

Palin, on Offensive, Attacks Obama's Ties to '60s Radical

By [MICHAEL COOPER](#)

Published: October 4, 2008, The New York Times

SEDONA, Ariz. — Stepping up the Republican ticket's attacks on Senator [Barack Obama](#), Gov. [Sarah Palin](#) on Saturday seized on a report about Mr. Obama's relationship with a former 1960s radical to accuse him of "palling around with terrorists."

"This is not a man who sees America as you see it, and how I see America," Ms. Palin, the Republican vice-presidential nominee, said in Colorado, according to a pool report. "We see America as the greatest force for good in this world. If we can be that beacon of light and hope for others who seek freedom and democracy and can live in a country that would allow intolerance in the equal rights that again our military men and women fight for and die for all of us.

"Our opponent though, is someone who sees America, it seems, as being so imperfect that he's palling around with terrorists who would target their own country."

The article to which she referred, in The New York Times on Saturday, traced Mr. Obama's sporadic interactions with Bill Ayers, a founder of the Weathermen who later became an education professor in Chicago and worked on education projects there with Mr. Obama, the Democratic nominee for president.

The article said: "A review of records of the schools project and interviews with a dozen people who know both men, suggest that Mr. Obama, 47, has played down his contacts with Mr. Ayers, 63. But the two men do not appear to have been close. Nor has Mr. Obama ever expressed sympathy for the radical views and actions of Mr. Ayers."

Ms. Palin seized on their relationship after the campaign of Senator [John McCain](#), the Republican presidential nominee, said it planned to shift its strategy and try to turn the campaign into a referendum on Mr. Obama.

"Well, I was reading my copy of today's New York Times and I was interested to read about Barack's friends from Chicago," Ms. Palin said at the fund-raiser in Englewood, Colo. "Turns out one of Barack's earliest supporters is a man who, according to The New York Times, and they are hardly ever wrong, was a domestic terrorist and part of a group that, quote, launched a campaign of bombings that would target the Pentagon and U.S. Capitol. Wow. These are the same guys who think patriotism is paying higher taxes."

The Obama campaign responded by noting that McCain officials had been quoted as saying that they hoped to "turn the page" on the fiscal crisis, which has hurt Mr. McCain's standing in the polls, and to devote more time to attacking Mr. Obama.

"Governor Palin's comments, while offensive, are not surprising, given the McCain campaign's statement this morning that they would be launching Swift-boat-like attacks in hopes of deflecting attention from the nation's economic ills," said Hari Sevugan, an Obama spokesman. "What's clear is that John McCain and Sarah Palin would rather spend their time tearing down Barack Obama than laying out a plan to build up our economy."

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Obama and '60s Bomber: A Look Into Crossed Paths

By [SCOTT SHANE](#)

Published: October 3, 2008, The New York Times, Oct 3, 2008

CHICAGO — At a tumultuous meeting of anti-Vietnam War militants at the Chicago Coliseum in 1969, [Bill Ayers](#) helped found the radical Weathermen, launching a campaign of bombings that would target the Pentagon and United States Capitol.

Twenty-six years later, at a lunchtime meeting about school reform in a Chicago skyscraper, [Barack Obama](#) met Mr. Ayers, by then an education professor. Their paths have crossed sporadically since then, at a coffee Mr. Ayers hosted for Mr. Obama's first run for office, on the schools project and a charitable board, and in casual encounters as Hyde Park neighbors.

Their relationship has become a touchstone for opponents of Mr. Obama, the Democratic senator, in his bid for the presidency. Video clips on YouTube, including a [new advertisement](#) that was broadcast on Friday, juxtapose Mr. Obama's face with the young Mr. Ayers or grainy shots of the bombings.

In a televised interview last spring, Senator [John McCain](#), Mr. Obama's Republican rival, asked, "How can you countenance someone who was engaged in bombings that could have or did kill innocent people?"

More recently, conservative critics who accuse Mr. Obama of a stealth radical agenda have asserted that he has misleadingly minimized his relationship with Mr. Ayers, whom the candidate has dismissed as "a guy who lives in my neighborhood" and "somebody who worked on education issues in Chicago that I know."

A review of records of the schools project and interviews with a dozen people who know both men, suggest that Mr. Obama, 47, has played down his contacts with Mr. Ayers, 63. But the two men do not appear to have been close. Nor has Mr. Obama ever expressed sympathy for the radical views and actions of Mr. Ayers, whom he has called "somebody who engaged in detestable acts 40 years ago, when I was 8."

Obama campaign aides said the Ayers relationship had been greatly exaggerated by opponents to smear the candidate.