

# **SUFIS, TAKFEEREES, LIBERAL JOURNALISTS, NEO-CONS AND OTHER PITIFUL ELEMENTS IN THE UK ALL UNITE AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA!**

**WITH A RESPONSE TO THE ARTICLE 'THE TRUTH ABOUT THE  
SAVAGE HOUSE OF SAUD' BY KEVIN TOOLIS OF THE DAILY MIRROR**

**30 OCTOBER 2007 CE**

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Indeed, all praise is due to Allaah, we praise Him, we seek His aid, and we ask for His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allaah from the evil of our actions and from the evil consequences of our actions. Whomever Allaah guides, there is none to misguide and whoever Allaah misguides there is none to guide. I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allaah and I bear witness that Muhammad is the servant and messenger of Allaah.

To proceed:

With the arrival of King Abdullaah of Saudi Arabia to the UK this week, we have witnessed the media throw another frenzy along with pompous objections to the Saudi visit due to:

- ✓ Torture claims
- ✓ Capital punishment
- ✓ Causing terrorism
- ✓ Oppressing women

And other issues, issues which incidentally are all to be found with the good ole US of A! However, when the US head of state visits absolutely nothing at all is mentioned in the press about "human rights" abuses and the like, only the "barbaric" Arabs are seen as those who need to be kept in check in this regard. It has also been rather pathetic to see all manner of twisted resentful factions joining in to condemn Saudi Arabia given the opportunity and this has led to a rather unholy alliance which has seen the likes of Muhammad Mehboob 'Ed' (?!) Husain, *takfeeree* protesters outside the Saudi Embassy, neo-con think tanks such as *Policy Exchange*,<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> They have recently put together another poorly researched "report" which is so full of out of context quotes that most of it is made up of quotes from books! Which they do not even adequately understand in the first instance, let alone to be able to conclude that they are "subversive"! The *Policy Exchange* "study" entitled *The Hijacking of*

“liberal” journalists et al all rise to the occasion to condemn Saudi Arabia and then by extension include *Salafyyah* in all of this, as we shall see.

One of the more despicable articles which follows this trend is that which was written by one Kevin Toolis, who we understand considers himself to be a “terrorism expert”?! Yet as the salafimanhaj.com team has observed over the last few years anyone in the West who boldly claims this title has to be read with a fair degree of caution to say the least. We have already seen the absolute blunders in theological and historical research that have been conducted by the self-professed experts in the West (such as the neo-con think tanks, “researchers” and journalists) and the following article is one of such incredulous distortions. From the article by Toolis:

When the Serious Fraud Office uncovered huge bribes being paid to Saudi princes over British arms deals, our Prime Minister Tony Blair stopped the investigation. Like this visit, it was a shameful day for British democracy. Proof that even Downing Street can be silenced. To add insult to injury, King Abdullah - even before his sandals touched British soil - warned that we were not doing enough to counter terrorism. In a flawed BBC interview, he said: "We sent information to Great Britain before the terrorist attacks in Britain but unfortunately no action was taken." Listening to Abdullah lecture us on terrorism is like the Mafia criticising the Pope for not working harder to stop crime. For if there is one state on Earth that is an incubator of terrorism it is Saudi

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*British Islam: How Extremist Literature is Subverting Mosques in the UK* (London: Policy Exchange, 2007) by Denis MacEoin: <http://www.policyexchange.org.uk/images/libimages/307.pdf>

First of all, MacEoin is a Persian specialist and not really adequately versed in understanding some of the Islamic texts and the legal connotations, furthermore their report did not take into account whatsoever the impact of poor translations. Moreover, some of the things that the *Policy Exchange* mentioned and objected to are things straight out of the Qur’aan itself! Therefore, we regard MacEoin and *Policy Exchange* as not being qualified whatsoever to give an analysis of Islamic religious material and if they are, then we eagerly await their “report” on similar material which can be found within all religious traditions.

We also reject *Policy Exchange*’s hastiness in supporting the Sufis, yet for more on the fallacy of the neo-con frolics with the Sufis of the era see: [http://www.salafimanhaj.com/pdf/SalafiManhaj\\_RANDOM.pdf](http://www.salafimanhaj.com/pdf/SalafiManhaj_RANDOM.pdf)

What is also laughable is that *Policy Exchange* list all of the main mosques within the UK as having books which they deem as being “extremist”!? Also they include the *Salafi masaajid* of Birmingham, those of both Wright Street and Green Lane, and *Policy Exchange* also mock the US Salafi publishers *al-Hujjah Publications* and *al-Ibaanah Publications*.

As for MacEoin trying to implicate the *Muslim Brotherhood*, *Tablighi Jamaat*, *Jamaat al-Islami*, *MCB* and all and sundry as being “Salafis” then this kind of simplistic and shoddy research has been refuted by us before: [http://www.salafimanhaj.com/pdf/SalafiManhaj\\_RANDOM.pdf](http://www.salafimanhaj.com/pdf/SalafiManhaj_RANDOM.pdf)

Arabia. Ever since Saudi Arabia was established in 1932, the Al Saud family has ruled it as their private fiefdom with the country's oilfields - 40 per cent of the world's known reserves - their personal piggy bank.<sup>2</sup> Over the years the list of cronies, retainers and "princes" has grown ever more bloated with estimates of the "royal family" ranging from 7,000 to 25,000. It is government by larceny with estimates that the royal family has burned through one trillion dollars - about £500,000,000,000. But despite this torrent of cash,<sup>3</sup> these royal princes have done little to develop their own country. **According to the World Bank,**<sup>4</sup> the average Saudi wage is just £5,000 a year.<sup>5</sup> **In Riyadh, the capital, thousands of young graduates seethe with resentment.**<sup>6</sup> To keep their power and wealth intact,<sup>7</sup> **the house of Saud has long entered a devil's bargain with the country's fanatical mullahs.**<sup>8</sup> **In return for their support, the dynasty, in public at least,**

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<sup>2</sup> This is the first of Toolis' references to money, which we see repeated rather rapaciously throughout the vile article of Toolis.

<sup>3</sup> Again note the referral to finances here!

<sup>4</sup> Is this supposed to be a non-biased and impartial source for us to all blindly accept now?! The World Bank is an entity which mainly seeks to protect US interests and poverty has actually increased due to them according to many intellectuals and academics. Not to mention environmental, health and social problems that have developed as a result of World Bank policies, so for anyone to utilise this as a viable source has a rather shoddy understanding of impartiality. For more on the World Bank see George Monbiot, *The Age of Consent* (London: Harper Perennial, 2004) and Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalisation and its Discontents* (Penguin, 2003). So it would have been better for Toolis to not have mentioned this failing organisation as a proof within his article.

<sup>5</sup> This is a nonsensical point, as £5000 a year may be a fortune to a man living in the desert in the Rubb ul-Khaalee for example!

<sup>6</sup> Some of those who "seethe with resentment" are extremist takfeerees and terrorists! Toolis has no idea what he is on about! Furthermore, where are the names and lists of these "thousands of young graduates seething with resentment"? Where are their voices? Who are they? Where can we get information on this? Toolis gives absolutely nothing to justify this, as the reality is that there are not "thousands of young graduates seething with resentment" rather there are a million young graduates in Riyadh who are happy and thrilled with what their government is doing for them! Will Toolis report this though? We think not.

<sup>7</sup> Another reference to finances here again!

<sup>8</sup> For more in response to this allegation see: [http://www.salafimanhaj.com/pdf/SalafiManhaj\\_NYPD.pdf](http://www.salafimanhaj.com/pdf/SalafiManhaj_NYPD.pdf)

After the London bombings, Mushtak Parker and P.K. Abdul Ghafour reported in an article in the *Arab News* dated: Saturday 9 July 2005 that:

**Grand Mufti and Others Denounce London Bombings**

**The Kingdom's grand mufti yesterday strongly denounced the deadly blasts that rocked London, saying Islam strictly prohibits the killing of innocent people. He also censured the terrorists for tarnishing the image of Islam by attaching their heinous crimes to the**

promotes a fanatical Islamic sect called Salafism.<sup>9</sup> In this vicious creed most other Muslims, never mind Christians, are infidels who should be killed or enslaved.<sup>10</sup> It is a doctrine of hatred, yet it is the official state religion. Women are not allowed to drive or to appear without a headscarf in public.<sup>11</sup> Women and men cannot work together. Women can be beaten, even killed, by their husbands without sanction. No one outside the royal family has any rights. Nor are there any meaningful political parties. **Prisoners, recently including three expatriate Britons,<sup>12</sup> are liable to be tortured.<sup>13</sup> “Criminals” are beheaded in public.<sup>14</sup> The**

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**religion. The explosions that ripped through central London’s transport system on Thursday, “targeting peaceful people, are not condoned by Islam, and are indeed prohibited by our religion,”** Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al-Asheikh said in a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency. **“Attributing to Islam acts of individual or collective killings, bombings, destruction of properties and the terrorizing of peaceful people is unfair, because they are alien to the divine religion,”** said the mufti, who also heads the Council of Senior Islamic Scholars, Saudi Arabia’s highest religious authority. **“Islam is a religion of reforms and righteousness. It envisages the progress of humanity and takes it from darkness to light. It also calls for respecting agreements and prohibits their violation,”** the mufti said referring to accords binding governments. **“Causing corruption on earth is one of the biggest crimes in Islam,”** he explained. **Sheikh Abdul Mohsen Al-Obaikan, a senior Saudi scholar and a Shoura member, said there was no justification, whatsoever, for the killing of innocent people. Speaking to MBC television, he urged all members of the Muslim community in Britain to cooperate with British authorities in tracking down the criminals behind the attacks.**

<sup>9</sup> La hawla wa la quwwata ila billaah!

<sup>10</sup> SubhaanAllaah! Toolis has actually written one of the most poorly researched and inaccurate articles ever on this subject. If Toolis was correct in this then one would expect to find on our site, salafimanhaj.com, not to mention on a whole host of other Salafi websites, calls for these horrific actions, yet we find the contrary with clear evidences and elucidation.

<sup>11</sup> This is either a blatant lie on behalf of Toolis or another demonstration of his utter ignorance, as non-Muslim women within Saudi Arabia do not have to cover their hair, but they do have to wear an 'abaya. So this is another sample of the void, unjust and foolish rants of Toolis.

<sup>12</sup> Note here, the concern only for the “expatriate Britons”, so there could actually be a whole load of Filipinos being oppressed, yet that is not referred to as they are not Britons.

<sup>13</sup> Well how about being shot seven times in the head for running away from armed police who do not give any warning???. Or what about allowing powerful nations to merely waltz into your own backyard and pick-up any individual they suspect of being a terrorist, under the banner of “extraordinary rendition”? Or even going to war without evidence and causing utter mayhem and destabilisation of an entire country???. Or is this all miniscule compared to “three expatriate Britons” going through a bit of a hard time?

aim is to keep society pure, whatever the human cost. **But Salafism has an anti-Western core.<sup>15</sup>** Trapped and frustrated by the hypocrites of the royal family above them, it is easy to see how young Saudis, like the 9/11 hijackers, can turn to Osama Bin Laden.<sup>16</sup> Unlike Abdullah, Bin Laden practises the warped doctrine he preaches.<sup>17</sup> **But worse still, it is reported that some**

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<sup>14</sup> In America, which is evidently more of an ally to the UK than Saudi Arabia ever is, “criminals” are electrocuted on a chair by blasting volts of electricity which fries the brain – in public galleries. In America, “criminals” may be given a chemical cocktail dose known as a “lethal injection” – in public. Not to mention a while host of unofficial summary executions that take place unacknowledged. In American history mentally retarded individuals were executed and let’s not forget the very “public” execution of Saddam Hussein, with full British and US justification.

<sup>15</sup> This is odd, as we at salafimanhaj.com are Western *Salafis*!? A dichotomy for Toolis if there ever was one! We encourage Toolis to actually go out and speak to *Salafis*.

<sup>16</sup> SubhaanAllaah! Reflect on this! This deserves to be engraved in gold and framed for the “liberal” journalists and al-Qaeda terrorists to all revel in! This is what we are talking about, the ideological ties between the enemies of Islaam and the *Khawaarij*, Ahl us-Sunnah chose to adhere to the Jama’ah!

<sup>17</sup> Dr Natana DeLong-Bas superbly states in chapter six of her book *Wahhabi Islam: From Revival and Reform to Global Jihad*:

**“The global jihad espoused by Osama bin Laden and other contemporary extremists is clearly rooted in contemporary issues and interpretations of Islam. It owes little to the Wahhabi tradition, outside of the nineteenth-century incorporation of the teachings of Ibn Taymiyya and the Ibn al-Qayyim al-Jawziyyah into the Wahhabi worldview as Wahhabism moved beyond the confines of Najd and into the broader Muslim world. The differences between the worldviews of bin Laden and Ibn Abd al-Wahhab are numerous. Bin Laden preaches jihad; Ibn Abd al-Wahhab preached monotheism. Bin Laden preaches a global jihad of cosmic importance that recognizes no compromise; Ibn Abd al-Wahhab's jihad was narrow in geographic focus, of localized importance, and had engagement in a treaty relationship between the fighting parties as a goal. Bin Laden preaches war against Christians and Jews; Ibn Abd al-Wahhab called for treaty relationships with them. Bin Laden's jihad proclaims an ideology of the necessity of war in the face of unbelief; Ibn Abd al-Wahhab preached the benefits of peaceful coexistence, social order, and business relationships. Bin Laden calls for the killing of all infidels and the destruction of their money and property; Ibn Abd al-Wahhab restricted killing and the destruction of property... The militant Islam of Osama bin Laden does not have its origins in the teachings of Ibn Abd al-Wahhab and is not representative of Wahhabi Islam as it is practiced in contemporary Saudi Arabia, yet for the media it has come to define Wahhabi Islam in the contemporary era. However, "unrepresentative" bin Laden's global jihad of Islam in general and Wahhabi Islam in particular, its prominence in headline news has taken Wahhabi Islam across the spectrum from revival and reform to global jihad.”**

Natana DeLong Bas, *Wahhabi Islam: From Revival and Reform to Global Jihad* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), pp.278-279.

of this vast oil wealth<sup>18</sup> has been channelled into exporting Salafism across the Islamic world via “donations” for new mosques, preachers’ salaries and religious scholarships.<sup>19</sup> From Pakistan to Malaysia to the back streets of Bradford, it's not hard to find the trail of Saudi Arabian money.<sup>20</sup> But it is a gift that comes at a terrible price. Through preachers, DVDs and CDs, there is the same unrelenting hatred for the West. **And the creed practised by the 7/7 bombers - the ones King Abdullah warned us about - was Salafism.**<sup>21</sup> Before the recent rise in oil prices the Saudi economy was on the verge of bankruptcy. But with oil now hitting \$93 a barrel,<sup>22</sup> the kingdom again enjoys a gusher of cash.<sup>23</sup> **And that means more corruption and exported terrorism.**<sup>24</sup> **When you ride with the devil, even in a gilded carriage down the Mall, the only destination is hell.**

The former *Mufti* of Saudi Arabia, Imaam 'Abdul'Azeez ibn 'Abdullaah ibn Baaz (*rabeemabullaah*) one of the main Salafi scholars, stated in the late 1990s in regards to Usaamah Bin Laadin, Muhammad al-Mas'ari and Sa'd al-Faqeeh:

**These publications from al-Faqeeh, al-Mas'ari or other callers to evil, baatil (falsehood) and division must be totally destroyed and no lenience should be shown to them. It is incumbent to advise and guide them to the truth and warn them from this baatil. It is not permissible for anyone to co-operate with them in this evil, they must be advised and referred back to (true) guidance. And leave this baatil. And my advice to al-Mas'ari, al-Faqeeh, Ibn Laadin and all who traverse their way is that they leave off this dangerous**

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<sup>18</sup> Yet another reference to monies!

<sup>19</sup> For a complete study on this insinuation refer to: [http://www.salafimanhaj.com/pdf/SalafiManhaj\\_Saudi.pdf](http://www.salafimanhaj.com/pdf/SalafiManhaj_Saudi.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> The Salafis of the UK are still waiting to see the proof of where all of this cash is supposed to be! Indeed, the Salafis wish that it was the case that they were receiving “Saudi funding”!

<sup>21</sup> So now Toolis has become an expert in *'aqeedah* and *manhaj* to the extent that he has risen to the level wherein he is able to conduct a *tahqeeq* of the *da'wah Salafiyah*?! Unlike, Toolis, some of the Salafis in the UK actually knew some of the 7/7 bombers and what they were upon and it is well known that they were not *Salafi* in the slightest and in fact despised the *Salafi da'wah* in the same way was Toolis does incidentally. Indeed, let's not forget Toolis words: **Trapped and frustrated by the hypocrites of the royal family above them, it is easy to see how young Saudis, like the 9/11 hijackers, can turn to Osama Bin Laden.** {sic}

<sup>22</sup> Toolis again seems very concerned with the wealth of Saudi and how it is being utilised!

<sup>23</sup> Here we go again!

<sup>24</sup> The contrary in fact is the case.

path, to fear Allaah and be warned of His Wrath and Anger, to return back to (true) guidance, to repent to Allaah from what they have done before.<sup>25</sup>

Imaam Bin Baaz (*rabeemabullaah*) also stated this in the Arabic newspaper *al-Muslimoon* and also reported in *ash-Sharq al-Awsat*, on 9 Jumadaa al-Ulaa 1417 AH corresponding to 21 September 1996 CE. It can be heard in audio here where Imaam Bin Baaz (*rabeemabullaah*) further emphasises that no co-operation should be made with the likes of Usaamah Bin Laadin due to their harms for safety and security, this was way before any liberal journalist or neo-con think tank even cared about the likes of Bin Ladin: <http://www.al-mobile.org/File/1163762664.ram>

Imaam Bin Baaz (*rabeemabullaah*) also stated:

**From that which is known to anyone who has the slightest bit of common sense, is that hijacking airplanes and kidnapping children and the like are extremely great crimes the world over. Their evil effects are far and wide, as is the great harm and inconvenience caused to the innocent; the total effect of which none can comprehend except Allaah. Likewise, from that which is known is that these crimes are not specific to any particular country over and above another country, nor any specific group over and above another group; rather, it encompasses the whole world. There is no doubt about the effect of these crimes; so it is obligatory upon the governments and those responsible from amongst the scholars and others to afford these issues great concern, and to exert themselves as much as possible in ending this evil.**<sup>26</sup>

Robert Fisk writing for The Independent also fell into similar neo-con propaganda, Fisk mentioned in his article entitled King Abdullah Flies in to lecture us on terrorism on Tuesday 3th October 2007 CE, below are extracts from the article:

The sheer implausibility of the claim that Saudi intelligence could have prevented the London bombings if only the British Government had taken it seriously, seems to have passed the Saudi monarch by. "We have sent information to Great Britain before the terrorist attacks in Britain but unfortunately no action was taken. And it may have been able to maybe avert the tragedy," he told the BBC. **This claim is frankly incredible.**<sup>27</sup> The sad, awful truth is that we fete these people, we fawn on them, we supply them with fighter

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<sup>25</sup> 'Abdul'Azeez bin 'Abdullaah bin 'AbdurRahmaan bin Baaz, *Majmoo' Fataawaa wa Maaqaalaat Mutanawwi'ah* (Buraydah, Saudi: Daar Asdaa' al-Mujtama', 1421 AH/2000 CE, Third Edition), vol.9, p.100

<sup>26</sup> *Kayfa Nu'aaliy Waaqi'unal-Aleem* pp. 113, 114

<sup>27</sup> So Fisk has now become an intelligence agent able to assess if this is the case or not?

jets, whisky and whores.<sup>28</sup> No, of course, there will be no visas for this reporter because Saudi Arabia is no democracy.<sup>29</sup> Yet how many times have we been encouraged to think otherwise about a state that will not even allow its women to drive? Kim Howells, the Foreign Office minister, was telling us again yesterday that we should work more closely with the Saudis, because we "share values" with them. And what values precisely would they be, I might ask? Saudi Arabia's role in the 9/11 attacks has still not been fully explored.

Senior members of the royal family expressed the shock and horror expected of them, **but no attempt was made to examine the nature of Wahhabism, the state religion,**<sup>30</sup> and its inherent contempt for all representation of human activity or death. **It was Saudi Muslim legal iconoclasm which led directly to the destruction of the Buddhas of Bamiyan by the Taliban,**<sup>31</sup> **Saudi Arabia's friends.**<sup>32</sup> And only weeks after Kamal Salibi, a Lebanese history professor, suggested in the late 1990s that once-Jewish villages in what is now Saudi Arabia might have been locations in the Bible, the Saudis sent bulldozers to destroy the ancient buildings there. **In the name of Islam, Saudi organisations have destroyed hundreds of historic structures in Mecca and Medina**<sup>33</sup> and UN officials have condemned the destruction of Ottoman buildings in Bosnia by a Saudi aid agency, which decided they were "idolatrous". **Were the twin towers in New York another piece of architecture which Wahhabis wanted to destroy?**

Nine years ago a Saudi student at Harvard produced a remarkable thesis which argued that US forces had suffered casualties in bombing attacks in Saudi Arabia because American intelligence did

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<sup>28</sup> Another stereotype if there ever was one, this oft-repeated Orientalist fantasy has been replete within this matter.

<sup>29</sup> So this is the main issue at hand

<sup>30</sup> Sad to see Fisk here resorting to very simplistic neo-con polemics.

<sup>31</sup> It is absolute folly to hold Saudi Arabia even remotely responsible for the Taliban's policies. Furthermore, as one who is promoted as some sort of Middle-East expert it is strange how Fisk seems unaware that the Taliban follow their own Islamic tradition which is Deobandi and Hanafi, nothing at all to do with the Islamic milieu of Saudi Arabia in any sense!

<sup>32</sup> So Fisk is trying to assert that Muslim countries should not support other sovereign Muslim countries, just because some things may take place there which do not sit comfortably with some individuals in the West?!

<sup>33</sup> Does Fisk expect us to blindly follow his mere claim here which incidentally he took from a story in *The Independent* in August 2005 by Daniel Howden which claimed that Saudi Arabia were "destroying religious sites" and all of it was nothing but Sufi propaganda. Howden yet again wrote an article on 19 April 2006 entitled 'Shame on the House of Saud: Shadows Over Mecca' in *The Independent* wherein he repeated his early claims of August 2005 and worked in conjunction with Irfan Ahmed.

not understand Wahhabism and had underestimated the extent of hostility to the US presence in the kingdom. Nawaf Obaid even quoted a Saudi National Guard officer as saying "the more visible the Americans became, the darker I saw the future of the country". **The problem is that Wahhabi puritanism meant that Saudi Arabia would always throw up men who believe they had been chosen to "cleanse" their society from corruption,<sup>34</sup> yet Abdul Wahhab<sup>35</sup> also preached that royal rulers should not be overthrown.<sup>36</sup>** Thus the Saudis were unable to confront the duality, that protection-and-threat that Wahhabism represented for them. Prince Bandar, formerly Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Washington, once characterised his country's religion as part of a "timeless culture" **while a former British ambassador advised Westerners in Saudi Arabia to "adapt" and "to act with the grain of Saudi traditions and culture".<sup>37</sup>**

Anyone would think that we have just read an article by a neo-con nut-job, or a diatribe from a regular of *FrontPage Mag!* We think we'll stick to actual scholars of Saudi Arabia, such as Dr Natana De Long Bas, rather than the likes of what has emanated from Robert Fisk here! With regards to the absolute nonsense that Robert Fisk has stated about Saudi Arabia and the historic sites, then we will relay some facts which Fisk is obviously totally unaware of.

Yusef Muhammad writing in the *Arab News* in 21 December 2006 CE/30 Dhu'l-Qa'dah 1427AH in the article '*Demolition of Historic Madinah Mountain Halted*' states:

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<sup>34</sup> As if the West doesn't produce "**men who believe they had been chosen to cleanse their society**"!! Fisk has unfortunately slumped to new levels of folly with this article. We could list a whole host of individuals ranging from heads of state to religious cult leaders to sports stars and pop-stars "**who believe they have been chosen to cleanse society**", where would one want us to start?

<sup>35</sup> First of all, the person who Fisk intends here is Imaam Muhammad ibn 'AbdulWahhaab (raheemahullaah), so his name is Muhammad, not "Abdul-Wahhab". Secondly, we would have thought that by now Fisk must at least have some grasp of basic Arabic due to his extensive work in the Middle-East to know that he should either be referred to by his first name or at least as "Ibn 'Abdul-Wahhaab" ?!

<sup>36</sup> Not just "royal rulers", Imaam Muhammad ibn'AbdulWahhaab taught that any ruler over the Muslims is to be obeyed so why can't Fisk just say all of the rulers instead of just singling out "royal" ones – in line with Western liberal leftist disdain of royalty. In fact, the early Muslims, the Salaf, stated that the rulers not be overthrown due to its basis in the Qur'aan and Sunnah!

<sup>37</sup> Sounds like nothing compared to what Western countries now demand from Muslims and immigrants within their countries at present! As if Muslims are not encouraged to "adapt" and "act within the grain" of host nations, Fisk has surprisingly demonstrated a rather hasty stance within this article.

MADINAH, 21 December 2006 — **As part of efforts to preserve the Islamic heritage and antiquities in the holy city of Madinah, Crown Prince Sultan has instructed the authorities to stop demolition works on the historic Salae Mountain, located northwest of the Prophet's Mosque.**<sup>38</sup>

“The crown prince has also ordered the formation of a committee to study the present condition of the mountain and expropriate real estate properties near the mountain to complete the ring road surrounding it,” said a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency. Madinah Governor Prince Abdul Aziz ibn Majed thanked the crown prince for his action and praised his efforts in preserving Islamic landmarks. **Prince Sultan earlier instructed authorities to restore the centuries-old Osaifreen Mountain in Madinah. “Salae and Osaifreen mountains are great historic sites as they have witnessed a number of important Islamic events,” the governor said, adding that a number of tourism projects would be established at the historical sites in the near future.**<sup>39</sup> The historic Khandaq Battle took place near Salae Mountain in the fifth year of Hijrah. The commander of the Muslim force took position on top of the mountain where the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and many of his companions had their camps. Prince Sultan stopped demolition of the historic site in response to the demand of people living in the area who wanted to preserve the location. The famous Seven Mosques were located west of Salae Mountain, which is situated close to the trench (khandaq) dug by the Prophet and his companions to protect them from invaders. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) used to stay at Banu Haram Mosque that was built on the western side of the mountain. Old Kufic writings on its northern side are still visible. A famous place called Dakkat Jalal is located to the east. Located about 700 meters away from the Prophet's Mosque, Salae Mountain is composed of basalt rocks; it is nearly a kilometer in length, 80 meters high and 300 to 800 meters wide. The Madinah Municipality caused another controversy earlier this year when it pulled down the Aqeeq Valley Bridge, which was part of the historic Hejaz Railway, in August. **Prince Sultan ibn Salman, secretary-general of the Supreme Commission for Tourism (SCT), then said that the demolition of the bridge was an unacceptable mistake.**<sup>40</sup> There are some 1,000 tourist sites in Madinah with Islamic monuments representing about 50 percent of the total. Efforts are being made to develop these sites as

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<sup>38</sup> Does this sound as if the Saudis are purposefully destroying Islamic heritage?

<sup>39</sup> So obviously it would not be in the interest to “destroy Islamic heritage” as the likes of Irfan Ahmed assert.

<sup>40</sup> Therefore, this shows that in some cases historic Islamic sites may have been demolished without the knowledge of the people in authority.

part of a major effort by the Supreme Commission for Tourism to promote domestic tourism and attract foreign tourists.<sup>41</sup>

M. Ghazanfar Ali Khan in an article entitled *'New Laws Planned to Preserve Historical Monuments'* dated: 13 May 2004 CE/23 Rabee' al-Awwal 1425 AH in the *Arab News* highlights:

RIYADH, 13 May 2004 — **The government is formulating new laws to preserve historical monuments and other sites of archaeological importance as well as to encourage the spread of museums across the country. The move, promoted by the Supreme Commission for Tourism, is intended to end the destruction of scores of historical and Islamic sites which could be developed as tourist and cultural attractions.** Prince Sultan ibn Salman, SCT's secretary-general, appointed an international agency last week to draw up a four-year strategy to develop museums and to package and promote the country's wealth of antiquities for the tourist market. **"Efforts have already been intensified to develop important historical sites and to merge the Deputy Ministry of Antiquities and Museum with the SCT from next fiscal year,"** said Professor Saad Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid, deputy minister for antiquities at the Ministry of Education. **Professor Al-Rashid expressed his concern over the destruction and decay of old architectural and Islamic monuments and sites.** However, the sheer size of the country was part of the problem, he said. "Geographically, the Kingdom is so big that it is not possible for us to look after a relatively low-value historical site. We can't put obstacles also in the development of the country." **The issue of destruction of historic sites was recently raised in a lecture organized by the UK-based Barakat Trust**, a charity that promotes the study and awareness of Islamic art and architecture. Asked about the situation in the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah, Professor Al-Rashid said attempts to preserve the cultural heritage in the two cities are a particularly difficult task, because the priority "is to carry out expansion to accommodate an ever-growing number of pilgrims." However, he added that future plans, including the preservation and development of historical sites and monuments, "will be governed by the new laws." **Professor Al-Rashid said eight excavation teams had been working in different parts of the Kingdom last year and some 20 archaeological projects were currently being undertaken. Dr. Khaleel Ibrahim Al-Muaiikel, head of archaeology at King Saud University, said the university has also started an excavation at Al-Oula region, where pre-Islamic materials including pottery have been found. The findings there are expected to shed new light on the history and heritage of the Arabian Peninsula in general and Saudi Arabia in particular.**<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> <http://www.arabnews.com/?page=1&section=0&article=90238&d=21&m=12&y=2006>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.arabnews.com/?page=1&section=0&article=44850&d=13&m=5&y=2004>

In an article entitled '*SCT to Focus on Preservation of Historic Sites*' by M. Ghazanfar Ali Khan again writing in the *Arab News* on 23 June 2004/5 Jumadaa al-Ulaa 1425 AH states:

RIYADH, 23 June 2004 — **The Supreme Commission for Tourism is to focus increasingly on the preservation of the Kingdom's threatened historical sites**, highlighting a recently restored palace in Taif as an example of the cultural attractions the Kingdom has to offer.

Shubra Palace, once the summer residence of King Abdul Aziz and the seat of the government, has been opened for public after the completion of massive renovation works. Crown Prince Abdullah recently led a group of officials on a visit of the palace, which consists of a five-story building and a sprawling estate. At an event mapping out strategies to promote the Kingdom's historical and cultural monuments, the commission said Shubra Palace embodied the Kingdom's history of unification and Islamic art. The SCT workshop, which drew more than 100 people from the public and private sector, discussed the imminent merger of the deputy ministry of antiquities and museums with the SCT, its Secretary-General Prince Sultan ibn Salman said. Once it is complete, the commission will be better able to focus on preserving and promoting heritage sites. **Several experts at the workshop expressed concern over the destruction of venerable architectural and Islamic monuments. Professor Saad Al-Rashid, the deputy minister for antiquities and museums at the Ministry of Education, said the SCT has already started work on some projects to preserve historical sites and turn them into valuable tourist attractions in the process. Al-Rashid said the move would allow the SCT to curb the wanton destruction of scores of historical and Islamic sites, either by government agencies or by individuals.** "We dispatched eight scientific excavation teams in different parts of the Kingdom last year alone and we are handling some 20 archaeological projects at the moment," he said. A group of experts from King Saud University has also started excavation works in the Al-Oula region, where pre-Islamic findings will shed new light on the history of the Arabian Peninsula.<sup>43</sup>

Habib Shaikh in an article entitled '*Saudi Arabia Rich in Islamic Sites*' on 28 December 2006 CE/7 Dhu'l-Hijjah 1427AH in the *Arab News* throws into question the claims of Irfan Ahmed and Daniel Howden in their somewhat alarmist articles with regards to the "destruction of historic Islamic sites" which were blindly followed by many Muslims, particularly after Howden's front-page spread.<sup>44</sup> Habib Shaikh informs:

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<sup>43</sup> See for example: <http://www.arabnews.com/?page=21&section=0&article=81033&d=20&m=4&y=2006>

<sup>44</sup> Howden yet again wrote an article on 19 April 2006 entitled '*Shame on the House of Saud: Shadows Over Mecca*' in *The Independent* (of London) wherein he repeated his early claims of August 2005 and worked in

**As the birthplace of Islam, Saudi Arabia abounds in historical sites. There is hardly an account of a visit to Makkah, Madinah or other parts of the country made by travelers of years past that does not mention one of them. Although the very existence of some is questionable, there are other sites of which the historical significance is beyond doubt.**

There are supposed to be no less than 300 locations between Makkah and Madinah. Some were old mosques built on an older site related to the Prophet, (Peace Be Upon Him) or one of his companions. Very few of the holy sites are documented. Some people in Makkah and Madinah make individual efforts, but they are not scientific and don't have proper documentation. Many of the sites outside of Makkah and Madinah are still there in some form. Unfortunately, many of the sites once in Makkah and Madinah and in between no longer exist. Some are left to oblivion for fear of 'shirk' and 'bidat,' especially when it comes to sites involved with the life and times of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh); others have been demolished in the interest of development. Rutter, who visited the Kingdom in 1925 and met Abdul Aziz ibn Saud, notes that "in different parts of the Manakha there are several little mosques. These are cool silent places in the heat of the day. All are swept and garnished, and have grass mats on the floor. Some of them have small gardens beside them, and green branches and trees may be seen through the iron-barred windows by the sitters within. Among these mosques are the Masjid Al-Ghamama, Masjid Ali, Masjid Abi Bakr, Masjid ibn Anas, and the Masjid Umar." He also notes that "behind the hill Jabal Sil'a, to north-westward of the city, there are seven little mosques — Al-Masajid Al-Saba'a — scattered in the valley. One of these is known as the Mosque of the Two Qiblas." "Underneath this mosque there is a well, which is reached by means of a flight of steps," he adds, and continues: "On our way we passed by the Masjid Al-Ijaba, where the Prophet (pbuh) is said to have prayed to God..."

Writing about Jeddah in his "Travels," Ibn Jubayr says that "in it is a place having an ancient and lofty dome, which is said to have been the lodging place of Eve, the mother of mankind, — God's blessing upon her — when on her way to Makkah. This edifice was erected to illustrate its blessedness and excellence. God best knows concerning it." Ibn Al-Mujawir also describes the tomb as a place having a lofty dome. Al-Hamdani mentions the site in his "Sifat Jazirat Al-Arab" (Description of the Island of the Arabs). Mention of Eve also is made by Idrisi in his "Nuzhat Al-Mushtaq fi Ikhtiraq Al-Afaq" (The Delight of Those Who Seek to Wander Through the Regions of the World); in the words "it is there that her mortal remains are buried." In "Travels to the Coast of Arabia," published in 1788, the Western adventurer H. Rooke, wrote: "About a quarter of a mile north of the town is a white building called Eve's sepulcher, and they tell you that she was certainly buried there, and her grave is 20 feet in length, which they determine to have been the standard

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conjunction with Irfan Ahmed. See: [http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle\\_east/article358577.ece](http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/article358577.ece) also see: <http://www.savethehijaz.org/> which also regurgitates this simplistic propaganda.

height of mankind at that early period of the world; the two Arabic words Oumana Houa, signifying Eve, the mother of all, are inscribed on the building.” Ibn Jubayr goes on to mention that the city has “a blessed mosque attributed to ‘Umar ibn Al-Khattab — May God hold him in His favor — and another with two pillars of ebony wood, also attributed to him — May God hold him in His favor — though some attribute it to Harun Al-Rashid — May God have mercy on him.” It is said that in Makkah there are two houses related directly to the Prophet — the birthplace of the Prophet now is where the library is, and the house in which he lived with Lady Khadeeja. That is the house that is sometimes called the Lady Khadeeja House, sometimes called the birthplace of Fatima because she was born in that house, and all his children were born in that house. He lived for 18 years in that house and received the wahi (revelation) in that house on many occasions. In his book, “Mekka: In the Latter Part of the 19th Century,” author C. Snouk Hurgronje mentions the house of Abu Bakr, the house where Ali was born. He also mentions the “many yards long” grave of the Mother of Mankind. Hurgronje tells about the tomb of Maimunah, a wife of the Prophet, as being “on the road to Medina, half a day’s journey northwestward from Mekka.” There are many houses in which the Prophet and others used to gather, such as Dar Ul Arkam, which “one could say it to be the first school in Islam.” There are also many mosques related to the Prophet. **And there are natural locations, such as Mount Hira, Mount of Noor (Jabal Al-Noor) and the Mount of Mercy (Jabal Rahma). It was at a cave in Jabal Hira that the first wahi (revelation) came to the Prophet. “History of Makkah” and “History of Madinah,” two books prepared by a group of scholars under the supervision of Shaikh Saifur-Rahman Mubarakpuri, throw light on many such sites.** It was at Jabal Thawr, that the Prophet and Abu Bakr hid in a cave on their migration (Hijra) from Makkah to Madinah. The mosque in Mina, Masjid-Al-Khaif, is a place where Prophet Mohammed prayed during the Haj, and according to the marfu’ hadith (traceable) of Ibn Abbas 70 prophets prayed there. The Masjid At-Tani’im, also known as the Mosque of A’ishah — Ummul Mu’minin (mother of the believers) — is situated 7.5 kms from the Makkah Haram on the road from Makkah to Madinah. It is the place where she went to enter ihram for Umrah when the Prophet told her to do so during the Farewell Pilgrimage. Masjid Al-Ji’ranah is situated between Taif and Makkah, closer to Makkah. The Prophet stopped at that location on his way back from the campaign of Hunaian and entered Ihram from there. Masjid Al-Jinn (Mosque of the Jinn) is the place where Allah had commanded the Prophet to recite the Quran to the Jinn. It is on the edge of Al-Hajun. One finds mentioned in books, the houses of Abu Sufyan, Abdullah bin Abdul-Mutallib, and Ali bin Abi Talib in Makkah. The Quba Mosque in Madinah, the first mosque in the Holy City built by the Prophet after his migration there, had a well related to the Prophet. The other historical mosques in Madinah include Al-Ijabah Mosque, Al-Jumu’ah Mosque, Al-Qiblatain Mosque (Mosque of the Two Qiblahs), Masjid Al-Mustarah (Mosque of Banu Harithah), Al-Fath Mosque, Al-Miqat Mosque, Al-Musalla Mosque and Al-Fash Mosque. Al-Ijabah Mosque is also known as the Mosque of Banu

Mu'awiyah because of its location in the district of Banu Mu'awiyah from the Ansar. It is named Al-Ijabah because the Prophet supplicated Allah for three things, and had two prayers granted. The third was declined. The prayers granted were that the Ummah would not be destroyed by famine and by drowning. The third was about fighting among the people of the Ummah. The Al-Jumu'ah mosque is so called because the Prophet prayed at the location on the first Friday after he arrived in the village of Quba on his way to Madinah. It is also known by other names, such as Masjid Bani Salim, Masjid Al-Wadi (the Valley Mosque, because it is in the middle of the Valley of Ranuna), Masjid Al-Ghubaib and Masjid 'Atikah. Al-Qiblatain Mosque is so named because one prayer was offered therein facing two Qiblahs — Baitul-Maqdis (Jerusalem) and Bait Al-Haram (the Sacred House in Makkah). The Prophet was offering Zuhr (afternoon) prayers with his companions when he was commanded to face towards the Ka'aba. It is also known as Masjid Bani Salamah, because of its location in the village of Banu Salamah. The Mosque of Banu Harithah was built during the time of the Prophet, and the people of the Banu Harithah tribe used to pray there. It is reported that the Prophet also prayed there. Al-Fath Mosque is so called because Allah revealed to His Prophet the glad tidings of victory during the Battle of the Trench. It is located in the north of Madinah on a mountain called Sal'a. It is also known as the Mosque of the Confederates because the Prophet (pbuh) supplicated against the Confederates (of Quraish), saying: "O Allah! Vanquish the Confederates!" Jabir bin Abdullah narrated that the Prophet supplicated in Al-Fath Mosque three times — on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and he was answered on the Wednesday between the two prayers with the good news. Al-Miqat Mosque is so called because it is the miqat for the people of Madinah and is also known as the Mosque of Al-Ihram. The Prophet prayed therein and entered into a state of ihram from there. The mosque is also known as the Ash-Shajarah (the tree) Mosque, because it was built near a tree under which the Prophet used to rest. As is it located in Dhul-Hulaifah area, it is also called by that name. Al-Musalla Mosque is located southwest of the Prophet's Mosque. It is in a place that he used for Eid prayer, and was also called Maidan Al-Musalla. It has been confirmed that he performed the rain prayer in Maidan Al-Musalla. It is also known as Al-Ghamama Mosque because it is said that a cloud shaded him from the sun when he was performing the rain prayer. Al-Fash Mosque is a small mosque under the cave at Mount Uhud. It is reported that the Prophet performed Zuhr prayer sitting at its location after the fighting on the day of Uhud, because of the injuries sustained during the battle and the Muslims prayed sitting behind him. It was perhaps built by Umar bin Abdul Aziz during his governorship of Madinah. The structure is Ottoman. The Al Katibiyya mosque in Madinah is at least 300 something years old. Next to it is the grave of one of the sahaba who fought at Badr. There are many such places in the Kingdom, but they are concentrated around Makkah or Madinah or in-between. For

those looking for a new perspective — or a reminder of the old one — a little historical tourism might be in order over the next vacation time.<sup>45</sup>

In fact if Daniel Howden and Irfan Ahmed were really aware, and genuine enough to have adequately checked, they would have known what M. Ghazanfar Ali Khan reported in January 2005 for the *Arab News* in a very interesting article entitled '*Tighter Rules to Protect Heritage Sites*', way before their articles, that:

RIYADH, 2 January 2005 — **The government will impose tighter rules and restrictions in order to protect and restore rare architectural and heritage sites. The government, which is awaiting the final draft from the Shoura Council of the rules governing the tourism and heritage sector, is also discussing the option of penalizing people for the wanton destruction of rare historical sites or buildings in the country. This was revealed by Prince Sultan ibn Salman, secretary-general of the Supreme Commission for Tourism (SCT), at a press conference here yesterday. The conference was convened to announce the institution of an award for architectural heritage under the aegis of Al-Turath Foundation, a nonprofit organization established by Prince Sultan himself with a mandate to preserve antiquities.**<sup>46</sup> The briefing was also attended by Riyadh Mayor Prince Abdul Aziz ibn Muhammad ibn Ayyaf Al-Muqrin and Professor Saad Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid, deputy minister for antiquities. **Speaking about the destruction of some historical and Islamic sites in Saudi Arabia as reported in the past, Prince Sultan said: "We have gone through enough destruction in the past. We will not allow it any longer. In fact, the government is now committed to protecting the rare sites and buildings of archaeological and historical importance. The government has already allocated SR300 million for the restoration or, I may say, revival of the famous old Dirriyah historical village near the capital city."** At the moment, there are some 1,679 archaeological sites, 143 historical sites and 184 sites related to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). The sites have been documented by the SCT. Spelling out the details of the new prize, Prince Sultan said: "This award will help promote awareness about the architectural heritage and the importance of preserving it." The award — called "Prince Sultan ibn Salman Award for Architectural Heritage" — will be presented in three fields — research related to architectural heritage, use of architectural heritage in new designs and heritage restoration and rehabilitation. The prince said the award is the first initiative to generate greater awareness about the preservation of architectural sites and buildings. It will be given away every two years. Candidates interested in obtaining information on applying for the award should contact Al-Turath

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<sup>45</sup> See <http://www.arabnews.com/?page=21&section=0&article=90452&d=28&m=12&y=2006>

<sup>46</sup> Not to be confused with the Kuwaiti '*Thyaa Turaath*'

Foundation. The prince said: “The government is exerting more efforts to restore historical sites and recently we sent some 25 municipal officials to the Italian city of Tuscany on a week-long familiarization trip during which the officials learnt about how the Italians restored the old historical sites and even the whole ancient cities.” On the role of municipalities in ensuring protection for rare architectural sites, Prince Al-Ayyaf reaffirmed his commitment to work closely with Prince Sultan, saying that “new regulations to be announced soon will help to streamline this sector.” He said Al-Turath has been organizing cultural and educational activities that stress the importance of national heritage.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> <http://www.arabnews.com/?page=1&section=0&article=56929&d=2&m=1&y=2005>