

Nonie Darwish

- Nonie Darwish, a writer and speaker, describes herself as “an American woman born Muslim in Egypt [who] warns the West of the dangers of Radical Islam and Sharia law.”
- A convert to Christianity, Darwish is founder of **Former Muslims United**, a program of the American Freedom Defense Initiative, a group founded by **Pamela Geller** that the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) considers an anti-Muslim hate group. With Geller, she has put on programs, including an event called “Islamic Apartheid Week,” on some US college campuses.
- Darwish is a Senior Fellow with the **Frank Gaffney’s Center for Security Policy** and has written for the David Horowitz’s Freedom Center’s *Front Page Magazine*. The SPLC considers both of these organizations **anti-Muslim hate groups**.
- The Center for American Progress (CAP) identifies Darwish as an actor in the “**Islamophobia network**.” CAP considers Darwish one of numerous “validators,” a group of “individuals who claim inside knowledge about the realities of radical Islam,” not because of their expertise on Islam but because they are of Middle Eastern descent.
- At a rally in 2011 organized by Geller’s Stop Islamization of America, Darwish said, “**Islam is a poison to a society**. It’s divisive. It’s hateful. Look what Islam is doing on our college campuses. It’s full of anti-Semitism... Islam should be feared, and should be fought, and **should be conquered and defeated and annihilated!**”
- In a 2013 article for the Gatestone Institute, Darwish wrote that the “**so-called ‘moderate’ Muslims have often been silent enablers and defenders**” of “**Muslim jihadists**.” In that article, she also claimed that Muslims see Islam as “more than a religion – that it is, in fact, a state, legal system and a military institution.” The notion that **Islam is a political ideology** (and not a religion) is an idea commonly employed by anti-Muslim groups.
- Darwish’s group, Former Muslims United, opposed the construction of a mosque in Murfreesboro, Tennessee in 2010. In justifying the group’s opposition to the mosque, Darwish said, “A mosque is not just a place for worship. It’s a place where war is started, where commandments to do jihad start, where incitements against non-Muslims occur. It’s a place where ammunition was stored.”
- Darwish has also claimed that Islam allows lying to advance “jihad.” This claim, which has been voiced by others like Ben Carson, has been **debunked** by experts in the study of Islam.
- Darwish has spoken at numerous universities on topics related to Sharia, women, and Israel. Some of her talks have been protested or canceled. At a University of New Mexico event, students who interrupted Darwish’s speech with protests were attacked physically by fellow attendees.
- Darwish is author of four books including ***Now they Call Me Infidel: Why I Renounced Jihad for America, Israel and the War on Terror*** and *Wholly Different: Why I Chose Biblical Values Over Islamic Values*.
- Darwish appeared as an expert in ***Obsession: Radical Islam’s War Against the West***, a 2005 film from the Clarion Project, which is considered an anti-Muslim group by SPLC. She has also been interviewed for C-SPAN’s Q&A program.

IMPACT: A writer who has frequent speaking engagements across the US, Nonie Darwish has numerous affiliations with anti-Muslim organizations, has made false claims about Islam, and has called for Islam to be “annihilated.”