

The Western Hostility with Islam: The Hostile Behavior of Politics Despite Secular Law

Syed Mohammad Raghieb

Abstract

This paper will look the Islam, Politics and law as an encapsulated entity of Islamic faith of religion in the West. This paper will also search for the root of Islam in the West, which was flourished long back, but later it was uprooted in the mid fifteen century from the landscape of the West. The paper will also search the reason and issues of re-emerging the religion of Islam in the West since the last three decades despite an increase of Islamophobic incidents. Politics is part and parcel of Islam, which is visible in the West countries. In the Western political setup, the law has been working sturdily and very strict to control any unrest, violence in the name of religion and haltered. The core debate here is whether the politics and law are having close relations with Islam in the West. The new emerging trend in the West is Muslims become more vocal towards Islam and their rights and partly protected in the West. In Western society, law and politics work separately, but despite the different narratives, they ban Hijab, Burkini, Azaan and issue of ban of Minarets on Mosque by the Swiss government exposed their religious intolerance as well. The most important is law, which shaped in the ambit of Islam in Western Christian majoritarian society, and it still exists appropriately.

Keywords: Islam; West; Faith; Politics; Law; Society; Culture

How to cite this article:

Syed Mohammad Raghieb. The Western Hostility with Islam: The Hostile Behavior of Politics Despite Secular Law. International Journal of Political Science 2020;6(1):17-26..

Introduction

Since the foundation of Islam, it has been seen that the other existing old religion in the Arabian Peninsula like Judaism and Christianity had confronted with the new Abrahamic Religion (Islam). This confrontation was obvious and natural to prove the superiority and dominant against each other. When Islam introduced as a religion by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), most of the religious

leaders of existing faiths opposed it in a big way in Makkah. The intensity was so high; finally, Prophet Muhammad shifted Makkah to Medina in 611 AD, which is known as Hijri in the Islamic calendar. The difficulties were part of Islamic nurture, without the hardship Islam never flourished as it is looking now across the world. Islam spread rapidly across the globe, even in the West in a very short period.

The rivalries between Judaism and Christianity have been going on hand by hand till now. But that is not as much visible against Islam, for them, Islam has emerged as the biggest threat for their existence. Islam is having more close relations with Christianity but not with Judaism in the religious sense, despite all, these Abrahamic religions claim that they are 'people of the book' (Ahle Kitab). The figure shows, total world population in 2015 was 7.3 billion, Christians were 31.2 percent (2.3 billion), Jews 0.2 percent (0.01 billion) and Muslims 24.1 percent (1.8 billion).¹

Authors Affiliation:

Postdoctoral Candidate, Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 110067, India.

Corresponding Author:

Syed Mohammad Raghieb

Postdoctoral Candidate, Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 110067, India.

E-mail: raghib.jnu@gmail.com

Foundation of Islam in the West

The word 'Islam' is well-known in the West in both good and bad reasons. They know Islam due to the same Abrahamic root, more than that Islam flourished in the West and was part and parcel in the region. Like Asturias, Basque Qurtaba, State of Granada (Spain), Istanbul and other Balkan lands during that period. So the Islamic religious and cultural development reached into the zenith much in these junctions which were in the Christian control. The Arabs and Barbarians siege the Constantinople the capital of Byzantine Empire first in 7th to an 8th century later by Barbarian in the 9th and 10th century.

The Muslim conquest of Al-Andalusia (Spain) was achieved by the great Muslim general Tariq ibn-Ziyad on 30 April 711. The Muslim forces under his command move from south to north-east across the Pyrenees Mountains toward France but defeated at the Battle of Tours in 732. These lands produce many great scholars and artists who have enlightened the world through their writings. The Madrasah of Granada was very famous for learning of Philosophy, Science, Astrology, and Arts and Culture which was founded by the Nasrid dynasty monarch Yusuf I, he was Sultan of Granada in 1349.²

The historically fourth Crusade started between destroyed most of Istanbul during 1204-1261. Later, Sultan Mehmet II an Ottoman Turk conquered the city and changed the name to Istanbul in 1453. The Muslim lost Constantinople but regained Spain and Balkans lands for a few years. Islam flourished in the West as it was in Baghdad, Damascus, Cairo, Samarkand and Bukhara. But after 800 years till 1492, Islam had utterly lost the glory in most of the Spanish cities and suddenly disappeared entirely from the West. Islam was very much visible in the Western Sahara of Africa like in Morocco and Algeria, Tunisia but lost its zenith from Western Europe completely.

Bernard Lewis said in his book 'the emergence of modern Turkey' that.... The French Revolution was the first great movement of ideas in Western Christendom that had any real effect on the world of Islam. Despite the long confrontation of Christendom and Islam across the Mediterranean, and their numberless contacts, in peace and war, from Syria to Spain, such earlier European movements as the Renaissance and the Reformation woke no echo and found no response amount the Muslims peoples (Lewis, 1960: 40).

The War of Crusade between Islam and Christianity can be seen as a centre of enmity point between two Abrahamic faiths and unfortunately the Jerusalem a beautiful place of three faiths becomes the battleground. The West always remembers how Muslim upholds Jerusalem since the first Crusade in 1099 (1095-1099) to the last one, and Seventh Crusade led by the Louis IX of France from (1248-1254). For Muslim, the third Crusade was remembered because Jerusalem conquered by Saladin Ayyubi in 1187 against the three most potent Christian states of the West.

All the ruler of Turkey was braved from Orhan Gazi (1324-59) who started his journey after he captured Bursa in 1326 and made it the dynasty's first capital. His successor was also proved to be braver, his son Murad I (1360-1389), he laid the foundations of Ottoman power in that region by taking Edirne (Adrianople) in 1361. Edirne became the new Ottoman capital, facilitating the Turkish advance into the Balkans, making the region the very core of the later empire until the Balkan Wars of 1912-13 when these territories were finally lost.

A fascinating story about Balkan provinces which was rich in agriculture provided the Turks with the resources to continue their expansion as well as recruits for the ruling elite which government the empire and the early republic. By the time Murad died, the Turks had subdued the Serbs at the battle of Kosovo in 1389 and advanced to the Taurus range in Anatolia. As Stanford Shaw, the historian of the Empire of the Gazis, has believed, in 'a little more than 30 years after Orhan had crossed into Europe, the Ottomans had assured their rule in all the Southeastern Europe, with only the principalities, Bosnia, Albania, and parts of Greece remaining outside their control'.³

The Ottoman Empire was a great military establishment which conquered vast territories in Europe, Asia, and Africa, and even threatened Vienna on two occasions, in 1529 and 1683 (Ahmad 1993: 2).⁴ This incident shows that there was a threat for Ottoman Empire from the Western front because other scattered power trying to push back Ottoman into its original boundary and influence of Islam in deep Western land was also one of the reason. Due to the rapidly changing situation in Europe, this was the Turkish determination to find a place for their empire in the emerging world economy at the beginning of the nineteenth century, dominated by Britain and Europe in the industrial age. At first, the sultans hoped to meet the growing Western challenge by simply creating a modern army (Ahmad 1993: 3).

As a result of the French Revolution, nationalism also made inroads into Ottoman lands, though not as yet among the Muslim people. Christian communities in the Balkans dreamed of liberation from alien rule, and the Greeks succeeded in establishing a national state in 1829 (Ahmad 1993: 4). The situation becomes more complicated when the Ottoman economy was severely hit by the world depression of the 1870s, the army and the bureaucracies were becoming stratified.

There were number of occasions when the West targeted Muslim country due to the pity issue or to damage its power to reduce the Islamic boundaries. There is ahistorical record of confrontation, especially with Turkey with the West. Some of the wars which Turkey fought with other Western powers like Crimean War (1854-56), Russo-Turkish War (1877-78), Italy-Turkish War (1911-12) and Greco-Turkish War (1920-22) are famous, in which Turkey lost most of its Western borders. The intensity of wars increases idea of the Western power that they would crush the Ottoman dominance. The Ottoman was losing its grip on Western borders due to colonial interest across the world.

For holding the control of First Qibla (Bait Al-Maqdis) Muslims are continuing giving their blood for the sake of Islam, from 1948, the situation was different there. British and his allies come up with new laws even the 1917 Balfour Declaration to give the land to Jews in Palestine. Since 1967 the Holy Land is under the control of Israel which is keen to wipe out the inhabitant Palestinian. In the compound of Al-Quds, they want to setup their old temple mount there- doing so Israel is getting all kind of help from most of the Christian world like Britain, France, and America and other countries.

The Bosnian War (1992-1995) was also one of example confrontation between Islam and Christian West. During the war, the International laws and human rights have been violated at all level, that cost the massacre of Muslims in the Balkan regions. The total death was 3,50,000, in which 66 percent were Bosnian Muslims.⁵ The Muslims were badly massacred and systematic brutality of mass rape by the Serbs and Croats. But the law took long time to prosecute the culprits Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, President of Republic a Srpska and Chief of the Army of Srpska who found guilty on 24 March 2016 and convicted of systematic war crimes by the Joint Criminal Enterprise and sentenced to life in prison for crimes, including crimes against humanity and genocide.⁶ The Bosnian war was so

barbaric, and the culprit crosses all line of brutality to punish Bosnian Muslims. The International community seems to fail in the initial stage to send forces against former Yugoslavian states to handle the situation quickly.

There are so many other examples where the West behaved typically towards the Islam and Muslim faith, despite having secular and impartial codified law. The dominance of right-wingers is continuously increasing across Europe, and they are targeting the Muslims, the majority among them is Turkish or Albanian very fewer Arabs and South Asian Muslims migrants.

It was the more heartbreaking for Muslims who flourished Spain to become the most significant power in early modern Europe hardly hold the charm and continue to stay there but departed from that soil ruthlessly. Elizabeth Drayson, a historian she described in her article that "on January 2, 1492, Abdullah Muhammad bin Ali, which is also called Muhammad XII is known as Boabdil as well. The last Moorish sultan of Granada and head of the Nasrid dynasty surrendered his city and handed over the keys of the Alhambra to the Catholic monarchs Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile".⁷

The decline of Al-Andalus was evident due to many reasons like clash within and inefficient ruling class, who hardly control the vast land which was surrounded by Christian rulers. The rise of United Christian front, force Muslim of Spain to think their future. In their toughest time, some were mingled and converted in the same society changing their name and culture. Even, Christian had given new name Moriscos or Moors to converted Muslim. Finally, their desire to lifelong stay there shattered in 1609, when all Moriscos or converted Muslims were expelled from Spain.

Islamophobic Nature of the Liberal West

The whole world is more or less talking about the Muslim being threat for peace, and it is 'Islamophobic rhetoric' which is nothing but exaggeration to sell the weapons and to unite the Christian countries together. Since the decline of Spain, colonial legacies of the West and even collapse of the Ottoman Empire change the mindset of the West completely. During the colonial rule they hold most of the Muslim land in their control from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya and Sudan and Egypt were all under their control, mostly

African countries get their independence during 1960 except Egypt. Most of these North African countries fought their war of independence bravely against the colonial rulers of Europe. These colonial rules had been extracting their wealth and developing their national wealth since the industrial revolution of 1688 to till the end of World War II. Their hidden agenda was to minimise the power of Muslim countries, so they re-created the boundaries of modern states. In West Asia (Middle East) countries, they took power from Turkey and given the control to some Arab rulers who are still a puppet for them.

They not only scratch the demarcation line for their power but divided people and damaged the strength of Muslims in the region. The classic example of Palestine is in front of the world. When the British forces outside the Palestine boundary they started negotiation land for Jews in Palestine organising the Balfour Declaration in 1917. The setup of Israel in 1948 was a secret game plan of the West, who wanted to re-capture Al-Aqsa and crushed emerging Muslim power in the region by proxies.

The war in the region started after the foundation of Israel, which is still going on. Arab Israeli wars of 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973 are historical, but other Wars in the region like Gulf Wars in 1990 and 2003 which uprooted the Saddam Hussein power later hanged him was also part of the plan of Judeo-Christian conspiracy for creation of 'Greater Israel'. The Syrian War and the Yemeni crisis crushed the Muslim strength badly, in which millions of people lost their lives and millions injured, displaced and migrated to the neighbour countries. A large number of war-affected people entered into the Western countries like Germany, Italy, Romania, and Austria etc. Most of the migrants were shoddily treated and humiliated at various points.

The Islamic scholars have a lot of contributions to the world like the discovery of classical art, literature, and philosophy. The old work of Arab writer and scholars of Granada, which was translated into different languages. The path of journey of the renaissance from darkness to light begins with the work of Muslims scholars from Andalusia to Baghdad. During the time of Mongol attack by Hulagu Khan in 1258, destroyed thousands of books of the House of Wisdom (Darum Hikma), and thousand reallocated to Europe (West). Several great Muslim philosophers like Al-Farabi (872-951) who worked on political philosophy and had a famous book *ara ahl al-madina al-fadila* (The View

of the People of the Virtuous City) still taught in the Western universities.

A leading modern Islamic scholar Muqtedar Khan of Delaware University briefly described a few scholars work in details, like Al-Ghazali, Ibn Rushd etc. The great Islamic scholars, like Al Ghazali (1058-1111 AD) who consider being core in the Islamic philosophy are famous in the entire Sunni world. He wrote many books, but two is necessary to mention like *Ihya Ulum al-Din* (The Revival of Religious Sciences) and *Al-Munqidh min Al-Dalal* (Deliverance from Error) which discusses his intellectual and spiritual doubts and his quest for truth.⁸ One of the great scholars of the thirteen century was Ibn Rushd (1126-1198), who best known as Averroes has the most significant and profound impact on Western religion and philosophy probably. He was not only a philosopher and judge (expert in Islamic law) but thinker and Physician as well. He wrote many books, but *Fasl al-Maqal* (The Decisive Treatise) is a milestone in Philosophy, another his book *Tahafat al-Tahafat* (Incoherence of Incoherence) is a refuted of Al-Ghazzali's works *Tahat Al-Falasifah* (Incoherence of Philosophy) and defended Aristotelian philosophy which was refuted by Ghazzali. Another Islamic mystical and philosopher was Ibn Arabi (1165-1240 AD), he was accepted as first postmodern and feminist thinker in human intellectual heritage. He has written two very famous books *Fusus al-Hikam* (Bezels of Wisdom) and the second one is *Futuh al-Makiyyah* (The Meccan Opening) is full of Islamic mysticism and philosophy,⁹ and being well circulated in the Western world till now. He is also known as Al-Sheikh al Akbar (The Great Scholar) in the Islamic world. Another great scholar was Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406 AD) called to be a great scholar of all social scientist. He was an Islamic thinker and philosopher of history, he emphasised empirical thought over normative theory. He has written many things, but his magnum opus *Al-Muqaddima* (Introduction or Prolegomena) is very famous. Which consist of three parts first is an introduction, second is universal history and last and third part he described the history of the West (Maghreb) and considered as a prime source work.¹⁰

There are others various Islamic scholars, writers and philosophers like Al Kindi (801-873), Muhammad ibn Zakariya al-Razi (854-925), Ibn Sina or Avicenna (980-1037), Nasir Khusraw (1004-1088), Jalal Uddin Rumi (1207-1273), Nasir al-Din al-Tusi (1201-1274), Ibn al-Nafis (1213-1288) and Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938), are contributed in various period of time. These are the pearls

highlighted here, many left deliberately. These Muslim philosophers, historian and thinker' writings and thoughts are still taught in western university syllabi.

The West is at all times trying to prove himself as superior and viewing modern, but pointing out finger on Muslim as an inferior and less-intellect. Despite knowing fact that Muslim contributed numbers of literature through which Europe enlightened during the Renaissance from 14th to the 17th century.

In present time, the West is trying to psychologically demean Islam and Muslim to defame them. Claim that Muslim are doing nothing productive, but the fact is unlike, still thousands of research papers have been coming from the various subjects by the Muslims scholars yearly. The current warmongers in Western society are suddenly emphasising on the growing population of Muslims across the world and constructed a new narrative of fear.

As per the Pew report regarding the 10 Christian and Muslim populated countries a compression, but its more than that, the story wanted to provoke the Christian world using the Muslim population as a threat for future. In this report, they said that 'in absolute terms, there are twice as many Christians (1.2 billion) as there are Muslims (609 million) living in countries that are not on their religion's top 10 list'.¹¹ Some of the figures which is projected in this report for an estimation till 2060 which highly looking suspicious, the report further said that 'Muslims will grow more than twice as fast as the overall world population between 2015 and 2060 and, in the second half of this century, will likely to surpass Christians as the world's largest group'.¹²

In another report, as per figure eleven countries are home of 50 percent of Christians live in Russia, US, Brazil, China, Italy, Germany, Philippines, Mexico, Nigeria and Congo, having 38 percent of the world's total population. In one more fig., it showed that six countries are home to 53 percent of Muslims lives in Indonesia, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, Egypt and Nigeria and 30 percent of the total world population. Similarly, two countries are home to 81 percent of all Jews who are residing in the US and Israel and 5 percent of the world's total population. The report further said that "While Christians and Muslims are more widely distributed around the world; the other groups have a majority of their populations in just one or two nations, according to 2010 estimates from our Global Religious Landscape report".¹³

Similar research published in 2017 saying that in 'Christian are declining in the Europe, as per report, they said that 'between 2010 and 2015, an estimated 223 million babies were born to Christian mothers, and roughly 107 million Christian died- a natural increase of 116 million, but, among the Christian deaths outnumbered births by nearly 6 million during this brief period'.¹⁴ In the same report, they said regarding Muslims in Europe that 'Muslims experienced the most considerable natural increase among all religious groups, including Christians. Births to Muslims between 2010 and 2015 outnumbered deaths by 152 million (213 million births vs 61 million deaths).¹⁵ These all are projection, but due to such reports, the crime and hate against Muslims increased in society by the right-wing political parties.

The Recent Growth in the Hate Crimes Against Muslim in West

In the recent modern time, multifold growth in the hate crimes reported against the Muslims in the Western countries, which may be due to the Islamophobic nature of West, or plan is to diminish them from Europe. The recent data shows that Muslims made up to 4.9 percent of Europe's population in 2016. They are growing in most of the prominent European countries like in Austria 6.9, Belgium 7.6, Bulgaria 11.1, Denmark 5.4, France 8.8, Germany 6.1, Greece 5.7, Italy 4.8, Netherlands 7.1, Norway 5.7, Sweden 8.1, Switzerland 6.1, Cyprus 25.4 and in UK 6.3 percent which is not huge which can be problematic.^{16,17} Most of the eastern European countries close to Russia are having fewer numbers of Muslim populations; astonishingly Spain only has 2.6 percent. The report said that 'in recent years, Europe has experienced a record influx of asylum seekers fleeing conflicts in Syria and other predominantly Muslim countries'.¹⁸ There is no question that the wave of migrants started the debate in most of the European countries regarding the policies of immigration and their security. Their calculation is now changing day by day due to change of world order. The West even denied full membership to Turkey, which is pending since long. Recently the European lawmakers said that 'The European Union should formally suspend Turkey's negotiations to join the bloc'.¹⁹ The relations of Turkey with EU bounded in 1963 and negotiation for full membership started in 2005,²⁰ but still, Ankara is waiting for full membership. The reason is they don't want any Muslim country to join the EU, which will change the whole demography of Europe, in terms of population and economy.

Presently Germany is the biggest economy in the EU but when Turkey will join the EU, and then it will become the leading country in the EU, which they will never allow.

Despite the secular law of European countries, 'Turkey entry was blocked by the EU for more than the last 60 years, despite Turkey is part of NATO and has the second largest army'.²¹ During commemorate the 100 anniversary of the end of the First World War, in the November 2018, 'intense debate started among the NATO allied on the possibility of establishing an exclusive European army'.²²

In 2009 the issue raised by some of the 'Swiss right-wing group of regarding minarets on Mosque, as a symbol of Islamic culture through the referendum which passed by the majority 57.5 percent and it's become law'.²³ According to the Swiss government, they said that it would respect the vote and sought to reassure the Muslim population—mostly immigrants from other parts of Europe, like Kosovo and Turkey— that the minaret ban was "not a rejection of the Muslim community, religion or culture." Later justice minister Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf said the result of the referendum "reflects fear among the population of Islamic fundamentalist tendencies".²⁴

Across Europe, the Islamophobic atmosphere spreading, like 'in 2018 Denmark enacted a ban on the wearing of face veils in public joining France and other EU countries. Belgium, the Netherlands, Bulgaria and the German state Bavaria, have all imposed curbs on the wearing of face veils in public'.²⁵

In Austria recently approved a ban on headscarf in primary schools from May 16 2019,²⁶ the country run by the right-wing government. This kind of political vendetta using law is a clear cut an assault on Muslims culture and identity, which is now looking common in most of the Western countries. The government text refers to any "ideologically or religiously influenced clothing which is associated with the covering of the head".²⁷ Two party coalition running the government, the centre-right People's Party (OeVP and the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ), have made it clear that despite its broad description, the law is targeted at the Islamic headscarf. The FPÖ education spokesman, Wedelin Molzer, said the law was "a signal against political Islam" while OeVP MP Rudolf Taschner said the measure was necessary to free girls from "subjugation".²⁸

In response of this ban, Austria's official Muslim community organisation IGGOe has previously condemned the proposals as "shameless" and a "diversionary tactic". It says that in any case only "minuscule number" of girls would be affected. In the series of haltered and Islamophobic mindset, Danish right-wing politician Rasmus Paludan ready to contest in the general election, which is due on 5 June 2019, which will be not welcome by some political parties.²⁹

Since the Syrian Crisis began in 2010, a large number of people migrated to different direction especially towards Europe to get the asylum or to get shelter for better future. In recent years we have seen so many cases in the Western world mostly European countries how they behaved with the Syrian people despite strong codified Law, they humiliated them due to their religion and restricted them to follow their culture demonstration in the public sphere even some countries created so many hurdles to get their children enrolled in their schools.

The recent attack on the Muslim across Europe is nothing but a planned way to throw them out from Europe, and a right-wing campaign is already running across Europe against Muslims and Islam. During the violence in France on 19 April 2018, after the death of an inmate sparks violence, rioting burns of cars in the Toulouse and Mirail neighbourhood. It is not the maiden incident which took the new shape of violence. The reality behind the violence is the policy of government and law for the migrants and African Muslims, who are jobless and treated as a burden for countries.³⁰ In the case of France, where Muslims resides around 10 percent of the total population, mostly are migrants and has colonial links.³¹ But still, they are struggling for their rights and integration in French society. The increase in global hates generated more differences and the propaganda against Islam and Muslim in the name of terrorism, which given a free hand to the Western countries to handle them with or without law and prosecute and eliminate them across Europe.

The numbers of incidents have also been reported across Europe in the name of Islam, Muslims and its cultural symbols like Azan, Minarets, Burkini, Hijab, Scarf, Charles Hubdo, violence in France, issue of migrants and the rising right-wing influence across Europe are big concern for liberal. The justice systems are also looking enactive when the majoritarian society decided to punish the minority collectively through Law or by the referendum to make a law on the particular

issue. Germany is looking more flexible on social concern in comparison to other countries. Very few incidents reported in Germany, not any major and horrific. Germany having second largest Muslims population in Europe after France, among them Turkish and Albanian Muslims are in large number.

The current situation is created due to the Western interference in the Middle East country, the US poured more fuel in fire to start Gulf Wars. The unilateral move to remove Saddam Hussein from the power in 2003 by the Western powers was big mistake. That not only sparks hatred against the West among Muslims but created a big human catastrophe in the region. The 9/11 also played a more prominent role to increase more anxiety and rift among Muslims and the West. The misuse of the law to invade Afghanistan and Iraq using IAEA, UN and blame for WMD exposed the West hypocrisy and double standard. In the US continue attack going on against Muslims but nothing looking concrete steps. Trump new anti-migration stands also increased hates for the US by Muslims and migrants across the world. Such an atmosphere is designed to de-stabilise the peaceful region for the sake of arms export. They not only disturbed and bombed Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria but Libya and Palestine as well. Current Trump move to shift the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is a massive violation of International Law, which will be a great repercussion ahead towards the peace of Israel and Palestine negation in future. The new American agenda regarding Iran nuclear issue (JCPOA) and cancel 2015 agreement is the new war preparation against Iran is a serious violation of international law. Trump encircling Iran for their Arms industries but, nuclear and oil exports is just an issue.

Politics of Hate Crimes Against Muslim, the Response of Law and Judiciary in Europe

In most of the European countries law and judicial system vigorously implemented and codified well but the rate of hate crime against Islam and Muslim also going up day by day. Most of the Western European countries like France, the UK and Germany, where the rate of hate crimes speed up in the last couple of years in response to the migration of Syrian and other people. Many new right-wing groups come up with the notion of religious hatred and killing the innocent. As per the report which said that 'in 2017 only around 1201 Islamophobic attack reported in the UK with a rise of 26 percent, mostly in London and Manchester City'.³²

These incidents are not only physical but offline as well. The report which explained, in brief, said that 'more than two-thirds-839- of the attacks and abuse occurred offline, or on street level, a 31 percent rise from 642 last years. A third of incidents were online, up by 16.3 percent compared with the previous year'.³³ The other act of violence also reported like vandalism, and threatening behaviour is frequent against Muslims. The victims are mostly women that are shocking data. In Germany, 950 attacks on Muslims recorded in last year mostly against women. As per the report that 'the German government recorded at least 950 Islamophobic incidents last year, including vandalising of mosques, online abuse and physical attacks on Muslim women wearing the veil *Neue Osnabrucker Zeitung*'.³⁴

As per the 'crime survey of England and Wales revealed that most religious hate crime -52 percent of all offences- was aimed at Muslims'.³⁵ These are the situation of very progressive and secular and more than that free crime zone of Europe, where religious hates reached its height. Another Home office data is saying that it rose by 40 percent, from 5949 in 2016-17 to 8336 in 2017-18.³⁶

These all incidents more or less in same nature, but no massive political debates initiated nor the political parties are raising these issues sincerely. The politics of the West is constantly working to restrict Islam and Muslim, which found trend of increase. When we look at their political setup, law and order and active judiciary, are not fully accurate. They claimed to be champion of human rights, are nothing looking practical but fishy. They are very conservatives and full of Islamophobic in natures.

Recent political shift of power in the UK after Theresa May announced about her resignation as the PM post due to Brexit issue. There were two candidates chosen for replacement one was current Home Secretary Sajid Javid, who was a strong contender for PM post and second was Boris Johnson. Finally, Johnson became the choice of most liberal-secular nation of the world, rejected Muslim candidate. In an interview Javid revealed that 'I too brown for the Right-but not brown enough for the left', he further said that he receives abuse daily 'because of my colour'.³⁷ Mr. Javid a non-practising Muslim when asked about his readiness for a Muslim prime minister, he said 'I think in Britain anyone who's capable, regardless of whether they're Muslim or Hindu, for that matter, or any other religion or no religion, can be prime minister'.³⁸

In a very sensational report by Jessica Murray in the Guardian news, she reported as per the survey conducted that 'nearly half of Conservative party members would prefer not to have a Muslim prime minister'.³⁹

The survey found that two-thirds of Tory members believe the myth that parts of the UK are under Sharia law, and 45 percent think some areas are not safe for non-Muslims', the survey found that 'half of the party's members think that Islamophobia is a big issue, but only 8 percent believe it is a problem within the party'.⁴⁰

In recent political development in the UK after the survey, this comes out unfolding the deeply rooted Islamophobia in British society. The people are claiming that they are the most liberal and inclusive society, which rejects the discrimination on colour, religion and ethnicity. They have strong law, but old nexus between politics and law yet again emerged as governing tools, barely helping them to establish an inclusive society, now pluralism is under stake in Europe in true sense.

Conclusion

The West knows Islam, Politics and studied law as well; these are due to their vast experience during the colonial rule which they had across the world. The West has given freedom, liberty and other spaces for other religious faith including Islam and Muslims, their attitude is different. There are a competition, cooperation and enmity as well with Islam and Muslims because of ideological differences. They feel that Islam is a threat for them, so control them outside the boundaries of Europe. They believe that Sharia law is being a threat to the European society, and in the future, Islamic domination will challenge their culture. The West is using the mechanism to curtail the certain individual rights of the people, despite strong existing law and reliable human rights records across Europe. Despite all, Europe should understand that Muslim Europeans are not a monolithic community their views are as different as those of other non-Muslim Europeans. Sometimes it also happened that the other third-party actors like American proxies involved in Europe, whenever they try to shirk their shoulders from the Washington economic and security setup of Europe, some incident suddenly happen. It is very clear cut that the US never accepts the European countries to think separately from the line of American interest, so they created such situation either by the internal attack or creating

economic trouble to get the US involved in their affairs respected country.

The issue is more challenging for international peace lovers to say or stand against such an atmosphere. Such pity attempts must be taken to account for diminishing the ideological difference with Islam. The West should give more space to Muslims to follow their religious and cultural activities without afraid of right-wingers, and frame of law. Sometimes, it seems that law is now here when they plan war against Iraq, Libya and Syria and supporting Israel openly, their attitude and policies appear different. The role of the UN and its body, international court of Justice at Hague is also looking meaningless now a day. The International organisation like the UN has always been being as tools of Western power, against Muslim countries but not any stern action against Israel and other vulnerable states. In such vulnerable international situations, a wrong message sending to the civilised world, where the calculation of power, dominate, wealth governs the world as a whole.

Finally, there should be given respect and space for other faith, law and system should not be biased towards anyone. The change developed after the 9/11, and it infiltrated more after Charles Hubdo issue and bombing in the UK and France in 2005 and 2015 respectively in which many innocent lives lost. There is a need to think about the politics and religious correctness between Islam and the West to stop such vast ideological and cultural differences, based on the basis of the clash of civilisation but by virtue of civilisational coexistence.

References

1. Pew Reports, by Conard Hackett and David McClendon, 'Christians remain world's largest religious group, but they are declining in Europe' dated 05 April 2017, URL: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/05/christians-remain-worlds-largest-religious-group-but-they-are-declining-in-europe/>.
2. Department of Islamic Art. "The Art of the Nasrid Period (1232-1492)." In Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000-. URL: https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/nasr/hd_nasr.htm
3. Stanford J. Shaw, History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey, Vol. I, Empire of the Gazis, Cambridge, 1976, p.22.
4. Feroz Ahmad (1993), The Making of Modern Turkey, London: Routledge.

5. Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), dated 21 January 2012, URL: <http://birn.eu.com/uncategorized/100-days-of-government/3377/>
6. The Centre for Justice and Accountability (Cja), Bosnia: Torture & Ethnic Cleansing in the Bosnian War, URL: <https://cja.org/where-we-work/bosnia/>
7. Elizabeth Drayson, 'These are the keys of this Paradise, how 700 years of Muslim rule in Spain came to an end' dated 07 March 2018, URL: <https://theconversation.com/these-are-the-keys-of-this-paradise-how-700-years-of-muslim-rule-in-spain-came-to-an-end-78359>
8. Muqtedar Khan, Five Islamic Philosopher Every Muslim Must Read, Dated 23 May 2015, URL: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/5-islamic-philosophers-every-muslim-must-read_b_6912014
9. Ibid.
10. Ibn-Khaldun his life and works, URL: http://muslimheritage.com/article/ibn-khaldun-his-life-and-works#_Toc240280830
11. Pew Reports, by Jeff Diamant, Date 01 April 2019, URL: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/04/01/the-countries-with-the-10-largest-christian-populations-and-the-10-largest-muslim-populations/>
12. Pew Reports by Michael Lipka and Conrad Hackett, "Why Muslims are the worlds fastest growing religious groups" April 6, 2017, URL: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/06/why-muslims-are-the-worlds-fastest-growing-religious-group/>
13. Pew Reports dated 27 August 2014, URL: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/08/27/many-religions-heavily-concentrated-in-one-or-two-countries/>
14. Pew Reports, Christians remain worlds largest religious group but they are declining in Europe, dated 05 April 2017, URL: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/05/christians-remain-worlds-largest-religious-group-but-they-are-declining-in-europe/>
15. Ibid.
16. Houssain Kettani, Muslim Population in Europe: 1950-2020, Proceedings of the 2009 International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities, January 2010.
17. Pew Reports, Europe's Growing Muslim Population, dated 29 November 2017, URL: <https://www.pewforum.org/2017/11/29/europes-growing-muslim-population/>
18. Ibid.
19. The Reuters News, EU parliament calls for freeze on Turkey's membership talks, dated 13 March 2019, URL: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-turkey/eu-parliament-calls-for-freeze-on-turkeys-membership-talks-idUSKCN1QU2LD>
20. The Hurriyet Daily News, Turkey pushes EU for membership decision, dated 28 April 2019, URL: <http://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/turkey-pushes-eu-for-membership-decision-143000>
21. TRT World, Why has Turkey grown distant from its EU membership goal? Dated 14 November 2018, URL: <https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/why-has-turkey-grown-distant-from-its-eu-membership-goal-21662>
22. Ibid.
23. The New York Times, Swiss Ban Building of Minarets on Mosques, 29 November 2009, URL: <https://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/30/world/europe/30swiss.html>
24. Ibid.
25. Danish Burqa ban comes into effect amid protests, 1 August 2018, URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/01/danish-burqa-ban-comes-into-effect-amid-protests>.
26. Austria bans headscarf in primary schools, 16 May 2019, URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/16/austria-approves-headscarf-ban-in-primary-schools>
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid.
29. Danish politician Rasmus Paludan is going to contest in coming general election, which is due on 5 June 2019, URL: <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/rasmus-paludan-danish-islamophobe-rises-political-stardom-190516090301567.html>
30. The Local France News, What exactly sparked the ongoing riots in a Toulouse neighbourhood?, Dated 19 April 2018, URL: <https://www.thelocal.fr/20180419/toulouse-riots-what-exactly-sparked-the-riots-in-deprived-toulouse-neighbourhood>
31. France and its Muslims, Foreign Affairs, September-October 2006, URL: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/france/2006-09-01/france-and-its-muslims>
32. The Guardian News, Record number of anti-Muslim attacks reported in UK last year, Dated 20 January 2018, URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jul/20/record-number-anti-muslim-attacks-reported-uk-2017>
33. Ibid
34. Saim Saeed, 950 attacks on Muslims recorded in Germany last year, Dated 03 March 2018, URL:

- <https://www.politico.eu/article/germany-islam-950-attacks-on-muslims-recorded-in-germany-last-year/>
35. BBC News, Religious hate crimes: Rise in offences recorded by Police, Dated 16 October 2018, URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-45874265>
36. Ibid.
37. Daily Mail, A Muslim Prime Minister Sajid Javid says capable UKs job, dated 11 May 2019, URL: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7015987/A-Muslim-Prime-Minister-Sajid-Javid-says-capable-UKs-job.html>
38. Ibid.
39. The Guardian News, Tory members would not want Muslim prime minister, dated 24 June 2019, URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jun/24/tory-members-would-not-want-muslim-prime-minister-islamophobia-survey>
40. Ibid.
-
-
-