



# Sharia Watch UK

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## New York Times Sees 'Disturbing Trend' of Treating Islam as 'Not a Religion'

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### Summary:

It's a "disturbing trend," says Asma T. Uddin, a Muslim attorney, in the [New York Times](#) [5]: "In recent years, state lawmakers, lawyers and influential social commentators have been making the case that Muslims are not protected by the First Amendment. Why? Because, they argue, Islam is not a religion."

What it is, say Uddin's targets, is a political system: "John Bennett, a Republican state legislator in Oklahoma, [said in 2014](#) [6], 'Islam is not even a religion; it is a political system that uses a deity to advance its agenda of global conquest.' In 2015, a former assistant United States attorney, Andrew C. McCarthy, [wrote](#) [7] in *National Review* that Islam 'should be understood as conveying a belief system that is not merely, or even primarily, religious.' In 2016, Michael Flynn, who the next year was briefly President Trump's national security adviser, [told](#) [8] an [ACT for America](#) [9] conference in Dallas that 'Islam is a political ideology' that 'hides behind the notion of it being a religion.' In a January 2018 news release, Neal Tapio of South Dakota, a Republican state senator who was planning to run for the United States House of Representatives, [questioned whether the First Amendment applies](#) [10] to Muslims."

Merriam Webster defines "religion" as "a personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices." Islam certainly qualifies as a religion by that definition. Religions profess to connect human beings to the divine. Islam professes to do that. At the same time, however, **it [Islam] is also a political system that is authoritarian, supremacist, discriminatory, expansionist, violent, and aggressive.**

Asma T. Uddin must be aware of that fact but ignores it entirely, instead giving the impression that Sharia is simply religious law, and opposition to Sharia is simply motivated by religious bigotry and "Islamophobia."

See also:

[https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/oklahoma-john-bennett-islam\\_n\\_5863084](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/oklahoma-john-bennett-islam_n_5863084) [11]

<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/ben-carson-and-islam-andrew-c-mccarthy/> [12]

Image:

**ISLAM  
IS NOT A  
RELIGION**

h/t <https://www.dcclothesline.com/>

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**Source URL (modified on 26/09/2019):**

<https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=content/new-york-times-sees-disturbing-trend-treating-islam-not-religion>

**Links**

[1] <https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=authors/robert-spencer>

[2] <https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=authors/pj-media>

[3] <https://pjmedia.com/homeland-security/new-york-times-sees-disturbing-trend-of-treating-islam-as-not-a-religion/>

[4] <https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=tags/islam-not-religion>

[5] <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/26/opinion/islamophobia-muslim-religion-politics.html>

[6] [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/22/oklahoma-john-bennett-islam\\_n\\_5863084.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/22/oklahoma-john-bennett-islam_n_5863084.html)

[7] <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/424379/ben-carson-and-islam-andrew-c-mccarthy>

[8] <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/2016-presidential-election/2016/08/10/dallas-trumps-favorite-general-voices-doubts-whether-gop-nominee-isa-republican>

[9] <http://blog.adl.org/tags/act-for-america>

[10]

[http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/tapio-questions-religious-freedom-for-muslims/article\\_a4e4532f-1b69-5b4d-9400-a70fb5028caa.html#tracking-source=home-top-story-1](http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/tapio-questions-religious-freedom-for-muslims/article_a4e4532f-1b69-5b4d-9400-a70fb5028caa.html#tracking-source=home-top-story-1)

[11] [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/oklahoma-john-bennett-islam\\_n\\_5863084](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/oklahoma-john-bennett-islam_n_5863084)

[12] <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/ben-carson-and-islam-andrew-c-mccarthy/>