

# TANZEEM-E-ISLAMI

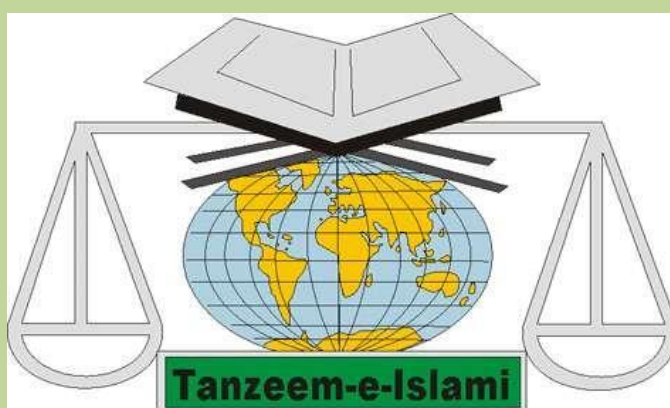


Striving for the Law of Allah, on the Land of Allah

## PERSPECTIVE

The online journal newsletter of Tanzeem-e-Islami

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**PATRON: Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, Mohtaram Shujauddin Shaikh**

**‘PERSPECTIVE’ is a trend-setting journal issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami that focuses on a candid commentary on the current national and international issues, in the light of the Qur’an and the Sunnah.**

**A blend that gives Muslims an insight into the events of the past, those happenings at present and the Signs of things to come...**

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PERSPECTIVE

The Online Journal of Tanzeem-e-Islami

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial	1-2
In Gaza, hope is a fantasy	2-3
Press Releases issued by Tanzeem e Islami	4

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From the Qur'an

Allah has created the heavens and the earth with truth. Surely in this there is a sign for the believers.

Recite (O Prophet) what is revealed to you of the Book, and establish Salah. Surely Salah restrains one from shameful and evil acts. Indeed remembrance of Allah is the greatest of all things. Allah knows what you do.

Do not debate with the people of the Book unless it is in the best manner, except with those of them who commit injustice. And say, "We believe in what is sent down to us and sent down to you, and our God and your God is One, and to Him we submit (ourselves)."

(Al-Ankabut: Verses 29 - 31)

Hadith

Narrated by Anas (رضي الله عنه)

Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said:

"Whoever possesses the following three qualities will have the sweetness (delight) of faith: 1. The one to whom Allah and His Apostle becomes dearer than anything else. 2. Who loves a person and he loves him only for Allah's sake. 3. Who hates to revert to Atheism (disbelief) as he hates to be thrown into the fire."

(Sahih Bukhari)

EDITORIAL

All praise is due to Allah (SWT), and peace & blessing on his noble Messengers (AS), in particular, on the last of them all the blessed Prophet Muhammad (SAAW).

Have we forgotten the Rohingya Muslims?

When old and young were systematically rounded up and shot. When women were gang raped and their babies thrown into waterways to drown. When their homes and businesses were burned. When all the atrocities of ethnic cleansing were clearly visible, international law should have leaped into action. Yet, even while the world has condemned the military junta's rule in Myanmar, it has failed to condemn the genocide of the Rohingya Muslims. This world order that global bodies and their constituent states work to simultaneously put an end to the atrocities, provide refuge for survivors and bring perpetrators to book, no matter the identity of the offender or the victim. Or so we are repeatedly told. For as the on-going slaughter and displacement of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims reveals, international law is not so blind. The 'world conscience' has also been put to shame in Palestine, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Iraq and many other countries.

Since their citizenship rights have been progressively revoked between the 1940s and '80s, thousands of Rohingya men, women and children have been subjected to murder and rape, their villages have been raised to the ground and more than a million have fled to neighboring countries without much protest from the world beyond. Even the UN's attempts to investigate the most recent cruelties fell short of constituting a full Commission of Inquiry and independent investigators were blocked from entering Myanmar by the previous Buddhist-led government of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung Sang Suu Kyi. "Just imagine, for a minute," Columbia University's Hamid Dabashi urged in an article, "if it were Jews or Christians, or else the 'peaceful Buddhists,' who were the subjects of Muslim persecutions." Given the attention Muslim violence ceaselessly garners, the reason behind the apparent lack of outrage to protect the Rohingya is clear to him: "Something in the liberal fabric of Euro-American imagination is cancerously callous. It does not see Muslims as complete human beings."

Even when one acknowledges that Muslim Bangladesh (where about 950,000 Rohingya have sought refuge) has long sought to prevent their "infiltration," Dabashi's point hits home. According to the UNHCR, ordinary Bangladeshis have opened their villages and towns to the latest influx of Rohingya refugees, providing food, clothing and shelter. And even the state's seemingly cold-hearted actions only reflect Bangladesh's inability to accommodate its Rohingya co-religionists without international support, which is clearly not forthcoming. Furthermore, various Muslim-majority governments, as well as the Organization of Islamic Conference, have been pledging funds and voicing the deep concerns expressed by their constituencies, yet they failed to act. But is it just the dehumanization of Muslims in the Euro-American imagination that seems to be at play in their voices falling on deaf ears beyond? What of the contrasting image of 'peaceful Buddhists'?

In 2017, the military, in collusion with the then civilian government of Myanmar perpetrated the latest wave of genocide of the Rohingyas in the Rakhine state. Mass displacement of Rohingyas occurred from Rakhine state. According to the United Nations, around 10,000 people were killed in that genocidal operation alone, and more than 700,000 people fled to Bangladesh, adding to already large numbers of refugees there. The Rohingya have been forced to live in Cox's Bazar area of Bangladesh since then. Cox's Bazar is a paradox of a place: small strip of land between the sea and the Myanmar border, it is home to a long and beautiful beach, making it a top tourist destination.

(continued on page 2)

At the same time, it is home to an enormous refugee population. In total, around 943,000 refugees live there (according to October 2022 figures). Cox’s Bazar refugee camp covers a 13 square kilometer space. That means almost 73,000 people live per square kilometer there. To put that into context, in Lahore, 7,300 people live per square kilometer.

Another farce is the continued portrayal of all Buddhists as pacifists, despite incontrovertible evidence of violence against Muslims by a large number of Buddhists in Myanmar. Academia is in fact rife with examples of scholarship that touts the tolerance and inclusiveness of Buddhists and the general argument is nothing new. According to Thomas A. Tweed, Professor of History at Notre Dame University, increasing awareness of religious diversity due to colonial expansion and Christian missionizing led Euro-American Enlightenment intellectuals repelled by Christian sectarianism to consider Buddhism to fit the bill of the “natural religion” (or “perennial philosophy”) they sought, one that exuded “tolerance” toward people of different faiths and was amenable to scientific progress. So convinced were they that some, such as the nineteenth century German-American scholar Paul Carus, even chastised Asian Buddhists when they launched polemical assaults on Christian missionaries, accusing the Asians of using language the “Buddha certainly would not...” So was born the pervasive myth, characteristically articulated by the early twentieth century Swedish-American Theosophist Herman Vetterling, that Buddhism is “a religion of noble tolerance, of universal brotherhood, of righteousness and justice,” and that in its growth as the religion of a global community it had not “caused the spilling of a drop of blood.”

Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Michael Jerryson, picks up where Tweed signs off to show that the tendency to associate Buddhism with tolerance did not die in the early twentieth century or remain bound in an ivory tower. In the wake of World War II, it found its way into the writings of Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, marching further forward in time with such works as Robert Pirsig’s Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, and by the 1980s assumed political dimensions in the form of the Free Tibet Movement. And finally, who can forget (even if you want to) Keanu Reeves in Bernardo Bertolucci’s Little Buddha.

Social history, however, tells a different tale than Orientalists and popular culture. For every instance of forbearance, history also provides examples of violent intolerance legitimated by Buddhist doctrines and conducted by practitioners. As many ancient Jain and Brahmanical texts speak of persecution at the hands of Indian Buddhists, as Buddhists accuse their South Asian competitors of the same. And consider Jerryson’s examples of the sixth century Chinese Buddhist monk, Faqing, who promised his 50,000 followers that every opponent they killed would take them to a higher stage in the bodhisattva’s path. Or recall that with the advent of nationalism, Buddhist monks rallied to the cause as with Japanese Rinzai support for the military campaign against the Russians in 1904-5, or Zen and Pureland Buddhist justifications of the Japanese invasions of China, Korea and Singapore during World War II. Buddhism has been corrupted in these places, they argued, and violence is necessary to insure that ‘true’ Buddhism is restored and preserved. The same rhetorical narrative – “of some fundamental Buddhism under threat” – also underwrites the more recently nationalized bigotry and violence that Buddhist monks and laypersons have unleashed on non-Buddhists in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and, last but not least, Myanmar.

“No religion has a monopoly on ‘violent people’,” Jerryson astutely concludes, “nor does anyone religion have a greater propensity for violence.” All religions are vast complexes of thought and institutions and devotees of each can always find legitimacy for hostility or hospitality toward the other depending on mundane needs or wants. It is for this very reason that the apparent disconnect between historical Buddhism and the sustained Euro-American myth of its tolerance is as malignant as the perpetual dehumanization of Islam and Muslims is cancerous. These Buddhists have long been the “good-guys” and those Muslims the “bad-guys” in this lore. Each is a necessary fiber in the liberal fabric of Euro-American imagination that veils the gaze of international law when it comes to the murder and displacement of the Rohingya Muslims. Double standards, indifference or hypocrisy, call it what you will. The fact, however, remains that there was and still is a state-sponsored genocide of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and no country or institution is willing to do something to stop it.

Signing off...

Raza ul Haq (Editor)

In Gaza, hope is a fantasy

**Biden et al may claim, at least publicly, to ask Israel to stop the looming carnage. Netanyahu will not be deterred by their empty ‘warnings’**

**Andrew Mitrovica**

I wanted to be wrong, but it turns out that I was right. Since early October, I have been sure that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has had one aim all along: to erase Gaza.

Spurred on by a rabid cabinet that believes that Palestinians are worthless “vermin”, Netanyahu has done what I suspect he has always wanted to do: dispense with the incremental destruction of a people and a strip of land and, instead, engineer a genocide in Gaza with ruthless and oh so satisfying efficiency.

By now, this fact should be clear. That is the “victory” Netanyahu has and will continue to pursue until he has achieved it – to turn Gaza into dust and memory permanently.

(continued on page 3)

There will be no “pause in fighting”, no “lasting” ceasefire, no truce, no end to the genocide because Netanyahu has no reason or incentive to stop. And Netanyahu knows that no one inside or outside Israel is prepared, willing or able to stop him.

Hope has been extinguished.

Every day, Palestinians hope, in vain, that the horrors and outrages will end. Every day, we hope, in vain, for a faint sign that the murderous madness will end, that reason and diplomacy will prevail, that the captives – on both sides – will be reunited with their aching families. Hope is a fantasy, snuffed out by men and forces who thrive on causing chaos and despair in their “killing rage”.

Netanyahu may be unpopular. Still, what he is doing and how he is going about doing it in defiance of proportionate scale, decency, and international law has the overwhelming support of Israelis who, apparently, would also be content to see Gaza reduced to dust and memory – permanently.

Polls show that most Israelis want Netanyahu to use more force, more “firepower” in Gaza and beyond. Damn decency, international law, and the mushrooming number of casualties day after dreadful day. The pain and suffering of Palestinians is irrelevant. The right and duty of Israel to defend itself is the only thing that counts.

It’s hardly surprising then that polls show, as well, that despite the rampant hunger, disease, and desperate need, most Israelis want fellow Israelis to continue blocking trucks carrying food, water, and medicine from reaching Gaza until the Hamas-held captives are released.

Palestinians are expendable. Israelis are not.

As for the “future” of Gaza, 93 percent of Israelis reportedly agree with Netanyahu: the two-state “solution” is dead on arrival since all of the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River belongs to them. The intent is to have Israeli settlers take the place of Palestinians in Gaza. Another Nakba is already afoot – literally.

I am convinced most of Israel’s confederates abroad – whether they admit it publicly or not – also embrace these egregious beliefs and subscribe, wholeheartedly, to Netanyahu’s modus operandi and definition of “victory”.

So, far from being “damaged” or “weakened”, Netanyahu has been emboldened as a “wartime” prime minister and by an “international community” that has encouraged him to do what he has done in Gaza and the occupied West Bank without remorse or restraint.

Netanyahu will survive as prime minister for as long as Israel goes about doing what it is doing in Gaza and perhaps longer. Ever the calculating Machiavellian, he has rebuffed predictions of his imminent political demise or forced exit by wishful-thinking columnists, “experts”, and former presidential candidates.

Again and again, the “international community” has said it is “concerned” by what their man in Tel Aviv is doing in Gaza and the occupied West Bank. Again and again, these expressions of “concern” have proven to be hollow bits of performative nonsense.

On reliable cue, US President Joe Biden described what Israel is doing in Gaza as being “over the top”. “I’ve been pushing really hard, really hard, to get humanitarian assistance into Gaza. There are a lot of innocent people who are starving, a lot of innocent people who are in trouble and dying, and it’s gotta stop. Number one,” Biden told reporters earlier this week.

It won’t stop. How can it stop when Biden and his complicit allies in London, Paris, Berlin, and Ottawa keep arming Israel to the brim and refusing – even in the blatant face of Israel’s “over the top” onslaught and the deepening humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza – to demand an immediate ceasefire? The calamitous course was set when Biden and the other presidents, chancellors, and prime ministers rushed to Tel Aviv in “solidarity” pilgrimages to “stand firmly” by Netanyahu’s side.

It’s too late to apply the stock, talking-point-ephemeral brake since Netanyahu isn’t listening.

He isn’t abiding by the International Court of Justice’s damning ruling which called on the Israeli government to stop what it is doing in Gaza after South African lawyers and diplomats made a persuasive and “plausible” case that Palestinians are victims of genocide and Israel is the perpetrator.

Rafah is in Netanyahu’s crosshairs. The so-called “safe haven” and the more than a million Palestinians who have taken refuge there in tents and makeshift “homes” will endure the inevitable lethal consequences of the major Western powers’ unconditional backing of Israel. Exhausted and petrified Palestinians, including mothers, wives, and their sons and daughters, will not be spared Israel’s wrath. Their already precarious lives hang on the precipice of Netanyahu’s – for the moment and only for the moment – delayed designs.

Biden et al may claim, at least publicly, to ask Israel to stop the looming carnage. Netanyahu will not be deterred by their empty, delivered-behind-a-lectern “warnings”. He is calling the geopolitical shots, not Biden et al.

While America was preoccupied with a football game on Sunday night, Netanyahu gave Palestinians in Rafah a taste of the terror to come – firing a shower of shells that killed and dismembered dozens of sleeping children, women and men.

Finally, a cocksure Netanyahu understands the value of patience. Biden looks and sounds like an old man who is poised to become yesterday’s man – gone, inconsequential and forgotten. The November presidential election approaches just on the horizon. Another doddering old man, Donald Trump, has a better than even chance of returning to the Oval Office.

If that happens, Trump will enshrine Israel’s license to commit genocide without his predecessor’s meaningless rhetorical “reservations”. Either way, America has morphed, in effect, into Israel’s proxy. The dynamic has shifted.

Israel will decide what will happen in Gaza today and tomorrow and America will salute in approval and help pay for the pleasure of doing its captain’s bidding – happily, willingly, and enthusiastically.

Courtesy: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/2/12/in-gaza-hope-is-a-fantasy>





## Press Releases issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami

7 February 2024

**The protection of Masjid e Aqsa is a religious obligation of the Muslim Ummah.**

**Lahore (PR):** This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem e Islami, **Shujauddin Shaikh**, in a statement. The Ameer said that Allah (SWT) Almighty has clearly stated in the final and ultimate book, the Holy Quran, that Allah (SWT) took the Prophet Muhammad (SAAW) from the Masjid al-Haram to Masjid al-Aqsa during the Night of Miraj. Masjid al-Aqsa and its surroundings have been given blessed status in the Holy Qur'an. Moreover, according to authentic Ahadith, the Holy Prophet's (SAAW) journey to the skies on the night of Miraj began from Masjid al-Aqsa, and in that blessed mosque, he led the prayer of all the noble prophets (AS). The fact is that the status of Masjid al-Aqsa is that of an Islamic Waqf, which is irrevocable for all times to come. However, the current situation is that the Zionist forces have occupied Masjid al-Aqsa and the land of Palestine. Bombing on Gaza has been going on for four months, and Israel is continuously massacring Muslims in Gaza. All routes to deliver aid to the oppressed citizens of Gaza are closed, and organizations that were working to provide aid have been sanctioned with preposterous allegation. The reality is that Israel has complete cooperation from America and Europe in the genocide of Palestinian Muslims. Furthermore, Zionist forces and illegal Jewish settlers are committing mass killings of Muslims in other areas of the western coast and Palestine. The Ameer said that it is extremely shameful and regrettable that while the malevolent powers are proving by their actions that they are united in their reprehensible cause, yet the Muslim countries do not have the courage to take practical steps to help the Palestinian Muslims. He said that Muslim rulers should remember that if they do not stop the rebellion against Allah (SWT) and His Messenger (SAAW) and do not help their oppressed Palestinian brothers and sisters, then on the Day of Judgment, they will be presented before Allah (SWT) Almighty as criminals. May Allah (SWT) Almighty grant the Muslim Ummah real faith. Ameen!

4 February 2024

**The salvation of Pakistan and the freedom of occupied Kashmir are intertwined.**

**Lahore (PR):** This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem e Islami, **Shujauddin Shaikh**, in a statement. The Ameer said that we observe 5th February as a day of solidarity with our oppressed Kashmiri brethren in Indian Occupied Kashmir. However, the intent and plans of India regarding Occupied Kashmir have become extremely treacherous and perilous, therefore, we now ought to take practical steps rather than merely observing the Kashmir Day for tangible solidarity with our oppressed Kashmiri brethren. The reality is that when India abolished Article 370 and 35-A on August 5, 2019, merging occupied Kashmir into India, it was a direct challenge to Pakistan. In response, Pakistan refused to engage in talks with India until Article 370 and 35-A were restored. The truth is that negotiations should not be considered as an option until India reinstates Article 370 and 35-A. The Ameer said that on January 22, the Modi government inaugurated a temple at the site of the Babri Masjid, sending a clear message to Muslims in India that there is no place for them, and India is exclusively for Hindus. India is advancing in this regard. Recently, the 600-year-old Akhunji Mosque in Delhi was demolished, and Hindus have also started worshiping in the basement of the Gyanvapi Mosque. In this situation, it has become imperative for us to first set our house in order, establish a system based on Islamic justice, so that Islamic nuclear Pakistan can effectively respond to the Hindutva-driven India. The Ameer emphasized that if Pakistan is molded into a genuine Islamic Welfare State and its fruits and benefits become visible to the entire world, then it would become impossible for India to suppress the mass movement in Occupied Kashmir. Therefore, the Ameer asserted, the real task for us is that we ought to give practical manifestation to the Ideology of Pakistan, so that our brethren in Occupied Kashmir experience real magnetism to their cause and consequently increase the momentum of their mass movement to become a part of Pakistan to such a magnitude that it becomes impossible for India to overwhelm it. The Ameer concluded by remarking that only then would the slogan "Kashmir will become a part of Pakistan" become a reality!

2 February 2024

**The situation of peace and security in Balochistan is extremely concerning.**

**Lahore (PR):** This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem e Islami, **Shujauddin Shaikh**, in a statement. The Ameer said that according to information circulating on traditional and social media, there have been attacks on the installations of the Balochistan police and security agencies by the terrorists of BLA in some areas of Balochistan in the past few days. There are also reports of bomb explosions in several regions, causing significant casualties to the police and security forces. Furthermore, in some areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, during the election campaign, individuals, including a candidate from a political party, have been targeted with gunfire. Moreover, people have also been killed in exchange of gunfire between members of rival political parties. The Ameer emphasized that the most important question that needs attention from the government and state institutions is why, after gaining significant control over terrorism to a certain extent following years of sacrifices and efforts, this turmoil has resurfaced. Who benefits from destabilizing peace and security in the country before the elections? Who is providing refuge to terrorist groups like BLA and Daesh? What is the agenda behind the continuous series of terrorist activities in Pakistan? The reality is that there is a concerted effort to perpetuate the chain of terrorism in Pakistan. To uproot terrorism from its roots, it is essential for state institutions and the public to be on the same page and create a united front against terrorism through awareness and understanding. This will help build a strong defense against terrorism, including the foreign-backed terrorism emanating from countries like India. It is crucial not to forget that in the past too, when Pakistan tilted towards the United States, it faced adverse consequences orchestrated by the United States and India. The Ameer concluded by stating that there is a need to ensure a safe, transparent, and impartial environment for conducting fair elections in the country. All political parties should be provided with full security arrangements to facilitate the conduct of free and fair elections.