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“Not So Funny Cartoons”

by

Tom Holbrook

There are those who say that factual reporting on the rise of Muslim violence in the world and the forceful spreading of their culture is no less than religion intolerance at its best. *“What is wrong for a people to express their outrage at attacks against their Prophet, God’s representative on Earth? Don’t people have the right to show their feelings?”* Well, let’s look at the cartoons themselves, although I couldn’t find a copy of one because everyone’s so scared to publish them again... the one I remember best had a caricature of a bearded Muslim standing in the clouds outside Heaven’s gates, greeting young men who have been involved with suicide bombings with the retort...(I paraphrase) *“Stop... stop the bombing.... I’ve run out of virgins!”* This was printed, purportedly, to bring attention to the futility of suicide bombings in Baghdad, Israel and other hotspots around the world and the outrageous claim of a reward of 70 virgins to those who blow themselves to pieces. Of course, due to the rabid reaction to the Muslim community’s *“showing their feelings”* dozens of innocent people were killed in several countries; buildings bombed and burned; thousands of Muslims rioting and looting around the world and the cartoonists are in hiding because a contract has been put out on their lives. Now folks... there is such a thing as expressing displeasure and showing one’s feelings and then there’s outright murderous outrage.

Let’s look at some world events and see just what it takes to rile these “god-fearing” folk to express their outrage so violently. Most of these were attacks on Americans but they really don’t care who they kill.

- In 1979 radical Muslims attacked and captured our embassy in Iran taking hostages of every 66 diplomatic staff members and American citizens hostage for 444 days. No Muslim outrage.
- 1983- Muslims attack and destroy American Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon killing 63 individuals. No Muslim outrage.
- 1983- Muslims bomb Marine barracks in Lebanon killing 241 Marines. No Muslim outrage
- 1988 – Muslims bomb Pan-Am Flight from Scotland to NY killing a total of 270 people. No Muslim outrage.
- 1993- Muslims make first attack on World Trade Center, killing 6 and wounding over 1,000. No Muslim outrage.
- 1995 & 1996 – Muslims attack American Military barracks in Riyadh and Dhahran, Saudi Arabia killing over 20 Americans and wounding hundreds more. No Muslim outrage.
- 1998 – American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania bombed by Muslims. Over 200 killed and over 4,500 injured. No Muslim outrage.
- 2000 – Muslims attack USS Cole in Yemen, killing 15 American sailors. No Muslim outrage
- 2001 - Muslims fly two airplanes into NY Twin Towers, One into the U.S. Pentagon in Washington, and One into a field in PA, killing over 3,000 people. No Muslim outrage.
- Muslims murder over 80 tourists with car bombs in Egypt. No Muslim outrage.
- Muslims cut off heads of 3 teenaged girls on their way to Christian school in Indonesia. No Muslim outrage.

- Muslims block the exit where school girls are trying to escape a burning building because their faces were exposed. No Muslim outrage.
- Muslims murder hundreds of school children and teachers in Baslan, Russia. No Muslim outrage.
- From 1981 through 2001 there were a total of **7, 581 Muslim terrorist attacks world wide.** With no Muslim Outrage.

And then came the dastardly deed that brings the Muslims en masse out to burn and pillage in outrage... Newspapers in Denmark and Norway publish cartoons depicting Mohammed in a comedic setting. Muslims around the world riot, burn and kill innocent men, women and children to express their outrage.

There are still hundreds of additional acts of terror and human misery being committed by radical Muslims around the world, but space won't allow me to list them all but Christians in the Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Australia, Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia, Russia, Spain, England and other European and Asian countries have all suffered mightily from the sword filled hands of murderous Muslims out for vengeance and domination. One slogan I've seen printed in various forms on several sites reporting on Muslim atrocities is, "**For Allah to win and for Islam to spread across the globe everything is allowed.**" To any sane thinking person this should be a red light flashing a warning to us that these factions are not to be treated as reasonable, logical thinking, people. They cannot be trusted to negotiate honorably nor should we make undue concessions to them.

Pakistani Muslim scholar Ahmed Rashid weighs in on the cartoon spat between the Muslim world and the West. The cartoons, he argues, were a blatant and unnecessary provocation. He says the only way out of this mess is for European leaders to send a strong message to their people about respecting other cultures and religions of tolerance and respect. (*In straight English that means give in to any and all demands.*)

I suggest to Mr. Rashid and all the Holy Imams out there in Muslim countries that they send a strong message to their people that they should put things in perspective and if they want respect, tolerance, and acceptance of their culture and religion they should show the world it is deserved.

I would also suggest to any peace loving Muslims residing in the United States and moderate Islamic states that they should lead the way in disavowing and condemning the actions of those radical Muslim sects who are getting all the press. Your silence is overwhelmingly viewed as acceptance and approval of those burning the flags and cutting off heads. Only from within can the violence and bloodshed perpetrated by the fringe elements be stopped. Someone has to muster up the courage to speak up and take action against this radical fanaticism. **It must begin with you!**