

# Refugee crisis in context:

*Emigration **jihrah** or immigration **missionfield**?*



An article currently circulating Christian media states that the refugee crisis in Europe is not only a **'direct judgment from the Lord on Europe'** but also a "strategic **HIJRAH**" – Islamic jihad by emigration.

The article by John McTernan reads as follows:

**"The Islamic HIJRAH into Europe (Refugees colonize a continent)** – 03 September 15

*God is sending hoards of Muslims into Europe... God sends Muslims into nations for judgment.*

*This is huge what is happening in Europe and can cause the collapse of economy and social order. I see this is as direct judgment from the Lord on Europe, and it is in conjunction of its economy collapsing. Approximately 104,460 asylum seekers arrived in Germany during the month of August, setting a new record. That makes 413,535 registered refugees and migrants coming to Germany in 2015 so far. The country expects a total of around 800,000 people to seek asylum in Germany this year. And that's just Germany.*

*The entire continent of Europe is being inundated with refugees at a rate unprecedented in world history. This is no longer just a 'refugee crisis'. This is a **HIJRAH**.*

**HIJRAH**, or jihad by emigration, is, according to Islamic tradition, the migration or journey of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Yathrib, later renamed by him to Medina, in the year 622 CE. It was after the hijrah that Muhammad for the first time became not just a preacher of religious ideas, but a political and military leader. That was what occasioned his new 'revelations' exhorting his followers to commit violence against unbelievers. Significantly, the Islamic calendar counts the hijrah, not Muhammad's birth or the occasion of his first "revelation," as the beginning of Islam, implying that Islam is not fully itself without a political and military component.

*To emigrate in the cause of Allah – that is, to move to a new land in order to bring Islam there, is considered in Islam to be a highly meritorious act. 'And whoever emigrates for the cause of Allah will find on the earth many locations and abundance', says the Quran. 'And whoever leaves his home as an emigrant to Allah and his Messenger and then death overtakes him, his reward has already become incumbent upon Allah. And Allah is ever Forgiving and Merciful.' (4:100) The exalted status of such emigrants led a British jihad group – that won notoriety (and a shutdown by the government) a few years ago for celebrating 9/11 – to call itself Al-Muhajiroun: The Emigrants."*

**See also:** [http://www.infiltratednation.com/p/blog-page\\_25.html](http://www.infiltratednation.com/p/blog-page_25.html)

Another article also circulating Christian media states that **"Islamic State reveals it has smuggled THOUSANDS of extremists into Europe"**: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/555434/Islamic-State-ISIS-Smuggler-THOUSANDS-Extremists-into-Europe-Refugees>

The same website also carries the following article: **'Russians shot down UFO over Iran ahead of Blood Moon apocalypse'**: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/science/603108/Russians-shot-down-UFO-over-Iran-ahead-of-Blood-Moon-apocalypse>

With the European Church facing one of the greatest human tragedies of our generation, it is necessary to 'separate the noise from the news' and to look at events from the viewpoint of a compassionate Christ and a loving God.

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## THE NUMBERS IN CONTEXT

The number of people seeking refugee status has climbed drastically in 2014 and 2015, driven by the wars in Syria and Iraq, as well as conflict and instability in Afghanistan, Eritrea and elsewhere.

According to the *CIA World Factbook* (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ee.html>), the total population of the 28 EU nations numbers of **513 million**. The **438,000 refugees** claiming asylum in 2015 in the first half of this year (*BBC News*) would therefore have added extra **0.09%** of the overall EU population. If Germany (with a population of 80.6 million in 2013), does indeed receive 800,000 applications by the end of 2015, these new residents will account for an extra **0.99%** of the German population.

Even though this population growth will have visible economic and social implications, it can hardly be described as **'the colonisation of a continent'**, and terminology of this nature creates fear, suspicion and, ultimately, apathy.

The current Muslim population within the European Union is **2%** – approximately **10.3 million** Muslims. If we assume that **90%** (at the most) of all refugees who applied for asylum in the EU in the first half of 2015 are Muslims, this would have added another **394,000 Muslims** to the EU population – raising the EU Muslim population to a maximum **2.05%**.

These figures do not give Islam 'colonisation power' in Europe, and the current influx of refugees is not overwhelming the EU's overall population.

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## THE TERMINOLOGY

In his article, John McTernan refers to the term **HIJRAH** as meaning 'emigration in the cause of Allah' or 'moving to a new land in order to bring Islam there'. Even though "hirjah" is a legitimate Islamic term, it does not apply to the refugees entering Europe in order to escape conflict. In fact, those crossing the border of 'Christian Europe' are seen by some to be APOSTATES, a far cry from JIHADI EMIGRANTS.

According to the book entitled ***Al Wala' wa'l Bara*** by Muhammad Sa'eed Al Qahtani, "hijrah" cannot be applied to the refugee migration to Europe, and their fleeing to the West has more severe consequences for the refugees themselves than for Europe.

Firstly, it is important to understand the position of the European Union within the traditional Islamic worldview:

*"The jurists have explained the complementary concepts of the **'ABODE OF DISBELIEF'** and that of the **'ABODE OF ISLAM'** as follows.*

*The **'ABODE OF DISBELIEF'** is whatever land is ruled by the disbelievers [which will include all EU nations], in which the laws of the disbelievers are supreme and political power is in their hands. These lands may be of two types. One which is at war with the Muslims and one which enjoys a truce with them. The determining factor is that it is ruled by the laws of the disbelievers; for it is the **'ABODE OF DISBELIEF'** even if a large [percentage] of Muslims live there.*

*The **'ABODE OF ISLAM'** is any land that is ruled by the Muslims, where the Shariah is the supreme law and the Muslims hold political power. It is 'Dar ul-Islam', even if the majority of the population are disbelievers, so long as the Muslims rule it according to the Shariah.*

*As Islam is seen by Muslims as the religion of dignity and authority, it was impossible to think of any Muslim submitting himself to the disbelievers; indeed it is forbidden for a Muslim to go to live amongst them and acknowledge their authority over him, because his presence amongst them would make him feel weak and isolated, and, then he would become docile and apologetic before them. He would first be called upon to approve of them, and then to follow them. But Muslims believe they should be filled with morale and confidence, they*

*should be leaders, not followers. They should hold the reins of power; no power should be above them but that of Allah.*

*Muslims are forbidden to remain in countries where Islam is of no account, except when they are able to freely practice their religion and to observe it without any impediment [note that in countries like France, it is forbidden for women to wear the hijab, which is an impediment to the 'free practice' of Islam] and without any fear that their presence there could damage them in any way [extremists are against the way in which Muslims are seen to be becoming more and more secular in Western 'secular Europe']. If this is not the case, then they must migrate to a better place where the authority of Islam is of some account. If they refuse to do so, while they are able, then they would have no further claims on this religion.*

*Al-Hassan Ibn Salih said: 'whoever remains in the land of the enemy, will be treated like the disbelievers, so long as he was able to join the Muslims but did not do it. If one of the disbelievers accepts Islam, but still remains with the disbelievers, even though he was able to go to join the Muslims, he is to be treated like them; neither his blood nor his property will be protected.'*

*Al-Hassan said: 'If a Muslim emigrates to the land of the disbelievers, yet does not renounce Islam, he will be an apostate by virtue of his abandonment of Dar ul-Islam'.*

*Ibn Hazm states that: 'Whoever joins the land of war and disbelief, of his own free will and in defiance of whoever amongst the Muslims calls him to his side, is by virtue of this act an apostate, by all the laws of apostasy, in Islam. Whoever is able to kill him must do so. His property is unprotected, his marriage null and void, all his rights are swept away.'*

**SOURCE:** <http://www.missionislam.com/knowledge/hijrah.htm>

According to these Islamic writings, Muslim refugees run the risk of being classified by extremists as APOSTATES (people who renounce their religious beliefs), losing all rights and dignity within fundamentalist Muslim society. In the light of the conflict that has endangered hundreds of thousands in the Middle East, the current mass movement to the EU is far more likely to be rooted in a desire to escape danger, rather than in a conscious attempt at "Hirjah".

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## THE DANGER

There is little doubt that extremists such as those from the Islamic State (IS) are likely to try using this opportunity to gain access to Europe, but if there are extremists disguised as refugees among the current influx, they are likely to be the exception rather than the rule.

According to Christina Boyle, writing for the *LA Times*: "Fear that Islamist militants are lurking amid the massive influx of refugees flooding Europe have been debated in forums such as Facebook, think tanks and government circles. But the risk of a rush of so-called refugee warriors appears overstated, in part because it is already easy for groups such as Islamic State to infiltrate Europe through safer, more conventional means, analysts say... Some analysts warn that suspicion and mistrust of the sea of refugees are being used for political ends."

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-europe-refugees-security-20150913-story.html>

From a Christian perspective, there is a danger greater than that of possible extremists entering the EU – this is the danger of **fear and prejudice** becoming rooted in the hearts of believers, thereby robbing the Church of one of the greatest opportunities of this generation.

Regardless of our views or understanding of the current refugee crisis, there is no doubt that the global Church is presented with an enormous opportunity as Muslims leave oppressive Islamic societies and enter nations within which the Gospel may be shared freely. As more people from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and African nations seek hope, safety and a future, there are growing opportunities for the Church to meet needs and to witness to the hope and truth as found in Jesus Christ.

And if extremists are indeed among those entering the EU, they too are capable of being changed by the Gospel – the possibility of potential threat does not change or lessen the Christian mandate.

If the Church does seize the moment and ‘redeem the times’ for the glory of God, joining Him where He is at work, there is the hope of irrevocably changing the world we live in. As the saying goes, "**OPPORTUNITY COMES TO PASS— NOT TO PAUSE.**"

In conclusion, the threat of radicals should never harden our hearts against those who are genuinely suffering. The problem with articles similar to the one highlighted above is that even though it contains elements of truth, it could cause a heart of anguish to become hardened by fear or animosity. This current tragedy of human displacement is less above “*hirjah*” and move about people desperate enough to flee for their lives in the wake of Islamic aggression, and European believers are able to now reach out to these people in the name of Christ.

Sadly, the secular media has already picked up on the division within the Church. *The Economist* reports on how a united front of anguish and compassion has become divisive: “*On one hand, European churches and religious charities have played a prominent role in succouring migrants and campaigning for them to be treated decently. On the other, politicians on the nationalist right are beating the drum of Christian nativism; they have redoubled their warnings about the threat to Europe’s long-established religious culture.*”

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/erasmus/2015/09/migrants-christianity-and-europe?spc=scode&spv=xm&ah=9d7f7ab945510a56fa6d37c30b6f1709>

May God have mercy on those who flee, but also on those who receive them. May this opportunity be seized in the spirit of Christ who came to heal the brokenhearted and to set the captives free.



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