

RE: ISLAM – JACKIE MASON’S RIGHT

By Don Feder

I thought of comedian Jackie Mason last week, when two leaders of an Albany, New York mosque were arrested and charged with trying to buy a shoulder-launched missile to assassinate Pakistan’s ambassador to the U.S.

What better way for disciples of a religion of peace to celebrate harmony and coexistence than with a Stinger missile?

Two weeks ago, Mason got in hot water (a place where he seems quite comfortable) by telling a radio audience that “the whole Muslim religion” is a “murderous organization” which instructs its followers in “hate, terrorism and murder.” Yes, but what else is new?

Filling in for syndicated talk show host Jim Bohannon, Mason said terrorists are “following the orders of the religion directly from the Koran.” Also: “The Koran...is 50 versions of hate, venom, hostility and murder...dedicated to terrorism. I don’t know how we can call it a religion in the traditional sense. It should be called a murderous organization that’s out to kill people.”

This provoked the predictable chest-thumping demands for an apology (and, perhaps, decapitation?) from the Council on American- Islamic Relations (CAIR), which fancies itself a Moslem Anti-Defamation League.

In a letter to Westwood One, which syndicates Bohannon’s show, CAIR decried Mason’s “Islamophobic (*unreasonable fear of*

shoulder-launched missiles?) smears.” “It is this type of hate-filled propaganda that was used by the Nazis as justification for their persecution of the Jewish community in Germany,” CAIR babbled.

Say something critical of Islam, and (in CAIR’s eyes) you’re a Nazi preparing to push innocents into gas chambers – just like the Kosovar Moslems recruited by the S.S. to help carry out the Holocaust.

But Mason is merely the latest in a long line of Islamophobes.

A 20th. century politician remarked that the religion of Islam “above all others was founded and propagated on the sword.” Moreover, it provided “incentives to slaughter, and in three continents has produced fighting breeds of men – filled with a wild and merciless fanaticism.” Guess that observation makes Winston Churchill a Nazi.

But seriously, as standup comics like Mason say, I don’t know of anyone, including Islam’s most trenchant critics, who’s advocating the mass murder of Moslems. Most of us would be content if Moslems would stop killing – or trying to kill – us.

Which brings me to the Albany arrests.

The accused are two immigrants from Jihadistan – Yassin Aref, imam of Albany’s Masjid As-Salam Mosque (it means, ironically, “House of Peace” mosque) and Mohammed Hossain, owner of a pizzeria.

Fresh from confronting the malicious Mason, CAIR expressed concern that the accused are victims of racial profiling and entrapment.

“There’s always a concern that people may be targeted for a sting operation like this *solely* because they are Moslems,” declared Ibrahim Hooper, CAIR’s indefatigable spokesman. “It’s a perplexing case, and the question we have is whether the government got these men to do something they otherwise wouldn’t have done.”

Just picture it: The innocent imam and pure pizza man are strolling down a street in Albany one day, when suddenly a sly undercover agent sidles up to the pair and entices them into buying a shoulder-launched missile.

Agent: “Like to buy a Stinger? Great for taking out Pakistani ambassadors or killing infidels.”

Mohammed and Yassin: “Gosh, we’d never thought of that! Hmmm, that might not be a bad idea. Say, it could come in handy, if the Zionist entity ever invades America.”

That CAIR should be sensitive about allegations of terrorist activities is understandable. After all, the organization is an offshoot of the Islamic Association for Palestine – identified as a Hamas front by two former heads of the FBI’s counter-terrorism section.

In April, Randall Todd (Ismail) Royer, a staffer in CAIR’s national headquarters, pleaded guilty to conspiring to train Americans for jihad. Yep, just think of CAIR as part ADL – part Stern Gang.

Guys are arrested in a sting operation trying to buy the type of weapon used to take down airplanes. Guess what? They’re not Baptists!

Gunmen burst into a church in Pakistan and fire round after round into the prostrate bodies of women and children. The perps aren't Scientologists or Latter Day Saints.

A Jewish kid is stabbed outside a yeshiva in Brussels. The gang of youths believed responsible don't belong to the local Buddhist temple. Churches and monasteries are torched in Kosovo. Not the work of Hindus.

A dispassionate examination of the Koran illustrates Mason's point. There are over 120 chapters (suras) in the Moslem holy book calling on believers to fight Jews and Christians, subjugate them, murder them, break treaties that are made with them, cut off their heads, lips and the tips of fingers, crucify them – and other acts of conciliation.

More often than not, this is the way Islam has been practiced for the past 1400 years. The faith did not spread from the Pyrenees to the Philippines within 100 years of Mohammed's death, by peaceful proselytizing.

Judaism, Christianity and Islam – all have had a profound impact on Western civilization (for better or worse).

One faith was founded by a lawgiver who led his people out of slavery. One religion was established by a man of peace, who wouldn't even resist his own execution and asked God to forgive his executioners. The last was started by a warlord who led men into battle and murdered disarmed opponents. Function follows form.

Wherever Moslems are living in proximity with Christians, Jews or Hindus. – someone is getting shot, bombed, burned alive, stoned to death, forcibly converted, ethnically cleansed, uprooted, jailed or otherwise persecuted.

In his opus, “The Clash of Civilizations And Remaking of World Order” (1996) Samuel Huntington spoke of Islam’s “bloody borders” – meaning that wherever a significant Moslem population comes into contact with others, all Hell breaks loose.

Where Moslems are in the majority, other faiths are proscribed (Saudi Arabia), severely circumscribed (Egypt) or subjected to relentless persecution (Pakistan, Indonesia, the Sudan and Northern Nigeria). Where Moslems are a substantial minority (Serbia, Macedonia, The Kashmir, Israel, Chechnya) there’s intifada – terrorism in pursuit of succession.

The rationalization usually offered for the above is that a small but energetic group of fanatics have grossly distorted the tenets of their benign religion to wreck bloody mayhem.

But then why do many of the most renowned Moslem religious authorities enthusiastically endorse holy war and terrorism – including Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayyeb, grand mufti (supreme religious authority) of Egypt, the imam of Mecca’s main mosque and the scholars of Al-Azhar University?

Why do some American converts to Islam try to destroy the society which nurtured them? One thinks of the Beltway sniper, John Allen *Muhammed*, who killed 10 people at random in 2002, or American Taliban John Walker Lindh.

Why, on September 11, 2001, did Moslems from Brooklyn to Ramallah and Dar es Salaam to Jakarta take to the streets to celebrate the deaths of 3,000 Americans and extol bin-Laden?

In her book, “The Rage And The Pride,” Oriana Fallaci mentions seeing a member of one of these mobs interviewed by a reporter who asks him “Who is, for you, Osama bin Laden.” The

old man replies “A hero, our hero!” Why not, he overcame 3,000 infidels in the course of a holy war.

Someone should tell CAIR that when you’re sued for libel, truth is an absolute defense.

I have no inherent animus against Islam. All other things being equal, it makes no difference to me that close to one billion inhabitants of planet Earth believe an illiterate social climber was the “seal of the prophets” or that 72 olive-eyed virgins await them in paradise. (What do Moslem women get – 72 sexually inexperienced men?)

I don’t agree with the central tenet of Christianity. Nevertheless, if I mention that to a Christian, he’ll tell me Jesus loves me, and he’ll pray for me. He won’t try to cut off my head.

Hinduism, Buddhism, The Book of Mormon – all alien to my faith tradition. But did you ever hear of a Hindu hijacker, a Buddhist suicide bomber, or a Mormon elder issuing a fatwah (putting out a hit on someone for insulting Joseph Smith)?

Try as we might, it’s becoming increasingly difficult to deny reality.

An August 8th New York Times story on fighting in Najaf, Iraq (where more than 300 have died) is headlined – “Marines Pushing Deeper Into City Held by *Shiites*.” Strange, but all of those currently killing Americans (including hostages Nick Berg and Paul Johnson) in Iraq and Afghanistan seem not to be Rotarians, or 33rd. degree Masons or members of a Salvation Army band, but MOSLEMS!

It’s takes a strenuous act of will to suppress an awareness of the religious dimension of terrorism’s war on the West.

Jackie Mason may not be a scholar of comparative religion,
but he has Islam down cold. No kidding.