

Abstract:

The purpose of this presentation is to follow up the religious debate between scholars (*shuyūkh*) and the Jihadi-salafis in Saudi Arabia since the Riyadh bombings (on 12th may 2003). It will ascertain in what ways these two groups agree and disagree; the Jihadi-Salafis attempted to justify these bombings and the *shuyūkh* rejected them. Interestingly, both groups share the same Salafī principles, but in reality, they disagree on how this issue should be addressed.

However, the dispute over the position of *walī' al-amr* (the legitimate political ruler) is the centre point of this controversy in which his permission was in many cases the difference between legitimate and illegitimate fighting. I have chosen three principal issues which highlight the disagreements which arose between these groups. These are: Jihad, the expulsion of Non-Muslims from the Arabian Peninsula and al-walā' wa-al-barā' (loyalty and disavowal).