Up Call to Agenda 21,” “Resist UN Agenda 21” and “Stopping UN Agenda 21”; plus, many city and county Facebook groups have dedicated themselves to dismantling ICLEI’s substantial network.

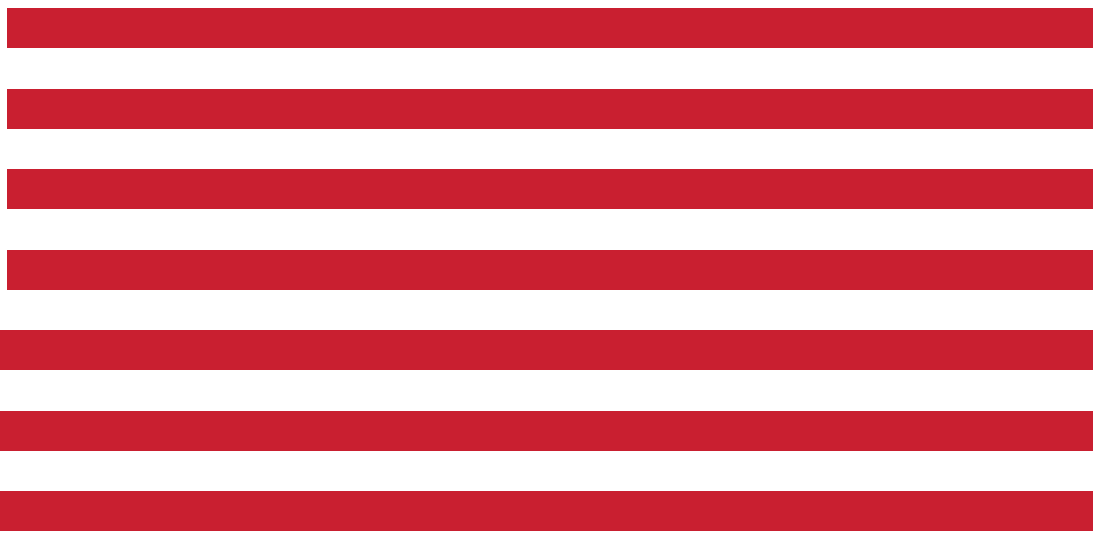
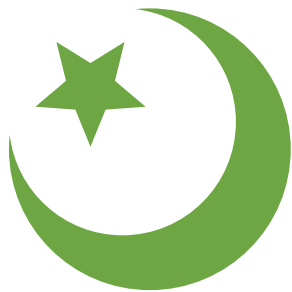
While the awareness of Agenda 21 seems to have increased significantly in the past year, there is still much work to be done by those interested in blocking the redistributive social- and environmental-justice intentions embedded in both Agenda 21 and ICLEI.

The fight for property rights will continue this summer when advocates for Agenda 21, ICLEI and various global governance schemes will gather to mark the 20th anniversary of the initial announcement of this plan to create a global government through the subterfuge of environmentalism. The event is seeking “to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges.”

Without the continued vigilance of freedom-loving Americans, this movement threatens to overwhelm private property rights that our Founders knew are central to our liberty.



ISLAMISM IN AMERICA



**OUR NATION IS AT RISK FROM
ISLAMIC RADICALS—FROM WITHIN.**

BY BILLY HALLOWELL

Since the Sept. 11 terror attacks, radical Islam has been a major factor coloring the United States' domes-

tic and international policies. With glaring holes in America's national security exposed, officials were forced to consider the threat radical Islam poses to the American way of life. Considering various events, public statements from terror groups and ongoing U.S. intelligence information, it has become clear that homeland Islamist threats continue to endanger the nation.

Over the last decade, numerous domestic attacks have either unfolded or have been thwarted—corroborating fears that a

threat to the American way of life could come from within our borders. In early 2011, House Homeland Security Chairman Peter King, R-N.Y., decided to tackle the issue and began holding a series of controversial hearings on radical Islam in America.

Rather than focusing on the threat of radicalism in general as the Obama administration has done, King has placed a major focus on the dangers posed by extremist Muslims. "Home-grown radicalization is part of al Qaeda's strategy to continue

attacking the United States,” he said as he opened the first of the hearings on March 10, 2011. Though his critics allege that he is discriminating against Islam, King denies those claims and counters that ignoring the radical Islamic threat is the height of political correctness.

“I am holding today’s hearing because the threat of al Qaeda recruiting individuals from within the American-Muslim community is real,” King wrote in a March *USA Today* op-ed. “Unfortunately, the issue we are facing is that not enough leaders in the community are willing to come forward when they know an individual is being radicalized. In some cases, these leaders have encouraged individuals to not cooperate with investigations.”

Many of King’s Democratic House counterparts decried the hearings as dangerous and unneeded. Despite their pushback, he forged on to host a total of four inquiries in 2011, addressing radical Islam on the whole, radicalization in U.S. prisons, the Somalia-based and purportedly al Qaeda-linked terror group al-Shabaab, and the danger posed to U.S. troops as a result of radicalization in and targeted at the military.

AMERICAN PRISON SYSTEM INFESTATION

At King’s second hearing on June 15, law enforcement officials laid out the menace of Islamists in the American prison system. Patrick Dunleavy, a former official with the New York State Department of Correctional Services, said that radical Muslims have been trying to convert and exploit prisoners for decades. “Individuals and groups that subscribe to radical Islamic ideology have made sustained efforts to target inmates for indoctrination,” he explained.

And Michael Downing, a top official in the Los Angeles Police Department who called the radical conversions “phenomena of a low volume,” lamented the con-

sequences of allowing the issue to go unchecked and admitted, “We do have a problem. Prisons are communities at risk.” Others, though, have claimed that there is a relatively low incidence and that the Obama administration has been making efforts to explore the extent of radicalization in the U.S. prison system.

Considering the 2005 case of Kevin James, who formed the radical Islamic group Jam’iyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh (JIS) in a Los Angeles prison, authorities may have something to worry about. JIS planned to attack military and Jewish facilities in California. James led JIS while imprisoned in California and was later given another 16 years in federal prison for his terroristic plans.

Three men who worked with James as part of JIS and were sentenced back in 2009 admitted to law enforcement officials that they were planning “to levy war against the government of the United States through terrorism and to oppose by force the authority of the United States government.”

This case has spawned a plethora of questions among local, state and federal officials, including whether inmates’ access to religious materials and faith activities should be monitored. Some argue that religious freedom must always be in place—even when it comes to prisoners—while others contend that the potential threat is big enough to more tightly monitor prisoners’ religious practices.

SOMALIA’S RADICAL AL-SHABAAB

At the end of July, King’s third hearing was underway, with al-Shabaab as the focus. The group, which primarily operates in Somalia and was officially deemed a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. government, is somewhat tough to classify. While the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) claims that the terror group “is not centralized or monolithic in its agenda or goals,” it does say that al-Sha-

baab is prone to “shifting allegiances.” The NCTC also reports that the terror clan is not predominately interested in global jihad, although its senior leaders are affiliated with al Qaeda.

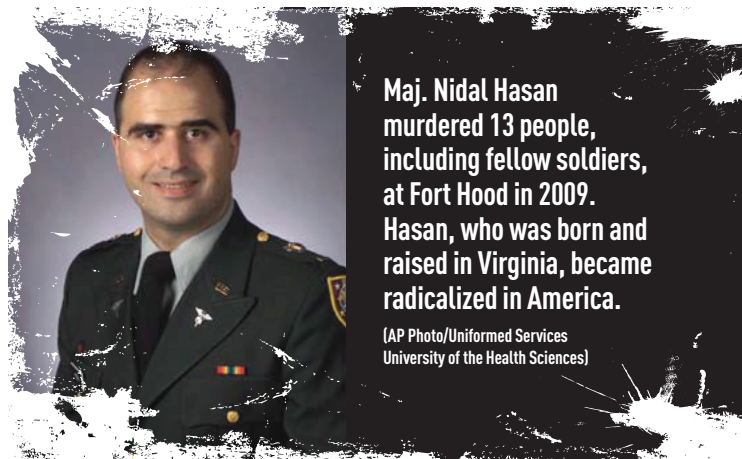
Nonetheless, al-Shabaab has issued statements praising Osama bin Laden, has been accused of training and fighting in Afghanistan and has claimed responsibility for suicide attacks in Somalia—a factor that shows the terror group’s willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice to push its cause.

Prior to the congressional hearing, King’s office released a statement that read, “Our investigation into this threat has led to alarming findings: Notably, that al-Shabaab has successfully

were stopped involving military insiders in the past decade.

Additionally, officials have looked into or prosecuted more than 30 separate cases involving planned attacks against the military since the Sept. 11 attacks. Seventy percent of these threats have apparently unfolded since mid-2009, reflecting what experts see as an increasing danger to U.S. military members.

Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan’s attack is obviously the most noteworthy. Hasan, who murdered 13 of his fellow soldiers and civilians and injured many others at Fort Hood in Texas in 2009, was, ironically, a psychiatrist. Before his rampage, he treated individuals who had been impacted by combat injuries in the War on



Maj. Nidal Hasan murdered 13 people, including fellow soldiers, at Fort Hood in 2009. Hasan, who was born and raised in Virginia, became radicalized in America.

(AP Photo/Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences)

recruited and radicalized more than 40 Muslim-Americans and 20 Canadians, who have joined the terror group inside Somalia.” The statement went on to claim that no other group—including al Qaeda—had been successful in bringing so many Americans out to join in jihadist battle.

THREAT TO THE U.S. MILITARY

During his opening remarks at the fourth hearing, which tackled radical Islam in the U.S. military, King said, “Our troops volunteer to go into harm’s way overseas to protect all of us. They should not be in harm’s way here at home, and yet they are.” He went on to note that there have been at least five terror plots that

Terror at the military’s Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Born and raised in Virginia, the 21-year member of the Army officer reflects the threat homegrown terrorism can pose to our military. But in another instance of the government allowing political correctness to take precedence in the fight against Islamic extremism, Hasan’s attack was recently labeled by the Defense Department as “workplace violence.”

Hasan attended the controversial Dar al-Hijrah mosque in Falls Church, Va., where American-born preacher and terrorist Anwar al-Awlaki was serving as an imam back in 2001. (Al-Awlaki also presided over the funeral of Hasan’s mother.) Two

terrorists who were involved in the Sept. 11 attacks also attended the mosque at the same time.

Al-Awlaki, who was described as the “bin Laden of the Internet,” was killed by U.S. forces in a Sept. 30 raid in Yemen. The infamous al Qaeda leader who helped with recruitment and missions for the terror group was not only born in the United States but also held degrees from Colorado State University, San Diego State University and George Washington University.

Then there’s the case of Pfc. Nasser Jason Abdo, an AWOL U.S. serviceman from Fort Campbell, Ky., who was arrested in July for allegedly planning a bomb attack on U.S. soldiers in the Fort Hood area. In November, he was arraigned on six charges, including attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction and attempted murder of officers or employees of the United States.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD IN AMERICA

International events, in addition to domestic threats, are creating uncertainty not only for the future of the Middle East, but also for U.S. national security. As the Middle East sits in disarray, with Islamist groups preparing to take power in Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt, numerous questions surround how America will interact with governments that will likely stand opposed to the Western way of life. The Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist group with a long reach that recently gained governing power in Egypt, is raising the greatest concerns—specifically over its influence here in the United States.

The Brotherhood is concerning even the most unsuspecting of commentators. In June 2011, Canadian activist Tarek Fatah, a devout Muslim and self-described liberal Marxist, spoke at the Ideacity event in Canada. He railed against the Muslim Brotherhood and made the shocking claim that the radical group has worked its way into American

governance. “The religion of Islam is being used as a tool by a fascist force,” Fatah explained. “Instead of bringing victory over the fascist forces of the Muslim Brotherhood, we now recognize that their infiltration is right up to the American White House, but we can’t say that.”

Fatah went on to claim that Islamo-fascism is extremely dangerous and that the political correctness surrounding it is troubling. These comments, of course, reflect what Rep. King has said about these same issues. Fatah then challenged Canadians to stand up to Islamists and warned that a failure to do so



would potentially lead to the end of “civilization as we know it.” Considering the power the world has seen Islamist groups gain in the Middle East, his words are worth consideration.

Since at least 1991, there was evidence that infiltration into the U.S. government has been a primary goal of the Muslim Brotherhood. Considering this potential danger, as well as the recent parliamentary wins the Brotherhood has scored in Egypt, some American “experts” may want to reconsider their dismissal of the group’s potential infiltration and influence.

In addition to the fact that these Islamists want to hijack the American government, there are also fears that the Obama administration has not been taking the threat seriously enough. In February 2011, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper called the Brotherhood a “heterogeneous group” and characterized it as “largely secular.”

Then in June, the Obama

administration admitted that it was conducting outreach to the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. Though it has been described as “limited” in nature, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has said that the administration wants to engage every group in the region, so long as they espouse nonviolence.

“We believe, given the changing political landscape in Egypt, that it is in the interests of the United States to engage with all parties that are peaceful, and committed to non-violence, that intend to compete for the parliament and the presidency,” Clinton told reporters last June. What,

exactly, this engagement will look like is yet to be seen, but considering the Brotherhood’s recent parliamentary wins, it may be more extensive than Clinton and other leaders would like to admit.

CBN News terrorism analyst Erick Stakelbeck has described the Brotherhood as “the first modern terrorists and the forerunner of al-Qaeda.” In an October 2011 interview with Stakelbeck, former FBI Special Agent John Guandolo joined the chorus of those claiming that the Brotherhood is already ensuring that its influence and power seeps into American government.

“Their goal is primarily deception, manipulation and intelligence gathering,” Guandolo said. “What we’re seeing, not just inside the White House, but inside the government entities, the national security entities, the State Department, is a strong push by the Muslim Brotherhood to get their people not just into operational positions, but

policy positions—deeper, long-term, bureaucratic positions.”

While some would consider fears about the Brotherhood and other Islamist groups gaining ground here in America somewhat over-the-top, others stand firm that America faces major threats from homegrown radical Muslims. Guandolo, for one, has claimed that the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), a Muslim group based in Indiana, has also had ties to radical groups. He and Stakelbeck both claim that the ISNA has ties to the Muslim Brotherhood, and they say that internal documents from the Brotherhood state that the ISNA is “one of our organizations and the organizations of our friends.”

And in late November, the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)—a very politically connected and anti-Israel group—hosted a dinner event in the Cannon House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., featuring Rachid Ghannouchi, the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated Ennahda Party, which recently won elections in Tunisia. The Investigative Project on Journalism has characterized MPAC, which uses its connections to further give a voice to American Muslims, as being favorable to Islamist ideology. Additionally, *National Review’s* Andrew C. McCarthy recently called MPAC an “Islamist group,” claimed that it admires Hezbollah and wrote of its ties to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Considering the many pieces of the puzzle that continue to emerge, it would seem that, at the very least, it makes sense for government officials to follow Rep. King’s example of examining the groups and individuals who may have ties to radical Islam.

As long as political correctness reigns and political and moral courage are in short supply in Washington, protecting the country from real domestic Islamist threats will remain on the back burner.



CONTINUING CLIMATE WARS



More leaked e-mails. Skeptics falling from the sky. Another U.N. climate-change conference. What's the latest in the fight over global warming?

BY LIZ KLIMAS

In the final months of 2011, the political realm surrounding the theory of man-made global climate change was turbulent, complete with an e-mail scandal and a group jumping from a plane while carrying banners with a less mainstream climate-change message.

All this led up to the United Nations' annual conference, the outcome of which some say does not go far enough while others feel the proposed plan to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions is "lunacy."

CLIMATEGATE STRIKES AGAIN

In November 2009, just weeks before the United Nations climate-change conference, thousands of e-mails from prominent climate scientists were leaked to the public. The messages revealed what appeared to be conspiratorial conversations and ignoring of contradictory climate data to support the theory of man-made global warming. Many interpreted the e-mails from the leak dubbed "Climategate" as advocating a climate-alarmist agenda that was not showing the complete scientific story.

Fast-forward two years and some of the same scientists had a head-in-hand, here-we-go-again

moment. In November 2011, a new set of e-mails was leaked—again just before the U.N. climate-change conference—by an individual or group known as FOIA 2011. With many of the same climate alarmists involved, the scientists' response to the hacked e-mails was the same as in 2009: claiming their words were taken out of context. This was Climategate 2.0

The set of more than 5,000 e-mails was confirmed by officials at the University of East Anglia (UEA), whose server was hacked to obtain the e-mails, as legitimate. However, most of the e-mails revealed were from around the same time as the first Climategate leak, so it appears FOIA 2011 sat on the material, waiting for this second opportunity to release more.

Michael Mann, the director of Penn State University's Earth System Science Center who was involved in both incidents, was reported as saying, "I hardly see anything damning at all, despite these snippets all being taken out of context. I guess they had very little left to work with, having culled, in the first round, the e-mails that could most easily be taken out of context to try to make me look bad."

Phil Jones of UEA also held a press conference stating that the e-mails released were "cherry picked."

As evidence in their attempt to repudiate charges of falsifying, twisting or deleting data that don't fit their climate-change models, these climatologists and their defenders on the Left point to one of the "damning" quotes "cherry picked" by FOIA 2011 that came from U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) lead author Jonathan Overpeck. The pulled quote states, "The trick may be to decide on the main message and use that to guide what's included and what is left out," which sounds like important information was deliberately left out to support the alarmists' message. But the full e-mail shows that Overpeck is commenting on a draft scientific paper that is too verbose, saying that the words need to be "boiled down" to half a page because the writer of the paper covers "a lot." Overpeck even advises in the same message that they need to have "solid data, not inconclusive info." But this one item does not discredit the entirety of the accusation of manipulation coming from the skeptics who have examined and spread the leaked e-mails.

In fact, there are quotes picked out by FOIA 2011 that cannot be explained away when looking at the original e-mail. One of the more outrageous quotes is from

Jones, who wrote, "I've been told that IPCC is above national FOI [Freedom of Information] Acts. One way to cover yourself and all those working in AR5 would be to delete all emails at the end of the process." Jones also lamented the "lack of warming" shown in the UEA data and showed that his agenda was not just about science, that maybe there was a little bit of spite and personal agenda creeping into his work: "I seem to be getting an email a week from skeptics saying where's the warming gone. I know the warming is on the decadal scale, but it would be nice to wear their smug grins away."

UEA's vice chancellor, professor Edward Acton, said in a press conference with Jones that, while the university had its "knuckles rapped" over not being transparent with information before the first Climategate, they have since become more compliant.

SKEPTICS' MESSAGE DROPPED FROM THE SKY

With Climategate 2.0 not drawing the same media attention as the first version, those skeptical of man-made global warming wanted to make sure delegates and the media at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban, South Africa, in November



and December were presented with both sides of the story.

Josh Nadal with the Center for a Constructive Tomorrow (CFACT) and Lord Christopher Monckton, a leading, vocal skeptic of man-made climate change and head of the U.K. Independence Party, brought this opposing viewpoint and were banned from the conference for filming and “unprofessional” behavior. So what did they do next?

“Media covering COP17 are kidding themselves if they think they can ignore and wish away Climategate 2.0,” said CFACT Executive Director Craig Rucker in a press release. “Lord Monckton, the folks from Climate Depot and I will carry our message by parachute if that’s what it takes to wake up this conference and place the Climategate evidence of corrupted science where the world must see it.”

And parachute they did. Onto Toti beach, a skydiving team from CFACT descended carrying banners saying “Climategate 2.0 Science Not Settled” and “No New Treaty CFACT.”

While on the beach, which drew many interested onlookers, CFACT shared a message that they said many in attendance hadn’t heard before.

Christina Wilson of CFACT said in an e-mail to *The Blaze* that she had the opportunity to speak with a restaurant owner close to the beach who had never heard another point of view about climate change.

Of course, global-warming alarmists were not happy with the skeptics’ efforts. Penn State professor of environmental ethics Donald Brown posted on the Penn State website an “ethical analysis” of the skeptics’ messages at COP17 and elsewhere, calling them a “disinformation campaign” that are a “new assault on humanity” and “malicious, morally unacceptable disinformation tactics that are deeply irresponsible.”

Brown went on to blast skeptics (or “deniers,” as the climate-change alarmists are wont to call

them) for daring to oppose the so-called “consensus view” on global warming, writing:

“To understand the full moral depravity of the climate change disinformation campaign, one must know something about the state of climate science. There is a ‘consensus’ view on climate science that has been articulated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the IPCC. This consensus is not a consensus on all scientific issues entailed [*sic*] by climate change; it is a consensus about the fact that the planet is warming, that this warming is largely human caused, and that under business-as-usual we are headed to potentially catastrophic impacts for humans and the natural resources on which life depends. Furthermore, these harms are likely to be most harshly experienced by many of the Earth’s poorest people. These poor people have not consented to be put further at risk while uncertainties are resolved and many nations most vulnerable to climate change have been pleading with those causing climate action to take action for well over twenty-five years.”

The professor concluded his analysis wondering if the “troublesome behavior” of the “deniers,” which is “obviously unethical,” could also be “criminal or civilly actionable.”

COP17: INCREASING INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL

So, what was the impact of the message war at the most recent U.N. climate-change conference?

The most notable outcome of the conference was that for the first time the three countries considered the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases in the world—the United States, India and China—agreed to enter into a treaty to reduce emissions that would be considered “a legal instrument” that could be subject to “legal force.” Emission targets for countries will be set by 2015, meaning discussions

will continue, with enforcement of said targets coming in 2020.

Mike Alden, director of strategy and policy at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said in a statement that climate-change scientists believe the decision to make provisions to supplement or replace the Kyoto Protocol—an agreement that set binding emission targets for 37 industrialized nations, which Canada pulled out of in December—is good but not enough.

“While governments avoided disaster in Durban, they by no means responded adequately to the mounting threat of climate change. The decisions adopted here fall well short of what is needed. It’s high time governments stopped catering to the needs of corporate polluters, and started acting to protect people,” Alden said. “Powerful speeches and carefully worded decisions can’t amend the laws of physics. The atmosphere responds to one thing, and one thing only—emissions. The world’s collective level of ambition on emissions reductions must be substantially increased, and soon.”

Whom do the scientists blame for the lack of “adequate” action? Most likely the “deniers” and industry that would be affected by emission requirements. Brown believes that skeptics’ “tactics are likely to have been the cause for failure of the United States and several other large emitting countries to enact strong greenhouse gas emissions reductions policies for over twenty years since international climate negotiations began.”

Still, U.K. Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne called the agreement of the 194 countries a “significant step forward,” stating, “For the first time, we’ve seen major economies, normally cautious, commit to take the action demanded by the science.”

On the other hand, Monckton called provisions in the deal “not just off the wall” but “lunatic.” Monckton took issue with many of the details

that he says are “anti-Western,” such as the establishment of an “International Climate Court” that would “have the power to compel Western nations to pay ever-larger sums to Third World countries in the name of making reparation for supposed ‘climate debt.’ The court will have no power over Third World countries.” He also blasted the conference’s rhetoric such as “the rights of Mother Earth” and the “right to survive.”

The agreement also establishes a Green Climate Fund to which countries will pledge billions of dollars to help developing countries reduce emissions and adapt to the challenges that could be expected to come with global climate change.

A LONG FIGHT

Regardless how the U.N. provisions ultimately turn out, skeptics know that the messaging battle is far from over and that the man-made global-warming crowd will do whatever they can to stop the opposition’s message, push for the growth of international social-justice-type regulations, and blackball “deniers” whose views are going to somehow bring about some sort of new, climate-related Holocaust.

Brown laid it out like this: “If the consensus view of climate science is right, it is already too late to prevent some human-caused harms in the form of droughts, floods, vector borne disease, loss of water supply, intense storm damage, heat wave related deaths, and rising sea levels. When the climate change disinformation campaign got started over twenty-five years ago, atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations were much lower. The world has lost over two decades in the fight to reduce the threat of climate change. We must insist on the highest standards for climate skepticism and strongly condemn malicious disinformation.”

Both sides understand this is a fight that is nowhere near its conclusion.