Muslims fighting terrorism: 6-3-11

Since 9/11, many Americans have been asking why traditional Muslims don't speak out more often and more clearly against terrorism rooted in a radical and twisted version of Islam.

Well, in fact many have spoken out and continue to do so, though others have been silent in the face of death threats from some of the more violent radicals.

But today I want to introduce you to an effort to mobilize people described as "moderate or liberal" Muslims to stand against the kind of terrorism represented by the late Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida followers.

It's a group called the LibForAll Foundation and it has just released an English version of a book published two years ago in Indonesia, the country with the biggest Muslim population in the world. The book, The Illusion of an Islamic State, describes the various ways in which the violent political ideologues who claims Islam as their motivation are wrong. You can order the e-book version of this through the LibForAll Web site.

LibForAll is an American organization but was co-founded by the late and former Indonesian president, Abdurrahman "Gus Dur" Wahid.

For a Jakarta Post piece about LibForAll, click here.

I'm not suggesting that LibForAll has all the answers or that it cannot be criticized for this or that approach. But I wanted you to have a chance to look it over as one example of Muslims seeking to undermine the credibility of the violent extremists who get most of the press coverage.

http://billtammeus.typepad.com/my_weblog/2011/06/6-3-11.html