

## Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

This glossary includes a brief definition of selected terms found in the report and topline.

### **African Independent Churches**

Christian churches in sub-Saharan Africa that developed and function outside the control of Western missions or churches. Some AICs (also called African Initiated, Indigenous or Instituted Churches) incorporate aspects of traditional African religions, including revelatory dreams and visions, healing practices and belief in a spirit world.

### **Ahmadi or Ahmadiyya**

A religious movement that emerged in India in the late 19th century around Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908). Many of his followers believe he was a *mujaddid* (reformer) who showed the way to revive and restore Islam. But mainstream Muslims do not accept some Ahmadi teachings, and the Ahmadi community has faced governmental and societal persecution in some countries.

### **Caliphate**

The line of Muhammad's successors as the temporal and spiritual leaders of Islam after his death in the 7th century. The caliphate existed in one form or another from 632 until 1924, when the Ottoman caliphate officially ended. The desire of many Muslims for a restoration of the caliphate reflects their yearning for the "golden age" of Islamic rule. In some quarters, the restoration of the caliphate is synonymous with the imposition of strict Islamic law and governance.

### **Charismatic**

A Christian who practices the gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues, but is not a member of a pentecostal denomination. Most charismatics belong to Catholic, Orthodox, mainline Protestant or evangelical Protestant denominations.

### **Ethiopian Orthodox Church**

One of the world's oldest churches, with its own liturgical language, hymns and calendar. It was under the oversight of Egyptian (Coptic) bishops until 1959, when it came under an Ethiopian patriarch. In contrast with the Roman Catholic Church, the EOC affirms the indivisibility of the human and divine natures of Christ, a doctrine known as *Tewahedo*. The EOC also retains some Old Testament traditions. The inner sanctuary of Ethiopian Orthodox churches, for example, contains a *Tabot*, a replica of the Jewish tablets of the law.

## Evil Eye

The belief that certain people can cast curses or spells that cause harm.

## Hajj

The pilgrimage to Mecca and its associated rituals. It is one of the five main tenets or pillars of Islam, and all Muslims who are physically and financially able to make the pilgrimage have a religious duty to do so at least once.

## Juju

The belief that certain objects, such as charms or amulets, are associated with supernatural powers. The objects, which are usually small and may be worn or carried, often are meant to protect the user. But the use of juju (from the French *joujou*, or toy) can be either benevolent or malevolent.

## Lent

An annual period of fasting and penitence observed by Christians in preparation for Easter.

## Mahdi

The Guided One, who will rule on earth shortly before the day of resurrection or judgment. Many Muslims believe the Mahdi will rid the world of error, corruption and injustice.

## Pentecostal

A Christian who belongs to a denomination or independent church that emphasizes the gifts of the Holy Spirit, including speaking in tongues and direct receipt of divine prophecy. These experiences are seen as evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

## Ramadan

The ninth month of the Muslim lunar calendar, marked by daytime fasting to commemorate the revelation of the Koran, the Muslim holy book.

## Salah or Salat

Formal prayers performed by adult Muslims five times a day.

## Shia

One of the two main branches of Islam. The name is a shortened form of the historical term *Shia-t-Ali*, or “party of Ali,” and refers to one of the factions that emerged from a dispute over leadership succession soon after the death of the Prophet Muhammad in 632. Over time, the political divide between Shia and Sunni Muslims broadened to include theological distinctions and differences in religious practice.

## Speaking in tongues

Also known as *glossolalia*, an ecstatic form of Christian worship or prayer using unintelligible speech that is considered a gift of the Holy Spirit. Some Pentecostals and charismatics also believe in another form of speaking in tongues, called *Xenolalia*, in which believers are miraculously gifted with the use of foreign languages they could not otherwise speak.

## Sufi

A mystical movement in Islam that encompasses a set of rituals, such as euphoric worship, as well as certain beliefs, such as the existence of saints and the possibility of gaining direct knowledge of God. Today, Sufism is organized into orders, called *Tariqas*, each grouped around a spiritual leader or *Shaykh*.

## Sunni

The other main branch of Islam. Sunni Muslims make up at least 85% of the world's Muslim population. The name comes from *Ahl al-Sunna*, or "people of the Sunna," and refers to established norms for Muslim conduct based on the sayings and actions of Muhammad.

## Tithing

The practice among Christians of giving a tenth of one's income to support the church.

## Zakat

The religious duty of Muslims to give a portion of their wealth or income to charity. This is one of the five main tenets or pillars of Islam.