

ISLAM Vs TERRORISM & FUNDAMENTALISM

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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Since 11th September 2001, the anti-Islamic print and electronic media has been introducing the Muslims as "Terrorists" and "Fundamentalists" around the globe. The primary objective of this article is to analyze these allegations and to neutralize the undue hatred against the Muslims.

ISLAM Vs TERRORISM

First of all let's analyze the term "terrorist". Terrorist is a person who causes terror. Terror can be used for two purposes: (1). To snatch away the lives or properties of innocent people, (2). To secure the lives or properties of innocent people and to maintain peace. So there are 2 major kinds of terrorists. The first kind of terrorist uses "terror" to snatch away the lives or properties of innocent people. The second kind of terrorist uses "terror" to secure the lives or properties of innocent people. In fact, someone can be labeled as a "terrorist" or a "patriot" at the same time. For example, a policeman is a patriot for the public but he is a terrorist for the criminals of the society. A soldier of a country is a "patriot" for his country but at the same time he is a "terrorist" for the enemy country.

If one studies the history of India around 1950s, before the separation of India and Pakistan all Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs were restive under the British rule. At that time Indian fighters were labeled as "terrorists" by the British government but at the same time they were labeled as "freedom fighters" by the citizens of India. Thus two different labels can be given to the same group for the same set of actions. Whenever a person causes terror, it is impossible that everyone will call him/her only a "terrorist" or only a "patriot". Difference of opinion will always be there.

The word "Islam" is derived from the Arabic word "salaam" which means peace. The fundamentals of Islam teach its followers to promote peace throughout the world. It is obligatory for all Muslims to defend the life, property and honor of all fellow citizens, regardless of their religion, race or nationality. A person can never be a true Muslim unless his/her acts result in peace of the society. It is a universal fact that "terror" caused by the criminals must be replied by "terror" in order to maintain peace. Since no Police force can maintain peace by offering hugs and kisses to the thieves & murderers and no Army can defend a country by dancing in front of the tanks & missiles of the enemy, "terror" must be replied by "terror". So a true Muslim must be a terrorist, only for those antisocial elements who cause threat to Islam or intend to harm the innocent citizens of any country.

The unlawful acts of a person or a group of persons belonging to a particular religion can't be used as an excuse to blame that religion. If the followers of all religions are somehow and somewhere involved in antisocial activities then why it is just Islam that is to be criticized? Hitler killed at least 60 lac Jews in his rule. Then why don't media portrays that Christianity is a religion of terrorists? In Hinduism, a living widow is supposed to be burnt with the dead body of her husband. Is it not inhumane? If beards of Muslims is deemed to be a sign of terrorists then what about the Sikhs who have much longer beards? When a non-Muslim woman undergoes pornography her religion is not criticized but when a Muslim woman wears hijab Islam is being criticized. Why is that so?

Islam teaches every Muslim to forgive and to tolerate, as far as a personal matter is concerned.

o { "You should forgive and tolerate. Don't you love to be forgiven by Allah?(22)" Sura:24} Islam only orders to take defensive measures against a person or a group of persons who intends to hinder the preaching of Islam or intends to jeopardize the lives and properties of innocent people. Islamic teachings result in the peace of the world but some antisocial elements can't afford it. They invade other countries or create social unrest amongst Muslims for personal or political reasons. In order to deal with these terrorists, Islam allows to defend the religion and rights by using power.

In Islam, the war against terrorism is known as "Jihaad". Let's analyze the term "jihaad". The word "jihaad" is derived from the Arabic word "juhad" which means to strive or to struggle. Jihaad means to strive for the preaching of Islam in order to please Allah(God). There are 2 kinds of jihaad. [1- Jihaad by Qur'an. It has further two types: (a). Jihaad by tongue (speeches or lectures). (b). Jihaad by pen (books or articles). [2- Jihaad by Power. Jihaad by power is a defensive strategy. Muhammad (S.A.W) did jihad by Qur'an for 12 years in Makkah but when non-Muslims intend to hurt the Muslims, power was used in defense. In Qur'an, Allah has best defined the Islamic jihaad:

o { "Why don't you fight for the cause of Allah when detained men, women, and children are praying our Lord! Rescue us from this city whose people are cruel and arrange for us our partners & helpers." (75) "Those who believe are fighting for the cause of Allah, while those who disbelieve are fighting for the cause of devil. So fight with the partners of devil. Indeed, the devil's deception is weak.(76)" Sura:4} From these verses we conclude: (1). Islamic jihaad is meant for peace, not for terrorism. (2). Islam teaches to protect the innocent people, not to kill them. (3). Allah has ordered all Muslims to fight the terrorists and to secure those innocent men, women and children who are under the hostile takeover. (4). Believers are fighting for the cause of Allah. (5). Disbelievers are fighting for the cause of devil.

Nowadays the lives, properties and religion of Muslims are no longer safe. Anti-Islamic terrorists have been continuously killing innocent people in many Muslim countries like Bosnia, Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon etc. Now just think that how many non-Muslim countries in the world are under the hostile take-over by Muslims? Why the murderers of thousands of children & women in the Muslim countries have never been called "terrorists" on the media? Anti-Islamic terrorists made blasphemous cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W). How many non-Muslims were killed in response? Did Muslims attack Denmark? Though Muslims had a genuine reason to attack Denmark (humiliation of their beloved Prophet) as compared to the fake excuses of attacking Muslim countries.

Certain fake scenarios like World Trade Centre have been created in order to carve out the excuses to attack the Muslim countries. Many non-Muslim analysts have made numerous documentaries proving that WTC was blasted by the bombs which were planted at the basement of the towers. If you see any video of WTC before it collapsed, you'll see clouds of black smoke surrounding the towers. Chemical experts say that black smoke in a fire is an indication of lack of oxygen i.e. whenever fire is about to extinguish, black smoke arises from it (it can be experimented at home). Even after the fire was extinguished, how did WTC collapse? It never collapsed due to the impact of the planes. If it had to collapse in genuine scenario, it would have collapsed right after the impact of the planes. The Muslims accused to hijack the planes for collision to WTC were later found by the investigators to be the persons with stolen or lost passports & ironically they were found in their countries on 9-11-2001.

As far as Pentagon is concerned, analysts say that no plane hit it at all. There was a huge round circle in the middle of the building, depicting the impact area of the self detonated bomb. It was reported by various reporters that almost 95% bodies of the passengers and parts of the crashed plane were missing from the crash site. But in a genuine plane crash the bodies of passengers and the parts of the plane never vanish from the crash site. In fact, both conspiracies of WTC and Pentagon were carved to attack Afghanistan and to introduce the Muslims as "terrorists" around the globe.

Whenever a suicide attack occurs, most of the people think of Muslims to be responsible for that. As a matter of fact, suicide is amongst the worst sins in Islam. The Prophet **Muhammad (S.A.W)** said: "Whoever committed a suicide, he will never enter the Paradise and in the Hell he will repeatedly kill himself in the same way as he took his life in suicide." {Sahi Muslim, The Book of Faith, Hadith#199} In fact suicide attacks are used by the anti-Islamic terrorists to spoil the image of Muslims or by the anti-social terrorists to create hatred amongst particular religious groups, for certain political reasons.

Many Priests, Pundits and other non-Muslim scholars tell their followers that certain teachings of Islam are inhumane and are the root cause of terrorism. Let's analyze two of their major allegations:

○ { "When the sacred months are passed, kill the idol worshipers wherever you find them and arrest them and surround them and sit in wait for them in every stratagem." **V:5, Sura:9** } This verse is incompletely courted to create hatred against Islam. Anyone reading this part of verse will definitely think of terrorism. This verse can't be well understood without reading the previous verses:

○ { "An ultimatum is herein issued from Allah & His messenger to the idol worshipers who signed a treaty with you. **(1)**" "So roam the earth freely for 4 months. **(2)**" "The idol worshipers who signed a treaty with you and do not violate it, nor bond with others against you, fulfill your treaty with them until the expiration date. **(4)**" "When the sacred months are passed, kill the idol worshipers wherever you find them and arrest them and surround them and sit in wait for them in every stratagem but if they repent, establish prayers and give charity, then leave their way. **(5)**" **Sura:9 Verses:1,2,4,5** } These verses are about a peace treaty (ceasefire agreement) which held between Muslims & Idolers of an Arab tribe (Quraish) 1400 years ago. In Verse#1&2 Allah gave an ultimatum of 4 sacred Islamic months (Rajab, Zulqada, Zulhaj & Muharram) to those who violated the peace treaty. In verse#4 Allah has allowed to fulfill treaty with those who didn't violate the treaty. In Verse#5 Allah says that if those tribes who violated peace treaty don't stop attacking Muslims even after the 4 months, then kill those idolers in your defense but if they repent forgive them. The verse#5 doesn't mean that whenever a Muslim sees a non-Muslim he should kill him. Actually it depicts a defensive strategy that if the enemy violates the ceasefire agreement, then Muslims should retaliate. If someone miscourts this verse as an order of Allah to spread terrorism amongst non-Muslims, he/she is certainly an anti-Islamic terrorist.

Killing an innocent human is the 2nd biggest sin in Islam after "Shirk" (worshiping someone beside Allah). The Islamic law orders to kill: 1. A murderer who is not forgiven by the family of the deceased (Qisas). 2. A criminal who gets death penalty by the court for particular crime(s).

مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا
وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا **(32)** [المائدة:5]

○ { "Anyone who murders a person who neither committed a murder nor terrorism on the earth, it is just like as if he murdered whole mankind and anyone who saves a person, it is just like as if he saved whole mankind. **(32)**" **Sura:5** } Now where are those people who say that Islam teaches terrorism?

It is an Islamic rule to give death penalty to a married man or woman and to whip an unmarried man or woman 100 lashes in front of the general public, whoever undergoes illegal sexual relationship Non-Muslims consider this rule of Islam to be brutal. Keeping those men out of this debate who love to have sex with their own mothers, sisters & daughters or who love to see their own mothers, sisters, daughters & wives having sex with other men, we ask bashful non-Muslims that if unfortunately a man rapes your mother, sister, daughter or wife and if you are made judge to suggest any punishment for the rapist, which punishment you'll suggest? Every bashful man will say "I will suggest death penalty for the rapist." Hold on!!! If you have illegal sex with someone's woman, the Islamic law seems brutal to you but when your woman is being raped you claim death penalty. Is it not inhumane?

In USA more than 1900 rape cases occur every day according to the statistics. If women wear hijab and the Islamic punishment of adultery is applied, indeed the rate of rape cases in USA will decline tremendously. In fact all Islamic teachings result in peace but terrorists can't afford the peace.

ISLAM Vs FUNDAMENTALISM

The term "fundamentalism" is defined by an online encyclopedia and Oxford dictionary as follows:

o "Movement or attitude stressing strict and literal adherence to a set of basic principles:
1. A movement in American Protestantism that arose in the early part of the 20th century in reaction to modernism and that stresses the infallibility of the Bible not only in matters of faith and morals but also as a literal historical record, holding as essential to Christian faith belief in such doctrines as the creation of the world, the virgin birth, physical resurrection, atonement by the sacrificial death of Christ, and the Second Coming. 2. the beliefs held by those in this movement."

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fundamentalism>

o "According to the latest edition of the Oxford dictionary, 'fundamentalism' means strict maintenance of ancient or fundamental doctrines of any religion, especially Islam."

In the old edition of Oxford dictionary, the phrase "especially Islam" was not included but after 9/11, this phrase was included in the new edition. Fundamentalism was a word initially used for a group of Christians who believed that the Bible was the verbatim word of God without any errors and mistakes but nowadays this term is used to point to the "extremism" of the Muslims. In European or Western countries when a non-Muslim comes to know that a woman doesn't drink wine, wears hijab and hates to even talk about having sex other than her husband, at once he says Oh! Ok! I got it. "You are a fundamentalist Muslim." By this word they point to the extremist behavior of Muslims.

For a person to be a good doctor, he should know, follow, and practice the fundamentals of medicine. For a person to be a good mathematician, he should know, follow and practice the fundamentals of mathematics. Similarly, a person should know, follow, and practice the fundamentals of Islam (the Qur'an and the Hadith) in order to become a good Muslim.

Whenever a non-Muslim declares that a Muslim is a fundamentalist, he is actually admiring that the person is a perfect Muslim who strictly follows the fundamentals of the Qur'an. The Holy Qur'an is not just a theoretical guide for the humanity but it also depicts the practical implementation to make this world a peaceful place. For example the Qur'an recommends that we should avoid jealousy, backbiting, slandering and should reply unfairness by kindness in order to boast brotherhood and serenity in the society. If no one is able to disprove even a single fundamental of the glorious Qur'an since 1400 years, then why should a true Muslim feel shy or furious to be called a "fundamentalist"?

Conclusion

Every Muslim should proud to be a fundamentalist because he/she follows the undeniable Qur'an. Every Muslim should be a terrorist only towards the antisocial elements in order to promote peace and justice in the world. Many people harbor misconceptions about Islam and consider several teachings of Islam to be unfair or inhumane. This is due to insufficient and incorrect knowledge of Islam. If someone bothers to critically analyze the teachings of Islam with open mind, no one can escape the fact that Islam is full of benefits both at the individual and collective levels. Islam is worth adopting. Non-Muslim brothers and sisters are invited to read and to analyze the teachings of the Holy Qur'an.

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ (19) أَفَغَيْرَ دِينِ اللَّهِ يَبْتَغُونَ (83)
وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ (85) [ال عمران:3]

o{ "Indeed, the only religion acceptable to Allah(God) is Islam.(19)" "Are they seeking a religion other than Allah's religion?(83)" "Whoever accepts any religion other than Islam, that religion will not be accepted from him and in the Hereafter, he will be amongst the losers.(85)" *The Holy Quran.Sura:3;*

وَمَا عَلَيْنَا إِلَّا الْبَلْغُ الْمُبِينُ

"And our duty is only to proclaim the clear Message."

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