Muslims Make the Case for Donald Trump

James Robbins writes in <u>finding more support than expected</u>. John Hajjar, a co-chair of Middle East Americans for Democracy, said that "Phares has been at the forefront of helping these communities in their outreach in the US, at the UN and in the region. Obviously he was criticized by the usual suspects, Muslim Brotherhood and Iran regime but the silent majority backs him."

Shirin Qudosi, a pro-Trump liberal Muslim from Pakistan, believes that the Trump campaign can attract support by "refining his message on national security and foreign policy - the two most pressing issues for Muslim Americans." She believes that there is a "thriving subculture of moderate Muslims" who could be convinced of Trump's potential as president. She recommends that the candidate "get to know" this receptive community, for example by visiting the reformist presidential commission on Muslim radicalism and terrorism, possibly chaired by former New York City Mayor Rudolf Giuliani. Kurdish American activist Faridoun Abbas said that "to counter the Jihadi terrorists, a Trump Administration needs to be able to distinguish between the general Muslim community and the radical Islamists. That is not possible now under the current Administration because [President Obama] rejected the use of ideological tools. If Trump moves in that direction, I and many among our communities would support him in the Presidential elections and after he is elected."

"Most U.S. Muslims who are secular and not linked to America's mosque and Muslim Brotherhood network would be more than happy to see a halt to Islamists coming to America to spread the doctrine of Sharia and Jihad that they escaped back home," observes Pakistan-born Canadian Tarek Fatah. "They would back Donald Trump's initiative if the GOP presidential candidate clarified that his proposal was to ensure Islamists were shut out, not all Muslims."

American Muslims "want to vote on merit," said Mike Ghouse, Executive Director of the <u>horrified because of what</u> <u>happened to their communities</u> in Iraq, Syria and Egypt. Muslim Americans from Syria, Egypt and Libya are shocked with Obama/Clinton policies in the region. Many are struggling with the idea that was declared by Trump to force a debate on the issue. Middle East Americans wants Trump to stop the Jihadists from coming to this country after what they endured from them in their mother countries."

There is also a natural community of interests between Trump and members of the Iranian American community, many of whom strongly oppose the current Islamic regime. Trump has been a consistent critic of the Obama administration's flawed nuclear agreement with Tehran and of the Mullahs in general. Alex Agahi, national board member of the Iranian American Republicans a founder of the Iranian American Conservative Party, said that "we will continue to show our utmost support and call on all Middle Eastern Americans to support Trump" and expects Trump as president to "put pressure on the Iranian regime and reinstate tougher sanctions." His group also supports a temporary immigration ban "until we can find a way to detect fanatics as it is written in immigration law."

Iranian American political analyst Slater Bakhtavar, author of "Iran: The Green Movement," believes that "Trump can draw moderate Muslims closer by recognizing the plight of the educated young masses. It's time the United States stand by those we contend would assist us across the world. We have to put our interests first and in the case of the vast majority of countries, and especially in Iran we should provide technological assistance for those demonstrating for democracy and freedom."

So the Muslims who support Donald Trump tend to be those who oppose Islamic extremism, are against Iranian expansionism, and support a strong American role in the Middle East. And those supporting Hillary Clinton?