

By the Numbers Movie – How We Measured the Stats

Summary

Our goal in the short film *By the Numbers* is to provide a factual picture according to available data as to how radicalized the Muslim world is.

Our conclusion, according to the facts and public-opinion polls, is that a majority of Muslims are not radicalized. However, according to these same facts and polls, there is no way to deny there is a significant and serious problem of radicalism in the Muslim world.

Below are the sources and principles that guided us in making this film:

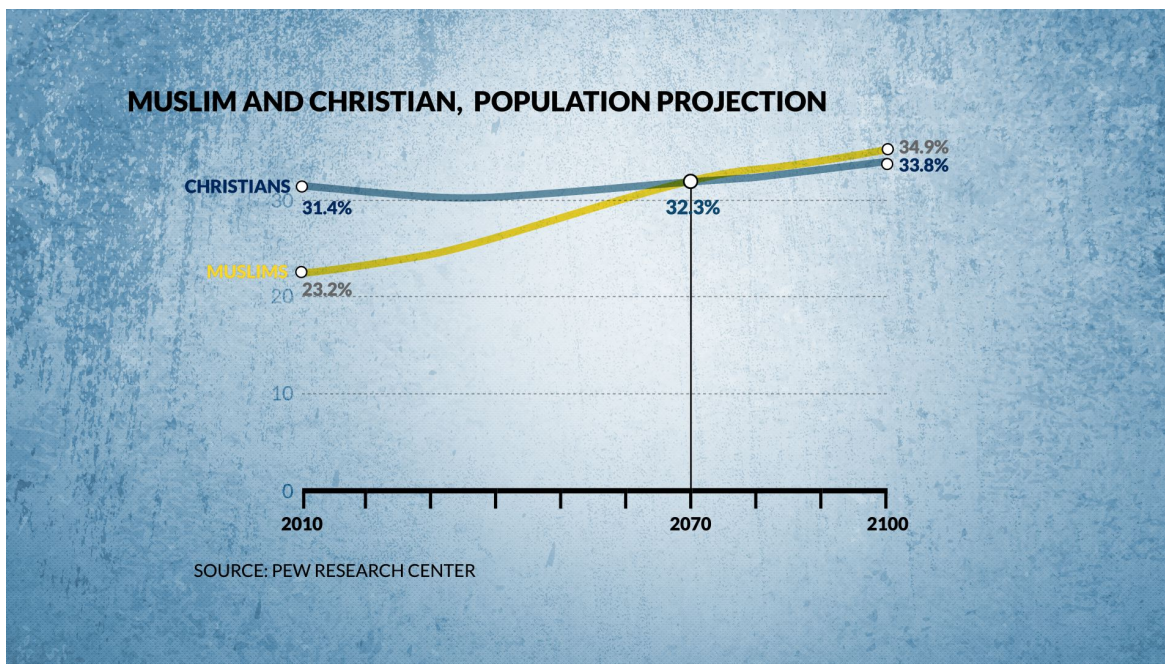
Principles of Computing

- The main source of the numbers we used was the poll conducted by the Pew Research center titled *The World's Muslims: Religion, Politics and Society*. It is the single largest and most reliable survey on Muslim attitudes around the world.
- The Pew Research Center *did not* survey the whole of the Muslim world. Muslims in countries including Saudi Arabia, Iran, India and China were not surveyed. According to their own numbers, Pew numerically surveyed only 67 percent of the Muslim world.¹ Therefore, when we were computing averages and the like, we did not use the number for the total Muslim population of the world (1.6 billion), but rather the total population of the countries surveyed.
- For statistical purposes concerning the topics listed below in numbers 3, 4 and 5, the question was asked first if he/she believes that *sharia* law should be the law of the land. Only those answering “yes” were then asked questions 3, 4 and 5. Therefore, percentages for those beliefs were computed within the percentage of those who believe that *sharia* law should be the law of the land.
- Although Muslims in Sub-Saharan Africa were asked if they believe Sharia should be the law of the land, they were not asked the questions about apostasy, honor killings, corporal punishment and stoning for an unfaithful spouse. Therefore, we have not computed those countries in our statistics.
- We computed both averages and the number arrived at after adding up the actual populations of all the countries surveyed.
- Language in the film was used in the same way as it appeared in the Pew questionnaire or how it was reported by Pew.

¹ “Frequently asked questions about this report”, *Pew Research Center*, May 19th, 2013
<http://www.pewforum.org/2013/05/09/the-worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-faq/>

1. Population Projections

There are 1.6 billion Muslims worldwide. The Muslim population worldwide is predicted to surpass the Christian population by end of the century. ²



2. Support for Sharia³

An average of 53% of the populations of the countries surveyed by Pew supports *sharia* as the law of the land⁴, translating to 469 million people.

However, based on actual population sizes (i.e., the sum of the Muslim populations of each country surveyed by Pew multiplied by the average for that particular country), the number is 620 million people.

3. Death for Apostasy⁵

² “The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050”, *Pew Research Center*. April 2nd, 2015
<http://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050/>

³ “The World’s Muslims: Religion, Politics and Society”, *Pew Research Center*, April 2013 pp. 16-20
<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2013/04/worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-full-report.pdf> . It is very important to note that just because someone supports Sharia as the law of the land does not mean he is radical. What the Pew found was no one could really agree on how Sharia is defined and how it is to be implemented. Some see it as mainly spiritual, some see it as primarily connected to civil laws like marriage, divorce, and money, and some see it as a political worldview. We bring this statistic because of its importance in computing those questions where those surveyed were first asked if they support Sharia as to the law of the land.

⁴ In Russia and Thailand, the question was asked “ Should Sharia be the law of the land in Muslim areas?”

An average of 38% of Muslims surveyed who support making *sharia* the law of the land support the death penalty for leaving Islam.

Thus, an average of 27% of the *total* sample surveyed support the death penalty for leaving Islam, which translates to 237 million people.

Based on actual population sizes (i.e., the sum of the Muslim populations of each country surveyed by Pew multiplied by the average for that particular country), the number is 302 million people.



4. Corporal Punishment⁶

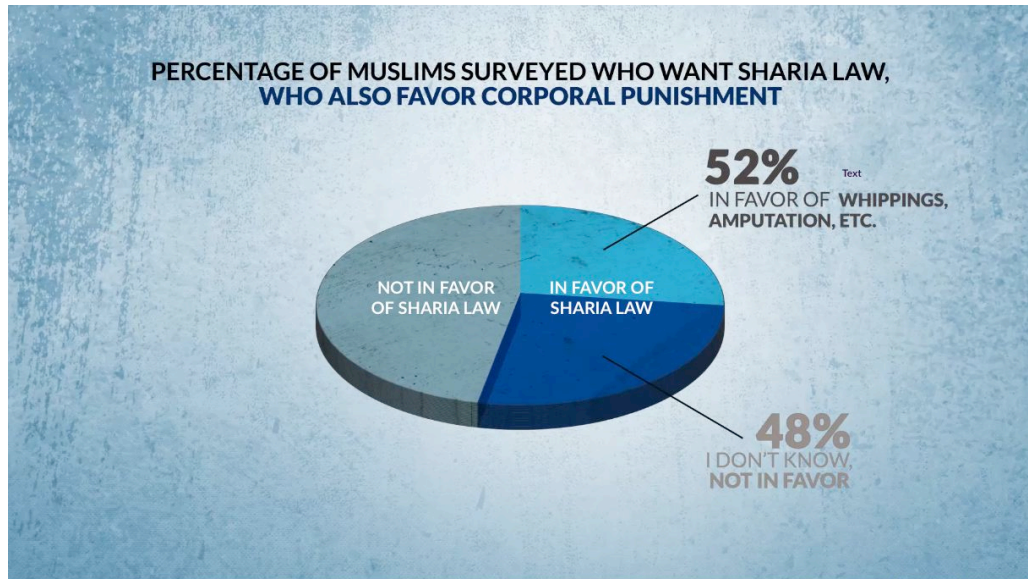
An average of 52% of Muslims surveyed who support making *sharia* the law of the land also support penalties such as whippings or cutting off the hands of thieves and robbers.

Thus, an average of 32% of the *total* sample surveyed is supportive of corporal punishment, which translates to 281 million people.

Based on actual population sizes (i.e., the sum of the Muslim populations of each country surveyed by Pew multiplied by the average for that particular country), the number is 369 million people.

⁵ “The World’s Muslims: Religion, Politics and Society”, *Pew Research Center*, April 2013, pp.55-56
<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2013/04/worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-full-report.pdf>

⁶ “The World’s Muslims: Religion, Politics and Society”, *Pew Research Center*, April 2013, pp. 52-53
<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2013/04/worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-full-report.pdf>



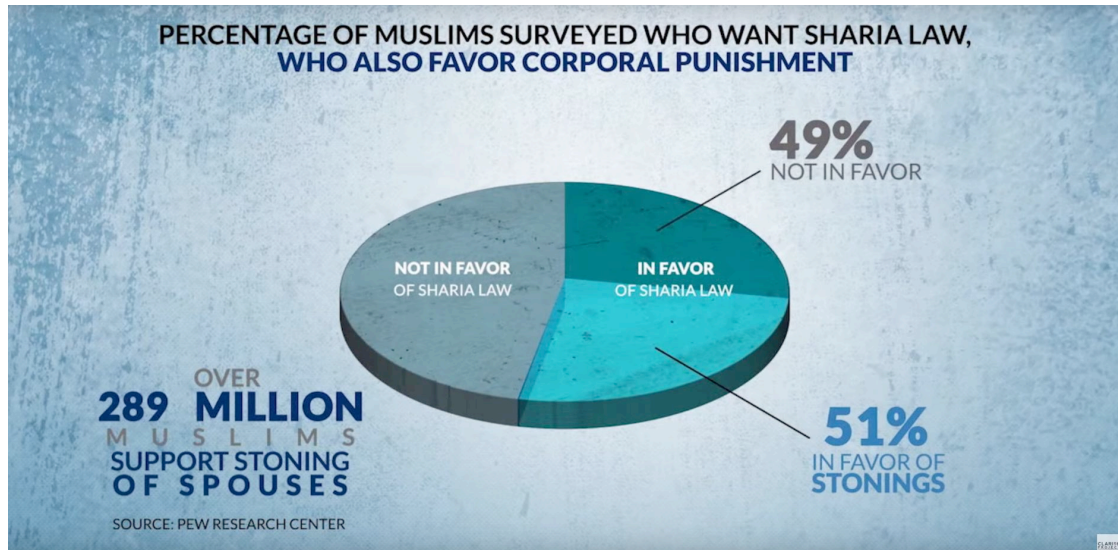
5. Stoning for an unfaithful spouse⁷

An average of 51% of Muslims surveyed who support making sharia the law of the land is in favor of stoning unfaithful spouses.

Thus, an average of 33% of the *total* sample surveyed is in favor of stoning unfaithful spouses, which translates to 289 million people.

Based on actual population sizes (i.e., the sum of the Muslim populations of each country surveyed by Pew multiplied by the average for that particular country), the number is 387 million people.

⁷ “The World’s Muslims: Religion, Politics and Society”, *Pew Research Center*, April 2013, pp.54-55
<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2013/04/worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-full-report.pdf>



6. Support for Suicide Bombing⁸

An average of 14% of Muslims surveyed believes suicide bombing and other forms of violence against civilian targets in defense of Islam can be “often justified” or “sometimes justified.” This translates to 119 million people.

Based on actual population sizes (i.e., the sum of the Muslim populations of each country surveyed by Pew multiplied by the average for that particular country), the number is 136 million

Among young, Western Muslims aged 18-29, the percentages who believe that suicide bombings against civilians can be justified are as follows: 42% of French Muslims, 35% of British Muslims and 26% of American Muslims.⁹

7. Honor Killings¹⁰

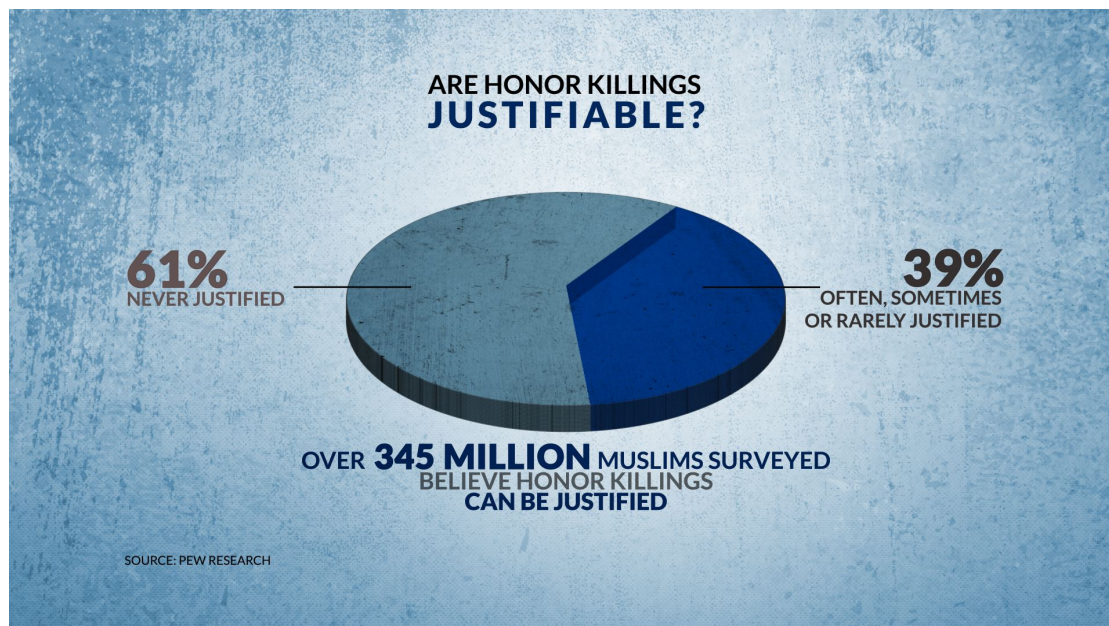
An average of 39% of Muslims surveyed think it is “often,” “sometimes” or “rarely justified” to kill a woman if she engages in premarital sex or adultery. This translates to 345 million people.

⁸ “The World’s Muslims: Religion, Politics and Society”, *Pew Research Center*, April 2013, pp.39-40
<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2013/04/worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-full-report.pdf>

⁹ “Muslim Americans: Middle Class and Mainly Mainstream”, *Pew Research Center*, May 22nd, 2007, pg. 54,
<http://www.pewresearch.org/files/2007/05/muslim-americans.pdf>

¹⁰ “The World’s Muslims: Religion, Politics and Society”, *Pew Research Center*, April 2013, pp. 89-90
<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2013/04/worlds-muslims-religion-politics-society-full-report.pdf>

Based on actual population sizes (i.e., the sum of the Muslim populations of each country surveyed by Pew multiplied by the average for that particular country), the number is 355 million.



8. Number of Jihadists

- ISIS -- 40,000-200,000¹¹
- Al Qaeda and Al Qaeda affiliates -- 85,000-100,000¹²
- Hamas -- 7-9,000 standing army and 20-25,000 reserves¹³
- Iranian Revolutionary Guards/Al Quds Force -- 15,000-100,000¹⁴
- Hezbollah -- 11,000-15,000¹⁵

¹¹ "How Many Fighters Does ISIS Have?", *Vocativ*, February 19th, 2015

<http://www.vocativ.com/world/isis-2/how-big-is-isis/>

¹² "ISSUE BRIEF: Terrorist Groups 101", *National Security Program, Homeland Security Program*, November 2014,

<http://bipartisanpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/HSP-Issue-Brief-11.10.14-v3.pdf>

¹³ "Hamas Explainer", *CNN*, November 16th, 2012 <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/11/16/world/meast/hamas-explainer/>

¹⁴ "Iran's Revolutionary Guard", *Council on Foreign Relations*, <http://www.cfr.org/iran/irans-revolutionary-guards/p14324>

¹⁵ "July 18th - Agence France Presse - Analysis: Hezbollah a force to be reckoned with", *The International Institute for Strategic Studies*, July 18th, 2006,

<https://web.archive.org/web/20080607095136/http://www.iiss.org/whats-new/iiss-in-the-press/press-coverage-2006/july-2006/hezbollah-a-force-to-be-reckoned-with> ;