

WHO IS ISIS?

ISIS are a fanatical group who adhere to a heretical creed, which is condemned by Islam and the Muslims. They believe that it is lawful to murder anyone who opposes them, whether Muslim or non-Muslim.

Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said,

“A believer will remain within the bounds of his religion, as long as he does not spill any unlawful blood.” [al-Bukhārī]

WHAT DOES ISIS ASPIRE TO ACHIEVE?

ISIS has been heavily influenced by anarchism and communism. They erroneously think that Muslim societies can be liberated of immorality and corruption using systematic violence. This opposes the Prophetic methodology of education and cultivation.

Allāh said,

“And do not obey the command of the transgressors, who cause corruption in the land and do not reform it.” [al-Shu‘arā’: 152-151]

IS THERE AN ORIGIN FOR THIS TYPE OF EXTREMISM?

Groups such as ISIS, Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabab and others are murderous psychopaths reviving the creed of an ancient heterodox sect known as the Azāriqah.

Ibn al-Jawzī (d. 597H/1200CE), a renowned scholar and historian, said in Talbīs Iblīs (574/1):

“The followers of Nāfi‘ Ibn al-Azraq (d. 65H/684CE) allowed the killing of Muslim women and children and declared them to be upon polytheism [i.e. infidels].”

ISIS CONDONES THE MURDER OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN. WHAT DOES ISLAM SAY CONCERNING THIS?

There is unanimous agreement of all Muslim scholars, from all of the schools of jurisprudence, that it is forbidden to kill non-combatants.

“The Messenger of Allāh (peace and blessings be upon him) prohibited the killing of women and children.” [Muslim]

Imām al-Nawawī (d. 1277/676CE) stated,

“The scholars unanimously agreed that this hadīth [Prophetic tradition] is to be implemented and that women and children should not be killed if they are non-combatants.”

WHAT IS THE RULING ON TRAVELLING TO SYRIA TO JOIN ISIS AND IS THIS CONSIDERED JIHĀD?

Numerous scholars have spoken on this matter. Here is a concise summary of some of their words:

- It is not Jihād. Rather, it is turmoil and chaos and a person should not partake in this.
- They should stay far away from this conflict, but they should supplicate for Allāh to grant the Muslims safety and relief.
- Those who encourage people to join ISIS or any other extremist organization are criminals and should be treated as such.

IS IT ALLOWED FOR MUSLIMS TO WORK WITH NON-MUSLIMS TO COUNTER EXTREMISM AND TERRORIST THREATS?

“If a group from the non-Muslims appeals to us to cooperate with them and for them to cooperate with us to combat something that Islam forbids and commands for it to be fought and eradicated, then it is permissible for us to do this.

If they present to us an offer to combat terrorism – which are the bombings perpetrated by some individuals from the Muslims and which they claim to be an act of worship – then we say that we will cooperate with them to achieve this.”

Faṭḥ al-Rabb al-Ghafūr Dhī al-Raḥmāh, p. 81-81.