

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In the name of allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful.

**We have sent you (O Muhammad)
not but as a mercy for all creatures**



Verily, I am sent to you all the Messenger of Allah!
Say (O Muhammad) : O Mankind!

What does Islam say about TERRORISM?

Conveying Islamic message society

P.o.box 834- Alex- Egypt

Email: info_en@islamic-message.com

Site: www.islamic-message.net

What does Islam say about terrorism?

One of the distinctive characteristics of the times we live in is the overwhelming presence of violence in our societies. Whether it is a bomb going off in a market place, or the hijacking of an aircraft where innocent people are held in ransom to achieve political ends, we live in an age where manipulation and loss of innocent lives has become common place.

Such is the all-pervasive nature of indiscriminate violence, that "terrorism" is considered as one of the prime threats to peace and security in our societies. The word terrorism came into wide usage only a few decades ago. One of the unfortunate results of this new terminology is that it limits the definition of terrorism to that perpetrated by small groups or individuals. Terrorism, in fact, spans the entire world, and manifests itself in a various forms. Its perpetrators don't fit any stereotype. Those who hold human lives cheap, and have the power to expend human lives, appear in different levels in our societies. The frustrated employee who kills his colleagues in cold-blood or the oppressed citizen of an occupied land who vents his anger by blowing up a school bus full of innocent children are the terrorists who provoke our anger and revulsion. Ironically however, the politician who uses age-old ethnic animosities between peoples to consolidate his position, the head of state who orders "carpet bombing" of entire cities, the exalted councils that choke millions of civilians to death by wielding the insidious weapon of sanctions, are rarely punished for their crimes against humanity.

It is this narrow definition of terrorism that implicates only individuals and groups, that has caused Muslims to be associated with acts of destruction and terror, and as a result, to become victims of hate violence and terror themselves. Sometimes religion of Islam held responsible for the acts of non-Muslim!

Could it be possible that Islam, whose light ended the Dark ages in Europe, now propound the advent of an age of terror? Could a faith that has over 1.0 billion followers the world over, and over 7 million in America, actually advocated the killing and maiming of innocent people? Could Islam, whose name itself stands for "peace" and the "submission of God", encourage its adherents to work for death and destruction? Could it be?

The sanctity of human life:

The Glorious Quran says:

"...take not life, which god hath made sacred, except by of justice and law: thus doth He command you, that ye may learn wisdom."

[Al Quran 6:151]

Islam considers all life forms are sacred. However, the sanctity of human life is accorded a special place. The first and the foremost basic right of a human right of a human being is the right to live.

The Glorious Quran says:

"...if any one slew a person-unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land- it would be as if he slew the whole world people: and if any one saved a life it would be as if he saved the life of the whole inhabitants."

[Al Quran 5:35]

Such is the value of a single human life that the Quran equates the taking of even one human life unjustly, with killing all the humanity. Thus, the Quran prohibits homicide in clear terms. The taking of criminal's life by the state order to administer justice is required to uphold the rule of law, and the peace and security of the society. Only a proper and a competent court can decide whether an individual has forfeited his right to life by disregarding the right to life and peace of other humans.

The ethics of war:

Even in a state of war, Islam enjoins that one deals with the enemy nobly on the battle field. Islam has drawn a clear line of distinction between the combatants and the non-combatants of the enemy country. As far as the non-combatants population is concerned such as women, children, the old and infirm, etc..., the instruction of the prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) are as follows: "don't kill an old person, any child or any woman."[\[1\]](#) "Don't kill the monks in monasteries" or "don't kill the people who are sitting in places of worship" [\[2\]](#) During a war, the prophet saw the corpse of a woman lying on the ground and observed: "she wasn't fighting. How then was she killed?" thus, non-combatants are guaranteed security of

life even of life even if their state is at war with an Islamic state.

Jihad:

While Islam in general is misunderstood in the western world, perhaps no other Islamic term evokes such strong reactions as the word "jihad". The term "jihad" has been much abused, to conjure up bizarre images of violent on Muslims, forcing people to submit at the point of the sword. This myth was perpetuated throughout the centuries of mistrust during and after the crusades. Unfortunately, it survives to this day.

The word *Jihad* comes from the root word *jahada*, which means struggle. Therefore, *jihad* is literally an act of struggling. The Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said that the greatest *jihad* is to struggle with the insidious suggestions of one's own soul. Thus, *jihad* primarily refers to the inner struggle of being a person of virtue and submission to God in all aspects of life.

Secondarily, *jihad* refers to struggle against injustice. Islam, like many other religions, allows for armed self defense, or retribution against tyranny, exploitation, and oppression.

The Glorious Quran says:

"And why should ye not fight inn the caused of God and of those who being weak, are ill-treated (and oppressed)? – Men, women, and children, whose cry is "Our Lord! Rescue us from this town, whose people are

oppressors; and raise for us from thee one who will protect; and the raise for us from thee one who will help!"

[Al Quran 4:75]

Thus, Islam enjoins upon its believers to strive utmost, in purifying themselves, as well as in establishing peace and justice and oppression around her.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said:

"We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appealing silence of the good people."

Islam enjoins upon all Muslims to work actively to maintain the balance in balance in which God created everything. However regardless how legitimate the cause may be, the Glorious Quran never condones the killing of innocent people. Terrorizing the civilian population can never be termed as *jihad* and can never be reconciled with the teaching of Islam.

History of Tolerance:

Even western scholars have repudiated the myth of Muslims coercing others to convert. The great historian De Lacy O'Leary wrote:

"History makes it clear, however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims, sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of sword upon conquered races

*is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated."***[3]**

Muslims have ruled Spain for roughly **800** years. During this time, and up until they were forced out, the non-Muslim there were alive and flourishing. Additionally, the Christian and Jewish minorities have survived in the Muslim lands of the Middle East for centuries. Countries such as Egypt, Morocco, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan all have significant Christian and/or Jewish population.

This is not surprising to a Muslim, for his faith prohibits him from forcing others to see his point of view.

The Glorious Quran says:

"Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from error: whoever rejects evil and believes in God hath grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold that never breaks. And God heareth and knoweth all things."

[Al Quran 2:256]

Islam-the great Unifier:

Far from being a militant dogma, Islam is a way of life that transcends race and ethnicity. The Glorious Quran Repeatedly reminds us of our common origin:

"O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise

(each other)). Verily the most honored of you in sight of God is (who he is) the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)."

[Al Quran 49:13]

Thus, it is the universality of its teachings that makes Islam the fastest growing religion in the world. In a world full of conflicts and deep schisms between human beings, a world that is threatened with terrorism, perpetrated by individuals and states, Islam is a beacon of light that offers hope for the future.

[1] Narrated in the collection of traditions of Abu Dawud.

[2] Narrated in the Musnad of Imam Idn Hanbal.

[3] Islam at Crossroads, London, 1923, page 8.