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<http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/willis_e_elliott/2010/08/cordoba_10.html>

**Essential questions for Cordoba in 2010**

*In a*[***recent Wall Street Journal article***](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703589804575445841837725272.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLENexttoWhatsNewsTop)*, terrorism analyst Evan Kohlmann said that anti-Muslim rhetoric in America is bad news for anti-terrorism efforts: "We are handing al Qaeda a propaganda coup, an absolute propaganda coup."*

*By many accounts, the man who could blunt the power of that coup is Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, the religious leader behind the planned Islamic Center near Ground Zero. The imam has been surprisingly mum on the issue while he travels in the Middle East. What message of faith could he offer to Muslims and non-Muslims alike that could turn this moment of division into a time of healing?*

In 1975, the vice president of an Egyptian bank came to my Manhattan office and tried to enlist my support (gain my signature) for a Muslim center on Manhattan. As New York Theological Seminary's dean of exploratory programs, I was on his list of potential signatories to counter any public outcry against the project. While I affirmed the project's freedom in America, I declined to sign, explaining that since his religion intended to replace mine, I was not so foolish as to promote its extension.

He was a nice guy, pleasant to talk to, as is Imam Rauf, who is of that same religion (intending to replace mine - indeed, all others) and is promoting the same project-category (namely, a Muslim center on Manhattan).

In the U.S. and a number of other countries, I have experienced Muslim anti-Christian rhetoric and occasionally have responded with Christian rhetoric. But in these confrontations, no one had any fear that Christian terrorism would ensue. Can Islam reform itself to the point where - no matter the rhetoric - no one need have any fear of *Muslim*terrorism? Some Muslim leaders have that vision. From what I know of Imam Rauf, he is not one of them. Here, I evidence only his insensitivity to the negative connotations, for Christians and Jews, of CORDOBA, the word he continues to insist on in the title of his intended mosque-center. Let's look at *Muslim "Cordoba" as a model for* lower Manhattan - indeed, for *America*.

1.....In AD 717 CE, a Muslim army took southern Spain's Christian center, Cordoba, and reduced its population to second-class citizenship. Nothing new there. In the Muslim world, only Muslims were and are citizens first-class.

2.....Cordoba's central Christian church, by whichever of the processes historians argue, was taken over, taken down, replaced with *the Cordoba Mosque*. The fact that Imam Rauf wants his "Cordoba" mosque-center so near the ruin of the World Trade Center eerily suggests a parallel: America's center and symbol of world trade (the econo-base of globalization) was destroyed by some Muslims; now, some other Muslims want to build a "Cordoba" mosque-center not on the site but nearby.

3.....As of this writing, Imam Rauf has apparently refused to consider any of the various proposals for locating his center elsewhere than in the Twin Towers area. While land-possession is not a factor in the Christian religion, it is in Islam: all land ("dar") not under Muslim control as peace-land ("dar es salaam") is war-land ("dar es harb"). On the "Cordoba" model, Manhattan will not be at peace until it comes under Muslim rule.

4.....In Cordoba during al-Andalus (Muslim Spain, 717-1492), the "infidels" (all non-Muslims) were treated with contempt and often violence when failing to acknowledge the superiority of Islam, and had restrictions and special taxes imposed on them. These "dhimmis" had to wear a non-Muslim ID badge, could not show in public any sign of their religion (for example, cross or Bible), and were constantly peppered with incentives to convert to Islam. So many similarities to today's Saudi Arabia.

How, then, can Imam Rauf insist on "Cordoba" in the name of his lower-Manhattan project? Innocently (I am convinced), he thinks of Muslim Cordoba only as a model of*intercultural exchange*, as indeed it was. Muslims, Christians, and Jews studied together, inter-translated classics, and enriched philosophy and art. He hopes, and I hope with him, that his center - wherever built - will serve this transcultural, transrelgious function. Our species has been slowly evolving from muscle to mouth, from violence to speech. Whoever does anything to nudge this process forward is advancing human good and doing the will of God.

**BY WILLIS E. ELLIOTT  |  AUGUST 24, 2010; 8:25 PM ETSAVE & SHARE:  [Send E-mail](http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/emailalink?sent=no&link=http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/willis_e_elliott/2010/08/cordoba_10.html&title=Essential%20questions%20for%20Cordoba%20in%202010)   [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/willis_e_elliott/2010/08/cordoba_10.html&t=Essential%20questions%20for%20Cordoba%20in%202010)   [Twitter](http://twitter.com/home?status=Essential%20questions%20for%20Cordoba%20in%202010%20-%20http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/willis_e_elliott/2010/08/cordoba_10.html)   [Digg](http://digg.com/submit?phase=2&url=http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/willis_e_elliott/2010/08/cordoba_10.html&title=Essential%20questions%20for%20Cordoba%20in%202010)   [Yahoo Buzz](http://buzz.yahoo.com/buzz?publisherurn=washington_po284&guid=washington_po284:http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/willis_e_elliott/2010/08/cordoba_10.html)   [Del.icio.us](http://del.icio.us/post?url=http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/willis_e_elliott/2010/08/cordoba_10.html;&title=Essential%20questions%20for%20Cordoba%20in%202010%20-%20On%20Faith%20Panelists%20Blog;)   [StumbleUpon](http://www.stumbleupon.com/submit?url=http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/willis_e_elliott/2010/08/cordoba_10.html)   [Technorati](http://technorati.com/search/http:/onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/willis_e_elliott/2010/08/cordoba_10.html)    
PREVIOUS:**[**A CHANCE AT GREATNESS**](http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/john_mark_reynolds/2010/08/a_chance_at_greatness.html)**| NEXT:**[**SILENT CLERGY NO NEW THING**](http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/susan_k_smith/2010/08/silent_clergy_no_new_thing.html)

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**Please report offensive comments below.**

Students of history are well aware of the implications of the Cordoba Mosque of 8th Century Spain, however, what is more pertinent today is the sect of Islam being revivied known as the Umma-Yad, Umma of Syria. The intention is Sharia Law however, this can be managed by allowing Sharia Law in United States courts but disallowing voting priviliges in United States elections. There cannot be two laws as no one can serve to masters. It would behoove the leaders of New York, indeed any localites where Sharia Law is being challenged to make the case that citizenship is based on U.S. laws within those territories. They should be forced to pick the U.S. Laws or Sharia and accept that only temporary citizenship will be extended to their children. The obvious threat of deportation at the expense of the foreign government should take care of any rightful citizenship issues. Think about it, please, since the 14th Amendment already covers this concept of citizen.

**POSTED BY: GIARAMOS2010 | AUGUST 30, 2010 9:56 AM**[**REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT**](mailto:blogs@washingtonpost.com?subject=On%20Faith%20Panelists%20Blog%20%20|%20%20giaramos2010%20%20|%20%20Essential%20questions%20for%20Cordoba%20in%202010%20%20|%20%204875317&body=%0D%0D%0D%0D%0D================%0D?__mode=view%26_type=comment%26id=4875317%26blog_id=618)

To APAGANPLACE  
1  
I have never "justified" the beating of anyone, but (in the instance you adduce) I explained it.  
2  
That I have ever tried to "appropriate" U.S.Gov. power is an accusation that makes no sense to me.  
3  
But good to hear from you again!

**POSTED BY: ELLIOTTWL | AUGUST 27, 2010 4:17 PM**[**REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT**](mailto:blogs@washingtonpost.com?subject=On%20Faith%20Panelists%20Blog%20%20|%20%20elliottwl%20%20|%20%20Essential%20questions%20for%20Cordoba%20in%202010%20%20|%20%204874730&body=%0D%0D%0D%0D%0D================%0D?__mode=view%26_type=comment%26id=4874730%26blog_id=618)

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**Be carefull, Fellow Americans/Friends. IF Ye/Yo see something, Pleaz say something. Brace Ye Selves; This Is Not a Joke!**  
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CREDITs to "JJ" ~ [**http://www.onwapo.com/**](http://www.onwapo.com/)

**POSTED BY: WOODSTOCK-41 | AUGUST 27, 2010 11:45 AM**[**REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT**](mailto:blogs@washingtonpost.com?subject=On%20Faith%20Panelists%20Blog%20%20|%20%20woodstock-41%20%20|%20%20Essential%20questions%20for%20Cordoba%20in%202010%20%20|%20%204874665&body=%0D%0D%0D%0D%0D================%0D?__mode=view%26_type=comment%26id=4874665%26blog_id=618)

Hello Again Brethren W.E. ELLiOTT:

Teacher: The Existing Mosque (there 30+ Years) 4-blocks from 911-Ground {Peace Be Upon the Victims; NOt Alla, NOt Gods} be Improved or Built Over. Why Now 2-blocks away?

Secret: The Obama Admin & CO (Hillary, Polosi et al) are Scared "Shi-ite" and scared "Soonni" that the "ELDERS of AL-TAQIYAH" Wahhabi/Ayatollah Ummah/community of Arab league & OIC Ishlami-Gangs, aka Religio-Mafioso's, will Stop the Oil flow(Embargo Scare/Black-Mail) like in the 70's. Includes no "PETRO $$$" deposits in our Banks to play with, aye?! Ishlami's love playin-US Kafirs for our Historic-Forgetfulnes by its naive Nationals (which proved to be fatal, say, on 911+ (and Satanically Ventriloquist before & After 911; i.e., 1994 WTC Sheik basement Car Bomb explo & killings). So,

"LET HiSTORY BE OUR JURY (JUDGE & WITNESS)"

Interesting. A [Ishlami/Esaumi] 'Banker' came to Ye/Yo for support to build a Mosque around 1975. Note: At the time, start with **Jimmy Carter** reign & big Ishlami threat of global Embargoes etc. then, that Aegypt & CO., **(Arab League + OIC)** was, via "AL TAQIYAH" creep/scare, enemies of Israel (& that young nation's Friends/supporters?, i.e. U.S.A., England et al).

[**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab\_League**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_League) [EST. 1945, 3 years Before India's Birth 1947, and before Israels 1948]. Keep that in Brain/Mind; Not Heart, Not Gut, nor Osss aye!?

[**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation\_of\_the\_Islamic\_Conference**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_of_the_Islamic_Conference) [EST. 1970; 1 year After ARMSTRONG & gang landed on MOON etc..]

Didn't The **"NATiON of iSHLAM"**, or Ishlom or Islam, Moslom, Muslim, Muslem.. & Co., already built several-Mosques financed by such Egyptian WAHHABi/AYATOLLAH secret agents, in sweet sweet America; Who's Major City's, like N.Y., Chicago .. That the post 1900 ITALIANS physically build-up; Not ex-Negro-Slaves turned Islamic, nor any Ishlami's (Egyptian, Paki, or even Hindu India community/ummah etc..) living here today?

[**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nation\_of\_Islam**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nation_of_Islam) [EST. 1930; then by 1975; 75 Mosques was built by both washing Drug Dealers proceeds, and "Subsidized by "ELDERS of WAhhabi" & Co.].

SO, NO CARTOONS, NO FREEDOM OF SPEECH .... And NOW "NO" "FREEDOM OF RELIGION', only Freedom For {Special Treatment?} to Al Ishlami's. Hint; Think Big Bucks via TOURISM there by Ishlami International visitors?! And think, very- high R.O.I. (Return On Investment) probably less than 5 Years after Opening!?. The ARABous's are laughing All the Way To the Bank, all the Way to Heavens full of Virgins and all the way to Owning Manhattan+ (Another SATANIC versUS creepy Coup)!

This Is NOt a Cartoon; It's more than that!

**POSTED BY: WOODSTOCK-41 | AUGUST 27, 2010 11:18 AM**[**REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT**](mailto:blogs@washingtonpost.com?subject=On%20Faith%20Panelists%20Blog%20%20|%20%20woodstock-41%20%20|%20%20Essential%20questions%20for%20Cordoba%20in%202010%20%20|%20%204874655&body=%0D%0D%0D%0D%0D================%0D?__mode=view%26_type=comment%26id=4874655%26blog_id=618)

Let's not forget, 'Reverend,' that as I often point out, you once justified the beating of someone Jewish for failing to say 'Merry Christmas,' since he was a 'party-pooper' of some kind.

I think what we have here is the pot and the kettle blaming each other for how flinging iron cookery isn't \*America.\*

**POSTED BY: APAGANPLACE | AUGUST 26, 2010 6:33 PM**[**REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT**](mailto:blogs@washingtonpost.com?subject=On%20Faith%20Panelists%20Blog%20%20|%20%20APaganplace%20%20|%20%20Essential%20questions%20for%20Cordoba%20in%202010%20%20|%20%204874547&body=%0D%0D%0D%0D%0D================%0D?__mode=view%26_type=comment%26id=4874547%26blog_id=618)

""While I affirmed the project's freedom in America, I declined to sign, explaining that since his religion intended to replace mine, I was not so foolish as to promote its extension.""

As you so often point out when trying to appropriate my government's power, Mr. Elliott, yours sought to 'replace' \*mine,\* and rarely in such a nice way as you claim.

But here I am, a loyal American, whatever you try to appropriate about it.

What are you proposing, here? Or would you prefer to just 'imply?'

**POSTED BY: APAGANPLACE | AUGUST 26, 2010 6:30 PM**[**REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT**](mailto:blogs@washingtonpost.com?subject=On%20Faith%20Panelists%20Blog%20%20|%20%20APaganplace%20%20|%20%20Essential%20questions%20for%20Cordoba%20in%202010%20%20|%20%204874546&body=%0D%0D%0D%0D%0D================%0D?__mode=view%26_type=comment%26id=4874546%26blog_id=618)

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