

# The Shield

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Islamic Commentary on Evolving Conditions Within the Muslim Ummah

June 2006

## Are Muslims Safe In America?

Everywhere in the world to day, Muslims are under fire. If we are not being physically fought against, we are being fought ideologically. All it takes for the average Muslim to realize this is to read the local newspaper or read the news on the internet or watch the the news on TV, and you get the feeling internationally that Islam (Deen/ Way of Life) and Muslims are under attack.

Every day we hear or read that Muslims in Iraq are being killed, but this is not the only place. Muslims are being killed in the Philippines, China, India, Chechnya, Sudan, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and many other places under the justification that these are the "terrorist" or "militants" that want to harm the so-called free world which in reality is ran by the Western powers. Calling people terrorist who are fighting their oppressors or demanding their right to live as human beings is ludicrous.

If non-Muslims (kuffar) and the so-called Muslims rulers who are the real enemies of Islam are not physically killing or bombing Muslims, they are tormenting and torturing them. For example, in Uzbekistan, Iraq, Egypt, Turkey, and many other parts of the Muslim world, Muslims are put in prisons by unjust tyrants who inflict pain, rape, burn, beat and use other forms of torture.

If this is not enough for the Muslims in America and the West to feel that Muslims are under attack then they need to look at their own condition and the way they are being treated under Western rule. If you don't think this is the case, try taking a trip on the airlines, or getting an unrestricted passport. Muslims are being fired from their jobs, or not being hired, and even locked up just because they are Muslims.

If a Muslim or anyone for that matter who donates money to help improve

the conditions of Muslims or find it reprehensible for the unjustified attacks by the Israelis on Palestinians, they are arrested or their tenure in America revoked or placed on a "watch" list and harassed if they speak out against the wrong done to Muslims. Donated funds are seized illegally by the government, and in some cases the one in charge of such funds become suspect of aiding terrorist or of being a terrorist.

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Muslims in the West have another battle to fight, which is ideological in nature. We have to confront attempts to secularize our Deen (Way of Life) in an effort to make it a weak religion which they want us to ritualize with no relevance as being a complete way of life.

**What kind of an Ummah or Muslims waits to be slaughtered or taken from their homes in the middle of the night to be tortured, imprisoned or killed?**

They do not want Muslims to become aware that Islam is a complete system with a political, economic, educational, and social system that does not exclude worship of the Creator as in a secularize system such as the so-called democratic system as practiced in the Western world.

Although this attack is ideological, it nonetheless is a battle that Muslims must endure. We endure the pain of knowing in our hearts that Islam is a solution for the Western societies while at the same time we listen to the rhetoric of their politicians, religious leaders, educators and others who espouse secular-

ization as a superior way of life.

The news media has contributed to demonizing Islam and Muslims so that Muslims are the prime suspects for terrorism. Even when Muslims have come out and said that they are "peaceful people" who mean no harm to Americans, they are still targeted, stopped and denied the right to fly or receive funding. As one military official said, "the gloves have come off" in their treatment of Muslims. Al-Hamdulillah, this has only pushed us to reconsider our realities all around the world, causing us turn more towards Allah as our only Protector.

Today we see the real terrorist and enemy to our Ummah, and this is a good thing. If someone breaks into a man's home and attempts to harm his family, his natural reaction is to fight to his death. After this he takes actions which will provide security for himself and his family, Insha-Allah. He may buy a gun, install a security system, or move to a different neighborhood. But he certainly would not wait for the same thing to happen again. He would not allow anyone to tell him that he should just pray or ask the criminals of the world not to do it again.

The question that we should ask ourselves as Muslims is: "What kind of an Ummah or Muslims waits to be slaughtered or taken from their homes in the middle of the night to be tortured, imprisoned or killed?"

What kind of a nation would not take steps to secure its children and women from the shock, horror, or grief potentially waiting for it?" These are the kind of questions the Ummah has

This newsletter titled "**The Shield**" gets its name from the Hadith which states:

"The Imam is like a shield for whose safety the Muslims should fight and where they should seek protection." *continues on page 3*

# Muslim American Citizenship

*“O you who believe! Take not into your intimacy those outside your ranks. They will not fail to corrupt you. They only desire your ruin. Rank hatred has already appeared from their mouths. What their hearts conceal is far worse. We have made plain to you the Signs if you have wisdom.” Qur’an 3:118*

The recent action taken by the Department of Homeland Security in dealing with Muslims from America who attended a conference in December in Toronto, Canada should not come as shocking news. Muslims were detained, belongings searched, women forced to reveal body parts, finger-printed and treated as common criminals.

This should not come as a shock because after September 11, 2001, America went on the offensive to spread its world dominance and ideology by targeting Muslim lands, the religion of Islam, and anyone who is a Muslim. As Muslims in America, we understand that we are suspects for no reason other than we believe in Islam and are Muslims.

Muslims who fly know this better than others. We expect that we will always be the ones who are randomly checked. I remember one incident where I was not stopped, but my wife who wears hijab was stopped. When they found out that we were together, a security agent also questioned me. These kinds of things should not surprise us.

Muslims are now viewed as public enemy number one. It does not make a difference as to how peaceful we think we are or how harmless the event we may attend, just being people identified or associated with Islam is enough to be treated as a criminal or potential terrorist. The key issue to understand, and what must be pointed out is the hypocrisy in the notion of being an American citizen. All the people who carry the American citizenship simply are not treated equally.

This is nothing new to America. Throughout America’s brief history, it is full of examples where disgrace and disregard have been shown to some of its citizens. Usually the targets have been racially or religiously different from the majority white Anglo-Saxons. For example, African-Americans were denied citizenship after slavery, and even when granted citizenship, were not

treated and respected as such. Various European immigrants (Jews, Irish, Italians, and others) who came to America faced similar problems to enjoy the same rights as the majority white Anglo-Saxon class. In fact, they were not even considered to be white.

One hundred and twenty thousand Japanese Americans were put into concentration camps after the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941. The U.S. even knew of this attack, nonetheless allowed it to happen and still targeted its citizens. Even to this day, darker people and people of different ways of life are denied equal treatment. In fact, if you are poor in America, it could be argued that you enjoy less rights as a citizen to live where you want, marry who you want, and spend your time as you would like.

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Citizenship in America is not simply being born in America or being one on paper. Being a citizen of any country means enjoying its full benefits, rights, and equal treatment. Muslims should never forget that America has declared war on Islam. America targets any Muslim on the face of the earth, regardless if it is one of her so-called citizens.

Is this the kind of democracy and freedom the U.S. wants to bring to Iraq and the Muslim world? Our response should be one of strength and certainty that whatever pain we may incur, our reward is with Allah. No harm can come to us unless Allah wills it, for Allah says,

*“Say: Who is it that can screen you from Allah if it be His wish to give you Punishment or to give you Mercy? Nor will they find for them-*

**It is clear that America disrespects its Muslim citizens and views them as potential threats.**

*selves besides Allah any protector or helper.”*

Qur’an 33:17


We should stand up and declare that we will stick to our Islam no matter what. We should be mindful that peace and security for our Ummah can only come under an Islamic State. We should critique the hypocrisy of America and work for the return of what was the only protector of its citizens, which is the Islamic State.

When we study the history of Spain under Islamic rule, we learn how Jewish citizenship was respected and protected by Islam. Women were respected and had rights and dignity that they do not have in today’s societies. We could travel from one end of the Islamic State to the other without any passports because our citizenship under Islam was real, but our citizenship under America is subject to change at any given moment.

One border personnel said to a Muslim woman, *“You have no rights at the border,”* and *“this is a new system. You are going to be seeing this at the border.”* So it is clear that America disrespects its Muslim citizens and views them as potential threats. We should have realized this by now. Hence, we should be giving our all to bring back to the world a state that respects all of its citizens with equal rights under Islam. What other State that you know of beside the Islamic State that does this? END

**“This Ummah of yours is one and a single Ummah, and I am your Lord, therefore worship Me (and no other)”** Qur’an

**“Any one of you who wakes up in the morning and does not care for the affairs of the Ummah is not one of us.”**

Prophet Muhammad 

# Male and Female Relations in Islam

*“O mankind! Be dutiful to your lord, Who created you from a single person (Adam), and from him He created his wife, and from them both He created many men and women and fear Allah through whom you demand your mutual (rights), and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs (kinship). Surely Allah is Ever an All-Watcher over you.”*

Al-Qur’an

When it comes to the issue of sex, we have three sets of options: (1) a man can have sex with a man or animal. (2) a woman can have sex with a woman or an animal, or (3) a woman can have sex with a man and vice versa. Out of these three options, only one of them satisfies the purpose for which it is designed. That purpose is the survival of the human race. Sex is the centerpiece of the procreation instinct, and without it we would become extinct.

Allah has placed in human beings, both male and female all the essential ingredients for life (taqah Hiyyawiyah). Allah did not create an intellect for males, and a different intellect for females; He created an intellect for humans. Since both male and female have the same intellectual capacity, the difference between the two sexes is biological.

The reality is that if you have male genitalia, you are a male. If you have female genitalia, you are a female. There is no such animal as a woman trapped inside of a man’s body, or a man trapped inside the body of a woman. If the senses do not correctly translate the reality to the brain, then one or more of the senses are defective. If the reality is ignored, as is the case with so-called “homosexuality,” then the process starts with the mind. And if it starts with the mind, then it is imagined.

Something can be defined as imaginary when there is not a reality to support it. For example, a pencil may be yellow, but I may perceive it as green. This may be due to a defect in my sense of sight due to the fact that I may be color blind. It does not matter what is swimming around in my head, the reality does not change. The pencil is coated with a material that absorbs all the colors of the spectrum except those colors that make up that shade of yellow. The colors that are not absorbed are reflected back to the eye. This is the reality. Thus, the reality is not the product of my imagination.

Societies are made of two kinds of people, male and female. For societies

to run efficiently, they have to foster an environment that promotes cooperation between the two. The notion of sex should be structured so that it does not become a preoccupation that overrides all other concerns. Necessity requires that there are times men and women meet in the society when the sexual instinct should not be stimulated.

**There is no such animal as a woman trapped inside of a man’s body, or a man trapped inside the body of a woman.**

For example, meeting for business transactions, conducting an operation on a patient or attending a gathering for education. A woman’s attire should make the statement that her body is of no concern to anyone but herself and her mate. Having men give up something that looks good is a small price to pay to protect the society’s moral fabric from being undermined. Concerning the woman, Allah says,

*“They are not to show their charm except that which is apparent. And let them cover their chest and necks with their head covers.”*

An-Nur: 31

The sexual pleasure and enjoyment that is obtained is a natural and inevitable matter whether mankind considers it or not. The pleasure and the act of procreation cannot be separated. There are two stimuli that excite the procreation instinct. They are a tangible reality and some ideas or thoughts associated with sex.

Western society is saturated with these two stimuli, whether it comes in the form of the free intermingling of the sexes to the sight of scantily clad women selling everything from socket wrenches to potatoes. They balance this sexual promiscuity by giving people condoms and telling them not to pick fruit out of season. One author said, *“That is like giving a teenage a high performance car without a brake pedal.”* That person is

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obviously accident prone. These kind of people exist in Western societies in epidemic proportions. Very few people wake up in the morning with the intention of getting their girl-friend pregnant or contracting a venereal disease. Instead of warning people and creating an environment that facilitate these accidents, Islam simply states that you can enjoy sex, but only when the conditions (marriage) are right. END

*continued from page 1*

**Are Muslims Safe in America**

itself, because this is the stark reality of our position in the West as well as in other parts of the Muslim world.

We have no security or peace of mind because we have no State to protect us. We have no Muslim army to fight those who attack us with far more sophisticated weaponry. We have no State to take care of our affairs, and that is why a righteous Imam is such an important aspect of our security, for Prophet Muhammad (saaw) said:

*“He who obeys me, obeys Allah, and he who disobeys me, disobeys Allah. He who obeys the chief, obeys me, and he who disobeys the chief, disobeys me. The Imam is like a shield for whose safety the Muslims should fight and where they should seek protection. If the Imam orders people with righteousness and rules justly, then he will be rewarded for that, and if he does the opposite, he will be responsible for that.”*

Narrated by Abu Huraira.

As Muslims, will we not take actions that any sensible Ummah should take to protect itself and its ideology from the wolves who sometimes appear in sheep’s’ clothing to tell us that voting in a democratic society is the solution. Will we not put all of our efforts and resources into the cause and call for the Islamic State which is the only solution for our security, protection and problems. END

## Prayer Times Schedule

Chicago, Illinois

June 2006

Day	June	Hujri	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
Thur	1	5/5	3:38	5:17	12:49	4:50	8:20	10:00
Fri	2	6/5	3:37	5:17	12:49	4:51	8:21	10:01
Sat	3	7/5	3:36	5:16	12:49	4:51	8:21	10:02
Sun	4	8/5	3:36	5:16	12:49	4:51	8:22	10:03
Mon	5	9/5	3:36	5:16	12:49	4:51	8:22	10:03
Tues	6	10/5	3:34	5:15	12:50	4:52	8:23	10:05
Wed	7	11/5	3:34	5:15	12:50	4:52	8:24	10:06
Thur	8	12/5	3:33	5:15	12:50	4:52	8:24	10:07
Fri	9	13/5	3:33	5:15	12:50	4:53	8:25	10:08
Sat	10	14/5	3:33	5:15	12:50	4:53	8:26	10:08
Sun	11	15/5	3:32	5:14	12:51	4:53	8:26	10:09
Mon	12	16/5	3:32	5:14	12:51	4:53	8:26	10:09
Tues	13	17/5	3:32	5:14	12:51	4:53	8:27	10:10
Wed	14	18/5	3:32	5:14	12:51	4:54	8:28	10:11
Thur	15	19/5	3:32	5:14	12:52	4:54	8:28	10:11
Fri	16	20/5	3:32	5:14	12:52	4:54	8:28	10:12
Sat	17	21/5	3:32	5:14	12:52	4:55	8:29	10:12
Sun	18	22/5	3:32	5:14	12:52	4:55	8:29	10:13
Mon	19	23/5	3:32	5:15	12:52	4:55	8:29	10:13
Tues	20	24/5	3:32	5:15	12:52	4:55	8:29	10:13
Wed	21	25/5	3:32	5:15	12:53	4:56	8:30	10:13
Thur	22	26/5	3:33	5:15	12:53	4:56	8:30	10:14
Fri	23	27/5	3:33	5:15	12:53	4:56	8:30	10:14
Sat	24	28/5	3:33	5:16	12:53	4:56	8:30	10:14
Sun	25	29/5	3:34	5:16	12:54	4:56	8:30	10:14
Mon	26	30/5	3:34	5:16	12:54	4:57	8:30	10:14
Tues	27	1/6	3:34	5:16	12:54	4:57	8:30	10:14
Wed	28	2/6	3:35	5:17	12:54	4:57	8:30	10:13
Thur	29	3/6	3:36	5:18	12:55	4:57	8:30	10:13
Fri	30	4/6	3:37	5:18	12:55	4:57	8:30	10:13

## The Value of Al-Qur'an

*"This is the Book: In it is guidance sure, without doubt to those who fear God,..."* Qur'an 2:1-2

The noble Qur'an is the speech of Allah which He revealed to His Messenger Muhammad ﷺ via the revelation through Jibreel in word and meaning, whose recitation is an act of worship and it is a miracle transmitted to us via the concurrent (mutawatir) narration.

From the Qur'an, the soul finds life and the heart finds tranquility. It is the Book which takes the people

out from the darkness into the Light by the permission of Allah. The one who speaks according to it has spoken the truth and the one who acted upon it is the successful one. The one who judged by it has practiced justice, and the one who calls to it is guided to the Straight Path.

The Qur'an is the provision of the believer, and it is more important and necessary for the Da'wah carrier with which his heart is filled, and in which he finds strength. Allah says of the Qur'an:

*"Verily, it is We Who have sent down the Zikr (Qur'an) and surely*

**Value of the Qur'an** (continued)

*We will guard it (from corruption)."*

Qur'an 49:9

*"Verily, this Qur'an guides to that which is most just and right, and gives glad tidings to the believer who work deeds of righteousness, that they shall have a great reward (Paradise)."* Qur'an 17:9

*"(This is) a Book which We have revealed unto you (O Muhammad) in order that you might lead mankind out of darkness (of disbelief and polytheism) into light by the leave of their Lord—to the Way of (Him) the Exalted in Power, worthy of all Praise."* Qur'an 14:1

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said of the Qur'an:

*"The best amongst you is the one who learns the Qur'an and then teaches it."* Bukhari

*"Verily, the one who recites the Qur'an beautifully, smoothly, and precisely, he will be in the company of the noble and obedient angels. And as for the one who recites with difficulty, stammering or stumbling through its verses, then his reward will be multiplied twice."* Muslim

*"Read the Qur'an, for verily it will come on the Day of Resurrection as an intercessor for its companions."* Muslim

*"Read the Qur'an, put it into practice, do not abandon it, do not cheat in it, and do not eat and gain wealth through it."* Ahmad

*"The metaphor of a believer who recites the Qur'an is that of a citron. Its scent is fragrant and its taste is good. The metaphor of a believer who does not recite the Qur'an is that of a date. It has no scent, but its taste is sweet. The metaphor of a hypocrite who recites the Qur'an is that of basil. Its scent is fragrant, but its taste is bitter. The metaphor of a hypocrite who does not recite the Qur'an is that of a colocynth. It has no scent, and its taste is bitter."*

Bukhari and Muslim