

Who is the first Emir of Muslim Forces and what are his thoughts

WE HAVE TO BECOME ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS

What was the reason for forming the Muslim Forces? – Why do we have to be Islamic fundamentalists? – Cases of Karamat, unexplained phenomenon – Which Takbir will bring fear into the enemy's heart, and which will not? – Will the Mujahedeens return?

How many people in Bosnia and Travnik are familiar with the fact that the famous Muslim Forces were founded in the khanquah of Travnik dervishes on 10th May 1992, and that the first Emir (elder) was Ahmed effendi Adilović? We are wondering, why are Muslim Forces something so special?

The answer is clear: numerous Muslim men of faith, especially the younger ones, had a wish to contribute to the defence of their homeland and, at the same time, not to diminish their religious principles; since they could not achieve this in the TO², a special unit was formed – Muslim Forces. Another, and probably the most important reason was: to allow Muslims to confirm their existence and return to their roots – the Islamic religion and the Islamic tradition.

Although they have been known as the 7th Muslim Brigade of the Army of BiH since 21st November 1992, people are still calling them the Muslim Forces. And not without a reason: Muslim people felt that they really were actual Muslim force, while the enemies of our nation are calling

Their goal does not have a price

When Mujahedeens started arriving from the Arab world, I was asked to introduce them as foreign mercenaries, which I never did since they came here to defend their brothers in faith by sacrificing their own lives. There are wonderful examples which confirm the greatness of their intentions: Zuheir Ebu Enes left four children and his wife in Mecca near Kaaba, where he had worked as an interpreter, earned a salary worth 7.000 dollars and had an opportunity to pray Salah near Kaaba – where one Salah is worth thousands of Salahs in other places. He left all of that to leave to Bosnia so he could take part in Jihad and defend Muslims. It was Allah's way for him to get killed as a Shaheed in the battles near Ilijaš.

So, who could call such people mercenaries!

them fundamentalists, extremist, the green ones and many other names that are supposed to compromise them and arise aversion. Still, Ahmed effendi Adilović is the first one to say without any doubt: "WE HAVE TO BECOME MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALISTS!"

How come – we are wondering, used to the fact that we have to renounce it, since people believe being a fundamentalist means being regressive, reactionary, and even dangerous? So, how wrong were we while accepting this cunningly clever propaganda coup of Christians and anti-Muslims?

Very wrong, according to effendi Adilović and, as he explains:

We have fallen for their lies

Islamic fundamentalism is the ground on which Muslim Bosniaks have to stand firmly. Quran and Hadith are our foundation; they are the grounds on which we should build our life and

¹ Translator's note: translation of the original magazine's title is Travnik Lillies

² t/n: abbreviation for Territorial Defence

perspective. Islam's and Muslim's enemies subtly anathematized that word by giving it a negative omen; what they actually wanted was to separate us from our roots, religion and tradition. By destroying this fundament, they are achieving their goal – the annihilation of Muslims and their final expelling from this region. So, when this platitude got washed-up, they found a new one – even more senseless – extreme fundamentalism. This does not exist. If someone is using wrong methods, pressure and persuasion to try to ensure formal obeying to religious Islamic principles, that person is making a mistake, for Islam does not support coercion and not even these mistakes could be called extreme fundamentalism.

Since Islam is our ground – our fundament and our salvation, it is utterly natural to accept the fact that we are Islamic fundamentalists with joy – for the ones who are not Islamic fundamentalists are not true believers.

Fortunately, there were some people – one of which is our interviewee – who understood the core of this war on time and who found the modus of the survival for Muslims. Returning to roots, the unity of Muslims through Islam and Islamic tradition – it is the modus vivendi for Muslims.

For this reason, the main principle in the Muslim Forces is strict compliance to Islam and Islamic principles of life.

Ahmed effendi Adilović explains that the criteria for entering the Muslim Forces were very rigorous. So were the sanctions for the unit members who did not stick to those criteria. To illustrate, a person who was just starting to consume alcohol was sentenced to 15 days in military prison and the person could never again be a member of this unit.

Takbir and Karamat

Those strict Islamic criteria, as well the sanctions, secured the pureness among members of the Muslim Forces, for it is well known that Allah gives strength and victory only to those soldiers who fight with pure heart and genuine intention on His path. And for as long as the Muslim Forces consisted of only those, spiritually clean soldiers, the results were fantastic. During that period, cases of Karamat were noticed – those were strange events that Allah used to confirm to His soldiers that they were on the right path. The following two examples, among countless more, confirm that members of Travnik unit were on the Allah's path: while they were praying Salah during a bombardment, four grenades fell in their vicinity and none of them exploded. Next, the body of Armin Kovač, a soldier who had gotten killed near Visoko, was transported to Travnik one month after he was killed. Only Allah's miracle can be the explanation for the fact that Armin's body was not changed at all. It even had a pleasant odour that could be noticed by anyone who approached his body.

[photograph of Ahmed effendi Adilović]

Ahmed effendi Adilović was born in Travnik in 1964. He completed the religious education – a madrasah and the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Sarajevo. When the war broke out, he was an Imam in the Šarena Džamija. Even before the formal beginning of war, he was engaged in creating a special military unit – Muslim Forces – hence he is considered to be one of its founders – together with several more people. He is currently acting morale commandant assistant of the informative and propaganda activities and military police of the 7th Muslim Brigade of the Army of BiH.

Only true soldiers on Allah's path can beat the enemy with Takbirs, for Takbir makes the enemy terrified only when it is told by the pure hearted, true soldier. It has been repeatedly confirmed that

Ustahas³ and Chetniks⁴ ran away in panic after hearing Takbir spoken from the mouth of pure hearted soldiers.

One form of Allah's mercy

The first three towns in this region that were relatively easily freed from aggressor were the municipalities that had their own battalions of the Muslim Forces: Travnik, Zenica and Kakanj. We consider it to be a form of Allah's mercy that He is giving to us.

Making the Army of BiH and the 7th Muslim Brigade massive was something inevitable. However, it led to people with questionable moral and dishonest religious qualities to infiltrate in those lines. Those people, who did not come to our lines with pure intentions, disrupted the combat quality and contaminated the moral pureness. That is the reason why there is less and less Karamat, and the Takbir no longer has the real effect, says effendi Adilović.

So, what should be done?

We will cleanse our lines

Our lines have to be cleared out of the ones not deserving to be among us. A commission consisting of four members has been formed. Its duty is to reassess the overall state in the Brigade and remove the ones who do not belong to our unit. Discipline has deteriorated since the emphasis is on the quantity – this weakened the criteria and the sanctions. Before, it had been impossible for a member of the Brigade to steal or loot. We were recognizable and respected for our kindness because of our extraordinary discipline and fairness to everything and everyone. Any person who follows the Islamic principles as his/her life principles must be like this.

However, because of those people who are among us, we are being blamed for the things that those individuals did. However, we will deal with them soon. We have to bring our units back to

I greatly appreciate the Travnički Ljiljani magazine because of its interesting and professionally presented articles. It became important to me knowing when the next number is coming out. I guess this speaks for itself!

the principles they were founded on, or else – we, the founders, shall leave those units – says effendi Ahmed categorically.

Separating Mujahedeens into a different unit – “El Mujahed” was a great loss for the 7th Muslim Brigade. It is a well-known fact that the Mujahedeens mostly came from the Arab world in order to help the Muslims and defend Islam in this region. They found their place in the lines of the Muslim Forces from the very beginning. Their presence brought additional strength which Allah gave to those walking down His path.

The Minister is mistaken, as well

The enemy's propaganda is expending, unfortunately! Recently, one of the ministers in the Government of the RBiH asked me if it was true that members of our Brigade do not allow their wives to walk through the town Zenica unless they are covered (with hijab). Practice is contradictory to such a question but, propaganda made many people think this the real state of things. We must not waste our energy on such marginal things, for it only means we are falling for the cunningly set up enemy's trick.

³ t/n: Croatian revolutionary movement in the WW2 known for their fascist, racist and terrorist activities

⁴ t/n: a derogatory name for Serbs that originates from special guerilla forces in the WW2

So we are asking: What is the reason for their separation?

It is a set of circumstances and motives which most probably contributed to people not [illegible] in Jihad being in the lines of the 7th Muslim Brigade. Their separation is being reflected in our results, and I would love them to return and join us in the fight. I think it would be more efficient to form several light mountain brigades or smaller units. This would increase the manoeuvre skills and enable easier implementation of Islamic principles that these units were founded on.

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