

### Our Own Worst Enemies

To the *Gulf News*, Aug. 27, 1998 (as published).

I am a Muslim by birth who practices Islam because I like what it teaches and because it makes sense. Normally, I don't feel the need to make such announcements but given the prejudiced nature of Muslims today I felt compelled to do so.

I have been reading in your newspaper and in others of the region about how arrogant Americans are by attacking Afghanistan and Sudan. The ones who are really arrogant are the so-called "Islamic organizations" although what is Islamic about them I have always failed to understand.

They are so arrogant that they kill Americans, then openly announce intentions of further killings and expect no retaliation. Then if America retaliates they get all upset and give *fatwas* that it is a war against Islam. Which world are they living in and which Qur'an do they read? The Qur'an I read forbids the killing of innocent civilians, especially women and children.

Arrogant are these Muslims who see nothing wrong in one Islamic state attacking another for the sake of oil and wealth. The Qur'an I read leaves no forgiveness for a Muslim who kills another Muslim. America came over to help us from such Muslims and all that we do is spit at them.

We suddenly get these warm feelings for Saddam Hussain who throws nerve gas on his own people, who again happen to be Muslims. Where are these saviors of Islam, bin Laden and his cronies, when this is happening? Where is bin Laden when Muslims in Somalia scrape a few crumbs of food from the ground and eat boiled leaves at other times?

At that time we again want America to send food because bin Laden is busy spending his money in thinking up a way to kill 12 Americans. I respect the Americans for they at least tried to keep the human casualties low by attacking at nighttime unlike the very intelligent Muslims who killed 12 Americans and 200 others. The Americans could have killed more but showed restraint and the Muslim terrorist could have killed fewer but didn't.

The enemy of Islam is not America but we Muslims who do not stop these terrorists and punish them ourselves. It is our responsibility to keep a list of all organizations suspected of creating terror in the name of Islam and then we should denounce them collectively. Why do we allow a few thousand to blacken the name of millions of us? Because the peace-loving Muslims are cowards and have no confidence in their convictions.

Ayesha Nazar, Riyadh, Saudi

TAB #10

435

