



# The Holy Pen



"The work of the sword we have performed with the pen."--Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian

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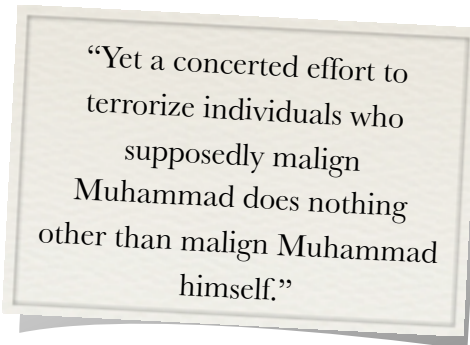
## First Read: *The Jewel of Medina*

**Anees Ahmad - Rochester, NY**

First it was Ayaan Hirsi Ali's script for "Submission". The Danish caricatures and then Pope Benedict's comments would soon follow. Then came the knighthood of Salman Rushdie. And now there's the publication of "The Jewel of Medina". It makes me sick – the reaction of extremists, that is.

For those who don't know, "The Jewel of Medina" is author Sherry Jones' fictionalized depiction of the life of Ayesha,

wife of the Islamic prophet Muhammad.



Because the book contains comments some

Muslims find unforgivable, the publisher's London office was bombed. Three men have recently been charged with the attack.

As a student of comparative religion, as well as a Muslim, I do not find much power behind the pen of Ali, Rushdie, or Sherry Jones. Yet a concerted effort to terrorize individuals who supposedly malign Muhammad does nothing other than malign Muhammad himself.

## Pakistan Must Start Condemning Terrorism

**Letter to the Editor, Baltimore Examiner (Dec. 3rd, 2008)**  
**Faheem Younus - Perry Hall, MD**

**“One could argue that such repugnant acts are deeply condoned by Pakistan’s constitution.”**

Now that the world knows that attacks on innocent civilians in Mumbai were perpetrated by Islamic militants of Pakistani origin, we the Muslims are left soul-searching once again.

As a Muslim who understands the sanctity of human life through the Quranic principle, ‘He who killed one life is as though he killed humanity,’ I strongly condemn such heinous acts.

The Pakistani government, however, still distances itself from taking any responsibility for repeated tragedies caused by their home-grown militia.

One could argue that such repugnant acts are deeply condoned by Pakistan’s constitution. Under the cloak of blasphemy laws, hundred of members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community were subjected to target killings in Pakistan and the government did just what they did this time: offer a soft, political condemnation.

That Pakistan should cooperate with the investigation and follow the evidence wherever it leads is a very achievable expectation set by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

However, Pakistan does not have a track record of following through. As a first step, Pakistan must repeal the blasphemy laws under the constitutional amendment of 1984, which are the root cause of its most unwanted export product.

<http://www.baltimoreexaminer.com/opinion/letters/120408letter1.html>

**The Holy Pen**

**Chairman, MSQ USA: Amjad Mahmood Khan**

**Editor: Ahmad Nawaz Chaudhry**

**[msq@mkausa.org](mailto:msq@mkausa.org)**



**[www.mkausa.org/msq](http://www.mkausa.org/msq)**

**The Holy Pen is a fortnightly newsletter of**

**MSQ USA. Its aim is to generate awareness of the latest media coverage of Islam in the American press.**

## Interesting Reads

### **Islam's transcendent challenge**

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2008/10/islams\\_transcendent\\_challenge.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2008/10/islams_transcendent_challenge.html)

### **The Coming of Islam, and The Exit of Freedom**

<http://www.bloggernews.net/118135>

### **We are losing Europe to Islam**

<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0908/west092208.php3>

### **The American Muslim and Islamic moderation**

<http://europenews.dk/en/node/14924>

## MSQ on the Web

### **Sardar Anees Ahmad and Sohail Husain Earn 2007-2008 Awards for Writing Excellence**

MKA USA announces the award recipients for the Fazl-e-Umar and Sir Chaudhry Zafrullah Khan Awards for Writing Excellence

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## **Muslims Advocate Peace**

**Letter to the Editor, USA Today (Dec. 2nd, 2008)**  
**Sohail Husain - New Haven, CT**

**“Well, enough is enough. Islam does not condone your acts of terror, and we are not with you.”**

Last week Mumbai, the largest city in India, was paralyzed by terror as militants triggered a network of bombs and raided several key public and tourist locations. While their identities are being sorted out, members of groups of this type generally claim to represent Islam and the body of Muslims.

I am an American Muslim of Indian descent, and I strongly



disagree. Voices of dissent such as mine and many other Muslims have long been drowned out by the clamor

on prime-time news of these misguided and ignorant extremists. They not only took hostage tourists in their hotels, but they also, in effect, have taken hostage the wider Muslim communities that they claim to lead by proxy.

Well, enough is enough. Islam does not condone your acts of terror, and we are not with you.

In fact, our religion condemns your cowardly violence on civilians, and we implore you to stop.

The prayers of this Muslim and former Indian national go out to the victims of Mumbai. The only extremism we can tolerate is peace, as stated last week in southern India by Mirza Masroor Ahmad, a prominent Muslim and head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/12/examine-police.html>

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## **New MSQ Book**

Majlis Sultan-ul-Qalam, USA ("MSQ USA"), in coordination with Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya, USA, has assembled the first-ever historical retrospective of the tradition of jihad bil qalam ("jihad by the pen") in Islam and Ahmadiyyat. *Towards a Greater Jihad: Using the Pen in Islam's Defense* chronicles the venerable tradition of the intellectual defense of Islam through Quranic extracts, Ahadith, Malfoozat, and scholarly articles. It also includes an anthology of six years' worth of publications by MSQ USA members. [Purchase a copy for \\$10.](#)

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