

A letter to Geert Wilders

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Having seen your film, I am not writing to you because I found *Fitna* repugnant to my religious views. As a matter of fact, I am not religious at all. However, as a member of the Muslim world, I am penning these lines down in an endeavour to set the record straight.

In the first place, I found *Fitna's* theme that "Muslims"—as stereotypically represented by bearded fanatics—plotted 9/11 or planted bombs in London and Madrid subways because the *Quran* teaches them "to strike terror in the hearts of enemies," is not merely politically bankrupt but without historical basis, irrational and contrary to facts.

From the Twin Towers to the London and Madrid subways, the terrorist actions were not incited by the *Quran's* Sura Al Anfal (The Spoils of War), as *Fitna* would have us believe. These actions were a reaction—though highly condemnable and inhuman—to the equally condemnable and inhuman terrorist actions, at state level, by the upholders of *Leitkultur*.

And by the way, what you forgot to mention in your film is that the fitna called Al Qaeda that plotted "to strike terror in the hearts of enemies," was, in the first place, fathered by the "enemies." From the Twin Towers to the London subway, many such episodes were various manifestations of the Sorcerer's apprentice.

Honestly, as a viewer I am not convinced at all when, by quoting out of context verses from the *Holy Quran*, you, as maker of *Fitna*, pin the blame on it for "Islamic anti-Semitism."

I am not convinced because the history of the Muslim world tells another story. When persecuted, Jews (as well as Protestants) escaped the *Leitkultur* of Europe and were embraced by the Ottomans. Every time a Muslim general, from Omar to the great Saladin, entered Jerusalem neither Jewish nor Christian blood was spilt nor any synagogue torched. In contrast, the Crusaders' entry into Jerusalem remains a bloody story still told in Jewish and Muslim annals. And do I need to remind you how the term Judacide originated? I do not think Hitler was a Muslim.

The sword-waving Bakr al Samarai featured in *Fitna* no doubt represents a section of the Muslim world when he declares: 'If Allah permits us, o nation of Mohammad, even the stone will say O Muslim, a Jew is hiding behind me, come and cut off his head. And we shall cut off his head.'

However, this "Islamic anti-Semitism," a relatively understandable reaction to Zionism, has less to do with the *Quran* and more with the harsh realities Arabs (many of them Christians) are subjected to by the illegal confessional state of Israel. Not only to understand the roots of "Islamic anti-Semitism," let me, also for the sake of "objectivity" that the Western media always cherish so much, narrate an anecdote from Israel.

In February 1994, an American-born settler, Baruch Goldstein, gunned down twenty-nine Muslim worshippers in the shared Muslim and Jewish shrine in Hebron. For Muslim, this shrine is the Ibrahimi Mosque. To Jews, it is the Tomb of the Patriarchs. The rabbi officiating Goldstein's funeral said the fingernail of a Jew was worth more than the lives of a thousand Arabs. Later, in a court case, Goldstein's widow won the right to keep her husband's machinegun. The machinegun then

triumphantly decorated her mantelpiece.

I am sure you will not attribute this utterly disgusting show of hatred to the *Old Testament*. Nor will you blame the *Bible* for Michael Rohan's shameless act in 1969 of burning down the Al Aqsa Mosque to hasten the coming of the Messiah.

Similarly, unlike *Fitna*, I do not blame the *Holy Quran* when Muhammad Bouyeri killed Theo Von Gogh. The Dutch filmmaker was not merely a victim of religious fanaticism. Like the victims of the London and Madrid subways, he was equally a victim of rightwing politics and liberal economic onslaught that has destroyed the social-welfare fabric of Western societies, leading to the ghettoisation of immigrants whose kids grow up in isolation from *Leitkultur*.

Unfortunately, my dear Geert Wilders, it is this brand of politics and market fundamentalism that you subscribe to. I find your *Fitna* an extension of this politics. *Fitna* is not an attempt to defeat "Islamic ideology," as it claims in the end. Because, to end "Islamic ideology" it is not the pages of the *Holy Quran* one needs to oppose as you have suggested. To end "Islamic ideology" one needs to oppose the regimes responsible for the invasion and destruction of Iraq, Afghanistan and Chechnya and the Zionist occupation of Palestine since 1948.

Last but not the least, I, along with millions across the Muslim world, will be on your side in case of any bearded fanatic harming you. Not because we approve of the hate-Muslim *Fitna* being made on the pretext of "freedom of expression." But because it is the Muslim world that is the real victim of the bearded fanatics who find it easy to issue fatwas against freedom of expression on the pretext of *Fitnas*. Racist *Fitnas* and fanatic fatwas, in fact, reciprocate each other. My fight is against both of them. Take care.

P.S.

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