



THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL COHESION

Clutha House
10 Storey's Gate
London
SW1P 3AY
Tel: 0207 222 8909
mail@socialcohesion.co.uk
www.socialcohesion.co.uk

Centre for Social Cohesion October Update

Welcome to the October email update from The Centre for Social Cohesion. The CSC is the first think-tank in the UK to specialise in studying radicalisation and extremism within Britain. The Centre is an independent think tank.

The Centre in the Press

On 1 September, the Centre for Social Cohesion issued a [press-briefing](#) which revealed that Abu Qatada, a prominent Islamic extremist recently released on bail, had been meeting Yasser al-Sirri, an Islamic terrorist and a former member of Egypt's Islamic Jihad group, who had been convicted in Egypt and sentenced to death in absentia for his part in a 1993 car bomb attack.

The press release was covered in the [Daily Mail](#) and the [Evening Standard](#). In response, the Home Office announced that it would review Qatada's bail conditions. The following day, the [Daily Mail](#) ran a page-long [comment piece](#) on the Centre's discovery, writing:

"Our enemies are protected. Fanaticism is indulged. Public safety appears to matter not a jot. The judiciary seems united in an unholy conspiracy to ensure no undesirable is ever deported. How in the name of sanity did we come to this?"

The Centre's latest report, [Islam on Campus: A survey of UK student opinion](#), which was published in July, has also continued to receive coverage - especially in the US. The YouGov poll findings were referred to in the National Review while the US Republican Congressman Tom Tancredo used *Islam on Campus'* finding that 40 percent of Muslim students in the UK support the introduction of Sharia law to introduce a bill attempting to ban foreign nationals who advocate Sharia from entering the United States.

Douglas Murray, the Centre's director, was widely quoted in the national press following reports that Sharia courts had been given power to rule on Muslim civil cases in the UK. Murray said: "I think it's appalling. I don't think arbitration that is done by Sharia should ever be endorsed or enforced by the British state." His comments were reported in the [Sunday Times](#), [Daily Express](#), [Daily Mail](#) and the [Evening Standard](#).

Murray's monthly article for the political and cultural magazine [Standpoint](#) also saw him question David Cameron and Barack Obama's ability to be effective national leaders. He was also featured in the *Guardian's* September [Islamophobic](#) podcast, speaking to Riazat Butt about the Centre's recent work and commenting on a variety of Muslim UK based organisations.

James Brandon, the Centre's deputy-director, wrote a report published by Jane's Intelligence Group which analysed the Muslim Brotherhood in the UK, assessing how their strategy would change following the ousting of Ken Livingstone, one of their main supporters, as Mayor of London and examining how they would respond to a Conservative party general election victory.

Media & Public Appearances

On 18 September, Douglas Murray was a panellist at a [conference](#) on US foreign policy at the London School of Economics discussing the US elections and foreign policy. Co-panellists included co-author of *After Bush: The Case For Continuity in American Foreign Policy*, Robert Singh, and Professor of Political Science at Wellesley College, Linda Miller.

Douglas Murray also participated in two events at the Conservative Party's annual conference in Birmingham. He debated 'Britishness and Identity' with Lord Baker and Shadow Minister for Culture, Ed Vaizey for a Heritage Lottery Fund panel as well as speaking alongside Michael Gove MP, David Willetts MP and PPC for Norwich North, Chloe Smith on a Standpoint panel discussing the topic 'A More Civilised Britain?'

Elsewhere, the Centre's director took part in a University of Oxford Question Time hosted by David Dimbleby, spoke at an Israel Connect young leadership forum and presented a [Walk for Freedom](#) event at the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, to raise awareness of the captured Israeli serviceman Gilad Shalit and other hostages worldwide.

Events

The Centre hosted a major conference on 'Libel Tourism' in central London in conjunction with The Center for Security Policy and the Hudson Institute, as well as The New Criterion and The Manhattan Institute-City Journal.

In the first panel, former US federal prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy, Canadian author and journalist Mark Steyn, former New York Times journalist Judith Miller, and others discussed their personal experiences of the law and attempts by Islamists to use the courts to curb freedom of speech.

In the second panel, former Dutch politician Ayaan Hirsi Ali, President of the Center of Security Policy Frank Gaffney, journalist Daniel Johnson, President of the Hudson Institute Herbert I. London, and executive editor of Radio Free Europe John O'Sullivan discussed the Islamist threat to democratic and liberal societies and debated how these values could be best defended and re-asserted.

Campus Tour

Over the coming academic term the Centre's director will resume his tour of UK campuses, speaking to over a dozen student unions and societies on issues of terrorism and Islamism. In October Douglas Murray will address student audiences at St Andrews, Cambridge, the London School of Economics and Durham University.

Upcoming

Over the coming month the Centre's director will be speaking at several events, including at a lunch for the Jaffa Institute, at an event at the National Liberal Club organised by the Birkenhead Society and at a debate organised by the Bow Group. He will also address the Young Britons Foundation at Wellington College and will appear on a panel discussion organised by the Foreign Press Association.

Douglas Murray will also make several media appearances including a debate organised by ITV, the BBC's Daily Politics show and the Little Atoms radio show.

James Brandon, the Centre's deputy-director and author of [Crimes of the Community](#), the Centre's report on honour-based violence in the UK, will chair a conference on Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage organised by the Ministry of Justice, Refuge and the Greater London Domestic Violence Project. Speakers will include head of the government's Forced Marriage Unit, Wayne Ives and other experts in the field.

Press enquiries: 0207 222 8909 / 07538 248610 / pressoffice@socialcohesion.co.uk

The Centre for Social Cohesion is an independent think tank

***The Centre for Social Cohesion * Clutha House * 10 Storey's Gate * London * SW1P 3AY*
*0207 222 8909 * mail@socialcohesion.co.uk ***