

**THE KHAWAARIJ IN PAST AND THE PRESENT, WITH A
SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THEIR PRESENCE IN
SOMALIA**

By

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ABSTRACT

The research aims to establish in a holistic manner the facts about the *Khawārij* sect, its history, beliefs and activities, and the major events it experienced, together with knowledge about and principles of its different sub-groups. The research also sheds light on the *Jama'at al- Takfir Wa L-Hijrah's* activities whether in Egypt or in Somalia. The thesis scrutinizes the definition of extremism and terrorism in contrast to Islam's message of tolerance and justice.

Within this context, it also clarifies disagreements deemed reprehensible by Islam.

This study found that Islam promotes unity and condemns disputes, fanaticism, extremism and factionalism since it is a religion of moderation and tolerance. The *Khawārij* is a deviant group which can be described as a terrorist organization in modern parlance.

The *Jama'at Takfir Wa L-Hijrah* is nothing more than a modern version of the *Khawārij* which adheres to the same beliefs as its predecessor. It has a visible presence in Somalia and all its actions confirm the original apostacising ideology of the *Khawārij*. Such actions are not trivial; before embarking on them strict conditions and regulations have to be followed. The noble Prophet (peace be upon him) and Muslim scholars have warned against these practices when correct procedure is flouted.

Some of the most commonly used words are: Islam, religion, nation, Somalia, *Khawārij*, sect, faith, principles, disagreement, apostasy, Allah, Prophet Muhammad, *Qur'an* and *Hadith*.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own investigation except where otherwise stated other sources are acknowledged by footnotes giving explicit references and a bibliography is appended.

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