

# SEBASTIAN GORKA

**IMPACT:** Sebastian Gorka is a contributor at *Sinclair TV*, who previously worked for *FOX News* and served as the Deputy Assistant to President Donald Trump. Gorka supports religious profiling, has targeted Muslim civil rights and advocacy groups, and has publicly worn a medal affiliated with a Nazi-linked Hungarian group.

- Sebastian Gorka served as a National Security Strategist for *FOX News* and remains a contributor for *The Rebel*, an online Canadian publication. He served as the Deputy Assistant to President Donald Trump from January 2017 to August 2017. He is the author of *Defeating Jihad* (Regnery 2016), and identifies himself as an “irregular war strategist.”
- A number of professors and **terrorism experts expressed concern regarding Gorka’s proximity to the President given his “amateur” understanding of national security threats**, with one stating, “This is not somebody who should be working anywhere near the White House.” **Dr. Omid Safi, director of Islamic Studies at Duke University, has labelled Gorka’s book “propaganda,” stating it’s “inaccurate, sloppy, superficial, bigoted and ideological.”**
- In January 2018, a *Buzzfeed* report revealed Gorka had an arrest warrant for “firearm or ammunition abuse” in Hungary since September 17, 2016. The article noted the warrant was “in place for the entirety of Gorka’s tenure at the White House.”
- Gorka has argued that the US is a “Christian nation, a Judeo-Christian nation,” and **implied that accepting Muslim refugees would be “national suicide.”** In a June 2016 speech, Gorka said that “**profiling is actually a synonym for common sense,**” and “If 98 percent of the terrorists come from a certain faith community, have a certain ethnic background, have a certain travel pattern, and visit the same sites on the Internet, why are we patting down, you know, 82-year-old Episcopalian grandmothers?”
- From 2014-2016, **Gorka was the National Security editor at *Breitbart*, where he wrote a number of articles focusing on Islam and stressing the threat of “global jihadism.”** Between 2009-2011, Gorka wrote for the Gatestone Institute, described by Webby-award winning AlterNet news service as “a hub for anti-Muslim ideologues.”
- Gorka **has accused Muslim civil rights organizations**, like the Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), of **using “subversive tactics,” and having ties to the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas.** Gorka considers the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization and claimed the Muslim Brotherhood was “overrun[ning]” the National Cathedral after CAIR and the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) hosted prayers there.
- Gorka has been a **frequent guest on Frank Gaffney’s Secure Freedom Radio.** Frank Gaffney is the head of the Center for Security Policy (CSP), which the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) considers an anti-Muslim group. Gaffney has also hosted Gorka at a number of events hosted by **CSP, which is described by the SPLC as a “conspiracy-oriented mouthpiece for the growing anti-Muslim movement in the United States.”**
- In June 2016, while speaking at the conservative advocacy group Family Research Council, **Gorka inaccurately claimed that 98 percent of terrorists are Muslims.** Research by the **New America Foundation** found that since 9/11, right-wing extremists have killed almost twice as many Americans as perpetrators who identify as Muslim have.

- Gorka has **accused *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* of “shilling for the Jihadis,” and siding with the “Islamists” when it came to the wars in the Middle East.** Following the deadly shooting at an Orlando nightclub, Gorka **stated** the attack was “in part facilitated by the policies of this administration, President Obama and Secretary Clinton,” and blamed “political correctness” for allowing it to happen.
- In early 2017, pictures were posted **showing Gorka wearing a medal associated with a Hungarian group listed by the State Department as “having taken direction from Germany’s Nazi government during World War II.”** Gorka, who has **denied** links to the group, wore this medal at the inauguration and during a television interview with Sean Hannity. **The Nazi-linked group, Vitézi Rend, has claimed Gorka as a member.**
- Following the August 5th, 2017 **bombing of a Minnesota mosque, which Minnesota’s governor called “an act of terrorism,” Gorka gave an interview in his capacity as a White House official and stated the bombing may have been a “fake hate crime.”**
- On August 25th, 2017, *The New York Times*, **announced** Gorka had been “forced out” of his position at the White House. Soon after, **Gorka became the Chief Strategist for the MAGA coalition**, a pro-Trump organization dedicated to advancing “America First” principles. The **coalition’s founders promoted the “Pizzagate” conspiracy theory**, which **claimed** “Hillary Clinton and other high-level Democrats ran a child sex trafficking ring out of the basement of a Washington, D.C. pizzeria.”
- In November 2017, *The Hill*, **reported Gorka been contracted to give a series of five foreign policy speeches at the conservative Heritage Foundation.** The Heritage Foundation has previously hosted events **featuring anti-Muslim voices such as, Frank Gaffney and Brigitte Gabriel.**
- A 2017 *Foreign Policy* article **noted** that while **Gorka calls himself “an expert on “radical jihadi ideology,”” he does “not speak Arabic and has spent no time in the Middle East.”**
- In February 2017, *Lobelog’s* Eli Clifton **revealed Gorka had joined The Rebel, a far-right Canadian publication with a “long history of anti-Semitism, extremism, and Islamophobia.”** The outlet once published a satirical video **titled** ““Ten Things I Hate About Jews.”
- In March 2019, Media Matters **revealed** Gorka would no longer be renewing his contract with *FOX* and instead would be **joining Sinclair TV as a contributor.** Media Matters revealed Gorka had **appeared in “six Sinclair national news packages in 2019 -- most of which discuss stories related to ISIS or immigration.”**