



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قال الله تعالى: (إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ) [سورة الحجرات]

Translation: Indeed, Believers are brothers, thus make peace among your brothers.

International Ulama Conference on Islam and Peace

Declaration

This conference was organized by the High Peace Council of Afghanistan in cooperation with the Ulama Council of Afghanistan and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, on September 24, 2013 in celebration of the Peace and National Unity Week. Over 200 religious scholars, intellectuals and Islamic Jurists from different Islamic countries participated. The conference ended with issuing the following declaration:

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على سيدنا محمد خاتم النبيين وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين ، وبعد:

Taking into consideration the current situation and problems facing the Muslims of Afghanistan, in order to fulfill our moral and religious responsibility and explain the right and Sharia teachings, we, the Ulama and scholars of jurisprudence of the Islamic Ummah attending this conference, declare the following:

- The Mujahid and Muslim people of Afghanistan are currently going through a serious yet critical period facing enormous difficulties and trials that have gravely affected the lives of ordinary Afghans. While Afghans suffered great sacrifices during Jihad, radical groups have continued to kill innocent people - women, elders and children – their number reaches hundreds of thousands. The current conflict and violence has also severely damaged infrastructure, destroyed public and private properties and has paved the way for corruption and injustice, disregarding respect for religious and human values. Unfortunately, all these crimes occur under the name of Islam, while from an Islamic point of view, such deeds are unlawful and un-islamic.
- For this reason, we condemn violence, extremism, and fueling conflict between Afghans and we call on religious leaders, scholars and academic institutions to guide people and increase their awareness and make every effort to stop the ongoing violence and bloodshed which leaves no one safe. Addressing the fundamental causes of dissents

among brothers through peaceful ways in a country is the basis for success in reaching a political solution and a stable future.

- Amidst all these trials and tragedies, we, the Islamic scholars gathered in this conference, see a glare of hope that brings about improvement and paves the ground for dialogue and negotiations between conflicting parties; and we (participants) hope for a peace in which the dignity, honor and independence of all sides are protected and their views respected in light of the Islamic values and teachings.
- We appreciate the efforts of Ulama, the state and political institutions of Afghanistan in the rebuilding of the country, service to Islam and restoring peace and we value the sacrifices made and are being made in this path.
- Since Muslims are one Ummah, are united in their belief and are related to each other based on the Islamic Sharia that is brought to them by Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) who says: “Muslims are parts of one body, and if one part pains, the whole body suffers”. Similarly, Allah Almighty also says: (وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ)، Translation: Muslim men and Muslim women have affinity and are related to each other. Our plea therefore, to all Afghans affiliated to any religious sect, tribe and or particular group, is to raise the call for peace with one voice and respond to it positively with a single voice.
- We also appreciate this joint initiative by the Islamic Council of Afghanistan, the High Peace Council and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and hope that they expedite their efforts taking into consideration the views and legitimate demands of all relevant parties.
- We welcome the efforts of the Islamic countries, International community and civil society and especially the measures taken by the regional countries to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region and we call upon them to avoid any measures that can increase violence and pave the ground for “Fitna” (sedition – causing controversy or fragmentation)
- We want the Islamic scholars and intellectuals of Muslim countries to introduce the real image of Islam to the world and work for promoting unity among Muslims, and by imparting the Islamic values, teachings and principles which promote brotherhood, closeness, and amenity, fulfill their duty so that people understand and avoid killing, terrorizing and shedding the blood of innocent people. Also, inform those institutions, about the consequences of their deeds in this world and the afterlife, which either unwittingly or for political reasons, issue statements that promote violence, give orders for illegitimate killing of Muslims and without having any reason on the basis of Qur’an and Hadith, create divisions among brothers.

- Afghanistan is an independent Islamic country and an inseparable part of the Islamic Ummah. Islamic rules are implemented in this country, it has a republic system where all three forces of the state are active and judicial decisions are made according to Sharia law. It has a legal and legitimate state. Thus, any uprising and insurrection against such a state is religiously unjustifiable.
- We, the Ulama of the Islamic countries, appeal to the neighboring countries of Afghanistan and other Islamic countries to take serious efforts in establishing peace and ending violence in Afghanistan and the region through their tribunals, academic conferences, media and civil society centers.
- We call on the Taliban and the Afghan Government to resolve their internal issues without outside intervention through direct and constructive talks in order to address existing tensions and pave the way for peaceful living. And we, the Ulama of the Islamic countries, announce our readiness, as a third party in good faith, to act as mediators and cooperate in any other way in the peace process.
- To expedite the peace process, we request the leadership of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to hold an International conference in which Ulama and intellectuals of all Muslim countries participate and undertake constructive measures and also, to establish an Ulama working group for reaching a united position in helping to resolve the problems facing Muslim Ummah.
- We, the Ulama gathered in Kabul, seriously consider necessary, the continuation of consultative meetings among Ulama of different sects so that reconciliation is achieved by exhibiting tolerance and respect for just rights and also the way for resolving contentious and problematic issues is paved. Also, avoid discrimination, religious extremism and “Takfeer” (declaring someone as unbeliever) against the follower of other religious sects. An attitude of moderation, tolerance and temperance must emerge. And to take immediate measures in rejecting the “Fatwas” (religious rulings) that are in contradiction to the Islamic principles, basis, credible sources and decisions of Imams of different religious sects and are issued without any credible religious justification.
- The current conflict and bloodshed among Afghans clearly have material and political motivations and have no religious basis or justification. Therefore, the Ulama have the responsibility to seek peaceful solutions to the current conflict and end this violence through education and increasing awareness.
- In conclusion, participants emphasize on paying greater attention to the youth so that they are not betrayed and used for violence and instead, as a dynamic force, they play a vital role in establishing peace and stability.

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