Event name: Month of Mercy conference

Date of event: 8th July 2012

Venue: Grand Connaught Rooms, 61-65 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5DA

Primary Organisation(s): Al-Muntada / Ilm Events

Sponsoring organisations: Discover Islam, Global Vision Media, Al-Muntada Primary School, Al-Muntada Youth, Al-Muntada Travel.

Speakers: Abdullah Al Mosleh, Muhammed Abd Al-Rahman Al-Arifi, Khalid al-Muslih, Nabil Al-Awahdi, Abd al-Aziz Fawzan al-Fawzan, Muhammed Salah (Huda TV), Haitham al-Haddad (MRDF), Assim al-Hakeem, Saeed al-Qadi and Abu Bakr Shatri (Special Reciter)
MONTH OF MERCY CONFERENCE BRIEFING DOCUMENT

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ABOUT THE VENUE

Grand Connaught Rooms, 61-65 Great Queen Street, London, England, WC2B 5DA.

Telephone:  +44 (0) 20 74 05 78 11
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OWNERS OF THE VENUE

The Principal Hayley Group, which is based in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, owns the venue. The telephone number of the Principal Hayley Group is 01423 853 800.

KEY INDIVIDUALS

Tony Troy - Chief Executive Officer

Colin Bailey - Group Operations Director

John Lewis OBE - Board Member

Oliver Six – General Manager of the Grand Connaught Rooms

VIOLATION OF COMPANY’S CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

The company’s corporate responsibility document can be found on its website. Principal Hayley’s community objectives include:

“to conduct business in a responsible manner with due care and attention paid to the hotels’ immediate surroundings. We will encourage our guests and colleagues to support sustainable business best practices and support positive action in the community.”

1 http://investing.businessweek.com/research/stocks/private/people.asp?privcapId=128215
2 ibid.
3 ibid.
ABOUT THE AL-MUNTADA AL-ISLAMI

BACKGROUND
The Al-Muntada Al-Islami Trust runs an Islamic centre in Parsons Green, London SW6. Its name is Arabic for “Islamic Forum”.

The premises include a mosque with capacity for 900 people and a primary school with around 160 students. The Trust also runs Eden High School, a small secondary school for girls in Hammersmith. Travel services for pilgrimages to Saudi Arabia are another important activity. The Trust says around 1,200 people use its religious and social services every week.

The Trust also offers books and leaflets about Islam and Al Jumuah (“Friday”) magazine.

Abroad, the Trust has charity, education and dawah (Islamic propagation) operations in Africa.

The Trust is a registered British charity (registration number 293355). It was founded in 1986. In 2009 its income was £995,420. Over the five years from 2005 to 2009 its income totalled £4,559,500. Its main sources of funds are school fees (£368,832 in 2009), pilgrimage travel services (£224,015), and donations (£207,831). It does not identify its donors in its annual reports.

Al-Muntada's trustees are Khalid Al-Fawaz (chairman), Abdul Fatah Said Mohamed, Abdul Hakeem Montague (secretary), and Salah Mohamed Taifoor.

Al-Muntada is a member of the London Citizens group.

HOSTING HATE PREACHERS
The organisation has a long history of hosting foreign and domestic hate preachers. Alongside the hate preachers profiled in this dossier, the following hate preachers have been invited at the behest of Al-Muntada:

- **Ali al Timimi**, a virulently antisemitic American preacher who was convicted of recruiting fighters for the Taliban in the United States after the September 11 attacks and sentenced to life in prison in 2005\(^5\).

- **Murtaza Khan**, a British preacher who bitterly hates Jews, homosexuals, women, and social liberalism. He has told British Muslims it is highly desirable in Islam to die in jihad and regrets that more Muslims do not do so\(^6\).

- **Abu Zubair**, AKA Saleem Beg, one of the founders of Islamic Awakening. It is a British internet forum where vicious extremism and jihad are regularly promoted.


\(^6\)http://hurryupharry.org/2010/03/14/justice-week-at-city-university/ and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2nJYeCqo
Earlier this year Zubair issued thinly veiled death threats to an imam who accepts and teaches evolution⁷.

- **Zakir Naik**, an Indian hate preacher who has expressed support for Osama bin Laden, supports the death penalty for apostates from Islam, and says Jews control America and are the “staunchest enemy” of Muslims as a group. He has been banned from the UK⁸.

- **Khalid Yasin**, an American preacher who teaches hatred of non-Muslims, calls for the death penalty for homosexuals, denies that Muslims carried out the September 11 attacks, and has been accused of serious fraud⁹.

- **Bilal Philips**, a Canadian preacher who promotes extreme views on social issues, such as denying that there is any such thing as marital rape and supporting the death penalty for homosexuals and apostates from Islam. He has also advanced arguments for suicide bombing. He was named as an “unindicted co-conspirator” in the New York bombing cases of the early 1990s - he was a close associate of one of the key suspects - and has been banned from the US, the UK and Australia¹⁰.

**PREVIOUS EXTREMISM:**
**THE “PEAKS OF EMAAN” CONFERENCE IN LONDON**
The centre organised a conference in London titled “Peaks of Emaan” (Faith)¹¹. It was held at the Novotel in Hammersmith on 9 April 2011.

Five of the ten scheduled speakers were from Saudi Arabia. Some of the others were trained in Saudi Arabia.

Many of the speakers have a long record of pushing extremely hateful and radicalising messages. They include:

- Support for jihad, including Hamas and terrorists who attack coalition troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

- Vicious antisemitism.

- Crude misogyny and homophobia.

- Hateful scorn for apostates from Islam.

- Burning contempt for social liberals.

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• Angry condemnation of Muslims who do not follow their ways, such as liberal Sunni believers and all Shia Muslims.

After a successful media campaign, the conference was called off.

Anyone who would have attended this conference who already had extreme views was likely to find them reinforced. Others may have been encouraged to start or continue a move from moderation to extremism. In the worst-case scenario, the conference may have been another milestone on one or more individuals’ road to violence
VIOLATIONS OF GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

In 2011, the Government published the *Prevent Strategy*, a report that outlined how the government would tackle the prevention of violent Islamism in the United Kingdom. Amongst the report’s recommendations was that private organisations should do everything they can to educate themselves and act on concerns that organisations they are hosting may propagate Islamist ideologies and terrorism.

The Prevent Strategy gives the following guidance to private organisations:\textsuperscript{12}:

“Propagandists for terrorism and for ideologies taken up by terrorists should not be permitted to make use of publicly owned venues. Local authorities and others must be ready to take appropriate action. *Where conferences and speaker meetings involving propagandists are taking place in universities and colleges, communities and privately-owned locations, authorities – including the police – should always be ready to brief the owners and ensure they understand what is taking place.*”

On the 5th February 2011, Prime Minister David Cameron gave a speech at the Munich Security conference setting out his view on radicalisation and Islamic extremism\textsuperscript{13}. In his speech, he set out his belief that government should tackle hate preachers and Islamists more directly. He said the following:

“First, confronting and undermining this ideology. Whether they are violent in their means or not, we must make it impossible for the extremists to succeed. *Now, for governments, there are some obvious ways we can do this. We must ban preachers of hate from coming to our countries. We must also proscribe organisations that incite terrorism against people at home and abroad. Governments must also be shrewder in dealing with those that, while not violent, are in some cases part of the problem.* We need to think much harder about who it’s in the public interest to work with. Some organisations that seek to present themselves as a gateway to the Muslim community are showered with public money despite doing little to combat extremism.”


\textsuperscript{13}http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/pms-speech-at-munich-security-conference/
ABD AL-AZIZ FAWZAN AL-FAWZAN

Abd al-Aziz Fawzan al-Fawzan is a Saudi Professor of Islamic Law at Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University, Saudi Arabia. His past remarks have included glorifying violent Jihad, promoting anti-Christian bigotry, glorifying misogynistic beliefs and promoting homophobia.

Al-Fawzan is the general manager of the Message of Islam website (islammessage.com) and headed the Islamic Studies division at the Institute of Islamic and Arabic Sciences in America from 1997 to 2002. He is the author of numerous Islamic books and appears frequently on Saudi television.

GLORIFYING JIHAD
Islamist proselytising is a regular occurrence in Saudi Arabia. In a TV appearance, Al-Fawzan glorified violent Jihad in Iraq saying: "Jihad is an individual duty applying to the Iraqi people. They need to wage this jihad against this enemy until it leaves their country".

PROMOTING 9/11 CONSPIRACIES
In an interview to a Saudi television network, Al-Fawzan glorified 9/11 conspiracies. 9/11 conspiracies play an active role in recruitment and propaganda of Islamist extremism. He said the following:

“They committed crimes that only God knows of. Either they were accomplices in 9/11, or else they carried it out, even though they have deceived the world about this. They carried out many terror operations around the world, and the president of Yemen revealed two days ago that a terror cell that was captured was using Islamic slogans, but in fact belonged to Israeli intelligence. These criminals want to take control over the world, by spreading fear, death, and destruction, and at the same time, they give the impression that they are the victims. Because of 9/11, they killed millions of people, and if their skulls were placed one on top of the other, the pile would be higher than the WTC.”

In a different interview, Al-Fawzan relished the collapse of America:

“Allah Be Praised, America Is Collapsing; It Was Either Complicit In or Actually Carried Out 9/11; The Pile Of Skulls of America’s Victims Would Be Higher Than The WTC.”

ANTICHRISTIAN BIGOTRY
In an interview to Saudi television, Al-Fawzan whipped up anti-Christian hate saying:


16 Ibid.
“But if this person is an infidel, even if this person is my mother or father, God forbid, or my son or daughter: I must hate him, his heresy, and his defiance of Allah and His prophet. I must hate his abominable deeds. Moreover, this hatred must be positive hatred.”

**MISOGYNIST/ANTI-FEMINIST OPINIONS**

In an interview to Saudi television, Al-Fawzan said the following\(^\text{18}\):

“Allah be praised, [Saudi Arabia] is the most conservative [nation] in the Muslim world, in which a woman maintains her honour, decency and modesty - and she does not reveal anything - … how can she drive a car?”

He specifically targets ‘Westernised’ Muslims, accusing them of moral corruption\(^\text{19}\):

“Those who call to allow women to drive, according to what has been written can be divided into two groups. The first group includes Westernised people … they want to destroy society, corrupt it, and drag it down into the depths of decay and permissiveness like in Western societies … They want it [Islamic society] to be devoid of all values, morals and modesty.

They want women to go out on the streets all made up, like a harlot, with her face uncovered, like they see in the West. They think the shortest and best way to reach this goal is to allow women to drive, because if a woman drives she will reveal her face, drive without a moral chaperone, [she] will have an easy opportunity to meet all kinds of young men and women and she will get all made up, will mix with men and so on.”

He continues to accuse successful Western women of sacrificing their ‘honour’ to her bosses and co-workers\(^\text{20}\):

“I don’t think that any woman throughout human history has been oppressed as the Western woman today - and they still claim they have given her freedom. They took her out (of the home) in order to exploit her, to exploit her honor and dignity … She does not get what she wants unless she sacrifices her honour, to her bosses or co-workers. How strange!”

In a statement after a woman gave a symbolic sermon, he chastised the event and explained that women should have no role in sermons and blamed ‘the Jews and Christians’. He said the following\(^\text{21}\):

\(^{17}\) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoVkhMmjGI4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoVkhMmjGI4)

\(^{18}\) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8XX1ADvXe](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8XX1ADvXe)

\(^{19}\) ibid.

\(^{20}\) ibid.
"Even if the imam makes a mistake during prayers, the Prophet banned women from saying 'subhan allah' ['God forbid'] like the men say in such a case... Women must clap their hands [instead]. Why? Because the voice of women is tender by nature, and arouses [urges], and it is improper for men to engage in thoughts about women during prayer..."

"Thus, how can a woman be permitted to become a preacher? Undoubtedly, this is unacceptable, and must be condemned...

"I know of no clerics who permit men to be led in prayer by a woman, not even in the five [required daily] prayers – and all the more so in a sermon... The controversy amongst the clerics concerns women leading women in prayer... [and whether] this is lawful or merely permissible... [Even in this case,] the clerics have determined that a female imam must stand amongst the women, not in front of them, so as not to be like the men [where the imam stands in front of them]. This being the case, how is it conceivable that she deliver a sermon? This is a strange thing... that emanates from lack of faith, from religious weakness, and from laxity in religious knowledge, and also from behaving in accordance with the will of the enemies of the [Muslim] nation – the Jews and the Christians..."

HOMOPHOBIA
Al-Fawzan has condemned homosexuality calling it 'an abomination' 22. He has blamed homosexuality on 'Western values':

Some people want to Westernize our society in any possible way, but they know that if they advocate fornication, forbidden sexual relations, and homosexuality, the people would stone them. So what do they do? They come up with these deviant fatwas, which lay the ground for these crimes and abominations.

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21 Al-Majd TV (UAE), March 28, 2005

MUHAMMED ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ARIFI

‘KILLING INFIDELS IN JIHAD’
Al-Arifi believes that killing infidels in jihad is a “great honour”. This is what he said in a television broadcast in 2010:

There is no doubt that a person whom Allah enables to sacrifice his soul, and to fight for the sake of Allah, has been graced with a great honor. The Prophet Muhammad said that the dust of battle for the sake of Allah and the smoke of Hell shall never meet in a man’s nose.

...Devotion to Jihad for the sake of Allah, and the desire to shed blood, to smash skulls and to sever limbs for the sake of Allah and in defense of His religion, is, undoubtedly, an honor for the believer.

...Allah said that if a man fights the infidels, the infidels will be unable to prepare to fight [the Muslims]. By Allah, the infidel countries today – the US and its allies – dare to fight the Muslims, to rape their women and turn them into widows, and to inflict their corruption on Islam and the Muslims on a daily basis only because they see that the Muslims do not even consider fighting the infidels and conquering their countries.

...The Koranic verses that deal with fighting the infidels and conquering their countries say that they should convert to Islam, pay the jizya poll tax, or be killed. If the Muslims had implemented this, we would not have reached the humiliation in which we find ourselves today.

SECTARIAN COMMENTS
He has expressed loathing of Shia Muslims, calling them “evil” and saying they “set traps for monotheism” by “spread[ing] their false doctrine to the ignorant among the Sunnis”. Saudi Shias, he says, are “amassing weapons” with the support of Iran in order to carry out attacks on Saudi Arabia and take it over. For Al-Arifi, top Iraqi Shia cleric Ali Al-Sistani is nothing less than an “atheist and debauched.”

MYSOGYNY
Al-Arifi has a very low opinion of women. For example, Saudi women who want to be allowed to drive cars should be permanently removed from university positions.

Al-'Arifi maintained that "some of the female school teachers do not wear appropriate and modest dress." He added that

23 http://www.memritv.org/clip_transcript/en/2577.htm

24 http://edition.presstv.ir/detail/115415.html and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONd1oXliZqA

"some women who drove cars in Riyadh in 1991 and [as punishment] were suspended from their jobs at the universities for a year or two, were reinstated and are now teaching at the universities, but there is still a concern that they might instill their ideas in their students minds... How can we entrust our daughters to them?"

He has also said some forms of wife beating are acceptable in Islam26.

**ANTISEMISM**

He uses fierce antisemitic language to express his opposition to Israel27:

> What was taken by force will be restored only by force, as conveyed by the Prophet Muhammad, who said: “You will fight the Jews.” He did not say: You will conduct negotiations, they will make concessions, and then you will make concessions, and then we will reach a compromise and divide Jerusalem... By God, Jerusalem will not be divided. He said in the hadith: “You will fight the Jews and kill them.” It was the Prophet Muhammad who said this, not me.

**CONTEMPT FOR WESTERN VALUES**28

One of the most important things that distinguish Man from beast is the ability to control one's desires. Allah said about some of the infidels: “They are like cattle; nay, they stray farther off the path.” If you look at them, you will see that when they want to go to sleep - they go to sleep, with complete disregard for the times of the five prayers. If he feels like committing adultery - he does. If he feels like having any type of sexual relations - he does, regardless of whether it is permitted or prohibited.

Therefore, as I said on previous shows, they have organizations for homosexuals, organizations for people who marry animals - she marries a dog, a donkey, and so on... The organizations exist, and strangely enough, they are official. They have websites, and they publish magazines with pictures.

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26. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kISe0GY4jQE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kISe0GY4jQE)


MUHAMMED SALAH (HUDA TV)

Muhammed Salah is a television presenter on Huda TV\(^{29}\). Huda TV often broadcasts a number of Islamist preachers. Its “stars” include three people banned from the UK: Zakir Naik, Bilal Philips, and Hussein Yee. Other “stars” include hate preachers al-Haddad, al-Hakeem, Usamah at-Thahabi, Abdur Raheem Green, and Abdullah Hakim Quick.

PROMOTING ANTI-INTERFAITH MARRIAGE SENTIMENT

In a television interview where a viewer asks if a Muslim woman can marry a non-Muslim man, he condemns them as ‘kaffir [a disparaging term for unbelievers]. He considers a marriage between a Muslim and non-Muslim as a worse deed than adultery\(^{30}\).

HATE PRAYERS

In a television broadcast, Salah prayed for victory for Muslims against Jews and the West. He said the following\(^{31}\):

> Brothers and sisters in Gaza, be patient. By Allah in whose hands is my soul and the soul of everyone, Muslims and non, the victory of Allah is very near.

> I am addressing the Jews. I am addressing the Zionists. I am addressing George Bush. I am addressing the West. What do you expect from us? Do you think that we are afraid of death? No, wallahi [I swear to Allah]. It is either victory or eternal life in heaven.

> Oh Allah, support the weak and oppressed in Gaza, and everywhere. Oh Allah, give them security. Oh Allah, feed them after hunger. Oh Allah, give them victory over their enemies. Oh Allah, destroy the perpetrators. Oh Allah, destroy the hypocrites from amongst us. The hypocrites from the Muslims. Oh Allah, destroy our enemies, take care of the transgressors. Oh Allah, send them earthquakes to destroy them. Oh Allah, destroy them by whichever mean you wish.

EXTREME ANTI-ISRAEL BIGOTRY

Salah’s solution to the Arab/Israel conflict is to pour scorn and hatred on Israel and demand Israeli citizens shouldn’t even have water. He said the following\(^{32}\):

> This [the interception of the Mavi Marmara] is another episode of the dirty war of the criminal Zionists, what’s called Israel. If we examine most of the crimes which are happening worldwide right now, or in the past 50 years, there is a link to the Zionist criminals, definitely, whether in America, in Europe, or in the Middle East.

> Now and more than ever the free world has to come together, not just to show outrage, but to act. The free world has to


\(^{30}\) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_b9ow5vbJNw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_b9ow5vbJNw)


\(^{32}\) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3K0voogtE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3K0voogtE)
kick out the criminal Zionists and their embassies and their offices from their countries. Particularly the Muslim world. I say from this pulpit that it is definitely haram, and prohibited, to deal with, to aid, or to sell or to buy from the criminal Zionists of what’s known as Israel.

It is definitely haram according to the Qur’an and the sunnah to provide them with natural gas, with oil, with any form of energy. It is haram to buy from them any of their products. It is haram to sell them anything, including water. It is haram to allow them to wander freely in our countries.

... Those people [Zionists] live to harm the international community. Those people are much worse than any disease that we have ever known. We have to confront their evil by strength, by unity.

... We ask Allah to give us the chance to die for his sake and to prove to the coward Zionists that the Muslims are still there and the offspring of Mohammed will definitely come back to free Jerusalem.

... Last but not the least, the day shall come, and it will be very soon inshallah, we will have the rightly guided leadership. It will unite the ummah in order to free Jerusalem. It is coming. We have been informed by prophet Mohammed that it’s going to happen. And whatever he said is definitely the truth and it will happen, it will be fulfilled. We just wish, and we hope and pray, to be in the army which will liberate Jerusalem.
HAITHAM AL-HADDAD

Haitham al-Haddad is a Palestinian born hate preacher. In the past he has justified suicide bombing, supported female genital mutilation, made anti-semitic remarks and promoted Islamist supremacism. He is amongst the worst hate preachers in the United Kingdom and is a favourite on the UK campus circuit.

JUSTIFICATION OF SUICIDE BOMBING

In the past, Al-Haddad has justified suicide bombing. He is so keen to justify suicide bombing that he even describes the killing of Muslims by other Muslims in the event of a suicide bombing as permissible:\(^{33}\):

“This category is mentioned in what the scholars call at-Tatarrus, which permits Muslims on the battlefield to kill a group of non-Muslims if they are using Muslims as a type of shield and there is no other way to get at them. This way, even if it leads to the killing of some Muslims, as long as non-Muslims are killed, is permissible a fortiori. Thus it is understood that, although these people were not fighting, one may kill them unintentionally…”

IMPLICIT SUPPORT FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Al-Haddad has voiced his support for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). FGM is illegal in the United Kingdom, though the practice is said to be fairly widespread amongst the Muslim community:\(^{34}\). In the article he claims FGM is ‘sunnah’:\(^{35}\):

“As we said all of the scholars agree that it [female circumcision] is sunnah… recommended from sharia. So we have to be careful, to say that it is against human rights, women's rights – we have to be careful of that statement”

ANTISEMITISM

Haitham al-Haddad is on record for telling an audience: “I will tell you the truth about the fight between us and Jews who are the enemies of God and the descendants of apes and pigs”:\(^{36}\).

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\(^{35}\) http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ms0mkAaytYM

\(^{36}\) http://www.rnw.nl/english/article/cleric-did-say-%E2%80%9Cjews-are-descendants-apes-and-pigs%E2%80%9D
INFLUENCE ON CHRISTMAS-DAY SUICIDE BOMBER
By the admission of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, al-Haddad influenced his radical thinking on a 'retreat' that he attended where Haitham al-Haddad spoke. In an autobiography written by Abdulmutallab, he cited and praised al-Haddad's influence:

This course was a 3 day intensive program organised by the Muslim Research and Development Foundation headed by Sheikh Haitham Al Haddad.

The MRDF committee includes students from Madinah, University and Professional from a variety of backgrounds. The course Manhaj Al Istidhlal was the first 3 day intensive retreat organised by MRDF and alhamdulillah I was one of the pioneering students. The course is actually in 3 parts and the 2 parts are to come in the near future. We studied the sources of Knowledge in Islam. We looked at the Quran, Sunnah, Ijma and Qiyaas. The course also included sessions on build many team building and media skills sessions. The other two parts of the course will look at the understanding and implementation of the sources. Alhamdulillah, I passed the course with a Distinction

NABIL AL-AWADHI

Nabil Al-Awadhi is a prominent Kuwaiti Islamist preacher. He reaches large audiences by way of satellite television broadcasts from the Middle East. Many of these broadcasts are recorded by viewers around the world, including in Europe, and uploaded to YouTube and other video sharing websites.

Al-Awadhi is due to speak in London on 8 July 2012 at an Islamic conference at the Grand Connaught Rooms. The conference is being organised by Al-Muntada Al-Islami Trust. Al-Muntada runs an Islamic centre in Parsons Green, London.

SUPPORT FOR JIHAD

In December 2011 Nabil Al-Awadhi launched a televised rhetorical attack on Salafi [Sunni Islamic traditionalist or fundamentalist] scholars who were backing Sunni Muslims fighting Houthi Shiite Muslims in Dammaj, Yemen. Al-Awadhi's scorn was not heaped on the scholars for backing the Sunni fighters in Yemen, but rather for their failure to support jihad in other countries as well. Specifically, he cited Afghanistan, Chechnya, Iraq, Kashmir and Palestine:

Remember, for the last 20 years, America wages war on Afghanistan and they were against the mujahideen. Iraq is occupied, blood is shed and mosques are destroyed, and they were against the mujahideen. They did not permit people to wage jihad against the occupiers. In Chechnya, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Iraq, and even in Palestine.

...Now we agree with you [the scholars] the people of Dammaj should be helped, but what is the meaning of saying Dammaj is more of a priority than other places and the rest of the people you didn’t fight with them? The whole world is fighting on the side of the Jews and Christians and you didn’t fight against them.

One prominent group of Salafis responded to Al-Awadhi, defending the decision not to support jihad in Iraq, and noting that Al-Awadhi did indeed support it there, despite jihadis in Iraq achieving:

...nothing, except for an increase in killing, bloodshed, taking of people’s honours, wealth and property

In fact, this group said:

...many Muslims have been harmed by calls for jihad which did not have consequences except for loss for Islam and Muslims.

This episode is typical of an important and on-going battle between Salafi scholars considered “quietist” and others who are supporters of jihad in several conflicts. The former

38 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCalU0fN2opY

39 http://salafimanhaj.com/pdf/SalafiManhaj_AIAlAwadi
are recognised as potentially helpful voices by a number of western security officials and the latter are obviously highly dangerous.

**HAILING THOSE WHO WANT TO “GO TO JIHAD”**

In a disturbing video on YouTube, one can see the influence Al-Awadhi has on some European Muslims. The video is titled “A lioness of the ummah [community of believers]” in German. It begins with images of jihad apparently added by a third party to a clip from a televised talk show hosted by Al-Awadhi. The images include one of the hijacked airplanes striking the World Trade Center on September 11

In the main segment of the video, an anguished and tearful young woman calls Al-Awadhi to tell him her parents won’t let her “go to jihad” against the kuffar [a disparaging term for “disbelievers”].

Al-Awadhi’s reaction is to hail the woman as a model for Muslims. He says he wishes Muslim leaders and generals could hear the words of “our sister”, because she is “honest”. Furthermore, what she says should be translated into Hebrew for “the children of Zion”, since

...these feelings are the feelings of 1.5 billion people. They want to attack you with full force, even without weapons. By Allah, you will experience a hell from the Islamic ummah that you never knew in your life! By Allah, oh Zionists, were it not for the walls from behind which you attack us, were it not for the leaders, traitors and cowards who protect you, you would see what the Muslim ummah would do with you. There is no other solution, oh Muslim ummah, apart from jihad.

**BACKING A PRO-TERRORIST FATWA**

In December 2008 the Saudi hate preacher Awad Al-Qarni issued a fatwa [religious ruling] that was plainly a call for terrorist attacks against Israeli interests. Note the wide-ranging language:

I am publishing a religious ruling according to which all Israeli interests and anything which has an Israeli affinity, constitutes a legitimate target for the Moslems wherever it may be”. He added, “The Zionists must be targets, and their blood must be shed as the blood of our brothers is being shed in Palestine.

Al-Awadhi’s reaction to the fatwa was enthusiastic:

Dr. Awad Al-Qarni gave a Fatwa (Islamic verdict) that allows for hitting any Israeli target wherever it might be; I commend you Dr. Qarni on this Fatwa.

**ANTISEMITIC STATEMENTS AND SUPPORT FOR HAMAS IN A MAJOR BROADCAST**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuqSI_rFKpE
http://www.ict.org.il/Portals/0/Internet%20Monitoring%20Group/JWMG_Al-Qarni_Fatwa.pdf
http://wikileaks.org/cable/2008/12/08KUWAIT1253.html
In a long television broadcast titled “Oh Muslims, save your mosque!” (A reference to the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem), Al-Awadhi makes several grossly antisemitic statements and calls on Muslims to support Hamas. The broadcast has been translated into western languages by his followers and posted to YouTube. Some excerpts:

1. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fvn29YXgZ8o

In this clip Al-Awadhi calls Israelis “descendants of monkeys and pigs” and says Muslims must reclaim the al-Aqsa mosque from Jews by force in a religious war. Any Muslim who disagrees is a hypocrite who is probably working for the Jews.

Note how this YouTube user incites vicious antisemitic hatred in his summary of this clip and others from the broadcast:

Shaikh Nabil Al-Awadi a Muslim resides in Kuwait, addressing the issue of Zionists attacking Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa in PALESTINE, and he explains the relationship between the best of humanity nations (The true Muslims) and their historical enemies, the worse of people ever (The Jews). The Religious War is coming and it will happen for sure. The battle "Harmajdoon"(Armageddon) will be a reality VERY SOON, and the Muslims will be the Victorious group.


In this clip Al-Awadhi uses the “descendants of monkeys and pigs” line again and also attacks Muslims who oppose Hamas rocket attacks:

Oh scholars! What to do after whole years of siege! How is it possible that you starve a person, you deprive him of care, of water, of food, of everything, and after all that you say to him “don’t launch any rockets”.

3. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oz7aoLwyRME

In this clip he hails violence against Israelis:

But we from this rostrum direct the speech to the noble people saying that there is no solution, except that we break all constraints that are placed in front of the heroes and let them crawl to the Al-Aqsa mosque. Let them do it.

Why do you kill them from behind the walls, you bunch of Zionist cowards and your servants from the Arabs? The report that you will watch reflects the intentions of every Muslim on earth. Every Muslim on earth is waiting for the hour of jihad for the sake of Allah to cleanse the blessed land. It was cleansed once and then stolen from us and there is no solution apart from what will you see in this report.

The report he refers to is a video showing extremist rallies in the Muslim world, Hamas rallies in Gaza, and Hamas fighters on operations. It can be seen at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ongbpzRS8iQ.

In this clip Al-Awadhi paints the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as the latest episode in Muslims’ "hostile relationship with the Jewish people", which stretches back to "the dawn of Islam". Jews are prophet killers, he says, and he asks Allah to curse them.

He goes on to disparage Jews this way:

> What a wicked people, the wickedness is dripping from their tongues and hearts, they do not know what is the meaning of covenant, and they are not truthful in their speech.

He also claims that Israeli snipers deliberately sought out and killed children in Gaza during the Gaza war.

**MUSLIMS SHOULD HAVE VIDEO GAMES WHERE THEY CAN “SLAUGHTER JEWS”**

According to Al-Awadhi, even video games must be part of the Islamic response to the enemies of Islam. They should allow players to “slaughter Jews”:

> The Washington-based Middle East Media Research Institute, a nonpartisan group that translates Arabic language television and Web sites, says that in June, Sheik Nabil Al-Awadhi, who has a weekly show on the Kuwaiti channel Al-Rai TV called "Sa’at Saraha" ("An Hour of Sincerity"), spoke of the need for Islamic games that compete with Western games. He also suggested developing a game in which the Muslim player "slaughters the Jews and liberates the Al-Aqsa Mosque." In the West, they turn their wars against Muslims into games, he said, and Muslims should do the same.

**OPPOSITION TO AL-AWADHI IN THE MUSLIM WORLD**

Even in deeply conservative Kuwait, Al-Awadhi has run into controversy.

In 2006 he was barred from official preaching for three months after delivering a sermon “calling the ummah (religious community) to jihad and to oppose the Jews and Zionism”.

In 2003, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported that even his own congregants opposed his anti-American statements:

> Al-Siyasah has learned that a new phenomenon has emerged in some Kuwaiti mosques. The worshipers have begun to reject the extremism that some imams express in their sermons and their advocacy of fighting the Americans and viewing them as enemies. Worshipers at a mosque in the Janub al-Surrah neighborhood interrupted the prayer leader Nabil al-Awadi when he began to call down imprecations on the heads of the Americans during last Friday's sermon. They demanded that he stop doing that.

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43 http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/08/AR2006100800931.html


45 http://www.imra.org.il/story.php3?id=16457

Stand For Peace briefing: Month of Mercy
...Political observers affirmed that this phenomenon in Kuwait's mosques demonstrates that the worshipers are no longer prepared to accept without question everything that they are told. They have moved from the stage of being passive listeners to the stage of being active protestors. This is a clear challenge not only to the Awqaf Ministry, which has failed to deter these imams and put an end to their actions, but also to the Political Islam groups that have for a long time played a role in politicizing the country's mosques.

In 2010 a writer in a Kuwaiti newspaper compared Al-Awadhi to Osama bin Laden after Al-Awadhi made a speech about “Jewish Zionists” and “the detestable crusader community”:

A discordant speech that was delivered recently by someone in Kuwait turned out to be so close and similar to a discourse delivered by Osama Bin Laden in his famous speech themed: ‘Al-Fustatin’ which he delivered from his secret headquarters in Afghanistan.

His speech is a severe attack against the well-known religious scholars, clerics and Fuqahaa (religion experts). It is a threat to each and every moderate thinker who does not support extremists; who the writer calls as “Divine Scholars.” However, the writer who wrote these words is not Osama bin Laden, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, Abu Hamza Al-Masri or even Abu Qatada.

He is the Kuwaiti writer Nabeel Al-Awadhi who included this talk in his article published by Al-Watan on March 2, 2010.

I believe that this article is more dangerous and will have a greater negative influence on the mindset of youths and the public than the article written by him on March 9, 2010 in which he attacked liberals.

In that article, the writer was trying to rearrange the Arab world and also trying to pave the way for civil wars between Arab regimes and societies under the guise of protecting the holy and sacred places.

Hasn’t propagator Al-Awadhi read anything about the conditions set for promoting virtue and preventing vice? Doesn’t he understand that his call could transform the Arab world into another Somalia or Afghanistan? Shouldn’t the propagator know what he is talking about or where he is leading the Muslims to?

UNREPTANT APOSTATES FROM ISLAM MUST BE EXECUTED

In 2010 Al-Awadhi wrote an article that clearly supports punishment of apostates from Islam. If the apostates do not repent and return to Islam, they should be killed\(^{47}\):

\[
\text{In Islam, adult Muslims who accept this religion by their own free will cannot renounce it. Prophet Mohammed said:} \quad \text{“Whoever changes his religion, kill him.”}
\]

\[
\text{When Sheikh Abdulaziz Ibn Baaz, (May Almighty God bless his soul), was asked his opinion about the one who insults the religion or the Lord, he said: “If the one who insults the Lord Almighty, or the religion that belongs to Islam, so will he be an apostate of Islam and should be asked to repent. If he doesn’t repent, he should be executed by the ruler or the religious court.” Some religious scholars have also said that “the one who insults Almighty God or the religion must be killed without asking him to repent because he has committed a serious crime.” However, a majority of scholars see that he should be asked to repent hoping that God Almighty may bless him with guidance but he should be punished by flogging and imprisonment in order that he does not return to committing such a great crime. This means that he should be punished after he repents or he should be killed.}
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\text{We are all in favor of the freedom of thought that is beneficial to humans and societies, but we are against the ‘freedom of disbelief’ and the difference between them is obvious. Perhaps the reason behind the emboldened stance of some of the bloggers, writers and who insult the Lord of the Worlds or the religion and Sharia, or the prophets and messengers of almighty God - was the lack of existence of the Islamic ruling that was supposed to be applied to them in most Muslim countries. It is said: “Those who are in the know that they will not be punished, will certainly misbehave.”}
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**WOMEN ARE NOT EQUAL TO MEN**

Al-Awadhi says women are simply not equal to men\(^{48}\). They should not hold public positions, must be forced to wear the hijab (headscarf), and may not travel alone:

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\text{Some opine that many women have held public office and proved themselves. This is true but this should not be the prevailing situation.}
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\[
\text{Those who call themselves thinkers and insist on promoting absolute equality between men and women are plain ignoramuses. Some are of the opinion that women must be given an equal portion in inheritance like men and also should have the right to divorce. Others have gone too far and said that a woman is also entitled to marry four men simply because a man can marry four women. There are still others}
\]


who wonder why women are not allowed to lead the prayers in mosques or travel alone - not to mention why they should compulsorily wear the hijab.

...

God Almighty says: “And no wise is the male like the female.”
Those who call for absolute equality are unfair and oppress women

HOMOSEXUALS AND EMOS THE “GREATEST DANGER” TO ARAB SOCIETY
Homosexuals and emos are regularly targeted for vicious persecution in the Arab world. Al-Awadhi seems unconcerned, for they are “the greatest danger” to society.

In a novel interpretation of regional events, meanwhile, Al-Awadhi also suggested during the programme that homosexuals and ‘emo’s,’ or fans of the ‘emotional hardcore’ genre of rock music, from the region are the greatest danger to regional society, referring to the two groups as those “for whom the bell tolls.

Al-Awadhi said that he holds the media responsible for this subversive and previously unknown phenomenon, accusing local media of marketing homosexuality and the ‘emo’ culture in programmes broadcast both before and during Ramadan, although he did not name the programmes in question.

DISPARAGING ARAB LIBERALS
Al-Awadhi is fond of grossly disparaging Arab liberals in ways that can incite serious hatred in the Arab world. Here is one example:

Liberalism is one of the most serious theories that has spread in this era. It is a serious theory because some of those who believe in it think that they can adopt liberal thoughts and remain true Muslims at the same time.

...

To make the point clearer, a liberal man doesn’t mind getting married to his sister, mother or even his daughter as long as the two parties agree. They want the law to permit this notion; arguing the fact that people are free in their sexual relations. When one of our writers insists that he is against such thoughts, he aims at maintaining the values and traditions of our society and protecting it from such horrendous crimes.

Liberals do not even mind if a man marries another man, or that a woman marries another woman; again arguing the fact that people are free to choose their life partners.

...

49 http://www.kuwaittimes.net/read_news.php?newsid=NTU3NTczMDQ1MQ

Liberals also do not have any problem if a true Muslim who believes in one Almighty God can convert to Hinduism and worship a cow. People like these; then reconvert to Islam and perform Haj and Umrah with other fellow Muslims and later on convert to Judaism and believe in the distorted version of the Torah. Finally, they turn into atheists who do not believe in Almighty God.

DISPARAGING EUROPEANS

For Al-Awadhi, Europeans are worse than animals:

“As for the Europeans’ relations with the Creator, animals are better than they are... for they do not permit what is permissible, and do not forbid what is forbidden. Moreover, whenever they find a way to please the Devil, they pursue it. I do not believe that Satan [ever] imagined that his temptation of humanity would [yield] such an extent of heresy as well as moral depravity and decay.

... I do not write this article out of hate or resentment, though, by Allah, I do hate the infidels among them. I have written this article in fairness, so that those who are impressed with the West will not be deluded and will not think that I am dazzled by the Europeans. For, as I have said, their bad qualities are innumerable. By Allah, even one Muslim who worships Allah is better than all the infidels in the world, even if their appearance impresses some people.”

DISPARAGING AMERICAN FORCES IN IRAQ

This is how Al-Awadhi has described Americans in Iraq:

Hordes of monstrous savages, armed with ultra sophisticated weapons, are causing the destruction of anything and everything that dare cross their paths and wreaking havoc on the weak and helpless citizens of some countries that are backward, militarily ill-equipped, but rich in oil. What on earth can ever deter those savages from engaging in atrocities against poor helpless people? Who can be relied on to instill a sense of morality and ethics into their already rusted minds?

... Hundreds of thousands of deaths are reported at the hands of those villains who portray themselves as soldiers of peace and liberators of humankind. But the irony lies in the unfortunate fact that they are the most insidious criminals existing on the face of the earth today.
