



Glossary of Terms

Assalamu alaikum – Peace upon you

Burkha (burqa) – Veil worn by Muslim women from head to toe

Dari – Afghan dialect of Persian language

Fatwa – Legal ruling issued by *ulema*

Fiqh – Islamic Penal Code

Haji – Muslim who has performed the pilgrimage to Mecca

Imam – Person who leads the prayers

Jihad – Effort or struggle to become a good Muslim; holy war to defend or spread Islam

Jirga – Council of tribal elders or notables to discuss political and legal issues and give decisions

Kafirs – Non-Muslims or unbelievers

Kalima – Holy verses proclaiming that there is no other god but Allah

Koran or Quran – Holy book of the Muslim faith

Madrassa – Islamic schools that teach religious subjects; plural *madaris*

Mehram – Male blood relative who should accompany a woman, according to strict Islamic law

Mujahideen – Holy warriors fighting *jihad*

Mullah – Person who has completed his studies at a religious institution

Pashto (Pushto) – Dialect of the Pashtuns or Pushtons or Pathans

Pir – Revered leader

Ramadan – Month of fasting in the Islamic calendar

Shariah – Canon of Islamic law

Shura – Islamic council

Sufism – Mystical aspect of Islam pertaining to an internal quest for enlightenment

Talib – Student; in Pashto, generally denotes a student of a religious institution; plural *taliban*

Ulema – Islamic scholars; singular *alim*

Ummah – Community of all Muslims