

Surah 2:124-137 - The Cow - Al Baqarah, Surah 7 - The Heights - Al A'râf, Surah 22:39 - The Pilgrimage - Al Hajj and Surah 3:169 - The Family of 'Imran - Âl Imrâm (The *Qur'an* verses based on translation by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. Muslims are commanded not to be aggressive. Moreover, a well-known saying attributed to Muhammad states that the lesser *jihad* is the struggle with the external enemy, while the true and greater *jihad* is the struggle within oneself to overcome the internal enemy. "*Jihad*" is translated to mean "to strive or exert oneself," and, in this sense, a Muslim is to approach all the Five Pillars of Islam as a *jihad*.)

Note: the "Justice War" criteria presented in the *Qur'an* is virtually identical to that of Catholic Canon Law, i.e., war is only to be pursued for defensive reasons or to right a horrendous wrong. Under Islamic Law, the rules of warfare prohibit, 1. the killing of civilians, 2. harming religious personnel or sites, Muslim or not, 3. destroying a population's infrastructure, and 4. using indiscriminate weapons. What many call "terrorism" is actually a prohibited practice under traditional law, falling under the category of banditry.

In verse Surah 2:256 is the mandate not to convert others to Islam by use of force. The historical record of Islam's tolerance of other faiths is uneven, but the religious freedoms of Jews and Christians, for example, have on balance fared well under Islamic law.

In verse Surah 3:169 is related Allah's promise to martyrs, though the term "martyrs" is never used in the *Qur'an*. The title given to a person who dies in the fulfillment of a religious deed is called *shaheed*, "to witness," and whose place in Paradise is promised.)

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

2:190 Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress limits; for Allah loveth not transgressors.

2:191 And slay them wherever ye catch them, and turn them out from where they have turned you out for tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter; but fight them not at the Sacred Mosque, unless they (first) fight you there; but if they fight you, slay them. Such is the reward of those who suppress faith.

2:192 But if they cease, Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful.

2:256 Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from Error: whoever rejects evil and believes in Allah hath grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold, that never breaks. And Allah heareth and knoweth all things.

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

7:55 Call on your Lord with humility and in private: for Allah loveth not those who trespass beyond bounds (who are not aggressors).

7:56 Do no mischief on the earth, after it hath been set in order, but call on Him with fear and longing (in your hearts): for the Mercy of Allah is (always) near to those who do good.

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

22:39 To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight), because they are wronged;- and verily, Allah is most powerful for their aid;-

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

3:169 Think not of those who are slain in Allah's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of their Lord;