

## Christian-Muslim: Who is to Blame?<sup>1</sup>

I have spent 30 years in an African Muslim environment. In addition, I have spent 10 years doing part-time research on Christian-Muslim relations and am presently writing a book on the subject.

On basis of these credentials, I affirm that Mr. Saul is right: The West has co-responsibility for the current climate. He is also right that Christians share in that responsibility.

However, the primary Western culprit is secularism. Islam can and has tolerated Christianity, but mainstream and fundamentalist Islam both regard secularism as their main enemy. The relationship between them is antithetical; in the long run, they cannot co-exist. Generally, Muslims regard Christians as part of the problem only to the extent that they are seen as part of the secular package.

The sad part is that Muslims have warned of a coming explosion against secularism for more than a decade, but it has always fallen on deaf ears.

Secularism is haughty and deaf with respect to other world views. We are now paying the bill.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter to Editor, *Vancouver Sun*, December 14, 2001.