



Guide for Imams

Responding to Current Events

Requests

- 1] Start Qunut Nazilah
- 2] Read one hadith on Fadhail al-Quds after one of the Fardh Salaah.
- 3] Every Friday Khutba make dua for Masjid Al-Aqsa
- 4] Dedicate next Friday Khutba on Palestine

Khutbah Outline

Allah, in 89 places in the Quran, starts a verse with the words "O you who believe". This serves as a reminder that Allah implores us simply because we have believed. It is predicted that people who believe will need to be reminded rather than given clear orders. By submitting to Allah, we accept responsibility.

In Surah Nisa, verse 135 Allah says:

O you who believe, be upholders of justice - witnesses for Allah, even though against (the interest of) your selves, or your close relatives. One may be rich or poor, Allah can best take care of both. Refrain from following your own desire, so that you can act justly- if you distort or neglect justice, Allah is fully aware of what you do.

Upholding and standing for justice are the qualities of a believer.

Allah's messenger peace be upon him said "A Muslim is a brother to another Muslim; he does not oppress him and does not abandon him (in his time of need)".

(Muslim)

Dear respected brothers and sisters, we are seeing 24/7 coverage of Palestine in our media over the past week. The manner in which the news is presented, a casual may conclude that the trouble began on Saturday, October 7, 2023.

The truth is rather different.

75 years ago, in 1947 to 1948, 531 Palestinian villages were ethnically cleansed

75% of Palestinians were evicted from their homes. Today there are approximately 7 million Palestinian refugees. These Palestinians have been denied the right to return to their homes.

Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip for 56 years, beginning in 1967. They also took over the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Remember Al-Aqsa is our first Qibla and site of Isra wal-Miraj.

[You can add and talk about Sura 17:1 Here]

Since 1967 there are constant attacks on al-Aqsa, there are tunnels dug underneath the Al-Aqsa Sanctuary that is weakening the structure of al- Aqsa Sanctuary.

In Recent Years

- Some Israeli factions want to demolish Al-Aqsa and replace it with a Jewish temple. This was formerly a fringe movement in Israel, but it has now become a mainstream philosophy with Israeli government support.

- The Israeli government routinely enables such organisations to visit Al-Aqsa with police protection, these provoking visits are labelled as incursions. In 2022, 48,000 Israeli settlers stormed Al-Aqsa, more than in any previous year.
- Israeli regulations increasingly restrict the number of Palestinians who can visit. Israel imposes age and gender restrictions, as well as difficult-to-obtain and regularly denied visas.
- Attacks on Palestinian worshippers at Al-Aqsa are on the rise, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan. In 2021 Israeli forces violently assaulted Palestinians during Ramadan and in April 2022 there were 7 incidents against Palestinian worshippers in the space of 10 days. Again in 2023 they violently raided Al-Aqsa mosque and brutally beat worshippers with batons and rifles

UNESCO has condemned Israel's disrespect for this important World Heritage Site.

The Palestinians in the West Bank are surrounded by 700 km long wall and 600 checkpoints. They can not move freely. Going to school, work or hospital that is 1km becomes a 2 hour journey.

In Gaza the situation is even worst.

- 2.3 Million Palestinians in Gaza have been under siege. Israel controls all Land, Sea and Air routes to Gaza.
- 80% of Gazans are dependent on humanitarian aid to survive.
- 70% of Gazans live as refugees in their own land.
- Gazans face electrical blackouts for 12–16 hours every day.
- 97% of water is not safe for consumption.
- The UN has declared Gaza is not fit for human habitation.

Palestinians have been asking for the Right of Return to their homes. They are also asking to be free and have their own country.

The suffering of Palestinians and the dangers to Al-Aqsa have only increased over the decades.

Palestinians need of our help, the help of people who want peace and justice.

Abu Saeed Al-Khudri Allah be pleased with him narrates that the messenger of Allah peace be upon him said " whoever sees an evil should change it with his hands, if he is unable to do so he should change it with his tongue, if he is unable to do so he should change it with his heart (think of it to be evil) and this is the weakest form of Iman".

(Muslim)

What is crucial to understand here is that we should not resort to and settle with the weakest form of Iman. This is only for those who are unable to change it with first their hands and then their tongue. We are in a situation where we are able to utilize our tongues and should not hold back in doing so

Action Points

It is important we support all those who working for justice:

- 1) The most important thing which is obligatory upon us; is to raise our hands in Dua.
- 2) Boycott products and services which support the oppressors, to the best of our ability.
- 3) Attend rallies.
- 4) Write to your local MP, expressing your shock and horror regarding the situation in Palestine.
- 5) Write to the Media when you hear or see bias reporting.
- 6) Join and support organisations like Friends of Al-Aqsa.

Reminder

Abu Saeed Al-Khudri, Allah be pleased with him narrates that the messenger of Allah peace be upon him said, "The fear of people should never stop a man from speaking the truth when he sees or witnesses it as it does not make his death draw closer, nor does it distance him from sustenance"

(Tirmidhi)

Abu Dhar Allah be pleased with him, in a lengthy narration mentions some of the advices given to him from the prophet peace be upon him. He narrates that the messenger peace be upon him "ordered me to speak the truth, even though it may be bitter, and he ordered me not to fear the reproach of critics in the way of Allah".

(Ahmad).

We learn that when it comes to the issue at hand, we need to be unequivocal and unapologetic.

We completely support the right of Palestinians to have freedom and we support all those working for the freedom of Masjid al-Aqsa