

What Has The Grand Mufti Denounced?

Saudi Arabia's top Muslim cleric, Grand Mufti Sheik Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah al-Sheik, has **denounced terrorism**, declare the media triumphantly. But has he?

“Is it holy war to shed Muslim blood? Is it holy war to shed the blood of non-Muslims given sanctuary in Muslim lands? Is it holy war to destroy the possession of Muslims,” he said, adding that their actions gave enemies an excuse to criticise Muslim nations...

“Islam forbids all forms of injustice, killing without just cause, treachery ... hijacking of planes, boats and means of transportation. After all this, our religion is still described as terrorism?” he said.

What about shedding the blood of non-Muslims in non-Muslim lands? Is “sanctuary” the only status of non-Muslims in Muslim lands that protects them from having their blood legitimately spilled?

Do you need three guesses about whether he considers Tel Aviv to be “Muslim Land”?

The Grand Mufti's past rulings are hardly promising either. He has **denounced women** who go out in public and do business with men without **dressing** like a **pillar box**. He has participated in the suppression of those in the Saudi media who **oppose** Islamist incitement in Saudi schools and anyone else who **calls for reform**.

Just about the one group he has yet to denounce is the one that really is running his country at top speed towards the gates of hell.

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