

Impact Report

**OFFICIAL SAUDI
PIPELINE OF HATE**

***Saudi Government Shuts
Down Defense Website,
Removes Hate***

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Following IGA “Pipeline of Hate” Reports, Saudi Government Shuts Down Defense Website, Removes Radio Sermons and Certain Xenophobic Lessons

The Institute for Gulf Affairs is pleased to report that public and private highlighting of glaring bigotry and incitement in official Saudi platforms has recently led to specific improvements. While much more remains to be accomplished for Saudi leaders to lift the country out of ingrained hateful and backward attitudes toward non-Sunni Muslims, Jews, Christians and other minority groups, these latest positive steps reaffirm the effectiveness of shining light on specific problems and pushing for accountability and reform.

These Saudi actions mirror IGA’s March 2020 report and recommendations, “Saudi Pipeline for Hate from Grade School to the Military,” which were shared with the U.S. State Department, Pentagon and Members of Congress.

IGA’s preliminary and final reports in March and October 2020 detailed the same three channels which have since seen marked improvements: incitement within the ranks of Saudi military institutions, radio sermons by prominent Saudi officials preaching hate, and textbooks replete with lessons against Jews, Christians, apostates, and others considered anathema to the Kingdom’s rulers and religious elite. Several related IGA recommendations have also been implemented by the Saudi government.

The timing and scope of these changes leaves no doubt that public and private advocacy and diplomatic outreach was responsible for these changes, even before the November 2020 election heralded a less indulgent U.S. attitude toward Saudi excesses. This follow-up report includes selected examples of incitement. Further examples are available in [IGA’s previous reports](#).

MILITARY INCITEMENT

The Saudi government has shuttered its Defense Ministry’s website and removed inciteful textbook passages and online hate sermons following a report published by IGA detailing official anti-Americanism and hatred of Jews, Christians, and non-Wahhabi Muslims.

Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Ajlan wrote:

The danger of these [Shia] is by God greater and more harmful than the danger of Jews and Christians, because their animosity is hidden and their hatred of the people of Sunnah is stronger and longer....

Who incites such crisis, manipulating our differences and separating us, be they Jews or Rafidah [Shia], will gain and be happy with this disagreement amongst our Ummah, so we may be distracted from their conspiracies and aggressions on the weak.

Another example, by Dr. Mohamed Bassam Yousef:

Continuous clarification that confronting the Iranian project does not mean ignoring the confrontation of the Zionist project, so not to allow Iran and its allies an opportunity to exploit the resisting of Zionism.

In the aftermath of the December 2019 attack by a Saudi air force officer against the U.S. Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida, IGA’s “Pipeline” report showed how the Saudi Defense Ministry’s magazine “The Muslim Soldier” reinforced the xenophobia and anti-Westernism of official school curricula and sermons by the Kingdom’s leading goodwill ambassador to Americans and world Jewry.

Shortly after the Pensacola attack, the Pentagon suspended flight training for Saudi military students in the United States. In October 2020, the Saudi Ministry of Defense – which is led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman – initially removed its magazine “The Muslim Solider” from its website but the direct link was still active. By mid-December 2020, the entire Ministry website (www.mod.gov.sa) had been taken down.



This site can't be reached

mod.gov.sa took too long to respond.

Try:

- Checking the connection
- [Checking the proxy and the firewall](#)
- [Running Windows Network Diagnostics](#)

ERR_CONNECTION_TIMED_OUT

Reload

mod.gov.sa

BROADCASTING HATE

Another Saudi action following IGA’s March 2020 report was to remove online recordings of hateful sermons by one of its senior officials and public relations champions, Sheikh Mohamed Al-Issa, the former Minister of Justice and current head of the Kingdom’s global outreach umbrella, Muslim World League.

Al-Issa had broadcast six antisemitic sermons on the official Quran Radio, accusing Jews of being eternally evil. He called on Jews to assimilate into Muslim societies. The sermons were uploaded to a Saudi private website <http://midad.com/> which promptly removed them *within hours* after IGA started [sharing its updated report with journalists](#) in September 2020.



تعنت اليهود بالإيمان وقسوة قلوبهم
محمد بن عبدالكريم العيسى (<http://midad.com/scholar/45678>/محمد-بن-عبدالكريم-العيسى)
التصنيف: مختارات من تفسير الآيات (<http://midad.com/lessons/category/1000371>/مختارات-من-تفسير-الآيات)
المصدر: إذاعة القرآن الكريم من المملكة العربية السعودية (<http://midad.com/lessons/source/11/>)
تاريخ النشر: 10 شوال 1442هـ (16-09-2021)

In one sermon titled “The Obstinacy of the Jews & the Harshness of Their Hearts,” Al-Issa said:

Contemporary Jews have evil ancestors who refused to believe and these descendants [Jews] pronounced that they are on the same deviant path as their ancestors.

He added, “Jews have harsh hearts, harsh as stones, even harsher.”

Though these sermons are no longer available online, and Al-Issa has recently become the lead Saudi emissary to American Jewish leadership – he even led a delegation to visit Auschwitz – he has yet to retract or apologize for his prior statements or teachings.

TEACHING HATE

Throughout the years, Saudi schoolbooks have seen lessons removed following reports by IGA and other organizations.

IGA has tracked Saudi school textbooks back to 1989, when Shia Arab leaders objected to the books using the pejorative “rafidah” to describe Shia Muslims and their practices. Since then, despite various minor changes over the years, the core teachings have not evolved.

Following the 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, Saudi textbooks came under greater scrutiny but failed to make a difference. In 2006 some noticeable changes included removal of hate texts from Saudi schools abroad including those in the Washington DC area. Those changes came after a joint report by the Institute for Gulf Affairs and Freedom House.

After IGA shared an advance copy of its 2019 Saudi textbooks report with senior State Department officials, the Saudi government amended lessons like this one:

<p>2018</p> <p>From Tafseer (Quran Commentary)</p> <p>Eleventh-grade textbook, Page 78</p> <p>2. Jews and Christians accept nothing but that Muslims reject their own faith and to follow their religions. And no matter how much the Muslim gives them, he will not receive their approval.</p>		<p>2019</p> <p>From Tafseer (Quran Commentary)</p> <p>Eleventh-grade textbook, Page 74</p> <p>2. The enemies of Islam accept nothing but that Muslims reject their own faith and to follow their religions. And no matter how much the Muslim gives them, he will not receive their approval.</p>
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It should be noted that use of euphemisms in the textbook doesn't stop teachers from elaborating during classroom instruction as to who these "enemies of Islam" are supposed to be. A notable change was the removal of this lesson (in September 2020) calling for the annihilation of the entire Jewish people:

<p>From Tawheed (Monotheism)</p> <p>Eleventh-grade textbook, Page 84</p> <p>[Since it was first reported in 2001 as appearing in Saudi textbooks, this lesson has not been removed but rather moved from one subject to another or one grade to another.]</p>	<p>The Sixth Lesson – The Signs of the Armageddon</p> <p>5. Fighting the Jews: Narrated by Abu Hurayrah, the Prophet said: "The hour [of judgment] will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them. [It will not come] until the Jew hides behind rocks and trees.</p> <p><i>[It will not come] until the rocks and the trees say, 'O Muslim! O Servant of God! There is a Jew behind me. Come and kill him.' But the Gharqad tree would not say, for it is the tree of the Jews.</i></p>
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Another lesson claiming that Jews were turned into actual monkeys was featured in IGA's October 2019 textbook report. This lesson was still included in the tenth-grade Tafseer curriculum for 2020-21:

<p>From Tafseer (Commentary)</p> <p>Tenth-grade textbook, Page 73</p>	<p><i>That Allah Almighty punished the violators from the Jews by deforming them and turning them into actual monkeys.</i></p>
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Additional changes have been implemented in the new second-semester curriculum for the current school year.

Consolidating religious instruction: In line with IGA's March 2020 recommendation, that religious textbooks "should be distilled into one volume instead of four or five per school year," the Saudi government has consolidated all religious subjects – Tawhid, Tafseer, Hadith, Fiqh and Tajweed – that were taught separately with separate textbooks into one subject and a single textbook for first to ninth grades. This is probably the most notable positive change in Saudi textbooks and education in decades. The time students spent studying religious subjects exceeded that allocated to math or science.

Prescribed punishments: IGA’s 2019 and 2020 reports also featured Saudi lessons specifying punishments for apostasy, homosexuality, and adultery in tenth-grade Fiqh (Jurisprudence) has been removed. The following lessons have been removed:

From <i>Fiqh</i> (Jurisprudence)	
Tenth-grade textbook	
Page 251	<i>The punishment for an adulterous married person is stoning to death and this is a matter of agreement in the entire Sunni adherents....</i>
Page 255	<i>Some scholars stated that the punishment for homosexuality is the same as adultery. Other scholars, however, stated that the punishment for homosexuality is death. Both actors should be killed regardless if they were married or not...</i>
Page 277	<i>The punishment for the apostate is death. Several sources in Sunna confirm this punishment</i>



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About IGA

The Institute for Gulf Affairs is an independent, nonpartisan organization that disseminates reliable information about the Gulf region (the Gulf Cooperation Council countries plus Iraq) and produces thoughtful analyses of Gulf politics and international relations. Based in Washington, DC, the Institute is at the center of a global network of reliable individuals, some of whom, due to the closed nature of the Saudi and Gulf political systems, have no other outlet for their views. In order to fulfill this mission, the Institute:

- Convenes conferences in Washington, where informed analysts debate major issues concerning the Gulf countries and US-Gulf Relations.
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