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A critical analysis of the discourses on Muslims in the media before and after the events of September 11, 2001

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Appendix B: Relevant articles, Cape Argus

Source: CAPE ARGUS
Topic: 15
1
Date: 23-Aug-2001
Ref No: 12827
ID: 02739699-01 | Source Page: 3

Police arrest Padav leaders

PORT ELIZABETH: The entire command structure of the Muslim fundamentalist movement Padav (People Against Drugs and Violence) were detained in an early morning police raid in Port Elizabeth today.

Twelve members of the movement are being held in local police cells and are to be charged with public violence, Inspector Melvin Humple said.

The raid follows a covert investigation by the Crime Intelligence Unit together with the Organised Crime Prevention Unit and the Department of Justice for a period of more an a year.

An arsenal, including shotguns, hunting rifles, pistols and revolvers, was seized. The weapons are to be sent for both ballistic and forensic tests.

The suspects are expected to appear in court on charges relating to public violence.

● A member of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad), facing six charges of murder including the assassination of Cape Town magistrate Piet Theron, has been re-arrested by the Scorpions, the unit said yesterday.

Edries Williams escaped from Pollsmoor more than a month ago. He is expected to stand trial next year together with four other Pagad members. – Sapa

Source: CAPE ARGUS
Topic: 23
1
Date: 29-Aug-2001
Ref No: 1712
ID: 02741976-01 | Source Page: 12

A colourful celebration in honour of the Sultan of Turkey

THE WAY WE WERE



Jackie Loos
Former collections librarian at the National Library of South Africa

THE MUSLIM faith reached South Africa from Indonesia, on the periphery of the Muslim world, in the 17th century.

There was no official contact between the leadership of the powerful Ottoman Empire and the local community until 1863, when Abu Bakr Effendi arrived at the Cape as the emissary of the Sultan of Turkey.

The Effendi, a noted Islamic scholar, was asked to provide spiritual guidance to local Muslims, some of whom were at loggerheads over the appointment of imams and other contentious issues. Like many an outsider transplanted into a close-knit community, he soon became a controversial figure, and several unsuccessful attempts were made to remove him.

Despite these differences, local spiritual life benefited from his wider intellectual and cultural perspective.

Among other initiatives, he encouraged Cape Muslims to celebrate the Sultan's birthday, and the South African Advertiser and Mail published an effusive report on the festivities which took place on February 10, 1868.

Although written in the patronising style so typical of the times, it reflects the general esteem in which the "well-conducted and loyal" Muslim community was held prior to the smallpox epidemics and cemetery riots of 1880s.

"At noon on Monday the Malays were on the move, and during the morning the city presented a lively appearance, the Malay women parading the streets in holiday costume, and looking the very pictures of cleanliness and good taste in dress. Some of them were extremely pretty, and they seemed to know how to set off to advantage their good figures and handsome and regular features.

"The streets more immediately running into Chiappini Street, where the chief mosque is situated, were gaily decorated with flags, and these became thicker, the nearer the approach to the temple of Mussulman worship. The mosque itself presented a really picturesque appearance: the entrance bearing over it sundry inscriptions in Arabic, and colours floating on the turrets; the English Union-Jack proudly waving on the chief one in the centre.

"The interior of the mosque bore evident testimony to the disposition of the Malays to leave nothing to render the celebration of the day complete, as far as the decorative arts was concerned – banners of all nations being plentifully suspended in all directions, interspersed with Arabic inscriptions on scrolls of silk and other material, immortelles and artificial flowers and Turkish scimitars and the instruments used on the occasion of the performance of the khalifa.

"At twelve o'clock high services were commenced, the priests mustering in full force, and their flowing turbans and costumes of all the colours of the rainbow presented an appearance both lively and effective. Amongst the visitors present were observed the Colonial Secretary, the Hon Mr Southey, the Hon Mr de Roubaix, Mr Solomon, and others, as also many European ladies who were attracted by the proceedings, and who appeared to take much interest in the scene and the mode of worship observed by the Mussulman community.

"At the conclusion of the ceremony cakes and tea were handed round to the visitors, some of whom received the compliment gratefully; for the heat being intense, such refreshment was by no means unacceptable, and full justice was done to the excellent confectionery of the Malay pastry-cooks. The mosque was crowded in all parts, and the greatest order prevailed.

"At eight o'clock in the evening the special services were repeated in the mosque, and similar thanksgivings were offered; but on this occasion the priesthood did not muster so plentifully – which is probably to be accounted for by the fact that the Muslim service was not of so high a character as that performed at noon.

"Nevertheless the mosque and its approaches were crowded to excess, notwithstanding the change in the atmosphere, which threatened heavy rain. The facade of the Mussulman temple was illuminated, and the name of the Sultan, 'Abdol Aziz', appeared in large ornamental letters of gold, which were effectively displayed with the aid of the surrounding lamps.

"Fireworks were discharged from the terrace at the entrance of the mosque during the evening from time to time, and the Malays seem to have left no sign of recognition of the Sultan's consideration and kindness towards them neglected.

"The Turkish Consulate ... was illuminated, as also the residences of the several priests and other Mussulmans. The evening concluded in all respects satisfactorily; and the celebration of the Sultan's birthday anniversary was as creditable to the Malays for the good order which prevailed, as doubtless it will be gratifying to the Protector of the Mussulman faith."

Source: CAPE ARGUS
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1
Date: 19-Sep-2001
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ID: 02748711-01 | Source Page: 15

Remove reasons for hate

OVER the past few days I watched in horror as the horrific events in New York played out on television.

At first I was filled with shock and sadness. Now I feel anger towards the perpetrators of this violent act as well as past United States administrations for breeding such hatred in people that it has led to the deaths of thousands over the years.

Like others around the world, I am shocked and in mourning for the hundreds of innocent people murdered in the US. No person should die in the manner that they have done.

Having said this, I cannot help but also remember the hundreds of thousands of people murdered by the US when after the bombing of Pearl Harbour, the US went on to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or of the thousands of people the US has murdered by military action – state-sanctioned violence – in other countries around the world. It is as if no other lives are as important as those of Americans. US governments have always adopted a foreign policy which brought them into conflict with peoples throughout the world.

The role America has played (and is playing) in financing the destabilisation of the Middle East and, in so doing, supporting the brutal murder of thousands of innocent women and children, will obviously lead to a bitter hatred against it. In fact, one can compare this to the alleged role Osama bin Laden played in this recent brutal attack on innocent people.

If his guilt lies in encouraging and financing these hateful acts, what then of America's guilt in doing the same in the Middle East? The hatred Americans feel for this man is the same that many in the Middle East and other regions around the world feel for the United States.

US politicians always adopt a view that the world begins in their country, and ends there too. They market this to their own citizens who believe everything they are told. That's why so many Americans are puzzled as to why such a terrible thing has happened to them.

News headlines around the world now announce that the US is (once again) going to be the "saviour" of the rest of the world. The US is going to go to war to avenge this vile attack on the peoples of the world. But can someone remind them that it is America that has made so many enemies. How many other countries are as despised as the US is?

I agree that the perpetrators must be caught and punished. In doing this, consideration must be given to the safety of the rest of the world which is watching the unravelling chain of events in horror.

Let America know that even persons who sympathise with it, will eventually lose respect and even rise up in opposition against it should it go and bomb innocent people.

Moderates will become extremists. Americans and American companies will not be safe anywhere in the world.

Citizens of other nations will also be at risk from those seeking revenge against anything linked to the US and the American way of life.

American-branded restaurants and public places linked to America will become no-go areas.

President George Bush must remember that America is fighting an invisible enemy. The more innocent people America kills, the more hatred it will engender.

The more hatred it sows, the more people like Bin Laden will rise to take his place.

But then, there would be no Bin Laden if past US administrations had not created the climate of hatred against them in the Middle East, Cuba, South America, Russia, Japan and in Africa.

Remove the reasons for hate – remove the cause and then there will be no reason to fear attacks of this kind.

If America is to learn one thing from this attack – it should be to change its current foreign policy and accept that there are other cultures and peoples who want the freedom to choose their own way of life and not follow the "American dream".

The US should stop interfering in regions around the world where its actions fuel conflicts and promote more weapon sales for the American arms industry. The ultimate lesson from all of this should be that the US is not, after all, invincible.

We should learn to live together, and not the rest of the world living for the US.

Let us all pray for the souls of those innocent people killed in New York and Washington as well as for the speedy and full recovery of the injured. Let us also pray for the Muslims around the world and especially those in America who are suffering because of the backlash against them.

Finally, let us pray that by some miracle, the new Bush administration will take the bold step of negating the reasons for people to hate the US after it has hunted down, finally caught the real culprits, and punished them.

R H Rayner
Brackenfell

Source: CAPE ARGUS
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1
Date: 20-Sep-2001
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Tshwete, Maduna condemn arson attack on Muslim offices

JEANNE VAN DER MERWE
STAFF REPORTER

YESTERDAY'S arson attack on the offices of the Muslim Judicial Council offices in Athlone has been denounced as an act of terrorism by national Safety and Security Minister Steve Tshwete.

Tshwete and Justice Minister Penuell Maduna visited the offices yesterday and applauded the efforts of building caretaker Abdu Rashid Tamimo, originally from Mozambique, who doused the flames before they spread to the rest of the building early yesterday. The fire scorched the front door and damaged a large part of the front entrance's ceiling.

Tshwete said: "This is not mere arson. This is terrorism. This despicable act was done by elements who do have not have the best interest of our country at heart. They attacked an institution which belongs to a very great religion. It is a sign of disrespect. Only last week the Muslim and Christian fraternities expressed their solidarity with America after the attacks on that country."

Tshwete asked the community to come forward with information that could lead to the arrest of the culprits.

Maduna said the Law Commission was reviewing legislation to crack down on terrorism. Any act relating in any way to terrorism, including the receipt of money or money laundering, should be punishable.

Earlier yesterday provincial Community Safety Minister Hennie Bester denounced the attack as an act of "sectarian violence", while Western Cape ANC leader Ebrahim Rasool said he deplored the attack.

MJC president Sheikh Ebrahim Gabriels said he thought the incident was "probably largely a result of the negative phobia that CNN, in their coverage of the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, have been propagating against Muslims".

Tshwete and Maduna both congratulated Tamimo on his bravery.

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1
ID: 02748746-01 | Source Page: 3

Bush accused of inflammatory talk

City Muslims 'to ask to fight with Afghan brothers', hail Mbeki for SA stand

YUNUS KEMP
STAFF REPORTER

MUSLIM leaders in the Western Cape have lauded President Thabo Mbeki for not offering military assistance to the United States in the wake of the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Centre last week.

The leaders also lambasted the US for portraying Osama bin Laden, its chief suspect, as already guilty without "conclusive evidence" and for portraying Muslims in a negative light.

Addressing hundreds of Muslims at the Habibia mosque in Rylands, Muslim Judicial Council president Sheikh Ebrahim Gabriels said the Muslim community should be proud of Mbeki.

Also at the gathering were representatives of the group Muslims Against Illegitimate Leaders (Mail), who were canvassing for people to sign up to go to Afghanistan should that country come under attack from the US.

Local Muslims were asked to fast yesterday as a sign of solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and Palestine.

Gabriels called on the Muslim community not to retaliate against people of other faiths. He also said Muslims should intensify their prayers and be conscious of the plight of the people in Afghanistan and Palestine.

Sheikh Irefaan Abrahams of the Surrey Estate mosque said assisting the US was tantamount to a "crime against God".

"When the Russians entered Afghanistan, they thought they would overthrow the Afghans within days. They stayed in that country for 10 years and lost about 50 000 soldiers and the war. Why? Because the Afghans are not afraid of anybody but God. They are not afraid of the US, only of God. The power does not belong to the West, but to God," said Abrahams.

To cries of Takbir! Allahu Akbar (God is Great), Abrahams told the congregation that "we are still very emotional, but we are not going to allow people to attack our Muslim brothers".

"Do you remember what they did to Japan, where they killed thousands of people? Do you remember what they did to Libya and other countries? Let our attention also not be diverted away from Palestine where the Masjid-ul-Aqsa is top of our agenda. Palestine should always be on our tongues and minds," said Abrahams.

Mail spokesman Abdurahman Khan said his organisation would approach the government "to ask to fight with our brothers in Afghanistan".

"We are going to try and sign up people from tonight. The Western press uses the word jihad loosely. It's obligatory upon us to defend any people who are wrongfully attacked," said Khan.

He said history had shown that the US "have attacked them in the past" and this coupled with the US's "lack of proof" against bin Laden "was reason enough to stand up to a tyrant like (George W Bush)".

"We are hoping to sign up 5 000 people and are mainly looking at young unemployed males, both Muslims and non-Muslims."

He said there were no "communication" between his group and the Taliban, but it did not matter "whether we are invited or not. We are duty bound if there is a call for jihad."

MJC member Moulana Igshaan Hendricks read excerpts of a letter the council was sending to Mbeki today.

"We call on President Thabo Mbeki and all responsible people to take cognisance of how the US is dealing with the crisis.

"We ask that the government address the xenophobia and hatred being perpetrated by the US. There is no clear proof of who is responsible (for the attacks), but Osama bin Laden has already been proven guilty by the US media."

"Osama bin Laden being the US's prime suspect does not give them the right to declare war on Afghanistan," said Hendricks.

He criticised Bush for using inflammatory "cowboy" language, especially the "dead or alive" slogan the president had been bandying about when referring to the US's hunt for bin Laden.

"War must be declared against terrorism, but then we must be fair about how we classify terrorism and deal with it across all lines."

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1
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Terror attacks place South Africa's foreign policy on the horns of a dilemma

TROYE LUND
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE terror attacks in Washington and New York have placed South Africa's foreign policy in a moral dilemma.

The fuzzy, post-cold war co-existence of states stopped existing the moment the hijacked planes hit the twin towers and the Pentagon which means South Africa, like all states, is faced with a foreign policy choice.

It will soon be judged according to the choice it makes between the American-driven global coalition against terrorism and its, until now jealously guarded, relations with the Middle East countries, which the global coalition will be at war with for harbouring terrorists.

In other words, if South Africa wants to belong to and reap the benefits of belonging to the US-driven coalition of states against terrorism, it will not be able to maintain its friendly relations with Middle East countries like Afghanistan.

While cutting ties with "problematic Muslim states" could create severe domestic problems for a country like South Africa which have large Muslim populations, Sanusha Naidu of the Institute for International Affairs (IIA) said: "South African foreign policy makers are going to have to choose.

"The borders of the global village have changed. The new bi-polarisation is based on ideology.

"From now on co-operation, even aid, will depend on whether or not a country belongs to and acts in accordance with the US and its global partners."

Not wanting to second guess President Thabo Mbeki and how he would tackle the dilemma, analysts said his conversations with President George Bush at this stage would try and capitalise on South Africa's friendly relations and interactions with countries in the Middle East.

Discussions between the two heads of state are also probably focusing on South Africa's intelligence strategies for dealing with Muslim extremists, especially with regard to the terror campaigns in Cape Town.

"Of course this all depends on who ultimately is guilty," added the IIA's Elizabeth Sidiropoulos.

As countries around the world declare whether they are with the US or not, commentators emphasised what a delicate position Mbeki found himself in.

Richard Cornwall of the Institute for Security Studies said: "Mbeki cannot afford to be seen to be America's cat's paw by Muslim extremists in South Africa."

While South African spindoctors remain tight lipped about "continuous liaising over the terror attacks" between Mbeki and Bush, political analysts urged Mbeki to "apply the brakes" so that retaliation was fitting and not just wholesale devastation.

According to Cornwall, South Africa, like all America's allies has a responsibility to ensure Bush's administration proceeds with caution instead of bowing to popular pressure for indiscriminate mass destruction.

Source: CAPE ARGUS
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Topic: 07
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1
ID: 02752012-01 | Source Page: 4

City joins US in anti-war rallies

Cape Muslims are mobilised for a major peace march tomorrow

YUNUS KEMP
STAFF REPORTER

WHILE the United States is mobilising its armed forces in preparation for retaliating against those who attacked the World Trade Centre and Pentagon, the voice of the anti-war lobby from its own shores and here in Cape Town is growing louder.

Anti-war demonstrations are being planned for major cities across the US tomorrow and here in Cape Town the Muslim Judicial Council has mobilised support for its "anti-war front".

At a press briefing at its offices in Athlone yesterday, MJC deputy president Moulana Ighsaan Hendricks and his colleagues called for continued support against "what we expect to be a second great tragedy following the attacks on the US".

Leading Muslim and non-Muslim academics and Muslim organisations and mosques have voiced their support for the anti-war call. Provincial ANC leader Ebrahim Rasool has also endorsed the call.

In a statement, the San Francisco-based US labour federation AFL-CIO said it endorsed the mass anti-war rallies scheduled for tomorrow at the White House in Washington DC, and in San Francisco and Los Angeles. The council said under the banner "War and Racism are not the Answer", that its members would join community leaders and relatives of those who perished in mourning the victims, defending "our civil liberties", and doing what they could to stop the drive toward war in Central Asia.

Hendricks said the MJC believed that the world was being prepared for war and that "this impending tragedy must be stopped".

He also slammed the rhetoric that branded Islam and Muslims as the common enemy.

"We are still reeling in horror and sadness from the attacks. But our senses are being conditioned to accept the loss of innocent life in the pursuit of shadowy terrorists.

"And if all this comes to fruition, it will be a great tragedy and injustice," said Hendricks.

He called on all "freedom-loving and democratic-minded people" to unite their efforts in a call to avoid war.

"Let us build an anti-war front across all our differences, based on our common commitment to the sanctity of life.

"We call on world leaders to use the power and influence in their hands responsibly, with due regard to justice and the sanctity of life."

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1
ID: 02758737-01 | Source Page: 30

Bush, bin Laden 'just the same'

South African Muslim scholar Farid Esack warns that the United States' war against Osama bin Laden will not end the current problems. He is particularly frustrated with the rhetoric that people must either be 100% for or against the war on terrorism, reports **Ilda Jacobs** of the Independent Foreign Service

BOTH United States president George Bush and suspected terror leader Osama bin Laden are to blame for rising friction between Islam and the West, after the September 11 attacks which was due to the "religious fundamentalism of the market".

South African Muslim scholar Farid Esack said in an interview from New York this week: "US president George Bush's mindset is a caricature of Osama bin Laden's mindset. Both of them are bent on driving the world crazy."

Esack has been widely interviewed on American news networks on his views about the attacks on the World Trade Centre. He is based at the Auburn Theological Seminary In Manhattan as a guest lecturer in religious studies.

Esack warned that the United States' war against Osama bin Laden will not remove the present problems but instead add to a mountain of resentment against the United States that is growing. He is particularly frustrated with the rhetoric that you are either 100% for or against the new war on terrorism.

"I have absolutely no doubt that the current events are adding significantly to a growing victimisation that Muslims suffer in many parts of the world," Esack said.

He also warned that the fundamentalists are in search of issues to exploit. "The movement to breed fundamentalism and terrorism will get a significant boost from collateral damage," Esack said. The theologian has called for a confrontation with "larger sociological forces" to overcome the current problems.

Esack said the US would lose its moral authority to criticise other societies and communities if it did not re-evaluate its own position in the world and how it exercises power.

He attributed the September 11 attacks to the "religious fundamentalism of the market".

"I believe the September 11 attacks are not the result of a clash of two cultures or civilisations. It is the result of a clash between two religious fundamentalisms," Esack said. Esack regards capitalism or globalisation as a form of religious fundamentalism.

He said both fundamentalisms present themselves as the "only truth" in order to simply exploit a well-founded anger.

Esack has described the western economic fundamentalism as a religiosity with its own God, temples, religious symbols and a theology that includes or excludes others. "The God is capital and the temple is the market," Esack said.

He explained that this economy-based fundamentalism provides people with incentives to earn more money, and thus get to "paradise" or heaven. He said the theology of including or excluding others has forced nations to either be with the United States, or against them.

"Bin Laden operates along those principles in the same way that the United States cannot co-exist with Cuba," Esack said. He said if nations embrace the market economy they are promised paradise. If they do not they are "damned to hell" and then face economic embargoes and their access to markets are restricted.

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1
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"Globalisation has created a whole new world in its image," Esack said. He reiterated that Muslims are not the only victimised people in the world today.

Despite his criticisms of globalisation, Esack is aware that the movement against globalisation that has centred itself against the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund is using those same tools of globalisation. He also concedes that these movements only have critiques to offer.

"In reality, all of us are reeling from the collapse of socialism and communism while holding on to the ideal of egalitarianism.

"We hope to create a world in which it is possible not to see each other as threats. But I don't have any answers as to how we should do this."

Esack said the Islamic fundamentalism can be easily understood and he is "bitterly opposed to it".

"An ongoing part of struggle of my life has been anti-fundamentalist. I don't spare my own from rigorous criticism."

Esack is well-known abroad for his contributions to Islamic thinking. He was South Africa's commissioner for gender equality, appointed by then-president Nelson Mandela.

Meanwhile the South African Muslim community has received coverage this week in the US after reports about volunteers wishing to join in the war against America.

Esack said the reported sympathies with the Islamic world in the Middle East could be easily understood due to their heightened political awareness. "South African Muslims have historically always had a strong sense of solidarity with other Muslims in other parts of the world. It is understandable that bin Laden is seen as a hero," Esack said.

He attributes it to the anti-US sentiment existing in South Africa and how bin Laden is seen as part of political resistance to US in the world today. Esack reassured that the South African organisations like Qibla and Pagad "do not have what it takes".

Esack is in agreement with government policy that South Africans should not be involved in mercenary activities or a war that is not legitimised by government.

"The fundamentalists are doing butterfly dances to escape the reconstruction of our own society. This is alienating us from our own project. We have wars of our own against poverty, HIV/Aids and crime," Esack said.

He admitted his concern over the image of the South African Muslim community that is projected to the world.

He is also concerned about the further polarisation that the current events have caused amongst the South Africans.

Ebrahim Bomb from the Council of Islamic Theologians in South Africa was quoted on National Public Radio in the US yesterday claiming that admiration for bin Laden is not only among Muslims in South Africa.

"You will find the particular admiration running into the non-Muslims and especially the intelligent people of South Africa. And I think maybe it is a manifestation of the anger people has with regards to America's foreign policy."