

For Immediate Release
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A New Jihad Role Model

New book celebrates 19th Century Muslim hero who united the East and West in praise of his Virtue

Rhinebeck, NY November 18, 2008: Though the history of the Emir Abd el-Kader is virtually unknown today in the United States, it wasn't always the case. When the Muslim warrior-saint died in 1883 his New York Times obituary hailed him as "one of the few great men of the century."

During the previous fifty years Abd el-Kader had been a world figure, admired from the Great Plains to Moscow and Paris to Mecca: first as a chivalrous opponent of the French occupation of Algeria that began in 1830, later as a stoic prisoner who forced France to honor its pledge to grant him free passage to the Middle East after he had voluntarily laid down his arms in 1847. Exiled in Damascus, Abd el-Kader reached the summit of his fame by protecting thousands of Christians during a rampage in Damascus in 1860. He was admired and even revered around the world for his moral authority, broad inclusive intellect, diplomatic finesse and natural warrior abilities. But it was his moral courage to behave in the Koranically manner of protecting innocent lives that won him the praise of President Abraham Lincoln, Queen Victoria, Pope Pius IX and Emir Shamil (another Muslim freedom fighter) and heads of state from all over Europe.

Abd el Kader won his place on the world stage by being a model Muslim. The emir's life was rooted in self-restraint and a deep knowledge of his religious law, knowledge that required him to treat prisoners humanely, keep his word, end futile suffering and to save innocents. His Islam has little to do with the attention grabbing violence presented by the Western media today and glorified in the jihadist cyber world as martyrdom. True jihad is about the struggle to live a righteous life in war and in peace. In all things, the emir sought to live according to God's will as transmitted through the teachings of Abraham Moses, Jesus and Mohammed. Americans saw a kindred spirit in Abd el-Kader's struggle against of European imperialism. One of them, a lawyer named Timothy Davis, named a town in his honor—today Elkader Iowa. True jihad lies in struggling with the axis of evil within—those inner demons that lead to violence and injustice. Christians know them as the seven deadly sins, among which anger and hatred are the most deadly. War provides the hardest test of controlling these deadly passions, one which emir Abd el-Kader passed to the applause of all who knew him.

Monkfish Book Publishing Company is therefore proud to announce the publication of *Commander of the Faithful: The Life and Times of Emir Abd el-Kader: A Story of True Jihad* by John W. Kiser. The book was officially launched last month in Elkader, Iowa where Mr. Kiser spent two days speaking in town venues such as the school, the library, and the opera house. Elkader is a member of Sister Cities International and sister city to Mascara, Algeria, the birthplace of el-Kader. This summer when Elkader was damage by floods, the government of Algeria sent a check for \$150,000 for relief, fruit of its Sister Cities exchange with the emir's home town of Mascara, Algeria

Early Praise

Susan Eisenhower said "*Commander of the Faithful* is one of those dazzling biographies that inform our modern life" while the Prince of Jordan, Hassan bin Talal, hailed it as a book which "provides Muslims with a much needed antidote to the toxic false jihads of today, dominated by anger violence

and politics.” (*include feisal quote? Or sachedina*) *Commander of the Faithful* is being simultaneously published in the UK by Archetype Books and will be presented to the Muslim world in Doha, Karachi and Lahore in the coming months by the author. Its Muslim endorsers echo the comments of Muhammad Ammar Khan Nasir, Editor Monthly "Al-Sharia", in Pakistan, “I strongly recommend this book be translated into Arabic, Persian and Urdu.”

Commander of the Faithful is the third volume in a trilogy of political-historical books which have faith-in-action as an underlying theme. His previous books included *The Monks of Tibhirine: Faith Love and Terror in Algeria* (St. Martins Press, 2006, winner of the French Siloe Prize) and *Stefan Zweig: Death of a Modern Man*, one of the most prolific and widely read writers of the 1930s who committed suicide in 1942 (University of Toulouse Press, 1995, in French).

Mr. Kiser is Chairman of the William and Mary Greve Foundation. He has a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of North Carolina, a master’s degree in European history from Columbia University, and a master’s of business administration degree from the University of Chicago; in addition, he pursued German studies at Goettingen University. Mr. Kiser has worked as a private consultant to the U.S. Department of State and was the founder and President of Kiser Research, Inc., a consulting and brokering business based in Washington, D.C., which acquired the rights to advanced technologies from Russia and Eastern block countries during the 1980s. In 1994, Mr. Kiser and his family lived in St. Paul de Vence, France for a year. Afterward, he decided to dedicate himself to writing and farming and now lives in Sperryville, VA, USA. He speaks German, French, and Russian and is an honorary member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

To obtain a review copy of the book, or to arrange an author interview, please contact Paul Cohen of Monkfish Publishing Company at 845.876.4861, bookcohen@aol.com, or visit www.truejihad.com.

Some relevant factoids:

Then:

El-Kader was 24 years old when his father abdicated his leadership role with the tribes of Algeria in favor of his son. He was raised to be a “Marabout” or holy man. Marabouts memorized the Koran and were known as scholars, healers and spiritual leaders

Abd el-Kader’s fame and world hero status began with words of praise from released French prisoners and officers of the French army who met him in battle

Though outnumbered and facing vastly superior weaponry, el-Kader resisted the French for seventeen years, only surrendering when the French resorted to scorched earth tactics

Abd el-Kader was promised free passage to the Middle East as a condition of his surrender. The French government reneged on its promise and imprisoned el-Kader in France in 1848. He was liberated by Louis-Napoleon in 1852

In addition to President Lincoln, el-Kader also received gifts from Queen Elizabeth and Pope Pius

10,000 Christians Were Saved by this Islamic Warrior! Damascus, 1860. During a politically inspired rampage against the Christians, Emir Abd el-Kader gave refuge in his palatial residence to the western diplomatic community and thousands from the Christian quarter...He had every reason to hate Christians yet this holy warrior exemplified the highest ideal of Christian love of neighbor...

Today

U.S. officials are being advised in internal government documents to avoid referring publicly to al Qaeda and other terrorist groups as Islamic or Muslim, and not to use terms like jihad or mujahedeen, which "unintentionally legitimize" terrorism. Washington Times, Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Elkader is currently the only U.S. member to have a sister city in Algeria.

There is no common consensus as to how Muslims currently live in the US. Estimates range from 2.5 million to 6 million.

According to a report in Foreign Policy Magazine, May 2007, Islam is the world's fastest growing religion with 1.3 billion adherents worldwide

Article posted on October 2008 Haaretz.com, the online edition of Haaretz Newspaper in Israel
"This year, this Jew is embracing jihad"