

cal support for the FIS, historically. The FIS points out that “after the cleansing of Mitidja, the forces of evil are attacking the bastions in the west of the FIS. Relizane is one of these.”

To be specific: “In the local elections of 1990, the citizens of this region elected 38 FIS city councilors out of 38, and in the legislative elections of December 1991, this district won 8 FIS deputies, out of 9 seats. . . .” The massacres perpetrated in the new year in Relizane, were the work of “the El Ahoual faction (which means “horrors” in Arabic), 400 men strong, which split from the GIA of Zitouni 18 months due to strife over the distribution of booty.” The group has been targeting in particular the AIS, which is the armed wing of the FIS. The reason lies in the ceasefire which the AIS negotiated with one part of the Algerian military, under Gen. Smail Lamari in October 1997. The civilians targetted by this GIA splinter group, have been unarmed persons, who have refused to join the militias.

### Uprooting the evil

Since the atrocities of this Ramadan have far exceeded even the bloody events of last year’s fasting month, external political forces have given some sign of motion. The first to demand action, were the Iranians. Foreign Minister, Dr. Kamal Kharrazi sent a letter to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, denouncing the brutal massacres, and the indifference and silence of the “international community.” Kharrazi called on the UN to take constructive measures, through consultations with all concerned, in search of a solution. Days later, *Iran News* editorialized, that Iran, as rotating chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), should mobilize that institution, to intervene to find a political solution, “so that there will be no need for another Nuremberg trial.” On Jan. 4, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel issued a statement, condemning the terrorist violence, and proposing that the European Union send a delegation to the country to consult with the Algerian government. The United States’s position, as presented by the State Department’s Jamie Rubin Jan. 6, has been to offer to send an international commission of inquiry.

Until very recently, the response of the Algerian government was categorical. The U.S. Ambassador in Algiers, Cameron Humon, was summoned by the Algerian authorities, who demanded an explanation. According to an official Algerian government communiqué of Jan. 6, he was served the “categorical rejection of any idea of an international commission of inquiry, regardless of its origin, shape or form.” The communiqué added, that the idea that such a commission could be linked to any “doubt as to the identity of the authors of terrorism, would objectively serve the endeavor to exculpate the terrorists, while they are perpetrating their odious crimes and claiming responsibility for them.”

Following its weekly cabinet meeting, the government issued another statement Jan. 7, deploring “all attempts at interference in its internal affairs,” and heaped praise on “the

security forces of the republic, National Popular Army, National Police, National Security and Communal Guard” for their efforts. The communiqué also appealed “again to the population to redouble its mobilization and vigilance . . . to the citizens around the national struggle against barbarous terrorism.” In short: Algiers will neither cooperate with outside forces, nor desist in arming its civilians into militias. It will collaborate only in “fighting terrorism.”

On Jan. 8, the Algerian government finally yielded somewhat to international pressure, and agreed to host a European Union troika delegation in Algiers, but only on condition that the talks center on fighting terrorism.

At the recent meeting in Tunis, of the Arab interior ministers, it was Algerian Interior Minister Mustafa Benmansour, who pointed vaguely to unnamed countries which were behind the violence. Algerian television reported that the government, rejecting outside interference, focussed attention on terrorist organizations in London, Paris, Brussels and Bonn, which it said should be shut down, if the Europeans wanted to stop the violence.

Of the four locations mentioned by the Algerian authorities, the only one which harbors the GIA, is London. In Brussels and Bonn, there may be representatives of the FIS, which is the opposition group that has been in the forefront of international efforts to end the war.

## The Armed Islam Group: a model satanic cult

The publication of the GIA, *Al Ansar*, is full of the satanic ideology, which is behind the mass murders of entire villages in Algeria. It carries statements by so-called sheiks who support the GIA, and offer justification for the ritual satanic murder of women and children, using Islamic rhetoric and the holy Qur’an as an ideological base. For example, *Al Ansar* wrote about the “Death Brigades” and the “Signers-with-Blood Brigades,” and promoted slogans like, “Hang the last infidel ruler from the intestines of the last (Christian) priest!” It ranted that “this spirit is enriched with the love of death,” and glorified the kinds of decapitations and bodily mutilations which have become the group’s gruesome trademark: “my dear brothers . . . mutilated corpses . . . skulls . . . terrorism, how beautiful these words are!” “no doubt that the crack of bullets and the glistening of knives are the best cure for the ill chests;” “the greatest nations in history has been the nations that mastered the *death industry*;” “blood and corpses create glory . . . and death creates life” (emphasis in original).