



CENTER FOR SECURITY POLICY

13 April 2018

The Honorable Bob Corker
Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Ranking Member
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Corker and Menendez:

In the interest of ensuring the record of your Committee's hearing yesterday with Secretary of State-designate Mike Pompeo is complete and accurate, I am writing to respond to mischaracterizations of my views by Senator Cory Booker and those in a letter he submitted on behalf of Reps. Keith Ellison and André Carson.

Like President Trump, I believe that our country and the Free World more generally confront a toxic ideology its adherents call Sharia. In his attached, August 15, 2016 campaign speech on the subject in Youngstown, Ohio, Mr. Trump made clear the need for a counter-ideological strategy to address this threat – as we have done in the past to defeat other totalitarians (notably, the Nazis and Communists).

Fortunately, not all Muslims embrace this supremacist, anti-constitutional program. But many do. Like the former, who have no desire to live under Sharia's oppressive requirements, those of us who seek to preserve America's freedoms and values are not "Islamophobic." We oppose the those in the latter group out of a profound love of this country and a determination to protect her against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Like you, Senator Booker and Reps. Ellison and Carson, I swore an oath of office to do just that – one that had no term-limit and by which, accordingly, I continue to feel bound.

In my thirteen (not twenty) conversations with then-Congressman Mike Pompeo on our radio program, Secure Freedom Radio, he showed himself to be similarly motivated, with a deep understanding of the problem we face from the Global Jihad Movement and an appreciation very like Donald Trump's of what will be required to defeat it.

As you know, I have joined a large number of fellow national security and public policy practitioners in urging you to consider favorably Mr. Pompeo's nomination (our joint letter is also attached and I would ask that it be made part of the hearing record along with this one). Once you have done so, I would strongly recommend that the Committee hold hearings to educate your colleagues and the public about the threat actually posed by Sharia-supremacism and the perilous folly of ignoring that reality. I would be honored to contribute to such deliberations.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Gaffney
President and CEO