

CHAPTER 4

JIHAD - ISLAMIC HOLY WAR

The relentless and often vicious persecution by Muslims against Christians is seldom recognised or understood. Many assume that the concept of *Jihad*, or Holy War, espoused by Muslim leaders like the Ayatollah Khomeini was an aberration not truly representative of Islam:

"We shall export our revolution, to the whole world. Until the cry 'Allah Akbar' resounds over the whole world. There will be struggle. There will be Jihad . . . Islam is the religion of militant individuals . . . Islam will be victorious in all the countries of the world, and Islam and the teachings of the Quran will prevail all over the world . . . This is the duty that all Muslims must fulfill . . ." These were the often repeated public pronouncements of the Ayatollah Khomeini after the revolution in Iran in 1979 (Quoted from *"The Blood of the Moon"* by George Grant).

Nor was the Ayatollah alone in such militant threats. Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud declared:

"We shall never call for or accept a negotiated peace. We shall only accept war – Jihad – the holy war. We have resolved to drench the lands of Palestine and Arabia with the blood of the infidels or to accept Martyrdom for the glory of Allah."

The President of Sudan, Lt. Gen. Al Bashir often speaks of *Jihad*. At the 40th anniversary of Sudan's independence, Al Bashir celebrated the spirit of *Jihad* which was engulfing the people of Sudan. The head of Sudan's ruling party, the *National Islamic Front* (NIF), Dr. Al Turabi, has often declared his goal of an Islamic empire controlling (initially) the horn of Africa (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and Sudan). This he calls the Grand Islamic Project.

At a two week conference of Muslim leaders from 80 countries, hosted by Muammar Gaddafi in Tripoli, Libya (October 1995), strategies to transform Africa into an Islamic continent were discussed. Participants openly admitted that their goals were to make Arabic the primary language of the continent and Islam the official religion. One SA member of parliament, Farouk Cassim declared: *"It will probably be the biggest revolution to sweep Africa."* Head of the Islamic Propagation



Lt. Gen. Al Bashir and Dr. Al Turabi

Centre International (IPCI), Yousuf Deedat, announced afterwards that South Africa was high on the agenda of the Islamic offensive. "We are going to turn South Africa into a Muslim state. We have the money to do it," he said (Sunday Times 22/10/95). At present less than 2 percent of South Africans are Muslims.

What few Westerners understand, however, is that those Muslim leaders who call for the overthrow of all governments and the establishment of an Islamic superstate controlling all aspects of life for every person on earth are not extremists on the fringe of Islam. Actually, *Jihad* (the subjugation and forcible conversion of all people to Islam and world domination) are central tenants of Islam. *Jihad* is ranked by many Muslims as the sixth pillar of Islam.

***Jihad* was so important to Muhammad that he declared it to be the second most important deed in Islam.**

"Allah's apostle was asked, 'What is the best deed?' He replied, 'To believe in Allah and his Apostle.' The questioner then asked, 'What is the next (in goodness)?' He replied, 'To participate in Jihad (religious fighting) in Allah's cause.'" – The Hadith, Al Bukhari, Vol. 1 no 25.

Muslims in fact divide the world into two sectors: *Dar-al-Islam* (the House of Islam) and *Dar-al-Harb* (The House of War). The only countries considered to be at peace are those where Islamic law (the *Sharia*) is enforced. Islam does not recognize the right of any other religion or worldview to exist.

Islam in Arabic means submission, surrender or subjugation. A Muslim is one who submits. The Arabic word for peace is *Salam*. Islam is the active form of *Salam*. Muslims see themselves as a "peace making force" using argument, intrigue, commerce, threats, terrorism, warfare and every other means possible to secure Islam as the only religion worldwide.

Muslims are not permitted to make



Christians in Southern Sudan have resisted the Islamic Jihad.

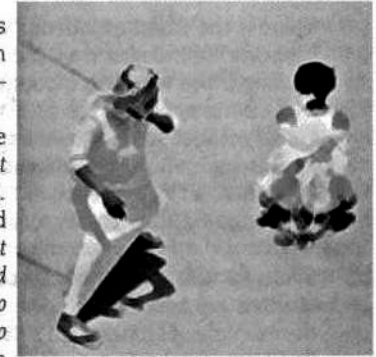


Muslims have desecrated Christian graveyards in Southern Sudan.

peace with a non-Muslim country until its inhabitants surrender to Islam. They can agree to a cease fire for a period of time – but never to peace with non-Muslims.

The Quran teaches that Muslims are superior to others: "Ye (Muslims) are the best of peoples evolved for mankind . . ." Surah 3:110.

Muslims are forbidden to befriend Jews or Christians: "O ye who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians for your friends and protectors. They are but friends and protectors to each other. And he amongst you that turns to them (for friendship) is one of them . . ." Surah 5:54.



An execution in Saudi Arabia.

Islam instructs its adherents to fight until their opponents submit. Christians and Jews may be spared if they pay "jizya" – a penalty tax – with willing submission: "Fight those who believe not in God nor the last day . . . Nor acknowledge the religion of truth, (even if they are) of the people of the Book, until they pay jizya (tribute taxes) with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued." Surah 9:29

"Fight and slay the pagans wherever ye find them and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait (ambush) for them in every stratagem (of war); but if they repent and establish regular prayers and practise regular charity, then open the way for them." Surah 9:5 (also 2:193).

For those who resist Islam – execution or mutilation is decreed: "The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His apostle, and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: execution or crucifixion, or the cutting off of the hands and feet from opposite sides or exile from the land . . ." Surah 5:36.

The **Hadith** which is a record of the words and deeds of Muhammad is also viewed by Muslims as inspired. Next to the Quran, it is the most important source of Islamic Law. Its teachings are regarded as binding on all Muslims.

The Hadith teaches that apostasy is punishable by death: "Whoever changes his Islamic religion, kill him." Vol. 9:57.

A Muslim may not be punished for killing a non-Muslim: "No Muslim should be killed for killing a kafir (infidel)." Vol 9:50

Those who die in holy war are guaranteed to go to Heaven. "The person who participates in Jihad (Holy battles) in Allah's cause and nothing compels him to do so except belief in Allah and His apostle, will be recompensed by Allah either with a reward or booty (if he survives) or will be admitted to paradise (if he is killed)." Vol 1:35

It may be hard for Christians to understand the concept of such a militant religion, but the primary aim of Islam is not spiritual but political. The ultimate purpose of Islam is the establishment by force of a worldwide Islamic state where *Sharia* law is enforced on all.

To achieve this is the goal of *Jihad*. Islamic scholars identify a multitude of forms that *Jihad* can take.



Graffiti in Cape Town Malay Quarter - a Jihad of words.