

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

FATWA BY U.S. MUSLIMS AGAINST RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM

The Fiqh Council of North America (FCNA) wishes to reaffirm Islam's condemnation of terrorism and religious extremism by issuing the following fatwa, or formal religious ruling:

We have consistently condemned terrorism and extremism in all forms and under all circumstances, and we reiterate this unequivocal position.

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 - prohibited in Islam - 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." (**Hadith Al-Tirmidhi**)

God mandates moderation in faith and in all aspects of life when He states in the Qur'an: "We made you to be a community of the middle way, so that (with the example of your lives) you might bear witness to the truth before all mankind." (**Qur'an, 2:143**)

In another verse, God explains our duties as human beings when he says: "Let there arise from among you a band of people who invite to righteousness, and enjoin good and forbid evil." (**Qur'an, 3:104**)

The Prophet Muhammad said: "Always follow a middle (or moderate, regular) course, whereby you will reach your goal." (**Hadith Sahih Al-Bukhari**)

Islam teaches us to act in a caring manner to all of God's creation. The Prophet Muhammad, who is described in the Qur'an as "a mercy to the worlds" said: "All creation is the family of God, and the person most beloved by God (is the one) who is kind and caring toward His family."

We issue this fatwa following the guidance of our scripture the Qur'an and the teachings of our Prophet Muhammad – peace be upon him. We urge all people to resolve all conflicts in just and peaceful manners.

We pray for the defeat of extremism and terrorism. We pray for the safety and security of our country the United States of America and its people. We pray for the safety and security of all inhabitants of this globe. We pray that interfaith harmony and cooperation prevail both in the United States and every where in the world.

Fiqh Council of North America (FCNA)

July 25, 2005

ENDORSED BY:

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR); Islamic Society of North America (ISNA); Muslim American Society (MAS); Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS); Association of Muslim Scientists and Engineers (AMSE); *More names to be added*