

Robert Kilroy-Silk writes...on The Tsunami Disaster - Help from the United States and the Muslim World Compared

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The overwhelming majority of those killed, orphaned and made homeless and destitute by the Boxing Day tsunami are Muslim. They were already amongst the poorest and most deprived of the world. The condition of the survivors is extremely precarious. They need masses of help over a long period of time.

So which country is in the lead with aid and assistance? Which was there first? America. "The Cruel Satan", as it is called. "The infidels". The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln with its task force, 6,500 marines, and Seahawk helicopters were the first on the scene in Banda Aceh. Others are helping Sri Lanka and Thailand. Indeed, for the big boasts of the EU and the UN, only America has the capacity to get straight on with the job of saving lives.

Western nations like Britain and their peoples have responded magnificently. Yet the Muslim oil rich and inordinately wealthy Arab states like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Libya and Qatar have, in total, offered less than the British people have donated, despite the fact that many of their co-religionists in the disaster zones helped to build their countries and still work there.

Why are they so lacking in generosity? Why are they so stingy? The world, it is said, is pulling together in solidarity. Why aren't they?

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