

ZAKI BADAWI'S 'FATWA' CALLING FOR MUSLIM WOMEN TO TAKE OFF THE HIJAAB

This is regarding the ridiculous *'fatwa'* given by Dr Zaki Badawi, director of the *Muslim College of London* wherein he called for Muslim women to remove the *hijaab* if they are in fear.

It should be made clear that the diverse communities of London will not be forced to relinquish civil liberties, human rights and religious freedom due to violent and gutless actions and remarks from a small minority of ignorant, emotional and cowardly individuals.

Muslim women who are fearful after 7/7 should continue wearing their Islamic attire, holding onto their *deen*, as if holding onto hot coals. At the same time the sisters must be vigilant about their personal safety and report any incidents to the police, either directly or through their local mosque.

It is unacceptable however that any Muslim should live in fear and to change as a result, which is what Zaki Badawi calls for.

Allaah says in the Qur'aan,

“And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and protect their private parts and not to show off their adornment except that which is apparent and to draw their veils (Hijaab) over their bodies...”

{*an-Noor (24): 31*}

Ibn Katheer (*raheemahullaah*) stated about this verse that: **“this is command from Allaah to the Muslim women and His concern for the wives of His believing servants. It is also to distinguish the believing women from the women of *Jaahiliyyah* (pre-Islamic days of ignorance) and the actions of the idol-worshipping women.”**

So Allaah has ordered the Muslim women to cover themselves, and Zaki Badawi orders Muslim women *not* to cover themselves! We reject false interpretations of the Islamic texts from all extremes.

With regards to Muslims living in fear, as Muslims we have to continue on our *deen*, as if holding onto hot coals, as the Prophet Muhammad (*sallallaahu alayhi wassallam*) advised during times of difficulty. Allaah says,

“Do people think that they will be left alone because they say “We believe”, and will not be tested? And indeed We tested those who were before them so that Allaah will indeed know those who are true, and He will know those who are liars.”

{*al-‘Ankaboot: 2-3*}

Ibn Katheer stated about this noble verse: **“This is a rebuke in the form of a question, meaning that Allaah will inevitably test His believing servants according to their level of faith, as recorded in the authentic *hadeeth* “The people most severely tested are the Prophets, then the righteous, then the next best and the next best. A person will be tested according to the degree of faith the person has; the stronger the person’s *deen*, the stronger the test.”**”

This is not the first time Zaki Badawi has called for abandoning the *hijaab* and a number of years ago on Dutch TV he gave the same *'fatwa'* to Muslim women in Holland. Badawi is known for his distance from the Muslim community, his opposition to the recognised Muslims scholars of the *Sunnah* and his lack of connection to the Muslim youth. He demonstrated just how out of touch he was in the past by claiming that terrorist attacks “could never happen on British shores” this is the insight of Badawi!!¹

It is also known that other people who are associated to Badawi, in order to be “accepted” have adopted the appearance and scant attire of some non-Muslims all in order to attempt to “fit in” with them. As a result, a few years ago, a woman who associates herself to the teachings of Badawi wore a skirt without *hijaab* saying that she is “following the *'urf* (custom) of the people in England”!!²

It should be known that the *Salafees* in England have excellent relations with the wider community with many of the brothers and sisters in our community born and raised in England, having relatives and people that we

¹ Badawi studied in *al-Azhar University*, which has produced teachers who have made a number of erroneous judgements and statements. The likes of Yoosuf ibn Abdillaah al-Qaradaawee (who allows unity of religious beliefs, music, dancing, suicide bombings and a whole number of other evil actions under the false banner of “leniency”) graduated from *al-Azhar* along with 'Ali at-Tantaawee, Muhammad Ghazaalee and others. These have all been refuted by the Muslim scholars of the *Sunnah* in current era such as the former *Muftee* of Saudi Arabia, Shaykh Bin Baaz, Shaykh Muhammad Naasiruddeen al-Albaanee, Shaykh Muqbil ibn Haadee al-Waadi'ee (*raheemahumullaah*) and others refuting these scholars from *al-Azhar University* for their beliefs and methodologies.

² This is in itself false, as nuns are also from the “custom of the people of England” and they cover their hair! Furthermore, in the past it was the “custom” of women in England to also cover their hair and this was well known during the middle-ages.

know within the non-Muslim community. We still maintain relations with them and we do not need advice from Badawi or anyone else on how to do that, and furthermore we do not compromise our *deen* in order to be “accepted” as Badawi and his ilk desire.

Furthermore, Zaki Badawi, Tariq Ramadaan³ and those who follow them constantly call on Muslims in Europe to become “European Muslims” and their *manhaj* (methodology) is so inclusive, yet non-Muslims have still thrown their *manhaj* back at their faces, banning them from France and the US!!

There are many *Salafee* mosques in London, Luton and Birmingham that are excellent examples of mosques working in the community and maintaining admirable relations with non-Muslims,⁴ whether from their own families or in the wider community. We do not need any lessons on how to live as Muslims in the UK from those who are themselves confused.⁵

³ He is the Swiss-born grandson of the founder of *Ikhwaan ul-Muslimeen*, Hasan al-Banna. Tariq Ramadaan calls for “African Islam”, “European Islam” etc along with: feminism; re-shaping Islamic schools; abolishing the Divine Legislation of Allaah, and has invented a whole number of *baatil* principles allowing him to give *fatawaa*!

⁴ Such as the *Brixton Mosque (Masjid Ibn Taymeeyah)* and *Masjid us-Sunnah* in London; the *Call to Islam Education Centre (Masjid ul-Ghurabaa)* in Luton and the work of the *Salafee* brothers in Birmingham.

⁵ What has also emerged of late is a number of deviant Muslims who are out of touch with Muslims and Islaam, now suddenly claiming to be able to speak for and represent Muslims and the Muslim youth in the UK and advise them on how to live in Britain!! After the issue of the “shoe-bomber” *fitna* afflicted *Brixton Mosque*, the *Muslim Council of Britain* left a message at the Mosque saying “*keep your views to your own mosque*”. This was when the *Salafees* of Brixton were in the media openly warning against extremists and potential future suicide bombers. The *MCB* have now done a complete U-turn and are only now encouraging *all* mosques in Britain to warn against potential suicide bombers!!

The sister Na'ima B. Robert in her book *From My Sisters' Lips*⁶ explains her journey to Islaam from a Western and African background. She gives a superb example that flies in the face of the claims of Badawi who is attempting to tell Muslim women what to do. From her statements in her book:

- **“The first effect that the *hijab*, the headscarf, seemed to have on us was to encourage modesty – in dress and in conduct. After a life-time spent showing off our clothes and our bodies, we suddenly felt shy to flaunt ourselves in public. The *hijab* reminded us of the standards of behaviour that were expected of us as Muslims and, more specifically, as Muslim women. We became more aware of upholding Islamic manners – trying not to be rude or to lie, to be kind and generous.”⁷**
- **“It is easy to allow other people’s reactions to alter your personality while you are amongst them, making you withdrawn where you used to be outgoing, making you fearful where you were once brave, making you a shell of who you really are. This is something that, in this society, one has to consciously resist. I often feel, as a covered Muslim woman, I have so many attitudes to confront, so many false images to dispel.”⁸**

...And all praise is due to Allaah, *Lord of the Worlds*.

⁶ Bantam Press: 2005 CE

⁷ p. 144

⁸ p. 128 -129