

THE ROLE OF THE MOSQUE

In a public gathering in 1998, **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, leader of the ruling Islamist party and current prime minister of Turkey, recited:

***The mosques are our barracks,
The domes our helmets,
The minarets our bayonets, and
The faithful our soldiers...***

These words earned him a conviction and minor jail-term for inciting religious hatred.

Yusuf Qaradawi

From: "The Mosque Exposed" by S. Solomon and E. Alamaqdisi

*"The mosque at the time of the prophet was his **propagation center**, the headquarters of the State, as it was for his successors... the mosque was their base for all their activities political as well as non-political.... **As Muslims [politics] is part of our religion, for it is doctrine and worship.** A system for the whole of life... and the **mission of the mosque as required by correct Islam is not an isolation from ... politics...** The mosque must then have a role in guiding the nation and informing her about the critical issues and making her see her enemies. **From ancient times, the mosque has had a role in jihad for the sake of Allah, ...** That blessed Intifada in the land of the prophets, Palestine, started from none other but the mosques; and its first call came from the minarets; and it was first known as the mosque revolution. The mosque's role in the Afghan jihad and every Islamic jihad... cannot be denied.*

NOTE: Yusuf Qaradawi is the most respected and influential Islamic religious authority in the world today, author of over 100 books on Muslim doctrine, head of the International Union of Muslim Scholars, and spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood.

