

Robert Kilroy-Silk writes...on Muslim Fanatics Have No Place in Britain

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It is a certain fact that not all Muslims are terrorists, but it is equally certain, and exceptionally painful, that almost all terrorists are Muslims.

The hostage-takers of children in Beslan, North Ossetia, were Muslims. The kidnappers and subsequent murderers of the Nepalese workers in Iraq were also Muslims. Those involved in rape and murder in Darfur, Sudan, are Muslims, with other Muslims chosen to be their victims.

Those responsible for the attack on residential towers in Riyadh and Khobar were Muslims. The two women who crashed two airplanes last week were also Muslims.

Bin Laden is a Muslim. The majority of those who planned the suicide bombing against buses, vehicles, schools, houses and buildings all over the world, are Muslims.

What a pathetic record. What an abominable "achievement".

Stop. You can relax. You can put down the 'phone, stop the e-mail, abort the faxes. You do not have to report me to the race relations commissars. The Muslim Council of Great Britain can stop getting itself into a hysterical lather, again, ready to call for my sacking, this time from the *Sunday Express*.

These are not my words. They are the words of Muslim Abdel Rahman al-Rashed, the general manager of the Al-Arabiya news channel.

He went on to ask: "Does all this tell me anything about ourselves, our society and our culture?". Well, Abdel, yes it does. It says a lot. A "culture" - his word - that allows not just beheading by Islamic terrorists but beheading and amputating by Arab states - all lovingly captured on video - is not a very nice culture, is it? No-one would wish to be associated with it.

But so-called respectable Muslims are very happy to be associated with such outrages. Indeed, they are prepared to endorse them.

Take, for instance, the case of Yusuf al-Qaradawai, the Qatar-based militant Egyptian cleric who Ken Livingstone invited to London and who the government Minister Fiona McTaggart and the Metropolitan Police were, initially at least, happy to welcome to the capital and appear alongside on a political platform.

While the cleric is happy to have his two daughters educated in the decadent and infidel Britain, he nevertheless asserts it is permissible for Muslims to kill - by beheading? - American citizens in Iraq.

He is not alone. Only last week, a British Muslim group, Al Muhajiroun, was reported as saying that schools were a fair target for the terrorists, if there were adults in the building. Its leader, Omar Bakri Mohammed, who lives - with his many children - on benefits in north London, and who apparently once called for the death of John Major, says that Muslims should celebrate the September 11 attacks, because the atrocity "lifted the head of the [Muslim] nation".

Last Thursday I was warmly greeted outside the House of Commons by four besuited Muslim men. They were, they said, British and proud to be "British Muslims". There are thousands like them. They need to make their voices heard. "It is a certain fact", as Abdel al-Rashed said: "that not all Muslims are terrorists", but the moderate majority must do more. They should vigorously condemn all terrorism as un-Islamic, act as decent role models, and take the lead in insisting that there is no place in Britain for evil fanatics like Abu Hamza, Yusuf al-Qaradawi and Omar Bakri Mohammed. Muslims, as Abdel says, "must cure themselves".