

## Does Islam Promote Terrorism?

*By Garaam Egbareyya 11:2*

My dad always makes me watch the news, although I keep telling him the news is boring and that it causes me headache. He always replies “you need to know what happens in our world kiddo”. One night, the news was about the Istanbul terrorist attack. The news showed a man dressed in Santa Claus costume shooting people in a night club while he was screaming “Allah Akbbar”, which means God is the greatest. Being a Muslim, I was not only ashamed but also worried about the reputation of Islam. I knew deep inside that people like him were the main cause why Islam these days is misunderstood. Shallow, arrogant, uneducated, and may be not related to Islam, people like him destroy the reputation of Islam.

Islam is a religion of forgiveness, tolerance, peace and happiness. Real Islam says “don’t kill your brother”, “respect the elder”, “live in peace”, “always smile when you see someone”, “and always forgive”. I was asked once by a friend of mine, ” if Islam is a religion of peace as you claim, then why are terrorist attacks always done by Muslims?”. I replied, ”because the world wants so. The news and the world show to the people what they want. Terrorism is a nasty political game which was made by the powerful country”. I continued, “look at all the Arab-Muslim countries. They are living the worst life ever; and when they see that no one is really helping, they take it upon themselves to resist and defend themselves. Do you think that it is easy to kill or to blow up yourself?”. I said these words and left my friends with millions of unanswered questions. In a nutshell, Islam is not terrorism; and it is the most common religion in the world. So, if it was a religion of terrorism, then most of the people in the world would be terrorists. This shows that there are only a few people trying to destroy the name of Islam. If you want to know what real Islam is, read about the life of the Prophet Muhammad(PBUH) and the holy Quran; and you should always avoid misleading generalizations.