



THE CENTRE FOR
SOCIAL COHESION

Members of Banned Group Campaign To Stop Muslims Voting
Centre for Social Cohesion Press Release - 28 April 2010

The Centre for Social Cohesion has found new evidence which suggests that members of the banned extremist organisation, al-Muhajiroun (aka Islam4uk), are now operating under a new name and are encouraging Muslims to abstain from the upcoming general elections.

Al-Muhajiroun was **banned** by the Home Secretary in January 2010 because, according to the government, the organisation was "concerned in terrorism".

Last week, [leaflets](#) found in East London bearing the name 'Voting is Shirk' urged Muslims not to vote, referring to democracy as 'unIslamic'.

Voting is Shirk have also begun to put up [posters](#) saying "voting for man-made law is apostasy" and have set up a website - www.votingisshirk.tk - which is registered in the New Zealand territory of Tokelau.

One of the main messages propagated by al-Muhajiroun was that democracy and 'man-made law' were evil, and Muslims were duty bound to overthrow secular governments. For years, often operating under different names, al-Muhajiroun campaigned against democracy. A [leaflet](#) produced by one of their alternate names, *Ahl us-Sunnah Wal Jammah*, sets out an almost identical argument as that of the Voting is Shirk group.

Apart from the almost identical messages of the two groups, the links between Voting is Shirk and al-Muhajiroun are also clear on their website.

The contact email given for the group is abu.rumaysah@hotmail.co.uk. Abu Rumaysah is a former spokesperson for al-Muhajiroun and can be seen in [this video](#) (far left of panel) with Anjem Choudary, former leader of the group.

Abu Rumaysah is also in one of [the videos](#) on the Voting is Shirk site, where he reminds Muslims of their duty to reject democracy (00:17).

Two other former members of al-Muhajiroun can also be seen in this video:

- 00:10 - man with sunglasses has featured regularly in al-Muhajiroun/Islam4uk videos, including [this one](#).
- 00:32 - man with long hair and a goatee beard was, according to eyewitnesses, present as a member of the group at one of their last events in Conway Hall, London.

Since the ban, the Government [has claimed](#) that if al-Muhajiroun remains operational under different names the police and Crown Prosecution Service can still take action against them.

CSC Researcher Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens says:

"Voting is Shirk is very likely to be the same group as al-Muhajiroun. They preach the same message of replacing democratic, secular government with sharia, and are made up of at least three former members of the banned group."

"The government should investigate the links between Voting is Shirk and al-Muhajiroun"

The Centre for Social Cohesion is an independent think tank

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