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2004 International Association of Muslim Scholars (IAMS) Conference in Beirut Endorses Jihad in Iraq



An IAMS Panel including its President Yusuf Qaradawi



Yusuf Qaradawi

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“The Final Statement of the Second Meeting of International Association of Muslim Scholars:”

“All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds, and the prayers and peace be upon the one who was sent as a mercy to the worlds, our Prophet Mohammed, on His brothers the prophets and messengers, His descendents, companions and those who follow His guidance till the Day of Judgment.”

“At this turbulent and difficult time that the world in general and Muslims in particular are going through, the Association of Muslim Scholars represented by its Presidential Commission, The General Secretariat, the Executive Office, Board of Trustees, and the wide base of the Muslim scholars who represent all Islamic schools of thoughts, are currently meeting in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, we find it mandatory to remind every Muslim of several religious and moral principles that govern Muslim behavior and to clarify the principles of dealings with each other and with non-Muslims alike.”

“When the Prophet of Islam was sent to human beings, he considered them the ‘Others.’ He recognized them as equal and different at the same time. His dealings sprung from the fact that they all have one Lord and one Father. And however they might be different, the Lordship of Allah brings them together (Allah is our Lord and yours) (Allah brings us together). Callers of Islam who are committed to the true Islam, call others by wisdom and good words, do not lose hope when people do not listen to them, do not despair from calling for the good, and do not stop their efforts to bring peoples’ hearts together.”

“Allah has thus granted them permission to defend themselves, ‘Permission is granted to those who are fought against because they are oppressed.’ He laid down protocols and safeguards to guarantee noble human behavior, so Muslims defend themselves against only those who initiate attacks against them without transgression (Whoever attacks you, attack back in a similar fashion and do not transgress) (Fight back those who fight you and do not transgress). It is not permissible to attack non-combatants from the attacking nation because a human soul has its honor, and killing one soul illegally is similar to killing all of humanity (Whoever kills a soul illegally, or causing corruption on earth, is like killing all mankind). The



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“4.) The noble freedom fighters should abide by the religious (Islamic Shariah) laws in their fighting against the occupiers. Freedom fighters should avoid attacking children, women and elderly people –especially those who work with media and humanitarian agencies-even if they are from the same country of the occupiers, as long as they do not act against Iraqis, because Allah ordered us to fight against those who fight us and not to transgress. In the event that these people are taken as prisoners of war, they must be treated with kindness as long as they are captives and should be subject to a fair trial so innocents can be freed. It is not allowed to take hostages and threaten them with death to pressure them to achieve a goal, because (No one is responsible for others’ acts), (The criminal is responsible for his own act). In the event they were taken that way, they should be considered as prisoners of war, and should not be killed or harmed but should be released as Allah commands (either free them or take a ransom).”

“5.) The noble resistance should be aware of the existence of groups of people who try to do harm to Islam and Muslims. These groups do things that might appear as resistance, while in fact these acts are extension of aggression to distort the noble image of resistance. These groups might have ties to international and Zionist intelligence agencies. Therefore, the noble resistance has to condemn their acts and expose them. The fact that most of violent acts committed by these groups come to cover up atrocities committed by occupying forces explains our opinion.”

“6.) Iraq today is subject to a dangerous conspiracy that aims to destroy its social fabric—even if it stays as one state—by stirring up sectarian and national divisions and amplifying their differences. Iraqis should feel that they are one people under the banner of Islam—as a mission and religion—that brings them together. In addition, there is a national and religious duty mandated on Iraqis to work together to evict the occupiers and build a unified Iraq for all Iraqis.”

“7.) The bleeding wound of the Palestinian people in the blessed land of Palestine for the last century and half mandates on Muslims wherever they live to support their brethren with all kinds of support: money, media, and self. Muslims should rally peace loving people around the world to stand behind the Palestinian people and to condemn the crimes committed by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian people, land, and trees. It is well-known that olive trees which have survived for thousands of years on Palestinian land have been uprooted by Israelis by the thousands. If this act had been committed by another entity the world would raise its arms in fury and disapproval, convene committees and councils, and impose sanctions on that entity. Unfortunately, the superpowers of the world are governing the world with double standards that do not apply equally to all peoples.”

“8.) The Palestinian uprising and resistance represents one of the noblest stands of the Islamic nation in the past and present days. It is incumbent on every one of us to provide every type support for this cause. This resistance deserves to be hailed and praised for its deep understanding and balanced attitudes towards the other for its cautionary measures taken to avoid any differences that might cause damage to the unity of the Palestinians inside and outside Palestine. The Association congratulates all resistance factions for their bold decision to prohibit the shedding of Palestinian blood and their commitment to the national and Islamic principles regarding Palestine and call for its perseverance on these principles until victory and liberation prevail—Allah willing.”

“9.) Regarding Sudan, the Association is deeply concerned because of the persistent and repeated attempts to tear the homeland apart. The Association calls upon the opposing combatants in Darfur to judge their actions according to Islamic law and listen to the voice of reason and national interests so enemies of Islam and Sudan cannot seize this opportunity. This can be achieved by stopping the fighting, resorting to negotiations and using peaceful means to solve existing differences. The Association calls on Muslim peoples and governments to support Sudan to overcome this hardship and close doors for the opportunists who seek to destroy its unity and weaken its social fabric. Moreover, the Association calls upon all parties especially the Sudanese government to hold a national conference which brings all political and tribal leaders, scholars, and shaykhs of Sufi orders from everywhere across the country in order to reach an agreement on all issues that are of concern for all Sudanese. The Association suggests



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that all concerned governments approved by the Sudanese government be invited to participate. The conference should convene in one of the two sacred mosques (Mecca or Medina) in order to help purify intentions, the truthfulness of objectives, and achieving the noble goals of solving the problems, and achieving reconciliation.”

“10.) The conspiracy that took and is still taking place in Afghanistan targeting the Afghan Muslim people and their values, represents a continued attempt by drug cartels in this country to steal its human and material wealth. Muslims everywhere should expose this conspiracy and lend all kinds of support to the struggling Afghani people.”

“11.) The recent attacks and oppression that have targeted Muslims in Holland, Thailand, Nepal, Kashmir and other places, make it incumbent on all Muslims to support their brethren by all peaceful means to protect these minorities. Muslims in these countries should be alert to irresponsible acts that are committed by some ignorant Muslims which provoke these criminal acts. These acts should be condemned and stopped.”

“12.) It is unfortunate that third world countries have succeeded at globalizing ignorance and backwardness. The superpower which used to champion human rights, the privacy of the individual, and the rights of expression has been violating its own citizens’ rights, especially Muslims. This superpower has violated its own citizens’ privacy through wiretapping, implementing the Secret Evidence laws, and unwarranted detentions, fabricating evidence to deport Muslims, in addition to its immoral acts on the global level through its arrogance and the application of double standards. The silent majority in this country should stand in the face of this corruption on Earth and stick to the virtues called for by all religions.”

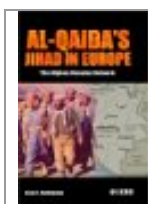
“13.) The Association appeals for the revival of a comprehensive reconciliation among all parties of this global Muslim community including the official and the popular, the preachers of Islam, the organizations and the commissions. Comprehensive reconciliation should be based on the following principles: guaranteeing civil rights for every one; reinforcing an environment of freedom; broadening the base of popular participation in power; commitment to peaceful methods in speech and action; emphasizing the role of Muslim scholars in reforming the nation and the call for Allah, a commitment to the established religious and national principals of the Islamic nation; and, defending it to reinforce its role and to prevent its enemies from doing harm to it.”

“14.) The Association stresses that Muslim countries should be aware of the importance of reforming their political, economic, and social systems as well as their educational curricula. These reforms should be based on its established religious principles, its unique history, and cultural identity without jeopardizing its national and religious values and should not be a response to an outside force.”

Signed:

**President
Professor Yusuf Qaradawi**

**Secretary General
Professor Mohamed Saleem Al-Awa**



Al-Qaida's Jihad in Europe: the Afghan-Bosnian Network

“For Bin Laden's involvement in the Boshian conflicts, see Evan F. Kohlmann, Al-Qaida's Jihad in Europe.” - U.S. 9/11 Commission Final Report (July 2004)

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