

Special Addendum to Qur'an Paper*: Every Instruction or Comment About Killing Human Beings; Who, Why and How With Special Reference to the ISIS Beheadings and Mass Killings

*** EVERYTHING THAT IS ACTUALLY IN THE QUR'AN
DESCRIBED BY A NON-MUSLIM WESTERNER FOR NONMUSLIM
READERS including 350 most telling quotations**

This addendum is directed particularly to the phenomenon of the beheading of individual hostages held by ISIS (Islamic State) and the mass slaughter by them of Shia Muslims, Yazidis and others in Iraq and Syria. It is also directed to the wider instructions to all ISIS supporters to kill military and civilian members of the 60 or more states allied with the US against ISIS. The intended victims include Muslims living in those states who do not support the ISIS.

(Note on "Jihad" in the Qur'an Paper

It should be recalled that all references to Jihad (see page 35-37 of the main Qur'an Paper) which indicate fighting, refer solely to Muhammad's Muslims fighting an enemy in open battle. And although the objective of the fighting is the killing of the enemy to obtain victory, the act of killing is not referred to.)

ISIS Exhortations to Kill Civilians, Military and any Muslims who do not Support ISIS

On the 23rd September 2014 the Times reported that in addition to killing non-ISIS military and civilians in Iraq and Syria, Muslim ISIS supporters living in the West should

“carry out self-starter attacks on western soldiers and civilians in retaliation for air strikes on its fighters in Syria and Iraq....Attacks could be carried out with rocks, knives, poison or running someone over with a car....

‘If you can kill a disbelieving American or European – especially the spiteful and filthy French- or an Australian or Canadian, or any other disbeliever from the disbelievers waging war, including citizens of the countries that entered into a coalition against the Islamic State (presumably including the Muslim countries allied to the US against ISIS i.e., Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the Emirates and Bahrain), then rely upon Allah, and kill him in any manner or way however it may be.

‘Do not ask for anyone’s advice and do not seek anyone’s verdict. Kill the disbeliever whether he is civilian or military, for they have the same ruling. Both of them are disbelievers. Both of them are considered to be waging war.’

“Supporters of the group were told to use whatever they could find to attack or murder non-Muslims in countries that have supported the US-led campaign against Islamic State.

“The statement continued: ‘If you are not able to find an IED (improvised explosive device) or a bullet, then single out the disbelieving American, Frenchman or any of their allies. Smash his head with a rock, or slaughter him with a knife, or run him over with your car, or throw him down from a high place, choke him or poison him.

‘If you are unable to do so, then burn his home, car, or business, or destroy his crops. If you are unable to do so, then spit in his face. If your self refuses to do so, while your brothers are being bombarded and killed, and while their blood and wealth everywhere is deemed lawful by the enemies, then review your religion.’”

Surely a Misleading Assertion

Tom Holland, a renowned historian, is quoted in ‘The Times’ of 29 September 2014 as saying

“the claim that Islamic State (ISIS) ideology has nothing to do with Islam was wishful thinking and that the militants’ theology had a strong basis in the Koran and early Islamic history.”

Tom Holland continues

“The grim truth is that sanctions can be found in the Koran, in the biographies of Muhammad and in the histories of early Islam for much that strikes the outside world as most horrific about Islamic State (ISIS)”.

This is highly misleading for readers unfamiliar with the Qur’an.

The essential point is that only the Qur’an is universally accepted as the actual word of God by Muslims and is therefore unchallengeable in the Muslim mind. Tom Holland does not directly allege that anything specific in the Qur’an justifies anything horrific.

It is the other Muslim documents to which he refers which ‘contain every kind of horror’ and which raise huge problems. But none of these documents is universally accepted by all the various strains of Islam, nor are they accepted as being the direct word of God and therefore unchallengeable. In addition these documents contradict each other.

Tom Holland therefore does a serious injustice to the Qur’an by apparently implying that it is on the same footing as the other documents; nor could he because there is little approaching horror regarding treatment of humans in the Qur’an itself.

It will be accepted over the course of time that the origins of the present text of the Qur’an are far more complex than at present is assumed by Muslims. However whatever the origins are, it is the precise wording of the existing text of the Qur’an that is taken to be the word of God. The Qur’an is incompatible with the beliefs of ISIS.

What the Qur'an Actually Says

There are some nine references in the Qur'an to killing human beings or advocating killing enemies in the course of battle in which the Muslims are responding to an initial attack against them. The specific enemies in all cases in the Qur'an were in fact the non-Muslim fighters from Mecca who attacked Medina, the town to where Muhammad and his supporting Muslims fled. These non-Muslims were generally polytheists.

There are some five references to killing which do not specify whether or not the Muslims' enemies attacked first.

There are some thirteen references to non-military killing, murder, infanticide etc.,

There are some nine references to killing which are hardly relevant to the issue.

All these are set out below.

1) References in the Qur'an to Killing Enemies Who Attack Muhammad's Muslims First During Actual Fighting

Mec. 16/126 If you (believers) have to respond to an attack, make your response proportionate, but it is best to stand fast.

Med. 2/194 So if anyone commits aggression against you, attack him if he attacked you, but be mindful of God, and know that He is with those who are mindful of Him.

Med. 9/36 God decrees that there are twelve months – ordained in God's Book on the Day when He created the heavens and earth – four months of which are sacred: this is the correct calculation. Do not wrong yourselves in these months – though you may fight the idolaters at any time, if they first fight you – remember that God is with those who are mindful of Him.

Med. 4/89 They would dearly like you to reject faith, as they themselves have done, to be like them. So do not take them as allies until they migrate (to Medina) for God's cause. If they turn (on you), then seize and kill them wherever you encounter them. Take none of them as an ally or supporter.

Med. 4/91 You will find others who wish to be safe from you, and from their own people, but whenever they are back in a situation where they are tempted (to fight you), they succumb to it. So if they neither withdraw, nor offer you peace, nor restrain themselves from fighting you, seize and kill them whenever you encounter them: We give you clear authority against such people.

Med. 4/89 If they turn (on you), then seize and kill them wherever you encounter them.

Med. 5/33 Those who wage war against God and His Messenger and strive to spread corruption in the land should be punished by death, crucifixion, the amputation of alternate hand and foot, or banishment from land.

Med. 9/13 How could you not fight a people who have broken their oaths, who tried to drive the Messenger out, who attacked you first? ...Fight them: God will punish them at your hands.

Med. 2/190 Fight in God's cause against those who fight you, but do not overstep the limits. God does not love those that overstep the limits. Kill them whenever you encounter them and drive them out from wherever they drove you out.... Fight them until there is no more persecution and worship is devoted to God. If they cease hostilities there can be no further hostility except towards aggressors,...So if anyone commits aggression against you attack him as he attacked you.

2) Cases Where It is Not Stated Whether the Enemy Attacks the Muslims First

Med. 47/4 When you meet the disbelievers in battle, strike them in the neck, and once they are defeated, bind any captives firmly – later you can release them as a grace or for a ransom – until the toils of war have ended.

Med. 8/27 It was not you who killed (the enemy) but God.

Med. 9/5 ...whenever you encounter the idolaters, kill them, seize them, besiege them, wait for them at every lookout post; but if they repent... let them go their way....

Med. 9/111 the building they have founded will always be a source of doubt within their hearts, until their hearts are cut to pieces. God is all knowing and wise. God has purchased the persons and possessions of the believers in return for (i.e., as a prize for entering) the Garden – they fight in God's way: they kill and are killed – this is a true promise given by Him in the Torah, the Gospel and the Qur'an.... So be happy with the bargain you have made:...

Med. 3/195 Their Lord has answered them: 'I will not allow the deeds of any one of you to be lost, whether you are male or female, each is like the other (in rewards). I will certainly wipe out the bad deeds of those who emigrated and were driven out of their homes, who suffered harm for My cause, who fought and were killed. I will certainly admit them to the Gardens graced with flowing streams, as a reward from God: the best reward is with God.'

3) Killing other than in fighting enemies

Med. 4/29 Do not kill each other.

Med. 4/92 Never should a believer kill another believer except by mistake....If anyone kills a believer by mistake he must free one Muslim slave and pay compensation to the victim's relations.

Med. 4/93 If anyone kills a believer deliberately, the punishment for him is Hell.

Med. 2/178 Fear of retribution is prescribed for you in cases of murder: the free man for the free man, the slave for the slave, the female for the female (unless the culprit is pardoned).

Mec. 17/33 If anyone is killed wrongfully, We have given authority to the defender of his rights, but he should not be excessive in taking life.

Med. 5/45 In the Torah We prescribed for them a life for a life.

Med. 2/84 We took a pledge from you, "Do not shed one another's blood or drive one another from your homelands."

Mec. 6/140 Lost indeed are those who kill their own children out of folly.

Mec. 6/151 Do not kill your children fearing poverty.

Mec. 17/31 Do not kill your children in fear of poverty.

Med. 6/137 Their idols have induced many of the pagans to kill their own children, bringing them ruin and confusion in their faith; if God had willed otherwise they would not have done this, so (Prophet) leave them to their own devices.

Med. 33/60 If the hypocrites, the sick at heart, those who spread lies in the city do not desist, We shall rouse you, (Prophet) against them, and then they shall only be your neighbours in the city for a short while. They will be rejected wherever they are found. They will be arrested and put to death. This has been God's practice with those who went before.

Med. 5/32 We decreed to the Children of Israel that if any one kills a person – unless in retribution for murder or spreading corruption in the land – it is as if he kills all mankind.

4) Hardly Relevant But Included for Completeness' Sake

Med. 2/54 Moses said to his people, 'My people, you have wronged yourselves by worshipping the calf, so repent to your Maker and kill (the guilty) among you.

Med. 2/85 Yet here you are, killing one another and driving some of your people from their homes, helping one another in sin and aggression against them.

Med. 8/17 It was not you who killed them but God, and when you (Prophet) threw (sand at them) it was not your throw (that defeated them) but God's, to do the believers a favour.

Med. 49/9 If two groups of believers fight, you (believers) should try to reconcile them; if one of them oppresses the other, fight the oppressors until they submit to God's command, then make a just and even-handed reconciliation between the two of them: God loves those who are even-handed.

Med. 2/87 So how is it that, whenever a messenger bringing you something you do not like, you become arrogant, calling some impostors and killing others? (Referring to messengers, including Jesus, sent by God to warn mankind).

Med. 4/157 “We have killed the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the Messenger of God.” (They did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, though it was made to appear like that to them....they certainly did not kill him – No! God raised him up to Himself.

Med. 5/27 (Prophet), tell them the truth about the story of Adam’s two sons: each of them offered a sacrifice, and it was accepted from one and not the other. One said, ‘I will kill you,’ but the other said, ‘God only accepts the sacrifice of those who are mindful of Him.’

Med. 3/183 “Messengers before me have come to you with clear signs....If you are sincere, why did you kill them? (a reference to earlier prophets being killed).

Mec. 20/71 Pharaoh said...(to the sorceress)...I shall certainly cut off your alternate hands and feet, then crucify you on the trunks of palm trees.

5th of October 2014

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<http://www.muslim-grass-roots-discuss-democracy.com>

Amédée Turner (an English Queen’s Counsel, and Hon. Member of the European Parliament) would particularly welcome comments for guidance in improving this Paper. Please send your comments by email to amedee.turner@btinternet.com. Amédée Turner is carrying out studies on the attitudes of lay Muslims living in the west to the issue of Islam and democracy.