



## JIHAD IS THE ISLAMIC SOLUTION TO WESTERN AGGRESSION IN IRAQ

The bombings and economic sanctions against Iraq reflect the political realities of an Imperialistic order. The more powerful capitalist nations dictate relationships of power and define the terms of political debate in such a way that hypocritically legitimises naked aggression. Thousands of innocent Muslims in Iraq have had to pay the heavy price of poverty, starvation, homelessness, malnutrition and death for the crimes of a dictator -with whom they have no political allegiance, and for the vested imperialistic interests of western nations who use their military leverage to bring incalculable misery to the already oppressed Muslims in Iraq. Clinton and Blair both stated that they have no problem with the people of Iraq but with Saddam Hussain, why then bomb Iraq when the only people that have suffered are the innocent Muslims whilst Saddam Hussain remains unscathed?

Most Members of Parliament slavishly endorsed Clinton's perverted logic of justifying the bombings on Iraq, but the odour of imperialistic arrogance was too much for some on the traditional left to ignore- namely Tony Benn. In raising the disquieting facts that the bombings will inflict suffering only on the innocent Muslims in Iraq (which they have), and the double standards of America in allowing Israel to go unpunished for continuously violating 'International law' and yet bombing Iraq in reference to similar international laws; Tony Benn managed to expose the sheer immorality and hypocrisy at the root of the whole affair. Yet clinically dissecting as his exposition may have been, it was expressed in terms of a socialist humanism that should not be mistaken as an expression of a sincere concern for the interests of Islam or Muslims. In as much as Benn's protestations were and continue to be a stand against western hypocrisy, it should be borne in mind that Benn's ideological leanings inevitably involve a repudiation of the fundamental principles of an Islamic state-especially if it was to be established in the heart of Europe.

What is even more problematic is that the values, morals and norms that Benn and his like-minded associates appeal to are all interwoven in the secularised thinking of modern political discourse that is responsible for so many of the conflicts, wars and upheavals of the twentieth century. The ideological nuances of 'democracy', 'human rights', 'morality', 'equality' and 'freedom', means that the very same concepts can be used to legitimise contradictory judgements and action. After all, Clinton and Tony Blair employed the same kind of political and moralistic language to justify the bombings as Benn used to condemn them! So whilst the factual account of western imperialism given by Benn is pretty much accurate, the moral and political stance against it is governed by the same kind of convoluted politics.

Secular notions of human rights are too morally ambivalent and intellectually insecure to make a stand against the violation of human life; it is only Islam that can give dignity, security and protect the interests of the Muslim ummah by demanding an unrelenting Jihad against the forces of oppression and by establishing the sovereignty of divine guidance on earth. Muslims must therefore be weary that the real path for them is to support the global Islamic movement that relies only on divine guidance and not become enthused by people whose real interests do not lie with Islam and the Muslims.

None of the regimes in the Muslim world have any political legitimacy in the eyes of Islam. Despite the fact that the Iraqi regime makes constant use of Islamic rhetoric, it is not rooted in any Islamic political criteria. The Islamic political system (Khilafah) guarantees political accountability, civil and political rights on an equal footing to all citizens and an independent judicial system that does not discriminate against anyone. It is not Islam that is the cause of state oppression in Iraq but the lethal mix of the power hungry ambitions of the West and the tyranny of Iraqi State power. Islam, as a comprehensive way of life that emanates from the authenticity of divine guidance, can stop the ongoing dehumanisation of man, and those that

are sincerely concerned and shocked by the suffering of human beings all across the world need not go any further than to investigate the validity of Islam.