



Nicht im Namen des Islam

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Erlangen, July 8, 2005

Appeal to all Muslims

Whether the bombers of London are Muslims or not, one thing is clear: that Muslim groups, too, use this ideology of murder and killing as means for their political aims. In doing this they want to kill as many people as possible and spread fear and terror. A human life is of absolutely no value for them, is subject to their aims.

This is inconsistent with the basic principles of Islam. Their invoking these principles is a sacrilege. Sura 6/164: "... Every soul draws the meed of its acts on none but itself. No bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another. Your goal in the end is towards God."

Even if Muslim people fall victim to aggression – as is the case in Iraq or Palestine – this doesn't give anybody the right to do the same.

Thus, such acts are justified neither by humanitarian nor by Qur'anic reasons. This has to be made perfectly clear. One must not become guilty by remaining silent. It is therefore not sufficient if oneself rejects such atrocities, one has to make this clear in public and especially towards young people. In Arab countries a public discussion has flared up on e.g. the terrorist activities in Iraq, and an increasing distancing can be noticed. People have recognized that these so-called jihadists are not pursuing any legitimate aims – and that their means are wrong, even if their aims were legitimate.

The Muslims here in Europe, who have committed themselves to dialogue and understanding for years, must proceed with this and not let themselves be discouraged by those opinions, which are coming up again these days. On the contrary, it is in everybody's interest to make clear that one is part of the majority and explicitly opposing such radical forces.

What we have to do:

1. Stir up an inner-Islamic discussion to make clear that there is no justification whatsoever for such atrocities – in spite of all the injustice in the world.
2. A dispute has therefore to be started over the arguments of these groups. The majority of Muslims who are now keeping quiet have to take it upon themselves to unmask such ideologies and to speak out against them.
3. Clear strategies for the disassociation of radicals have to be developed – instead of lamenting about the media's inability to do this.
4. We have to take care that our young people, who are growing up within and between two contradictory media worlds, are not misled by extremists.



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5. We must no longer look on as democracy – which many of us have been missing in their countries of origin – is being undermined by further distrust and security regulations. It is the guarantee also of our existence as a minority within the legal system of this society.

All this we have to do for humanitarian reasons alone, not only, because the failure to do this would poison our coexistence with non-Muslims. In no case are we allowed to disregard the suffering of other people. We can stand up for more justice in the world with legitimate means - and must set a good example. The release of press statements is an important thing, because it is a signal to the non-Muslim majority – but it is by far not sufficient if the situation is to be changed actively and efficiently. Every individual is called upon to contribute to this effort – the responsibility cannot be transferred.

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Whoever is supporting this appeal and wishes to be listed here by name is requested to write a short mail containing the data to be published to kontakt@nindi.de.