

Dear Friend or Neighbour,

I am a Muslim who lives locally and wanted to share an important message. Without doubt, you will be just as shocked and disturbed by the recent acts of terrorism as I am. However, I have greater reason to be disturbed because they are being perpetrated in the name of my religion, Islām. I kindly ask you to take just a few minutes of your precious time to reflect on the following:

As a non-Muslim, you will most likely be unaware that **the ideology** behind these actions of terrorism has been well known to Islāmic scholars **for 1400 years**. It is documented in great detail in scholarly works dating back to the earliest centuries of Islām. Its proponents are known as the **Khārijites (extremist renegades)**, and their history lies in **revolting** against Muslim leaders, starting with the best of the companions of the Prophet of Islām, Muḥammad, peace be upon him. They challenged the integrity of the Prophet himself in the distribution of charities. He prophesized their continued appearance as an armed, insurgent, renegade group against the Muslims. Appearing only 25 years later, they assassinated the third caliph, Uthmān. They assassinated the fourth caliph, Ali, who was the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law. They attempted but failed to assassinate the leaders of Syria and Egypt, both of whom were companions of the Prophet, peace be upon him. They believed unjustly that all of these Muslim leaders had left Islām. Motivated by **personal grievances** and **worldly pursuits** that were developed into a political ideology, they broke off from the main body of Muslims and set up their own "Islamic State" near Baghdad in the year 657CE. They then began to actively recruit the ignorant under the cloak of religion and started to **slaughter Muslims** who did not agree with their extremist views. Their **first slaughter** was the Prophet's companion 'Abdullah bin Khabbāb and his household which included a pregnant woman. They sliced her stomach and killed both her and her unborn child. Alī, the Prophet's cousin, fought and defeated them in 659CE but their seeds remained in the form of survivors who dispersed to various Islamic lands such as Egypt, parts of Syria and Iraq and elsewhere. Alī was assassinated by them less than two years later in an act of bloodthirsty revenge. This group and its ideology have been plaguing Muslim for 1400 years. The history books make mention of **the millions of Muslims** that were slaughtered as a result of their revolutionary activities against the Muslim rulers and their subjects over the centuries. The acts of terrorism we are witnessing today are inseparably tied to this evil political ideology which resurfaced in Egypt during the 1960s and spread to other lands. These criminals were committing assassinations, bombings and mass slaughter in the Muslim lands well before similar atrocities began to take place in Western lands. In Algeria during the 1990s, they slaughtered tens of thousands of Muslims after expelling them from Islām, merely because they did not agree with their excommunication of the ruler, his government and its army and join them in their revolution.

Research published by the Kings College **Centre for Study of Radicalisation** in January 2015 entitled "*The New Jihadism*" shows that the equivalent of **three 7/7 terrorist attacks** are taking place every day and killing on average 180 Muslims daily in places of conflict such as Syria, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan and others where this ideology is to be found, whether in the form of al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, Nuṣrah, ISIS or other insurgent groups. Western interests and interventions in these countries provide fertile ground for these extremists to appear amidst the chaos, spread their corrupt ideology and justify their evil actions. The terrorist acts we see in the West - **no less reprehensible** - are given extensive coverage in the media leading to the faulty perception that these people are primarily at war with non-Muslims in the West. This is not an accurate picture because their alleged "Jihād" is directed primarily at Muslim rulers and their subjects as is explicit in their writings and statements. Conflict with non-Muslims is secondary to them. As you can gather from the above, this ideology and its proponents are at war against Islām and Muslims before anyone else. No fair-minded, just person can associate this ideology with Islām after learning the above and make the average Muslim responsible for acts of terrorism.

Islām has placed great emphasis on kindness to the neighbour. This being my religious duty, I have included some literature with this letter which may help to alleviate some of the stresses and worries you might have experienced as a result of what the media (and right-wing elements) may convey, unjustly associating these acts of terrorism with Islām. Radical extremists given airtime or showcased on the media are shunned and despised by the vast majority of Muslims. It is a shame they receive such high exposure which comprises a type of fearmongering that incites right-wing elements in the society. If you have developed negative perceptions about Islām or Muslims, it is perfectly understandable. I hope this information will bring greater understanding and possibly alter your perception of millions of innocent, ordinary, law-abiding Muslims who are likely to suffer harassment and possible harm as a result of these abhorrent actions which have nothing to do with them or with Islām in the least.

Kindest regards and thank you for your time.

A Muslim neighbour.

P.S. You may want to visit this website: islamagainstextremism.com which will provide you with more detailed information on this subject.