

# The Shield

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Islamic Commentary on the State of the Muslim Ummah

December 2006

## American or Muslim: What is my Identity?

### The Muslim identity is unique

Muslims, especially our young ones, find themselves forced into a dilemma as to what is their identity? Although, the issue is clear according to Islaam, for political and assimilation reasons it has become somewhat blurred and troublesome for some.

While many Muslims celebrate a Muslim being elected into congress in Minnesota, putting aside the issue of ruling with other than what Allah has revealed, bullets and bombs continue to fall on many parts of the Muslim world while at the same time our Deen is ideologically attacked.

Being an American goes well beyond simply being born in America or carrying its citizenship. America has a cultural heritage as a nation based primarily on British and European culture.

This culture separated itself from God (separation of church and state), and based its creed on the ideals of freedom, individuality and man made reasoning, hence the ideology of democracy and capitalism. To be an American, means to accept these values and visions to a degree, even if you did not choose to do so.

The value of individuality and freedom leads to selfishness, greed, family and community abandonment which at its extremes can lead to depression and even suicide and a host of other problems. In fact, according to sociologist Eric Klinenberg, many elderly people died in their homes during Chicago's 1995 heat wave because they did not want to burden family members and others to care for them.

It is not just the elderly that take on this American creed, but many sons and daughters neglected their mothers and fathers as well. In other words, it was reciprocal. It must be made clear here that it is the American ideology of democracy and capitalism that breeds social problems and destroys families and communities, and allows some to prosper while others suffer.

This ultimately leads to the hell fire by going against what Allah has ordered one to do.

Being a Muslim or embracing the Islaamic creed contradicts the American ideology of freedom/democracy/capitalism. There is no separation in our belief in Allah and our daily lives while we live here in America or elsewhere. Prophet Muhammad (saw) said:

*“Whoever goes to sleep, and wakes up, without being concerned for the affairs of the Ummah, then he is not one of us”*

The identity of a Muslim is a serious matter. This identity will save our skins on the Day

**Being an American goes well beyond simply being born in America or carrying its citizenship.**

of Judgment. Our creed, and thus values and sentiments, are unique. We do something that is good, not because America sponsors it, or because it is trendy, we do things as Muslims because Allah demands and wants us to with the view of either the Nar (hellfire) or Jennah (bliss) in mind once this life as ended. Because our creed is unique, there is no need to preface or mix our identity with

*See Muslim, page 8*

## Palestinian women in Gaza help free besieged gunmen

### Muslim Women Killed by Israeli Soldiers

BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip—Hundreds of Palestinian women in robes and head scarves streamed into a Gaza combat zone on Friday November 3rd to help free gunmen besieged by Israeli troops at a mosque. Two women who came under fire were killed, and at least 10 wounded, but some gunmen managed to escape.

The women, many with ties to the Islamic militant group Hamas left their homes after daybreak in response to appeals on the local Hamas radio station or telephone calls from friends and relatives. By nightfall, they

were celebrated as heroes, an unusual role in a deeply conservative society that tends to keep women on the sidelines. Until Friday, battling Israeli troops had been men's business in Gaza.



The mosque standoff came on the third day of Israel's fiercest bid in months to halt Palestinian rocket fire on Israeli border communities. The offensive began Wednesday when

Israeli forces took over the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, close to the border with Israel.

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# Open Letter To Muslim Soldiers

*“The believers are like one man; if his eye suffers, his whole body suffers, and if his head suffers, his whole body suffers. You will recognize the believers by their mutual love and sympathy. They are like one body. If one of its parts is ill, the whole body suffers from sleeplessness and fever.”*  
Bukhari and Muslim

**T**he Jews despatched their Air force to fire bullets on Muslim women in Beit Hanoun that killed and injured them, and attacked the mosques and damaged them, destroyed farms and killed the young ones and elderly alike in their home. The Muslim rulers are surveying the damage and counting the dead and the injured.

These Muslim rulers are passively watching the brutality of the Jews as they kill the Muslim women with bullets. These Muslim rulers are neither shaken nor are their hearts pounding. Their tongues move only to blame the Muslim women protestors at the killing but these rulers do not blame the Jews who killed the women

## Oh Muslims! Oh Muslim Soldiers!

Has the time not come that you come out of the bonds of these rulers who have turned you to the humiliation and disgrace, instead of moving you to the battle fields? How the armies of Egypt, Jordon, Syria and Lebanon are camping at the borders of Palestine in silence that resembles the silence of death, and watching with their own eyes the Jews chasing the Muslim women?

Egypt shamelessly seeks permission from the Jews to send its border forces to Egypt's own district of Rafah, only to prevent those in

Rafah from helping their brothers who reside in the Palestinian part of Rafah! Whereas these very soldiers should have protected the residents from the brutal and barbaric attacks of the Jews.

Is there not amongst you one who is eager to seek the pleasure of Allah (swt) and Jannah? Is there not amongst you one who is keen for the honour of this world and the hereafter? Is there not amongst you one who is eager to seek and is willing to sell himself in exchange for the pleasure of Allah (swt) and is willing to stand up against these rulers and their evil and thus help Allah (swt) and His Messenger (saw) and thus have his reward with Allah (swt) written in the white books with Him? Is there not a Mu'tasim among you for these women to avenge the brutality of the enemy?

## Oh Muslims! Oh Muslim Soldiers!

Your enemy is not all powerful; his strength is only because of the betrayal of those who commands authority over you. The Jews have never won a battle that was fought as it should be, but were 'victorious' only in staged managed battles. The book of Allah (swt) also testifies:

***“If they come out to fight you, they will show their backs and no help shall they get.”***

(TMQ: Al Imran:111)

And the hadeeth of our Prophet (saw) stands as a witness to this, as reported by Muslim:

***“When you fight the Jews, it will overwhelm them.”***

Or as in another riwayah (narration),

***“You fight Jews and will***

*See Open Letter page 7*

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*“And purchase not a small gain at the price of Allah's covenant. Lo! that which Allah hath is better for you, if ye did but know.”*

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This newsletter titled 'The Shield' gets its name from the Hadith which states: 'Behold, the Iman is a shield from behind whom the people fight and by whom they protect themselves.'  
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# The Big Lie about Islamic Fascism

edited by *Eric S. Margolis*

[Eric Margolis is a syndicated foreign affairs columnist and broadcaster, and author of *War at the Top of the World - The Struggle for Afghanistan, Kashmir, and Tibet.*]

The latest big lies unveiled by Washington's neoconservatives are the poisonous terms, *Islamofascists* and *Islamic Fascists*. They are the new, hot buzzwords among America's far right and Christian fundamentalists.

President George W. Bush made a point last week of using *Islamofascists* when recently speaking of Hezbollah and Hamas both, by the way, democratically elected parties. A Canadian government minister from the Conservative Party compared Lebanon's Hezbollah to Nazi Germany.

The term *Islamofascist* is utterly without meaning, but packed with emotional explosives. It is a propaganda creation worthy Dr. Goebbles, and the latest expression of the big lie technique being used by neocons in Washington's propaganda war against its enemies in the Muslim World.

This ugly term was probably first coined in Israel - as was the other hugely successful propaganda term, *terrorism* to dehumanize and demonize opponents and deny them any rational political motivation, hence removing any need to deal with their grievances and demands.

As the brilliant humanist Sir Peter Ustinov so succinctly put it, "Terrorism is the war of the poor, and war is the terrorism of the rich".

Both the terms "terrorism" and "fascist" have been so abused and overused that they have lost any original meaning. The best modern

definition I've read of fascism comes in former Columbia University Professor Robert Paxton's superb 2004 book, *The Anatomy of Fascism*.

Paxton defines fascism's essence, which he aptly terms its "emotional lava" as: 1. a sense of overwhelming crisis beyond reach of traditional solutions; 2. belief one's group is the victim, justifying any action without legal or moral limits; 3. need for authority by a natural leader above the law, relying on the superiority of his instincts; 4. right of the chosen people to dominate others without legal or moral restraint; 5. fear of foreign contamination.

**Fascism demands a succession of wars, foreign conquests, and national threats to keep the nation in a state of fear, anxiety and patriotic hypertension. Those who disagree are branded ideological traitors. All successful fascist regimes, Paxton points out, allied themselves to traditional conservative parties, and to the military-industrial complex.**

It is grotesque watching the Bush Administration and Tony Blair maintain the ludicrous pretense they are re-fighting World War II. The only similarity between that era and today is the cultivation of fear, war fever and racist-religious hate by US neoconservatives and America's religious far right, which is now boiling with hatred for anything

Muslim.

Under the guise of fighting a third world war against Islamic fascism, America's far right is infecting its own nation with the harbingers of WWII totalitarianism.

In the western world, hatred of Muslims has become a key ideological hallmark of rightwing parties. We see this overtly in the United States, France, Italy, Holland, Denmark, Poland, and, most lately, Canada, and more subtly expressed in Britain and Belgium. The huge uproar over blatantly anti-Muslim cartoons published in Denmark laid bare the seething Islamophobia spreading through western society. There is nothing in any part of the Muslim World that resembles the corporate fascist states of western history. In fact, clan and tribal-based traditional Islamic society, with its fragmented power structures, local loyalties, and consensus decision-making, is about as far as possible from western industrial state fascism.

The Muslim World is replete with brutal dictatorships, feudal monarchies, and corrupt military-run states, but none of these regimes, however deplorable, fits the standard definition of fascism. Most, in fact, are America's allies.

Nor do underground Islamic militant groups (terrorists in western terminology). They are either focused on liberating land from foreign occupation, overthrowing

# Hajj Implications

“And complete the Hajj or  
‘Umrah in the service of Allah”  
[TMQ 2:196]

**H**ajj is the largest gathering of human-beings on the face of Earth. Millions of Muslims respond in unison to this verse and others like it. We remind the believers of the purpose of Hajj and warn of the paradox Hajj faces at the hands of the present rulers in Muslim Lands.

## Seeking the Pure Intention for Hajj

The sole reason for Hajj is that it is for the sake of Allah (swt). Allah (swt) revealed,

*“Pilgrimage thereto is a duty men owe to Allah, - those who can afford the journey; but if any deny faith, Allah stands not in need of any of His creatures” [TMQ 3:97]*

*“It is not their meat or their blood that reaches Allah: it is your piety (taqwa) that reaches Him.” [TMQ 22:37]*

Whenever Allah (swt) obligates us to perform a duty, He (swt) gives us the method. Hajj is performed in the manner He (swt) revealed through the Prophet Muhammad (saw).

Ja'far ibn Muhammad reported on the authority of his father, “We went to Jabir ibn ‘Abdullah and he began inquiring about the people (who had

gone to see him) till it was my turn. I said, ‘I am Muhammad ibn ‘Ali ibn Hussain’..... I said to him, ‘Tell me about the Hajj of Allah’s Messenger (saw)’... The Messenger of Allah (saw) then prayed in the mosque and then mounted al-Qaswa (his she-camel) and it stood erect with him on its back at al-Baida’. And I saw as far as I could see in front of me but riders and pedestrians, and also on my right and on my left and behind me like this. And the Messenger of Allah (saw) was prominent among us and the (revelation) of the Qur’an was descending upon him. And it is he who knows (its true) significance. And whatever he did, we also did that. He pronounced the Oneness of Allah (saying):, ‘Labbaik, O Allah, Labbaik, Labbaik, Thou hast no partner, praise and grace is Thine and the Sovereignty too; Thou hast no partner.’ And the people also pronounced this talbiya which they pronounce (today)...”

## United in Hajj, divided by the Rulers

As a Muslim it is indeed a beautiful sight to behold, as every year millions travel to the Sacred City with the same pure intention.

*“And proclaim to humankind the Hajj. They will come to you on foot and every lean camel,*

*they will come from every deep and distant (wide) mountain highway (to perform Hajj)” [TMQ 22:27]*

When this verse was revealed, Muslims numbered a few and were confined to the Arabian Peninsula. Yet even at that time Allah (swt) revealed that the Muslims would be spread out through this vast creation, as is so evident today, when one considers that Muslims are found throughout the world. So today it can be seen that camels really would become lean from the journey. The spirit of the Hajj is really conjured up in this thought; millions of people using all means of transport to pursue a quest, and journey in the true sense of the word, all in the direction of the Sacred House. This same direction that every individual faces at least five times a day in submission to the Creator, Allah (swt). The magnetism of Allah’s house attracts Muslims in prayer, in thoughts and emotions, and the greatest journey that any Muslim will make. Muslims in the past would spend months traveling for Hajj by foot, by camel, and by boat. Today evidence of this is found throughout Muslim Lands. For example, there are many small communities between what is now Sudan and Nigeria where Xhossa (the language of Northern Nigeria) is

*See Hajj page 6*

# Reflections on Manhood

*Men are the protectors and maintainers of women ,  
Because Allah has given one more (strength) than the other ,  
And because they support them from their means . Qur'an IV : 34*

**W**e can safely conclude that no one knows more about humanity than the one who created it . Allah being the author of the Qur'an gives in his revelations to man kind some very direct and concise statements that reach deep into the human condition . It is easy to match the above ayah with today's reality in regards to the deterioration of the family . Because the family is the cornerstone of the society , its structural breakdown will eventually take down the society .

Among the qualities a man is given are toughness , slow reaction and response , as well as proper thought and reflection before action . All his functions, from the early days of being a hunter and gatherer , to fighting for the protection of his wife and children , to earning his living in any way , requires some deliberation and consideration before making a decision and implementing it . These qualities are deeply rooted in a man's constitution . Man's qualities and nature make him more able and equipped to take charge of the family .

Similarly , his duty to support his family , as part of that general distribution of functions , makes him more suitable to overall authority . That is because

earning for a family is part of being in charge .

In highlighting these two elements , the Qur'an states that in an Islamic society men are required to look after women .

Moreover women prefer men to assume authority and responsibility for the family . Many women worry , feel dissatisfied and unhappy when they live with men who relinquish their role for any reason . Even , women who challenge the mans role , readily admit to this .

In traditional Islamic society women are not left to fend for themselves . Prior to marriage a female is under the care of her father and/or brothers . After she is married , she is under the care of her husband . The men in the society are responsible for four categories of women . These four categories are their wives , daughters , mother and sisters . There are no demands on a women's income .

*And give the women (On marriage ) their dower as a freegift : but if they, of their own pleasure remit any part of it to you ,*

*Take it and enjoy it with good cheer. Qur'an IV : 4*

We know that the family is the first cohesive unit that holds

all the elements of the society together . We can see the domino effect in the society when men abandon their post . We see what happens when women are

*In traditional Islamic society women are not left to fend for themselves . Prior to marriage a female is under the care of her father and/or brothers . After she is married , she is under the care of her husband .*

supported by a system that benefits from undermining the family .

In the period following President Johnson's activation of his Great Society legislation/program , measures were taken to insure that those receiving welfare payments did not have a man in the house . The attitude towards men changed and sexual promiscuity replaced wedlock .

The future generation of men had this paternal void was filled with Godfather I , Godfather II , Goodfellows , Godfather III , etc . The young men who get caught up in the gangster bravado do not realize that they are compromising their manhood until it is too late . Once they get a rap sheet and are reduced to being in a pool for cheap labor , it becomes difficult for them to do

*See Reflections page 6*

what men are supposed to do , and that is raise a family .

The domino effect on the society is that the criminal environment acts as a cancer . It determines where we live , how we live (bars on windows) , where we send our kids to school , how they get to school , how we conduct our business (with a smile or behind bullet proof glass).

Individuals are being sold substances that help them go out of their minds . When this is rampant , a people's money and minds become nonfunctional . These examples only scratch the surface , as the society heads towards eliminating the distinction between themselves and the lower animals .

*They know the  
outer (things) in the  
life of this world : but  
the end of things (here-  
after) they are heedless*

Qur'an XXX:7

In a society that seeks to undermine the two main support mechanisms , religion and the family, men have to take charge of their destiny by breaking the mind trick in front of them and put in place a system that facilitates taking these ideals off the drawing board. Only then can men fully assume the role of dignity defined for them by Allah(swt) in the Qur'an . ■

spoken. The Xhossa speaking Muslim made a string of communities on the Hajj trail. The potent atmosphere of an old West African village, when it was announced that a family was to set out on the Hajj trail, can only be imagined today. The immensity and importance of Hajj would be put into all of the members of the village. Hajj was always a central part of the communal life of Muslims. There was a time when a Muslim could get on a donkey in Timbuktu and end up in Makkah some months later, with no obstacles but Allah's created elements and the harshness of the journey. This was at a time when the affairs of Muslims were governed by an authority which drew its guidance from the same source as that of Hajj, the Islamic 'Aqeedah. Hence there was a harmony between the State and the duty of Hajj.

However, since the Khilafah was destroyed in 1924, till today, the rulers in Islamic Lands seek guidance from other than Islam. They turn to man-made law such as democracy, monarchy ('kingship') or dictatorship. Such a harmony as was experienced by previous generations cannot exist in such a situation, only paradoxes. The unity of Hajj is destroyed by the present rulers' division of Islamic Lands. So Muslims are forced to contend with border checks and quotas for the

numbers of Hajjis based on nationality.

Oh Muslims, the Islamic Lands today are governed by non-Islam, which has complicated the lives of Muslims in too many aspects. Hajj is one of those. It is so apparent that the present governments act as an obstacle to the worship of Allah. However, Makkah is still the direction of the Muslims in Prayer. On this Muslims are still unified. Makkah is still the destination for one of the main events of the lives of all Muslims. On this Muslims are still unified. Muslims standing at different points of longitude and latitude are all unified praying in one direction. It is as if Muslims are praying in one massive Jama'ah. The pull of the Sacred City gives this Ummah invigoration at the time of Hajj. Muslims must try to harness this vigor and direct it towards the obstacles that lay in front of them as an Ummah.

May Allah accept the efforts of all of the Hajjis this year, and bring the true meaning of Hajj into all hearts. May Allah give dignity and strength to this Ummah through those things that it remains unified upon. May Allah help the Ummah to destroy the barriers that remain between Muslims: physically, politically and spiritually. ■

***overwhelm them.”***

As also the testimony of the so called battles stand as a witness to these mock battles:

In the 1968 battle of Al Karamah a group of soldiers rebelled against the order of their ruler and entered the battle to help the resistance in Al Karamah, they won and forced the enemy to flee leaving behind a few battle tanks in which the operating soldiers were tied in seats to prevent them from deserting!

At the start of the 1973 war, a group of Egyptian soldiers ran through the Jewish forts at the Bar Lev line. Also the Syrian soldiers penetrated border 48 in Golan despite the huge arsenal of the heavily-armed Jews.

The betrayal by Sadat of the Dafurs war, and the letting down of soldiers by Hafez al Assad in Golan, allowed the Americans to enter the war through the negotiations table and not in the actual battle front. If it had not been for this backroom maneuvering, the results of the battle would certainly have been different.

And of course the events of July 2006, the Israeli attacks, when a few believing soldiers confronted the violent Jews in spite of the enormous difference in preparedness and equipment.

The Jews are covered in humiliation and misery, if the Jews had ever expected that a single country and not all the surrounding countries was able to confront and humble them. They would have not dared to mount an attack on it and their occupation of Palestine would have shaken by the tremor, and their fate would have been the fate of their similar ones earlier. Their dwellings destroyed by their own hands and by the believers; and the luckier ones

among them who escaped bodily harm would have ran away from Palestine.

Truly, Oh Muslims, The strength of your enemies is due to the betrayal of your leaders, this is not the case in Palestine alone, but holds true for the Muslim lands that are occupied by the Kuffar. In fact they could occupy these lands only because of the treachery of these rulers and their associates who failed to help the Muslims.

Take Kashmir for instance , which is occupied by India and Pakistan fails to liberate it. On the contrary Pakistan is now coming down heavily on the Mujahideen movements in Kashmir!

Take Chechnya which is under Russian occupation while the Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan are sitting pretty doing nothing about liberating it from the clutches of brutal Russia.

Afghanistan could only be occupied because of the complicity, conspiracy and betrayal by the ruler of Pakistan. Then, was it possible for America to occupy the rich land of Iraq if Syria, Iran and Turkey moved to help Iraq? Would the Gulf statelets be what they are without having surrendered their lands and making them the storehouse for the American and British arsenal and launching pads for the enemy to attack?

**Oh Muslims! Oh Muslim Soldiers!**

The Muslim armies are the sons of the Muslims, their ardour and strength springs from the Muslims.

How is it that you are unable to stand up with the Muslims in rooting out these rulers who kneel shamelessly before the enemy?

Why do you not act to liberate your lands and restore your honour and protect the sanctities of

Muslims? Your desire and the aspirations of Muslims looking to this life alone is only leading to a life of shame, humiliation, disgrace and subjugation. It's a miserable life if only you realise it.

We as concerned Muslims call upon you with all of your forces. Oh soldiers, to answer the distressing cries of women and yelling of the children and the elderly, we urge you to move to the battle fields and seek revenge from those responsible, and remove from your path all those who have bounded you-the rulers and their cronies. This will save you from the wrath of Allah (swt) and his punishment on the day when no wealth and sons will be of help except those who come to Allah (swt) with a pure and untainted heart.

***“O ye who believe! Give your response to Allah and His Apostle, when he calleth you to that which will give you life.”***

(TMQ:Anfal:24)

We as concerned Muslims urge you to stand with us to re-establish the Khilafah so that you may become the rightly guided. The first leadership of the Khulafa' al Rashidoon, al Mu'tasim and Salahudeen. Will then the kuffar cast a dirty eye on the women and remain safe? Let alone kill them with their bullets. Only then will you become the best of Ummah who are raised for the people.

## Prayer Times Schedule

Chicago, Illinois

December 2006

Day	Dec	Hijri	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
Fri	1	10/11	5:37	6:58	11:40	2:03	4:22	5:44
Sat	2	11/11	5:38	6:59	11:41	2:03	4:21	5:44
Sun	3	12/11	5:38	6:59	11:41	2:03	4:21	5:44
Mon	4	13/11	5:39	7:01	11:41	2:02	4:21	5:43
Tue	5	14/11	5:40	7:02	11:42	2:02	4:21	5:43
Wed	6	15/11	5:41	7:03	11:42	2:02	4:21	5:43
Thu	7	16/11	5:42	7:04	11:43	2:02	4:21	5:43
Fri	8	17/11	5:43	7:04	11:43	2:02	4:21	5:43
Sat	9	18/11	5:44	7:05	11:44	2:02	4:21	5:44
Sun	10	19/11	5:44	7:06	11:44	2:03	4:21	5:44
Mon	11	20/11	5:45	7:07	11:44	2:03	4:21	5:44
Tue	12	21/11	5:46	7:08	11:45	2:03	4:21	5:44
Wed	13	22/11	5:46	7:09	11:45	2:03	4:21	5:44
Thu	14	23/11	5:47	7:09	11:46	2:03	4:21	5:45
Fri	15	24/11	5:48	7:10	11:46	2:04	4:21	5:45
Sat	16	25/11	5:48	7:11	11:47	2:04	4:22	5:45
Sun	17	26/11	5:49	7:12	11:47	2:04	4:22	5:46
Mon	18	27/11	5:50	7:12	11:48	2:05	4:22	5:46
Tue	19	28/11	5:50	7:13	11:48	2:05	4:23	5:46
Wed	20	29/11	5:51	7:13	11:49	2:06	4:23	5:47
Thu	21	30/11	5:51	7:14	11:49	2:06	4:24	5:47
Fri	22	1/12	5:52	7:14	11:50	2:07	4:24	5:48
Sat	23	2/12	5:52	7:15	11:50	2:07	4:25	5:48
Sun	24	3/12	5:53	7:15	11:51	2:08	4:25	5:49
Mon	25	4/12	5:53	7:15	11:51	2:08	4:25	5:49
Tue	26	5/12	5:53	7:16	11:52	2:09	4:27	5:50
Wed	27	6/12	5:54	7:16	11:52	2:10	4:27	5:51
Thu	28	7/12	5:54	7:17	11:53	2:10	4:28	5:52
Fri	29	8/12	5:54	7:17	11:53	2:11	4:29	5:52
Sat	30	9/12	5:54	7:17	11:54	2:12	4:30	5:53
Sun	31	10/12	5:55	7:17	11:54	2:13	4:30	5:54

*The Big Lie, continued from page 3*

**legislators and lobbyists. They urge war to the death, fought, of course, by other people's children. They have turned important sectors of the media into propaganda organs and brought the Pentagon largely under their control.**

Now, the neoconservatives are busy whipping up war against Syria and Iran to keep themselves in power and maintain the political dynamics of this

21st century revival of fascism.

**The real modern fascists are not in the Muslim World, but Washington. The neocons screaming fascist the loudest, are the true fascists themselves.** It's a pity that communist and leftist propaganda so debased the term `neo-fascist that it has become almost meaningless. Because that is what we should be calling the so-called neocons, for that is what they really are. ■

*Muslim, continued from page 1*

that which takes away from its purity. Simply put, we are Muslims.

Some of us were born and even converted in America, but once we embrace the Islaamic creed, then our identity as Muslims supersedes all other identities, and this is what is appealing to the potential convert. We should reflect values and sentiments that pull people out of jahiliyyah (Ignorance) into Islaam. The Muslim identity makes us witnesses for justice, and moves us beyond racial identity, patriotism, sexism, individuality, democracy, and capitalism.

The push to assimilate young Muslims into the American society has a political and dangerous motive. A Muslim must not take on values and sentiments which are responsible for the many social problems we find here in the West. How can we call others to Islaam, if we are no better than them? Do we want our children to grow up and become thugs, pimps, whores, or lost in the American values of individuality to the point where they no longer respect or care for us? No, of course we do not. Our identity is with Islaam and what Allah wants for us. He says:

*“Who is better in speech than one Who calls (men) to Allah, works righteousness, and says, “I am of those Who bow in islam”?*

*Qur'an 41:33*

*Palestinian, continued from page 1*

In all, 34 Palestinians have been killed in the Beit Hanoun campaign so far, including 16 on that Friday. Most of the deaths Friday are a result of a series of Israeli air strikes after sun-down. In the deadliest hit, five Palestinians were killed in an Israeli strike in the Jebaliya refugee camp. The Beit Hanoun sweep is different from previous Israeli incursions into Gaza, a senior Israeli military official said. Rather than staying on the outskirts of populated areas, troops are going house to house in Beit Hanoun, sometimes breaking through inner walls to cut down on exposure to gunmen. AP