

Ummah Wake Up
Blog#14

The Mother of All Insults
Ani Zonneveld

“The Prophet’s birthplace was turned into a library and the house of his first wife, Khadijah, was replaced with a public toilet block.”

Islam’s holiest city of Mecca is going through another development phase a la Las Vegas. To make space, its historical sites are being destroyed. With the exception of a few outspoken critiques, primarily Saudi based Islamic Heritage Research Foundation, the Muslim world has been largely silent.

Saudi Arabia, by default, claims itself to be the custodian of Islam’s holy sites in Medina and Mecca. As custodian it has given itself cart blanche in how it administers and manages the sites and the pilgrimage process. The 57 member Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is never consulted, of what is essentially OUR holy city. Nor do the OIC dare speak up against Saudi Arabia’s destructive plans.

Apparently 95% of Islam’s holiest sites have been destroyed in the last 10 years. The Prophet’s birthplace was turned into a library and the house of his first wife Khadijah, was replaced with a public toilet block. Figuratively speaking, ‘toilet’ is an accurate metaphor of the Wahhabi’s gender outlook of women.

With the new development old historical sites will make way for a ‘fancier’, ritual experience, if you are rich that is.

[Multi-million dollar](#) Zam Zam high rise apartment complex for the super rich Muslims that face Kabbah. Yes, you can observe the ritual from your luxurious air-conditioned apartment with a picture window overlooking the Kabbah while the servant serves you your tea. Contrast that with the many poor Muslims who end up sleeping in the open because they cannot afford the hotel rates.

In addition to the Zam Zam Tower there are [six 5 star hotels, with 4360](#) commercial retail stores with yet more 24-hour shopping, making Los Angeles’ posh Rodeo Drive consumerism lame in comparison.

Mecca was the ONE place where we were all equals regardless of race, gender, social and economic status. It was a place for spiritual awakening and contemplation. That is no longer the case when the clock tower over powers the Kabbah and the King’s palace dominates the skyline. We have allowed the corruption of Islam’s birthplace. The protestors who are always so eager to defend Prophet Muhammad’s honor are silence. I’d like to ask those protestors, why are you not protesting in front of the Saudi Embassies as you did in front of the American Embassies in protest of the video “Innocence of Muslims”? Surely the destruction of our holy sites is the mother of all insults!

Are you not protesting because you are too afraid your names will be black listed by the Saudi government, denying you the visa to do the pilgrimage? How are you not a hypocrite?

Why aren't leading Muslim bloggers writing about this issue?

We Muslims need to weed out corruption and hypocrisy from within our societies. The weak protest of the destruction of our holy sites is a clear indication of our own individual hypocrisy. We are weak and we have no one to blame but ourselves. For that, we should be ashamed of ourselves.

Watch the video "Vandalization of Holy Places" <http://youtu.be/szb3q8WfDBI>

Ani Zonneveld©