

Sheik Yusuf Qaradawi, Ph.D. al-Azhar

#6 Most Influential in the World Sheik Qaradawi



Professor Esposito: "Mainstream Reformer". Carnegie Scholar Noah Feldman: "Islamist Democrat".
Drew biggest crowd of the Egyptian Arab Spring™ 2011 after being banned for 30 years.

[Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi](#) (1926-), Egyptian, Ph.D. Islamic Jurisprudence Al-Azhar. Extremely influential Sunni jurist, sharia scholar based in Qatar, [memorized](#) the Koran by age ten. Qaradawi was #6 in the book co authored by Esposito in 2009 featuring the world's [500 most influential](#) Muslims.

President of many influential orgs, founder and president of the International Association of Muslim Scholars which issues many *fatwas*. Chairman of the popular website [IslamOnline](#), authored more than [100 books](#) on Islam and hosts a weekly television program with a viewing audience of 40 - 60 million called "Shariah and Life" on Al Jazeera. Chairman of the board of trustees at Michigan-based Islamic American University, a subsidiary of the Muslim American Society, which was claimed by the Muslim Brotherhood as theirs in 1987.

In a paper Professor John Esposito [wrote](#) arguing why he thinks sharia is compatible with liberal rule of law and Human Rights™, he said,

"A cross section of Muslim thinkers, religious leaders and mainstream Islamic movements from Egypt to Indonesia, Europe to America, engage in this kind of reformist interpretation of Islam and its relationship to democracy, pluralism and human rights. They include such religious scholars ('ulama') as Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi...".

Carnegie scholar Noah Feldman was an architect of Iraq's constitution, and cites Qaradawi as an example of an "Islamist-democrat." In 2005 former London Mayor Ken Livingstone rolled out the red carpet for Qaradawi, said he is "the most positive progressive force for change" and "very similar to the position of Pope John XXIII." ¹ Former Ground Zero mosque Moderate™ Imam Rauf, [said](#) Qaradawi is a "very very well known Islamic jurist, highly regarded all over the Muslim world."

During the Arab Spring™ in February 2011, after Mubarak's fall his return to Egypt for the 1st time since he was banned 30 years before drew the largest crowd since the uprising began - over 2 million. ([Egyptian official state news agency](#))

He [said](#) he worked with and was influenced by [Hasan al-Banna](#), founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, where he is a longtime spiritual advisor, and in 1976 and 2004 turned down offers to be the Brotherhood's highest-ranking General Leader. He [explained](#) he wants to avoid tying himself to "any movement which might constrain my actions, even if this is the Muslim Brotherhood under whose umbrella I grew and which I so defended." He is [president](#) of a Saudi-based org representing Islamic fundraising groups worldwide, a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist" by the US government since 1999, and banned from entering the US.

- A year after the Arab Spring™, in January 2012, after the Muslim Brotherhood & Salfists [won 73%](#) of the vote in Egypt, he said:

"Islamic Law should be implemented gradually in Egypt; there should be no chopping off of hands in the first five years". ([MEMRITV Transcript](#))

Jihad

- 2001 - Topic: *The Prophet Muhammad as a Jihad Model*, he explained offensive and defensive jihad:

"A Jihad which you seek, and a Jihad in which you repulse an attack. In the Jihad which you are seeking, you look for the enemy and invade him. This type of Jihad takes place only when the Islamic state is invading other [countries] in order to spread the word of Islam and to remove obstacles standing in its way. The repulsing Jihad takes place when your land is being invaded and conquered..."

"Allah established in the life of the Prophet Muhammad general, eternal, and all inclusive characteristics, and he gave every human being the possibility to imitate him and take his life as a model. The Christian is incapable of imitating Jesus regarding war

and conciliation since Jesus never fought or made peace... Allah has also made the prophet Muhammad into an epitome for religious warriors since he ordered Muhammed to fight for religion.” ([MEMRI](#))

- 1999 - Qaradawi predicted:

"Islam will return to Europe as a conqueror and victor, after being expelled from it twice - once from the South, from Andalusia, and a second time from the East, when it knocked several times on the door of Athens.” ([MEMRI](#))

- Before he was banned from the U.S., in Ohio in 1995 in a speech to an Islamic conference he said “We will conquer Europe, we will conquer America, not through the sword but through *dawa*” which would work through Islamic groups set up by Brotherhood supporters in the U.S.. He praised supporters who were jailed by Arab governments in the 1950s and then came to the United States to “fight the seculars and the Westernized” by founding this country’s leading Islamic groups. He named the MSA as one of them. (*The MB in the U.S.*)

- 2002:

“...the patch of the Muslim state will expand to cover the whole earth and that the strength of this state will grow and become obvious to all. This also denotes good news for the long-cherished hope of revival of ... Islamic Caliphate.” ([Investigative Project](#))

- 2009 - “We must possess such weapons [WMD’s] in order to strike terror in our enemies” ([K-8:60](#)). ([MEMRI TV](#))

The Jews:

- 2006 - Explains the Arab/Israeli conflict is about religion:

“We do not disassociate Islam from the war. On the contrary.. We are fighting in the name of Islam... This is how it should be. Religion must lead the war. This is the only way we can win.

Everything will be on our side and against Jews on [Judgment Day]; at that time, even the stones and the trees will speak, with or without words, and say: 'Oh servant of Allah, oh Muslim, there's a Jew behind me, come and kill him.' They will point to the Jews. It says 'servant of Allah,' not 'servant of desires,' 'servant of women,' 'servant of the bottle,' 'servant of Marxism,' or 'servant of liberalism'... It said 'servant of Allah. (*Sahih Bukhari B52, N176, 177* ([alternate](#)), and similar in *Sahih Muslim B41 N6981 - 86* ([alternate](#)))

"When the Muslims, the Arabs, and the Palestinians enter a war, they do it to worship Allah. They enter it as Muslims. The hadith says: 'Oh Muslim.' It says 'oh Muslim,' not 'oh Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, or Arab nationalist.' No, it says: 'Oh Muslim.'" ([MEMRI TV](#))

- 2009 - "This is my message to the treacherous Jews... Oh Allah, they have spread much ... corruption in the land... Oh Allah, take this oppressive, Jewish, Zionist band of people. Oh Allah, do not spare a single one of them. Oh Allah, count their numbers, and kill them, down to the very last one." [Al-Jazeera transcript](#) ([video clip](#))

- 2009 - "Throughout history, Allah has imposed upon the [Jews] people who would punish them for their corruption. The last punishment was carried out by Hitler. By means of all the things he did to them – even though they exaggerated this issue – he managed to put them in their place. This was divine punishment for them. Allah willing, the next time will be at the hand of the believers." ([MEMRI TV](#)) ([transcript](#))

Apostasy

- 2002 - Fatwa *Donating Organs to non-Muslims*:

"it is not permissible to donate it to an apostate as he is no more than a traitor to his religion and his people and thus deserves killing". ([Islam Online Fatwa Bank](#))

- 2006 - From his essay ([Apostasy Major and Minor](#))

"The greatest kind of danger that faces Muslims is that which threatens their moral aspect of existence, i.e., their belief. That is why apostasy from Islam is regarded as one of the most dangerous threats to the Muslim community... That is why the Muslim jurists are unanimous that apostates must be punished... The majority of them, including the four main schools of jurisprudence (Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i, and Hanbali) as well as the ... Shiite schools agree that apostates must be executed.

[...]

"In this regard, many hadiths were reported in different wordings on the authority of a number of Companions, such as Ibn `Abbas, Abu Musa, Mu`adh...

For example, Ibn `Abbas quoted the Prophet (pbuh) as having said, "Whoever changes his religion, then kill him." ([Sahih Bukhari B.84 N. 57](#)) ([alternate](#)) A similar wording ... was reported on the authority of Abu Hurairah and Mu`awiyah ibn Haidah with a sound chain of transmission. Also, Ibn Mas`ud reported the Prophet (pbuh) as having said, "The blood of a Muslim ... is not lawful to shed unless he be ... someone who abandons his religion and the Muslim community. [...]" And so on...

On Secularism:

- Question: *Why is secularism incompatible with Islam?*

“... the call for secularism among Muslims is atheism and a rejection of Islam. It’s acceptance as a basis for rule in place of Shari’ah is downright apostasy..” ([more](#) *How the Imported Solutions Disastrously Affected Our Ummah* P. 113-114)

Homosexuality:

- 2006: Question: *How should a homosexual or a lesbian be punished?*

Qaradawi: "The same punishment as any sexual pervert - the same as the fornicator.... The schools of thought disagree about the punishment. Some say they should be punished like fornicators... Some say we should throw them from a high place, like God did with the people of Sodom. Some say we should burn them, and so on. There is disagreement... The important thing is to treat this act as a crime." ([Al-Jazeera video](#))

Suicide Bombing:

- 2004 - "It's not suicide, it is martyrdom in the name of God, Islamic theologians and jurists have debated this issue. Referring to it as a form of jihad, under the title of jeopardizing the life of the mujahideen. It is allowed to jeopardize your soul and cross the path of the enemy and be killed... Through his [Allah] infinite wisdom he has given the weak what the strong do not possess and that is the ability to turn their bodies into bombs like the Palestinians do." ([Newsnight interview](#))
- 2004 - "All of the Americans in Iraq are combatants, there is no difference between civilians and soldiers... The abduction and killing of Americans in Iraq is a [religious] obligation..." ([MEMRI](#))
- 2006 - Says to kill Israeli women and children in suicide operations. ([MEMRI TV](#))
- 2010 - "I supported martyrdom operations, and I was not the only one... when the Islamic Jurisprudence Council convened in Kuwait, hundreds of scholars signed their names to a fatwa..." ([MEMRI TV](#)), [transcript](#))

Women:

- Female Genital Mutilation - not obligatory but: "whoever finds it serving the interest of his daughters should do it, and I personally support this under the current circumstances in the modern world." (*Islamic Ruling on Female Circumcision* Fatwa Bank, IslamOnline.net [Investigative Project](#))

- 1997 - Wife Beating: "Beating is permitted ... only in a case when the wife rebels against her husband..." Likewise, the beating must come only after admonishment, and expelling [the wife] from the bed, 'Admonish them, leave them alone in their beds, and beat them.' [Qur'an [4:34](#)] ([MEMRI](#))

The Mohammad Cartoon Rage:

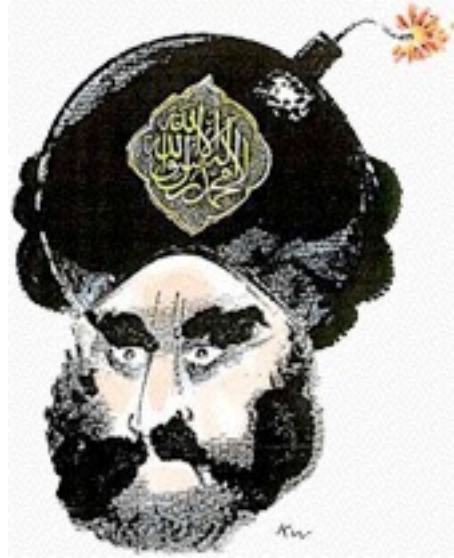
To get an idea of his influence:

- 2/3/2006 - 4 months *after* a Danish newspaper published [cartoons](#) of Muhammad, in a sermon on Qatar TV he called Muslims to violence worldwide:

"The nation must rage in anger. It is told that Imam Al-Shafi' said: 'Whoever was angered and did not rage is a jackass.' We are not a nation of jackasses... We are a nation that should rage for the sake of Allah, His Prophet, and His book. We are the nation of Muhammad, and we must never accept the degradation of our religion... We must rage, and show our rage to the world... The governments must be pressured to demand that the U.N. adopt a clear resolution or law that categorically prohibits affronts to prophets - to the prophets of the Lord and His messengers, to His holy books, and to the religious holy places." ([MEMRI](#))

- 2/4/06 - The next day worldwide protests and riots ensued. Spontaneous Rage™ more than 4 months after they were originally published, resulting in [139 dead, 823 injured](#), including the bombing of the Danish embassy [in Pakistan](#), setting fire to the [Danish](#) and Norwegian Embassies in Syria, Lebanon and Iran, and storming European buildings in Gaza City. Danish Prime Minister Rasmussen described the controversy as Denmark's worst international crisis since World War II. ([CNN](#))

- This is an organized effort by the [OIC](#) to enforce Islamic blasphemy laws worldwide, and restrict free speech by criminalizing any humor or truth telling about Islam as a form of "[hate speech](#)". It's being promoted in [the UN](#), the [UNHRC](#), [Europe](#), and Secretary of State Clinton has [warmed up to the idea](#). The most offensive cartoon was this:



Free Speech

- Then 5 years later:

2011 - "Former Afghan President Rabbani was killed by a suicide bomber on Tuesday in his home in the capital... The bomber, who apparently had explosives concealed in his turban, entered Rabbani's home in an upscale Kabul neighborhood on the pretext of visiting him..." [Los Angeles Times](#)

What causes more Muslim rage, and what insults Islam more: a cartoon of a turban bomb, or [real turban bombs](#) killing people? There were at least 4 of these in the summer of 2011 in Afghanistan. President Karzai asked the clerics in August to launch a public information campaign to "convince militants not to use turbans and other religious attire to carry out suicide bombings, not to target mosques and to make them aware that suicide was un-Islamic." Suicide is un-Islamic, but martyrdom operations to die for Allah are very Islamic, like Qaradawi explained. There was no visible complaints in the Muslim world about this, only rage over the cartoons.

- Here is [A Retrospective Study of the Unfolding of the Muhammad Cartoons Crisis and its Implications](#) - MEMRI 1/5/07

Sharia Finance

- 2006 - "I don't like this word 'donations'. I like to call it Jihad with money, because God has ordered us to fight enemies with our lives and our money." ([BBC interview](#))

- As of 1999, Qaradawi was one of the largest shareholders in [Al Taqwa Bank](#), a Bahamas-based financial institution the U.S. Treasury Department designated as a terrorist financier in 2001. More on that in the [Muslim Brotherhood](#) page of this site.

On Salman Rushdie Death Fatwa vs bin Laden.

- 2005:

SPIEGEL: Why haven't any Muslim judges or laws officially expelled bin Laden and his followers from the faith?

Qaradawi: We condemn their acts, but I am categorically opposed to the idea of expulsion... The day will come when they will have to stand in front of an Islamic judge...

SPIEGEL: Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran didn't spend much time deliberating such questions when he issued a fatwa calling for the death of author Salman Rushdie.

Qaradawi: Rushdie disgraced the honor of the Prophet and his family and defiled the values of Islam. ([Spiegel Online](#))

Meaning bin Laden did not disgrace anyone, he is still a Muslim, like this [Former Kuwaiti Information Minister said](#):

- “Not a Single Fatwa Has Been Issued Calling for the Killing of Bin Laden ... We Left the World with the Impression that the Arabs are All bin Laden ... Questions are being raised concerning our stance as a nation in general, and the stance of political Islam [and] the religious parties ... concerning bin Laden and the damage that he has caused to the Muslims... It is saddening to compare our stance on Salman Rushdie to our stance on Osama bin Laden.”

- More on his specific U.S. Brotherhood connections on the [Muslim Brotherhood](#) page of this course.