Against the Somalisation of Islam_ A refutation to Mr. Goth's Article

By Muumina-Shaqlan Email: mshaqlan@hotmail.com

1. Preliminary Remarks

It is not my intention to offend or defend anybody in this write up. However, I find Mr. Goth's article titled "Against the Saudization of Somaliland" revolting and offensive to the basic principles of Islam, ulama and Somali women. There are so many inaccuracies and disinformation about Islam in his article. He deceitfully questioned about the authenticity of salat, zakat, sawm, haj and hijaab practices as basic obligations in Islam. His naked attack on Saudi ulama and Da'wah groups in Somalia is completely unjustified and unwarranted. It is utterly wrong of Mr. Goth or any other man to indulge into something that is entirely a religious matter of women's concerns.

Reading through Mr. Goth's article, four things noticeably emerge. These are, (a) his hatred for *ulama* (b) his burgeoning passion for women in *jaahiliyah*, (c) his inadequate knowledge with *islam*, and (d) his vanity and self-satisfaction. At any rate Mr. Goth is not known to be a dependable man with solid principles, politically or otherwise. His present article matches very well with his writings in the late 1980s on the Somali civil strife. He continues to be as irrational as any time before.

Mr. Goth's cynical and inapt article appeared in the *Addis Tribune* on November 21, 2003 under the title "*Against the Saudization of Somaliland*". About 8 weeks earlier on September 26, 2003 a very similar article entitled "*Saudi Arabia's Wahabism and the Threat to Ethiopia's National Security"*, by a certain *Alem-Zelelem* appeared in the same paper. Both articles were promptly posted for wider dissemination in a number of *Jewish Zionist websites* and translated into many languages including French, Spanish, Italian and Hebrew. Translations into German and other European languages were expected to follow soon. It should not be difficult to understand why should such articles attract so much interest and coverage worldwide. Both articles have been adapted and appropriately reproduced in the MEMRI website at the same time on December 9, 2003 with the following sensational titles:

- Somali Muslim Journalist on the Detrimental Effects of Wahhabism on His Country
- Ethiopian Journalist on the Detrimental Effects of Saudi Arabia's 'Poisonous Wahhabism' on His Country

Obviously such articles mean a great deal to the enemies of *Islam*. It is very unfortunate that some people (with muslim names) contribute to the defamation of *Islam* intentionally and/or mockingly without paying due attention to the consequences of their actions. Such persons very much fit into the category of hypocrites described by *Ayat 8-10* of *Surah AlBaqarah* as quoted below:

And of mankind, there are some (hypocrites) who say: "We believe in Allah and the Last Day" while in fact they believe not.

They (think to) deceive Allah and those who believe, while they only deceive themselves, and perceive (it) not!

In their hearts is a disease (of doubt and hypocrisy) and Allah has increased their disease. A painful torment is theirs because they used to tell lies.

Mr. Goth (*Bashir Sheikh Cumar Good*) lives in the Emirates where, as an "established" journalist, he has access to virtually all the media of the world. Why on earth did he come down so low to write in the *Addis Tribune*? Is he aspiring to join the *Federal Parliament of Ethiopia* as the infamous *Ayaan Hersi Ali* had made her way to the *Dutch Parliament* by slandering *Islam*. It is common knowledge that Chequebook journalism is a thriving business; particularly when it serves the interest of the *Zionist* movement through collaborators from within the Islamic world. Let us hope that Mr. Goth had been rewarded, materially or otherwise, by his masters and that his effort did not go in vain.

Responding to Mr. Goth's shameful and derogatory article, I have assumed that:

- The material published in the *Addis Tribune* and attributed to Mr. Goth had not been doctored, tampered with, manipulated and/or distorted by the editors of the paper; and
- 2. The actual person in the story of the crazy teacher of *Dila* village who claimed "prophet-hood", according to the article, is not Mr. Goth himself.

2. <u>Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice in Islam</u>

We the *Muslims* believe and accept that *Islam* by definition is the same eternal message from *Allah* (SWT) and revealed through the ages to all prophets and messengers, which include Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (SAAWS). We have no knowledge of an old and a new *islam*; orthodox and modern *islam*; Sufi, Wahabi, puritanical or adulterated *islam*. *Islam* is one and only one thing to all those who profess the *Shahadah*, in word

and deed, as stipulated in the *Holy Quraan* and the *Sunnah* of the *Prophet* lt is the western *orientalists* and their pretenders/imitators like *Mr. Bashir Good* (or *Goth* as he prefers to be called) who fabricate and coin such satanic terms with the intention of defaming the religion of *Islam* and *muslims*.

A noble and commonly known characteristic of *Islam* is that it stands for the "*Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice*". There are numerous verses in the *Quraan* and the *Authentic Ahadith* of the *Prophet* that urge muslims to promote virtue and prevent vice in the world for the good of the humanity. Through *Ayah 104* of *surah Al-Imran* Allah calls upon believers to:

Let there arise out of you a group of people inviting to all that is good (Islam), enjoining *Al-Ma'ruf* (i.e. Islamic Monotheism and all that Islam orders one to do) and forbidding *Al-Munkar* (polytheism and disbelief and all that Islam has forbidden). And it is they who are the successful. (Al-Imran 104)

3. Why is Mr. Goth nervous about Hijaab?

Mr. Goth appears to be a professional teller-of-tales with some memorabilia not from the crazy sixties only, but also **Fooxleh** (Sufis) fallacies, pastoral oral literature, and *mirgaan/garaami* fantasies. His article, which is devoid of objectivity and substance reflects a great deal about his personality and behavioral tribulations. He has lustful desires to female body. He unsuccessfully tried to hide his sensitivity to women and enthusiasm to their melodies. He attempted but failed to hide his "Casanova"/shabeelnaagood obsessions with women. If Mr. Goth is not being intellectually dishonest, why can't he come out to express his passions and unbridled frustrations without bothering others with his unconvincing and tenuous allegations of what he calls "Wahabism". A man of his age and knowledge with the Somali cultural values and Islamic principles (as he alludes to be) would not have produced such a slanderous article against Somali women. His miserable arguments are all out of touch with the reality. The likes of *Iman, Weris* and [*Ayaan*] and the long list of "*Shimbirayahow heesa*" in his article are not representatives of the Somali women. Thanks to Allah, we are no longer sex objects for sick men who value women just for their bodily shapes, figures, complexions, costumes, etc.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Goth exposed himself to be unqualified to raise and objectively write about issues of concern to the Somali women. Our Islamic costumes are of no concern to any party other than ourselves and, since wearing *hijaab* is a religious obligation for muslim women, it can hardly be an issue for debate. Each woman dresses up as she pleases. Those of us who desire to faithfully stick to the Islamic dress codes and guidelines as described in the *Quraan* and *Sunnah* will obediently comply with it no matter what. Matters pertaining to the *hijaab* are addressed in a number of *Ayat* in the *Quraan*. For

example, *Ayah 59* of *Surah Al-Ahzab* (quoted below) depicts *what* kind of clothes, *how* and *why* muslim women should wear.

O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks (veils) all over their bodies (i.e.screen themselves completely except the eyes or one eye to see the way). That will be better, that they should be known (as free respectable women) so as not to be annoyed. And Allah is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

We wholeheartedly acknowledge receipt of the message of *Allah* to us through his beloved *Messenger* and respond to it by saying affirmatively:

... We hear, and we obey. (We seek) Your Forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the return (of all) (Al-Baqarah 285)

If, in the first place, Mr. Goth does not believe in religious obligations, ethics, morality and values in *Islam*, he has no business in telling muslims what to do about their faith.

The Somali women have too many other priorities to worry about and are not interested in heeding to Mr. Goth's pagan propaganda. If his concerns for women were genuine and not emotive "crocodile tears", why is he so much preoccupied and obsessed with their bodily attributes only_beauty, curves and shapes, movements, hairstyles, and "nightingale" voices. Why is it so important to him to gaze at a destitute woman breastfeeding her baby in the open or young girls waiting for a school bus on the roadside? He should rather see a therapist before his obsessions lead him to possible criminal acts.

4. <u>Ulama versus Far-hungri Graduates on Women Issues</u>

I believe that **Sheikh Mohammed ibn Abdelwahab**, like many other great muslim thinkers, rendered significant service to **Islam** and muslisms by alerting the **Ummah** against the dangers of **shirk** rituals. In contrast to Mr. Goth's misleading suggestion, **Sheikh Abdelwahab** never came up with a new **Madhab** or **Dariiqah** nor did he dismiss, condemn or doubt the appropriateness of any the four **Fiqh Schools** of thought. He rather emphatically and correctly expressed his dislike of the **Shirk** practices in the name of **Islam** by certain misguided **Sufis** and their blind followers

On women issues, the difference between the opposing views of the *Ulama* and the *pseudo-intellectuals* like Mr. Goth is simple and straightforward. The *Ulama*, being the "disciples of the prophets" of *Allah*, have real and substantive messages to convey to all. Guided by the *Holy Qur'aan* and *Sunnah*, they preach islamic values and ideals. Their only motive is to please *Allah* by *informing* people about *Islam*. With the help of Allah, they undertake the tremendous responsibility of guiding people from the darkness of *Jaahiliyah* to the light of *Islam* as proclaimed by *Ayah 257* of *Al-Baqarah* (quoted below).

Allah is the *Wali* (Protector or Guardian) of those who believe. He brings them out from darkness into light. But as for those who disbelieve, their *Auliya* (supporters and helpers) are *Taghut* [false deities and false leaders, etc.], they bring them out from light into darkness. Those are the dwellers of the Fire, and they will abide therein forever.

By promoting virtue and preventing vice, our beloved *ulama* portray the true moral fiber of muslims as described in *Ayah 71* of *Attawbah* (quoted below).

The believers, men and women, are *Auliya'* (helpers, supporters, friends, protectors) of one another, they enjoin (on the people) *Al-Ma'ruf* (i.e. Islamic Monotheism and all that Islam orders one to do), and forbid (people) from *Al-Munkar* (i.e. polytheism and disbelief of all kinds, and all that Islam has forbidden); they perform *As-Salat* (*Iqamat-as-Salat*) and give the *Zakat*, and obey Allah and His Messenger. Allah will have His Mercy on them. Surely Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

Unlike the *Ulama*, the present-day *far-hunguri* self-styled intellectuals (*jaahiliyah* graduates) promote satanic values and immorality on the pretext of modernizing of societies. However, greed for worldly possessions like material wealth, fame and power constitutes their driving force. The primary victims of their satanic values are the women.

Lately the international media has been heavily loaded with news items on muslim women dress codes. The *hijaab* of the muslim girls in Europe in general and in France, Germany and Italy in particular has been receiving huge attention.

Banning *hijaab* in the French schools is one of the most recent violations against the rights muslim women in France.

While the media continues to report negatively about *Islam* and muslims, the number of people embracing *Islam* is on the increase each year, particularly in western countries. The media claim that women are oppressed under the *Shari'ah* and deprived from their basic human rights. Surprisingly, however, the vast majority of the converts to *Islam* are women confirming that they are better off under *Islam*. One might suggest that most of the new muslim women embraced Islam through marriage. But that is not necessarily the case and *Mr.* Goth himself being married to a non-muslim can bear witness.

5. Mr. Goth's Perfect Co-habitation Between "Somali Culture" and Islam
Little is known about the system of religious believes, which the Somalis followed
before the advent of Islam in the Horn of Africa over 14 centuries ago.
Nevertheless, the mythical names like Waaq, Tiniixi, Tincaaro and Tincaws
could be symbolizing the deities/idols, which the ancient Somalis worshipped.
Some legends narrate the stories of certain high priests like Bucur Bacayr and
Geeddi Baabow who promoted immoral customs in their communities. The
legend says that these pagan priests used to keep brides for the first seven
nights of their weddings to themselves for molestation. Although islam had
eliminated such immoral acts many centuries ago, there are some customs
reminiscent of the pre-islamic pagan rituals still rampant in Somalia. Some are
outlined below.

Mr. Goth argued that *Islam* and what he called *Somali culture* harmoniously cohabited for centuries in the past. That is not true. He must be referring to some rather primitive and barbaric nomadic customs shrouded with mythical *Sufi* rituals that prevailed in the land. That is exactly what Mr. Goth is trying to allure us about the happy co-existence between the "*Somali culture*" and "*Sufi Islam*" in his substandard terminologies.

Traditionally, a Somali man would either be a *Wadaad* (cleric) or a *Waranleh* (spear bearer or warrior). The vast majority of the men belonged to the *Waranleh* category. The *Wadaad*s were not only few in number, but also poorly educated and they lacked learning/teaching resources. The roles of the *Wadaad* were limited to religious functions, which included presiding over marital and death/burial affairs. The rest of socio-economic and political endeavors of the community were monopolized by the *Waranleh*s. Women were categorically excluded from all functions of the community outside their immediate households.

A few of the *Wadaad*s were productive members of the community. The majrity of them were lazy dependants who fed on the blood of the community. They collected *saqadaat* and *zakaat* from the community and kept it to themselves instead of distributing to the rightful needy recipients. The *Wadaad*s were also

paid for reciting *Mawliid, Manaaqib, Qaasid, Burdah* and writing of *Qardhaasaha*, and *Madiidooyin* to bewitch women.

The *Wadaad*s used to play dirty tricks on people who trusted them. They claimed to possess some extraordinary powers and special forces of invisible spirits (known as *Jin* and *Rooxaan*). Consequently, they created and instilled fear and superstitions in the minds and hearts of the people. No one could dare to oppose or say anything negative about those corrupt *wadaad*s.

Some of the more influential *Wadaad*s would even promote themselves to the rank of *Sufis* and eventually *Awliya'*. They consumed large quantities of *Qaad* and smoked hashish/tobacco to reach to the nirvana of *Mirqaan*. Somehow a typical *Sufi/weli* in Somalia would be a shabby, mentally disturbed, *Qaad* and tobacco/hashish addict with hair plaits like those of *Rastafarians*.

There are two nasty cultures introduced into Somalia by the corrupt **Wadaad**s. These are:

- 1. Idolization and glorification of self-styled persons as Awliya'
- 2. Eating of **Qaad**.

These satanic cultures are closely interlinked and they reinforce one another in their devastating effects on the society. In order to secure public acceptance for the utilization of the *Qaad*, the *wadaad*s nicknamed it *Quut-al-Awliya*'. The disastrous impact of the *Quut-al-Awliya*' on our people visibly appears on the face of almost every Somali. It is saddest that *Qaad* consumption is still continuing to rise particularly among women and children who are catching up very fast with the men already addicted to the habit of *Mirgaan*.

The wadaads and their captives have a number sayings among, which are:

- Meded yaa Jiilani
- > Awliyo Allay adeeg
- Weli siraata, weli duula, mid buur yaalla, ku bannaan yaalla ...
- Caado la gooyaa cadho Alle ayay leedahay
- > La joojiyana bannaan, la jiifiyana bannaan
- ... Wankii badhi laa balaayada kaa dabbaala.

Admittedly there were some good *Wadaad*s who were better educated and enlightened. They were called *Sheikhs* and were few in number and communities loved them for their integrity, good manners and knowledge with the *Diin*. We owe a great deal to those *Sheikhs* who, against all odds, kept the torch of *Islam* high and alight in the Horn of Africa. The young and better-educated *Ulama* of today are following the footsteps of those respectable *Sheikhs* in helping our people to rediscover *Islam* by eradicating myths and idolatry practices of present day *Jaahiyah*.

6. Crimes Against Women in the Name of *Islam*

The Somali women have very little to be proud about Mr. Goth's "Somali Culture". They were subjugated and abused under such savage nomadic customs. They were subjected to the most sadistic, brutal and inhumane practices of FEMALE GENETAL MUTILATION (FGM), which has nothing to do with *Islam*. They were deprived of virtually all rights and treated like beasts of burden by men. They were barred from learning and even practicing *islam* so that they would remain shackled by ignorance and live in bondage; oblivious to their God given rights under the **Shari'ah**. These horrendous crimes against women were committed under mutual collusion and consent between the socalled Somali culture and the freakish wadaad/fooxleh misinterpretations of *Islam*. If Mr. Goth's statement that women were safe with men in the open is true, why were the young and innocent girls subjected and continue to be subjected to such cruel FGM practices? No Sir. That is your own speculation. In real life, however, women never felt safe with men. That is why they used to walk behind men and keep safe distance behind a barrier during encounters in the open. Under the pastoral customary laws, women hardly had any legal rights. I suppose that Mr. Goth knows that if a woman would get raped, injured or pregnant outside marriage, two things would normally happen to her. First she would always be the guilty one for whatever wrong thing that may happen to her and, secondly, she would be compensated for by getting married to same man who mistreated her. For his punishment, the man would be obliged to marry her as a used or defective entity. That is the justice available to women under Mr. Goth's "Somali culture". Unlike the discriminatory nomadic customs, people, irrespective of their sexes, are equal under the **Shari'ah**.

Besides the appallingly heinous FGM practiced under the primitive nomadic culture, which Mr. Goth fanatically adorns, and his brand of devilish fooxleh/sufism, Somali girls were sold away into marriage at an early age in life in exchange for hefty dowries, tortured and raped during their wedding nights, frequently battered by their husbands, worked like slaves, disowned and deprived of their rightful entitlements. Worse than that, they were socially subjected to so many discriminatory practices. Baby boys were highly preferred to girls. In such a nomadic tribal social set up, known for its male-dominated structure, women had no place and belonged to no tribe neither by birth nor marriage. They used to be widely victimized for things that were not of their making. The hardest hit were the mothers with no sons of their own. They were subjected to a great deal of humiliation for not giving birth to baby sons. Wife battering was a widespread practice. Weapons/tools like heavy sticks (budh) and "hangoole" (for whatever purpose Mr. Goth mentioned it in his article) were used for "good" beatings that would require the services of a local doctor (*Faradin*) to be called in to dress up deep cuts and fix broken bones of the skull, ribs or limbs.

Women were also abused psychologically. The Somali oral literature is full of poems, proverbs, sayings, stories, etc. that defame women of all ages. The very extract by Mr. Goth from the late **Abdillahi Abdi Shube** rhyme, reproduced

below, is a typical example of such abusive "literature". Unfortunately, Mr. Goth can not comprehend how offensive and rude these lines are to the women.

"Shaydaan aanad arkayn, oo shaambinaaya agtaadu, waa naag shaadir hagoogan."

Other examples include:

- Wixii xumba xaawa leh
- Naago waa dhallaan raad weyn
- Kal caano galeen kas magalo
- Aamin dumar ma yeeshoo, Muunisa oo aqoon la, Shaydaan afoofee
- Habar tukatay bay iga tahay!
- > Kas dumar oo kuudud rag kaaga dambeeyey kii hore maaha!
- > Rag ballan baa xidha naagana meher

Even today, women are habitually ridiculed in almost all musicals, plays, and in songs. The actresses in most plays are given roles that belittle the strength, integrity and intelligence of women. By way of illustration, I can mention the following as typical plays in which women were maltreated:

- > Hablayahaw Hadmaad Guursan Doontaan
- Doob Qalanjadiis Gabay
- > Beenay waa Run
- Ragow Aarsi Haween u Adkaysata Markiinna
- Qabyo.

In folklore dance encounters, men and women used to engage one another in dialogue to test each other's knowledge, experience and mastery of poetry. However, men used to be rude with their lady opponents whenever they outshine them. The famous encounters between *Cambaro Ahmed* and *Hurre Walanwal*, and *Cirro-tidic* with son many challengers can be mentioned.

7. Concluding Remarks

What I have pointed out above are just a few of many mistreatments that women in Somalia have been experiencing for many centuries under an ungodly combination of local customs reminiscent of prehistoric era and wicked *Sufi* practices. The Somali people have been suffering from the yoke of these pagan customs and *Sufi* rituals for too long. The time has come to stamp them out of the country all together. With help of *Allah*, the new generation of dedicated and determined *ulama* shall be victorious in liberating our women from the bondage of sexism. The evil forces of the westernization and their "*fooxleyaal*" will soon be eradicated. Be sure, Mr. Goth, the age of enlightenment of women has come and perverts like you cannot stop it. The tide is just too big for a hallucinated *Sufi* to stand against it.

Towards the end of his article, Mr. Goth asked "why is it that it is always those who fail in school or in life who turn to such religious extremism?". This is an absurd, illogical, imprecise and presumptuous and meaningless question that no person in his/her right mind should waste time to offer an answer to it. I wonder what kind of criteria does Mr. Goth use to measure success in school or in life! The real losers are those described in Ayat 103 to106 of Surat AlKahf (quoted below).

Say (O Muhammad): "Shall We tell you the greatest losers in respect of (their) deeds?

"Those whose efforts have been wasted in this life while they thought that they were acquiring good by their deeds!

"They are those who deny the *Ayat* (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) of their Lord and the Meeting with Him (in the Hereafter). So their works are in vain, and on the Day of Resurrection, We shall not give them any weight.

"That shall be their recompense, Hell; because they disbelieved and took My *Ayat* (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) and My Messengers by way of jest and mockery.



