

It's chilling to see would-be killers laughing in court

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It is both sad and terrifying for society that convicted jihadist would-be murderers are so unaffected by their likely punishment that they can apparently smile and laugh in court ("Rookie spy foiled terrorists", 15/11). One of the main purposes of punishment is deterrence. Perhaps the offenders are the dumbest people on the planet, but their behaviour suggests that the prospect of time in jail is not sufficiently horrifying. And we wonder why such evil keeps recurring.

Richard Sicree, Armadale, Vic

From their own lips, four extreme Muslims radicalised in Melbourne, sought to cause the maximum carnage on Christmas Day, 2016. Yet notwithstanding the detailed meticulous evidence, the potpourri of left-wing activists refuse to admit there is a problem with militant Islam.

The common denominator is that all attended the Hume Islamic Youth Centre. Police must make immediate inquiries about the un-Australian behaviour that takes place there.

Tim Abrams, Glenhaven, NSW

Sheik Mohammed Omran's call to "our bloody PM" to "blame police, not us" is partly right. Police do their best but are constrained by violent Islamist thugs who know their way around our weak laws.

Scott Morrison is dreaming if he thinks Muslims in general are going to report Muslim criminals. There is no point putting pressure on them — it won't happen. That pressure should be placed fair and square on politicians who apparently think it's perfectly OK to compile watch lists, but won't take the next step to deportation. Our pollies have created this mess. It's about time they took some responsibility in cleaning it up.

Jeff Gregg, Coolumb, Qld

I don't know why the federal government is seeking to blame the Muslim community for not doing enough to prevent terrorist attacks by Islamic extremists. By my reckoning, it is the government's responsibility to protect its citizens and it is failing to do so by allowing unfettered immigration to continue.

Mitchell Beston, Woy Woy, NSW

As noted by Rod Shaw (Letters, 15/11), Mohammed preached peace from Mecca but on moving to Medina his messages espoused violence. Unfortunately, the Koran is not written in a chronological sequence. It is of paramount importance for Islamic scholars to identify and separate the edicts from Mecca and Medina, advising Muslims to follow those of peace from Mecca but disregarding those of violence from Medina. Islam does not support jihad (independent thinking) so that the great mass of Muslims have to rely on instructions from their imams. Without this intellectual guidance, Islamic terrorism will never cease.

Dick Crane, Killarney Heights, NSW

It is incorrect to say the “Koran’s gentle words are abrogated by violent ones” (Letters, 15/11). Rod Shaw has done an injustice by presenting incomplete verses of the Koran to accuse it of being a violent book.

If we apply Shaw’s principle to other holy scriptures, then they would prove to be much more violent than the Koran.

When put in logical and historical context, there is no single verse of the Koran that contradicts another nor promotes violence. It is a firm belief of every true Muslim that no single verse of the Koran is abrogated. It is incorrect to claim that Mohammed became violent after attaining power.

Usman Mahmood, Sth Bowenfels, NSW

Scott Morrison should be applauded for his sensible statements on the Islamist terrorist attack in Melbourne, as should your editorial in asserting that “Islamist terrorism must be confronted, not denied” (14/11). But with a Muslim community having a significant proportion who support the beliefs of Mohammed in the Koran, the question is what action might be taken to limit deadly attacks.

The government should, in co-operation with the states enhance our deficient police and intelligence analysts and take steps to access the encrypted exchanges now hidden from detection. This should include the deportation of those attempting or advocating extremist action and should require mosques and prayer centres to provide special police forces with access to what is said at meetings.

And Australia should seek agreement with other Judaeo-Christian countries to pursue such action on an international basis.

Des Moore, South Yarra, Vic