



## IS IT A JUST WAR TO LEAVE THE SAFETY OF OUR NATION & THE WESTERN WAY OF LIFE

Peter Adamis 16 July 2014

The article below (I would fight in Syria today if I could) barely touches the inner emotions of a person of the Islamic faith and does not truly address all the good work of parents, Imams, Islamic clerics and teachers do to stop young men and women from travelling to war torn countries.

Many parents are aghast at the decision made by their young to travel overseas to enlist in a conflict that their parents fled. The same parents in order to stop these young men and women from travelling overseas now report their own children to the authorities in order to save them. Imams, priests and other teachers of the various religions and faiths have a duty of care towards their flock and should be preaching the positive aspects of their faith rather than use their position as a recruiting ground to capture the hearts and minds of their youth.

They are no different to the young Israeli men and women who fought prior to gaining their independence and no different to the young men and women fighting for their causes in Mexico and South America and no different to the youth of Vietnam who fought against America. They are also no different to the Hellenic young men and women who fought during the Greek War of Independence, During WW2 and the apocalyptic Greek Civil war that followed it. In fact these young men and women are displaying the same commitment as our young men and women demonstrated during all conflicts in the past 100 years. They are driven by the same zeal and faith that what they are doing is in their eyes saving their world as they know it.

We who live in the West may not understand that passion until we ourselves are faced with the same dilemma and circumstances. It would take a great war and a fight for our survival for our women to take up arms in similar circumstances. We are fortunate that we live in a society that takes action to look after our interests and to water down our passions should they rise above what is considered normal behaviour in our society. But at what cost to the nation, will we in the Western world lose the ability to be free from prying eyes and will our privacy be no longer considered in the equation and worst still will free speech and free will be a thing of the past.

Our law enforcement agencies share the same vision and information with the same objectives in mind by monitoring online traffic and behaviours of communities and individuals that display unwarranted and ill conceived and poor thought processes that are not conducive to what society considers to be acceptable. Having said this one wonders whether we are being hypocritical when it is well known that many from Western nations have left their homes to fight in a war that they believe is a just one. Whatever the case may be, those who choose to leave do so at their own peril if that war is not in the interests of their nation.

As for the ISIL, the more publicity we give them, the more they revel in it. Reduce their online presence and you reduce their effectiveness and cut off their methods of recruiting young men and women who are driven by passion and zeal. Western Law enforcement agencies should be provided with the legislation to monitor such groups by isolating them and monitoring their activities with encroaching on the civil liberties of society and without the need to move towards a "Big Brother" approach.

In the first place, the only time I would consider going to battle is (heaven forbid) that Australia is faced with a force that is alien to our western culture and is hell bent on enslaving us to meet their interests. In the second place should in the unholy event that my place of birth is overseas and faced with extinction, I would be moved to consider my options and be compelled to leaving the safety of these shores in order to give it my best shot in ensuring the survival of my birth place. To undertake the following options will mean that we have reached dangerous levels within our Western world as we know it and evil times means making drastic decisions.

My first option would be on humanitarian grounds in providing food, clothing, medicine, shelter and comfort. My second option would be in raising funds on humanitarian grounds to ensure that those who need it do receive it and it is not channelled into weapons. My third option would be to create a media and online environment that highlights the plight of the nation. My fourth option is to do nothing and allow nature take its course hoping that all will turn out for the better. My last option would be to leave the safety of these shores and become involved. In life we will all be faced with such decisions and the options are many and diverse, but in the end one hopes that we who live in the Western world do not have to come to that point.

I have also stated elsewhere in other articles that should the Western world as we know it is faced with such overwhelming odds of extinction such as the UK, USA, France, NZ and Canada I would also seriously consider supporting them in their time of need. However for that to occur, many actions and events would have passed in order that we reach that point of no return. Still we must be cognizant of our own nations self interests and economic stability and abide by its laws even though in some case we may not believe that we are heading in the right direction.

That is why in the Western world the man and woman in the street have a voice and their opinions do count and can be heard without coercion and without the fear of being suppressed or overwhelmed by a "Big Brother" approach. We indeed are blessed to be living in the Western world and it's no wonder that many are seeking solace and an economic security within our borders.



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## I WOULD FIGHT IN SYRIA TODAY IF I COULD

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One of the many rubble-strewn streets in the war-devastated northern Syrian city of Aleppo. The apparent decision by teenage twins from Manchester to travel to Syria has raised concerns about the role of British women in the conflict.

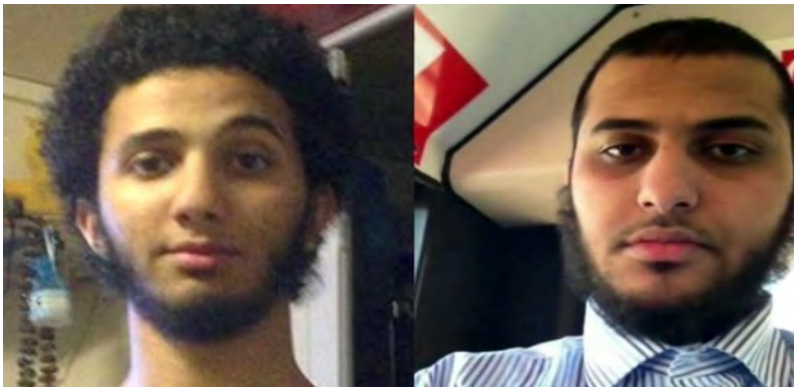
Sima Kotecha has spoken to a number of Muslim women in Luton about their desire to be involved. She has a petite frame and her body is covered by a black burka. She is outside the Islamic Centre, off Luton's ethnically diverse Bury Park Road, waiting for a friend so they can go inside to pray. Asked about the conflict in Syria between rebels and the government of Bashar al-Assad, she explains, without hesitation: "I would go today if I could - whether to help or fight to help my brothers and sisters, inshallah [God willing]." The woman is 20 and comes across as strong, intelligent and articulate, and refuses to give her name. But she is clear about why she would fight. She says Muslims are "all one body - if one part aches, the whole body aches." She adds: "I would definitely fight for them because what's happening to them is not all right... If I could go today, I would."

The International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR), based in King's College London, says it is monitoring 40 women who have travelled to Syria from Europe in recent months. While most of them are from France, at least eight are thought to be British. Melanie Smith, a research associate at the ICSR, has been investigating the flow of people going to Syria. She says it is "clear that some of these women who have been travelling to Syria have since been married to jihadists and foreign fighters". But she adds: "I don't believe marriage to be an important driving factor. "These women appear to be motivated above all by the opportunity to respond to [the Isis rebel leader] Baghdadi's call for them to form an integral part of the new 'Islamic state' and to act upon their Islamic belief in the umma, or global unity among Muslims."

Ms Smith also claims a vast majority of these women go to make hijrah - a migration in search of a better life. They want to carry out tasks for the male fighters permitted by a strict form of Islam, such as cleaning, cooking and first aid. Few women fighters. This is in contradiction to the pictures of Muslim women holding AK-47s and dressed in combat gear that are circulating on the internet. This is apparently a rarity. I spoke to at least two dozen Muslim women in Luton, most of whom said they would like to go to Syria to provide humanitarian aid but whose family priorities at home are making such a journey difficult. Rachel Briggs, Institute for Strategic Dialogue: Women "could be travelling to Syria to fight"

Elizabeth Pearson, an independent academic researcher who has written about gender and Islamism, told me: "Research on British Muslim women shows they are better able to negotiate different identities and have a better sense of belonging to the UK than British Muslim men, who have been the subject of security practices which they have complained about." In a small beauty salon, a customer explained: "If they want to go out there and support their family, well, good for them. If you can help anyone in this time of their need, whether it's bandaging them, helping them, why not? And it's for a good cause."

The case of Zahra and Salma Halane, 16-year-old twin girls from Manchester who are believed to have travelled to Syria to join the jihad, has rung alarm bells for the authorities. More than 140 British imams have pleaded with Muslims not to go to Iraq or Syria. But some of the young women told me: "We don't listen to old imams." There also seems to be some confusion among many of the Luton women about the politics surrounding the fighting. Some seem confused with the idea that, by "helping Muslims", they might be in conflict with others of the same faith.



Brothers Aseel Muthana (left) and Nasser Muthana from Cardiff have allegedly become Isis recruits. Their belief and commitment is based on supporting their fellow religionists. But whether they are government forces or rebels is something they are unclear on.

When they are challenged about whether they are prepared to risk criminalising themselves with the UK authorities by going to Syria or Iraq, most of the women said they were unaware of government warnings and one woman said she would not return anyway. "I didn't know I would be criminalising myself if I did fight. I don't really want to talk about that side of it because I don't know too much about it. I don't understand that side - but I wouldn't come back because it's dangerous out there," she said. 'Potentially an offence'. Up to 500 British jihadists are thought to have travelled to Syria to fight, but the ICSR says it is difficult to monitor how many are coming back.

There has been much debate about whether those who do return pose a threat. Guidance from the Home Office is clear: "Our priority is to dissuade people from travelling to areas of conflict in the first place." It adds: "The best way to help Syrians is to donate or volunteer with UK-registered charities that have ongoing relief operations - not to travel." The Crown Prosecution Service said: "The CPS applies anti-terrorism laws as set out by Parliament in legislation. Becoming involved in terrorist training abroad or fighting in a conflict abroad is potentially an offence under that law. Each case is considered on its own merits and prosecutions are only brought where there is sufficient evidence to do so and where the public interest requires action."

But it adds: "It would, of course, not be considered a crime to become involved in humanitarian work, for example in providing medical assistance." Talking to these young Muslim women illustrates the government's problem: its message is not getting across to everyone and a reliance on community leaders and imams to get that message through appears to be failing.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-28293033>