Senate Dems Refuse to Show Up as Ted Cruz Exposes Muslim Brotherhood Networks in America

Five Senate Democrats announced they will boycott a hearing on the Muslim Brotherhood's presence in the United States, dismissing the proceeding as a "political creepshow" even as Republicans work to expose what experts describe as a vast, systematic infiltration of Western institutions.

The walkout targets Wednesday's session organized by Federal Courts Subcommittee Chairman Ted Cruz of Texas. The hearing, titled "Hidden in Plain Sight: Confronting the Muslim Brotherhood Network in America," will proceed without Democratic participation as the minority party opts to sit on the sidelines rather than engage with counterterrorism experts scheduled to testify.

Senators Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, Mazie Hirono of Hawaii, Alex Padilla of California, and Peter Welch of Vermont issued a joint statement attacking the hearing's focus. "Scapegoating Muslims may be a Texas Republican strategist's idea of 'solid gold' to whip up their voters, but Democrats have no intention of indulging this political creepshow, particularly after the recent violence targeting places of faith," the Democrats wrote. "Our focus is the costs families face thanks to rampant, non-stop Trump corruption."

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The hearing comes as Republicans at both the federal and state level intensify efforts to crack down on the Muslim Brotherhood, including proposals to classify its various branches as terrorist organizations. In January 2026, the Trump administration officially designated three Middle Eastern branches of the group as terrorist entities: the Lebanese Muslim Brotherhood, the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, and the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood.

Wednesday's witness list includes several counterterrorism and legal policy experts who will presumably have no Democratic senators to question them. Among those scheduled to testify are Lara Burns, a former FBI Special Agent now with George Washington University's Program on Extremism; Arielle Klepach, senior counsel at the National Jewish Advocacy Center; and Kyle Shideler, a homeland security analyst at the Center for Security Policy.

Democrats' decision to skip the hearing rather than challenge its premises or cross-examine witnesses leaves Republicans free to build a public record on the Brotherhood's American networks without pushback. The move also raises questions about whether the minority party is serious about national security concerns or more interested in political messaging.

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