

Grand Mufti in shocking defence of evil fanatics

Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun, February 23, 2015

The Grand Mufti of Australia, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammed.

I AM now begging Australia's Grand Mufti, our highest ranking Muslim cleric: stop shielding extremists.

Mufti Ibrahim Abu Mohammed last week appeared in a video called Muslim Community Confronts Abbott, and made common cause with one of our most extreme Islamist groups.

This is frightening.

Most journalists insist there is a difference between moderate Muslims wanting peace and the radical jihadists who are preaching hate.

But the Mufti now destroys our work by the way he defends Hizb ut-Tahrir from the anti-terrorism plans Prime Minister Tony Abbott is expected to announce in Canberra today.

Those plans are tipped to include a crackdown on Hizb ut-Tahrir — possibly a ban.

I share the Mufti's concerns about removing its freedom to speak, but he goes further.

True, he doesn't support Hizb ut-Tahrir, and he repeatedly condemns terrorism.

But in the video he says Hizb ut-Tahrir also does not "support any organisation that engages in violence", and suggests it's a victim of Abbott's political paranoia: "Perhaps, you are annoyed with Hizb ut-Tahrir because they criticise you."

This whitewash — this appeal to Muslim victimology — is grotesquely irresponsible.

BLOG WITH ANDREW BOLT

Why is the Government worried about Hizb ut-Tahrir?

It's because, yes, although it says it opposes terrorism, Hizb ut-Tahrir tells followers Australia is "at war with Muslims".

It's because Hizb ut-Tahrir claims "Abbott has been leading the way in demonising Islam and Muslims", and that by fighting the Islamic State, his Government "will be responsible for the repercussions that ensue".

It's because it warns: "Even if a thousand bombs went off in this country, all that it will prove is that the Muslims are angry, and they have every reason to be angry."

It's because it refuses to criticise IS, saying "ISIS or al-Qaeda ... exist as a reaction to Western interference in the Islamic lands".

It's because it defends Australians who fight for IS, and says Muslims are "forced to react" against our "Western violence".

It's because it claims "wherever the Jews thrive, corruption abounds", and asks: "Who will set the world free from the Israelites, so that the world will be able to say that it has rid itself of that hidden evil?"

Why does the Mufti suggest there's little to fear?