

## **A Shiite and A Communist**

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By Suleiman Gouda 25/1/2008

At a certain time, the United States suffered from a disease called 'McCarthyism' – a term that was coined after Senator John McCarthy who launched an ideological war campaign against anyone who embraced ideas contrary to what was prevalent in the States, or contrary to what McCarthy thought should prevail.

The campaign then reached the point of judging people by their intentions. For, if McCarthy heard, for example, that a citizen at a certain point in his life used to read a newspaper that adopted Communist ideas, he immediately accused him of Communism. He then persecuted him and delved into his heart, mind and conscience, and called for punishing him, merely because he did not read the newspaper McCarthy approved of.

If he was told that an American belonged at any time to a trade union, then the accusation of being a socialist was immediately leveled at the man and his punishment for this affiliation is inescapable, just like fate.

McCarthyism caused an uproar in the US, as it terrified many. The CBS network stood up to McCarthy and his ferocious campaign, and from this network a man called Murrow declared that he would attack McCarthyism until it would come to an end. Murrow hosted McCarthy in a famous show and did not interrupt him throughout the whole episode.

However, the next week, he completely refuted McCarthy's claims, one after the other. McCarthyism only came to an end through the truly free climate that completely wiped it out.

It was possible to seek an excuse for Senator McCarthy, considering that in some way he was motivated by his patriotism in this campaign. However, his patriotism turned into an unacceptable obsession.

However, what is the excuse we can give for Egyptian McCarthyism that now exists and persecutes individuals trying to strip them of the right to have their independent opinions? In the eyes of Egyptian McCarthyism, if you propose a solution to a problem in a manner that is different from what the State wants, then in this case you are a traitor! In addition, you are an agent.

Indeed, Egyptian McCarthyism, which grows rampant day after day, can accuse a single person of several conflicting charges. For example, today you could be a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, while tomorrow you could be pro-American, and then the day after you could be seeking to destroy or sabotage Egyptian-American relations. You then ask yourself how someone can be pro-America and seek to sabotage the US's relations with Cairo at the same time, but you never find an answer.

If McCarthy founded his campaign, and then led it, for reasons that were purely patriotic, Egyptian McCarthyism is certainly different than the American version. As every Egyptian McCarthy who practices this madness only does so for a personal gain he will be awarded from the government. In order to achieve this gain, it becomes very easy to accuse the same

person of being a Shiite and a Communist, as the accusation here is not the purpose in itself. In addition, practicing this horrendous work is not motivated by patriotism