

The Window

Phone: 8802-7211287, 8802-413689
Email: thewindow1@hotmail.com
Fax : +44-870-124-2840

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Time Is Not On Israel's Side

Shah Abdul Halim

Can Israel protect itself from the popular Palestinian uprising and reprisal by using brutal force, military power, Western protection and Gobbles propaganda, this question is often been raised by the geo-political strategists and commentators. Several factors are not in Israel's favor. **The most important factor is demographic.** The birth rate of the Palestinian Muslims is much more than the Jews settled in Israel and within next 50 years the Muslim population will out number the Jews in the state of Israel (Ref. Globalization: A Contemporary Islamic Response by Ibrahim M. Abu Rabi in The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences. No.3. Vol. 15. 1998. Page-35. Published by IIIT, USA). Although Israel initially attracted diverse population from many corners of the world i.e. from Arab world, eastern Europe, former Soviet Union and Ethiopia, the majority of the Jews from West Europe and North America have so far shown no real intention of migrating to and living in Israel. Jews are reluctant to come to settle in Israel any more. The Russian Jews now prefer to settle in USA for a better living than settle in their dreamland Israel. This is because they no more feel secure in Israel. Israelis are now holding dual nationality. According to statistics provided by the Liberty for the Muslim World UK, an organization working for the protection of human rights and democratization, a million Jews have dual Israel-American citizenship and a huge number of South African Jews hold two passports and they are ready to leave Israel any moment as they feel insecure in violent ridden Zionist state. Constant conflict has destroyed their peace of mind and most of the Jews now consider Israel as the 'most dangerous place in the world for a Jew'. This has now become manifest from their behavior. **Secondly**, Israel depends on the US for its survival, both political and economic. With out US backing Israel cannot maintain the high standard of living of its population and the defense expenditure for its huge military arsenal. USA has its own problem and cannot support the Zionist state forever. At present 16 percent of Americans live in poverty and it is doubtful how long US shall be willing to support Israel with billions of US dollar although USA has heavily supported Israel through financial aid with perennial aid packages continuously, over \$ 3 billion per annum. No super power can survive by spending on armaments ignoring its own population. The erstwhile Soviet Union is the glaring example. **Thirdly**, Israel cannot win a long drawn conventional war with the Arabs and she is not in a position to use nuclear weapons in any regional conflict between her and the neighboring Arab states as such a strike would effect Israel in the same manner as Beirut, Damascus, Amman and Cairo which all fall within a radius of 250 miles of Tel Aviv. **Furthermore**, Israel is situated in close proximity to Saudi Arabia, Cyprus and Turkey and any use of nuclear weapons would have an adverse effect on her as also these countries and permanently close the door of peace and lasting settlement of conflict in the region. **Finally**, the US would not possibly agree with the Israel to use nuclear weapons as it would threaten the vital economic interest of the West in the region and likely to bear upon Israel all the economic, political and military influence deterring her from such disastrous action. US has substantial investment in the region and should its interest ever be threatened or should there ever be a conflict between the permanent interests of the USA in the Middle East and the existence of Israel, America would undoubtedly forgo the latter for sheer self-interest. Control over the Middle East and its vital resources are essential in maintaining American dominance worldwide. Israel is surely aware of the dictum: (States) have no perpetual friends only perpetual interests. Will Israel come to its sense and take lesson from the history? *

*The writer is the Chairman of Islamic Information Bureau, Bangladesh.

Jewels of Al-Quran

Let those (believers) who sell the life of this world for the Hereafter fight in the Cause of Allah and whoso fights in the Cause of Allah and is killed or gets victory, We shall bestow on him a great reward. And what is the wrong with you that you fight not in the Cause of Allah and for those weak, ill-treated and oppressed among men, women and children whose cry is: Our Lord- rescue us from this town whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from You one who will protect and raise for us from You one who will help. [Surat An Nisa (4): 74 -75]

Gems from Al-Hadith

The Messenger of Allah said: If a Muslim forsakes another Muslim without help (or support) in a place where his dignity is attacked and his honor is violated, God shall deny him His help when he will want such aid... (And) If a Muslim comes to the aid of another Muslim when his dignity and honor are attacked, God shall help him when he wants His aid [Narrated by Abu Jabir ibn Abdullah in *Sunan Abu Daud*]

Quotable Quotes

'An Islamic Movement, we must be critical in assessing our strategies. Our activities and efforts must be reviewed in order to be relevant with the current changes.....Islamic Movements should not make their primary goal to assume power in the government. Taking over the government does not necessarily mean the biggest achievement of the struggle. The bigger success would be when the society loves Islam and respects its leaders...Islamic activists must prepare themselves with the correct knowledge and relevant skill so that they will be able to apply wisdom in carrying out effective and efficient *Dawah* activities'. Sheikh Rashid Ghannoushi [Islamic Review (Malaysia)].

Have A Glance

A multimedia presentation of the Holy Quran in CD-Rom, for five respected English translations of the Holy Quran; Quran and Hadith (including Sahih Bukhari, Sahih Muslim, Abu Dawud and Malik's Muwatta) topic search and cross reference contact: Micro Systems International, 505 South Neil Street Champaign, IL 61820, USA. Tel: 217 356-7226. Fax: 217 356-4501. Email: info@quran.com. Website: www.quran.com

Bibliography

English translation of Sayyid Qutb's monumental *tafsir Fi Zila al-Quran* (In the Shade of the Quran) is now available in two volumes (up to *Surah Al-e-Imran*). An earnest and sincere look at man's contemporary achievements and difficulties in the light of the message of the Quran, this tafsir vigorously explores the wisdom of Quran and expounds its valuable guidance for benefit of the modern society. **In the Shade of the Quran** is universally recognised as an outstanding contribution to Islamic thought and scholarship. Translated and edited by eminent Islamic scholars Adil Salahi and Ashur Shamis, this unique work has been published by Islamic Foundation Publications, Markfield Conference Centre, Ratby Lane, Markfield, Leicester, LE 679 Sy, UK. Email: publications@islamic-foundation.org.uk. Website: www.islamicfoundation.org.uk Tel: 0800 783 3146. Fax: +44 1530 249 230. Special Offer-Vol. I & II 18 Pounds + p&p. *Tafsir Fi Zila al-Quran* has recently been translated into Bengali and published by the Bangladesh Chapter of London based Al Quran Academy in 22 volumes. Total cost in Bangladesh Tk.5100. Subscribers within Bangladesh can avail 40% commission. Contact: Al Quran Academy, 190 Wireless Railgate, Boro Mogh Bazar, Dhaka-1217. Tel: 88-02-9339615. Fax: 88-02-9339615.

Glimpse from World Press

CDs On Islam & Science Launched

Lively discussion on Islam & Science on 24 subjects is now available in 9 CDs and 3 VHS Cassettes. Dr. M. Shamshar Ali, Professor of Physics, Dhaka University and former Vice Chancellor Bangladesh Open University and widely known in Bangladesh for his presentation on various topics on Islam & Science on television and radio for the last two decades has made this unique contribution for the benefit of Bengali speaking people. Dr. Ali did his Ph.D. from Manchester University, UK in 1965. He served Atomic Energy Commission for long 22 years (1961-1982) in several important capacities and was the Director of Atomic Energy Center from 1970-1978. He is the Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences, Italy and also the Senior & Honorary Associate of the Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy. Dr. Ali is the Fellow of the Islamic Academy of Sciences, Jordan and Chairman of Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought (BIIT) – a cultural and intellectual non-profit foundation and Bangladesh chapter of US based International Institute of Islamic Thought. An eminent Islamic scholar, Dr. Ali is the coauthor and editor of two prestigious publications: **Scientific Indications in the Holy Quran and Muslim Contribution to Science & Technology** both being published by Islamic Foundation Bangladesh, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Govt. of Bangladesh. 9 CDs and 3 VHS Cassettes presentation, all in Bengali language, inter alia includes discussion on such important titles: Science and faith, Cosmology and the Holy Quran, Embryology and the Holy Quran, Is there any conflict between Islam and Science? etc. For obtaining copy of the 9 CDs (Tk. 2000) and 3 VHS Cassettes please contact: Ahmad Mansur. Tel: 017-523576, 88-02-9550555. Email: ahmadmansur@hotmail.com, adil@btb.net. Dr. M. Shamshar Ali will launch CDs on Islam & Science in English language soon *InshaAllah*. The organizers of the CDs & VHS Cassettes on Islam & Science very much expect that well to do individuals, trusts, foundations and such other institutions and bodies shall come forward for large scale production and distribution of the CDs and VHS Cassettes and to sponsor its broadcast through private television channels.

Tokyo Mosque Reopens

The Tokyo Mosque built in 1938 after the World War II by the Turkish Muslims and which was demolished 14 years ago due to insecure and unsafe condition has been rebuilt by spending US \$ 11 million. Muslims in Japan are estimated to be around 100,000; three to five percent of whom being Japanese nationals [Islamic Review (Malaysia)].

Boycott Russian Products

Malaysian non-governmental organizations (NGO) lead by the Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (ABIM) has urged upon the Malaysian Government, business community and the people to boycott Russian products and to suspend business dealings till such time the Russian military ends the occupation of Chechnya and stops inhuman atrocities and attack on Muslim territory. The Parti Islam Malaysia (PAS) has also condemned the aggression and oppression of Chechen people and called upon Russia to stop genocide in Chechnya [Islamic Review (Malaysia)].

Kazakhstan Recalls Muslim Students

Kazakhstan in violation of fundamental human rights has recalled under instruction of its President Nursultan Nazarbayev Muslim students studying in Muslim countries on their own before the completion of their semesters for what it said “the uncontrolled training of our citizens at Islamic academic institutions threatens the national security of Kazakhstan”. At present Kazakh Muslims studying in religious institutions abroad are: 30 in Saudi Arabia, 29 in Iran, 29 in Pakistan and 29 in Egypt [Impact International (UK)].

Saudi Aid to Bosnia

Saudi Arabian aid to war ravaged Bosnia-Herzegovina topped \$550 million, \$120 million directly coming from the government

More than 600 mosques had been razed, over 200,000 killed and more than a million made homeless within and outside the country by the Serbs during 1992-95 war waged by the then Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. So far 160 mosques have been rebuilt. Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, the Governor of Riyadh, has inaugurated last September King Fahd Mosque & Cultural Center in Sarajevo, the largest Mosque in the Balkans, with room for 5000 worshippers built at a cost of \$12 million. The Sarajevo Islamic Center has a library with books in Arabic and Balkan languages with a capacity of 10,000 books, a conference hall, Arabic teaching department, computer training facilities, restaurant and sports hall. The Prince has also opened Prince Abdullah Mosque in Tuzla and a housing project in Brcko consisting of 720 housing units, two mosques, a school and a clinic. Earlier Saudi Government financed the construction of 380 housing units to resettle Bosnian Muslims. [Impact International (UK)].

Question & Answer

How does Islam view obedience to dictatorial rulers?

[Raisuddin Khan, Malaysia]

Blind obedience to dictators in which human does not use his God given intellect to search for the truth about The Lord who is alone worthy of worship, is also considered to be a form of *shirk* by Islam. In blindly obeying a dictator who oppresses and refuses to submit himself to the commands of the God, the human is in fact treating the dictator as if he has higher authority than God. In the Qur'an rulers who refuse to judge and act according to the law of God – whether they call themselves 'Muslim' or not – are called 'unbelievers and rebels' and therefore they should not be accorded blind obedience in derogation of obedience to God. It is for this reason that throughout history, Muslims have, and will continue to oppose rulers who command obedience even though they themselves rule in a way that is contrary to Islamic teachings. In Islam there is no concept of 'rendering to Caesar what is Caesar's and rendering to God what is God's' every thing must be rendered unto God first.

[Source: Islamic Teachings Course, Vol. 1; Dr. Jamal Badawi]

Islamic Organization

Institute of Islamic Information & Education

P.O. Box 41129, Chicago, IL 60641-0129

Tel : (773) 777-7443. Fax: (773) 777-7199, USA

Email: iiie@cssn.net. Website: www.iiie.net

Editorial

Ramadan *Mubarak*. This issue of The Window shall be at your hand when you are fasting *InshaAllah*. The month of Ramadan is especially important in the life of every Muslim for the Holy Quran was revealed in this month for the guidance of humankind and *Jinns*. Let us all therefore make sincere endeavor to derive best benefit out of the teachings of Al Quran by striving to understand the inner meaning of the text of the Holy Quran and implementing those in our life and society. We must fetch all the benefit by observing *Siam*, which is indeed a great instrument of training for the workers of *Dawah*. *Siam* is a great tool for controlling our passion and anger and a blessing from Allah (SWT). The purpose of fasting is to arouse among us deep realization about the pangs and agony of the poverty stricken brothers and sisters and create compassion and fellow feelings. We should therefore make best effort to stand beside the deprived and neglected members of the society by extending *Sadakah* in addition to paying the compulsory *Zakah*. Let all of us work to remove poverty and let the coming *Eid-ul-Fitr* be an occasion of joy and happiness for all of us. *A'min. Eid Muba'arak*.

Editors: Hasanul Karim

Mostafa Khaled

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Mailing Address: 369, North Goran, Dhaka-1219, Bangladesh.