

Khutbah Template

Khutbah Title: 20 Years of The War on Terror

Purpose:

- 1) Build awareness of the 20 years of the global War on Terror which led to the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and so much more.
- 2) Educate the community on the factually correct narrative around the events of 9/11 to counter mainstream propaganda
- 3) Inspire, empower, and have a positive impact on the community.
- 4) Use the 20 year mark to remember and pray for Muslims who lost their lives in post 9/11 wars

1 – Khutbah sermon:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

All praise is due to Allah. We praise him, we seek His help, we seek His forgiveness, and we seek refuge in Allah from the evil within ourselves and our evil deeds. Whoever Allah guides, there is none to misguide him. Whoever Allah leads astray, there is none to guide him. I testify there is no deity worthy of worship but Allah alone, without any partners, and that Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, is His servant and His messenger.

قال الله تعالى يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

Allah Almighty said, “O you who have faith, fear Allah as it is His right to be feared and do not die unless you are Muslims,” (3:102)

وقال الله وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا

And Allah Almighty said, *“Fear Allah, from whom you ask each other, and in your family ties, for Allah is ever watchful over you,”* (4:1)

وقال الله اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَفُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا

And Allah Almighty said, *“Fear Allah and speak words as befitting. He will amend your deeds for you and forgive your sins. Whoever obeys Allah and His messenger has achieved a great triumph.”* (33:70-71)

إِنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ وَأَحْسَنَ الْهَدْيِ هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَشَرُّ الْأُمُورِ مُحْدَثَاتُهَا وَكُلُّ مُحْدَثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ وَكُلُّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ وَكُلُّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ...

The truest word is the Book of Allah and the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad. The most evil matters are those that are newly invented, for every newly invented matter is an innovation. Every innovation is misguidance, and every misguidance is in the Hellfire. To proceed (and then begin the sermon)...

2 – Quranic verse: Allah says,

وَإِذَا تَوَلَّى سَعَىٰ فِي الْأَرْضِ لِيُفْسِدَ فِيهَا وَيُهْلِكَ الْحَرْثَ وَالنَّسْلَ ۗ وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ
الْفُسَادَ

“Whenever he attains authority, he goes about the earth spreading mischief and laying to waste crops and human life, even though Allah does not love mischief.” [2:205]

3 – Topic of the Khutbah:

- This September marks 20 years of a worldwide war that was initiated by President George Bush on the 18th of September 2001. He declared a ‘crusade’¹ that created a never ending war turning the whole world into a battlefield for America and its allies.

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB1001020294332922160>

- This so called global ‘War on Terror’ led to the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, the CIA torture programme, abuses at CIA ‘black sites’, Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, drone assassinations and systematic draconian and Islamophobic laws and policies across the world.
- This global War on Terror fueled the rise of Islamophobia casting Muslims as potential terrorists - anti-Muslim violence escalated and targeting of mainstream Islamic beliefs by politicians and the media became normal.
- This global war also accelerated growth of far right movements across the West who exploited the hate against Muslims to justify their racism. In these 20 years, we’ve also seen Eastern governments like China adopt ‘War on Terror’ narrative against the Muslims of East Turkestan. India has done the same to deprive Indian Muslims of their citizenship and also attack Muslims in Kashmir.
- These two decades of the ‘War on Terror’ have led to so many deaths of innocent people, numerous oppressive and unjust legislations and policies targeting Muslim communities and undermining the rule of law, the presumption of innocence and due process.
- Many in the mainstream media will be discussing the events of 9/11 tomorrow. Our sympathies are with the families of the 2,977 people that died on that day. And our hearts go out to the **nearly one million** Muslims² that were killed by America and its allies since that day.

“For the Muslim Ummah every single day has been like a 9/11.”

- This global war was launched allegedly as a response to the 9/11 incident, and many have come to accept this false narrative as though history began on september 11th 2001. In reality, the aggression against and destruction of Muslim people began much before 9/11.

Examples:

1. In 1991: The US and 35 allies bombed Iraq. They used depleted uranium which led to half a million dead children.³ More than a decade of financial and medical

² <https://www.brown.edu/news/2019-11-13/costsofwar>

³ <https://mackdegeurin.medium.com/is-the-price-worth-it-the-crippling-effects-of-u-n-sanctions-in-iraq-481d4a89bd2>

sanctions were imposed thereafter. This is BEFORE the second invasion of the Iraq war in 2003!

2. In 1993, the US invaded Somalia. US troops were expelled in an infamous black hawk incident. 312 Muslims were killed and many more wounded.
 3. For many decades the US and allies have provided unflinching support to Israel in its continued occupation of Palestine and expulsion of Muslims there.
 4. For a very long time, the US has maintained huge military presence in Muslim countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar through military bases from where war and destruction is launched on other Muslim countries.⁴
 5. Long before 9/11, the US and allies have provided political and economic support to brutal dictators in Muslim world, whilst singing about democracy.
- **Effect of this war on the Muslims in the UK:** This 20 year war has not only been impacting Muslims in far away places. It has affected us right here directly: in our schools via the Prevent program; at our workplaces experiencing islamophobia; at airports being stopped under Schedule 7; in the media routinely being associated with violence and hate....and much more. Because of this false narrative created by the War on Terror, all Muslims are misrepresented as suspects or potential terrorists in our current time.

4 – Our duty as Muslims:

- We are part of the Muslim Ummah and we stand together against injustice taking place against the Ummah from around the world and also here in this country
- We should call for accountability for all governments, agencies and officials that are guilty of war crimes and abuses since 2001. This is a basic duty we owe to our brothers who suffered.
- We should demand that governments and leaders acknowledge the crimes committed in the name of the 'War on Terror' and we should demand restorative justice for victims and survivors of these wars.

⁴ <https://5pillarsuk.com/2020/01/09/which-muslim-countries-host-u-s-military-bases/>

- We should work towards the complete dismantlement of the infrastructure which made those crimes possible, including the unjust laws, policies and practices that were created in this so-called ‘War on Terror’.

5 - Positive & empowering reminder to finish:

- The oppressed will one day secure their freedom, it is a promise from Allah:

وَنُرِيدُ أَنْ نَمُنَّ عَلَى الَّذِينَ اسْتُضِعُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَنَجْعَلَهُمْ أَئِمَّةً وَنَجْعَلَهُمُ الْوَارِثِينَ
وَنُكَفِّرَنَّ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَنُرِيَهُمْ فِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ وَجُنُودَهُمَا مِنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَحْذَرُونَ

"And We wanted to confer favor upon those who were oppressed in the land and make them leaders and make them inheritors; and to establish them in the land; and through them show Pharaoh, Hamân, and their soldiers the fulfilment of what they feared." [28:5-6]

- The Muslim is always positive and optimistic, we know our Lord is Allah and He is always in support of His obedient slaves. We must remain steadfast on the path to justice.
- Those who spend trillions on spreading war and destruction - especially if the goal is to undermine Islam - will never succeed because their cause is unjust and criminal:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ لِيَصُدُّوا عَنِ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ۗ فَسَيُنْفِقُونَهَا ثُمَّ تَكُونُ عَلَيْهِمْ حَسْرَةً ثُمَّ يُغْلَبُونَ ۗ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ يُحْشَرُونَ

"Surely the disbelievers spend their wealth to hinder others from the Path of Allah. They will continue to spend to the point of regret. Then they will be defeated and the disbelievers will be driven into Hell" [8:36]

- Many Islamic scholars from around the world have come together to express their solidarity and sympathy with victims and survivors of the wars post 9/11. You can read their statement on <https://www.20yearsofwar.com>

That website is the home of a worldwide campaign launched by more than 50 organizations to ensure that the stories of the survivors of this war are not forgotten.

6 – End.

RESEARCH NOTES FOR IMAMS

Key points:

WHAT DOES THE INTERNATIONAL WITNESS CAMPAIGN STAND FOR?

After decades of confrontation with the Soviet Union, the US emerged as the sole superpower and immediately engaged in a series of destructive “humanitarian wars” and political meddling, including starving to death of 500,000 children in Iraq, “a price worth paying”, as infamously stated by US Secretary of state Madeleine Albright.

Soon after, US militarism reinvented itself under a new label.

In 2001, US president GW Bush announced the launch of a “crusade”. Since then, we have witnessed 20 years of premeditated illegal wars, carpet bombings, drone assassinations, arbitrary detention, torture, mass displacement and rampant corruption in the Muslim world.

As a result, thousands in western democracies have lost their loved ones in those wars. Many more have suffered life-changing injuries and an untold number have come home with unseen trauma to their mental health.

Western democracies have also enacted countless legislations and policies targeting Muslim communities and undermining the rule of law for all. of their basic freedoms, unprecedented waste of taxpayers’ money and their country’s loss of standing on the global scene.

This infrastructure was built and promoted by ideologically-motivated architects and interest-driven politicians, think-tanks, experts, media and businesses.

It was also facilitated by the liberal complicity in structural islamophobia and securitisation.

In the process, we saw whistleblowers and truth speakers being demonised and repressed.

However, the dialogue initiated in Doha, and President Biden’s withdrawal from Afghanistan after facing military and moral defeat are a historic opportunity for us all to reflect.

More than a contemplative exercise over past events, this campaign seeks to respond to the globalisation of the War on Terror. As most countries in the world have adopted the pervasive 20-year old rhetoric, laws and policies to suppress their Muslim population and dissidents, it is important for the civil society to rise to these new challenges and produce a response centred around the empowerment of Muslim communities and ending the status quo.

The International Witness Campaign gathers international partners to commemorate this anniversary and remember the millions of people affected across the globe.

It explores two decades of the war on Terror, its impact, its failures and its future, while promoting solidarity, justice and dialogue.

WHY SHOULD YOU SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL WITNESS CAMPAIGN?

KEY FACTS

- At least 801,000 people have been directly killed in major wars since 2001.
- 37 million people have been displaced as a result of America's War on Terror.
- Over \$6.4 trillion spent on wars by the US only.
- Over 134 countries involved
- Dozens of laws eroding civil liberties of all citizens
- Private security corporations profiting from taxpayers funded national security systems.

FURTHER READING

<https://www.20yearsofwar.com>