Some terms relating to Islam  
From: http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary\_islamic\_terms

* [**ALAWITE**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/alawite)

An offshoot of Shia Islam, often considered heretical, located primarily in Syria where it makes up approximately 12% of the population.

* [**ALLAH**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/allah)

Arabic for “God.”

* [**BURKA**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/burka)

A full-body and face covering worn by some Muslim women in compliance with an interpretation of a Quranic verse that instructs Muslims to dress "modestly."

* [**CALIPHATE**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/caliphate)

An Islamic State where Sharia is the basis of governance; usually used in reference to past Islamic empires in the Middle East.

* [**CIVILIZATION JIHAD**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/civilization-jihad)

Term used by the U.S. Muslim Brotherhood in a 1991 document to describe its strategy to gradually destroy the United States from within.

* [**DAWA**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/dawa)

The proselytizing of Islam.

* [**FATWA**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/fatwa)

A legal ruling made according to Sharia (Islamic law)

* [**FGM**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/fgm)

Female Genital Mutilation - Partial or complete removal of the external female genitalia usually carried out on girls from a few days old to puberty. Considered a religious obligation by some Islamic authorities in order to control women's sexual desires.

* [**GRADUALISM**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/gradualism)

Islamist strategy often used by the Muslim Brotherhood that calls for incremental, pragmatic change of societies towards compliance with Sharia governance.

* [**HADITH**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/hadith)

Recorded collection of the acts and sayings of Mohammed, the founder of Islam who Muslims believe was a prophet; "ahadith" refers to the body of collections, each viewed with varying credibility.

* [**HAJJ**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/hajj)

Pilgrimage made to Mecca that is required of all capable Muslims.

* [**HALAL**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/halal)

Arabic word for "permissible" under Islamic law (Sharia).

* [**HIJAB**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/hijab)

Veil often worn by Muslim women that covers the scalp but leaves the face exposed in compliance with an interpretation of an Islamic command to dress "modestly."

* [**HONOR KILLING**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/honor-killing)

The murder of a family member for allegedly "shaming" the family with un-Islamic behavior.

* [**HUDNA**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/hudna)

Islamic term for temporary truce.

* [**HUDUD**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/hudud)

The term *Hudud* in Sharia (Islamic law) usually refers to the most serious criminal punishments.

For example, the punishment for apostasy, adultery and homosexuality is execution; thievery is punishable by having a hand severed and premarital sex is punishable by 100 lashings.

* [**IKHWAN**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/ikhwan)

Arabic for "Brotherhood," usually in reference to the Muslim Brotherhood.

* [**IMAM**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/imam)

Religious authority figure; usually the leader of a mosque.

* [**ISLAMISM**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/islamism)

The interpretation of Islam as a governmental system in which strict Sharia law must be enforced; synonymous with Political Islam.

* [**ISLAMOPHOBIA**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/islamophobia)

Unwarranted fear of Muslims; term frequently used by Islamist groups and their allies to label critics of Islamic extremism as bigots in order to stifle criticism.

* [**JIHAD**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/jihad)

A holy war waged against non-Muslims on behalf of Islam considered to be a religious duty; also, a personal struggle in devotion to Islam.

* [**MAHDI**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/mahdi)

The Mahdi is a figure who, according to certain Islamic believers, will unify Mankind under Islam after vanquishing a false messiah; Shiites sometimes refer to him as the "Hidden Imam."

* [**MASJID**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/masjid)

Arabic for "mosque;" Islamic house of worship.

* [**MUJAHIDEEN**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/mujahideen)

Religiously-motivated fighters that volunteer to wage Jihad against the enemies of Islam.

* [**MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/muslim-brotherhood)

A worldwide Islamist organization founded in Egypt in 1928 by Hassan al-Banna that seeks to implement Sharia-based governance globally.

* [**NIKAH MUT'AH**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/nikah-mut039ah)

A marriage contracted for a limited period, for a certain sum of money. Such marriages are still legal among Shiites, but are considered prohibitted by Sunnis. (Dictionary of Islam, by Patrick Hughes).

* [**NIQAB**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/niqab)

A face veil, worn by some Muslim women,that exposes only the eyes in compliance with an interpretation of an Islamic command to dress modestly.

* [**POLITICAL ISLAM**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/political-islam)

The interpretation of Islam as a governmental system; synonymous with Islamism.

* [**QURAN**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/quran)

The book that Muslims believe records the prophecies received by Mohammed by God.

* [**SALAFIST**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/salafist)

Islamic movement formed in the early 20th century that holds that Muslims must reject much of modernity and replicate the lifestyle of Mohammed and early Islamic authorities; often used synonymously with Wahhabism.

* [**SALAT**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/salat)

Arabic for “prayer,” required by Islamic law (Sharia) to be performed five times per day.

* [**SAWM**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/sawm)

Arabic for “fasting.”

* [**SHAHADA**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/shahada)

A declaration required by Islamic law saying that a person believes that Allah is the one God and Mohammed is his messenger.

* [**SHARIA**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/sharia)

A legal framework to regulate public and private aspects of life based upon specific Islamic teachings. Sharia is a strict system which views non-Muslims as second-class citizens, sanctions inequality between men and women and prescribes cruel and unusual punishments for crimes.

* [**SHARIA FINANCE**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/sharia-finance)

Investments into funds approved by Islamic scholars as being Sharia-compliant; often referred to as "Islamic banking."

* [**SHEIKH**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/sheikh)

A Muslim preacher with recognized religious authority.

* [**SHIITES**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/shiite)

Branch of Islam that represents 10-15% of Muslims. Shiites believe that Muhammed divinely ordained his cousin and son-in-law Ali to be the next caliph making Ali and his direct descendants Muhammed's successors.

* [**SUFI**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/sufi)

Practice of Islam that emphasizes mysticism and whose followers organize into "orders."

* [**SUNNA**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/sunna)

Proper behavior as represented by the life of Mohammed and written in the ahadith; often used synonymously with ahadith.

* [**SUNNIS**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/sunnis)

Branch of Islam that represents 85-90% of Muslims. Sunnis believe that Abu Bakr, the father of Muhammad's wife Aisha, was Muhammad's rightful successor and that the method of choosing leaders is the consensus of the Muslim community.

* [**SURA**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/sura)

Chapter of the Quran.

* [**TAKFIR**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/takfir)

The act of declaring ones fellow muslim to be a non-believer. It is a legal categorization for which the sentence is traditionally death, which must be handed down by an Islamic Court. Most notably used in recent times on Salman Rushdie, who was declared a kafir and sentenced to death in a fatwa issued by Ayatollah Khomeini because of passages in Rushdie’s book The Satanic Verses.

* [**TAQIYYA / TAQQIYA**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/taqiyya-taqqiya)

Arabic for “deceit” or “dissimulation.” According to certain Islamic interpretations, Muslims are allowed to lie in certain situations such as to deceive their enemies, particularly non-Muslims.

* [**UMMAH**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/ummah)

Worldwide community of Muslims.

* [**WAHHABI**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/wahhabi)

Term used to describe a puritanical form of Islam like that is instituted in Saudi Arabia; inspired by the preaching of Mohammed al-Wahhab.

* [**ZAKAT**](http://www.clarionproject.org/glossary/zakat)

Obligatory donation of income in Islam.