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Dear Reader:

I thank those readers who have donated to the Middle East Forum in 2017 - and invite those who have not yet done so to send a tax-deductible contribution, most easily by clicking [here](#).

Your support allows us to do so much more than publish articles, although there have been 323 [articles](#) so far in 2017 by 56 [Forum experts](#) in 81 media outlets read by over 15 million people.

Once a classic think-tank, we have evolved into a think & action tank.

Most notably, we have been arguing through 2017 for a decisive Israel victory and, according to [The Guardian](#), [Al-Monitor](#), and NPR, Donald Trump adopted our view when he recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and ordered the embassy moved there. This extraordinary step completes a process that began with the creation of Israel 70 years ago and MEF is privileged to have played any part in the decision.

We are fighting on many fronts, taking the initiative, and getting results. A sampling of our 2017 activities follows:

Israel Victory Project – We launched the bipartisan [Congressional Israel Victory Caucus](#) (CIVC) and the [Knesset Israel Victory Caucus](#) (KIVC) – with 32 and 26 members respectively – as we influenced senior members of the Trump administration. Our success drew the ire of Soros-backed, anti-Israel [J-Street](#); the [Syrian regime](#) (which called our effort “more dangerous than hurricanes”), and [Code Pink](#) – its activist disrupted our Capital Hill event and faced [criminal charges](#).

Extreme Vetting of Muslim Immigrants - We produced a [detailed plan](#) to identify and weed out Islamist immigrants, differentiating them from moderate Muslims. We also met with eight senior Trump administration officials and the House and Senate committees on Homeland Security to discuss implementation of the plan. A congressional bill is in the works.

UNRWA Reform - We seek to end UNRWA policies that lead to “Palestine refugees” growing without limit – something that hurts both Palestinians and Israel. Our work led to language in the [2017 Omnibus Appropriations Bill](#) that requires the State Department 1) to [publicly analyze](#) whether U.S. support for UNRWA is justified; and 2) to [declassify a report](#) on how many individuals currently considered Palestine “refugees” were actually displaced in 1948-49, and how many are currently supported by U.S. aid. These are small but vital steps on the road to true UNRWA reform.

Protecting the Public Discussion of Islam - Thanks in part to our support, a [Quebec Superior Court](#) found feminist author Djemila Benhabib not guilty of defamation for criticizing a Montreal Islamist school. "From now on freedom of expression will be better off in our democratic society," said Ms. Benhabib. "In helping me, the Middle East Forum's Legal Project has played such an important part in that matter."

Denying Taxpayer Funds to Islamists - We are working to end

the Department of Homeland Security's [Obama-era practice](#) of awarding [Countering Violent Extremism](#) grants to, and partnering with, Islamist groups. Toward that end, we [sued](#) DHS in [federal court](#) after the agency failed to respond to our Freedom of Information Act request for documents about the grant selection process and lists of grantees. Subsequently, DHS [stopped funding](#) the [Muslim Public Affairs Council](#).

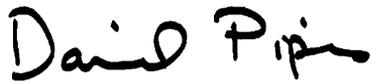
Defunding Islamist Groups - Our Defunding Islamist Groups (DIG) project seeks to deprive Islamist groups of corporate and community foundation funding, while also denying them the legitimization major American brands offer. For example, the [Silicon Valley Community Foundation](#) – the world's largest community-based charitable foundation – donates to Islamist groups, so we [took the offensive](#) against it. The foundation responded by calling MEF “dangerous to our democracy,” yet we're hopeful SVCF will stop funding CAIR and Islamic Relief. We have already successfully persuaded many foundations, including Pfizer, General Electric and Ecolab, to end such funding.

Marginalizing Islamist Groups among Politicians - We convinced Rep. Ellison (D-MN) [twice](#) to [withdraw](#) from Islamist group [conventions](#) by [publicizing](#) misogynist, gay-bashing, and pro-terrorist quotes of scheduled convention speakers. For example, Nouman Ali Khan, a regular [CAIR](#), [ICNA](#), [ISNA](#) and [MSA](#) speaker, advocates hitting [unfaithful women](#), says [homosexuality](#) harms society, and justifies [sex slavery](#). (Summary, [here](#).) In April, we convinced Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-MA) to cancel his scheduled appearance at the [Islamic Center of New England](#) by briefing his staff on the organization's past links to terrorism and continuing association with extremists.

The board and staff of the Middle East Forum are grateful for your financial support.

I look forward to keeping you informed as we continue to promote American interests and protect Western values.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Pipes
President

Supporting the Forum is most easily done at our website by clicking [here](#). Payment options (also provided below) include credit card, PayPal, personal check, and stock donation. If you have questions about contributions to MEF, please contact Matthew Bennett at Bennett@MEForum.org or 215-546-5406 ext. 114.

The IRS has granted the Forum 501(c)3 status, meaning donations are tax deductible within the United States. Donations through the [United Way's](#) Donor Choice Program should use MEF's agency code: 52445. The Forum is also now included in the [Combined Federal Campaign](#), available to federal workers.

CONTRIBUTIONS

We offer a wide range of benefits to donors, such as invitations to events (Click [here](#) for details.)

OUR GIFT TO YOU

For donations of \$150 or more, we are offering a gift (upon request). Please send me one of the following:

- [] A signed copy of [Nothing Abides](#) by Daniel Pipes
- [] A signed copy of [The Tail Wags the Dog: International Politics and the Middle East](#) by Efraim Karsh

International orders: please include \$11 for delivery to Canada/Mexico or \$26 for all other countries.

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(1) ONLINE: CREDIT CARD OR PAYPAL:

Visit <https://www.meforum.org/participation/> and follow instructions. (The website is secure and encrypted; your personal information cannot be read as it travels the Internet.)

(2) PERSONAL CHECK VIA THE POSTAL SERVICE:

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Middle East Forum
1650 Market Street, Suite 3600
Philadelphia, PA 19103, USA

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Donations of stock may be sent to:

Vanguard Marketing Corporation
Account Name: The Middle East Forum
Account Number: 59334817
DTC Number: 0062

If sending by U.S. mail, checks must be accompanied by a letter of instruction and sent to:

Vanguard
P.O. Box 1110
Valley Forge, PA 19482-1110

Please be sure to let us know if you plan on donating stock so that we may properly thank you for your gift by emailing donations@MEForum.org or calling 215-546-5406.

If you have questions about this or related matters, please direct them to Matthew Bennett, MEF’s director of development, at 215-546-5406 x114 or Bennett@MEForum.org.

(4) PLANNED GIVING:

A gift in perpetuity will enhance the Forum’s capabilities while allowing you to transfer more wealth to your heirs at a lower cost. Each of the following 4 methods serves a different purpose and fits a specific investment plan:

1. **Charitable Bequest** – to remove assets from a taxable estate and make a larger contribution than may be possible during one’s lifetime.
2. **Life Insurance** – to gain a charitable income tax deduction for the cash surrender value and premiums of a life insurance policy.
3. **Retirement Plan** – to reduce the size of a taxable estate, avoid income taxation on those funds, avoid income and estate taxes, and increase the amounts passing to heirs.
4. **Charitable Trust** – to see philanthropy in action, making transfers to heirs at a lower tax cost and designating beneficiaries to receive payments for life or a term of years. Three types of Charitable Trusts: Charitable Remainder Trust, Charitable Lead Trust, Retained Life Estate.

For more information on Planned Giving and MEF's Legacy Society, please direct them to Matthew Bennett, MEF's director of development, at 215-546-5406 ext. 114 or Bennett@MEForum.org.

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Political and Economic Analyses: Middle East Forum staff members are available on contract to do political and economic analyses.

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Combined Federal Campaign: The Forum is now included in the Combined Federal Campaign, available to Federal workers. Please see <https://www.opm.gov/combined-federal-campaign/> for more details.

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