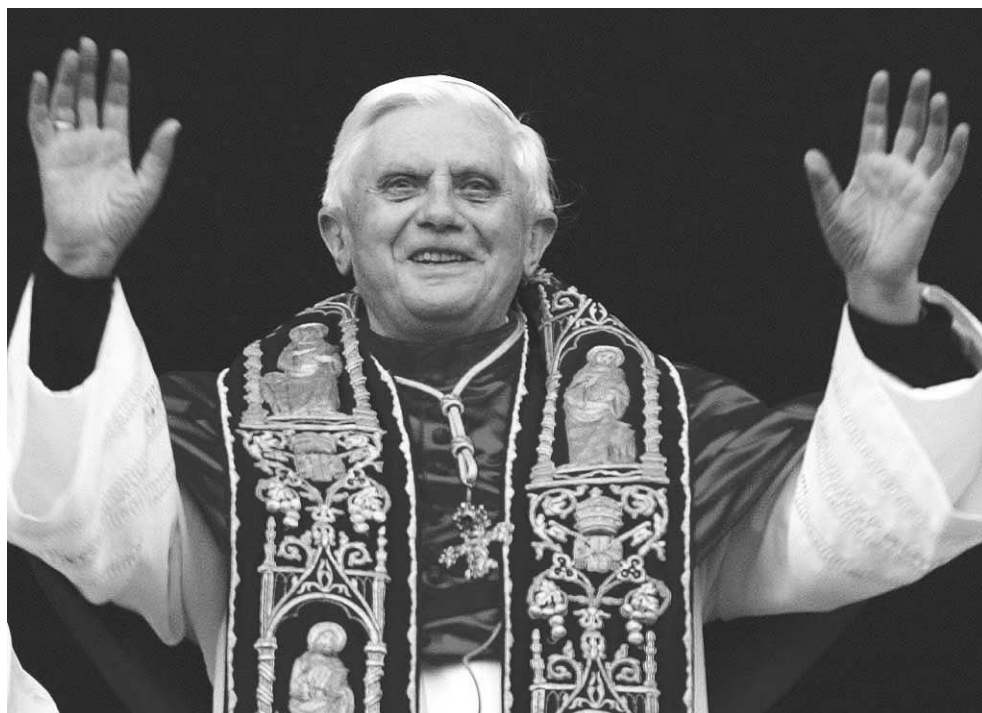


CATHOLICS AND JEWS JOIN TO DEFEND POPE BENEDICT XVI



Speaking at Regensburg University in Germany on September 12, Pope Benedict XVI warned against separating faith and reason.

In his lecture, the Pope quoted a 14th century Byzantine emperor, who said:

“Show me just what Muhammad brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached.”



In response to an outcry in the Islamic world, the Pope said he was “deeply sorry” that Muslims were offended by his use of a Medieval quotation.

That wasn't good enough for some Muslims, whose behavior seems to underscore the connection between Islam and violent extremism.

From Jeddah to Jakarta, there have been calls for the Pope's murder.

In Somalia, Sheik Abubakar Hassan Malin declared: ***“Whoever offends our Prophet Muhammad should be killed on the spot by the nearest Muslim.”***

In Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, and in London, demonstrators chanted ***“Death to the Pope,”*** and burned him in effigy.

The Mujahedeen Shura Council (an umbrella group of Sunni Muslims) proclaimed: ***“We will tell the worshipper of the cross (the Pope) that you and the West will be defeated...May God enable us to slit their throats and make their money and descendants the bounty of the mujahedeen.”***

A militant Iraqi group predicted: ***“The day is coming when the armies of Islam will destroy the ramparts of Rome.”***

In the West Bank and Gaza, seven churches were firebombed. And in Somalia, Sister Leonella — a nun who devoted her life to aiding the sick — was shot in the back and killed as she left a children's hospital.

DEATH THREATS, ATTACKS ON CHURCHES AND MURDER AREN'T FORMS OF PROTEST. THEY ARE TERRORISM AND MUST BE CONDEMNED UNEQUIVOCALLY.

All over the world, Jews, Christians and Hindus are being attacked and killed in the name of Islam. Where is the protest from Muslim leaders at these atrocities – or do they believe only Muslims have a right to life or freedom of religion?

We call on all people of good will to stand with us in defense of the Pope and against violence and intimidation.



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