

**HESC**

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**How  
did The  
Terrorist  
Muslim  
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Group  
Penetrated  
Europe**

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# HESC

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## How Did The Terrorist Muslim Brotherhood Group Penetrated Europe

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### Overview

The Muslim Brotherhood in Europe adopts a new strategy of disguise and camouflage, by restructuring its institutions once again. Where the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe, which has been active since 1989, and includes more than 20 associations from various European countries, decided to change its name to the "Council of Muslims of Europe". The Union is the European wing of the global Muslim Brotherhood.

In its general conference that was held from January 23 to 26, 2020 in Istanbul, representatives of the member institutions approved, with more than seventy percent of the votes, changing the name “Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe” to become the Council of Muslims of Europe.

The Union notes that the new name came in response to three important considerations:

- ❖ **the term “Majlis”** means openness, diversity and participation,
- ❖ **the word “Muslim”** refers to religious affiliation and the moral and ethical commitment it requires,
- ❖ **The word “Europe”** symbolizes geographical affiliation and the consequent requirements of citizenship.
- **“Samir Falah”** is the current president of the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe based in Berlin. He is also the former president of the Islamic Society in Germany (IGD), which changed its name to the German Islamic Association two years ago.
- The Confederation of Islamic Organizations in Europe is characterized by little transparency regarding the composition and structure of its board of directors. Despite his presence on social media, the organization itself remains undefined.

In Germany,

- the German Islamic Society DMG does not provide any information about the formation of its board of directors, and although the ZMD already provides information about the board of directors, the current list of members of legal entities remains confidential, and so to speak it is "closed", as the association did not provide.
- Islamic in Germany IGD does not provide information about itself to German authorities. The ZMD has adopted a concept to simulate a federal democratic internal structure to divert attention from its member associations.
- Associations affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood were established in Germany, which is another level of ambiguity between the mission of the member organization and the ZMD, because it is only limited to knowing which association the specific people belong to and how it can be classified.

## The Muslim Brotherhood in Germany

The history of the Muslim Brotherhood's terrorist organization presence in Germany dates back to the fifties and sixties, when a number of the organization's members left Egypt to flee arrest, and West Germany offered them a shelter, which enabled the organization to plant cells for it inside Germany, which reached the point that it took Munich as a headquarters of operations.

The international organization of Muslim Brotherhood group in 1983 at the hands of "**Mahdi Akef and Youssef Nada**", and thus they achieved significant influence and political acceptance, more than anywhere else in Europe.

Accordingly, Germany is one of the most important strongholds in which the {MB}'s organization moves inside Europe and all across the globe, especially since the group's influence there does not depend only on its associate members, but rather integrates with it **Turkish organizations belonging to the Turkish community**, reinforced by a marked increase in the group's influence by exploiting the shortage of places of worship.

**For Muslims who came as refugees, especially in the state of Saxony to expand its structures and spread its perception of political Islam.**

Currently, buildings are being bought in large quantities to establish mosques or gatherings for Muslims in many cities and states.

The Muslim Brotherhood is also active in social networks in cities and on the Internet, with the aim of expanding the organization's influence, and its members is also active among refugees by providing assistance and participating in translation for them in front of the asylum, immigration and housing departments.

### Stages of the growth and spread of the Muslim Brotherhood in Germany

**The history of the Brotherhood in Germany passed through four basic stages:**

1. **The first stage**, a stage that Germany overlooks the existence of the terrorist Brotherhood organization's movements, and this was the reason for the expansion of the group's activity in Germany, Became the main center of international organization activity.

2. **The second stage**, which began after the Iranian revolution in 1979, when the German government began to take a precautionary stance against the Islamic revolution and against the group that had spread strongly in Germany, and continued until the events of September 11, 2001, when Germany began to intensify its cooperation efforts with Egypt and other countries in the Middle East. To confront terrorist groups. Meanwhile, the German government refused to have direct relations with the MB international office.
3. **The third stage**, which began after the Arab revolutions in 2011, with the increasing chances of the Muslim Brotherhood coming to power in the countries that had carried out revolutions, Germany, began to extend bridges of understanding with the Brotherhood and give political Islam an opportunity to take over power in those countries.
4. **The fourth stage** began with the increase in terrorist operations inside Germany, where it been discovered that the MB group's ideology calls for terrorism and urges violence, especially in the wake of the growth of extremism locally and internally in German cities, the MB's group were involved in providing logistical support to extremist organizations in Iraq, Syria and other countries. Reports started coming from the various Germany states warning of the growing danger of the MB group, and Berlin realized the dangers of political Islam. Which aims to "Islamize European society" and change its identity?

**The Muslim Brotherhood's strategy in Germany** is based on integrating into society to achieve its goals, including establishing strong relations with state agencies, politicians, writers, and civil society organizations, along with appearing actively in the media.

In addition to the strategy of spread propaganda through cultural organizations, mosques, and presenting itself to the German state as the mouthpiece of Muslims, but rather it is trying to influence politics and society in the states in which it is spread.

## Organizations operating under the umbrella of the Muslim Brotherhood in Germany

There are many intellectual, economic and social organizations that the Brotherhood uses and exploits in their movements, such as:

**The Islamic Group in Germany (GID):** Founded in 1958, to serve World War II Muslim veterans, it is now the main organization of the MB Group in Germany. The Islamic Center in Munich represents the first step towards the Islamic Society, which was established in the 1960s, and in 1962 the group changed its name.

**The Islamic Council:** run by “Sheikh Khader Abdel Moati”, who is the general coordinator of the European Council of Imams and Preachers in Europe and is one of the most prominent leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood international offices, and has been active in the recent period in defending the MB after the overthrow of the group’s rule and the dismissal of Mohamed Morsi in 2013.

**Turkish Islamic Union:** The Muslim Brotherhood also relies on organizations affiliated with Turkey, whose communities exceed 2 million people, and the most prominent of them is the Turkish Islamic Union, which is a federation affiliated with the Turkish government in Ankara and is administered directly by the Turkish Ministry of Religious Affairs.

**The European Muslim Youth Forum:** It includes in its membership the youth associations located in various European countries and is based in Germany, this forum is one of the most financially capable organizations and enjoyed at the beginning of its establishment in the nineties with the support of Saudi Arabia,

This forum has a direct relationship in its administration with Ibrahim Al-Zayat, in addition to Muhammad Abdul Zahir, He is an Egyptian citizen travels between Germany and Turkey, and he is in charge of the Financial Committee in the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe.

**The Islamic Center in Munich:** considered the central organization of the Muslim Brotherhood in Germany,

**The Muslim Brotherhood**, during its experiences in Europe since the sixties and seventies of the last century, has been filling the void left by other groups, focusing on social services and advocacy to attract Muslims, while convincing the European authorities that their activity does not contradict the country's culture and laws.

**The terrorist Muslim Brotherhood presents itself in Europe as moderates and advocates for dialogue and interfaith understanding, but they are promoting the goals that Hassan Al-Banna set in the 1920s, which are the Islamization of societies and the establishment of an Islamic system that adopts Sharia in its laws under the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood. The organization is trying to strengthen itself in Islamic societies through economic and social projects, and this is what they are doing in Germany**

## **The Most dangerous (Muslim Brotherhood)'s Organizations in Europe**

- The Muslim Brotherhood most dangerous activities in Europe lies through **the Union of Islamic Organizations**, which led the space of fatwa on the European continent, during the past decades, through **the establishment of the European Council for Research and Fatwa**, headed by the MB's preacher **Yusef Al-Qaradawi**, in the Irish capital Dublin, and it is considered one of the main arms of horizontal expansion For the MB's group in Europe.
- After the resignation of **the Union of Islamic Organizations**, whose headquarters are in Brussels, the internal rift in the international Brotherhood organization increased, as it split into two parties,

the conflict increased in an unprecedented way, while some emphasized that the Brotherhood step is a tactic of the group, after changing the equation of the conflict, as **the group tries to control "The stick from the middle" in its relations with European governments**, and preventing conflicts within the main branches from turning into divisions and splits that might affects and changing the whole group.

- The global MB's organization is witnessing organizational and intellectual transformations and changes in the various branches of the world that have undergone several influences, the most important of which is the arrival of "Joe Biden "to power in America.



### **Ireland - European Council for Fatwa and Research**

The President: **Youssef Al-Qaradawi**

- Established on March 29, 1977

Founded by the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe (FIOE)

- It is the main intellectual outlet for the Muslim Brotherhood in Europe

Relationship with organization: It can be considered the European branch of the Union of Muslim Scholars, headed by Al-Qaradawi





## **Germany - Muslim Youth Association**

President: **Mallika Mansouri**

■ Muslim Brotherhood leader **Bilal Al-Zayat** was president of the association between 2003 and 2005, and it is considered one of the largest youth organizations in Germany.

Affiliated with the European Muslim Youth Forum, youth organizations and the Federation of Islamic Associations.

Relationship with organization: German security reports indicate strong ties between the association and Muslim Brotherhood leaders.

## **Islamic Society**

The President: **Samir Falah**



- Founded in 1958 to serve Muslim World War II veterans.

- It is headed by the Muslim Brotherhood leader Ghalib Hemet, co-founder of Youssef Nada at Al-Taqwa Bank.

Relationship with organization: It was headed by the Brotherhood leader **Saeed Ramadan** until 1968 and it is now the main organization of the Brotherhood in Germany.

## Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe - Belgium



President: **Abdullah bin Mansour**

- It includes bodies, institutions and centers in 30 European countries.
- Work began in the late fifties of foreign students, especially from Egypt.

Relationship with organization: It is the umbrella for branches of international organization around the world.

## Forum of Muslim Youth and Student Organizations in Europe



### The President: Intissar AlGhannouchi

- it is an umbrella organization for the Brotherhood's youth organizations in Europe.
- Founded in 1996, and Ibrahim Al-Zayat is one of its founders.
- Receives funding from the European Parliament, the European Commission for Projects and NGOs, and training organizations.

Relationship with organization: It consists mainly of the sons and daughters of the group's leaders.

## European Muslim League



### The President: **Tariq Ramadan**

- A research institution affiliated with the Brotherhood based in Brussels and headed by the grandson of Hassan Al-Banna.
- It became the European branch of the Center for the Study of Islamic Legislation and Ethics, which is based in Doha.
- It has strong ties within the European Parliament with political parties and pressure groups.

**Relationship with organization:** It is headed by 3 prominent Brotherhood leaders in the West.

## Belgian Muslim Association



The President: **Karim Azouzi**

Qatar is the most prominent financier of the League, which is one of the Brotherhood-affiliated organizations.

Relationship with organization: It has close links with the Federation of Islamic Organizations in France and has been listed as a terrorist group by the UAE.

## National Union for Islamic Private Education - France



President: **Ammar Lafsar**

■ The Union of Islamic Schools affiliated with the Brotherhood in France and started its work in 2014.

Relationship with organization: It presents an application of Hassan Al-Banna's strategy of spreading the Brotherhood's ideology through education.

## **Muslim Students' Association**

The President: **Anas Soghroni**

Information:

- The section on women and youth is considered in the Federation of Islamic Organizations in France

Relationship with organization:

She has close ties to the Muslim brotherhood group and is active in French universities.

## **Institute of Human Sciences**



President: **Khaled Hanafi**

- It is a branch of the European Institute for the Humanities

- The institute's president has close ties with the Muslim Brotherhood's imams and advocates in Europe.

Relationship with organization: Hanafi is an active member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

## **Federation of Islamic Organizations**

President: **Ammar Lafsar**

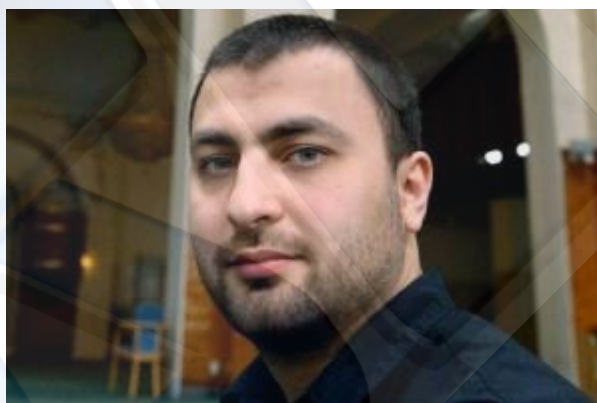
- It includes 250 French Islamic associations.

■ It is considered one of the most important gathering points for the "ideas-people-organizations" of the group in France.

Relationship with organization: The branch of the Muslim Brotherhood in France issued statements in support of the ousted President Mohamed Morsi, and the UAE designated them a terrorist organization.

### **Islamic Society - Sweden**

President: **Omar Mustafa**



{<http://www.islamophobiawatch.co.uk/leading-muslim-forced-out-of-swedish-social-democrats/>}

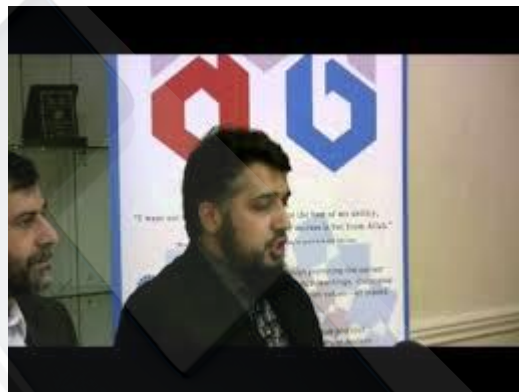
■ The organization was founded in 1981 and is the first and most important branch of the Muslim Brotherhood in Sweden.

Played an essential role in the organization of the Brotherhood in Sweden, Norway, and Finland.

■ The organization was listed as a terrorist group in the list of the UAE.

## Muslim Association of Britain - England

The President: **Omar Al-Hamdoun**



- Founded in 1997 by the dissident leader Kamal Al-Helbawi and former members of the Islamic Society of Britain.

- Main member of the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe.

- Member of the Forum of Muslim youth and students organizations in Europe.

Relationship with organization: Represents the right arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in Britain.



## Islamic Relief Organization across the World



### The President: **Ibrahim Al-Zayat**

- Founded in 1984 in Birmingham, it is a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- A charitable organization affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and has 21 field offices around the world.
- One of the signatories of the Code of Conduct and the International Red Cross.

Relationship with organization: The organization has a clear relationship with the international organization of the Muslim Brotherhood. Ibrahim Al-Zayyat, one of the leaders of the group, and its former president Essam Al-Haddad “was one of Morse’s four assistants.

## European Institute for the Humanities



The President: **Ahmed Jaballah**

- Founded in Birmingham, it is a private institute of higher education.
- Provides training in Islamic religious thought in addition to teaching Arabic.

Relationship with organization: It is the main academic milieu for generations of the Muslim Brotherhood in Europe.

The affiliation of its prominent members with the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe is evidence that it is one of the terrorist organizations linked to the group.

## Federation of Islamic Student Organizations



President: Zara Mohamed & **HARUN KHAN**

- It is an umbrella organization for the Brotherhood's organizations in Britain.
- Founded in 1962 by a group of activists, most of them belonging to the Brotherhood.

Relationship with organization: He has close ties and ties to Brotherhood members, most notably Daoud Abdullah, editor-in-chief of "Middle East Monitor", one of the Brotherhood's media sites in England.

## Cordoba Organization

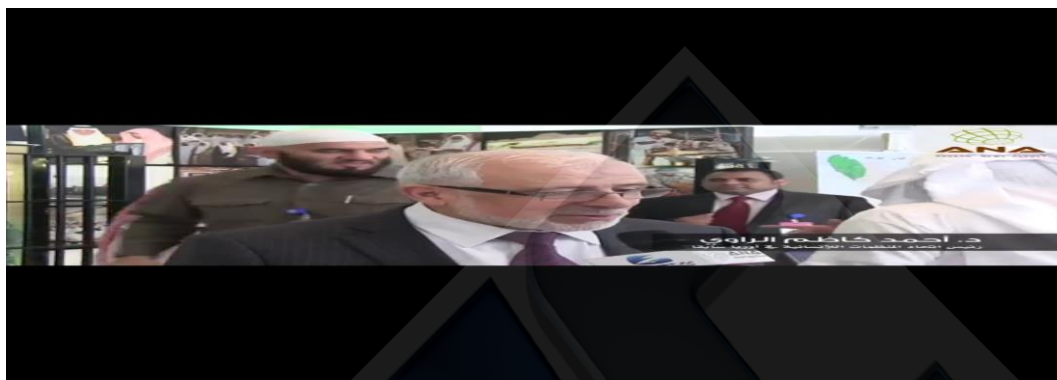


The President: **Anas Al-Tikriti**

- The organization is the strongest lobby for the Brotherhood in the Kingdom.
- It ranks itself as a research institution in politics and public relations.

Relationship with organization: Anas al-Tikriti, son of Usama Tawfiq al-Tikriti, head of the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamic Party.

## European confidence



The President: **Ahmed Al-Rawi**

- Established in 1994 and approved as a charitable foundation in 1996.

Relationship with organization: It funds the activities of the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe

## Austria

Until now, only the tip of the iceberg, entrenched within the societies of the old continent since the 1960s, has been revealed.

During the following decades, the Muslim Brotherhood succeeded in establishing a complex network of organizations, centers and charities directly linked to it on the European continent, which is effectively managed by the so-called “Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe,” which forms an umbrella organization for Brotherhood organizations spread in 30 countries. European.

- **Within Austria**, the group established a network of organizations and associations, including the "**Clega Coulter Ferien**" organization, and an aid agency called "**Taiba for Humanitarian Aid**", which has other branches in Albania, Bosnia and others, and was founded by the **Brotherhood leader Ayman Ali (former advisor to the ousted President Mohamed Morsi)** .

The group also resorted to twisted methods in establishing many organizations and societies by granting it the status of apparent independence and subcontracting control over it, such as **the Arab Religious Association**, which was issued a government closure decision, in July 2018, and **the Islamic Culture Association**, which played a role in promoting Brotherhood networks in Austria, according to documents released by Parliament on June 30, 2019.

- Among the most prominent of these existing associations is the so-called **“Islamic Religious Commission,”** or the **Islamic religious community**, headed by the Syrian Brotherhood, **Anas al-Shafaqah**.

The Islamic religious body is divided into 4 sub-bodies:

- 1- The first in Vienna, which serves the provinces of “Lower Austria, Vienna, and Burgenland”,
- 2-The second in Linz, to serve “Upper Austria and Salzburg”,
- 3- The third in Bregenz, which includes “TYROL and Furberg ”,
- 4- The fourth and last In Graz, it serves "Steiermark and Kerinno".

- And emanated from this body, the Academy of Islamic Religious Education, which aims to prepare and recruit future generations of teachers of the Islamic religion in Vienna schools. The Commission offers a 3-year course, includes curricula equivalent to an academic bachelor’s degree.

The organization is run by Amina Al-Zayyat, the daughter of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood leader, **Farouk Muhammad Al-Zayat**” (died in November 2018, a member of the Brotherhood's first generation), and she is the sister of **Ibrahim Al-Zayat**, who is considered a financial and administrative official of the global Brotherhood organization known in the media as the international organization, the group in Germany And Europe.

**“Ibrahim Al-Zayat”** has a close relationship with the Turkish Association in Austria, called **“Mulli Gros”**, (in Turkish it means the national vision, and it has several branches in Europe, and its headquarters are in the German city of Cologne). He is also the husband of **Sabiha Erbakan**, a niece Late Turkish **Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan**, the godfather of the current Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**.

#### Conclusion :

The influence of extremist groups in Europe, especially the Muslim Brotherhood, is growing in its influence on Muslim societies in several European countries, most notably Germany, France ,Belgium and Austria .

It is noticeable that there is a shift in the extremist organizations towards accelerating the process of attracting and recruiting youth in their ranks as well as a shift in the level of extremist discourse, as a new way to achieve political gains within European societies.

#### Recommendations:

- Review the European authorities' policies towards the Muslim Brotherhood and other extremist organizations.
- The need to confront the ideology of Islamic groups funded by foreign countries such as Qatar and Turkey,
- Developing a mechanisms to monitor elements of extremist groups, and establish a structure that works to train imams.
- Launching promising new initiatives aimed at combating cyber extremism.
- Design and implement effective projects to combat extremism.
- Helping local officials to identify the problems that establish extremism and ways to combat it

## Finally

The Muslim Brotherhood believes that any democratic governments in USA or Europe are the permanent strategic ally. This is illustrated by the strong cooperation between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton's Administration and most of European governments used to do

I can say that if Joe Biden's administration would continue to follow the same approach that Obama's administration used to support political Islam in reaching power. America's interests in the Middle East, especially with countries like Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, will suffer severe damage and loss as a result of the presence of strong players always ready to fill the void, such as Russia and China.

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