



**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Five lakh Muslim participants at the**  
**May 31, 2008 rally in New Delhi**  
**organized by the Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind**

We fully support the declaration of this 'Anti-Terrorism Global Peace Conference' of the Jamiatul Ulama-i-Hind and other organizations. We are bound by the Fatwa of Darul Uloom Deoband and undertake that we shall condemn terrorism and spread Islam's message of global peace

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## ***Fatwas Against Terrorism***

**2008: Fatwa Darul Uloom, Deoband, India (May 31, 2008)**

### **'Islam means peace'**

**"Islam was born to wipe out all kinds of terrorism and to spread the message of global peace"**

Islam is a religion of Peace and Harmony. In Islam, creating social discord or disorder, breach of peace, rioting, bloodshed, pillage or plunder and killing of innocent persons anywhere in the world are ALL considered most inhuman crimes.

The Quran clearly states that the killing of (even) one innocent person is equivalent to the massacre of all humankind while saving one life is equivalent to the rescue of all humankind.

The extent of Islam's emphasis on peace can be seen from the fact that even while granting the right of self-defense to the oppressed, it insists that no excess be committed in retribution and strictly forbids the targeting of any innocent person. The Prophet (PUBH) insisted that even in a war human rights must be fully respected.

Islam teaches us that ALL the creatures of Allah are like one family and whoever treats this family of Allah with compassion and mercy would be loved the most by Allah. It is a basic principle of Islam that you assist each other in the pursuit of good and righteous causes and you DO NOT COOPERATE with ANYONE for committing sin or oppression.

It is evident from the clear guidelines given in the Holy Quran that the allegation of terrorism against a religion like Islam which enjoins world peace is nothing but a lie. In fact, Islam was born to wipe out all kinds of terrorism and to spread the message of global peace.

-- Issued under the seal of Darul Ifta, Darul Uloom Deoband.

*Signed by:* **Habibur Rehman** (Grand Mufti), Darul Uloom Deoband

*Ratified by:* **Zain ul Islam Qasmi** (Deputy Mufti), **Mufti Waqar Ali** (Assistant Mufti) **Mufti Mehmoodul Hasan**.

## 'Unparalleled in history'

**The beginning of the end of the war of terror has started. That's how Ziauddin Sardar well-known Islamic scholar, cultural critic sums up the significance of the Deoband fatwa in his regular column in New Statesman, UK (June 19, 2008)**

The beginning of the end of the war of terror has started. Mullahs in India have issued a fatwa unequivocally denouncing terrorism. The mullahs I speak of are not just any old mullahs: they are Deobandi mullahs.

The name Deoband, a small town in Uttar Pradesh, India, conjures awe and reverence in many Muslim minds. Established in 1866, Darul Uloom ("house of knowledge") Deoband is a religious seminary, second in importance only to al-Azhar in Cairo... The Deoband brand is associated with standing up to those who seek to oppress Islam.

This made Deoband attractive to all who sought to fight the West for its real and imaginary persecution of Muslims. The "foreign jihadis" fighting in Iraq claim to be inspired by Deobandi teachings. Pakistani militant groups such as Jaish-e-Muhammad and Harkat-e-Islam, accused of kidnapping and suicide bombings, follow the Deobandi school of thought. The Taliban, from both Afghanistan and Pakistan, were educated in Deobandi seminaries. When aspiring terrorists go to Pakistan to study "Islam", they go to Deobandi establishments. Here in Britain, the Deobandis are the second-largest group of south Asian Muslims. They control numerous mosques, some of which, allegedly, harbour young militants.

A fatwa is the legal opinion of an individual scholar - and, as such, it can be dismissed by other religious scholars. This fatwa, however, is signed not just by Maulana Habibur Rahman, the grand mufti of Deoband, but also by his three deputies. It comes from an institution and not an individual.

But the Deoband scholars went further. To announce the fatwa, they organised a conference on "Anti-Terrorism and Global Peace". Held on 31 May at the Ramlila Ground in Delhi, the conference brought together all the main Muslim organizations... One thing is certain: it was the greatest assembly of beards ever seen in India... Finally, all the mullahs present signed an oath of allegiance.

This fatwa, I suspect, will be much quoted in the coming years. Its importance lies not just in what it says, but in who is saying it. A fatwa, made binding through the oath of allegiance, is in my opinion canny and unparalleled in history.

**2007: Statement, Ali Gomaa, Grand Mufti of Egypt, July 28**

## **'Jihad Not Just Armed Struggle'**

For Muslims, jihad is much more than armed struggle against an enemy from the outside, for it includes constant struggles within both oneself and one's own society...

Once, upon returning from a battle, the prophet Muhammad said to his companions, "We have returned from the lesser jihad to the greater jihad; the jihad of the soul." This is referred to as the greater jihad since people spend their entire lives struggling against the base desires within them... The term jihad is also used to refer to speaking truth to those in power...

As for suicide bombing, Islam forbids suicide, it forbids the taking of one's own life. Attacking civilians, women, children and the elderly by blowing oneself up is absolutely forbidden in Islam. No excuse can be made for the crimes committed in [New York](#), [Spain](#) and [London](#), and anyone who tries to make excuses for these acts is ignorant of Islamic law (Sharia), and their excuses are a result of extremism and ignorance.

*(Excerpts from "On Faith," an Internet feature sponsored by The Washington Post and Newsweek. Ali Gomaa, the grand mufti of Egypt, oversees Dar al-Ifta, Egypt's highest body for delivering opinions on religious law).*

**2006: Fatwa of Iran's Grand Ayatollah Sistani (June 19, 2006)**

### **'Obey your country's laws'**

**In response to the arrests in early June of 17 people connected to a bomb plot investigation in southern Ontario, Canada**

(From the CBC): Iraq's top Shia cleric sent a message Wednesday to Muslims in Western nations, urging them to obey the laws of the countries in which they live.

The fatwa... was delivered at a Montreal news conference of prominent Shia Muslims on behalf of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

"Muslims have undertaken to obey the laws of the country of their residence and thus they must be faithful to that undertaking," the statement read.

It condemned all acts of violence and encouraged imams to keep a watchful eye on what's going on inside their mosques.

<http://www.aimislam.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=313>

**2006: Fatwa, Punjab's Chief Mufti Fuzail-ur-Rahman Usmani (July 28)**

### **'Jihad means the opposite of terrorism'**

**In response to serial bomb blasts in Mumbai's suburban trains on July 7, 2006 that killed nearly 200 people**

MUMBAI: An eminent mufti from north India today issued a fatwa against terrorism, calling such acts an antithesis of Islam. Condemning the so-called 'jehadis', who were waging war in the name of Islam, Punjab chief mufti Fuzail-ur-Rahman Hilal Usmani said on Thursday, "Jihad is for reformation and to establish enduring peace."

The grand mufti was speaking at a public meeting called 'Citizens Against Terror' in Churchgate. "Jihad secures for people their basic rights but terrorism snatches away these very rights," said the septuagenarian cleric, a teacher at Islamic seminary Darul Uloom at Deoband in Uttar Pradesh.

Iterating Islam's emphasis on restraint and tolerance even during war, he said, "Islam expressly forbids targeting others' places of worship, innocent civilians, chopping of trees and poisoning water sources."

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1820782.cms>

**2006: Fatwa, Darul-Ifta Firangi Mahal, Lucknow; March 14)**

## **'Mindless violence un-Islamic'**

**In response to terrorists' targeting of the ancient Sankat Mochan Temple and railway station in Varanasi, UP on March 12**

Lucknow, March 14, 2006: Responding to a query of a young Muslim businessman the 300-year-old Islamic seminary, the Darul-Ifta Firangai Mahal issued a 'fatwa' against terrorists targeting places of worship and killing innocent people.

Two days after the Varanasi bomb blast a 32-year old Lucknow-based businessman Sajid Umar dealing in electrical goods contacted the head of the Darul-Ifta Firangi Mahal Maulana Khalid Rashid for a fatwa to know what Islam had to say about people attacking places of worship and killing innocent people in cold blood in the name of Islam.

Speaking to TNS Rashid who is also the Imam of Lucknow's Idgah, said: "Sajid Umar articulated what many young people of the community are feeling today. They are the ones who have to interact with non-Muslims in schools, colleges, neighbourhoods and offices. They feel very embarrassed by such mindless violence being carried out in the name of Islam which literally means 'peace'".

Giving the example of the Prophet, and his immediate successors Rashid said, "It is notable that the Prophet never reacted violently even against those who attacked him. He tried not to cause physical harm to anyone and was also totally against causing the slightest harm to any place of worship, belonging to any faith."

While emphasizing that, "Islam has always laid stress on peace and harmony," the Maulana's fatwa added, "If any Muslim causes harm to any place of worship or indulges in killing of innocent people, Islam would regard it as the worst possible crime and the Shariat would consider it absolutely unlawful."

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2006/20060315/main3.htm>

**2005: Statement, OIC Summit Conference, Dec 9**

**'Re-examine school curricula'**

"We are determined to fight terrorism in all its forms. ... Islam is the religion of moderation. It rejects extremism and isolation. There is a need to confront deviant ideology where it appears, including in school curricula. Islam is the religion of diversity and tolerance."

([http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition\\_id=10&categ\\_id=2&article\\_id=20641](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=10&categ_id=2&article_id=20641))

**2005: Fatwa, Fiqh Council of North America, July 28**

**'Criminals are no martyrs'**

**Response to the 7/7 bomb blasts in London. 145 Muslim organizations, mosques and imams in USA endorse the fatwa issued by Fiqh Council**

The Fiqh Council of North America wishes to reaffirm Islam's absolute condemnation of terrorism and religious extremism.

Islam strictly condemns religious extremism and the use of violence against innocent lives. There is no justification in Islam for extremism or terrorism. Targeting civilians' life and property through suicide bombings or any other method of attack is *haram* – or forbidden - and those who commit these barbaric acts are criminals, not "martyrs."

The Qur'an, Islam's revealed text, states: "Whoever kills a person [unjustly]...it is as though he has killed all mankind. And whoever saves a life, it is as though he had saved all mankind." (Qur'an, 5:32)

Prophet Muhammad said there is no excuse for committing unjust acts: "Do not be people without minds of your own, saying that if others treat you well you will treat them well, and that if they do wrong you will do wrong to them. Instead, accustom yourselves to do good if people do good and not to do wrong (even) if they do evil."

In the light of the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah we clearly and strongly state:

1. All acts of terrorism targeting civilians are *haram* (forbidden) in Islam.
  2. It is *haram* for a Muslim to cooperate with any individual or group that is involved in any act of terrorism or violence.
  3. It is the civic and religious duty of Muslims to cooperate with law enforcement authorities to protect the lives of all civilians.
- We pray for the defeat of extremism and terrorism. We pray for the safety and security of our country, the United States, and its people. We pray for the safety and security of all inhabitants of our planet. We pray that interfaith harmony and cooperation prevail both in the United States and all around the globe.

(<http://www.cair-net.org/downloads/fatwa.htm>)

## **2005: Fatwa, 500 Muslim clerics, UK July 18**

### **'Suicide bombings vehemently prohibited'**

**Response to suicide bombers who attacked three London subway trains and a double-decker bus, killing more than 50 people.**

More than 500 British Muslim religious leaders and scholars issued a fatwa in response to the London bombs yesterday. Around 50 Muslim religious leaders from the British Muslim Forum (BMF) stood together by the Houses of Parliament to hear the fatwa read out.

It Islam condemns the use of violence and the destruction of innocent lives and says suicide bombings are "vehemently prohibited".

"We pray for the defeat of extremism and terrorism in the world. We pray for the peace, security and harmony to triumph in multicultural Great Britain."

The BMF is an umbrella group launched in March 2005 with nearly 300 mosques affiliated to it. The fatwa will be read out in mosques across the country on Friday.

Another public statement, denouncing the suicide bombings, was made by more than 40 Islamic leaders and scholars at a meeting at London's Islamic Cultural Centre, organised by the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB).

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/fatwa.html>

## **2005: Fatwa, Sunni Council, UK July 17**

### **'Perverted, un-Islamic ideology'**

**Response to suicide bombers who attacked three London subway trains and a double-decker bus, killing more than 50 people.**

Britain's largest Sunni Muslim group has issued a religious edict condemning the London terrorist bombings calling it part of a perverted ideology.

The Sunni Council issued a fatwa Sunday, saying the July 7 attacks have no Islamic justification. The edict condemns all forms of terrorism and those who carry out such attacks.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2005-07/2005-07-17-voa32.cfm?CFID=38322419&CFTOKEN=36398443>

**2005: Fatwa, Islamic Commission of Spain, March 11**

## **'Osama, al Qaeda outside Islam'**

**Response; on the first anniversary of the bomb blasts ('Europe's 9/11) in local train stations in Madrid on March 11, 2004 that killed 191 people and injured 1,500.**

According to the Sharia, all who declare *halal* or allowed what God has declared *haram* or prohibited, like the killing of innocent people in terrorist attacks, have become *Kafir Murtadd Mustahlil*, that's to say an apostate, by trying to make a crime such as the murder of innocents, *halal* (*istihlal*); a crime forbidden by the Sacred Koran and the Sunna of the Prophet Muhammad.

As long as Osama ben Laden and his organization defend the legality of terrorism and try to base it on the Sacred Koran and the Sunna, they are committing the crime of *istihlal* and they have become ipso facto apostates (*kafir murtadd*), who should not be considered Muslim nor be treated as such.

We declare that Osama ben Laden and his organization Al Qaida, responsible for the horrible crimes against the innocents who vilely were assassinated in the terrorist attack of 11 March in Madrid, are outside the parameters of Islam; and the same goes to all who wield the Sacred Koran and The Prophet's Sunna to commit terrorist acts.

Based on this fatwa, we have requested the national government and Spanish mass media to stop using the words *Islam* or *Islamic* to describe these malefactors, given they are not Muslim nor have any relationship with our Umma or Islamic Community; instead needing to call them Al Qaida terrorists, but without using Islamic as an adjective, since as it has been declared above, they are not legally so.

<http://www.webislam.com/?idn=537>

## **2004: Statement, Middle East leaders, Sept 5**

### **'Killing children is no jihad'**

#### **On the Beslan massacre**

Islamic leaders in the Middle East yesterday denounced the slaughter of children in Russia as 'un-Islamic', as commentators asked unusually soul-searching questions about the region and terrorism.

Even the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's biggest Islamic group, condemned the bloody siege in Beslan. Its leader, Mohammed Mahdi Akef, said that kidnappings may be justified but killings are not. He added: 'What happened is not jihad (holy war) because Islam obligates us to respect the souls of human beings; it is not about taking them away.'

While some Islamic fundamentalists in the Middle East have long supported fellow Muslims fighting in Chechnya, such was the barbarity of the hostage takers that few voices spoke in support of the actions in Ossetia. Egypt's leading Muslim cleric, Grand Sheik Mohammed Sayed Tantawi, was quoted as saying during a Friday sermon: 'What is the guilt of those children? Why should they be responsible for your conflict with the government? You are taking Islam as a cover and it is a deceptive cover; those who carry out the kidnappings are criminals, not Muslims.'

(T)he reaction was overwhelmingly filled with revulsion. Abdulrahman al-Rashed wrote an article in the pan-Arab *Asharq Al-Awsat* newspaper under the headline: 'The Painful Truth: All World Terrorists are Muslims!'

Al-Rashed said that Muslims will not be able to cleanse their image unless 'we admit the scandalous facts... Our terrorist sons are an end-product of our corrupted culture. The picture is humiliating, painful and harsh for all of us.'

His extraordinary critique was echoed by Ahmed Bahgat, an Egyptian Islamist. Writing in the pro-government newspaper, *Al-Ahram*, he said hostage-takers in Russia and Iraq are only harming Islam. 'If all the enemies of Islam united and decided to harm it... they wouldn't have ruined and harmed its image as much as the sons of Islam have done by their stupidity, miscalculations and misunderstanding.' Horrifying images of the dead and wounded students 'showed Muslims as monsters who are fed by the blood of children and the pain of their families'.

(<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,6903,1297664,00.html>)

## 2004: Fatwa, Saudi clerics, July 6

### **'Forbidden and sinful act'**

#### **Response to a bombing in Riyadh on April 21, 2004**

Saudi Arabia's senior religious scholars have issued a fatwa condemning acts of terrorism and calling upon citizens and residents to provide authorities with any information they may have regarding those who plan or prepare to carry out terrorist acts.

The Permanent Committee of Religious Research and Ifta (religious edict), under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia's leading religious authority, the Grand Mufti Shaikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, issued the fatwa which ruled that such acts are religiously forbidden and considered to be severe forms of injustice.

The fatwa stated that these acts disrupt the security of the country, shed innocent blood, terrorize peaceful people and destroy property. The fatwa concluded that it is the duty of everyone to report to the authorities if they have information about the individuals who plan or prepare to carry out terrorist acts.

On April 22, the day after a bombing in Riyadh, Shaikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, who is also Chairman of the Council of Senior Religious Scholars, issued a statement calling the incident a "forbidden and sinful act." The statement continued: "It is also forbidden to justify the acts of these criminals." Shaikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh also stated: "You have to be vigilant and have strong will in defending the religion and the Muslim country against these people."

<http://www.saudiembassy.net/2004News/Press/PressDetail.asp?cYear=2004&cIndex=217>

**2003: Hajj Sermon, chief mufti of Saudi Arabia, Feb. 2**

### **'Islam forbids all forms of violence'**

"You must know Islam's firm position against all these terrible crimes. The world must know that Islam is a religion of peace and mercy and goodness; it is a religion of justice and guidance...Islam has forbidden violence in all its forms. It forbids the hijacking airplanes, ships and other means of transport, and it forbids all acts that undermine the security of the innocent."

-- **Abdulaziz bin 'Abdallah Al-Ashaykh**, chief mufti of Saudi Arabia

([http://www.saudiembassy.net/ReportLink/Report\\_Extremism\\_May04.pdf](http://www.saudiembassy.net/ReportLink/Report_Extremism_May04.pdf))

**2003: Fatwa, Saudi Council of Senior Clerics, August 17**

### **'Murder is not jihad'**

It is necessary under shariah law to severely punish those carrying out acts of sabotage and depravity, like bombings and murder and destruction of property. These are dangerous crimes and an aggression against human life and wealth,' the council said in a statement carried on the official Saudi Press Agency.

'And those who claim sabotage, bombings and murder are jihad, they are ignorant and misguided because these acts have nothing to do with jihad for the sake of God,' said the Saudi Council of Senior Clerics, headed by the kingdom's highest religious authority, Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdul-Aziz al-Sheikh.

(<http://mostlyafrica.blogspot.com/2003/08/saudi-arabia-fatwa-against-terrorism.html>)

**2002: Statement, Shaykh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, Qatar, October 15**

## **'Heinous crime, total barbarism'**

### **Response to Bali bombing that killed more than 100 tourists**

Prominent Muslim scholar Shaykh Yusuf al-Qaradawi on October 15, branded the Bali blast as a heinous crime "which is no more than a total barbarism that is void of morality and human feeling as well."

Interviewed by IslamOnline, Al-Qaradawi stressed that "Islam not only prohibits attacking non-Muslims who do not launch attacks against Muslims, but it also urges Muslims to treat those non-Muslims with due respect and kindness, especially non-Muslims who live along with Muslims within the Islamic territories."

"It goes without saying that the tragedy that occurred in Bali, in which a bomb blast claimed the lives of more than hundred tourists, is actually a heinous crime.

"In fact, there are two things that made this tragic incident a terrible shock to me: first, it targeted innocent civilians and, secondly, it occurred in a country that has the largest Muslim population," Al-Qaradawi elaborated.

"Such countries should offer the best example of peaceful co-existence, maintaining security with due regard to the preservation of lives, honor and property," he said.

"Islam does not permit aggression against innocent people, whether the aggression is against life, property, or honor, and this ruling applies to everyone, regardless of his post, status and prestige," said the prominent Muslim scholar.

"Even in case of war, Islam does not permit killing those who are not involved in fighting, such as women, children, the aged, and the monks who confine themselves to worship only," stressed Al-Qaradawi.

"In Islam, the notion 'End justifies the means' has no place at all. For us Muslims, it is not allowed to attain good aims through evil means," he said.

"Islam considers attacks against non-Muslims, who do not launch war against Muslims, as a form of injustice that is both prohibited and abhorred by the Qur'an, the Prophetic Sunnah and the noble teachings of the Prophet's Companions, may Allah be pleased with them all," Al-Qaradawi said.

<http://www.muhababah.com/islamicblog/archives/veiled4allah/001205.php>

**2001: Statement, Grand Sheikh of al-Azhar, Egypt, December 3**

## **'Islam prohibits all forms of terror'**

### **Response to suicide bombing against Israeli civilians**

The Grand Sheikh of the al-Azhar mosque, Sheikh Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi, has condemned the suicide bombings against Israeli civilians.

Speaking at a press conference in Cairo on Monday, the sheikh, who is acknowledged as the highest spiritual authority for nearly a billion Sunni Muslims, said Islam condemned terrorism in all its forms.

The sheikh said that Islam considers anyone who kills an innocent person as killing the whole of humanity.

He says that in the name of Islamic law he rejected and condemned the aggression against innocent civilian people, regardless of whatever side, sect or country the aggression came from.

([http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\\_east/1690624.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/1690624.stm))

**2001: Statement, Chief Mufti, Saudi Arabia, Sept 15**

## **'Gross crimes and sinful acts'**

### **Response to 9/11**

"Firstly: the recent developments in the United States including hijacking planes, terrorizing innocent people and shedding blood, constitute a form of injustice that cannot be tolerated by Islam, which views them as gross crimes and sinful acts. Secondly: any Muslim who is aware of the teachings of his religion and who adheres to the directives of the Holy Qur'an and the sunnah (the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad) will never involve himself in such acts, because they will invoke the anger of God Almighty and lead to harm and corruption on earth."

-- **'Abdulaziz bin 'Abdallah Al-Ashaykh**, chief mufti of Saudi Arabia.

([http://saudiembassy.net/press\\_release/01-spa/09-15-Islam.htm](http://saudiembassy.net/press_release/01-spa/09-15-Islam.htm))

**2001: Statement, Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i, Iran, Sept 15**

## **'Targeting civilians un-Islamic'**

### **Response to 9/11**

"Killing of people, in any place and with any kind of weapons, including atomic bombs, long-range missiles, biological or chemical weapons, passenger or war planes, carried out by any organization, country or individuals is condemned. ... It makes no difference whether such massacres happen in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Qana, Sabra, Shatila, Deir Yassin, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq or in New York and Washington."

-- **Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i**, supreme jurist-ruler of Iran.

(<http://www.irna.com/en/hphoto/010916000000.ehp.shtml>)