

Beat: Local

## PARIS ATTACKS - THE MUSLIMS WERE VICTIMS TOO

### NOONE WAS SPARED

PARIS, 18.11.2015, 17:08 Time

**USPA NEWS** - Few would deny that Muslims too are victims. A study by the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point in U.S., has shown that an overwhelming majority of al-Qaida victims are, in fact, co-religionist. It was found that Muslims have accounted for 85% of the casualties from...

Few would deny that Muslims too are victims. A study by the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point in U.S., has shown that an overwhelming majority of al-Qaida victims are, in fact, co-religionists. It was found that Muslims have accounted for 85% of the casualties from al Qaeda attacks between 2004-2008. Even more astounding, during the last two years of the study (2006-2008), the percentage of al Qaeda's Muslim victims skyrocketed to an almost-unbelievable 98 %.

The Combating Terrorism Center report's authors (Scott Helfstein, Nassir Abdullah, and Muhammad al Obaidi) wisely used only Arabic-language reporting in their research, in order to sidestep any complaints of bias that would have inevitably resulted from using English-language news accounts.

'The fact is that the vast majority of al Qaeda's victims are Muslims: The analysis here shows that only 15 % of the fatalities resulting from al Qaeda attacks between 2004 and 2008 were Westerners,' according to the report, titled 'Deadly Vanguard : A Study of Al Qaeda's Violence Against Muslims.'

A year ago, a report released by the United Nations carefully documented known instances of Islamic State barbarity against Muslims, noting in the first eight months of 2014 Isis was the 'primary actor' responsible for the deaths of 9,347 civilians in Iraq.

Most recently, just days before the Paris atrocities, the group launched a co-ordinated suicide attack in Beirut, killing 43 people, and more than 200 wounded in the worst attack to strike the city in years.

There are no exact figures available for the number of Muslims killed by Isis, but there have been multiple documented instances of their treatment of fellow Muslims. In November a video resurfaced showing the execution of around 250 Syrian soldiers, while in October four of the 69 prisoners freed by a US and Kurdish operation spoke of Isis's treatment of Sunni Muslims. (The Independent)

On November 13, multiple attacks were perpetrated across the French capital taking the lives of 129 people, with more than 340 injured and many remaining in critical condition.

They came from varied backgrounds but the Muslim victims of the indiscriminate multiple attacks were all in the prime of their lives. They included a violinist, an architect, a receptionist and a shop assistant. As the children of France's colonial legacy, or citizens of those countries, their deaths have cast a shroud of mourning beyond French shores to north Africa. (The Guardian)

While many have showed solidarity with France, there has also been an immediate backlash against refugees fleeing war-ravaged parts of the Middle East.

Jean-Pierre Filiu, an Islam scholar and Sciences Po university professor, commented to France-Inter that what Isis wanted 'is that today in Paris and in France, Muslims are killed in reprisal. They want a civil war in France.'

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<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-6402/paris-attacks--the-muslims-were-victims-too.html>

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Official Federal Reg. No. 7442619