

Biography of Nonie Darwish: Director



Nonie Darwish is an American human rights activist, writer, public speaker and founder of [Arabs For Israel](#). She is the author of the book [Now they Call Me Infidel; Why I Renounced Jihad for America, Israel and the War on Terror](#). Her second book is [Cruel And Usual Punishment: The Terrifying Global Implications of Islamic Law](#). Her speech topics cover human rights, with emphasis on women's rights and minority rights in the Middle East.

Born in Egypt, Darwish is the daughter of an Egyptian Army lieutenant general, who, when assassinated by the Israeli army in 1956, was called a "shahid" by the Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser, although Darwish blames "the Middle Eastern Islamic culture and the propaganda of hatred taught to children from birth" for the assassination. In 1978, she moved with her husband to the United States, and converted to Christianity there. After September 11, 2001 she has written on Islam-related topics.

Born in Cairo, Egypt, Darwish moved to Gaza in the 1950s when her father, Lt. General Mustafa Hafez, was sent by Gamal Abdel Nasser to serve as commander of the Egyptian Army Intelligence in Gaza, which was under supervision of Egypt. Hafez founded the fedayeen who launched raids across Israel's southern border, that between 1951 and 1956, killed some 400 Israelis. In July 1956 when Nonie was eight years old, her father became the first targeted assassination carried out by the Israeli Defense Forces in response to Fedayeen's attacks, making him a shahid. During his speech announcing the nationalization of the Suez Canal, Nasser vowed that all of Egypt would take revenge for Hafez's death. Darwish claims that Nasser asked her and her siblings, "Which one of you will avenge your father's death by killing Jews?"