

# Islam against Terrorism

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*By Khurshid Imam*

Dad: “Albert! Don’t go out for playing. It’s raining heavily.”

Oh! So Albert’s dad told him not to go out for playing. It means his dad has prohibited playing for him **forever**. It means Albert can **never** play any game because of his father’s order.

Readers, please don’t get angry at me because of my wrong conclusion. You understand very clearly that I am quoting **out of context, without providing the complete background and situation**. My above conclusion is wrong. The correct conclusion is that Albert’s father has asked him not to play **in rain** (obviously; because he might get ill). In normal days he can play.”

Somewhat similar is the case when Islam is accused of promoting terrorism or violence. Let’s have a look at the subject with unbiased mind. Let’s rely on the text rather than what we have learned from our surroundings.

## **A. Islam means peace**

Islam is nothing but Arabic name for religion of God. Almighty God has guided human beings through several revelations. Quran is the last in the series. One who follows religion of God is called a Muslim in Arabic language. Purpose of Islam is to spread peace. Islam not only spreads peace but also establishes peace. Islam aims to remove tyranny, oppression and falsehood. Unfortunately, due to many reasons people have taken the wrong idea that Islam spreads oppression or violence.

## **B. Islam gives full freedom for faith**

Islam believes that every human being is free to accept or reject the teachings of God. In no way one can force anyone to believe in Islam. Human beings have God given intellect and wisdom, they can ponder over their surroundings and believe or disbelieve in Islam.

“.. There **is no compulsion** in religion....” Quran 2: 256

“Say: (It is) the truth from the Lord of you (all). **Then whosoever will, let him believe, and whosoever will, let him disbelieve...**” Quran 18:29

“Verily, this is an admonition: therefore, **whosoever wills, let him take a Path** to His Lord! Quran 73:19

So, there is no place for forcing Islam on anyone. It’s against Islam to force anyone to believe in Islam.

## **C. Life is sacred – Killing an innocent is crime against humanity**

Life of human beings is considered extremely sacred in the house of Islam. It is a crime against humanity to take even a single innocent life.

"if **anyone killed a person** not in retaliation of murder, or (and) to spread mischief in the land - it would be **as if he killed all mankind**, and if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind". Quran 5:32

#### **D. War in the house of Islam**

Islam is a complete system of life. It is not the name of a few rituals or formalities. It covers all aspects of life viz. spiritual, personal, economical, political. In order to establish and maintain peace in the society sometimes use of force becomes inevitable. That is why we have Army, police system, judiciary, prison etc. If we won't stop wrong doings, oppression, tyranny then it will lead to chaos and loss of human life.

Not everybody is interested in establishing and living peaceful life. There may be people who want to use wrong means to get worldly gains. Murder, robbery, loot, invasion of countries is some of the crimes committed by human beings. What is the solution? If we don't stop then oppression will continue. Human life is sacred; it must be saved. War becomes inevitable in these cases.

We see in our time states/countries going for war due to oil, gold, natural gas, occupation, expansion etc but in an Islamic system of state there are only 3 scenarios when the state can go for war.

##### 1. Defensive war

It's very natural that if one is oppressed then he/she has all the right to stop this oppression and fight for his/her rights. In the same fashion, if a nation or state attacks an Islamic state and indulges in oppression, aggression and brutality then this state has all the right to defend. War is permitted in this case. Any country will go for war in this scenario. The purpose of this war is to stop oppression and establish peace.

**“Permission to fight is given to those who are fought against,** because they have been wronged;” Quran 22:39

##### 2. Offensive war

If people of some region are being attacked, killed, tortured and oppressed then in this case also war is permitted in order to stop their persecution. Here also end result that needs to be achieved is peace and justice.

“what is wrong with you that you fight not in the Cause of God, and **for those weak, ill-treated and oppressed among men, women, and children**, whose cry is: "Our Lord! Rescue us from this town whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from You one who will protect, and raise for us from You one who will help.” Quran 4:75

### 3. To stop the upcoming aggression

If an Islamic nation is at peace treaty with some other nation; and treaty is broken by the other side **with an intention to wage war** and spread brutality, then also it is permitted to go for war. Here also, war is a necessary evil that is required to stop upcoming tyranny and oppression. Quran, chapter 9 in the beginning talks about this kind of war.

Above mentioned scenarios are the only scenarios in which war is permitted and any just and peaceful nation will agree that in these situations war is inevitable. Though war is disliked, yet it's permitted in exceptional situations ONLY for establishing peace. But that is not the end. There are lot of checks and balances within the war.

- During the war one has to attack ONLY those who are fighting.
- One **cannot** attack ladies, children, and elders.
- Religious places should **not** be destroyed.
- Trees should **not** be burnt and animals should **not** be hurt.
- If the opponents offer peace (even though they don't want peace actually, they just want time then also you resort to peace) then war should be stopped. Refer Quran 8:61-62
- If enemy wants asylum, then escort them to a place of safety so that they are not harmed. Refer Quran 9:6
- Quran is full of reference where time and again God commands that one should not cross limits even during the war. **It means that the purpose of war according to Islam is only to stop oppression and establish peace.**

#### Important note:

Some people intentionally or unintentionally quote ayah (Ayah) of Quran out of context, without specifying the situation and project as if Islam promotes terrorism or unwanted violence. **All such ayah fall under one of the three categories of war as mentioned above.** By quoting out of context people arrive at wrong conclusions as I arrived in the beginning about Albert's father's instruction.

### **E. Conclusion**

1. By quoting out of context one can give entirely different color to a picture.
2. Islam aims to promote and establish peace and justice.
3. There is no scope of using force in order to spread Islam.
4. Islam considers life as extremely sacred. Killing an innocent is crime against humanity.
5. War is permitted in Islam in only exceptional situations in order to stop oppression, tyranny and murder and to re-establish peace and justice
6. Anyone not following the above injunctions is not following Islam as per Quran.

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