



The Taqwacores: Muslim Punk in the USA

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Writer **Michael Muhammad Knight** coined the term "taqwacore" for his novel about a Muslim punk house in Buffalo, NY, which Knight initially distributed from the back of his car as a DIY photocopied zine. In time, the book found widespread publication through Autonomedia and garnered supporters, even inspiring the first woman-led prayer of a mixed-gender Muslim congregation in the United States in 2005. But something far grander was in the works; unbeknownst to Knight, a real Muslim punk scene was starting to emerge, based on the one he had imagined for the book.

Photographer **Kim Badawi** first met Knight around this time, and bore witness as the *taqwacore* phenomenon began to take hold. Beginning in 2006, Badawi traveled across the U.S., chronicling the burgeoning subculture and the musicians who had been spurred to action by Knight's creative vision. In 2007 he was invited to accompany the *TaqwaTour*, traveling to major cities across North America alongside bands including *The Kominas* and *Secret Trial Five*. As the genre continues to take shape and influence a rising generation of artists and intellectuals, Badawi's *The Taqwacores* stands as a photographic companion to the original text and an indispensable document of the making of a movement.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Born in Paris in 1980, **Kim Badawi** is American photojournalist and documentarian of French, Egyptian, and Slovenian background. He began his photographic career photographing the plight of refugee families from Mississippi to Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, while still interning for *Contact Press Images* and *Magnum Photos* in New York. Selected for publication by the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, Badawi's work appears in *25 Under 25: Up-and-Coming American Photographers* (powerHouse Books, 2008).

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