



# The Holy Pen

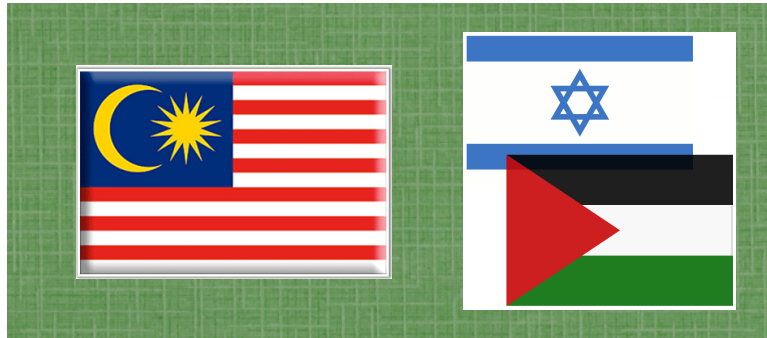


"The work of the sword we have performed with our pen."--Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian

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## First Read: Is Malaysia following in the footsteps of Pakistan?

**Anees Ahmad - Rochester, NY**

Malaysia has stood, even before its independence in 1957, as a beacon of fairness and equality. It was the great Tunku Abdul Rahman who, like the late Muhammad Ali Jinnah of Pakistan, won his nation independence from within the very confines of the law that had usurped his people's rights. Much like Jinnah, the Tunku crafted a secular State, granting a sweeping protection of religious freedom.

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Pakistan, the people of Malaysia had betrayed the wishes of their founding father. I speak of the Ulema's recent

demands to strip an Ahmadi Muslim mosque of the Kalima, or fundamental Islamic creed. Contrary to the Ulema's stance, Ahmadi Muslims' have, since arriving in Malaysia decades ago, proved to be a progressive and inclusive component of the Malaysian community.

Hindsight truly is 20/20. Pakistan has for some time pandered to extremists' wishes in the hopes of avoiding civil unrest. If Malaysia, both the government and its citizens, does not check this behavior, I fear it will meet the same fate that Pakistan already has.

## How many must die before peace prevails?

**Harris Zafar - Portland, OR**

**The Oregonian (Jan 5th, 2009)**

When Palestinians and Israelis both pray to God for help in destroying the other, who does God choose to help? Which of the two are the "good guys"?

Well, based on the actions of both parties, I fail to see why God would help either of them. Both parties claim loyal adherence to God and his teachings, but sadly, both parties violate the law of their respective faith. Let's look at the facts.

**"Both Israelis and Palestinians are religious people, but when it comes to matters concerning one another, their respective leaders toss their religious beliefs to the side..."**

As a practicing Muslim, I'm critical of Muslims who don't act according to the teachings of Islam. So let's begin with Hamas. Sure, some may argue the case of Gaza residents having their food, water and medical equipment supply cut off by Israel. Others may cite the Nov. 5 Israeli attack under the Gaza fence. But how does it help to fire rockets in return? Each rocket has the possibility of taking an innocent life, which is strictly forbidden in Islam.

Do those who fire them not understand the Holy Quran when it repeatedly says "create not disorder in the earth" or even when it says that killing even one person is like killing all of mankind? Reverence for life is a part of Islam, but the very nature of rockets is to put lives at risk.

Continued on page 2.

**The Holy Pen**

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**The Holy Pen** is a fortnightly newsletter of MSQ USA. It aims to generate awareness of the latest media coverage of Islam in the American press.

## The Oregonian (Jan 5, 2009)

Harris Zafar - Portland, OR

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And what about the Israeli Defense Forces? How can its leaders justify their response when their actions are breaking the very law they claim to follow? The Mosaic law of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" teaches the principle of equitable retaliation. The purpose of this law was to limit the scope of a punishment and to discourage cruelty. Yet Israel has unleashed an all-out attack of warlike proportions, killing more than 400 Palestinians and wounding more than 2,000 more in merely seven days. Can we

consider the death of 400 Palestinians in response to the death of four Israelis to be equitable retaliation?

Both Israelis and Palestinians are religious people, but when it comes to matters concerning one another, their respective leaders toss their religious beliefs to the side and act with raw emotion, with disregard for the value of life.

Israel and Palestine both consist of men, women and children who desire peace and security instead of violence and fear. Their respective faiths, as well as the principle of rationality, dictate that each must refrain from using violence to solve

their problems. True peace can only be achieved by working together as children of God.

If both parties instilled humanity, mercy and forgiveness into themselves, perhaps God would find more value in their prayers. But how many must die before the God-given qualities of humanity and peace prevail?

[http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2009/01/how\\_many\\_must\\_die\\_before\\_peace.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2009/01/how_many_must_die_before_peace.html)

## Online responses to Harris Zafar's article: How many must die before peace prevails?

"I wanted to express my personal appreciation to you for your guest column comments on The Mideast Conflict, in the Monday, January 5th issue of The Oregonian. I feel your comments are among the most historically (religiously) accurate, balanced and relevant I have ever seen."



"Thank you for your comments. I couldn't agree with you more. Moses and Muhammad are Messengers from the same God, although separated in history by thousands of years. Their essential message to humanity, as Messengers from all of the world's major religions agree, is one of ethical reciprocity."

"Mr. Zafar, Very thoughtful article. Well said!"

"Dialogue is the only way to stop the killing not continuing to prove that you and your people are right and someone else (your enemy), is wrong. Mr. Zafar's article is a good start toward such dialogue."

## "As an American Jew, thank you... From what you have written, I would be proud to call you a friend. as-salaamu 'alaykum"

"In a completely American context - I wish to praise your willingness to come forward in a public presentation of views, as a voice of reason, as an advocate for peace, and in recognition of the intended merits of all of the children Abraham."

"As an American Jew, thank you. When the Muslims ruled the "world" it was a time of great enlightenment, learning and tolerance for those that lived under their rule including Jews. I believe, left to their own devices the Palestinians and Jews have the ability to create a wonderful society for themselves and their children.... From what you have written, I would be proud to call you a friend. as-salaamu 'alaykum"

"I would really like to have more Muslim voices online here. I applaud your courage in standing up for Muhammad's teaching, Peace be upon Him. If more of your co-religionists were as brave, we could make real progress in seeing one another as sharing common interests. Thanks again for your calming voice. It's a rare and timely input."

"I've read your article in the Newark airport on my way from Portland to Tel Aviv. I and 40 some other bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are on our way to Israel right now... I wish more people had your heart and insight. Thank you for writing."

Read all comments at: [http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2009/01/how\\_many\\_must\\_die\\_before\\_peace.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2009/01/how_many_must_die_before_peace.html)



## Interesting Reads

### **Who Speaks for Christianity?**

<http://www.voanews.com/english/NewsAnalysis/2008-12-22-voa30.cfm>

### **A fundamentalist Christian looks at a fundamentalist Muslim**

<http://www.expertclick.com/NewsReleaseWire/default.cfm?Action=ReleaseDetail&ID=24507>

### **The stealth jihad in America**

<http://frontpagemagazine.com/Articles/Read.aspx?GUID=53E6BDA3-2967-4905-9689-E02C50223294>

### **Acedemic cautions against 'irrational way of thinking'**

[http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu\\_no=2&item\\_no=262587&version=1&template\\_id=36&parent\\_id=16](http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=262587&version=1&template_id=36&parent_id=16)

## MSQ on the Web

### **Archive of Letters to the Editor**

An archive of publications from 2002 to the present is available on the MSQ website.

<http://www.mkausa.org/Majlis-Sultanul-Qalam/Published-Submissions>

### **Grammar Lessons**

MSQ Grammar Lesson #1: Active vs. Passive Voice

[Read More...](#)

### **How To Join**

If you're interested in becoming a member of MSQ USA, send an e-mail to

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

Download MSQ book [here](#)



## **Urgent Action Needed**

As you may be aware, our Jama'at in Malaysia continues to be sorely persecuted. A recent press release illustrates the troubling state of affairs: <http://www.thepersecution.org/press/08/my081230.html>

In this respect, Jama'at Ahmadiyya Malaysia has requested Jama'at members across the world to visit one of Malaysia's leading online news magazine, <http://malaysiakini.com/>, and provide positive feedback about the Jama'at. In the past, this website has supported the Jama'at's various initiatives. One of the website's editors in particular, Mr. K. Kabilan, has been especially sympathetic to the Jama'at.

MSQ USA will continue to monitor this website and identify any specific news clippings concerning the Jama'at. In the meantime, members are encouraged to write general letters of support to the website's editors extolling the Jama'at's many positive contributions to humanity.

A few letters already published can be found [here](#).

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## **Members urged to perform MSQ Outreach**

Creating a personal relationship with a journalist can go a long way in achieving our goal of defending Islam. A journalist who regularly writes an Op Ed in your local paper, an editor for the paper, local public TV or radio station, NPR etc. are all possibilities. Convey your sincere greetings and enlighten them on what a gold mine Islam/Ahmadiyyat is. One goes into such meetings nervous and shaky but comes out thrilled and excited because Allah takes care of so much. Let them know that you will be interested to write on these lines, show them your work, share a copy of the MSQ compendium. If you have already had an opportunity to reach out, share your experiences with us at [msq@mkausa.org](mailto:msq@mkausa.org).

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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.](#)

[Click here to download PDF version of souvenir](#)

