

In mid-September 2008, five Sharia courts were quietly established throughout Great Britain. This move came just a few months after Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, declared amid much criticism that the establishment of Sharia law in Britain was “unavoidable.”

Even though Sharia legal rulings have been in effect for the past 20 years, the whole process had never received this level of acknowledgment and official acceptance by the British government. Lawmakers are very concerned about the outcome of a what is now officially a dual legal system.

This legal landmark sets a precedent in one of the remaining bastions of traditional Europe. While many skeptics worldwide would deny or play down the Islamization of Europe, some would agree that allowing Sharia courts is a “not-so-subtle” move in that direction. British historian Bat Ye’or, who specializes in the history of non-Muslims living under Islamic governments, writes in her recent book “*Eurabia: The Euro-Arab Axis*” (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2005):

France and the rest of Western Europe cannot change their policy anymore. Their future is Eurabia. Period. I don't see how they can reverse the movement they set in motion thirty years ago. Nor do Eurabians want to modify this policy. It is a project that was conceived, planned and pursued consistently through immigration policy, propaganda, church support, economic associations and aid, cultural, media and academic collaboration. Generations grew up within this political framework; they were educated and conditioned to support it and go along with it.

What is Sharia law any way? Should the Jewish people be concerned, and does it affect us here in the United States?

“Sharia” in Arabic means *the Way* or *the Path to the watering source*. It is the body of Islamic law that regulates all aspects of Muslim private and public life. It is a system of laws based on the *Qu’ran* (Islam’s religious text), *hadith* (oral law added by Mohammed) and of course centuries of debate and interpretation.

The rigidity of the Qu'ran calls for drinkers and gamblers to be whipped, homosexuals to be executed, infidels or apostates to be killed and fornicators to be stoned to death. Additionally, women have few rights under Islamic law, and they often get beatings from their husbands, an allowed act under Sharia. All these laws and more are enforced with varying degrees of severity depending on the Muslim community.

Most countries in the Middle East as well as Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Nigeria amongst many others are ruled by Sharia law (for a total of 1.5 billion Muslims worldwide). This, in and of itself, appears to have very little if any effect on our Western World. But we must take into consideration the great effort by Islam to change the whole world into a Muslim-ruled global community.

To be sure, not all Muslims are applying Qu'ranic law or Sharia to all aspects of their daily lives, as many are more moderate. Although it is nowhere near the norm today in Western societies, there is no telling how fast this new legal precedent will spread, in light of the current rate of Islamization of Europe.

This effort to take over and change one country after another has been firmly in place in Europe for about 60 years, and while it started with immigration in the 50s, it is continuing full force with birth rate and apparent integration. The process can basically be summarized into one word: "demographics."

Demographic statistics show that the population of traditional European families in Europe is declining while Muslim populations are burgeoning. If current trends continue, Europe is in a position to become a Muslim continent before the end of the 21st century. It is possible that without vigilance and understanding of the cultural implications of Islamization, that the current mood of tolerance, multiculturalism and political correctness sweeping Europe could eventually be eroded away in the spirit of Muslim intolerance. The establishment of Sharia in Great Britain was yet another step towards impairing our ability to preserve the freedoms that have up until now been protected by free Western societies.

For now, it appears that all the rulings (family and criminal law) from the Sharia tribunals in Britain are only binding if both parties within the dispute agree to give the Qu'ran the power to rule their case. So far, it has involved only Muslims

on both sides. But traditionally, since Sharia law operates on the accepted basis of inequality between men and women and between Muslims and non-Muslims, what will happen when a case involves a Muslim and a non-Muslim, or a Muslim husband and a non-Muslim wife?

One could say that the Jewish people have had a similar legal system within their own communities across the world, as Orthodox Jewish communities have been under the authority of their local Beth Din (House of Judgment) for centuries. Even though the Beth Din judgments hold varying degrees of authority depending on subject and locale, they have always acknowledged the supremacy of the Land within which they were operating.

All Muslims, whether moderates or radicals, are to some degree governed by the Qu'ran. While non-Muslim subjects living in a Muslim country are supposedly protected as such and allowed to practice their religion, generally speaking, the Muslim attitude towards such dhimmis is one of contempt.

What should concern free people everywhere, as history has been our witness, is that radical Islam has promoted hatred for the Jewish people, fanning it into a chronic illness of global proportions. Fueled by lies, libels and prejudice, rabid anti-Semitism has been a driving force within Islam as a whole. If nothing intervenes to change current trends, Islamists will gain more control of the Western world, and our Jewish people will be the first target, as the appetizer on a grand menu of hatred. It would behoove us to realize that the main course is Western Civilization as a whole, nothing less!

Yet, we are a community of disciples of Yeshua of Nazareth who taught us with the authority of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that we should *love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us* (Matthew 5:44). This distinction makes our community different from the rest of the World. Our hope for the future rests in the Shalom of our Messiah, the only Hope for the real peace with one another and with God.

We have an obligation to preach the truth, stand for justice and love all. We must win our enemies by love instead of being overcome by their hate!