[Home](#) > Taxonomy term

- ### [Islamic Civilisation: Four Challenges](#) [1]

 [1]

Source Item:

[Islamic Civilisation: Four Challenges](#) [2]

Author(s):

[Yahya-Cholil-Staquf](#) [3]

Summary:

An extract from a paper presented to an Islamic conference in Nov 2017:

> ***The way I see it, what ISIS did was that they want to force the reality of today's living to be following what is in the source of Islamic teaching. Everything they [ISIS] did, they have the justification from the authoritative references of Islamic teachings.***

Now, when we are thinking about whether Islam is compatible to democracy or not, we then have to observe the mindset of Muslims about Islam. The question would be: is the mindset of Muslims about Islam compatible to democracy? When we look into the references in classical discourse of Islam, we will find several problematic elements there. I can point out among many problematic elements - four centers of concerns - related to not just democracy but to the nature of our current civilisation.

The first is the teaching about relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims. In the classical discourse of Islamic teaching, the dominant view of this matter is that Muslims and non-Muslims

are enemies. The basic norm of the relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims are enmity. That is what's dominant in the classical discourse of Islamic teaching. For example, in the tafsir Quran by At-Tobari, or At-Tabarani or Ibnu Kathir, it was stated that non-Muslims, meaning infidel, is permissible to be killed merely because of their infidelity. That is there in the discourse. We also, for example, have in the very famous book in Shafi' tradition, I'anatuth Thalibin, whereby it is stated there that Muslims have the collective obligation to do expansive jihad towards non-Muslims at least once a year. It is there in the discourse. So, we still have this problematic element in the reference that is still considered to be very authoritative among Muslims all over the world. Therefore, the first problematic element is the teaching about the relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims.

The second problematic element is the teaching about the conflict of religion itself. What kind of conflict? The category of conflict that is eligible to be considered as conflict of religion. For example, when the Buddhist in Myanmar attacked Muslims there, it is already a legitimate reason for Muslims everywhere in the world to declare war against the Buddhists. I believe you are all aware that these kinds of arguments have also been the arguments that the terrorists groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda used to attract Muslims to join them. Because the infidels from America attack Muslims in Iraq and in the Middle East, then it is a legitimate reason for Muslims to attack any Western infidels all over the world. That is their argument. And it is justified in the classical course of Islamic teaching.

The third problematic element would be the existence of nation states. You see, nation state is now the base of our current world order. The world order we have now is based on the existence of nation states but this is something new and there is no normative base about nation state in the classical discourse of Islamic teaching. What is dominant there in the discourse of Islamic teaching is the obligation for Muslims to struggle for one grand imamate meaning one universal political system under one Muslim ruler. It is in there in the classical discourse of Islamic teaching.

Then, the fourth problematic thing would be the status of state laws as the alternative of Shariah. How would Shariah see the state laws? State laws that are produced by modern political processes, by democracy. Is it an obligation for Muslims to follow the state laws or should they reject the state laws and follow the Shariah instead? Is following state laws such as the traffic regulation an obligation for Muslim, a "Shariah obligation" for Muslim, or is it just a worldly affair not related to religion? All these are centers of our concern regarding Islamic teachings because it is still recorded in the most authoritative references of Islamic teaching.

See also:

> Among Muslims and non-Muslims, there is an urgent need to address those obsolete and problematic elements of Islamic orthodoxy that underlie the Islamist worldview, fuelling violence on both sides. The world's largest Muslim organisation, Indonesia's Nahdlatul Ulama, of which I am General Secretary, has begun to do exactly that.
>
> The truth, we recognise, is that jihadist doctrine, goals and strategy can be traced to specific tenets of orthodox, authoritative Islam and its historic practice. This includes those portions of Shariah that promote Islamic supremacy, encourage enmity towards non-Muslims and require the establishment of a caliphate. It is these elements – still taught by most Sunni and Shiite institutions – that constitute a summons to perpetual conflict.

http://newageislam.com/current-affairs/yahya-cholil-staquf/how-can-muslims-and-non-muslims-together--prev

ent-another-atrocity-like-the-one-in-christchurch?/d/118127 [4]

- ## To prevent another Christchurch, Islam must confront the attacks in its name that have radicalised the West [5]

 [5]

Source Item:

[To prevent another Christchurch, Islam must confront the attacks in its name that have radicalised the West](#) [6]

Author(s):

Yahya-Cholil-Staquf [3]

Telegraph(UK) [7]

Summary:

Among Muslims and non-Muslims, there is an urgent need to address those obsolete and problematic elements of Islamic orthodoxy that underlie the Islamist worldview, fuelling violence on both sides. The world's largest Muslim organisation, Indonesia's Nahdlatul Ulama, of which I am General Secretary, has begun to do exactly that.

The truth, we recognise, is that jihadist doctrine, goals and strategy can be traced to specific tenets of orthodox, authoritative Islam and its historic practice. This includes those portions of Shariah that promote Islamic supremacy, encourage enmity towards non-Muslims and require the establishment of a caliphate. [8] It is these elements – still taught by most Sunni and Shiite institutions – that constitute a summons to perpetual conflict.

It is our firm view that, if Muslims do not address the key tenets of Islamic tradition that encourage this violence, anyone – at any time – can harness them to defy what they claim to be illegitimate laws and butcher their fellow citizens, whether they live in the Islamic world or the West. This is what links so many current events, from Syria to the streets of London. There is a desperate need for honest discussion of these matters. This is why it worries me to see Western political and intellectual elites weaponise the term "Islamophobia," to short-circuit analysis of a complex phenomenon that threatens all humanity. For example, it is factually incorrect and counter-productive to define Islamophobia as "rooted in racism," as proposed by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims. In reality, it is the spread of Islamist extremism and terror that primarily contributes to the rise of Islamophobia throughout the non-Muslim world. That is why it is vital to challenge the prevailing "Muslim mindset," which is predicated upon enmity and suspicion towards non-Muslims, and often rationalises perpetrating violence in the name of Islam. Otherwise, non-Muslims will continue to be radicalised by Islamist attacks and by large-scale Muslim migration to the West.

See also:

[Islam must confront the attacks in its name that have radicalised the West](#) [9]where this article appeared in

the UK press.

https://www.fahrenheit211.net/2019/04/05/islamophobia-not-coming-from-the-source-that-many-may-think/ [10]

https://religionunplugged.com/news/2019/4/3/muslim-leader-yahya-cholil-staquf-need-to-address-problematic-elements-of-islamic-orthodoxy-after-christchurch-attack [11]

https://barnabasfund.org/en/news/leading-muslim-cleric-says-islamophobia-a-result-of-islamic-extremism-and-not-racism [12]

https://clarionproject.org/indonesia-islamophobia-just-a-response-to-islamic-extremism/ [13]

https://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2019/03/the-muslim-leader-who-offers-an-example-on-how-to-tackle-islamism/ [14]

http://newageislam.com/current-affairs/yahya-cholil-staquf/how-can-muslims-and-non-muslims-together--prevent-another-atrocity-like-the-one-in-christchurch?/d/118127 [4]

- **To prevent another Christchurch, Islam must confront the attacks in its name that have radicalised the West** [15]

Author(s):
Telegraph(UK) [7]
Yahya-Cholil-Staquf [3]

Source Item:
To prevent another Christchurch, Islam must confront the attacks in its name that have radicalised the West [9]

Summary:
Ending the cycle of violence requires addressing not only the ideology and motivations of someone like Tarrant, but also the historical framework he shares with many Muslims. That is, that Muslims and non-Muslims are and shall remain in a state of permanent conflict, until the end of time (according to Islamists) or the disappearance of Islam (according to advocates of a "counter-jihad"). Among Muslims and non-Muslims, there is an urgent need to address those obsolete and problematic elements of Islamic orthodoxy that underlie the Islamist worldview, fuelling violence on both sides. The world's largest Muslim organisation, Indonesia's Nahdlatul Ulama, of which I am General Secretary, has begun to do exactly that.

The truth, we recognise, is that jihadist doctrine, goals and strategy can be traced to specific tenets of orthodox, authoritative Islam and its historic practice. This includes those portions of Shariah that promote Islamic supremacy, encourage enmity towards non-Muslims and require the establishment of a caliphate. [8] It is these elements – still taught by most Sunni and Shiite

There is a desperate need for honest discussion of these matters. This is why it worries me to see Western political and intellectual elites weaponise the term "Islamophobia [16]," to short-circuit analysis of a complex phenomenon that threatens all humanity. For example, it is factually incorrect and counter-productive to define Islamophobia as "rooted in racism," [17] as proposed by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims. In reality, it is the spread of Islamist extremism and terror that primarily contributes to the rise of Islamophobia throughout the non-Muslim world.

See also: http://newageislam.com/current-affairs/yahya-cholil-staquf/how-can-muslims-and-non-muslims-together--prevent-another-atrocity-like-the-one-in-christchurch?/d/118127 [4]

- ## 'Islamophobia' not coming from the source that many may think [18]

Author(s):
Fahrenheit211 [19]
Yahya-Cholil-Staquf [3]

Source Item:
'Islamophobia' not coming from the source that many may think [10]

Summary:
Sometimes challenges to jihadist orthodoxies come from the most surprising places. A challenge to the idea that 'Islamophobia' equals racism has been made by an influential and seemingly widely supported Islamic cleric.

Yahya Cholil Staquf, the leader of an Indonesia based Islamic sect that claims 90 million adherents that it was some aspects of Islam itself that are creating and sustaining conflict. Mr Staquf wrote an article in the UK Daily Telegraph and quoted by the website of the Christian Barnabas Fund, in which he said that the 'Islamic mindset must change'. He took aim at the Islamic orthodoxy that fuels both jihadists and other Islamic extremists in places like Europe and called that orthodoxy 'obsolete and problematic" and "fuelling violence on both sides".

Mr Staquf is in my opinion correct in his assertions. Many of us do not despise Islam for reasons related to ignorance or mindless bigotry, but because of the theology of Islam that propels some Muslims to do the most appalling things. These terrible things are done either in the name of Islam or because the perpetrators grew up in a culture that promoted Islamic orthodoxy and that has become the world view of these individuals. It is as Mr Staquf said the 'perpetual enmity' between Muslim and non Muslim that is encouraged by shariah law and has its roots in the Koran. It is good to see this cleric be honest and admit that Islamic terrorism is everything to do with Islam.

- ## Bishop of Truro's Independent Review for the Foreign Secretary of FCO Support

[for Persecuted Christians](https://shariawatch.org.uk) [20]

Source Item:

[Bishop of Truro's Independent Review for the Foreign Secretary of FCO Support for Persecuted Christians](https://shariawatch.org.uk) [21]

Country:

United Kingdom (UK)

News Date:

30/04/2019

Summary:

There is widespread evidence showing that "today, Christians constitute by far the most widely persecuted religion."[19] [22] Finding once again that Christianity is the most persecuted religion in the world, the Pew Research Center concluded that in 2016 Christians were targeted in 144 countries[20] [23]

Source URL (retrieved on 14/11/2019): https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=authors/yahya-cholil-staquf

Links

[1] https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=content/islamic-civilisation-four-challenges

[2] http://islamandlibertynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Islamic-Civilisation-Four-Challenges-Kyai-Haji-Yahya-Cholil-Staquf.pdf

[3] https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=authors/yahya-cholil-staquf

[4] http://newageislam.com/current-affairs/yahya-cholil-staquf/how-can-muslims-and-non-muslims-together--prevent-another-atrocity-like-the-one-in-christchurch?/d/118127

[5] https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=content/prevent-another-christchurch-islam-must-confront-attacks-its-name-have-radicalised-west-0

[6] https://www.baytarrahmah.org/media/2019/telegraph_prevent-another-christchurch-islam-must-confront-attacks-name_03-25-19.pdf

[7] https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=authors/telegraphuk

[8] https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/08/18/enough-blaming-west-terror-will-continue-muslims-reject-need/

[9] https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/24/prevent-another-christchurch-islam-must-confront-attacks-name/

[10] https://www.fahrenheit211.net/2019/04/05/islamophobia-not-coming-from-the-source-that-many-may-think/

[11] https://religionunplugged.com/news/2019/4/3/muslim-leader-yahya-cholil-staquf-need-to-address-problematic-elements-of-islamic-orthodoxy-after-christchurch-attack

[12] https://barnabasfund.org/en/news/leading-muslim-cleric-says-islamophobia-a-result-of-islamic-extremism-and-not-racism

[13] https://clarionproject.org/indonesia-islamophobia-just-a-response-to-islamic-extremism/

[14] https://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2019/03/the-muslim-leader-who-offers-an-example-on-how-to-tackle-islamism/

[15] https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=content/prevent-another-christchurch-islam-must-confront-attacks-its-name-have-radicalised-west

[16] https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/18/law-against-islamophobia-terrible-idea/

[17]
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/20/proposed-new-definition-islamophobia-could-see-teachers-forced/

[18] https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=content/islamophobia-not-coming-source-many-may-think

[19] https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=authors/fahrenheit211

[20]
https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=content/bishop-truro-s-independent-review-foreign-secretary-fco-support-persecuted
-christians

[21] https://christianpersecutionreview.org.uk/interim-report/

[22] https://christianpersecutionreview.org.uk/interim-report/#anchor19

[23] https://christianpersecutionreview.org.uk/interim-report/#anchor20