

## Rep. Rothman, MEMRI Media Researchers Show Islamist, Anti-Semitic & Anti-American Satellite Programm

For Immediate Release

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### REP. STEVE ROTHMAN, MEMRI MEDIA RESEARCHERS SHOW ISLAMIST, ANTI-SEMITIC & ANTI-AMERICAN SATELLITE PROGRAMMING AT CAPITOL HILL BRIEFING

-- Radical Islamist News & Entertainment Broadcasts Present Images of the Blood Libel, Allege that Jews Harvest Muslim Children's Organs, and Pledge

Jihad Against the U.S. --

(Washington, DC) - At a Capitol Hill briefing, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ-9) and Mr. Yigal Carmon, President of the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), presented sobering video footage documenting the hate-filled, anti-Semitic and anti-American content of actual television programming which is being broadcast via satellite to viewers in five continents.

"We presented this briefing on Capitol Hill for Members of Congress, their staff members, and the news media in order to expand awareness among opinion-makers and the wider public about the dramatic increase in recent years in hate speech being broadcast across the globe by radical Islamist TV networks," said Representative Rothman. "Originating in and broadcast throughout the Middle East, these dangerous messages preaching bigotry and urging violent jihad against Americans and Jews are also being spewed via satellite to Europe, Asia, and North and South America. That this high-tech hate speech is spreading intolerance against Americans and Jews throughout the world is cause for great alarm. When developing and conducting American foreign policy, the U.S. government must hold to account the nations from which these broadcasts originate," said Rothman, a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations.

The video footage was compiled by researchers with MEMRI, a media watchdog organization that monitors and translates programming on Arabic and Farsi-language television broadcast from the Middle East by Arab and Iranian media outlets. The presentation occurred at a briefing co-sponsored by Representatives Rothman and Joe Knollenberg (R-MI) last week. (To see the footage presented at the briefing, please go to [www.memri.org](http://www.memri.org).)

"These stomach-churning broadcasts reveal the shocking, hate-filled nature of radical Islamic television programming," said Congressman Rothman. "The kind of so-called news reports and entertainment shows presented in this briefing have all-too-real, deadly consequences," he said. "Unfortunately, this hatred and bile is being spewed on a daily basis to millions of viewers throughout the Islamic world, bitterly poisoning their minds towards violence and bigotry. MEMRI is providing an invaluable window into the kind of slickly produced yet hate-filled programming that fuels violence and terrorism throughout the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe and here in America," said Representative Rothman, a strong advocate in Congress for religious and ethnic tolerance and for a lasting and just peace in the Middle East.

The video footage shown at the briefing co-sponsored by Congressmen Rothman and Knollenberg provided stark examples of the racial and religious hatred permeating much of radical Islamic television programming. Several segments featured Islamic clerics referring approvingly to the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a notoriously fraudulent anti-Semitic screed first widely circulated in Europe more than a century ago. The Protocols of the Elders of Zion purports to contain twenty-four documents outlining a fictitious Jewish plot to rule the world, and graphically describes notorious anti-Semitic canards such as the "blood libel" falsely alleging that Jews kill Christian children in order to consume their blood at Passover.

In these programs, the Protocols are offered as an authoritative historical text by Nabil Shaker Al-Taleqani, an imam based in Denmark who appeared on Iran's Al-'Amam TV network on October 30, 2004, and the Secretary-General of the Islamic Universities Association, Dr. Ja'far Abd Al-Salim, appearing in a program on the Lebanese Al-Manar network aired on April 22, 2004 along the Sheik Mufti of Tripoli, Lebanon, Sheik Taha Al-Saboji. In that segment, the Islamic academic also claimed on air, "All the pornographic films in the world are made by Jewish companies, and the same goes for drugs."

Another drama, broadcast on Iran's Sahar TV on January 16, 2005, was the Syrian-produced TV series, "Al-Shatat", which attempted to portray the blood libel in the present day. In the fictional plotline, the character of a rabbi is shown urging a follower, "We want the blood of a Christian child before Passover, for the matzos." The follower is then seen slitting the throat of a young Christian boy named Joseph and draining his blood into a mixing bowl. The final scene shows the rabbi offering matzo to another Jewish man, as he says, "I want to let you taste the holy Passover matzo... This one is tastier and holier because it is kneaded with pure blood, the blood of Joseph."

Another even more shocking fictional program, "Zahra's Blue Eyes," part of the "For You Palestine" series that premiered on December 13, 2004 on Iran's Sahar TV network, portrayed Israeli Jews as conspiring to kidnap Palestinian children in order to harvest their organs for transplantation into Jewish children. It depicted the character of a Jewish general ordering the seizure of a seven-year-old girl Palestinian girl named Zahra and graphic imagery of the subsequent operation in which an Israeli doctor surgically removes the girl's eyes and transplants them into the blind son of the Israeli general. "The eyes and hearts of the Palestinian Arabs, even the Christian ones, are like fruit growing on the trees in our orchards. We will enjoy the fruits of our orchards any way we like," says the Jewish surgeon at the end of the episode. The program's director, Ahmad Mir-'Alaii was interviewed on the Sahar network subsequent to the initial airing of

"Zahra's Blue Eyes," and said, "There is a white ship... In it, the Zionists hold children only one or two years old... They kidnap them by various means. They use them for medical purposes, the hearts, the kidneys, the organs." His views went unchallenged by others in the televised round-table discussion.

Still other programming presented virulently anti-American messages. On August 27, 2004, the cleric Sheik Abd Al-Jalil Al-Nazir al Karouri said in a Friday sermon in Khartoum broadcast on Sudan TV, "The malaria microbe known as the Jews, which the U.S. carries in its stomach, will kill it one day... The Jews hasten America's death."