

In the Name of God the Most Gracious the Most Merciful

The Statement of Muslim Scholars on the Sanctity of Human Life and on the Prohibition of Declaring a Believer an Apostate in Light of the Current State of Affairs in Iraq

All praise is due to God, the Sustainer of all creation, and may the blessings and salutations be upon the most honorable of all creation; the Prophet Muhammad, as well as his kin and companions.

At a time when we are diligently anticipating an end to the enflaming crisis and the ensuing security catastrophe that has plagued Iraqi people of all religious denominations as a result of the occupation. The successive turn of events wherein innocent Iraqis are killed with impunity has only increased a sense of trepidation and despair. A great number of criminals and militias have been enabled to commit cowardly acts of destruction that have brought anguish to thousands of Iraqis.

For this reason, a number of Muslim scholars and spokespeople from the various schools of thought have called for the issuance of a statement addressing the escalation of hostilities and the committal of criminal acts. These unlawful acts are carried out in the name of religion both in Iraq or elsewhere under the veil of a religious partisanship. The undersigned, therefore, affirm all of the following:

- 1) The sanctity of human life: God has forbidden the killing of innocents whether they be Muslim, Christian, or otherwise. All who take life without legitimate justification commit a major crime and an atrocity before God.
- 2) Islamic doctrine does not allow declaring apostasy of any Muslim who prays in the direction of Mecca. All religious edicts that declare members of contrasting schools of thoughts or denominations apostate are entirely invalid and have no basis in Islamic law. Consequently, all blood that is spilt as a result of religious edicts that advocate declaration of apostasy is considered a criminal act of murder, violating the sanctity of life that God Himself has consecrated. This position has been previously outlined during the Amman Conference and subsequently ratified by religious scholars from all eight schools of thought.
- 3) The killing of innocents, the destruction of mosques, places of worship, homes, and the desecration of the dead in Iraq and elsewhere violate that which is sacred. All Muslim schools of thought and denominations dissolve all ties from those who commit such acts.

We call upon the greater Muslim community, political leaders, preachers, all concerned parties, and the media to uphold their responsibility by resolving to bring about an end to the crisis sustaining itself under the guise of partisan conflict and defuse the situation before it is too late. We must not create an opportunity for those awaiting to do us harm to foster conflict and further hostilities.

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5.	Sayyed	Abdullah Fada’q	Caller to the Faith in Mecca	Saud Arabia
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