

Farzana Hassan ,Toronto SUN

23rd May 2013

Gruesome sharia murder in London

The pervasive misogyny and segregation of women, the pursuit of jihad, the insistence on prayer halls in public spaces are all part of sharia in action

The latest Islamist murder in London was a public execution, and its details too gruesome to dwell on. Prime Minister David Cameron has rightly called it a terrorist incident. The Islam of these ferocious young jihadists turned into a grisly reality show. The butchers lingered, determined to get their 15 minutes of media infamy.

Inspired by the most hateful of contemporary ideologies, the two suspects shouted "Allaho Akbar as they slaughtered the unfortunate young victim, a British soldier, near his army barracks.

The suspects also brought their depraved misogyny to this horrific scene: Slaughtering him was apparently their sacred duty, but it would be haram (forbidden) for any woman to touch him. The two men hacked him to death with cleavers. Such is sharia in its most hateful form.

The 2003-2005 controversy here in Ontario was all about accepting certain sharia provisions as a parallel legal system. But people who consider sharia defeated simply because it has no legal recognition are completely wrong. It already exists in the West, whether it is recognized legally or not.

Sharia is in fact rampant. In effect, it thrives informally among conservative Muslims in Western society and need not be formally inducted here as a legal code. It is being practiced in honour killings and in the patriarchy often seen in Muslim communities. It is active in the many radical mosques and websites where deranged killers like the two British suspects probably honed their Islam. Enraged jihadi men spurn all legal and moral codes because they feel they are answerable only to the concept of Allah which their radical imams have sold them.

Whether Western nations give sharia official status as a legal code barely matters. According to Islamists, sharia is valid regardless of whether it is recognized as the law of the land. Therefore, the pervasive misogyny and segregation of women, the pursuit of jihad, the insistence on prayer halls in public spaces are all part of sharia in action.

So is this London murder. Indoctrination into sharia was evident as the two suspects shouted: "This is God's will!" With blood in their eyes, such perpetrators of jihadi violence seek only to obliterate anything they think contradicts Islamic precepts.

Moderate Muslims will, of course, insist that sharia involves only mundane daily duties of a Muslim, like eating halal foods and washing properly. Yet violent jihad is also part of sharia. Beheadings in the name of Islam too have historical precedent.

Polite explanations for Islamist excesses have run their course. Western societies must do more to combat the cruel manifestations of sharia and jihad. The West's pluralism is its Achilles' heel. Its inclusiveness and multiculturalism are weak in comparison to the deadly absolutism of the Islamists.

Some say a Muslim reformation is possible. If that is true, the first thing that must be discarded is the outlandish “narrative” that sees Muslims as victims of the West. The Boston bombers accepted it, and so apparently did the London butchers; one of them said to onlookers: “In our land our women have to see the same.”

Yes, innocent people are mistakenly killed in Muslim countries by Western forces who are fighting those who seek to oppress them. Using this as a basis for attacks on Western targets is irrational and pernicious. Most Muslims could never be terrorists, but even the moderates who accept this narrative of Muslim victimization are part of the problem, however peaceful they claim to be.