

IMAMS: GIVING ISLAM A BAD REP

Islam is perceived by the world as a religion of jihad, or terrorism while in reality the Quran. Islam preaches for peace and the dignity of women and men.

ORLANDO, FLORIDA, USA, March 18, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Author: [Don Karl Juravin](#) from [JURAVIN RESEARCH](#) (Orlando, Florida)

Islam is perceived by the world as a religion of jihad, or terrorism while in reality the Quran, the basis for all Islam, preaches for peace and the dignity of women, as well as men. JURAVIN RESEARCH invested 4 months and we found the reason. Now, can a good Muslim read this research and know what to do?

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To Muslims reading this, I challenge you to learn more about the Quran and about your faith from the writings of your scholars, not solely from the imams at your mosques.”

Don Juravin

Imams may be the reason as they are the interpreters of the Quran in the mosque. They represent God's wishes to ordinary believers. The Imams are highly respected, as Christians respect the Pope. The imam Suleiman Anwar Bengharsa not only "misrepresented" the Quran for his followers but also supplied a terrorist with over \$1,000 in weapons. There is an imam who is responsible for a terror attack or a group of young Muslims announcing jihad. In Britain, months before a terrorist attack, Imam Mustafa Graf was recorded preaching for jihad.

But Islam is not about war and violence. Islam is a religion of peace. The imams need to reform, and the people need to be more discerning about what they believe. Imams who are in the wrong should be challenged, not blindly obeyed.

>> IMAMS ARE HIGHLY RESPECTED <<

The culture of Islam has been built around respect for leadership and authority. Imams and everything they stand for are highly valued in Muslim society.

What's The Real Role of The Imam?

The Imam of Mecca's Grand Mosque, Abdul Rahman Sudais had been under attack several times for his support to the Saudi government policies, including war on Yemen.

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What's The Real Role of The Imam

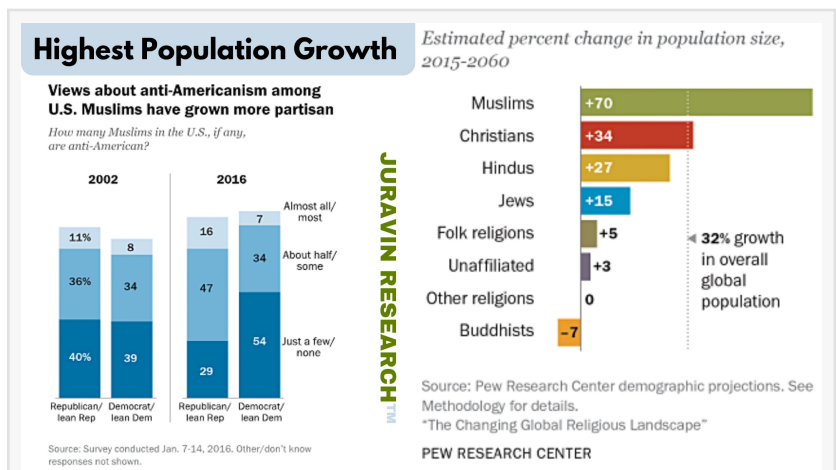
Islam relies on the interpreters of the Quran to maintain peace, stability, order, and in order to better seek the perfection of the religion. Islam translates to “submission to the will of God.” The ideal of Islam is a perfect world where God and man are in harmony with one another. Imams seek to bring the reality of that ideal to the material world.

“The people in charge can explain the facts of the matter and remove any confusion or doubts a person may have,” writes Farhat Hashmi. This does not only apply to matters of religion, but also politics and news. Imams are the leaders of the community, influencing multiple facets of Muslim life.

Shi’ites believe that Imams safeguard the will of God, allowing other Muslims to draw from God’s wisdom and guidance when necessary. The imams must live without sin or fault in order to fulfill their roles as leaders and religious influences.

Exemplary imams have been at the forefront of condemning terrorism and the corruption found within some elements of modern Islam. Over 1,800 Pakistani clerics condemned terrorism in a joint statement. After the London Bridge was attacked by terrorists, 500 imams refused to perform any sort of commemorative service for the dead criminals. A majority of imams are good people who strive to serve their communities in the best ways possible.

But some imams are influencing young Muslims and misguided Muslims to take a different direction. Their preachings are too radical and too far off from the original words of the Quran,



Muslims Highest population growth in the world



Fanatics Using God's Name For Hateful Causes



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yet no one challenges them on it.

>> POLITICAL INFLUENCE: IMAMS "ADJUSTING" ISLAM <<

In 1990, after Iraq invaded Kuwait, Muslim clerics rushed to re-define the Islamic traditions so that it appeared as if Muslim tradition did not condemn the waging of war on another Islamic country. In a legal report for the Library of Congress, researcher George Sadek asserted that militant groups not affiliated with a country, such as Al-Qaeda and Isis, have their own fundamentalist interpretations of international relations that stray from years of Islamic tradition in dealing with foreign countries.

The Quran rejects dictatorships. But often imams support the dictators in their own countries. Iran is a dictatorship, run by an imam. Supposedly in Iran the imam is above the law, so the dictatorship is a very technical legality.

Theoretically, jihad is supposed to be used to throw off dictatorships and false rulers who oppress the people. It is not supposed to be used to force Islam on other people.

>> IMAM OPPRESS WOMEN <<

Imams have often denied women the right to leave their husbands. Some of them still teach that Islam allows men to control their wives, even though there is no Quranic basis for this. Divorce laws among Muslims vary from community to community.

In France, a Salafi imam was exiled to Algeria by the government after preaching several disturbing principles. Among those teachings were ruling that called for the oppression of women. "Women could not leave their homes without authorization," he said.

The Telegraph tells a story of imams in mosques teaching against women, particularly white women. Because these women are not Muslims, they must be punished, according to imams, for their loose behavior, by being exploited in some fashion. These imams are divisive and bring about more misogyny in Islam.

In Cardiff, U.K., an imam harassed several young girls and assaulted them if they failed to follow his instructions. He taught in that mosque for thirty years before he was arrested and jailed for his crimes. Women in Islam are supposed to be treated with respect, not as animals. The Quran teaches that women are not supposed to be objectified. It also teaches that men are not supposed to be promiscuous.

The Quran is actually very progressive in its teachings on women.

>> IMAMS: THE REAL EVIL <<

The real problem behind Islam is the manipulation of the sacred text of the Quran by the imams. In the Sunni version of Islam, imams are the leaders of sacred worship and the interpreters of the Quran.

Imams can be bearers of wisdom and, because of their positions in Muslim society, can impact their communities in a positive light. But some choose not to do so. Some imams in different countries teach children that martyrdom in Islam is more important than academic success. Often these imams are allowed to teach for several years, influencing young men to become terrorists and to radicalize others into forming terrorist groups.

An imam in the United States, Suleiman Anwar Bugharsa, supplied a terrorist with over \$1,000 in weapons. Bugharsa made videos for his YouTube page, which further encouraged and instructed young converts to prepare for jihad.

Islam is a uniquely law-based religion, that relies on an interpretation of the Quran into law in order to be fully realized. In the book, *Imams and Emirs: State, Religion, and Sects in Islam*, Fuad I. Kuri writes that "Salvation in Islam is sought by following God's laws and decrees."

These laws are achieved by an ulama or an agreement that relies on the general consensus of men. Imams are the ones that arrive at this consensus.

The Quran and the spirit of the Quran are not the ones that need to change. Rather, it seems that the attitude of the religious leaders in Islam should change. Even Muslim scholars admit that Islam is an idea that is constantly sought after. Therefore, it is not the ideal that should change, but rather the composite where the ideal seeks to adapt to reality.

>> IMAMS ABUSE THE TRUST OF THEIR FOLLOWERS <<

Wahhabism, a Muslim philosophy that many believe to be behind terrorist ideals, was initiated by a Muslim cleric, Muhammad bin Abd al Wahhab, and Muhammad bin Saud, founder of the first Saudi state, in the late eighteenth century. The philosophy seeks to strip Islam of its more conventional religious practices, such as the veneration of saints and the celebration of Muhammad's birthday.

It politicized and polarized Islam even more. Clerics that professed Wahhabism were incorporated in the Saudi government. This inspires warriors to seize different territories, wage war, and persecute other Islamic sects, such as the Shi'ites. None of these precepts are found in the Quran.

Salafiyya is another Muslim approach to the fulfillment of Islam. Al-Qaeda is heavily influenced by this approach, which advocates for firm adherence to the Quran and the hadith, or words of Mohammed not found in the Quran. The approach is not only religious but also politically motivated: Al Qaeda calls for the overthrowing of Islamic states such as Saudi Arabia.

>> POLITITIONS ARE USING THE IMAMS <<

The Saudi Arabian government does not distinguish a separation between religion and the state. The royal family of Saud elevated the ulama in Saudi Arabia to higher levels of power to help them maintain control in the 1980's and 1990's. With the rising of terrorism, the government demoted the importance of imams.

The Islamic state is a phenomenon common to the Middle East. The structure and hadiths of Islam are built into the law of a nation. Because the Caliph was the head of the communities of Islam, and the caliph was in charge of the administrative duties, and Islam law was applied in courts, the leader of the state was the leader of the religion as well.

The modern definition of the Islamic state did not come about until the 20th century.

In Turkey, imams are moving to regain the ability to be political. In 1965, Turkey banned imams from engaging in political activity. Imam politicians hope to gain more say in how the state handles Islam. Since Turkey is a unique system where the state controls Islam, imams are working to take back their power.

Imam Khomeini argued in an essay that Islam seeks to combine religious ethics and politics into one concept.

Iran has a supreme leader who is also an imam. He is above the law. However, this is outside the realm of the Quran. While defenders of this system say that the prophet Mohammed operated from this system, critics will say that no one else can claim that sort of divine leadership other than Mohammed.

In Nigeria, in the 2007 elections, imams encouraged their congregations to elect a specific politician during religious services on Fridays. One imam was assassinated after such a sermon. The 2007 elections were considered the most violent elections in Nigerian history.

>> MUSLIMS MUST DO MORE <<

Islam should be a religion where the imams can be questioned on teachings that do not sound right. Instead of avoid questioning the imams at all costs, Muslims must determine what they believe in and challenge the imams who teach otherwise. Fetullah Gulen, in an article written for Politico, stated that in order to solve the problem of terrorism in Muslim communities, proper education is key. He said, "The antidote is a religious education program that teaches the tradition in a holistic and contextualized way. To be able to resist the deceits of radical ideologues, young Muslims must understand the spirit of their scripture and the overarching principles of their Prophet's life."

To Muslims reading this, I challenge you to learn more about the Quran and about your faith

from the writings of your scholars, not solely from the imams at your mosques. Don't be afraid to question what you are told. It is not a sign of disrespect to analyze and research the things you hear.

JURAVIN RESEARCH

Founded by Don Karl Juravin ([HOLY LAND MAN](#)) an American patriot from Florida who was born in the Holy Land. Juravin loves his friends of multiple cultures and has a great appreciation for Muslims, Christians and Jews as he works and interacts with them on a daily basis. Juravin FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE and the pursuit of HEALTH, HAPPINESS, LOVE & SUCCESS. He is a "straight shooter". Though JURAVIN RESEARCH mission is to initiate debates to better our lives.

SUPPLEMENTAL

Source: pewresearch

>> How many Muslims are there? Where do they live? <<

There were 1.8 billion Muslims in the world as of 2015 – roughly 24% of the global population – according to a Pew Research Center estimate. But while Islam is currently the world's second-largest religion (after Christianity), it is the fastest-growing major religion. Indeed, if current demographic trends continue, the number of Muslims is expected to exceed the number of Christians by the end of this century.

Although many countries in the Middle East-North Africa region, where the religion originated in the seventh century, are heavily Muslim, the region is home to only about 20% of the world's Muslims. A majority of the Muslims globally (62%) live in the Asia-Pacific region, including large populations in Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran and Turkey.

Indonesia is currently the country with the world's largest Muslim population, but Pew Research Center projects that India will have that distinction by the year 2050 (while remaining a majority-Hindu country), with more than 300 million Muslims.

The Muslim population in Europe also is growing; we project 10% of all Europeans will be Muslims by 2050.

>> Muslims In The United States? <<

According to our estimate, there are about 3.45 million Muslims of all ages in the U.S., or about 1.1% of the U.S. population. This is based on an analysis of census statistics and data from a 2017 survey of U.S. Muslims, which was conducted in English as well as Arabic, Farsi, and Urdu. Based on the same analysis, Pew Research Center also estimates that there are 2.15 million

Muslim adults in the country and that a majority of them (58%) are immigrants.

Our demographic projections estimate that Muslims will make up 2.1% of the U.S. population by the year 2050, surpassing people who identify as Jewish on the basis of religion as the second-largest faith group in the country (not including people who say they have no religion).

The Muslim share of immigrants granted permanent residency status (green cards) increased from about 5% in 1992 to roughly 10% in 2012, representing about 100,000 immigrants in that year.

>> Rapid Global Muslim Population Growth <<

There are two major factors behind the rapid projected growth of Islam, and both involve simple demographics. For one, Muslims have more children than members of other religious groups. Around the world, each Muslim woman has an average of 2.9 children, compared with 2.2 for all other groups combined.

Muslims are also the youngest (median age of 24 in 2015) of all major religious groups, seven years younger than the median age of non-Muslims. As a result, a larger share of Muslims already are, or will soon be, at the point in their lives when they begin having children. This, combined with high fertility rates, will fuel Muslim population growth.

>> How Do Americans View Muslims or Islam? <<

A Pew Research Center survey conducted in 2017 asked Americans to rate members of nine religious groups on a “feeling thermometer” from 0 to 100, where 0 reflects the coldest, most negative possible rating and 100 the warmest, most positive rating. Overall, Americans gave Muslims an average rating of 48 degrees, similar to atheists (50).

Americans view more warmly the seven other religious groups mentioned in the survey (Jews, Catholics, mainline Protestants, evangelical Christians, Buddhists, Hindus and Mormons). But views toward Muslims (as well as several of the other groups) are now warmer than they were a few years ago; in 2014, U.S. adults gave Muslims an average rating of 40 degrees

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