



**Dear friends,**

**As all members of Pacifica Inst. we would like to state that we** feel and share the pain and the grief of those who lost their loved ones and afflicted by the disaster 9-11 in one way or another from the bottom of our hearts.

US is an experiment of coexistence. Since its establishment this country has provided opportunities to diverse religious and ethnic groups to live and produce together. Nowhere else this could have been achieved to the same extent. Therefore this country emerges as our only hope to prove that coexistence of diverse ideological and religious groups in a mutually enriching way is *possible*. So our experience in US is especially valuable. **If we fail in this country that would be a huge blow to our hopes of replicating this example in other parts of the world.**

We should -once again- make it clear that any terrorist activity no matter from where, or by whom, or for what purpose it is conducted is a blow to human dignity, peace and freedom. No matter what the griveances or injustices are such henious acts can not and must not be justified by any religion or ideology.

Terrorism targets innocent people and legitimizes indiscriminate killing. This is categorically forbidden in Islam as well as all moral teachings and religions. The Quran unequivocally teaches us that each life is sacred and unique in the eyes of God.

The Quran also advises how to deal with the injustices and griveances we encounter in our lives. As it is predominantly understood by the 14 centuries of Islamic scholarship, the Quranic injunctions and prophetic tradition allow war **only under a sovereign and properly ordained state and only to put an end to persecution - even that of non-muslims-**; and even in times of war indiscriminate killing of non-combatants, women, children and torturing otherwise ill-treated prisoners are categorically forbidden.<sup>1</sup>

**The real problem is those who allegedly act in the name of Islam do not know their own religion.** None of the main theoreticians of recent violent Islamic extremism are graduates of Islamic universities (Laden is an accountant, Zawahiri is a physician). And so their proclamations ignore 14 centuries of Muslim scholarship. For instance, had they followed the norms of their religion they would have known that all schools of Islamic thought accuse those who kill innocent people with *bagy* "armed aggresion" which is a capital offense in Islamic law.

**Please remember that extremism is not unique to Islam. Violent extremist ideologies could not find an extensive grounding among Muslims. It**

---

<sup>1</sup> For example, Professor Bernard Lewis noted: At no time did the (Muslim) jurist approve of terrorism. Nor indeed is there any evidence of the use of terrorism (in Islamic tradition). Muslims are commanded not to kill women, children, or the aged, not to torture prisoners, to give fair warning of the opening of hostilities, and to honor agreements. Similarly, the laws of Jihad categorically preclude indiscriminate slaughter. What the classical jurists of Islam never remotely considered is the kind of unprovoked, unannounced mass slaughter of uninvolved civil populations that we saw in New York two weeks ago. Bernard Lewis (September 27, 2001). <http://www.opinionjournal.com/extra/?id=95001224>. Retrieved April 25, 2010

remains in the margins of Muslim societies throughout the world and represent a small and *diminishing* minority, as recent opinion surveys show. **The prevailing perception in the west that terrorist attacks enjoy a wide support in the Muslim world is simply not true.** For instance, a recent Gallup survey conducted in 35 predominantly Muslim countries found that more than 90% of respondents condemned the killing of non-combatants on religious and humanitarian grounds.<sup>2</sup> This indicates a sharp decrease in the percentage of support.

**Let us also remember that unjust identification of Islam with violence aggrieve and offend those who embrace their religion as a source of love and justice.** Compassion, vision of a just world, ethics of coexistence lie at the heart of Islam. **As a Muslim we feel the deep anger towards those who contradict these very fundamental teachings of Islam by callously destroying innocent lives.** They do not know their own faith and they are nothing else but "monsters".

- Such as Turkish Islamic scholar Fethullah Gulen who said **"a real muslim cannot be terrorist, and a terrorist cannot be a Muslim. Religion does not approve of killing a man to reach a goal."** (Goals as well as means must be legitimate. A legitimate goal cannot be achieved by illegitimate means.)
- Or Pakistani Islamic scholar Tahir-ul Qadri who said that **"Terrorism is terrorism, violence is violence and it has no place in Islamic teaching and no justification can be provided for it, or any kind of excuses or ifs or buts."**
- Such as a group of 10 thousand Pakistani scholars and religious leaders who declared suicide attacks as un-Islamic.
- Even Salafi Committee of Major Scholars in Saudi Arabia –who are commonly associated with terrorism- has declared that "Islamic" terrorism is in violation of Sharia law.

**Last decade since 9-11 proved once again that only through mutual understanding and respect can such violence be prevented from recurring again.** Having justified anger and pain does not justify injuring innocent masses in order to punish a few guilty people. This is being the definition of bigotry. This type of response only strengthens terrorism and give birth to more terrorists.

**Let us also remember that unjust identification of Islam with violence aggrieve and offend those who embrace their religion as a source of love and justice.** Compassion, vision of a just world, ethics of coexistence lie at the heart of Islam. **As Muslim we feel the deep anger towards those who contradict these very fundamental teachings of Islam by callously destroying innocent lives.**

Sincerely,

**Pacifica Institute Utah Branch**



**The last edition (september-october) is designed for 9/11**  
<http://www.fountainmagazine.com/current.php>

---