

O you who believe, respond to the call of Allah and His Messenger when He calls you to that which would give you life...

# Khilafah

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## The Real Agenda behind the War on Terror



REFORMING ISLAM IN THE NAME OF 'TERRORISM' - 'NATO - ARMED WING OF THE WEST' - THE BANGLADESH ARMY MASSACRE - THE BASIS OF AUTHORITY IN THE ISLAMIC STATE - RECESSION - WHEN THE CASINO ECONOMY MEETS THE REAL ECONOMY - THE CORRUPT VALUES OF BRITISH POLITICS

# NEWSBITES



## 12 TERROR SUSPECTS RELEASED DUE TO NO EVIDENCE

The recent case of 12 terror suspects in a bomb plot in the UK being released without charges is nothing surprising. Home Office statistics showed 669 of the 1,228 people arrested in terrorist investigations were later freed during the period September 2001 to July 2007. What is poignant about this episode is to whip up a media frenzy over how Pakistan is supposedly becoming a "failed state".

UK prime minister, Gordon Brown used the episode for political propaganda, challenging Pakistan to do more to root out terrorism. With the US-driven military onslaught in NWFP by America and stoking up fear of "militants" taking over, world public opinion is being prepared that Pakistan possibly needs a Western intervention like the ones in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Having destroyed the lives of these young Muslims who had aspirations for the future but are now facing imminent deportation, the concepts of justice, innocent until proven guilty and fair trial, all have become a misnomer in this society for Muslims. The blasé method in rounding up Muslims and creating havoc in their lives for little more than political reasons has become the norm, provoking the question - Is the government trying to create 'cohesion' or mayhem at a grassroots level.

## MPS EXPENSES ROW

Given the grim economic picture, it is little surprise to hear of the intense scrutiny that government MP's have come under, after it was revealed that MP's in the past financial year have managed to clock up over £93 million in expenses. This famously includes the Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, who despite earning £142,000 a year, has managed to pass off her husbands 'dirty' viewing habits, plant pots and even a bathroom plug as 'expenses'.

Yet, despite the shameless abuse of the expense system by British MP's, they appear destitute as a church mouse compared to the current democratic politicians and leaders of the Muslim world -who don't need to bother filling out expense claims, instead just robbing the Ummah as they

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please.

In contrast, true leaders, of the likes of 'Umar bin Khattab (ra) are known for leading such austere lives, that whilst in office foreign dignitaries could not distinguish 'Umar from the rest of the people for his simple dress. It is narrated that even the governors under 'Umar were required to make a promise not to wear fine clothes or eat of sifted flour. These were men who truly served the people, and did not use the people to serve themselves. Such qualities can only be found in leaders with taqwah.



## UN ANTI - RACISM FOLLY

Western delegates walked out when Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad made comments at the UN's racism conference in Geneva saying Israel was a racist entity, created and backed by Britain and America. Millions around the world would not disagree with this analysis, after Israel's brutality against the Palestinians became ever more blatant following the recent massacre in Gaza. However, many are still bewildered as to why Iran sat back and hypocritically blamed other regimes in Muslim countries for doing nothing, instead of acting decisively to stop Israel's assault, and even liberating the land.

The main act of the day, however, came from some of the 23 nations that walked out. The US state department had previously said that it found the conference guiding document's discouragement of the "incitement to religious hatred" unacceptable as this ran counter to the "US commitment to unfettered free speech". Yet when it comes to exposing Israel these same western nations and bastions of free speech refuse to even share a room with someone who simply wishes to speak freely about an uncomfortable truth.

It seems free speech is a value held dear only when it serves a political interest. Hardly surprising given the track record of double standards we routinely see from the west when it comes to Islam and Muslims.



## WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINE

In the book *The Lonely Soldier: The Private War of Women Serving in Iraq* by Helen Benedict the harsh realities of life in the US military for women was exposed. Whilst proclaiming to be the champion of women's rights globally, the United States is proven to be spectacularly failing to protect the security and needs of females in its armed services.

With female soldiers often fearing rape and harassment from their male colleagues more than the enemy they are fighting in order to spread 'freedom and democracy', it is the values of the US forces which are exposed as being barbaric and backward rather than those of 'the enemy' in Iraq, Afghanistan and other Muslim lands.

If according to several studies of the US military funded by the Department of Veteran Affairs 30% of military women are raped while serving, 71% are sexually assaulted, and 90% sexually harassed, one has to wonder if this is how the men of the US armed forces treat their own women, what sort of behaviour would they exhibit with those they consider to be their enemies?

## SOME UK SCHOOLS HIRING BOUNCERS TO COVER LESSONS

The Daily Mail newspaper has reported that some schools are employing ex-nightclub bouncers, ex-soldiers and ex-prison officers to stand in for absent teachers. Classroom discipline, it seems, has become so bad that the schools are forced to sometimes think of educational supervision more like 'crowd control'. The news came at the conference of the National Union of Teachers, where it was also heard that many teachers face so much stress during term time that mental health problems are rife.

Western societies have eroded respect to such an extent that increasingly teachers are abused by pupils, and indeed their parents. This latest strategy merely illustrates how bad things have become. It seems the solutions proposed always end up being more authoritarian instead of thinking about the core values in society that give young people the example that they should be free to disrespect anyone they want, regardless of the consequences.

# Editorial



## Rebranding the 'War on Terror'

In April 2009 former British Prime Minister Tony Blair made a speech justifying military intervention and colonialism in order to crush the global Islamic revival. He called for the military occupation of Afghanistan to continue "until the job is done" and interference in Pakistan's education system to counter the rise in Islamic values.

But while Blair openly exposed that the 'war on terror' is actually a war on Islam, Western governments have desperately trying to change the image of their colonial and, frankly, murderous foreign policy. They have ditched the term 'war on terror', but are still bombing Muslims in the border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan. They have denounced their use of torture, but decided not to prosecute anyone

for the torture undertaken by the CIA, and that outsourced to foreign regimes. But rebranding the 'War on Terror' will be about as successful as the attempts to rebrand Swine flu. Their tone, styles and terminology might have changed but essentially the policies are the same.

The military aspect of the war has simply changed to focus away from Iraq and onto NATO's so-called Af-Pak strategy. Other than Obama's offensive title for this strategy (as one commentator said, could you ever imagine a conflict between China and Japan being named 'Chink-Jap') the US-led NATO conference showed, if nothing else, that the lies haven't changed. NATO has tried to justify the on-going operation with rhetoric suggesting that the opposition facing them in Afghanistan is equivalent or greater to the threat of the Warsaw pact countries. In truth, the US has its designs set much wider than Afghanistan. Its aggression in Pakistan is escalating, and the instability there grows greater every day.

Double-speak both in Britain and the US, regarding Pakistan, has never been so great, with alternate day briefings from 'good cop' and 'bad cop' - one attacks Pakistan as the source of all terrorism, a failed state, imminently about to collapse, with a pacifying statement from the other the very next day.

In the UK, the government launched its new anti-terror strategy Contest 2. Contest 2 proposed education reforms in Pakistan, locking up terror suspects (which it promptly implemented with the arrest of twelve innocent Pakistani

students), and a new push to win 'hearts and minds' in the UK. This part of the strategy known as 'Prevent' is an explicitly ideological and totalitarian campaign against Islam, portraying Islamic values as extreme, and trying to bully Muslims into accepting western liberal values.

The question arises why the need to bully, bomb and beat Muslims like this? When one sees that in the space of the past few weeks alone, we have seen the sentencing of the European sick pervert Josef Fritzl, the shame of MPs expenses in the UK, the rise in burglary and theft in Britain - all set against the backdrop of the G20 conference trying to salvage disaster Capitalism - the answer becomes more obvious.

Selling secularism, liberalism and Capitalism to Muslims is becoming like trying to sell derivatives to an investor - they are seen as toxic. Islam is clearly seen as the only alternative to this way of life, and its re-emergence as an ideology threatens to loosen the grip that the west has on the assets of the Muslim world.

As Allah (swt) instructs in the Qur'an.

*"And when it is said to them, 'Do not cause corruption in the earth', they say: 'We are only putting things right'. Verily, they are the ones who make corruption but they perceive not"* - [TMQ Al-Baqarah:11-12]

And Allah Almighty speaks the truth.



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Dr Abdul Wahid

# Reforming Islam in the name of 'Terrorism'



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The UK Government's latest anti-terrorism strategy "Contest 2" includes detailed plans to make Muslims secular, westernised and liberal. Abdul Wahid has taken a detailed look at the strategy

## INTRODUCTION

In February 2009, draft plans by the UK government were leaked to the Guardian newspaper and the BBC Panorama programme, which exposed that the British government has an updated policy for Islam and Muslims. The leak focused on the definition of 'extremism'. It was followed by a speech by Communities secretary Hazel Blears that reinforced the message that, according to the government, the definition of an 'extremist' included:

- Belief in a Caliphate (Khilafah) in the Muslim world.
- Promote Shariah law - for anywhere in the world, and even the personal aspects of Shariah in the UK.
- Belief that Jihad, or armed resistance, is permitted - anywhere in the world including armed resistance by Palestinians against the Israeli military.

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- Belief that Islam bans homosexuality and that it is a sin against Allah.
- If you fail to condemn the killing of British soldiers in Iraq or Afghanistan.

gathering intelligence (though the police deny this) and their grants are to lead our communities in becoming addicted to government money, so they can then dictate to us what we can and cannot think, believe or say.

Overall, the policy is likely to fail, as it seeks to target matters that are too central to Islam. However, even if it fails overall, it may succeed in corrupting some small numbers of Muslims. And only Allah knows who that small number who fall victim to that plan could be. It could be your children that think that sex outside marriage and homosexuality are normal; that cut off their ties to the Ummah; that start to abhor the Shariah of Allah (SWT) - and may Allah protect us from that. Those who accept the money that is given under the guise of preventing violence, thinking we can control it, or that if we turn it down other communities will get it instead, need to

It explicitly labels the struggles in Palestine, Chechnya, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Kashmir as 'terrorism'. It blames 'Islamism' - naming Syed Qutb and Maududi as proponents of this thinking - as one cause of 'terrorism' and underplays the significance of oppression, occupation and injustice in the Islamic world and western foreign policy - repeating Tony Blair's talk about false grievances - and talking about Muslim perceptions of foreign policy.

It describes the political ideas of Al-Qaida and in doing so implies that anyone who believes this believes in the political agenda of what they call 'Islamic terrorism'. The ideas they name are:

- a) Viewing all regimes in the Muslim world as un-Islamic or apostate
- b) 'Claims' that western states support these regimes
- c) Fighting occupation and fighting regimes as rewardable in the akhira
- d) A desire to overthrow these regimes by force or subversion
- e) A desire to establish a Caliphate
- f) A desire to remove western presence from Muslim lands

Hence, there is a huge emphasis in the whole strategy to deal with ideology as compared with dealing with occupation, oppression and injustice.

2) It explicitly links the domestic policy to the global war on terror. It talks about 'failed states' as a cause of 'radicalisation' and mentions Pakistan and the FATA region. One strand of the "Prevent" agenda is so that there can be a "positive UK contribution to 'violent extremism' in priority overseas countries"- i.e. it justifies on-going interference by the west in the Muslim world. To this end 'Contest 2' mentions funding 700 schools projects in Pakistan and Afghanistan, to prevent radicalisation. It talks about promoting "moderate" scholars tours to Muslim lands, hoping they will promote the UK government agenda. They wish to promote the UK overseas, as a centre for Islam outside the Muslim world. They

It could be your children that think that sex outside marriage and homosexuality are normal; that cut off their ties to the Ummah; that start to abhor the Shariah of Allah (SWT) - and may Allah protect us from that.

The leak caused such uproar amongst Muslims that when the actual 160-page policy was published the detailed definitions were noticeably absent. Instead, there were general statements about 'extremism', those who oppose 'shared values' and the political ideas of Al Qaida - linking some of these core Islamic ideas to a group that is constantly linked in the media to violence.

However, there can be no doubt that this latest strategy is nothing more than a plan to westernise Muslims, to make them secular and liberal. They wish to detach Muslims from any Islamic political ideas and either be apolitical or follow political ideas that are accepted in western societies.

The policy provides detailed evidence that the government's projects and funding for mosques, community centres, youth groups and women's groups are aimed at changing the deen that the Muslims hold. These projects are about

think again. The money we are being asked to take is not for combating terror but for suppressing Islamic values. Our duty is not to be passive, but to distinguish our values from theirs, and build a community able to resist the attempts to change Islam. We should understand the noble Islamic values. We must stand for Islam and carry these values to others by word and example, to save them from the harm of their own destructive way of life.

#### DETAILS WITHIN THE 'CONTEST 2' STRATEGY PAPER

The policy is divided into 4 parts: "Pursue" - "Prevent" - "Protect" - "Prepare". The sections called "Protect" and "Prepare" do address the threat of a terrorist attack like 7/7. But it is the "Pursue" and "Prevent" agendas that are worth looking at in detail. Below are some points that emerge from the strategy paper.

- 1) The policy blames Islamic ideas (labelled as "Islamism"), not political problems for the causes of terrorism.

even plan to use aid from the Department for International Development as a kind of PR function. So far they have used Muslim charities and well known Muslim personalities like MPs to do this.

3) It continues with their established controversial draconian anti-terror policies

The "Pursue" strand of the strategy is said to be about foiling terrorist networks and plans. There is lip service to human rights/rule of law but essentially stop and

values. Instead they want an atmosphere like 1950's America under the 'witch-hunts' of Senator McCarthy.

They say they wish to demonise people who hold Islamic views and block them from being active by intimidation. They have projects under the umbrellas of:

- 'Preventing Violent Extremism' programmes (PVE) - to be implemented by Local councils, the Voluntary sector and statutory organisations (like the local

and Muslim faith leaders who have undergone state sponsored training.

- Policies to clamp down on Islamic views and promote secular views in schools - through an 'extremism' toolkit and in Universities under the guise of fighting 'extremism' on campus.
- Citizenship programmes in Madrassas to promote secular views and diminish Islamic views.
- Promoting what they call "moderate" Muslim scholars to speak on any matter EXCEPT

Islam's political ideas or ideas that challenge western secular values.

The money we are being asked to take is not for combating terror but for suppressing Islamic values.

search, arbitrary arrest and prosecutions, 28-day detention without trial, control orders to detain suspects indefinitely without trial, financial sanctions, deprivation of citizenship, monitoring communication, covert surveillance and co-operation with other states e.g. Pakistan - are all set to continue. Some of these tools have been used against peaceful demonstrators (not only Muslim), charities, people browsing websites, people making emotional speeches, in addition to the people suspected of "terrorist plots" - whether within the UK or in places such as Iraq.

4) The "Prevent" strand of the strategy has little to do with preventing 'terrorism' or promoting 'community cohesion'; as we are told is said to prevent the spread of ideology and radicalisation in the UK & Globally. The majority of the "Prevent" strategy aimed at Muslims in the UK: to control Muslim communities, establish a new leadership, make Muslims reject Islam's political ideas, and ultimately to secularise Muslims. It is the assimilation agenda - to prevent the spread of Islamic values - what they call 'extremism' - and promote 'shared' (western liberal) values. How do they plan to achieve the westernisation agenda of the "Prevent" strategy?

At the moment they don't plan to use legal means to get Muslims to drop Islamic views and to adopt western liberal

Commission for Human Rights).

- The Prevent strategy delivery plan - run by the Police with an extra 300 paid support staff. This includes Operation Nicole where police run workshops in which community members are put in scenario's where they take the role of counter-terrorism police officers who watch a 'cell' and debate if they should move in.
- The Channel Project - this is a government funded project where police meet with young people in forums and have open discussions and, through this, identify who they think are potential extremists. There has been similar advice given to teachers in schools with classroom discussions on political issues, and to university lecturers.

#### WHAT ARE THE DETAILED PROJECTS AND MEANS OF CONTROL MENTIONED UNDER THESE UMBRELLAS?

These include the following:

- Creating new Muslim leaderships. In particular amongst Muslim Women (National Muslim Women's advisory group and other women's group), Muslim Youth (Young Muslim Advisory group and other youth counsels)

#### CONCLUSION

The British government led a campaign to destroy Islam and promote secular values in the Muslim world in the period of decline during the Khilafah, to try to weaken the power Islam had over the region. They did the same when the Indian sub-continent was occupied under the British Empire - to break the strength of the Muslim resistance.

These policies worked for only a short time period. Now a huge and growing Islamic revival across the Muslim world - as this strategy paper even acknowledges - is testimony to its defeat.

In recent years the British government developed new policies. One was to establish a body to sit over Muslims, and carry government policy to Muslims. This failed to achieve its objective.

It then tried 'Contest' to promote a British version of Islam. This too has clearly failed.

Now, we have 'Contest 2'. Overall this policy will fail to achieve its secularisation agenda precisely because they simply do not understand Islam and Muslims. We await 'Contest 3'!

*They seek to extinguish the light of Allah with their mouths; but Allah refuses but to perfect His light, though the disbelievers may resent it.*  
(Translated meaning Quran 9:32) ■

Sajjad Khan

# 'NATO - Armed wing of the West'



It was once said by a former US Secretary of State about Britain that it had lost an empire but had yet to find a role. The NATO summit recently held in Strasbourg/Kehl marked the sixtieth anniversary of an organisation which has lost the Soviet Union but which is still struggling to find a role almost two decades later. What started off as an alliance to keep the Russians out, the Americans in and the Germans down, is now scratching around trying to find a reason for its very existence. Sixty years in, NATO is growing stale, disunited and more imperialist in its old age. Rather than putting on meaningless summits, NATO needs to be put in a museum. In the most recent summit, NATO leaders came together to discuss the latest challenges facing the alliance (no mean feat as there aren't any) and to formally

endorse President Obama's strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan. They also signed up to the following series of bland and banal statements over the course of the two day summit,

- Agreed that NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan - NATO's largest and most challenging mission in its history - is key to preventing Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for Al Qaeda and the Taliban, and a base for terror attacks that threaten all allies and the entire international community;

*Comment : Afghanistan is now considered by NATO to be more challenging than was defeating the mighty Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact with its thousands of nuclear*

*warheads and overwhelming superiority in conventional forces. The Taliban with their AK 47's are now considered by NATO to be more powerful than the mighty Red Army which will be news to most people. NATO members are obviously becoming desperate in trying to justify their continued existence and an unpopular war to their apathetic domestic populations.*

- And following close and intense consultations with the United States on its Afghanistan-Pakistan review, updated NATO's strategic political-military plan for its ISAF mission, stressing that success requires a stronger regional approach that involves all of Afghanistan's neighbors and greater civil-military coordination and civilian resources.

*Comment: With respect to Pakistan, the AfPak strategy is now clear and involves more of everything. More economic aid for Pakistan based on performance based results, more diplomacy (Mike Mullen Chair of the Joint Chiefs has been to the region 9-10 times in the last year and Richard Holbrooke is as ubiquitous in Islamabad as he is in Washington ) alongside more troops and more drones. Day by day Pakistan becomes the central front in America's war on terror; a nation of 170 million with Islam in their hearts and nukes on their soil, Pakistan is what keeps western policymakers awake at night. The fear of the greater Middle East and the growing strategic importance of the Indian ocean which a recent US Marine Corps report (Vision and Strategy 2025) cited as being a central theatre of global conflict and*

competition this century clearly explains the importance of US action. By specifying the vague goal of defeating al Qaeda, this will allow a US presence in the region for decades to come, causing not just destabilisation for Pakistan but for the whole of Central Asia. America's plan if successful would sign the death warrant for Pakistan.

massive instability, the kind of instability that led to Russia's attack on Georgia in 2008.

- Committed to a new transatlantic approach on Russia and Europe's East that deepens cooperation with NATO aspirants and advances positive engagement with Russia, including by restarting dialogue and cooperation through the NATO-Russia

preparation of a new "Strategic Concept," NATO's mission statement for the future (last updated in 1999), to ensure that NATO remains as vital to our common security in the 21st century as it was in the 20th century.

*Comment: Great words which could have come from a firm of management consultants, but still no clarity as to what the mission should be, what is NATO for?*

### America has history, from Hiroshima to Korea to Vietnam to its own Civil War, and its bitter divisions of region and race, it continues to choose violence over stability, imperialism over morality and hatred over hope

- Celebrated the 60th anniversary of NATO, highlighting the Alliance's successes while reaffirming the value and the strategic purpose of the Alliance in providing collective defense and working to build a Europe whole and free and at peace;

*Comment: Defense from who, the Russians, the Chinese, the Iranians? Who is exactly threatening NATO at present? Isn't it NATO that is doing the attacking?*

- Agreed to renew NATO's shared sense of family united by common values; a commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law;

*Comment: Are these the same values that inspired Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, extraordinary rendition, the Iraq war, torture, secret prisons, corrupt politicians and their corporate buddies and support for Israel's massacres in Gaza. Does NATO really have any credibility talking about values?*

- Welcomed Albania and Croatia as NATO's newest Allies, reinforcing the message that NATO's door remains open and that countries in Europe's East can become members when they meet NATO's performance-based standards and are able and ready to contribute to Allies' common security;

*Comment: A clear provocation aimed at Russia. What would happen if the latter sought a military alliance with Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela. NATO enlargement devoid of a defined mission is causing*

Council, and agreed to build pragmatic cooperation with Russia in areas of shared interest, such as in Afghanistan, counter-piracy initiatives, arms control, and counterterrorism;

*Comment: Is Russia that naive? that it will be bought off with an invite to a NATO talking shop? Doesn't it remember what NATO did and said after the Georgia attack?*

- Committed NATO to meeting new challenges; confronting new asymmetric threats to include terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber-attacks, environmental degradation and energy disruptions, and the fallout from failed states and the economic crisis;

*Comment: Most of these problems are caused directly by NATO members. State terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, proliferating their own nuclear arsenals e.g. Trident in the UK and mini nukes in America. Environmental degradation and the economic crisis were created in the west due to a capitalist ideology that is collapsing under its own excess. Who created failed states like Somalia, it was America and her ally Ethiopia who removed the one government (Islamic Courts) which had brought stability to Somalia in the last fifteen years.*

- Issued a "Declaration of Alliance Security" as a first step towards balancing NATO's traditional collective defense responsibilities with the need to modernise and transform to address new threats through the subsequent

- Selected a new Secretary General, Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, to lead the reform of the Alliance so that it retains the flexibility and resources to meet the new challenges of our time.

*Comment: Yes a Secretary General who has no respect for Islam and who as Prime Minister of Denmark justified the publication of obnoxious cartoons degrading the holy Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wassalam). This is the man who will now be the face for NATO's campaigns in the Muslim world (you couldn't make it up), after the Turkish government sacrificed their "principled" opposition to Rasmussen for a few staff positions at NATO headquarters.*

For a NATO summit meeting marking the 60th anniversary of the alliance and intended to be about real substance, the event was more a damp squib, with NATO allies at best providing lukewarm support to Obama's new AfPAK strategy. This was despite Obama detailing on the surface of it a narrowed war mission: emphasizing intense action against Al Qaeda even about implementing secular democracy and western human rights.

"We want to do everything we can to encourage and promote rule of law, human rights, the education of women and girls in Afghanistan, economic development, infrastructure development," he said. "But I also want people to understand that the first reason we are there is to root out Al Qaeda, so that they cannot attack members of the alliance."

The Afghan war remains a dividing line for alliance leaders. In October of this year NATO's war in Afghanistan will enter its ninth year, by any measure the Afghan campaign has already been a long war and most commentators expect will end up becoming significantly longer than WW1



and WW2 combined. For the US military bruised with nearly 4,500 fatalities in Iraq – the Afghan war is fast becoming one of the most demoralising chapters in the history of the United States. Despite widespread praise for President Obama’s new inclusive approach, his calls for a more significant European troop increase for Afghanistan were politely ignored, as

insistence that they have learnt the lessons of Iraq. The US cannot rid Afghanistan and Pakistan of Al-Qaeda (when Al-Qaeda can exist everywhere in the world including in the United States) nor can it root out or kill everyone who opposes America or sympathises with its adversaries. America cannot police the borders of Pakistan until they are completely secure (it can’t even

Pakistani people what America’s intentions are. The United States pursues an imperial claim on their territory and on their resources. For them controlling South Asia would not only degrade Pakistan’s capability of becoming a cornerstone of the future Khilafah, but is a stepping stool in the latest manifestation of the Great Game being fought with Russia and China. America contrary to its public policy does not respect the sovereignty of either country (daily drone attacks in Pakistan coupled with a separate US mission in Afghanistan answering to the Pentagon are a testament to that) and it constantly belittles the tremendous sacrifices that the Afghans and Pakistanis have made in securing their own countries from foreign interference. The US is not seeking a full transition to Afghan responsibility nor do they seek real security for Pakistan. And going forward, American forces will ensure that both states are weakened like Iraq before it and become yet another stepping stone to America’s new world order. The future of Afghanistan and Pakistan is inseparable from the future of the broader Middle East, so it is key that America’s nefarious plan to control Afghanistan and weaken Pakistan be stopped.

### Controlling South Asia would not only degrade Pakistan’s capability of becoming a cornerstone of the future Khilafah, but is a stepping stool in the latest manifestation of the Great Game being fought with Russia and China

they had been in negotiations leading up to the meeting. European allies agreed to provide only 5,000 new troops for Afghanistan with 3,000 deployed only temporarily to provide security for the August elections in Afghanistan. A further 1,400 to 2,000 soldiers will be sent to train teams for the Afghan Army and the police. So much for Afghanistan being critical for western national interests. The Afghan war like the Iraq war before it is fast becoming an American war with Europe steering well clear. President Obama’s decision to increase the number of American troops this year to about 68,000 from the current 38,000 will significantly Americanize the war. In a recent article in the New York Times a senior European diplomat said “No one will say this publicly, but the true fact is that we are all talking about our exit strategy from Afghanistan. We are getting out. It may take a couple of years, but we are all looking to get out.”

It is clear that the new American strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan is flawed for several reasons

1. The numbers of forces are still insufficient to win in Afghanistan (just ask the Russians) and are therefore designed to hold Afghanistan while projecting further into Pakistan. As a variety of US officials have stated, the strategic prize is Islamabad not Kabul.
2. The goal to defeat Al-Qaeda is vague and ambiguous and has been deliberately kept so. At the point of writing, the US administration has failed to publish any performance metrics despite their

police its own border with Mexico) especially as the US military is the main source of the insecurity on both sides of the border.

3. By not having defined metrics, the US administration can continue a prolonged war in a strategic location that borders the energy resources of Central Asia as well as the geopolitical epicenter of the world, the Indian Ocean. Its location also has the advantage of neutralising Russian and Chinese influence in a key region of the world.

4. America also doesn’t realise that it cannot build nations, after systematically destroying them with their missiles, drones and aircraft. It is America that is stopping Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan from having a better future, by insisting that those who oppose her imperial agenda can only be met by more killing. The US represents the forces that over the age have constantly destroyed nations for material and strategic gain, a situation which today has led the world into further cycles of violence and insecurity. America has history, from Hiroshima to Korea to Vietnam to its own Civil War, and its bitter divisions of region and race, it continues to choose violence over stability, imperialism over morality and hatred over hope. But hostility and violence will never be a match for justice; they offer no pathway to a better world; and they cannot stand between the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan and the wider Muslim world from a future of reconciliation and political unity.

It should be clear to the Afghan and

There are many lessons to be learned, from what we’ve experienced since 9-11. We have learned that America’s addiction to war in the Muslim world, continues unabated regardless of who sits in the White House. We have learned that in the 21st century, we must use all elements of the Muslim world’s power to achieve our objectives, which is why we need to politically unify our resources, our lands, and our armies to ensure that no one individual nation has to fight and sacrifice alone. We have learned that our leaders are corrupt and not up to the task which is why they must be removed if we are ever to meet the tough challenges of our era. And we have learned the importance of our iman, that by implementing Islam politically we can provide a better life not just for our children but for everyone else’s as well.

# The Bangladesh Army Massacre



On the 25th of February 74 officers of the Bangladesh Army were massacred in Pilkhana in the heart of the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka. This atrocity was alleged to be committed by a group within the Bangladesh Rifles, a paramilitary force of 70,000 men responsible for securing the 4,000 km long border with India and Burma. Khilafah Magazine interviews Mohiuddin Ahmed, official spokesman of Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh (HTB) to understand the events of that day and the implications for Bangladesh's security.

**1. Can you give your account of what really happened on 25th February, and what is HTB's position on this tragedy?**

I am sure you have followed some news of the massacre. What happened is really brutal and horrific. The killers had with them a hit list of the officers whom they searched out and massacred. They did not stop at that - they mutilated dead bodies of the officers; buried them in mass graves; burnt dead bodies; buried alive some of the officers; and raped, tortured and killed their wives and children including pregnant women. Regarding our position, we made it clear in our leaflet issued on 28 February 2009. If I summarize that for you, we made four important points in that leaflet: Firstly, the so-called mutiny was part of a long-term plot and it was carried out by India and her agents inside and outside the government. Secondly, the aim of the plot was to

weaken the defence forces of Bangladesh i.e. the Army and the BDR. Thirdly, the government played a dubious role in the dealing with the so-called mutiny. Finally, only the Khilafah government can strengthen the defence forces and challenge the imperialists.

**2. Many believe this incident had an external influence but are not necessarily specifying which country. What makes you so certain this external force was Indian?**

We presented an analysis of the event in our leaflet. There are three points that we need to keep in mind: What did it achieve? Who benefits from that? Why at this time?

The answer to the first question can be found in the reality of what has happened - the Bangladesh Rifles has been more or less destroyed especially its chain of command. The Army has lost some of its brilliant officers and it has been dealt a severe blow. It will take a long time to rebuild the Bangladesh Rifles and for the Army to recover. There is only one external force that benefits from all this - India. Firstly weakening the defence forces of Bangladesh has been a long term Indian plan and she has tried to do this on many occasions in the past. Secondly the Bangladesh Rifles protects the Bangladesh border from the Indian border forces (BSF). And the Indians view the Bangladesh Rifles as a problem. One former senior Indian intelligence official B Raman wrote a column in the



magazine 'Outlook' on 27 February, 2009 where he said the Bangladesh Rifles' anti-Indian stance is an obstacle to the India-Bangladesh relationship. The Bangladesh Rifles is trained by the Army of Bangladesh because of which it does the job very well to the point that the BSF fear the Bangladesh Rifles. There have been many incidents of clashes between the two forces where the BSF simply fled from the fight. Therefore weakening or even destroying the Bangladesh Rifles leaves the Bangladesh border unprotected from Indian BSF aggression. Thirdly as a Muslim country, the armed forces of Bangladesh are always viewed as a security threat by India. The Bangladesh Rifles massacre has severely harmed the Bangladesh military.

We should also consider the Indian response during and after the incident. BSF sends SMS messages during the rebellion to soldiers in the Bangladesh Rifles assuring them of assistance. The Indian media launches a frenzied attack on Islamic Militants and the Bangladesh opposition parties trying to divert the people's minds. The Indian Army and air force was kept ready for assisting the Hasina government; not in dealing with the mutiny (the Bangladesh Army is capable of doing that) but rather to save the government in case of any threats to its existence. And now the Indian government is making statements that the Hasina government has their full

destabilize Sheikh Hasina's government that if they continue to do this, India will not remain silent, if necessary, India will directly intervene". In other words the Indian political leadership is prepared for the fallout of the incident. It seems that India wants Sheikh Hasina to reform and restructure Bangladesh Rifles after the 25 February incident. Also, if possible, they want to reform the Bangladesh Army in their favour. As for the timing, at present with the Hasina government in power they found a favourable moment to execute their plan. They found internal forces that will assist them in organizing the event and more importantly their future plans regarding the re-structuring of the Bangladesh Rifles and the Army. Previously when Hasina was in power they had executed some of their plans. Before going to the next question let me just clarify another point here. As you know in recent years Bangladesh has gained strategic importance in terms of regional geo-politics. Right now in the aftermath of the Bangladesh Rifles incident all the imperialist powers are undertaking efforts to advance their interests. The US, the British, and India - all are conspiring for control over the Bangladesh Army. You know about the FBI and the Scotland Yard's visit here in the name of providing so-called assistance in the investigations. So now the issue for us is to expose the conspiracies of all these imperialist enemies of the Ummah.



Awami league government is playing a dubious role from the beginning of the event. Although the government is campaigning that it has successfully dealt with the mutiny, we can present an analogy here in the form of a popular saying in Bangladesh - the operation was successful, but the patient died. The reality is that the mutiny could have been put down within an hour or two, but it was allowed to last for two days. The army officers could have been saved, but they were not. The chain of command in the Bangladesh Rifles has been destroyed and the murderers were allowed to flee.

I am sure by now you are aware of the questions being raised by almost everyone concerned. We raised these questions when every one else thought it was a mutiny due to some legitimate grievances. The questions that we raised are very important. It is in our leaflet and I will not repeat them here. There are many more questions that are being asked now. Our point is that there is a line that needs to be drawn between failure to deal with the plot on the one hand and complicity on the other hand. How many unanswered questions do you need for proving complicity? Let us understand one very important point - those ministers who went to the spot to negotiate with the rebels are well known agents of India. They brought the rebels to meet the PM and no record about these people was noted down whereas we know the tight security procedures that are followed before anyone can get close to the PM's office, let alone sit down and talk with the PM. Furthermore one of these ministers makes a public statement two days after the event that millions of taka was spent in planning and executing the conspiracy while investigations had not

It is a part of the government's ploy to save the conspirators. Nobody believes it. It was an attempt to divert people's attention and it miserably failed as people were not fooled at all. The politicians, intellectuals, media, and business leaders have rejected this idea openly and publicly.

backing and they will not sit idly by if there are any threats to it arising from events post the mutiny. The Indian magazine 'Outlook' reported that Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukharjee said in a closed door meeting of Congress leaders that "... in the current scenario, India is ready to provide any help to Bangladesh ...I want to send strong warnings to those who are trying to

**3. In your press release you mentioned the involvement of elements within the Bangladesh government in orchestrating this disaster. You must have strong arguments to make such a bold and brave allegation. Can you explain?**

From the analysis of events it can be easily understood that the current

even started. This is nothing but a ploy by the government to put the blame on other than the real culprits. Your readers will be interested to know that the government has so far prevented the minister from being questioned as to his source for that information.

**4. It appears the government believes that Islamic militants are responsible. How credible is this?**

It is a part of the government's ploy to save the conspirators. Nobody believes it. It was an attempt to divert people's attention and it miserably failed as people were not fooled at all. The politicians, intellectuals, media, and business leaders have rejected this idea openly and publicly. The minister who made the statement has now backed off from his statement due to the public backlash. We all know the crusaders and their agents are carrying out a vicious campaign against Islam throughout the world and they look for any opportunity to advance that goal.

**5. Many of your members have been arrested and charged. Can you explain why they have been arrested and your views of the charges?**

31 of our members and activists have been arrested for distributing leaflets. Cases have been filed against them on the charge of attempting to cause a riot; attempting to create mutiny in the army, and attempting to harm relationships with friendly states. These charges are really untenable. There is nothing in the leaflet to justify it. We simply invited the people to resist the Indian plot to destroy our army and the Bangladesh Rifles and take the government to task for its mysterious role. The government undertook this oppressive action exactly because of this i.e. we exposed the government and their masters. They are afraid of our ideology i.e. Islam, which commands the proclamation of the truth openly and bravely without an iota of fear even if the whole people are afraid and silent.

**6. Hizb ut-Tahrir have launched a campaign on this issue. What do you want to achieve from your campaign and what is your action plan?**

HT is a global political party working for re-establishment of the Khilafah. All our activities are aimed at achieving that goal. We undertake the work of culturing the Muslims with the Islamic thoughts and opinions. We also expose the conspiracies of the colonialist states against the Muslims. As well as this we take the rulers in the Muslim countries to task for their failure, negligence and subservience to the imperialist enemies. This is what we aim to achieve from this campaign i.e. expose the imperialist enemies and their agents so that the people reject them and at the same time create public opinion about the need for the Khilafah.

As for our action plan we are continuing with various programmes making the people aware of the conspiracy. We are doing political activities such as demonstrations, posters, etc. We are contacting the people, for example the teachers, doctors, imams and the mass people through interactions in public places such as mosques, markets, schools, and so on. We are holding discussions with influential people in the society. As part of that we organized a roundtable discussion on the 18th of March which was attended by many key figures in the country's intellectual and political arena. We have also produced a small booklet presenting our analysis of the event and how the Khilafah will challenge the imperialists.

**7. What is your message for the Muslims living in the UK?**

In general, we need to understand that our life and provisions are in the hand of Allah (SWT) to whom we will all return. We have no control over this. We will take with us nothing from this world except our deeds. Thus our daily lives must not make us forget our Islamic obligations - the most important of which are the obligation to remove these corrupt rulers and the colonial powers from the Islamic lands and to re-

establish the Khilafah.

So support the work for Khilafah as you can. I can make some suggestions. Firstly, those of you who have relatives in Bangladesh and make frequent visits here - inform them about the Khilafah and the work of HTB especially the politicians, intellectuals and the media. Second, win over the Bangladeshi media in the UK so that they publish news of the work for Khilafah. This will make the community aware of the Khilafah, who can then convey the concept to their friends and families in Bangladesh. Third, talk to the politicians belonging to Bangladeshi based political parties in the UK; they make visits to Bangladesh and have influence. Fourth, many politicians and influential people such as writers, journalists, columnists and ulama from Bangladesh visit the UK. Contact them, talk to them and convince them about the Khilafah as the only viable alternative for the multitude of problems facing Bangladesh.

Specifically on the Bangladesh Rifles massacre you need to realize the grave dangers of this conspiracy. I have no words to describe it. It is one of the biggest conspiracies in the country's history. It is not the issue of one party nor should the issue be looked at from partisan interests. It is a plot against the Bangladesh army - the defenders of Islam and Muslims, the defenders of the future Khilafah. You should protest against this and all imperialist conspiracies against the Muslims of Bangladesh. You should apply pressure upon the government of Bangladesh through organizing protest actions such as demonstrating outside the Bangladesh embassy, demanding that the government explains its dubious role in the so-called mutiny; refrains from its ploy to save the conspirators and also releases our members and supporters. The media should be contacted, information about the conspiracy should be passed to them and they should be motivated to publish news about it so that the community is aware of the plot.

Culture

# The Basis of Authority in the Islamic State

*"O you who believe, Obey Allah, Obey His Messenger and those in authority from amongst you and if you differ then refer it to Allah and His Messenger if you believe in Allah and the Last Day."*

[An-Nisa: 59]

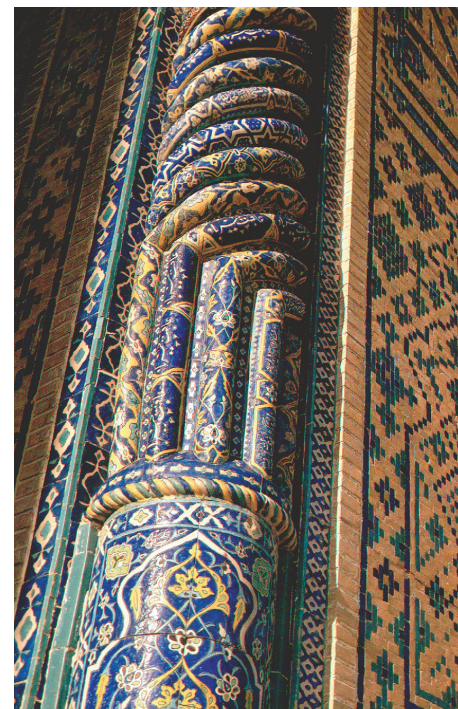
This noble verse in Surah an-Nisa comes after verse 58 which focused on the rulers when they were enjoined to rule by justice which is none other than what Allah (SWT) has revealed. In this verse the focus is on the Muslims under the authority of the rulers and their responsibility. In this respect the message of this ayah is addressed to the Ummah at large and we can learn from it the following matters:

The verse begins with the verb 'atee'u' ('obey') in the imperative form and the object of obedience is Allah (swt). The verse then commands 'Atee'u' (obey) and this time it is referring to the Messenger (Sallallahu alaihi wassalam). The repetition of the word 'obey' and the order indicates the two basic reference points that Muslims have and they are the Qur'an and Sunnah. Therefore, anything in contravention of Qur'an and Sunnah must be disobeyed and anything from the Qur'an and Sunnah must be obeyed. This is the

principle upon which Muslims are told to live by and this is the principle on which Muslims are instructed to view their rulers. Here the word for rulers or those in authority is ulul amr. It is not restricted to the Khaleefah, but also includes the walis, wazeers and all those who have authority, especially since the word has been used in the plural (ulul amr and not waliyul amr which is in the singular). It is interesting that the ayah does not repeat the verb 'atee'u' when it comes to the rulers as it did in respect to Allah and His Messenger, which is an additional indication alongside the clear verses and hadith which state that rulers must obey Allah and His Messenger in their ruling and exercise of authority. For example the Messenger (saw) said:

**'There is no obedience to the disobedience of the Creator.'** [Sahih Bukhari, Volume 9: Hadith 363] Here there is an absolute prohibition of following an order that goes against the order of Allah (swt), whoever makes that order. This hadith came specifically in the context of authority and ruling. Its mafhum or implied meaning indicates that just as the person cannot obey a ruler who disobeys Allah (swt) so in the same way, a ruler or amir cannot order, enact laws or rule by anything that is in violation of what Allah (swt) has ordered.

Consider for example the following hadith: It has been reported that Ali (ra) said, "The Messenger of Allah sent a troop under the command of a man from Al-Ansar. When they left, he became angry with them for some reason and said to them, 'Has not the Messenger of Allah commanded you to obey me?' They said, 'Yes.' He said, 'Collect some wood,' and then he started a fire with the wood,



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## Culture



saying, 'I command you to enter the fire.' The people almost entered the fire, but a young man among them said, 'You ran away from the Fire to Allah's Messenger. Therefore, do not rush until you go back to Allah's Messenger, and if he commands you to enter it, then enter it.' When they went back to Allah's Messenger, they told him what had happened, and the Messenger said, 'Had you entered it, you would never have departed from it. Obedience is only in righteousness.' (Reported by Bukhari Volume 9, Book 91, Number 363:). Here the Messenger (saw) stated that obedience is only in the 'maroof' and not in the 'munkar'. So the one in authority cannot command anything but ma'ruuf and people cannot obey anything but maroof. What is 'ma'roof is what Islam has defined as good and munkar is what Islam has defined as evil. It is not left to the discretion of man to decide these matters.

The verse also obliges the obedience to the command of the Messenger (saw) and links that to the rulers. As long as the rulers or those in authority obey the Messenger then there is the obedience to him, otherwise there is no obedience. It is ludicrous after saying that there is no obedience in the disobedience to the Creator that there can be obedience in

the disobedience to the Messenger as the Ayah obliges obedience to Allah and His Messenger. That is why the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said in a hadith reported by Abu Hurairah, **'Whoever obeys me has obeyed Allah and whoever disobeys me has disobeyed Allah. Whoever obeys the amir has obeyed me and whoever disobeys the amir has disobeyed me'**" [Agreed upon] As for the statement **'whoever obeys the amir has obeyed me and whoever disobeys the amir has disobeyed me'** in the above hadith or the following hadith: **"Anyone who dislikes something from his amir should be patient. Anyone who abandons obedience to the amir for even a short time dies the death of the Jahiliyya (ignorance)."** [Agreed upon] This does not mean their absolute obedience to the rulers. These hadiths are talking of not rebelling against the rulers due to their misappropriation of the people's rights and not about obeying the rulers in the matters which are a clear violation of the Shariah. Rather, when the ruler commands a clear munkar the Muslim must disobey that command and cannot say he was following orders.

The verse then concludes that if there is a difference over a matter between the Muslims and their rulers then the final

arbiter must be Allah and His Messenger ie the Qur'an and Sunnah. It states: "if you differ then refer it to Allah and His Messenger if you believe in Allah and the Last Day." Just as the young man in the above hadith disputed with his Amir when he commanded them to enter the fire and referred the matter to the Messenger, we are also obliged to refer to the Islamic reference point ie the Quran and Sunnah when there is a dispute. The last words of the ayah enjoin on the believers the importance of referring to Allah and His Messenger in ruling, by drawing attention to the fact that not to do so is a negation of iman and hence it says: '...if you believe in Allah and the Last Day.'

This is how the Sahabah (ra) understood this matter and nothing shows this more clearly than the speech of Abu Bakr as-Siddique when he assumed the post of Khaleefah, he said: "Help me, if I am in the right; set me right, if I am in the wrong. The weak among you shall be strong with me until, Allah willing, his rights have been vindicated. The strong among you shall be weak with me until, if Allah wills, I have taken what is due from him. Obey me as long as I obey Allah and His Prophet; when I disobey Him and his Prophet, obey me not."

Thus, we can see from the above ayah the basis of ruling, ie the commanding the good and forbidding the evil by the rulers and obedience to them must be in obedience to Allah and His Messenger. This means that the basis of the Islamic State is Islam and none other. The state of the Muslims must be Islamic, ie where Allah and His Messenger are obeyed both by the rulers and by those who are ruled. It must be a state where the Muslims refer to Allah and His Messenger and this is a requirement of their belief in Allah and the Last Day.

Arif Samad

# RECESSION - When the casino economy meets the real economy



Falling economic activity in one or more industries or sectors is not uncommon even during more general periods of sustained economic growth. As an example manufacturing employment in the UK fell from 4.5 million to 3.2 million (1) between 1997 and 2007 - a 10 year period over which UK-wide economic growth rose by a robust 3% per annum on average in real terms (2). It is however rare for a sub sector to cause the whole economy to go into recession. However, this is exactly what's happened during the current financial crisis and subsequent recession. The collapse of high risk 'sub-prime' lending in the USA exposed the fragility and global interdependence of financial

markets. The failure of this specific area of finance initiated a chain reaction that resulted in, until recently, highly profitable century-old global financial institutions filing for bankruptcy, sometimes, overnight. In the UK, Northern Rock, a bank from the North East of England, went bankrupt, after which other banks were kept afloat only as a result of Government bail-outs and guarantees. With domestic and international financial sectors in turmoil, the many heavily indebted businesses found it difficult to raise funds while debt-ridden individuals could no longer afford to borrow to finance unsustainable consumption levels. The subsequent fall in demand for consumer

goods led to production cut-backs and rising unemployment. In the fourth quarter of 2008 the UK economy was officially in recession - defined as two quarters of negative economic growth. This is how the casino financial economy initiated and caused a devastating recession in the real economy.

## DEBT FUELLED GROWTH

The finance sector (comprising mainly of banking, finance and insurance industries) has grown in significance in the last decade. While the manufacturing sector was in terminal decline, jobs in finance grew from 5 million to 6.6 million between 1997 and 2007 (1), accounting for 1 in 5 of all jobs in the UK. It is no coincidence that debt levels over this period also surged.

Britain's total debt exploded during the economic boom. The total debt owed by government, businesses and individuals - commonly known as gross external debt - rose from 1.7 trillion in 1997 to £5.7 trillion in 2007, an increase of 238% (3). It was this astounding growth in debt from all sections of society that propelled continuous economic growth over the last decade. At the end of 2007, Britain's total external debt stood at over 400% of GDP (the total value of goods and services produced by the UK) of approximately £1.5 trillion per annum. That's equivalent to a debt of £94,000 for every man, woman and child in the

UK. Indeed, this was in 2007 before the onset of the financial crisis and the bank bail-outs which have been largely funded by government borrowing. Given the estimated £1.5 trillion in new government debt to prop up banks during 2008 (4) UK debt per capita is estimated to comfortably exceed £100,000.

Household spending, which accounts for two thirds of all expenditure in the UK economy, was financed by cheap and easy credit following the deregulation of banking during the 1980s. When people ran out of income and savings to buy

mortgaged debt obligation, and credit default swaps could not find willing buyers and proved to be effectively worthless, resulting in huge shortfalls in bank balance sheets. The previously acclaimed highly efficient banking business model proved unworkable as credit became scarce (liquidity crisis) when banks stopped lending to one another because each was protecting its own assets and no one trusted the value of the collateral they previously lauded. Banks worth multi-billions of dollars in market capitalisation filed for bankruptcy overnight as share values fell when investors realised the false and

other sector in the economy. The systemic and fatal collapse of finance was thus a clear and damning indictment of capitalism itself.

**FINANCE AND THE REAL ECONOMY**

With the finance sector barely able to stand on its own feet how was it to continue to fuel the debt ridden economy. Despite central banks individually and collectively lowering interest rates (the cost of capital or borrowing) and pumping trillions of public money into the financial market to kick start lending, banks simply hoarded the funds to cover for their worthless collateralised assets which severely depleted their balance sheets. Businesses and households that had relied on borrowing to fund their spending, found credit more difficult to access. Since credit was fuelling economic growth this directly impacted on the real economy as spending on goods and services dropped, prices fell, and with it company profitability, thereby forcing businesses to cut back production and staff.

The UK economy is presently forecast to contract by 3% in 2009 and remain in decline in 2010. These are probably optimistic forecasts given that official forecasts have been downgraded several times already since the start of the crisis.

goods and services they simply borrowed. Banks encouraged the spending binge by offering ever greater credit to ever more riskier debtors. Banks made huge profits, with bankers earning colossal bonuses, and justified such lending arguing their new business models had diversified debtor risk by packaging riskier debt in the form of collateralised debt obligations (or CDO's) and other such instruments. Governments encouraged these 'gambling' practices, no doubt allured by the prospects of greater tax revenues from the extraordinary profit-making banking sector and the not coincidental simultaneous property and asset booms, by further loosening banking regulation (5) to accommodate new banking 'business models'

**BANKING - THE FALSE ECONOMY**

Bust followed boom in common with the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s as asset bubbles (over priced property and share values) burst. However unlike the recent recessions, but not for the first time, the recession was associated with a collapse in the financial sector.

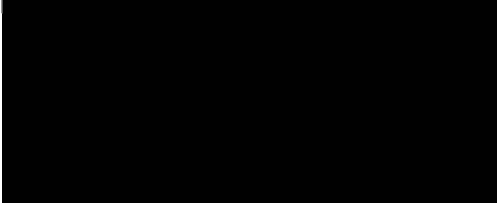
So-called financial assets like CDO's,

hollow nature of banking assets. This had a negative feedback effect as banking stocks and shares were the very 'assets' that the financial sector relied upon to prop up company balance sheets and so market capitalisation was further undermined. Together these events precipitated a systemic collapse of the whole interdependent financial system. More banks teetered on the edge of collapse. Free market economists, capitalist thinkers and political commentators paradoxically yet vociferously argued 'banks were too big to fail' implying the ramifications of banking failures were too monstrous to imagine. The government obliged their friends and close allies in banking and committed trillions of tax payer money to fully bailing-out the banking sector using loans, government guarantees and the buying up of so-called toxic (worthless) banking assets despite undermining competitiveness in the sector and encouraging banks to behave even more recklessly.

The financial sector had epitomised capitalism in terms of values, culture, policies and outlook more than any

The biggest falls in economic activity have been in consumer goods: cars and 'white goods' such as washing machines and fridges. These are primarily financed by credit and in recent years loan agreements have been designed to be more manageable and more readily available to entice an ever greater number of households to continue to buy what they don't need so that companies can maintain high and more profitable production growth schedules. Though this model of capitalist economic growth is clearly unsustainable, it has devastating consequences, as it causes a downward negative economic spiral. When production falls unemployment rises which in turn causes lower spending on goods and services, lower production and more unemployment. The economic decline quickly becomes more widespread and more prevailing, generating its own negative momentum. At the start of 2009 unemployment in the UK officially rose to 2 million and is forecast to rise to 3 million before the end of the year. The UK economy is





presently forecast to contract by 3% in 2009 and remain in decline in 2010. These are probably optimistic forecasts given that official forecasts have been downgraded several times already since the start of the crisis.

#### HUMAN CONSEQUENCES OF THE RECESSIONARY CRISIS

Capitalists view recessions in cold and calculated terms quantifying only the loss (destruction) of wealth and property - the number of jobs lost and business closures. However, recessions have huge social as well as economic consequences. Presently, unemployment is rising throughout the UK, across all sectors and industries. A loss of livelihood has huge ramifications for individuals, families, communities and society at large. Some communities will be blighted for decades as in previous recessions - for example coal mining communities remain largely ruined from the recession in the 1980s. Tens of thousands of families unable to pay their debts have already lost their homes and possessions. Some have even committed suicide unable to bear the consequences of their debts and a loss of livelihood. Job insecurity exists even among those who are still employed who fear that they may be next to be made redundant. During recessions government tax receipts drop while expenditure rises due to benefit payments to the unemployed and poor. Central and local government claw back funding from elsewhere by cutting back expenditure on schools and hospitals, assistance for the elderly and help for the weak and vulnerable - for example cut backs in local meals-on-wheels for the elderly and less funding for local libraries. Economically strained times lead to increasing demands on public services like police and hospitals from accelerating crime and rising stress levels and a general physical and mental deterioration in health. Family relationships tend to strain during recessionary times with potentially painful and lasting impacts on children. Thus recessions spread insecurity and instability contributing to a plethora of social ills.

#### ISLAM'S ECONOMIC APPROACH

In Islam the success of the economy is not judged by the size of GDP. High GDP in the UK, equating to income per head of £24,000 per annum, among the highest in the world, conceals the heavily debt ridden economy. Importantly, GDP or income per head says little about the distribution of wealth. This is exemplified by the fact that according to government data nearly 3 million children in the UK live in relative poverty (6) in spite of high GDP levels and growth rates.

In contrast to Capitalism, the success of the economic model in Islam is judged by its ability to secure the satisfaction of the basic needs of every citizen.

Bukhari narrated from Ibn Umar: The Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) said: **"The Imam is in charge (ra'i) and he is responsible for his citizens."**

The Prophet (saw) also said: **"Do you have, son of Adam, of your property except that which you ate and consumed, that which you wore and exhausted, and that which you donated and kept (for yourself)?"**

Islam's focus is on the real economy which is the wealth creating aspect of any economy. Finance in Islam is not an end in itself as there is no interest (Riba). *"That is because they say: 'Trading is only like Riba,' whereas Allah has permitted trading and forbidden Riba"* [Surah al-Baqarah]

While finance plays an important role in business and economics in Islam it is exclusively (6) in the context of partnerships where the financial contributing partner(s) are involved with the 'body' (those running the day to day business) partners aiming to generate a profit from their business activities or sharing the loss if the business fails.

In contrast to capitalism, finance in Islam is intrinsically tied to the real economy and does not become an industry in itself. This eliminates the potential for generating self-destructive financial



instruments that have been so pivotal in the collapse of the capitalist financial sector.

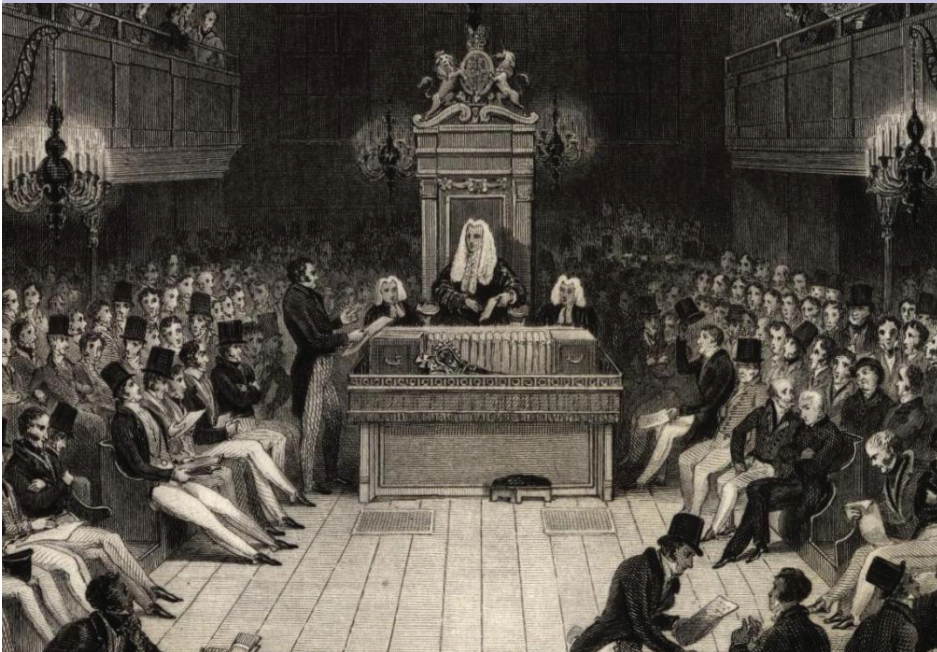
The prohibition of interest works in tandem with the ruling that the monetary unit in Islam is effectively the gold and silver standard and this prohibits credit creation. Thus the monetary base of the economy in Islam changes only with growth in the real economy through the creation of wealth or increase in productivity. This minimises inflationary pressures; provides economic stability and ensures sustainable growth without the destructive boom and bust cycle.

#### CONCLUSION

Capitalism's flaws and systemic failures have been clearly exposed by the current crisis. The capitalist economic model, therefore, does not deserve to be emulated by the Muslim world. By contrast, the Islamic ideology and rulings provide real practical solutions to the economic problems of the day. The Islamic economic system with its focus on the real (not financial) economy has withstood the test of time, and with the money supply tied to gold and silver provides a model of sustainable and responsible growth, with distribution of the nations wealth at its core.

Abdul-Kareem Newell

# The Corrupt Values of British politics



The old saying "*power tends to corrupt*" has certainly proved true for British MP's in recent weeks and months. Whilst thousands of people lose their homes during the recession, MP's have been profiting by buying and refurbishing second homes at the taxpayer's expense, then selling them for a hefty tax-free profit. They have then used the profits to buy a new home to restart the whole process. They have been found to be charging gardening bills, maintenance of their swimming pools and basic food items and toiletries to the taxpayer. When exposed they offered little remorse, claiming that they had all acted 'within the rules'.

The most startling case was that of Jacqui Smith, the British Home Secretary whose husband was found to be watching pornography paid for by the British taxpayer! She was followed by Hazel

Blears, Michael Gove, David Davis and a host of others whose names were exposed in the scandal,

The attitude of British politicians towards their abuse of public funds was summed up by MP Harry Cohen, who topped the expenses chart by claiming a massive £310,000, on a second-home allowance. He said, "When MPs were given this allowance they were told "Go and spend it, boys" and that is what I have done. It is my right." When challenged to clean up the system, the House of Common's Speaker Michael Martin was reported to have said "I did not come into politics not to take what is owed to me."

This 'right' to abuse taxpayers' money is not confined to simply one or two MP's. An investigation by the Sunday Telegraph found that 65 MP's are claiming expenses

for a second home while earning rental income from letting out a third. These politicians - one in ten of all MP's - claimed between them almost £6 million since records on expenses began in 2001, an average of £85,000 each.

The Mail on Sunday summed up nicely the actual problem with British politicians. "The next most startling aspect of the problem is how few MP's - supposed to be beyond reproach - seem to have any strong sense of right and wrong, or any ability to resist temptation. People whose job it is to make the law are plundering the public purse because there is nothing in the rules to say they should not do so...Men and women who went into politics with honest intentions see all this going on around them and, unless they are exceptionally strong-willed, are swiftly drawn into the swamp of tax-funded greed."

It's the core western values of freedom and benefit which give rise to no "strong sense of right and wrong, or ability to resist temptation" that is at the root of government corruption not just in Britain but the entire world today including the Muslim world.

When Westminster politics is riddled with corruption how can anyone believe that these Western governments can ever bring a corruption free and accountable government in the Muslim world?

In Pakistan the current President Asif Zardari, the latest 'ally in the war on terror', was previously imprisoned for corruption and siphoning off public funds, so much so that he was given the title "Mr 10%". Now he is President of the country who knows what percentage he will be known by at the end of his tenure?

## SO HOW DID ISLAM ENSURE A CORRUPTION FREE POLITICS?

Whilst politics according to the western way of life is about power, ego, showbiz and material benefit emulated so well by the long list of rulers in our countries, Islam established politics as one of the highest responsibilities.

Politicians in Islam, whether they hold government posts or not, have a completely different viewpoint towards politics and their role within the state. Politics in Islam concerns looking after the

affairs of people. The politician is the one who is a servant of the Ummah. They do not take any government post with the aim of achieving personal benefit. Rather they see their position as a responsibility that they will be questioned about on the Day of Judgment.

It is narrated that Abu Hurayrah said: "A man gave as a gift to the Messenger of Allah (salallahu alaihi wa-salam) a slave

the state, seeking only the Pleasure of Allah and the pleasure of being a servant of the people.

Islam recognises that human beings are not angels and will commit sins. If a politician becomes overwhelmed by shaytan and abuses his position or commits oppression against the people how does the Islamic system deal with this?

[Suyuti, Tarikh al-Khulafa]

The Majlis ul-Ummah is comprised of elected representatives of the people who are voted in every five years. These representatives can be men, women, Muslim or non-Muslim. Accountability of government officials is one of the Majlis's central tasks. It has the power to hold any government official accountable on all matters related to the state, and some of the Majlis's decisions will be binding on the Khaleefah to enact.

In addition to the above institutions, Islam puts a burden on every individual in society to take care about the public affairs. Islam encourages and obliges on each and every Muslim to enjoin the good and forbid the munkar in society.

Furthermore Allah (SWT) encourages groups and parties to be established within the society to enjoin the good and forbid the munkar. *"And let there be from among you a group(s) who invite to goodness, and command right conduct and forbid what is evil. Such are they who are successful."* [Ayat surah Al-Imran 104]

The famous example of the man who accounted Umar al-Khattab about the length of his shirt indicates the consciousness within people to account the rulers and hold them to task.

Government corruption in Britain or the Muslim world can never be resolved whilst the politicians hold on to the Capitalist values of freedom and benefit. No matter how many anti-corruption mechanisms they put in place, politicians will always find clever ways to hide their abuses.

Only when sincere Islamic politicians take the reins of power in the Muslim world, and establish a righteous Islamic government, the Khilafah will we again see rulers like Umar bin Abdul-Aziz who was so careful not to abuse the public funds that he wouldn't even use a candle paid for from the Bait ul-Mal for his own personal use.

### Today the corrupt system ensures that only the most evil, corrupt and ruthless people win in the so called 'free and fair' democratic elections overseen by the west.

who was called Mid'am. Whilst Mid'am was bringing down a saddle for the Messenger of Allah (salallahu alaihi wa-salam), an arrow came out of nowhere and killed him. The people said, "How fortunate he is! Paradise is his," but the Messenger of Allah (salallahu alaihi wa-salam) said, "No, by the One in Whose hand is my soul, the cloak which he took from the war-booty on the day of Khaybar before the booty had been shared out will burn him with fire." When the people heard that, a man came and brought one or two shoelaces to the Prophet (salallahu alaihi wa-salam) and said, "A shoelace of fire" or "Two shoelaces of fire." [Bukhari & Muslim]

The war-booty (ghaneema) is one of the revenues of the Islamic State and part of the public funds. If someone was punished simply for stealing a piece of cloth from the public funds, what about the rulers in the Muslim world who have stolen \$billions of oil and natural resources from the ummah?

So the first and foremost way to resolve the corruption in our countries is to remove the corrupt political culture that is dominant in our societies. Today the corrupt system ensures that only the most evil, corrupt and ruthless people win in the so called 'free and fair' democratic elections overseen by the west. The corrupt political system that breeds corrupt politicians needs to be uprooted and a new system of politics established where only those sincere, trustworthy and upright individuals who have a track record of sacrifice for the ummah and are known in society for their iman and tawqa, run for positions of responsibility within

Building on al-Mawardi's classical work Al-Ahkam as-Sultaniyyah, Hizb ut-Tahrir's book Nidham ul-Hukm fil-Islam describes in great detail two institutions that are tasked with addressing government corruption. The first institution is an independent, powerful, judicial court called the Mahkamat al-Mazaalim (Court of Unjust Acts). The second is an elected house of peoples' representatives called the Majlis ul-Ummah (Council of the Ummah), whose decisions on certain affairs of state (not legislation) the Khaleefah is constitutionally obliged to accept.

The Mahkamat al-Mazaalim contains judges whose sole responsibility and expertise is government oppression (Mazlema), constitutional law and legislation. Unlike a standard court the judge (Qadi al-Mazaalim) has investigatory powers and can initiate a court case without a plaintiff. This court has the power to oblige government officials including the Khaleefah to pay back any money they took from public funds. Mismanagement of the public properties such as oil wealth or the imposition of unjust taxation on the people can all be investigated by this court and practically resolved through issuing a judgement that the officials must abide by.

Ibn 'Umar said that when 'Umar ibn al-Khattab was in need, he used to go to the man in charge of the Bait ul-Mal and seek a loan from him. Often he might be in difficulty and the man in charge of the public treasury would come to him, seeking repayment of the debt and would oblige him to pay it, and 'Umar would be evasive to him. Then often 'Umar would receive his stipend and so pay his debt.

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