

Islamia

إسلامية

EVERY FRIDAY

Understand Violence, Don't Misrepresent Islam

Desperation leads to hopelessness, which often times leads to violence. Islam has in recent years been unjustly linked to violence and 'terror', a most unsuitable depiction of a religion that is predicated on the love and respect for all of Allah (SWT)'s creations, notwithstanding the sanctity of human life.

It's unfortunate how many so-called intellectuals and media 'experts' tend to take the shortcut when they try to analyze and understand violent phenomena. Instead of deciphering the underpinnings and root causes of violence, they tend to coin convenient 'truths' and repeat them so very often that they eventually define the conventional wisdom: 'Islam is a violent religion .. teaches hate, breeds violence' .. and so on, we are

constantly told, whether directly or otherwise. Such falsehoods often appeal to two groups: one that wants to believe such deception to justify these terrible policies and endless wars against Muslim nations; and another that is simply uninformed and innocently buy into the misrepresentations of Islam in the media. A third group also emerges: young Muslims, who are infatuated with Western media, thus believe everything they are told, including the media's misrepresentation of Islam and Muslims. The latter sad reality could yield several outcomes including self-hate and alienation.

Dr. A Majid Katme (MBBCh, DPM) is the Muslim Coordinator of the UK's Society for the Protection of Urban Children (SPUC). He

wrote: "All Muslims believe that Allah is the Creator and the Owner of all life. He starts human life from conception and only He will end it through natural death. The moment of death is fixed only by our Creator. "

The Holy Quran is rife with verses that substantiated such assertion: "Do not kill yourselves, for verily Allah has been to you most merciful" (QS Al-Nisa/4:29).

"...take not life which Allah has made sacred" (QS Al-An'am/6:151)

"...and (Allah) is the one who gave you life, then shall He ordain you to die, then shall He give you your life again, truly mankind is ungrateful" (QS Al-Haj/22:66).

"We ordained for the children of Israel that if anyone slew a person, unless it be for murder or for spread-

ing mischief in the land, it would be as if he slew the whole of mankind. And if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of a whole people." (QS Al-Ma'idah/5:32).

Note that the references above are made to the life of a "person," which underscore a very important point: the equality of the life worth of all people.

Violence is a phenomenon that has its causes. By examining and treating the causes of violence – as in preventing larger violence, military occupations, racism, and so on - we could provide proper remedies. Blaming Islam for violence is not conducive, fair or at all true.

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A Thai Muslim woman walking in front of a security guard after casted a ballot in Southern Thailand.



A young Thai Muslim girl holding a Peace Campaign Flag.

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