

Apologies for Terrorists

It is starting already. After the butchering in Paris, the talking heads are at it. The military attack by the Soldiers of Islam on the free Western Press is condemned worldwide as reprehensible. More important than the expected expressions of outrage, is how the West sees Islamic military action against Western civilization worldwide.

There are those who believe that the Islamic war against Western Europe, the United States and Israel represent the actions of "lone wolves," "sleeper cells," or "offshoot extremists" Muslim groups. In all cases, this is said to be a "distortion" of Islam.

The real issue is whether we are willing to recognize that Western democracy is having war waged against it by Islam. To be sure, not all of Islam are allies of the soldiers who committed the slaughter in Paris. Perhaps a worthwhile analogy is to look at World War II.

When Japan attacked the United States in Pearl Harbor, xenophobia and fear led to our locking up Japanese-Americans in internment camps. We did not do the same to German-Americans. In World War I, however, there was much suspicion against German-Americans. My father, may his soul rest in peace, used to tell the story of telling the policemen on the street corner that a German spy lived in his house. My father's grandfather was a native German speaker, and my father heard in school that everybody needed to keep a watch for German spies "in our midst." Years later it was a funny family story, but at the time it was pretty frightening "to the old man."

During both World War I and World War II, both Allied and Axis powers had their quiet supporters who were not actively engaged in military action. In World War II, Argentina certainly leaned the way of the Germans. The Jews in Palestine fought like lions for England and the United States, even though both countries barred Jewish entry to the Holy Land as the fires of the Holocaust were raging.

Our leaders, worldwide, must make unmistakably clear what is going on and what is at stake. Western values, democracy and religion have been attacked and are at war with the armies of Islam. Those armies come from a variety of places; Syria, Iraq, Iran, and of course within each one of our own countries. Who finances the war against the West? After 911, President Bush was quick to spirit Saudi-Arabians out of the United States so that they would not have to be questioned, thus avoiding embarrassment to the President and his family. We now know that Saudi Arabia has financed a brand of Islamic training that preaches conquest, subjugation and death of non-believers.

President Obama, wanting to be a fair, decent and impartial sort of fellow, is loath to pronounce the "I" or "M" word. He does not want to pick on all Muslims by equating Islam with violence generally. The President's conscience is laudable, but unfortunately misses the point.

As someone tritely observed, "leaders have a responsibility to lead." Our worldwide leaders must step forward in a unified fashion and tell us what they think is going on. If there is a war against the West being waged by Islamic soldiers, paid for by Muslim countries with the specific goal of disrupting, destroying and subjugating the West, then we must either give in or fight back. Unfortunately there is no alternative. Most of the West has attempted to retaliate now and then in an imprecise fashion, after some horrendous attack such as the recent slaughter in Paris. Anemic, inconsistent and unpredictable responses to the Islamic war will not suffice.

We need not brand all Muslims as bad, evil, or engaged in the war against the West in order assiduously to fight the battle. However, Muslims must make a decision, just as German-Americans did in World War I along with ethnic Italians, Jews, and others. Blacks who had been enslaved in our country fought heroically against Germans and Japanese in World War II, as did many other American ethnic groups aligned against the West in that terrible conflagration.

Muslims, along with all other members of Western civilization, must make a decision and take a stand. Without question, the West has the military power and strength to completely flatten all Islamic terror. We have the ability to take it apart piece by piece financially, by closing down their banks and funding sources, and through direct military action. The question, of course, is not whether the West will stand up for itself, but when and how far gone the West will have to be when appropriate action is taken. Will the West not wake up until the first nuclear weapon is detonated on Western soil by the soldiers of Islam? It is time we stopped calling these people "terrorists," "fanatics," or "extremists." They are soldiers of Islam in a war against the West. That is the reality, whether it be ugly or simply honest.

All people of decency should join the West in its effort to survive, including Christians, Jews, Muslims, Atheists, Hindus, and anyone else. We should welcome to our side people who will fight and work for a better, safer world. Likewise, we must be completely intolerant of political correctness, or mumbling fantasies about what is at stake and who is responsible for these attacks.

The world can be a safer place and the West can secure its future once it wakes up from its long, post-World War II slumber. We may be tired from our post-World War II fight with communism. However, as it says in the Bible, in every generation a tyrant will rise up against us. The tyrant is at our doorstep; we must decide as a civilization what we are going to do about it.

*Clifford A. Rieders, Esquire
Rieders, Travis, Humphrey, Harris,
Waters & Dohrmann
161 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570) 323-8711 (telephone)
(570) 323-4192 (facsimile)*

Cliff Rieders, who practices law in Williamsport, is Past President of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and a member of the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority. None of the opinions expressed necessarily represent the views of these organizations.