

GLOSSARY

Amir	Leader
Assalamu alaikum	Peace upon you
Burkha (burqa)	Veil worn by Muslim women from head to toe
Dari	Afghan dialect of Persian
Fatwa	Legal ruling issued by <i>ulema</i>
Fiqah	Islamic jurisprudence
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
Haji	Muslim who has performed the pilgrimage to Mecca
Kafirs	Non-Muslims or unbelievers
Kalimah	Holy verses proclaiming that there is no other God but Allah
Koran or Quran	Holy book of the Muslim
Madrassa	Islamic schools that teach religious subjects; plural <i>madaris</i>
Mehram	Male blood relative who should accompany a woman, according to strict Islamic law
Mujahideen	Holy warriors fighting <i>jihad</i>
Mullah	Person who has completed his studies in theology and sacred law 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 trend of Islam
Talib	Student; in <i>Pashto</i> , generally denotes student of a religious institution; plural <i>Taliban</i>
Ulema	Islamic scholars; singular alim
Ummah	Community of all Muslims, the wider Islamic