

Preface to the Second Edition

In the five months since the first edition of this book was published, I have received numerous email messages and letters of thanks and praise. “Refuting ISIS” has filled a gap in the theological battle against ISIS and showed that a scholarly response is very much needed. I also received requests to translate the book to several languages, a process which will take place soon.

The first edition was well received. Over 45,000 copies were distributed convincing many confused young Muslims that the road of ISIS leads to destruction in this life and to Hell in the Hereafter. Thousands of copies have already sold in the US & UK, and I have participated in several events promoting the message of the book to Muslim communities and policy makers.

With this encouraging and overwhelming response, I felt the need for a second edition, that quenches the thirst of the readers with more details. Therefore, I went through the book from beginning to end, almost rewriting many sections. Several topics were tackled in a more detailed manner, such as the prohibition of burning human beings, the abolition of slavery, and Islam’s position towards minorities. New subjects were tackled, such as the invalidity of excommunicating Muslim rulers for not applying certain aspects of Shari’ah, Islam’s position towards democracy, and the prohibition of destroying pre-Islamic monuments and sacred sites. Several other topics benefitted from more rigorous proofs, especially the section confirming that ISIS criminals have left the fold of Islam and are not Muslims any longer.

This second edition of the book comes after the heinous attacks that ISIS perpetrated in Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, France, the USA and Indonesia. These attacks, which must be condemned by Muslim

scholars and preachers around the world, are another testimony that, by killing women, children, and civilians, ISIS betrayed Islam, betrayed the Holy Quran, and betrayed the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

In the appendix, you will find my interview in response to Al-Jazeera's interview with the Nusra front leader Al-Julani, and his views on minorities. In Sunni Islam, we condemn terrorism and the extremist ideology behind it, in whatever form it appears and we see no difference between ISIS and Al-Qaeda, as both have the same ideology and their main difference is on leadership and priorities.

It is my hope that this contributes to the defeat of ISIS, which has already started on the ground, by refuting its ideology, thus reducing the numbers of its supporters around the world. I also hope that the reader will find this second edition to be a resourceful guide in unearthing the true teachings of Sunni Islam with regards to the ideology of ISIS and its crimes.

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