



Jihadist Fatwas

July-September 2013



International Center for Counter-Terrorism (ICT)
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Highlights

This review reports the main fatwas [religious-legal rulings] issued in response to readers' questions by Sheikh Abu al-Mundhir al-Shanqiti between July-September 2013. There was a significant decrease in the number of fatwas published during this period on the Minbar Al-Tawhid wal-Jihad Web site, where al-Shanqiti generally publishes his fatwas. Since these were not quiet months in the various arena of jihad, and many incidents indeed took place during this time, it is difficult to explain the decrease in the number of fatwas in the absence of issues on the agenda.

The following is a partial list of the issues faced in various arenas of jihad during these months, but which were not addressed at all by al-Shanqiti's fatwas. It is hard to find parallel questions or precedents for most of these issues in al-Shanqiti's previous fatwas.

- The use of chemical weapons against rebels in Syria.
- The bloody clashes in Egypt in general, and in the Sinai Peninsula in particular.
- The terrorist attack carried out by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The assassination of Abu Mansour al-Amriki by members of Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen.

Since the questions were sent by Web surfers to al-Shanqiti on private interfaces, it is impossible to know whether fewer questions were asked or whether al-Shanqiti himself chose not to respond to them (or was prevented from responding to them).

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Questions Directed at Sheikh Abu al-Mundhir al-Shanqiti

North Africa

Is it permissible to report a crime to the infidel police force in Tunisia?¹

- ❖ Question: Is a person who witnessed a murder in Tunisia and reported it to the police in the infidel country considered to have turned to an infidel legal system, thereby committing a heretical act?
- ❖ Answer: There is a difference between recognizing the rule of a regime from a shari'a [Islamic law] perspective and from a realistic perspective. Although the public is forced to work with the regime in many areas of life concerning day-to-day activities, such cooperation does not indicate subordination to the regime. Accordingly, police work is not considered to be a legal matter and, therefore, does not result in the reporter's subordination to the regime; the role of the police is to prevent crime and apprehend criminals; it has no authority over the legal action taken against the criminals. The rendering of legal judgment using man-made laws that are not shari'a is an act of heresy, but there is no question that criminals should be caught and punished. For instance, if a Muslim encounters a police officer who is trying to prevent a criminal from committing a crime, he is obligated to help the officer prevent the crime and he may not leave the scene out of a desire to avoid helping the infidel police force.

General

Is it permissible to join jihad if one owes a debt to an infidel?²

- ❖ Question: A person purchased a car in installments over four years and his debt is to an infidel who is not Muslim. Is he permitted to join jihad if he has still not paid off his debt?
- ❖ Answer: In this scenario there is a contradiction between two obligations: The obligation to pay one's debt and the religious obligation to join jihad. Preference is given to the obligation to join jihad since a universal interest takes precedence over a personal interest. If a person is able to pay off his debt within a short amount of time, then he is permitted to delay his participation in jihad until then; otherwise, he must appoint a replacement who will take care of paying the debt.

¹ http://tawhed.ws/FAQ/display_question?qid=7554

² http://tawhed.ws/FAQ/display_question?qid=7376

Is it permissible to attack a school belonging to the infidel regime?³

- ❖ Question: A person lives in an area that neighbors a school belonging to the country's infidel regime for students ages 15-18, who are then expected to join the infidel army. Is it permissible to attack this school with the goal of preventing the regime from enlisting soldiers to fight against the mujahideen?
- ❖ Answer: It is prohibited to attack the school since its students have not yet joined the ranks of the infidel army; even though they are expected to join the army, they should not yet be deemed infidels since they may repent and not join the army. In addition, the young ages of the students indicate that they are still in the midst of the transition from childhood into adulthood and, as such, are influenced by their heretical surroundings. Furthermore, an attack on a school with such young students would provide the enemies of Islam with a golden opportunity to tarnish the image of the mujahideen, and we know that the public relations battle is very difficult and very important. Instead of attacking the school, it is permissible to threaten and warn people not to join the school, and to destroy the school building at a time when it is empty of students.

³ http://tawhed.ws/FAQ/display_question?qid=7618