



THE LUTHERAN

# HEDGEHOG

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## Creeping Sharia

*Up until a few years ago it seemed Muslims were assimilating into American life as other religious and ethnic groups do. 9/11 changed all that.*

**M**any Muslims live and work side by side with other Americans, but others don't.

Problems keep popping up. What does a Christian need to know about Islam? Three basics:

1. "Islam" is up for grabs
2. No separation of mosque & state
3. The repression of women

### 1. "Islam" is up for grabs.

On the one side are the moderates, those oriented to democracy and eager to accept Western ways. On the other side stand the Islamists for whom the Koran is inerrant "revelation" which fills them with grand illusions about themselves and their mission.

Islamists are here among us, as the nightly news reminds us.

When he drove a rented SUV onto the campus of the University of North Carolina and tried to kill as many people as he could on March 3, Mohammed Rexa Taheri-azar stated that in the Koran "Allah says that believing men and women have permission to murder anyone responsible for the killing of other believing men and women."

Taheri-azar later asserted that he had read all 114 chapters of the Koran about 15 times since June 2003 when he starting reading the

Koran. He did not try to murder UNC students "out of hatred for Americans, but out of love for Allah instead."

Anyone, anywhere, at any time, can come to the same conclusion from reading the Koran. Thus the problem is not one of neutralizing a few hardcore terrorists. Radical Islam has spread throughout the Muslim world.

**2. No Separation of Mosque and State.** *Sharia* law is interpreted and applied variously in Muslim countries. Wherever it is established, it is legally binding on all Muslims and on all people who come under the state's control.

Many Muslim states do not accept established international codes of human rights. The recent Afghan death sentence on Abdul Rahman for converting to Christianity shows that new Islam is no more tolerant than the old. In many Muslim states death is the punishment for anyone daring to convert out of Islam.

*Sharia* does not allow freedom of speech regarding Mohammed. In 2003 an Egyptian professor's marriage was abruptly annulled by an Imam who objected to the professor's interpretation of the Koran. The professor was declared

apostate, and he fled to the Netherlands.

### 3. The Repression of Women.

Under *sharia* law a woman counts as half a man. In many Muslim countries polygamy is common, and men can easily divorce. In 2003 a Malaysian court ruled that a man may divorce his wife via text messaging if the message is clear.

Wherever *sharia* rules, enormous effort goes into veiling women, dressing women modestly, silencing women, punishing women, controlling women, keeping women uneducated, policing women – in short, dehumanizing women – all under the guise of "protecting" and "honoring" them.

*(continued on page 2)*

**"The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing."**

*- Archilochus, 7th Century BC*



**Our "one big thing" is to lift high the Cross.**

**Moderates Muslims are being squeezed.** New arrivals to the growing Muslim community in Canada have brought with them a very rigid version of Islam, says Alia Hogben, president of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women, a group strongly opposed to allowing Muslim family law in Canada. "We must separate religion from the state," she says. "We're living in Canada. We want Canadian secular law."

Hogben worries about the future because "a lot of money is being poured into North America from very traditional groups from Saudi Arabia and Libya." Groups hostile to moderate Muslims. Groups intent on imposing *sharia*.

In England there are signs that extremists are becoming the mainstream. A *London Telegraph* survey found that four out of ten British Muslims want *sharia* law in Britain. Fifty-two percent think extremist organizations should **not** be shut down.

Where are the self-proclaimed, peaceful Muslims in the West? Not many step forward. Who can you name? Few, if any, have national or international recognition.

Many moderates are really fence-sitters. (This is true of Lutherans, too.) Silence gives consent. They are waiting to see how things develop. They can go either way.

**Don't do as Noko did.** LWF head, Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko, was quick to play the "moral equivalence" card after the Muslim rioting over the Danish cartoons: "The actions of an insensitive or provocative few in Denmark do not implicate either the entire Danish nation or the West as a whole, neither does the violence of some of the protestors implicate all Muslims."

There is no moral equivalence between countries that have freedom of the press and freedom of religion – and those that don't. There is no moral equivalence between countries where men and

women have the same civil rights – and those that treat women as second-class citizens.

**Stand up for freedom.**

Moderate Muslims who dare to speak out need support. Check out "the Manifesto 12." They are Muslim Refuseniks and their Manifesto begins: "After having overcome fascism, Nazism, and Stalinism, the world faces a new global totalitarian threat: Islamism" ([www.muslim-refusenik.com](http://www.muslim-refusenik.com)). Muslim assassins have begun mobilizing, targeting these individuals. Around the water cooler or at church, talk about these men and women.

And where you are, stand up for freedom from the domination of the state by the church/mosque – and of the church/mosque by the state. Stand up for law based on common reason, not multicultural nonsense. Stand up for the worth of each individual, women included.

Stand up for Christians and Jews who are often brutally persecuted in Muslim countries.

*CrossAlone Lutheran Churches* are centrist Lutherans affiliated with *Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)*.

**EDITORIAL TEAM**

Don Johnson  
Meg Madson  
Mark Richardson

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**CONTACT Us**

Subscriptions, information, and back issues:  
Jane Hussey Larson  
Tel: 952/442-4134  
Fax: 952/442-4134

**MAILING ADDRESS**

PO Box 27598  
Golden Valley, MN 55427-0598

**VISIT Us ONLINE**

[www.crossalone.us](http://www.crossalone.us)

