



Theologically Qualified Extremist™

• [Sheikh Abdullah Azzam](#) (1941-1989) - Palestinian, Ph.D. Al-Azhar University in *The Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence*, Shariah degree Damascus University, influenced by Sayyid Qutb and knew his family while in Egypt, lectured briefly at Jordan University at Amman, then for years at Saudi Arabia's King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah until 1979. OBL was enrolled there from 76-81, they probably first met there, and Azzam eventually became his mentor. He would say:

"Jihad and the rifle alone. NO negotiations, NO conferences and NO dialogue."¹

He was an influential figure in the Muslim Brotherhood, and "the guiding light of both Hamas and al-Qaeda."² Azzam was one of the first Arabs to join the Afghan Jihad against the Soviet Union. 1980 moved to Islamabad, Pakistan, was appointed a lecturer in the International Islamic University, eventually moved to Peshawar with his family. There, with "his dear friend, Usama bin Ladin", Azzam founded the Mujahideen Services Bureau to assist the Afghan Jihad through projects that supported the cause [mosques & charities]. The Bureau received and trained volunteers pouring into Pakistan from many countries, and allocated them to the front lines. He travelled around the world, wrote a number of books, "he himself participated physically in the jihad".³ The Afghan bureau grew to become a very large network with many financial ties, and would later become al-Qaeda. He was killed in Peshawar, Pakistan in 1989 by a massive explosion while he and his sons were on their way to Friday prayers. Azzam's followers consider him a martyr and "[the main pillar of the Jihad movement in the modern times.](#)"⁴

¹ [Who Was Abdullah Azzam?](#)

² [Abdullah Azzam, al-Qaeda, and Hamas, p. 91, Asaf Maliach 2010 Military and Strategic Affairs](#)

³ [Who Was Abdullah Azzam?](#)

⁴ [Who Was Abdullah Azzam?](#) Abdullah Azzam, Join The Caravan, Azzam Publications, 2001, 8

Ibn Warraq [says](#) Azzam's most important contribution to the Jihadist ideology was his fatwa, almost a short monograph, *Defense of the Muslim Lands* [1979], which was given an official stamp of approval by Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bin Bazz, who would become the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia in the 1990s. He says it is one of "[4 core texts of jihadists](#)" today.⁵ Osama bin Laden in 1991 on Al-Jazeera after his death:

"Sheikh Abdullah Azzam was not an individual, but an entire nation by himself. Muslim women have proven themselves incapable of giving birth to a man like him after he was killed." ⁶

Warraq says the main arguments of his book are few, since more than fifty percent of it is quotations from the Koran, from scholars such as Ibn Taymiyya, from the Hadith, from Koranic Commentators such as Ibn Kathir, and from the four main Sunni schools of Law to justify what he says. [Scan](#) it now for 10 seconds just to get an idea how many Islamic sources he uses, core text quotes appear in colors.

(Chapter 1). Jihad against the infidels is of two kinds:

Offensive Jihad: (where the enemy is attacked in his own territory). Where the Kuffar [infidels] are not gathering to fight the Muslims. The fighting becomes obligatory on the community but not necessarily on the individual with the minimum requirement of sending an army at least once a year to terrorize the enemies of Allah. And the Ulama have mentioned that this type of jihad is for maintaining the payment of Jizya. The scholars of the principles of religion have also said: 'Jihad is Daw'ah [the preaching of Islam] with a force, and is obligatory to perform with all available capabilities, until there remains only Muslims or people who submit to Islam.'

Defensive Jihad: This is expelling the Kuffar from our land, and compulsory for all individuals...

Warraq points out that Azzam, with a doctorate from al Azhar University, with all his quotes, was well aware of the contradictions to be found in the Koran, but understands the doctrine of abrogation.

Selected quotes

⁵ Ibn Warraq: The Westminster Institute [Educatin the Public and Government About the Ideology of the Terrorists, and Ways to Counter It](#), part II

⁶ [Who Was Abdullah Azzam?](#)

- In his book [Join the Caravan](#), quoting and commenting on Koranic verses [9:41](#), [9:32-33](#), [24:15](#), [4:95-96](#), [4:84](#), [8:39](#), [9:39](#), [4:97-99](#), [4:75-76](#), [57:25](#), [2:251](#), [22:40](#), [9:87-88](#), [33:18-19](#), [12:111](#), [50:37](#), [3:97](#), [9:91-92](#), then hadith and sharia scholars.

- He quotes Qutb on the timeless nature of jihad:

"If Jihad had been a transitory phenomenon in the life of the Muslim Ummah, all of these sections of the Quranic text would not be flooded with this type of verse! Likewise so much of the Sunna of the Messenger of Allah would not be occupied with such matters."

- On lesser/greater jihad:

"We have returned from the lesser jihad (battle) to the greater jihad (jihad of the soul)" which people quote on the basis that it is a hadith, is in fact a false, fabricated hadith which has no basis. It is only a saying of Ibrahim Ibn Abi `Abalah, one of the Successors, and it contradicts textual evidence and reality. {Ibn Taymiyyah said in *Al-Furqan* pp. 44-45: "This hadith has no sources and nobody whomsoever in the field of Islamic knowledge has narrated it. Jihad against the disbelievers is the most noble of actions and moreover it is most important action for the sake of mankind."

Then he cites all these sources that agree with Taymiyyah:

Al-Khateeb Al-Baghdadi reports it as daeef (weak) due to the narrator Khalaf bin Muhammad bin Ismail Al-Khiyam. Al-Haakim says, "His hadiths are unreliable." Abu Ya'la Al-Khalili says, "He often adulterates, is very weak and narrates unknown hadith." (*Mashari-ul-Ashwaq*, Ibn Nuhas 1/31). There is also the narrator Yahya bin Al-Ula who is known liar and forger of hadith (Ahmad). Amru bin Ali, An-Nasai and Ad-Daraqutni state, "His hadith are renounced." Ibn Adi states, "His hadith are false," (*Tahzeeb-ut-Tahzeeb* 11/261-262) Ibn Hajar said, "He was accused of forging hadith," (*At-Taghrib*). Adh-Dhahabi said, "Abu Hatim said that he is not a strong narrator, Ibn Ma'een classified him as weak and Ad-Daraqutni said that he is to be neglected." ⁷

⁷ [Join the Caravan](#)