

The Islamic Truth



Historical Viewpoint of the Chechen War

Muslims will never forget their obligation to re-establish the Islamic State (Khilafah). Are we all playing our part?



Chechnya: the victims of a deal between Russia and America

Chechnya is part of the Caucasus region. It is a region situated between Caspian Sea and the Black Sea. Today the Caucasus comprises of all these countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia (and these represent the southern Caucasus which has been independent from Russia since the disintegration

of the Soviet Union in 1991). And Chechnya, Dagestan, North Ossetia, Ingushetia and Circassia. These areas represent north Caucasus which Russia considers to be part of the Soviet Union and subject to the authority of Moscow. So is it correct that the northern Caucasus is Russian land or is it that the Russians occupied it and subjugated its inhabitants and they continue to do so through oppression, expulsion and force of arms?

The presages of Islam reached the lands of the Caucasus towards the end of the reign of Khalifah 'Umar b. al-Khattab (r.a.) when he dispatched the armies of conquest to these lands. And the greater part of it became a part of the Islamic homeland (dar al-Islam) during the reign of Caliph 'Uthman (r.a.). During the Umayyad Khilafah the whole of the Caucasus, due to the conquests of Maslamah b. 'Abd al-Malik, became part of the Islamic lands. And it remained like this until the Abbasid Khilafah. The inhabitants of these lands entered into the fold of the deen of Islam and they began to carry the Islamic Call to the people. During the Abbasid Khilafah it happened that the Mongols attacked the Caucasus and occupied it and worked to destroy it. But something happened which was beyond their expectation: The Muslims of the Caucasus started to convey the Islamic da'wa to the occupying Mongol army. And so the Mongols embraced Islam in 1256 CE and they became the guardians of the Islamic civilisation. And the authority of Islam extended to Russia, Siberia and Moscow itself. It was, indeed, an amazing phenomenon: an army which had occupied lands to destroy them and control them. But what happened was that the deen of Islam occupied the hearts and minds of those soldiers. And the bonds of friendship and affection strengthened between the conquerors and the conquered. And the conquerors became students who followed the peoples they have just conquered. That is because the deen of Islam is the deen of fitra (ie it accords with the human disposition). And because the Muslims carry the Da'wa in obedience to Allah (swt), wishing to guide the people and not to colonise them or exploit them. And this is their nature whether they are mujahidin opening up lands or they are conquered and defeated, or if they are merchants travelling from place to place.

Then in 1578 CE the Ottoman Khilafah came to control the Caucasus (For a period of time Azerbaijan left Ottoman influence and came under the influence of the Safavid state in Iran). In 1722 CE the Russia Tsar Peter the Great launched an attack on the Caucasus and occupied a part of it at a time when the Ottoman Khilafah was preoccupied with wars in central Europe and so was unable to protect the Caucasus and Central Asia. However, the people of the Caucasus reverted and rose up against Russian occupation, they were assisted in this by the Safavid state. And in 1735 CE they were able to drive out the Russians. But the Tsars returned and occupied vast areas of the Caucasus. However, the people of these lands always rejected the Russian occupation and they staged armed revolts against them. Ash-Sheikh Mansur ash-Shishani led a violent war against the Russians between 1785 CE and 1794 CE. They used to call it the 'war of holy Jihad'. Thereafter al-Imam al-Ghazi Mawlay Muhammad headed a war against the Russian occupiers from 1824 CE to 1832 CE. Then Imam Shamil led continuous battles against the Russians between 1832 CE and 1859 CE. After the arrest and subsequent expulsion of Imam Shamil the revolt continued under the leadership of the Chechen 'Awmaduyev', and under the movement of 'Tabi Adayev', the movement of 'Zilmayev', the movement of the Chechen leader 'Ali Bek Haji

whose movement the Russians wiped out and then they executed him in Grozni in 1878 CE. The Russians tried to divert the Muslims away from political action and Jihad and direct them towards Sufi orders which gave vent to the zeal and enthusiasm of the Muslims in corners and zikr circles. But this was of no advantage to the Russians. Since all the Muslims, sufis or otherwise, used to rush, at every opportunity, to fight the Russians, the kafir aggressors.

And thus we see that the land of the Caucasus was conquered by the Muslims during the period of Khalifah 'Uthman b. al-'Affan. And the majority of its inhabitants entered in the fold of Islam. And it became part of the Islamic lands. It did not go back to the Russians except for only short periods. The people of these lands used to severely oppose the Russians whether during the time of the Tsars or the Communist era. Even Stalin in 1944 started burning, killing and forced expelling of the Chechen people and those around them to Siberia, Kazakhstan and other places under the pretext that they were helping the Germans and not loyal to Russia. They remained displaced until 1957 when khrushchev agreed to let them return to their lands.

Immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the liberation of many states under its rule in central Asia, the Caucasus and the Baltic countries. The Chechens found their golden opportunity to liberate themselves from Russian subordination. So they declared, under the leadership of Johar Dudayev, their independence from Russia in 11/11/1991. Not a single country in the world recognised this independence. The dispute and conflict between Russia and Chechnya continued until Russia started a war against Chechnya to quash this independence. This war went on for 21 months from 11/12/1994 to 21/8/1996. The Russian army suffered heavy losses of lives and equipment and Chechnya achieved a spectacular victory which startled the people of the world. Russia was forced to sign an agreement in 31/8/1996 (it was signed by General Alexander Lebed) and then sign a peace treaty in 12/5/1997 which was signed by Yeltsin the president of Russia for the Russian side and by Aslan Maskhadov the president of Chechnya for the Chechen side. The treaty stipulated the building of relationships between the two countries according to international law and that it would not be allowed to use arms or threats to solve any conflicts between the two countries. The treaty did not stipulate that Chechnya should remain part of Russia or be independent. But the treaty did recognise the agreement of 31/8/96 which provides that a popular referendum should be held in Chechnya in 31/12/2001 to determine the fate of its independence. Chechnya came to conduct itself as a de facto independent state. And the world came to deal with it as an actual independent state.

News were reported about Alexander Lebed and other Russian leaders that they, before agreeing to the agreement clauses with Chechnya, plotted a dangerous thing regarding Chechnya. They planned to cause a civil war within Chechnya on the example of the civil war which took place within Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the Russian forces there in 1994. Since the signing of the agreement the Russians have proceeded to execute their plans. They began working on a number of fronts: On the front of News were reported about Alexander Lebed and other Russian leaders that they, before agreeing to the agreement clauses with Chechnya, plotted a dangerous thing regarding Chechnya. They planned to cause a civil war within Chechnya on the example of the civil war which took place within Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the Russian forces there in 1994. Since the signing of the agreement the Russians have proceeded to execute their plans. They began working on a number of fronts: On the front of scheming and sowing the seeds of discord between those of a sufi orientation and those of a salafi orientation. On the front of neutralising the super powers, the first of which is America, and at the front of presenting the people of Chechnya as terrorists linked to international terrorism.

As for the front of scheming between the Sufis and Salafis, they have made it easy (for the Salafis) to obtain money and possess weapons and train themselves so that they form a force which aims to seize authority. And alongside this authority has been handed over to the Sufi movement which represents the great majority in that country. Chechnya has come to the verge of plunging into a civil war.

As for the front of neutralising the super powers at the head of which is America. We have noticed that in the great shift in the stance of those states regarding Russia's war against Chechnya in the period of 1994 - 1996 and the present Russian war against Chechnya which she began in August 1999 and still continues and increases in brutality, killing, destruction and displacement. Previously the western media condemned the Russian aggression and praised the bravery of the people of Chechnya. Today, this same media is silent. And if they do say anything it is a dead word only to remove the blame from themselves and regarding the civilians. Previously, the Muslim's rulers, among them the Arab rulers (who themselves are agents

of America or other western countries) were vying to support the Chechen people in the media, collection of funds, and helping the arrival of volunteers. As for now those rulers are renouncing their help to the people of Chechnya.

When Putin, the Russian prime minister, went to meet Clinton in Oslo in 1/11/99 some observers expected that Clinton will put pressure on him to stop the war. But upon his return to Moscow and meeting with Yeltsin, the Russian President, a statement was issued from the Russian defence minister Marshal Sergaiyev; 'the armed forces are planning to liberate Grozni and all the Chechen territories from the terrorists'. He stressed that this task 'has been placed before us by the president'. We have noticed in the OSCE conference (Organisation for the security and cooperation in Europe) which was held in Istanbul during 18-19/11/99 that they did not direct any criticism towards Russia for her brutality in Chechnya. On the contrary, it was Yeltsin who was criticising and challenging them. He announced that the war will continue until terrorism was completely eliminated. And he refused to negotiate with anyone in Chechnya. With this he broke the agreement of 1997 with Chechnya. We also observed the continuation of loans paid to Russia by the International Monetary Fund.

But what made America change her stance towards the current Russian war against Chechnya from what previously Russia had undertaken during 1994 - 1996?

The 'New York Times' published on 19/11/99 that the Russian foreign minister Igor Ivanov handed in an unofficial letter to the American secretary of state Madeleine Albright during their meeting in Turkey on 18/11/99 which included the proposal of a 'deal' where the US will overlook the Russian military operations in Chechnya in return for; 'we are ready to issue instructions to the Russian delegate in the Security Council so that he will be flexible regarding the issue of Iraq'. The director of the 'peace institute' in Moscow Alexander Kisilov: 'This mutual understanding means 'a relative backing down of the Kremlin's hard stance towards the issue of Iraq and Yugoslavia in return for stopping the American administration from applying any strong pressure on Russia for the issue of Chechnya, scandalous smuggling and cleaning out of funds'. Rachel Bronson, an American expert on security matters in the Caucasus said in 18/11/99 that she commends the American stance which endeavours to prevent the issue of Chechnya from becoming an obstacle to cooperation with Russia on the expense of other issues which are 'more important' like nuclear disarmament, Iraq and the question of reform and stability in Russia.

Thus, there is a deal between Russia and America. The deal began with the submission of a paper by Ivanov to Albright in 18/11/99, but it had been obtained verbally before that. On 18/11/99 it was presented in writing, though in an unofficial manner. We think that Russia's silence over the agreement to extend the oil and gas pipelines from Azerbaijan to the Turkish port of Cihan is part of this deal.

Let us not forget that the policy of America towards Russia is to keep it as a powerful state which could stand in the face of China on the one hand and continue to form a threat to the European states. This is the threat which America uses to retain NATO and keep her control over Europe under the pretext of protecting her from the Russian threat.

In order to stop the support coming to Chechnya from the Islamic countries the Russian foreign ministry has sent delegations to various Islamic countries, both Arab and non-Arab, to explain to them that she is only against terrorism and terrorists. The positive response of the rulers to Russia was beyond the reasonable extent. Even the Prime minister of Turkey Ecevit undertook a visit to Moscow in 5/11/99 and announced there that the question of Chechnya is an internal matter which concerns Russia. And that it is ready to cooperate with Russia to destroy terrorism. Which indicates that the masters of those rulers (especially America) had given instructions to those agent rulers to take this stance.

As for the front of depicting the people of Chechnya as terrorists linked to international terrorism. Armed groups since the beginning of July 99 took control of a number of villages in west Dagestan (which is adjacent to Chechnya) and separated it from the authority in Dagestan and announced that they wish to control all of Dagestan and many other areas in the Cauca-



Russian soldiers cover the bodies of shaheed Islamic Mujahdeen at positions near the village of Mayetup, some 30 kilometers (18.6 miles) south east of the regional capital Grozny. Where are the Muslim Armies?

sus in order to establish there an Islamic state. Many people had sympathy for them because Muslims want the implementation of Islam and support anyone working for Islam. Russia depicted those armed men as fundamentalist salafis who have come from Chechnya. They have training camps in Dagestan as well as Chechnya. And they wish to seize power in the whole region. And they want to ban other religious sects, especially the Sufi orders. And they wish to spread terrorism in the region and in the world. The Russian media began to circulate the news that Ibn Ladin is the one who is giving them millions of dollars and that he is sending them weapons and fighters from Afghanistan etc.

Then in September 99 a series of bombings in residential buildings in Moscow and other places in Russia took place, whose victims reached several hundred dead and thousands injured. The Russian media blamed the people of Chechnya and those sympathetic to them from Dagestan. The names: Ibn Ladin, Basayev, Khattab and the bloody terrorism against civilians etc became repeatedly mentioned in the media.

So who is behind the control of these villages in the west of Dagestan? And who are behind those explosions in Russia?

Numerous evidences have emerged pointing to the Russians themselves as being responsible for the bombings, they are the ones behind all of this. As regards the control of those villages in Dagestan, the ones appearing on the scene are Shamil Basayev and Khattab and their men. These two are military men, they do not have any acquaintance or experience in politics and added to this if this policy was to establish an Islamic state in a place which does not have the essential components of this state and which is surrounded by group of powerful states which are hostile to Islam! There must be a side which has lead those fighters on and made them fall prey to political traps which they have not mastered. This side is not Saudi Arabia or America because, at this time, both have abandoned giving assistance to Basayev and Chechnya. As for the explosions, both Basayev and Khattab have stated that they had nothing to do with this. And that such acts of terrorism of killing women, children and the elderly is prohibited by Islam. In a press conference in Grozny on 13/9/99 Basayev rejected that he personally or the field leader who is Arab in origin were behind the recent explosions. He mentioned that 'the mujahidin reject such methods' and he repeated the denial a number of times. Similarly, Khattab repeatedly denied this. The papers in 30/9/99 reported a statement from him when he was asked; 'What do you have to say about the accusations levelled at you and Shamil Basayev that you were behind the explosions in Moscow? He replied: ' We as Muslims and Mujahidin only fight kafir soldiers. It is not allowed for us to kill women and children. This is part of our religion'.

From this and other statements it seems clear to us that it was sections of the Russian government which planned for this in order to realise their objectives. Basayev and Khattab have fallen in this Russian trap. It seems obvious to us also that those Russian sides (of the government) were the ones who arranged the series of bombings in urban apartments. Those sides realised a number of objectives;

- a) Creating a justification, especially internally, to plunge into a new war in order to resolve the problem of Chechnya in the interests of Russia. Russia was planning before the 1997 agreement with Chechnya to bring about a civil war in Chechnya between the Salafis and Sufis. But she found that it was a better option for her to occupy Chechnya again herself. So she sought to avenge her honour that was humiliated following the defeat in the war of 94-96. Also knowing full well that the generals of the Russian army were very insistent on pursuing the war until the occupation of Grozny and the whole of Chechnya. They threatened to resign if an order were to come for stopping the war. They claimed that stopping the war would be a cause in the outbreak of civil war within Russia itself. With this, the path to (future) rebellion and independence that some republics of the Russian federation were considering was blocked. And she will arrange the referendum result regarding Chechen independence according to their own whims.
- b) resolve internal power struggles. Since the one who was able to secure victory in Chechnya and restore the prestige and respect to the Russian army, he will be able to hold onto the reigns of power in a strong manner. The newspaper 'Moscowvicky komustumus' had mentioned in 15/9/99 that the billionaire Zhirinovsky is working on his part to install general Alexander Lebed as a military ruler or prime minister. The official spokesman in the Kremlin denied any intention to change the prime minister though the editor-in-chief of the paper Ghuseph in 14/9/99 stressed that Zhirinovsky is the 'evil mind' who is inciting events.

On 16/9/99 Zhirinovsky said about former prime ministers: Primakov and Stibashin and those responsible for security and intelligence apparatus that they are 'traitors'.

For how long will the Muslims continue to be slaughtered so that deals between states can be con-

cluded. And for how long will the Muslim's rulers remain as mere tools and even traitors conspiring with the kuffar against their own people?!

Indeed, it causes us great sadness and pain that the nations are feasting on the Muslims in their own lands by killing, torture and violation of sanctities and honour without the armies of the Muslims moving to help them. Rather, even the statements of denunciation and rejection the rulers in the Muslim's countries used to make before, now they dare not even mention them.

Even though the cries of the Muslims in Chechnya has reached the ears of the traitorous rulers in the Muslim countries, it has not touched the sense of honour of al-Mu'tasim. There is no Khalifah for the Muslims who will announce the general call to arms and dispatch the army to aid them and take revenge for the elderly, women and children by giving them such a beating that will make the Russians ignore the whispers Shaytan, and which will return the Muslims to the greatness, dignity and honour of Islam.

'Verily, Allah will accomplish His purpose. Indeed Allah has set a measure for all things' [At-Talaq:3]



CHANNEL 4 JOIN CRUSADE AGAINST MUSLIMS

Channel 4 Special Dispatch's program entitled 'Kill or be Killed' was yet another unmitigated attack against Islam and Muslims. In it, the would-be objective reporter Deborah Davies managed to dig up all the old stereotypes of Muslims being blood-thirsty terrorists and extremists intent on killing everyone, even innocent men, women and children, in order to propagate their religion. Not content to portray certain leaders within the Muslim community as villains the program went as far as to completely fabricate a speech given by Sheikh Abu Hamza, Imam of Finsbury Park Mosque, in which he is reported to have called for the killing of innocent civilians in the UK.

Despite this rhetoric which is almost characteristic of the British Media, who evidently have no thirst for the truth but rather an insatiable thirst for sensationalism and distortion of reality in order to gain viewing figures, Islam still remains the fastest growing ideology in the West and especially among young British women. The reality is that it is the efforts of Leaders and scholars within the Muslim community such as Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad (the Amir of Al-Muhajiroun and Judge of The Shari'ah Court of The UK) who have laid down the seeds for an intellectual revolution in Britain by presenting Islam not as the traditional perception of it as a fanatic dogmatic doctrine closed to discourse and debate but rather as an alternative system of life which caters for all of mankind's basic needs and which protected the life, belief, honour, mind and wealth of most of mankind for over 1300 years.

In fact the holding of a conference at the Royal Albert Hall on the 19th of September entitled 'The Citizen of The Khilafah' was intended to highlight how life could potentially be like for millions of British Citizens if Islam was implemented as a ruling, economic, social and judicial system and how Islam, far from being anti-life is very much pro-life in that everyone, no matter if they are Muslim or non-Muslim, will be treated equally under the law, with the same rights to welfare and protection etc...

To add insult to injury the program makers at Channel 4 decided to go to a wholly unrepresentative Sufi sect for comments on Islamic movements they know very little or nothing about seeing as they spend most if not all of their time in remembrance of Allah within the confines of a mosque with absolutely no interaction with the society at large! If instead they had sought to seek the opinion of any qualified Islamic scholar (which incidentally excludes those paid to remain silent by Saudi Arabia) they would have found that the quotes which are verified as coming from Sheikh Omar, for example, such as that it is an obligation for every Muslim male to train for Jihad and that it is also an obligation for all Muslims to engage in Jihad to defend their land have a firm foundation in the Qur'an and the Sayings and actions of the Messenger Muhammad (saw).

It is indeed unfortunate that an opportunity to clarify some of the misconceptions held by the British public instead of being removed were enforced by this pathetic attempt at objective journalism. Specially insensitive to the feelings and emotions of the Muslim community in Britain was the airing of this program just after news that 8 innocent Muslims were meted out prison sentences in Yemen for alleged crimes they never committed upon evidence of confessions beaten out of them. Not only were Muslim leaders in Britain linked to those

alleged crimes but it was taken as fact that the Muslims abroad had committed the crimes they were accused of despite their protestations of innocence and torture. The double standards and complicity of both the media and the British government, when compared to the treatment of other cases such as that of the two British nurses in Saudi Arabia is glaringly obvious for all to see.

However the Muslim community will not be cajoled into remaining silent at the oppression of governments both here in the West and elsewhere in the world no matter how their activities are portrayed and no matter what they suffer in terms of insult or injury, for we as Muslims have a firm conviction to carry the truth from our Lord and to spread Islam and the re-establishment of the Islamic State is an inevitability for which every muslim is obliged to work for, which in return God will grant us eternal paradise, Insha'Allah (God willing).

May Allah (swt) protect us all from the conspiracies of the Kuffar and guide us all to the truth and justice of Islam.



Did You Know

Who should Muslims give their Zakah to?

In the absence of the Islamic State (Khilafah) every Muslim is obliged to pay his/her *Zakah* directly to the categories which have been mentioned in the verse [EMQ 9:60] to the genuine collectors i.e. *Al-'aamileen A'Iiyha* because the cause of their existence is the existence of the Islamic state and the cause of their absence is the absence of the Islamic State. However *Zakah* is a delegatable duty which means that it is allowed to delegate an individual Muslim to pay it on behalf of you to those who are eligible as long as they are not charitable or political organisations involved in collecting *Zakah* as their duty, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, because their existence is prohibited.

Muslims have been commanded by Allah(swt) to give *Zakah* to those mentioned in the verse [EMQ 9:60] to the genuine collectors appointed by the Khaleef - this was implemented by Muhammad(saw) and is part of the Economic system in Islam. *Zakah* cannot be used to directly build Mosques, Hospitals or any State Institutions. Organisations such as **Muslim Aid** or **Islamic Relief** that ask for *Zakah* for needy causes and use any part of it on themselves are not authorised by Allah(swt) or Muhammad(saw) to collect and distribute *Zakah*. This would mean that it is a sinful act to give or assist these organisations. This leads to the question: Who are authorised to collect the *Zakah* in the absence of the Islamic state?

All major scholars of the world today are agreed today that to give Zakah to the Mujahideen is one of the best forms of Zakah. Muslims in the West give hundreds of thousands of pounds of *Zakah* money every year to relief organisations, many of which take a healthy cut for unnecessary administrative expenditure. To cite an example of priorities, once Ibn Taymiyyah (a very famous scholar who lived in the 13th Century Christian Era) was asked by some people who had the choice between donating their money to either the starving refugees or the Mujahideen. His reply was, "If you do not give it to the starving refugees, then you risk losing these refugees who may die by the Will of Allah. However, if you do not give it to the Mujahideen, then you risk losing not only those Mujahideen, but the refugees they are protecting AS WELL and the Deen of Islam." [Fatawaa_AI-Kubaraa_4/608] Because Mujahideen fight for the supremacy and existence of Islam on this Earth, if they were not there, then there would be no more Muslims left as they would all have been killed by the enemies of Islam.



Local Events - Increase your Aqeeda!

Al-Muhajiroun at Regent Park Mosque, London - Circles every Friday, Saturday and Sunday before Tarawih For information on other events in your local area, please call 07970 059 709. Further listing of events will be published in the next issue of *The Islamic Truth*.