

**RESPONSES AND RESOURCES FROM BRIGADA PARTICIPANTS
TO QUESTION ABOUT MUSLIMS
POSED AFTER AN ISLAMIC SPEAKER CLAIMED:**

- a) Muslims revere Jesus & would die for him,
- b) Muslims consider the Bible to be a sacred source, and
- c) Muslims do not harm Christian churches.

SOME GENERAL COMMENTS BY BRIGADA RESPONDENTS ON ISLAM AND REACHING MUSLIMS

- * I've served overseas to bring the Gospel to Muslims since 1996. In all my time, face to face in Arabic with Muslims, I've never heard them claim those things. My belief is that Islam is concocting a considerable stew of lies and deception in order to convert gullible western Christians to Islam.
- * Thank you. [Too] often Christians remain silent before Muslim rhetoric. We either believe it is not good to argue or are simply without sufficient data. Arguing is not always the thing to do but one must claim the high ground when the truth of Christ is in question. Christ must be our example. He certainly got into lots of hot water with the religious leaders but his words were also balm for the lost.
- * Whoever uttered the statements that were reported on Brigada is most likely an Islamic Evangelist who is completely willing to deceive Christians in order to get them to become Muslims. If those statements came from any other source, I'd say they were either really deceived or terribly confused.
- * The current anti-Islam / anti-Muslim sentiment that has arisen since the 9-11 attacks is terrifically overblown. For those who have experienced real life in an Arab land, I dare say that they are far more tolerant of us than we are of them.
- * We do not wish to come across as anti-Muslim, but neither do we want to be dishonest about the ultimate aim of Islam, especially the radicalized version.

COMMENTS RE. CLAIM THAT MUSLIMS REVERE JESUS AND WOULD DIE FOR HIM

- * Sincere Muslims do revere Jesus considerably, but he is largely unknown to them. Dying for Jesus would be heretical however -- they do not consider Jesus to have died on the cross and I can't think of a single reason Jesus would be worth "dying for" in Islam.
- * Muslims respect Jesus as a prophet and as a good man, but do not believe that God could allow him to be executed as a common criminal on the cross. They believe he was sinless, that he was virgin born, that he performed miracles and that he is coming again, but not that he was Son of God or divine.
- * I have been ministering among Muslims for the last 6 years in N. Africa. None have ever said they would die for Christ. To my knowledge the Koran does not teach that

COMMENTS RE. CLAIM THAT MUSLIMS CONSIDER THE BIBLE TO BE A SACRED SOURCE

- * The Bible as a sacred source: Muslim theologians claim the Bible has been corrupted. They also are taught to reject strongly any arguments coming from the Bible - mostly they are taught to be afraid of dogmatic Christianity.
- * Muslims respect the Bible and what it says about the prophets from Adam through Jesus, but say that the Bible has been corrupted and is unreliable as a source of revelation about God
- * Muslims I've worked with for 6 years overseas always tell me that the bible we read and the one the Koran calls the word of God are two different bibles. They say that the Bible was corrupted by someone, but they don't know who did it, where or when. But it "had to be corrupted" because it contradicts the Koran on some very important issues. For example the Koran denies the deity of Christ, denies that Christ was the son of God and denies that Christ died on the cross to save mankind, among other differences.

COMMENTS RE. CLAIM THAT MUSLIMS DO NOT HARM CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OR (BY EXTENSION) CHRISTIANS. Regretably, religious intolerance and hatred still circles the globe. Apparently, no group is immune. However, this particular series of resources and facts has been assembled to rebut a Muslim apologist who (when speaking before a group of American Protestants) claimed that Muslims do not harm churches (or by extension), Christians.

* BAGHDAD, Iraq AUGUST 1, 2004 - Assailants triggered a coordinated series of explosions outside five churches in Baghdad and Mosul during Sunday evening services, killing 11 people and wounding more than 50 in the first major assault on Iraq's Christian minority since the 15-month-old insurgency began. Source: AP

* 26 yr old, Rev Susianty Tinulele of the GKST (Presbyterian Christian Church of Central Sulawesi, Indonesia) in Palu, was preaching from the pulpit at the 6.00 p.m. evening service last Sunday, July 18, when attackers sprayed her and the worship team with gunfire. Rev Susianty died instantly after being shot through the head. Four other worshippers were seriously wounded and were hospitalized with gunshot wounds. Rev Susianty was a gifted pastor and preacher and was an active supporter of the imprisoned pastor Rev Rinaldy Damanik, who is also a leader in the GKST church. It appears that supporters of Rev Damanik, church leaders of the GKST and their congregations may be being specifically targeted in these 'ride by' shootings and assassinations. On May 25 Ferry Silalahi a Christian lawyer, and part of Rev Damanik's defense team was also shot to death as he and his wife left a house church meeting in Palu. Ferry was also one of the State prosecutors of 5 accused Muslim terrorists. Source: International Friends of Compassion, Sydney

* May 28, 2004 Samuel Masih, a Pakistani Christian who had been accused of blasphemy under Pakistan's strict Law 295, died tonight around 9 p.m. local time in the Lahore hospital where he was a patient. Masih was arrested August 23, 2003 and was accused of throwing waste against the side of a mosque. He was held in the Lahore Central Jail until, suffering from tuberculosis, he was transferred to a local hospital on May 22. Two days later, early in the morning, Masih was attacked by one of the policemen assigned to guard his room. The policeman, a Muslim, reportedly told investigators that it was his religious duty, as a Muslim, to kill the Christian man. "I have offered my religious duty for killing the man. I'm spiritually satisfied and ready to face the consequences," he is reported to have said. Source: Voice of the Martyrs

* Uzbekistan - (14 July 2004) Secret Police Interrogate And Beat Christians ... Baptists in Urgench in the north-western Uzbek region of Khorezm face interrogations and abuse from authorities who are cracking down on Protestant Christians in what appears to be an attempt to halt the spread of Christianity in this Muslim majority ex-Soviet republic. Source: The Barnabas Fund

* JAKARTA (AP)--Jan 2002. A reveler was killed in a blast in Jakarta early Tuesday, and a series of explosions at churches on Sulawesi island injured three people, police said. Three of the explosions in the central Sulawesi provincial capital, Palu, took place just before midnight as thousands of people celebrated on the streets. One person was injured. The blasts shattered windows at two churches. A fourth explosion occurred Tuesday morning at the town's Pantekosta church, seriously injuring two policeman who were examining the device, witnesses said. Source: Dow Jones International News 01/01/2002

* Pakistan May 2004 Pakistani police in the central province of Punjab reluctantly detained a Muslim cleric last week after a Christian university student savagely beaten and tortured inside a local Islamic madrasseh (seminary) died of his injuries. On his hospital deathbed, Anjum declared in his formal statement to the police that he was tortured specifically because he refused to convert to Islam. According to his testimony videotaped by his family, Anjum had been seized by people from the madrasseh when he stopped to get a drink of water from the school's water tap. When they learned he was a Christian, they pressured him "from night until morning" to convert to Islam. When he resisted, he said, he was subjected to barbaric forms of torture. Anjum said he was finally forced under torture to repeat the words of the Muslim creed, an act which according to Islamic law constitutes conversion to Islam. But he told his family he had not renounced his Christian faith. Source:Compass Direct | posted 05/12/2004

* Pakistan. 2002. Three girls died during a Christmas day (2002) attack on a small church in eastern Pakistan. Witnesses said two assailants dressed in burqas—all-encompassing garments worn by women in some Muslim countries—threw a bomb into the middle of worshippers at a Christmas Day service, wire services reported. The attack injured 13 of the 40 Pakistanis inside the church in Chianwala, northwest of Lahore. By the following day, police had detained an Islamic cleric who days earlier had allegedly urged supporters to kill

Christians. They were questioning three other people as well. On that same day, about 2,500 people gathered for a memorial service for the victims—ages 6, 10, and 15. Source: Religion News Service | posted 01/13/2003 and printed in Christianity Today, February, 2003

* An Iranian Christian fled his country last September after authorities in Tehran lashed him for leaving Islam and evangelizing Muslims. Identified only as Hooman, upon his release he escaped to Turkey with his Muslim wife. "He had been whipped, and the authorities were going to deal with him in an even more severe manner," says Abe Ghaffari, executive director of Iranian Christians International (ICI). "He was persecuted by vigilantes as well. A motorcycle rider stabbed him and tried to kill him." Source: Christianity Today - posted 07/05/2004

* Eritrea 2004. Government harasses churches in Eritrea. Eritrea's crackdown continues against Christians unaffiliated with officially sanctioned groups. On March 17, authorities raided a private home and arrested nine family members who were reading the Bible and praying together. The father, named Kelete, is a lay leader in the Rhema Church in Asmara. Family members remain in prison. On February 23, 10 members of the Full Gospel Church in Asmara, meeting in a home, were arrested. All but one are imprisoned. In mid-February, authorities arrested 51 people from the Hallelujah Church in Asmara; 46 remain in detention. The government ordered all independent Protestant churches closed in May 2002. Source: Christianity Today - posted 05/20/2004

* Eritrea - 2003. In four cities, security forces jailed, beat, and threatened 170 Protestant Christians in a harsh crackdown. In five incidents in four cities, Eritrean security police barged into worship services and even a wedding ceremony. They jailed men, women, and children for practicing what government officials called "a new religion." Authorities held all the arrested people incommunicado and eventually released them on bail. Then on April 15 security police severely beat members of an Orthodox renewal group, who had to be hospitalized, and the next day they detained 11 members of the Protestant Mesert Christos Church in Asmara. Source: Compass Direct in Asmara | posted 05/16/2003

* Indonesia 1999. Extremist Muslim mobs have burned hundreds of churches, businesses and homes, and killed thousands of Christians. In just one such incident, January 1999, mobs attacked a Christian youth camp on Ambon, wounding many and killing two pastors and one 15 year old boy who refused to renounce Christ. His abdomen was sliced open with a sword and his Bible inserted in his body as he died. Source: Institute on Religion and Democracy

* A number of massacres in Pakistan's mosques and churches, including an attack on a church in Islamabad that left five persons dead, two of them foreign nationals, brought into question the Government's ability to prevent sectarian and religious violence. International Religious Freedom Report 2002

* Saudi Arabia. Non-Muslim worshippers risk arrest, imprisonment, lashing, deportation, and sometimes physical abuse for engaging in religious activity that attracted official attention. U.S. International Religious Freedom Report 2003

* Saudi Arabia. Freedom of religion does not exist in Saudi Arabia. The Government requires all citizens to be Muslim and prohibits all public manifestations of non-Muslim religions. Islamic practice generally is limited to that of a school of the Sunni branch of Islam as interpreted by Muhammad Ibn Abd Al-Wahhab, an 18th-century Arab religious reformer, and practices contrary to this interpretation are suppressed. Members of the Shi'a minority continued to face institutionalized political and economic discrimination, including restrictions on the practice of their faith, and many Shi'a sheikhs remained in detention.

The Government has stated publicly that it recognizes the right of non-Muslims to worship in private; however, the distinction between public and private worship is not defined clearly, in effect forcing most non-Muslims to worship in a manner such as to avoid discovery. Several Christians were detained for non-Muslim worship and almost always deported after sometimes lengthy periods of arrest, during which some received lashings. The Government refused to permit clergy members to enter the country to conduct non-Muslim religious services, placing groups such as Catholics and Orthodox Christians who must have a priest on a regular basis to practice their faith at a particular disadvantage. Customs officials confiscated or censored materials considered offensive, including Bibles and religious videotapes. In certain areas, both the Mutawwa'in (religious police) and religious vigilantes harassed, assaulted, and detained citizens and foreigners. U.S. International Religious Freedom Report 2002

* Sudan. The forced abduction of women and children and the taking of slaves by slave raiders supported by the Government in war zones continued. The victims in the villages largely were Christians or practitioners of traditional indigenous religions. Some of these victims from Christian and other non-Muslim families were converted forcibly to Islam. U.S. International Religious Freedom Report 2002

* Turkmenistan. The Government severely limits the activities of nonregistered religious congregations by prohibiting them from gathering publicly, proselytizing, and disseminating religious materials. The Government's interpretation of the law severely restricts the freedom to meet and worship in private. Several members of minority faiths were deported. U.S. International Religious Freedom Report 2002

* Indonesia. According to the Department of State, in December 2000, Indonesia's then-President Wahid conceded that "hundreds of Christians on Keswui and Teor Islands in Maluku converted to Islam in November and December 2000 to save their lives." Estimates of numbers range from 3,500 to 8,000 cases. There is also evidence that as many as 800 Muslims were forced to convert to Christianity. (from report on Indonesia May 2002 by U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom)

* Indonesia . Witnesses testified that active duty and retired Indonesia military personnel stood by and even participated in the torture or execution of Christians who refused to convert to Islam on the islands of Ambon, Kesui, Buru, and Seram. (from report on Indonesia May 2002 by U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom)

WEBSITES. Some of these are solid, a few may be a bit strident, and one at least is an extremely creative look at the question. Check them out for yourself.

<http://www.answering-islam.org> Recommended by several people. Be careful not to type in .net or .com as they take you to the "answeringchristians" website (but this is an interesting comparison to the former).

<http://www.gospelcom.net/awm/site/display3.php?article=42>

<http://www.truthnet.org>

www.Jihadwatch.org

www.Danielpipes.org

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ctmag/features/issues/persecution.html>

www.christianityexplained.net.tc

<http://openmysite.com/firmanallah/>

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/> U.S. International Religious Freedom report

<http://www.freedom-quest.ca/>

<http://www.ird-renew.org/Liberty/Libertymain.cfm> Institute on Religion and Democracy Religious - Liberty Program

<http://www.gospelcom.net/awm/> Arab World Ministries – has extensive Q & A on Islam under "Resources"

BOOKS

* Islamic Invasion, by Robert A. Morey

* Islam Unveiled: The True Desert Storm, by Robert A. Morey

* Islam Unveiled, by Abdullah al-Araby (Muslim convert to Christianity)

* Reaching Muslims for Christ, by William Saal

* Islam Reviewed, by M. Ali (Muslim convert to Christianity)

* I Dared to Call Him Father: The Miraculous Story of a Muslim Woman's Encounter With God, by Bilquis Sheikh (Muslim convert to Christianity)

* Anything written by Dudley Woodbury or Kenneth Cragg will be helpful

* Building Bridges by Accad Available at Navpress.com. Excellent intro

* Facing the Muslim Challenge by John Gilcrest (there is another book too)

* Handbook for Christian-Muslim apologetics- great for understanding the Muslim challenges leveled at Christians and how to approach them.

* A Christian Answers a Muslim by Gerherd Nehls Christian-Muslim apologetics

* A Christian Asks a Muslim by Gerherd Nehls Christian-Muslim apologetics

* Islam and the Bible: Why Two Faiths Collide, David Godlman, © 2004. ISBN: 0-8024-1017-0

- * Understanding the Koran: A Quick Christian Guide to the Muslim Holy Book by Mateen Ellass
- * Muslims and Christians at the Table: Promoting Biblical Understanding Among North American Muslims by Bruce A. McDowell, Anees Zaka
- * Mosques & Miracles by Stuart Robinson, published by City Harvest Publications.
- * Anything by John Gilchrist

FRONTIERS' TOP TEN LIST OF BOOKS FOR REACHING MUSLIMS (revised 12/2001)

- * Accad, Fouad E. 1997 Building Bridges: Christianity and Islam Colorado Springs: NavPress
- * Chapman, Colin 1995 Cross and Crescent: Responding To The Challenge Of Islam Leicester, England: Intervarsity Press
- * Cooper, Ann 1993 Ishmael My Brother: A Christian Introduction to Islam Tunbridge Wells, U.K. : MARC
- * Gaudeul, Jean-Marie 1999 Called From Islam to Christ: Why Muslims Became Christians Sussex, England: Monarch Mooks: MARC
- * Mallouhi, Christine 2000 Waging Peace on Islam London, England: Monarch Books
- * McCurry, Don 2001 Healing the Broken Family of Abraham: New Life For Muslims Colorado Springs, CO: Ministries to Muslims
- * Musk, Bill 1996 Touching The Soul of Islam: Sharing The Gospel in Muslim Cultures Sussex, England: Monarch Books: MARC
- * Bill Musk 1989 The Unseen Face of Islam: Sharing the Gospel with Ordinary Muslims Monrovia, CA: MARC
- * Parshall, Phil 1980 New Paths in Muslim Evangelism: Evangelical Approaches to Contextualization Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House
- * Saal, William 1991 Reaching Muslims for Christ Chicago, IL Moody Press

STUDY GUIDES/ ETC

- * Sleeping in America: The Secret War, by Avi Lipkin, two audio tapes and notes, from Koinonia House, P.O. Box D, Coeur d'Alene ID 83816 or www.Khouse.org.
- * "Al-Kitab" - Bible study guide for Muslims, explaining the gospel against a Muslim background. It has already been translated and published in a number of languages, and can be downloaded free in English and Arabic at <http://www.cmn.co.za> .
- * Articles by Sam Schlorff – just search the internet and you'll find many

BOOKSTORES (ONLINE)

<http://www.light-of-life.com>
<http://shop.gospelcom.net/cgi-bin/ArabWorldMinistries.storefront>
<http://www.christianbook.com>

LIST COMPILED BY BRIGADA PARTICIPANT stayton@gvtc.com ON 1 AUGUST 2004 – COMPILING RESPONSES AND REFERENCES SENT BY BRIGADA PARTICIPANTS RESPONDING TO HER QUESTIONS POSED IN BRIGADA'S 16 JULY 2004 ISSUE