Im Rahmen des Bayerischen Orientkolloquiums ergeht herzliche Einladung zum Vortrag von

Herrn

Meir Hatina, PhD

(Jerusalem)

Martyrdom in Modern Islam: A Comparative Perspective

Donnerstag, den 06. Mai 2010
18 Uhr c.t., An der Universität 2, Raum 025

Zusammenfassung des Vortrags:

Sacrifice constituted an important component of modern Islamist discourse throughout the twentieth century. It served two purposes: revealing the authentic essence of Islam as a religion revolting against socio-political injustice; and constituting a living proof of Islam’s superiority over other cultures, sanctifying the value of life over the worship of Allah. In spite of its self-assurance and assertiveness, the ethos of martyrdom enclosed a religious culture on the defensive, which in the glorious days of the past was conquering and triumphing and in the modern era was lagging behind Christian Europe in the race for material progress and political power. Moving from words to deeds, this ethos gained various interpretations and emphases during the twentieth century, from engaging in communal activity to launching “suicide” attacks, reflecting the historical and political context in which Islamist movements were active, thus providing another indication to the multifaceted nature of modern Islamic thought.

The paper aims at a comparative discussion of martyrdom in modern Islamist discourse, both Sunni and Shiite, and an analysis of its political and symbolic functions. It also explores the abiding link between theology and power, worship and politics.