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## The Islamic Religion is against Terrorism

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### ABSTRACT

Terrorism has become a world problem now, due to the series of terrorist attacks worldwide. However, the challenge of terrorism is not new. From 1793 to 1794, the French revolutionary government used harsh and violent measures against citizens, accusing them as enemies of revolution. Terrorism can be traced back to ancient times. Since September 11, 2001, during the terrorist attacks in America, the world has been shocked by these events. The terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida and the Islamic State in Syria and the Levant (ISIL, or Da'esh), are repeatedly mentioned because of their terrorist attacks. This paper analyzes the causes of terrorism and the best way to deal with it. The paper discusses the misconception that Islam in itself is the cause of terrorism, and the paper criticizes the idea that Islam is the root of terrorism, by providing evidence from Islamic sources and Islamic scholars who confirm that Islam does not support terrorism. Still, some Muslims, due to ignorance, use religious belief to justify their terrorist act, and this can occur in any religion, not only Islam. The paper uses the secondary analysis approach by examining the collected data and books on terrorism and analyse them using the Quran and Prophetic narration and the Jurisprudence of Islam.

### INTRODUCTION

There is no universal definition of the word terrorism, and there is no agreement among scholars on the exact meaning of terrorism (Robert, 2009).

Terrorism is the term used when an individual or a group uses violence that creates fear in the public to achieve a political goal.

Terrorism has been practiced in history by all categories of organizations, including political, ethnical, and religious groups. Some state institutions such as armies, intelligence services, and police also have been included in terrorist acts. Terrorists mainly target densely populated public areas such as airports, transportation hubs, shopping centers, tourist attractions, and nightlife venues to instill widespread insecurity, prompting policy change (Ganor, 2002).

The term "terrorism" originated from the French Revolution in 18th century, and was widely used in 1970 due to the troubles in Northern Ireland and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Islamic terrorism was widely used after the September 11 attacks in the United States. The CIA's Counterterrorism Center had determined that Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda were responsible for coordinating the attack and hijacking commercial airlines traveling to California.

This opinion was opposed by former CIA officer Robert Baer, (born July 11, 1952) as mentioned in the Time magazine in 2007, claiming that there is absence of collateral evidence that would support the claim that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's confession was involved in the attack.

After September 11, 2001, bin Laden, although he praised the attack but he denied responsibility for the attack.

Since 2001, after the September 11 attacks, Islam has been

blamed for being a terrorist religion; Islam was accused by several scholars as the religion of violence. But Islam has nothing to do with terrorism.

Terrorism is due to many factors, including political and racial reasons, and many terrorist groups from Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and Islam are against terrorism in their teachings. Muslim countries are also affected by terrorism, and Muslim countries are also fighting terrorism.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Islam has the ruling of war in Islam, including when the war is commanded and who should be the enemy to be fought. Islam does not allow terrorism but permits the defiance war against those who fight the Islamic State. (Youssef & Sherifa, 2024)

Terrorism group called "Khawarije, (meaning extremist group) emerged during the time of the fourth Caliph Ali ibn Abi Talib. The group killed innocent Muslims regarded them as disbelievers. The group was regarded as terrorists because they used religion for conducting crimes; the religion is used not only by Muslims but also by Jewish, Christian, Hindu, and Buddhist terrorists to recruit legitimate terrorists. Muslims scholars by consensus concluded that suicide bombing and terrorism are against the teachings of Islam (Muhammad & Esposito, 2010).

Those who believe that everyone in Islam can use 'ijtihad', which is the Islamic legal term referring to independent reasoning by an expert in Islamic law (Venkatraman, 2005). This is not the case because for a Muslim to reach a level of 'Ijtihad', he should be a scholar. Terrorists and violent Jihadist are not only comes from Islamic religion, but there are terrorist from other religion also there Islam is not a cause of terrorism by itself (John, 2014).

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There is no relationship between the Islamic faith and terrorism. In Islam, the lives, property, and beliefs of non-Muslims are protected by Islamic law far better than Muslims. Islam prohibits killing non-combatants, it also prohibits killing innocent non-Muslims, women and children (Awadh *et al.*, 2021).

Scholars who claim that Islam is a terrorist religion; uses the evidence of the verses from the Quran which according to their opinion preach violence against Christians. The verse from the Quran which says that ‘kill disbelievers unless they convert or pay taxes, this verse was revealed during the battlefield (Quran 9:29). Other verse clarifies the condition for fighting by ordering that “fight those who fight you in the battlefield (2:190). This verse negates use of violence to non-combatants. Christians lived peacefully in Islamic countries, no one fight them (Gabriel, 2002).

Terrorism can never be justified, only evil society justifies terrorism. But terrorism can be eradicated by educating people and eradicating causes of terrorism (Igor Primoratz, 2013 ).

The validity of the concept of ‘religious terrorism’ is misleading. Because there is no religion which teaches terrorism. In particular, the term has more meaning with further elaboration. The terrorism can be religious motivated when groups misinterpret the religious teachings (Gunning & Jackson, 2011).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research paper will mainly use secondary data collection methods, including books, journals, and newspapers. About 60 sources of terrorism was analyzed by comparing them with the authentic Qur’an translations and the authenticated traditions of the Prophet. Also the Islamic Jurisprudence books concerning Islamic politics were analyzed. This method helps build an extensive, high-quality database that solves business problems (Will Hillier, 2022). The data has been collected from several published books and online databases that discuss terrorism, and the sacred writings from the Bible and the Qur’an will be examined, and the life history of Prophet Muhammad in politics.

This paper will make a deep analysis of the concept of terrorism and whether Islam in itself is a terrorist religion or whether some extremists misuse the religion of Islam in conducting terrorism. The paper will examine the Quran, what it says about the holy war, and what is the proper interpretation of the verses that mention killings and war. The paper will analyze the Prophetic narrations about the crime of killing and the prohibition of killing non-Muslims who are not active combatants and the prohibition of terrorism and suicide bombing from eminent Muslim scholars; the paper will provide measures to encounter terrorism.

The paper will discuss the concept of terrorism from several books, and analyzing those books from authentic translation and interpretations of the Quran from the eminent scholars. The paper will analyze the concept of

terrorism from the consensus of Muslim scholars. OIC member States concluded that Terrorism contradicts principles of Islam

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Does Islam Promote Violence

Terrorism is the use of violence to generate fear to attain political goals (Hoffman, Citation2018. The religion of Islam is always connected to war and violence (Ahmed & Matthes, 2017). Islam was condemned for terrorist acts throughout the world. The Islamic extremist groups lack the proper interpretation of the Quran and narrations of the Prophet (French, 2020).

Thomas Haldenwang said:

“The threat posed by Islamist extremism remains at a high level. We have to expect that an Islamist extremist attack in Germany may happen at any time.

The Western media and the Western scholars failed to distinguish between the actual Islamic teachings and the misinterpretations of extremist groups. Islamist groups like Islamic State al Qaeda, and the use of violence against non-Muslims to establish a political goal (Courty *et al.*, 2019).

John Esposito believes that the natural causes of Islamist violence are not religion but the natural causes are political marginalization, poverty, ethnicity, alienation, and discrimination against Muslims. Israel has occupied Palestine’s land by force, yet the Palestine liberation movement is regarded as a terrorist group.

The extremist groups in Iraq, Syria, Palestine, and Libya are mainly due to political reasons, which are caused by the illegal occupation of those countries. The Irish Republic, Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG army has been mentioned as a terrorist organization; these are the groups that are fighting for the independence of their country. Nothing has to do with religion.

Robert Pape (2006) studied suicide terrorist attacks committed by Muslim extremists, and he concluded that: Little connection is present between suicide and Islamic fundamentalism... Rather, nearly all suicide terrorist attacks share one common goal of compelling foreign military forces from their homeland. (Pape, Robert. Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. (New York: Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2006)

Islamic teachings prohibit terrorism and the use of violence against civilians, and Islam doesn’t allow forcing non-Muslims to embrace Islam. Allah says that there is no compulsion in religion (Quran 2:256).

Patrick McInerney, (March 2016) commented that; The statement that all Muslims are terrorists!” has no rational support; it is patently false. It is due to the media and double standards.

Terrorism is not only found in Islam but also Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Christian terrorism, a form of religious terrorism, refers to terrorist acts that Christian-motivated groups or individuals commit (Bruce, 1998). Christian terrorists justify their violent actions through their wrong interpretation of the Bible (Pratt, 2010).

Christian terrorism can be committed against secular governments, adherents of other religions, members of different Christian denominations, individuals, or society as a whole (Aref, 2003).

The terrorist groups include the ETA in Spain, the Irish Republican Army, the Red Army and Aum Shinrikyo in Japan, Timothy Mc Veigh, and the Bader-Meinhof Gang in Germany. These Groups are not Muslim groups.

An example of a Christian terrorist group is the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda. Ku Klux Klan abbreviated by KKK in 1896. The group was responsible for a terrorist attack in Birmingham, Alabama, on September 15, 1963, on the predominantly African American 16th Street Baptist Church.

Another group of Christian terrorists was the Orange Volunteers, who described themselves as Protestant fundamentalists; they attacked catholic churches and defended their attacks on the basis that they were "bastions of the Antichrist" (Mitchell, 2006).

The group of Warriors of Christ the King was a terrorist group in the late 1970s in Spain, primarily in the Basque Country and Madrid and in Navarre. From 1970-1978 they conducted assassinations and attacks in Spain (Sanchez, 2010).

The Pope said that no religion is terrorist by nature, except some followers of religion are extremists due to their heresy and misinterpretation of Holy Books.

The Ulster Protestant Volunteers was a Northern Ireland loyalist and Reformed fundamentalist group between 1966 and 1969. The group conducted a series of bombings that took place from March to April 1969. They conducted several attacks, including those in Bordentown and Dublin.

Terrorism can also be found in Hindu groups, sometimes referred to as Hindutva terror (Bidwai, 2008), which is defined as the acts carried out based on Hindu religion and beliefs, targeting Muslims and their mosques together with Christians and their churches (Gitinger, 2011).

Abhinav Bharat was the Hindu Terrorist group in India. The group was also connected with the Malegaon blasts that occurred in 2006 and many other explosions. Protestantism in Sri Lanka started with Anagarika Dharmapala (1864-1933). Buddhist extremists were behind the death of Muslims and the destruction of many buildings in Sri Lanka.

Patrick McInerney (March 2016) commented that there were about 152 terrorist attacks in Europe in 2013. Only two were "religiously motivated," while 84 were predicated on ethics. 2,131 terrorist attacks in the EU, and only eight were "Islamist." approximately 2.5% of all terrorist attacks in the US between 1970 and 2012 were carried out by Muslims.

Jihad is an Islamic term referring to Muslims' religious duty to maintain their religion. In Arabic, Jihad simply means "to strive, to struggle, to persevere" (Khalid, 2009). The word jihad is mentioned 41 times in the Quran, which means "striving in the way of God; most occurrences are linguistically related to the exercise of

effort" (al-Kasani, 1972).

The textual meanings of jihad in the Qur'an include various efforts that Muslims are expected to perform throughout their lives, ranging from physical jihad, which aims to drive back an enemy when Muslims are threatened, to the spread of the word of God to non-Muslims (Ali Mustafa, 2021).

Verses from the Quran are thought to encourage the killings of non-Muslims.

### **The Quran is Blamed for Allowing the Killing of Non-Muslims from These Verses**

"Then kill the disbelievers (non-Muslims) wherever you find them, capture them and besiege them, and lie in wait for them in every ambush ..." (Quran 9:5).

"Fight against those who do not believe in Allah or the Last Day and who do not consider unlawful what Allah and His Messenger have made unlawful and who do not adopt the religion of truth [i.e., Islam from those who were given the Scripture - [fight] until they give the jizyah (non-Muslim taxes) willingly while they are humbled. (Quran 9:29).

All these verses were revealed during the battlefield when Companions were fighting their enemies; the last verse provided the condition of fighting: when you meet the enemy in the field of battle, you should not kill non-Muslims anywhere you meet them.

### **Elaboration of the Verses, Which Legalize Fighting**

The above verses, which allow fighting on the battlefield, have been conditioned by these verses:

"Fight in the way of Allah against those who fight against you, but begin not hostilities. Lo! Allah love not aggressors" (Qur'an 2:190).

"O you, who believe, when you meet an enemy, be firm, and remember Allah much, that you may be successful (Quran 8:45).

"And desire not corruption in the land. Allah does not like corrupters" (Quran 28:77).

"To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight), because they are wronged;- and verily, Allah is most powerful for their aid" (Qur'an 22:39).

"Therefore if they withdraw from you but fight you not, and (instead) send you (Guarantees of) peace, then Allah Hath opened no way for you to war against them" (Qur'an 4:90).

So the Quran has commanded that:

- Fight only combatants in the battle field and do not fight those not fighting you.
- Muslim military must prepare for the war.
- If the enemy wants peace, Muslims must adhere to the peace.
- Muslims should fight a defensive war when they are invaded.
- No way of fighting those who withdraw from fighting.
- Killing noncombatants is not allowed.
- Civilians should never be targeted.

The verse of the Quran commands killing non-Muslim

combatants during the battlefield only and there is no provision for killing non-Muslims in the street or bombing their residents or killing innocent people.

### **The Principle of Islam of Non-Aggression to Non-Muslims**

In Islam, the concept of offensive jihad is not legitimate, except in exceptional circumstances: aggression against Muslims, assistance for victims of injustice, defense of the homeland, and defending security for Islamic missionary activities.

War in Islam should be conducted in such a way as to avoid killing and injuring non-combatants. Islamic jurisprudence of war doesn't allow the killing of innocent women and children and the demolishing of residences like the contemporary modern war.

Muslims are prohibited from waging war and persecuting people because of their religious beliefs. Disbelief in itself is not the justification for war because Allah has permitted people to choose between being Muslims or non-Muslims, and the punishment for disbelief is eternal fire on the Day of Judgment (Quran 18:29).

Among the five Maxims of Islam states, "Do not cause harm nor return harm." Therefore, Islam, in principle, negates harming people, and it prohibits the killing of innocent people.

### **Muslim Scholar's Opinion on Terrorism of Muslim Groups**

Khalil al-Maliki's Book on jihad states that Islam prohibits killing animals, destroying buildings, destroying trees, and harming civilian areas (Ali, 1999).

Fred Halliday (2003), a specialist in the Middle East, argues that most Muslims consider these acts to be egregious violations of Islam's laws (Islam and the Myth of Confrontation p.107)

Kurman (2017), a professor of Sociology and a specialist on Middle East and Islamic studies, collected Islamic scholar's opinions about terrorism, and he concluded that the majority of Muslim scholars, over 120 prominent Muslim scholars denounce terrorism and labeled it as an abominable crime.

Huston Smith, a scholar of religious studies in the United States of America, argued that extremists had hijacked the religion of Islam, just as has occurred periodically in Christianity, Hinduism, and other religions throughout history. He confirmed that extremists are ignorant of their religion.

Ali Gomaa, the Egyptian Islamic scholar and former Grand Mufti of Egypt, stated that "Terrorism is the product of corrupt mind and not religious born cannot be born of religion. Terrorism is the product of egos, corruptions, and destruction.

Pakistani clerics of Jamaat Ahl-e-Sunnah denounced suicide attacks and beheadings as un-Islamic in a unanimous resolution.

On July 2, 2013, in Lahore, 50 Muslim scholars of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) issued a collective fatwa

against the killing of innocent people, suicide bombings, and bomb attacks, which are targeted killings. They concluded that these acts are prohibited in Islam.

Killing soldiers and government officials of the regimes that terrorists practice is against Islamic laws and rules, and scholars all over the world condemn terrorist attacks. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, in his book, has discussed in detail, quoting all Great scholars, and concluded that terrorism and suicide bombings are illegal. It is a great sin and also an act of disbelief and it has no place in Islamic teachings and cannot be justified in Islamic laws.

Terrorism is a crime in Islam, and Allah has prescribed the punishment of death for all people who spread mischief in the land by killing innocent people.

Spreading mischief including killing noncombatants "assassinations, setting fires, or poisoning water wells," (Abu -El- Fadhl, 2005).

The consensus of Islamic scholars establishes that *hīrāba*( mischief) means those who kill innocent people and threaten social security, and they should be given the death penalty (Kadri, 2012).

Islamic countries agree on the death penalty for terrorism crimes. Saudi Arabia, the leading Islamic country which follows Sharia law, has passed the death penalty for terrorism offenses.

OIC is the organization of Islamic Countries which comprises of eminent Muslim scholars worldwide have reached consensus on the issue of terrorism. They all agree that terrorism is the violation of Human rights, and it contradict principle of Islam. In the meeting held in 12 October 2015

### **Tolerance of Corrupt leaders in Islam**

According to Islamic law, rebellion against the State is prohibited as long as it will cause bloodshed. Islamic law commanded us to abandon fighting in times of tribulation, from the authentic narrations narrated by the Prophet. Obeying a tyrant ruler is incumbent upon every Muslim, and no one should revolt; the tyranny of leaders is not the reason for rebellion.

The Prophet promised that tyrant rulers among Muslims would arise and advised what to do.

"The Messenger of Allah said: After me, there will be favoritism and many things that you will not like. Companions said: Prophet of Allah, what do you order us if we reach that time? He said: You should discharge your own responsibility by obeying your leaders and asking Allah for your rights.

The Prophet said that tyrant leaders will bear their burden in the day hereafter, and the citizens who will fight them and cause bloodshed will also bear their burden.

The Prophet said any Muslim who is killing other Muslims innocently will be the inhabitant of hellfire.

The prophet ordered them to be patient with arrogant leaders. (Sahih al-Bukhari, no. 6724 & Sahih Muslim, no. 1849).

Muslim rulers shouldn't be revolted and killed as long as they say their prayers. This is the teaching of the Prophet,

he said. He said, “Shortly, there will be tyranted Muslim leaders do not fight them as long as they practice prayer . Taking arms and fighting an Islamic Government just because it doesn’t follow Islamic law is a crime before Islamic law. The Prophet said He who raises arms against us is not from us (Sahih Bukhari, 6659). So all Groups who fight the Islamic governments because the leaders are corrupted and they don’t practice Islamic laws are themselves against the Islamic laws, and if they practice bloodshed, they are sinful. They will be the inhabitants of Hellfire.

Imam al-Tahawi (853 –933 ) ruled out that:

“We do not recognize rebellion against our leaders even if they are unjust. (Islamic creed vol. 1.p. 110-111).

Ibn Taymiyya (1263 –1328) argued that Islam commands patience towards the leaders’ oppression. The corruption and mischief that arise from fighting during the time of tribulation are greater than the corruption in the oppression of those in authority. (Minhāj as-Sunnah, vol.4p.527)

Nawawy ( 1230– 1277) commented that revolting against the Muslim rulers and fighting them is forbidden by unanimous agreement of the Muslim scholars, even if they are sinful oppressors. And the Prophetic narrations are abundant, which prohibit revolting against the leaders of Muslims. ( Sharh Sahih Muslim vol.12p.229)

Ibn Teen narrates from al-Dawud that scholars have stated that if one can remove a transgressing ruler without bloodshed, then he should be removed. Otherwise, it is necessary to be patient.” ( See: Ibn Hajar in Fath al-Bari, vol.13, p.11)

Ash-Shawkaani (1834) mentioned the obedience of tyrant rulers in the book Nayl Al-Awtaar, saying that there is evidence for obeying the rulers even if they reached their tyranny and oppression.

### Rules of War in Islam

Prophet Muhammad prohibited the killing of women and children. Women and children will only kill if they form part of combatant soldiers.

Islam prohibits violence in the war and raping and looting, mutilation, and killing noncombatants.

Prophet said: Tell Khalid not to kill a woman or a hired servant.

Islam prohibits mutilation and burning of enemy bodies after being killed on the battlefield. The Messenger of Allah used to exhort us to give alms and forbid us to mutilate (a slain).

The prophet forbade killings of innocent people during the war he said do not act treacherously, do not steal the spoils of war, do not disfigure the dead bodies, and do not kill children and priests. (Musnad Ahmad 2728).

There was a man from the Muslims who killed a Christian man he was accused of, and the case was brought to the Prophet, and he said the Prophet ordered the Muslim man to die in retaliation.( Shaybani in al Mabsut vol.4: p.488).

According to Youssef H. Aboul-Enein (2024) in his book

Islamic Rulings on Warfare. Abu Bakr announced to the military commander Usama ibn Zaid during the war with the Byzantine Empire of Syria the ‘ten golden rules of war’ which the modern world should learn:

1. Do not commit treachery or deviate from the right path.
2. Do not mutilate dead bodies.
3. Do not kill children.
4. Do not kill women.
5. Do not kill aged people.
6. Do not harm trees.
7. Do not burn trees with fire.
8. Do not slay not enemy’s flock.
9. Do not kill people who devoted their lives to monastic services, such as monks and priests, and do not destroy churches.
10. Save for your food. ( Muwata of Malik no 918)

The fourth Caliph of Islam, Ali ibn Abi Talib, stated that Islam does not permit Muslims to stop the supply of water to their enemy, and he said that if a Muslim kills a Christian, he should be killed in retribution (Encyclopaedia of Islam 2005, p. 204)

Umar, the Second Caliph, wrote a letter to Abu Ubaida, the then Governor of Syria, which also contains similar provisions, mentioning that it is prohibited to oppress non-Muslims and harm them or illegally plunder their wealth. Son of Amr b. al-As, the Governor of Egypt, punished a non-Muslim unjustly. Umar punished the Governor and his son for that mistake. (Al-Hindy in Kanz al-amal, vol.2: p.455).

Ali, the fourth Caliph, mentioned that it is prohibited to kill non-Muslims innocently. (Ibn Qudama in al-Mughni, vol.9:p.181) .Ali, the fourth Caliph, said Do not kill women, elders, and children except those who fight you. Do not mutilate humans or animals. ( al-Bayhaq in al-Sunan al-Kubra no.17934).

Abdullah ibn Shihab az-Zuhri (died 741-2 CE) said that If a Muslim kills a non-Muslim who is living in an Islamic country, he will face a death sentence. (Shafi in Ummu vol. 7 p 320.) . The statement of the Prophet that a Muslim is not to be killed in retaliation for murdering a disbeliever means the non-Muslim who is at war with Muslims is not a peaceful citizen.

During the Prophet’s time in Mecca and Medina, Muslims used to live with non-Muslim and no non-Muslim was killed except during the war. When Amr ibn al-’As conquered Egypt, he never spoiled and never took the property of the Churches, he committed no act of spoliation or plunder, and he preserved their properties throughout his days. This is a student of Prophet Muhammad and a scholar of Islam.

### Causes of Terrorism

Tamil Tigers, from 1990 on, forced the Sri Lankan government to create an independent state. It is a group that adheres to a Marxist and Leninist ideology. It was mentioned as a terrorist group.

Several causes must contribute to the increase of terrorism worldwide, including political reasons. Suicide

terrorists have several aims. Some terrorist actions aimed to compel American and French military forces to abandon Lebanon in 1983, other terrorist actions aimed to pressure Israeli troops to leave Lebanon in 1985 and to quit the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in 1994 and 1995 UNESCO thinks that “No one is born a violent extremist, but they are made and fueled to be terrorists.

Causes of terrorism, according to Rand Borum (2003), are:

Lack of democracy and power vacuum resulted from weak governments, political violence, civil wars, revolutions, dictatorships, foreign and military occupation, colonization, religious causes, hegemony and inequality of power, and economic reasons. Discrimination based on ethnic or religious origin is the chief root cause of ethno-nationalist terrorism.

Johnson (2001) commented in his article “The Future of Terrorism” that Occupation is the highest form of violence and a cause of terrorism.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, abbreviated Hamas from the Arabic word *Ḥarakat al-Muqāwamah al-ʾIslāmiyyah*, was founded by Palestinian activist Ahmed Yassin in 1987; the main aim of the movement was to resist the Israeli occupation. In the 2006 Palestinian legislative election, Hamas secured a majority in the Palestinian Legislative Council by campaigning on promises of a corruption-free government and advocating for resistance as a means to liberate Palestine from Israeli occupation. Hamas has been labeled as a terrorist group, and the Islamic religion is blamed for causing terrorism in Palestine, while the leading cause of conflict is not religion. Hamas and Hezbollah are not fighting Israel because they are Jews practicing Judaism but because they occupied their land and colonized the Palestinians. Hamas has been labeled as a terrorist group.

The Israeli and Palestinian conflict can be traced back to the late 19th century when Zionist Jews established a homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine, claiming that it is the land of Israel in Jewish tradition. (Motyl 2001, p.604). The State of Israel was established in 1948 due to international pressure following World War II and the Holocaust. When the State of Israel was established, Zionists were fighting for the expansion of their State, causing Palestinians to become refugees. The conflict is the cause of violence, including terrorist attacks by Palestinian militants and military operations led by Israeli occupation.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has destroyed a total of 89,000 buildings in Gaza, including 104 belonging to the UN. The cost of damage in 2023 was about \$30 billion. In the West Bank, Israel demolished 659 buildings and facilities in 2023. The State of Israel has been accused of engaging in state-sponsored terrorism. (John 2015). Israel is accused of committing acts of terrorism daily in the Palestinian territories. (Grinberg, lev 2002)

Bolivia declared Israel a terrorist State in 2004 because of its offensive in the Gaza Strip.

Kuwait News Agency (KUNA 30/7/2006) reported that

Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora argued that Israel’s attack was state-sponsored terrorism.

Malaysia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs has “strongly condemned” Israel’s “attacks against Palestinians,” including an attack on the al-Mawasi camp, and he said that is a crime against humanity. ICJ has concluded that may amount to genocide. Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah(2014) condemned international silence over Israel’s offensive and described this as a war crime and “state-sponsored terrorism.

Syria sees Israel as a terrorist state ( History Behind the Headlines: The Origins of Conflict Worldwide vol.5 Group 2002 pp. 313-319 ISBN 9780787659110)

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan(2017) lashed out against Israel, labeling it a “terrorist state”. He said that at a summit of Islamic countries in Istanbul.

Yemen condemned Israel at the United Nations General Assembly in 2004 and commented that the United Nations has failed to put an end to the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. Yemen demanded the Security Council to ensure the safety of the Palestinian people against Israel’s State-sponsored terrorism.

Organization of Islamic countries (OIC) condemned the occupation and terrorist attack of Israel. In February 2024

OIC Secretary-General Calls for Exposing the Crimes of Genocide Committed by the Israeli Occupation.

A careful analysis of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict shows that the conflict is not religiously motivated because in Israel, there are many Muslims, and there are no cases of Muslims killing Jews in Israel. At the end of 2023, the Muslim population of Israel was estimated at 1.782 million (18.1% of all residents)—an increase of 35,000 compared with the end of 2022. The annual growth rate of the Muslim population in 2023 was 2.0% (2.2% in 2022).

Hezbollah, an Arabic word meaning ‘Party of God’ is a Lebanese Shia Islamist political party and a resistance movement established in 1992 by Hassan Nasrallah. Lebanese clerics established Hezbollah to fight the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Hezbollah is an Islamic terrorist group because of using force to resist occupation and it is using force to drive Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Therefore, if Israel had not occupied Palestine and part of Lebanon the s, the so-called Islamic terrorist groups Hamas and Hezbollah would not exist.

Libya was a peaceful country before ousting Gadhafi from the presidency position in Libya. The civil war in 2011 Libya has experienced since Libya resulted in a political vacuum, which resulted in the emergency of several extremist groups, including ISIS- Libya.

After the downfall of the Qaddafi regime in October 2011, there was information that Gaddafi’s death was a relief to President Obama and his administration. The killing of Gaddafi was criticized as a violation of international law. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch called for an independent investigation into how Gaddafi died. (

Hounshell, Blake 2011)

Several countries were involved through United Nations intervention in the internal conflict of Libya, including Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Norway, Qatar, Spain, the UK, and the US. ( Batty David 2021)

These countries failed to maintain the security of the country, a situation which resulted in the establishment of terrorist groups. Since the end of the Libyan civil war, which overthrew Gaddafi, there has been violence and fighting that involves various militias and the new state security forces, leading to the rise of Islamic extremist groups in the region.

### War and Killings in the Bible

The Bible, on the other hand, contains several verses about war and sacrificing, which, when wrongly interpreted, can be the cause of extremism.

The Bible says:

“..... At that time we took all his towns and destroyed them—men, women, and children. We left no survivors.” (Deuteronomy 2:32-34 )

“..... You shall not leave alive anything that breathes. But you shall utterly destroy them: the Hittite and the Amorite, the Canaanite and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, as the Lord your God has commanded you” (Deuteronomy 20:16-18)

“When you have taken the city, set it on fire. Do what the Lord has commanded. See to it; you have my orders. (Joshua 8:8)

“They devoted the city to the Lord and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.” (Joshua 6:21)

“Now go, attack the Amalekites and destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys “(1 Samuel 15:3)

“The Philistines fought, the Israelites were defeated, and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers. (1 Samuel 4:10)

“David captured a thousand of his chariots, seven thousand charioteers, and twenty thousand foot soldiers. He hamstringed all but a hundred of the chariot horses. When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer, king of Zobah, David struck down twenty-two thousands of them (2 Samuel 8:4-5).

“As I listened, he said to the others, “Follow him through the city and kill, without showing pity or compassion. Slaughter the older men, the young men and women, the mothers and children, but do not touch anyone with the mark (Ezekiel 9:5-6).

“Like a hunted gazelle, like sheep without a shepherd, they will all return to their people and flee to their native land. Whoever is captured will be thrust through; all caught will fall by the sword. Their infants will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses will be looted, and their wives violated.” (Isaiah 13:14-16)

Jesus says, “But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them

in front of me” (Luke 19:27).

### Prohibition of Innocent Killings in Islam

The main common feature of all terrorists is killing innocent people. The Quran mentions that no one is allowed to kill a person except by the command of Allah. Murdering, which is deliberate killing, is an excellent crime in the Islamic religion. It is prohibited to kill anyone whom Allah has forbidden except for a just cause. Allah says:

And do not kill the soul [i.e., person] which Allah has forbidden, except by right (Quran 17:33).

In Islam, anyone who kills a person in retaliation will be done against him (Quran, 2: 178).

The Quran warns that whoever kills a believer intentionally, Allah will curse him, and he will be punished in Hell, a painful punishment.

And whoever kills a believer intentionally; their reward will be Hell, where they will stay indefinitely. (Quran 4:93). Terrorists kill Muslims in their terrorist acts, which is prohibited by the Quran. Bernard Lewis (2009) argues that the terrorist attack of radical Muslims on civilians violates the classical form of Islamic jurisprudence, which is against the slaughter of uninvolved civil populations (Lewis, Bernard, Islam The Religion and the People pp. 53-145)

The Prophet prohibited innocent killing, ordering that “do not kill any soul whom Allah has forbidden you to kill, except by religious right.

The Prophet said, “Abusing a Muslim is evil doing and killing him is a form of disbelief. The Prophet also said do not turn to be disbelievers after me by killing each other (Sahih Bukhari, 7078).

The Prophet said, “Fight in the name of Allah, and the path of Allah and with him who disbelieves in Allah fight and do not be treacherous and do not be dishonest about booty and do not deface in killing and do not kill children. The Messenger of Allah sent the army in a military detachment and said: Fight those disbelieving in Allah. Do not mutilate, do not be treacherous, do not steal from the spoils of war, and do not kill children.

The Prophet said your blood, property, and honor are inviolable, like the inviolability of this day of yours, this month of yours, and this land of yours until the day (Tirmidh, 3087).

### The Best Way to Combat Terrorism

The United Nations and other countries, including Islamic countries, are coordinating an effort to combat terrorism.

The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia (2010) developed a four-pillar approach to terrorism: prevent, protect, pursue, and respond.

An effective way of fighting terrorism is through education. Muslims who participate in terrorism are ignorant of their religion. There should be a coordinated effort to teach Muslims the Jurisprudence of war, what is Jihad?. Who is required to fight?, and how Jihad is

implemented. The Muslim youth should know the prohibition of killing non-combatants even if they are non-Muslims. Also, Muslims should see that revolting against leaders in Muslim states is strictly prohibited.

The second method of eliminating terrorism is the eradication of land occupation by force. The case of Israel and Palestine should be resolved before it leads to a third-world religious war. Serious measures should be taken, including the establishment of two-state solutions. The Oslo accord should be implemented before it is too late, as the situation in Palestine now needs an immediate response.

Palestine should get its independence from Israel, and the latter should end the occupation (Morris, 2009).

Foreign inversion hurts the citizens, even if it is authorized by the United Nations, because of the hatred that exists between Muslims in America and Europe. Anti-Americanism is growing. Critical views of the United States have been widespread in China, Russia, Serbia, Pakistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, the Greater Middle East, and parts of Africa. In Western Europe, anti-Americanism is mainly present in the United Kingdom and France.

When political violence occurs in any country, America and Western countries shouldn't intervene in the conflict directly. The best way to do this is to help Continental military-security alliances such as the African Union, OIC, Arab League, and South American Defense Council (SADC), so military intervention shouldn't be seen as foreign military intervention.

## CONCLUSION

Islam has nothing to do with terrorism; the Quran and the Prophetic narration prohibit the innocent killing of non-Muslims. The Quran verse, which commands killing, was revealed during the battle between Muslims and Non-Muslims, and the verse elaborated that only the combatant who is an active participant in war should be killed and not any non-Muslim. This paper has proved that Islam is not teaching terrorism, as many non-Muslims and some Muslims think. The rules of war in Islam are well elaborated not to kill citizens who are not engaging in war. Women and children should not be targeted. Christians and people of other religion should not be killed just because they are non-Muslims as Allah says "Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from Error: whoever rejects evil and believes in Allah hath grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold, that never breaks and Allah knows everything (Quran 2:256). Verses that allow fighting are found in the Bible also, and God commanded killing in the bible also, and all killings in the holy Books mean killings at war and not killing innocent people. Terrorist groups can be found in all main religions, including Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, and Hinduism. Religious terrorism is due to the ignorance of religious followers who misinterpret religious writing. Terrorism has several causes, including political and ethnic; not all terrorism is religious; the effective way of

eradicating terrorism is through education and practicing no occupation policies.

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