



**THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
CONDEMNING EXTREMISM
AND PROMOTING MODERATION**

Public Statements by Senior Saudi Officials and Religious Scholars Condemning Extremism and Promoting Moderation

As home of the Two Holy Mosques of Islam, in Makkah and Madinah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stands as a target of extremists and terrorists who aim to subvert the country's faith. To combat this threat, Saudi government officials and religious scholars have long been vocal in condemning the mindset that supports terrorism, and have promoted moderation and tolerance among Saudis and Muslims worldwide.

Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance. Unfortunately, there are those who have used religion to advance perverted agendas. Anyone who resorts to violence and extremism in the name of religion is a deviant and a criminal. The open and public expression of these views has been a critical aspect of how Saudi Arabia continues to successfully fight against extremists. The Saudi government seeks to protect the nation from violence and destruction and its youth from deviant ideologies that would corrupt the Kingdom's future.

Following are a series of recent public statements by Saudi government officials and religious scholars condemning extremism and promoting moderation. To view a more comprehensive report, please visit the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia's website at www.saudiembassy.net.

- **Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, address at United Nations High-Level Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue, November 12, 2008**

“Terrorism and criminality are the enemies of every religion and every civilization. They would not have appeared except for the absence of the principle of tolerance.”

- **Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, speaking at the First National Conference on Intellectual Security, May 20, 2009**

“I do not think that we have any honor as Saudis to find our sons abroad turning into bombers who kill innocent men, women and children that are not guilty of anything anywhere, whether in Iraq, Pakistan and Lebanon or anywhere else. These individuals make bombing as their profession. This is a dishonorable act and a great sin ... The religion of Islam has nothing to do, whatsoever, with these individuals.”

- **Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah Al-Asheikh, chairman of the Council of Senior Islamic Scholars, speaking at the “International Legal Framework for Combating Terrorist and its Financing Workshop,” February 20, 2010**

“Terrorism is criminal and spills the blood of innocents. It attacks security, spreads terror among people and creates problems for society ... Such acts are forbidden by Islamic law.”

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STATEMENTS ON FIGHTING TERRORISM

- **Prince Muhammad bin Nayef, Assistant Interior Minister for Security Affairs, addressing the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) following an assassination attempt against the Prince, August 31, 2009**

“The security efforts and strategy that the country is following for reform will not change.”

- **Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Joint Press Conference with Indian Foreign Minister, Pranab Mukherjee, New Delhi, India, December 26, 2008**

“We should work together to counter this dangerous international phenomenon [terrorism], forbid it from achieving its objectives and uproot it.”

- **Sheikh Saleh Al-Luhaidan, head of the Supreme Judicial Council, *Okaz*, July 9, 2008**

On Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden: “That man [bin Laden], his actions speak for him. He is not the one to guide a person onto the right path. He is a promoter of evil and depravity, and whoever follows him also pursues depravity ... Without a doubt, anyone who calls to destroy it [the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia], to undermine its security, to harm its installations and economic centers, and who incites the public against it – such a person is a criminal, as are members of Al-Qaeda. Anyone who is associated with [Al-Qaeda] must be punished.”

- **Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Call and Guidance Saleh bin Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, Saudi Press Agency, July 4, 2008**

The Interior Ministry’s efforts were praised for confronting the deviant group and their destructive acts in addition to the preemptive efforts of the security men in uncovering the plots of the group. “The uncovering and aborting of these plots are great efforts...through which lives have been saved and properties have been spared,” said the Sheikh. He also stressed the responsibility of all groups and institutions of society, including those in charge of mosques, to confront the deviant thoughts.

- **King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, addressing the Shura Council, March 15, 2008**

“The deviant group sought to develop its destructive capabilities to inflict greater damage on the homeland and its achievements and extended its base of support...I assure you of our continued determination to confront this group.”

- **Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs, statement to the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly, September 28, 2007**

“Achieving decisive victory against terrorism requires not only denying terrorists all financial support, but also combating extremist thought and the environment in which it prospers.”

- **King Abdullah, ABC, “Nightline,” October 14, 2005**

“... We will fight the terrorists and those who support them or condone their actions for 10, 20 or 30 years if we have to until we eliminate this scourge.... We are fighting terrorism and extremism in our midst.... We have also regulated our charities and we have closed offices around the world, and we have withdrawn support for institutions that we found to be extremist.”

- **King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah, excerpt from address to Hajj pilgrims, January 21, 2005**

“Terrorism leads to corruption on earth and to destruction; the Kingdom has therefore been confronting it in its various forms, and working to uproot it, refuting the deviant ideas believed in by terrorists, and clarifying Islam’s position on terrorism.”

- **King Fahd, addressing the Shura Council, June 20, 2004**

“We will not allow a wicked group driven by a deviant ideology to destabilize the Kingdom’s security.”

- **Crown Prince Abdullah, *Arab News*, July 22, 2003**

“These misguided groups, whose members’ minds have been possessed by the devil, will be punished and defeated, God willing, along with those who support them,” he said.

- **Crown Prince Abdullah, in an address to the nation, May 13, 2003**

“The tragic, bloody and painful events that took place in the heart of our dear capital, Riyadh, last night, in which innocent citizens and residents were killed or injured, prove once again that terrorists are criminals and murderers with total disregard for any Islamic and human values or decency. ... The perpetrators are but a small group of deviants whose objective is to do harm to our society by doing damage to its security.”

“On the other hand, the whole Saudi nation, old and young, men and women, stand shoulder-to-shoulder in condemning this heinous act and expressing their rejection of those who perpetrated it. We will be steadfast in defending our homeland, the cradle of Islam, and the heart of the Arab world.”

“If these murderers believe that their criminal and bloody act will shake our nation or its unity, they are mistaken. And if they believe they can disrupt the security and tranquility of our nation, they are dreaming. This is because the Saudi people, who have embraced the Holy Book as their guide and the Shari’ah as their way of life, and who have rallied behind their leaders, who in turn embraced them, will not permit a deviant few to shed the blood of the innocent which God Almighty, in His infinite wisdom and justice, has sanctified. The entire Saudi nation, and not just its valiant security forces, will not hesitate to confront the murderous criminals.”

STATEMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO FIGHT TERRORISM

- **Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, the Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior during his opening remarks at 'The Conference of Terrorism Between Intellectual Extremism and Extremist Ideology,' March 28, 2010**

“We are still facing this terrorism. We are working day and night to detect these acts, to prevent their occurrence in our dear country and to contribute with others to prevent their occurrence in other places.”

- **Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, Minister of the Interior, *Arab News*, June 29, 2008**

Prince Nayef called on the international community to cooperate in order to stop terror funding, saying: “If they fail to dry up their financial sources, terrorism will prevail.” He added that the Kingdom increased security around oil installations after it was revealed that suspected militants were plotting to attack these and other vital economic installations. He further praised Saudi security forces for preempting attacks and called on Saudis and expatriates to cooperate in their fight against terrorism.

- **Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, *Arab News*, July 25, 2005**

“We are now looking forward as an Arab and Islamic world to think and unite in fighting terrorism. These terrorist activities are targeting Islam and peace between people and countries of the world. If we do not move together, then terrorism will continue.”

- **Crown Prince Abdullah, Counter-Terrorism International Conference, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, February 5, 2005**

“We are fighting terrorism, those who support it and those who condone it. We will continue to do so until we eliminate, with the help of God, this evil...It is our hope that this conference will usher in a new era of international cooperation in the war against terrorism that will enable us to rid our world of this threat.”

- **King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah, excerpt from address to Hajj pilgrims, January 21, 2005**

“Saudi Arabia has called on all peace-loving countries to work together to combat the phenomenon of terrorism through a comprehensive plan based on the United Nations. It is essential to cooperate in the fight against terrorism. No country in the world should ever provide shelter to terrorists, nor should any country ever enable them to practice their subversive acts from its territory. In line with this policy, the Kingdom has called for an international conference on combating terrorism to be convened in Riyadh on February 5, 2005.”

- **Crown Prince Abdullah, excerpts from a letter to President George W. Bush on the first anniversary of the September 11 attacks, September 10, 2002**

“The target of the terrorists who engineered this crime was humanity at large. They hoped that this outrageous act would incite and ignite bloody strife among different faiths and civilizations. But their evil was turned against them, for all humanity united to fight terrorism, and wise voices from all corners of the world arose to echo your declaration that terrorism has no religion or nationality; that it is pure evil, condemned and abhorred by all religions and cultures.”

“Your friends in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia denounced and condemned the September 11 attacks as strongly as did the American people. We, like you, are convinced that nothing can ever justify the shedding of innocent blood or the taking of lives and the terrorizing of people, regardless of whatever cause or motive. Therefore, we do not simply reiterate sincere and true condolences to the relatives of the victims, but assure all of our continued will and determination to do our utmost to combat this malignant evil and uproot it from our world.”

- **Crown Prince Abdullah, address to the United Nations Millennium Summit, September 6, 2000**

“The phenomenon of terrorism is still widespread in all parts of the world, although fluctuating considerably, and still requires greater effort from our organization in order to contain and combat it. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always denounced all forms and shapes of terrorism, and added its efforts to those of the international community to address this serious phenomenon. What should be emphasized in this respect is that extremism, violence, and terrorism are global phenomena, not restricted to any people, race, or religion. In view of the internationalism and comprehensiveness of this phenomenon, addressing and combating it effectively can only come through agreed-upon international action within the framework of the United Nations, that ensures the elimination of terrorism, conservation of innocent life, and preservation of the supremacy and stability of the State.”

STATEMENTS ON EXTREMISM AS CONTRARY TO ISLAM

- **Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, the Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior during his opening speech at the 29th Meeting of the Interior Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, November 2, 2010**

Accusing the terrorists of trying to use Islam as a cover for their un-Islamic, criminal activities, he characterized those deviants as “people who are misled by Satan to target security and stability. They shed blood unjustly. Their course is against the sound Islamic creed.”

- **Council of Senior Ulema Fatwa on terror financing, May 7, 2010**

“Thus, the Council rules that the financing of terrorism; the inception, help or attempt to commit a terrorist act whatever kind or dimension is forbidden by Islamic Shariah and constitutes a punishable crime thereby; this includes gathering or providing of finance for that end, or providing help or participating in it in any form or manner including financial or non-financial assets, regardless whether these assets are originated from legal or illegal sources.”

- **Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Riyadh, in talks with Indian Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna, April 13, 2010**

“We condemn the plague of terrorism and we’ll not accept it from any party, whoever it may be...Our religion, Islam, rejects terrorism, killings and causing harm to people. Saudi Arabia’s stand on this issue is very clear.”

- **Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, the Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior during his opening remarks at 'The Conference of Terrorism Between Intellectual Extremism and Extremist Ideology,' March 28, 2010**

“Emanating from its religious and moral duties, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been in the lead in exposing the dangers of terrorism and intellectual extremism and in confronting them with the force and approach of deterrence.”

- **Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Senior Ulema [religious scholars] said during his sermon in Arafat during the haj, November 26, 2009**

“The most serious problem the Muslim community is facing lately is from deviant ideology. The deviants have abandoned the right principles of Islam and adopted a wrong creed. Therefore adherence to the right creed is one of the most important duties of a Muslim.”

- **Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Governor of Makkah Province speaking at the International Conference on Fatwa and its Controls on January 17, 2009**

“Ignorance in religion and being prejudiced in fatwa are the most dangerous challenges to the Muslim community.”

- **King Abdullah, speaking to the heads of state and heads of Hajj missions in Mina on December 9, 2008**

“The objective of this interfaith dialogue, which was initiated by your brothers in the Kingdom, is to strengthen the pride of Islam and serve humanity...Today we are in need of dialogue within the Muslim Ummah (community) itself...division, ignorance, and extremism are obstacles threatening the hopes of Muslims. Also, terrorism is threatening the world and it is attributed to Muslims alone because of the actions of few extremists who represent none but themselves. Though they put on the guise of Islam, the religion

is innocent and not responsible for their acts. This makes dialogue among the Muslim Ummah necessary to unify the ranks, bolster moderation, remove the causes of conflict and eradicate extremism.”

- **Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Senior *Ulema* [religious scholars], April 2, 2008**

“Fanatical zeal cannot be considered part of religion, even if they [extremists] falsely pretend to be devout...”

- **King Abdullah, address to the Shura Council, Saudi Arabia, April 1, 2008:**

“Development can only be achieved in a climate of security and safety. So, we reiterate our resolve to annihilate the deviant group of murderous terrorists and fight the deviant thought with a sound one.... There is no room in the country of the Two Holy Mosques for extremism.”

- **King Abdullah opening remarks at the World Conference on Dialogue, Madrid, Spain, July 16, 2008**

“It is therefore incumbent upon us to declare to the world that difference must not lead to conflict and confrontation, and to state that the tragedies that have occurred in human history were not attributable to religion, but were the result of extremism with which some adherents of every divinely revealed religion, and of every political ideology, have been afflicted.”

- **Shaikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Senior Ulema, in a statement issued following the terrorist attacks in London, July 8, 2005**

“Killing and terrorizing innocent people and the destruction of property are not condoned by Islam. Attributing all these horrific incidents to Islam is unjust. Muslims should tell the truth and unveil falseness, and inform all people that Islam is a religion of righteousness, betterment and progress.”

- **King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah, excerpt from address to Hajj pilgrims, January 21, 2005**

“The world has witnessed acts of terrorism that aim at undermining the pillars of stability and security as well as intimidating innocent people. Unfortunately these acts have been perpetrated by people who claim they belong to Islam. We would like to make it clear that these terrorist acts in fact run counter to the teachings of Islam, and have been carried out by individuals whose ideas are deviant.”

- **Shaikh Abdulrahman Al-Sudais, Imam at the Grand Mosque in Makkah, *Arab News*, January 21, 2005**

“Islam is a religion of moderation. There is no room for extremism in Islam.... Islam is a religion of peace that abhors attacks on innocent people.”

- **Shaikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, Eid Al-Adha sermon, February 1, 2004**

“You must know Islam’s firm position against all these terrible crimes. The world must know that Islam is a religion of peace and mercy and goodness; it is a religion of justice and guidance ... Islam has forbidden violence in all its forms. It forbids the hijacking airplanes, ships and other means of transport, and it forbids all acts that undermine the security of the innocent.”

- **Crown Prince Abdullah, in an address to the nation, May 13, 2003**

“There can be no acceptance or justification for terrorism. Nor is there a place for any ideology which promotes it, or beliefs which condone it. We specifically warn anyone who tries to justify these crimes in the name of religion. And we say that anyone who tries to do so will be considered a full partner to the terrorists and will share their fate. As revealed in the Holy Qur’an: ‘If a man kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is Hell, to abide therein (forever): and the wrath and the curse of God are upon him, and a dreadful penalty is prepared for him.’”

- **Leading Saudi clerics, Friday sermons following the terrorist attack in Al-Khobar, June 28, 1996**

The Imam of the Grand Mosque in Makkah, Sheikh Saleh bin Humaid cited many Islamic principles that forbid terrorist acts of killing, violence, and intimidation of peaceful and innocent people, and made it clear that violence and terrorism will not succeed anywhere on earth because they run counter to all religions, all international norms and laws. He called on religious scholars, writers, thinkers and intellectuals to clarify the true course of Islamic behavior and to advise on how to avoid deviations in ideology, referring to the important role that the mass media can take in this regard.

Similar exhortations were made at the Prophet’s Mosque in Madinah, where Imam Ali Al-Huzaiifi called the explosion in Al-Khobar serious sedition, aggression, and corruption, adding that such terrorist and destructive acts are totally forbidden in Islamic teachings.

STATEMENTS ON COMBATING EXTREMIST IDEOLOGY

- **King Abdullah, during his inauguration speech at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, September 23, 2009**

“Humanity has been the target of vicious attacks from extremists, who speak the language of hatred, fear dialogue and pursue destruction. We cannot fight them unless we learn to coexist without conflict - with love instead of hatred and with friendship instead of confrontation. Undoubtedly, scientific centers that embrace all peoples are the first line of defense against extremists. And today, this university [KAUST] will become a House of Wisdom to all its peers around the world, a beacon of tolerance.”

- **Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Interior, delivering an anti-terrorism speech at Islamic University, November 26, 2008**

Addressing staff and students at Islamic University in Madinah, Prince Nayef underlined the serious threat posed by deviant groups that pervert the teachings of Islam and kill innocents. He urged the university to study the causes of radicalization in order to find ways to prevent it. After his remarks, Prince Nayef inaugurated the Islamic University's new website devoted to fighting terrorism.

- **Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Senior Ulema [religious scholars], in an interview with Asharq Al-Awsat, September 23, 2009**

“This ideology is being treated in a variety of ways [in Saudi Arabia]. It must be treated by the education curriculum, either by way of written materials or at least by lectures, to clarify this evil ideology to people and warn them against it. Our news media should also treat this issue realistically, not with words and culture, but with a realistic and uncomplicated treatment [of the issue] to clarify to the public what these organizations are, what their goals are... Imams should also play a role in this.”

- **Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Senior Ulema [religious scholars], in an interview with Asharq Al-Awsat, October 1, 2008**

“It is our duty and we all – the media, the universities, mosque imams, and mosque preachers – are responsible for fighting these evil thoughts and those that promote them. Such thoughts should be discussed and their corruption exposed. Even the father and mothers should fight these thoughts. We pray to God Almighty that the war on ideological terrorism be fierce and strong and be based on solid foundations and good curricula so that we can close the doors on evil with God's help.”

- **King Abdullah, Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*, July 16, 2008**

“We have adopted a comprehensive anti-terror strategy that not only focuses on the security side but also includes preventing financing of terrorism and dealing with its intellectual roots as well as rehabilitating the followers of deviant ideologies after giving them counseling.”

- **Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Interior, at a press conference after attending the 7th Engineering Conference at King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, December 2, 2007**

“Security efforts alone cannot eliminate terrorism. The intellectual effort is also necessary as it prevents extremist ideas from taking root in the minds of young Saudis.”

- **Adel Al-Jubeir, Foreign Affairs Advisor to Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard, Speech, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Washington, DC, March 7, 2005**

“...Saudi Arabia has taken steps to combat the mindset that instills and justifies acts of terror, hatred and violence. Islam is a religion of peace, benevolence and tolerance, and

we will not allow deviants to corrupt our faith.... Violence and extremism are not part of our Islamic faith or Saudi culture or traditions.”

- **Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, Counter-Terrorism International Conference, February 5, 2005**

“In fact, terrorism is not just an act, but the product of an aberrant ideology that must be fought. That is why the onus of the responsibility lies with all societies, with all their institutions, to confront and combat terrorism since, just as the security institutions have their obligations, cultural - academic, mass media, and educational - institutions have a great responsibility to inculcate the right ideals and sound human values and to immunize societies against any delinquent ideas or evil deeds.”

STATEMENTS ON THE ROLE OF MOSQUES IN DENOUNCING EXTREMISM

- **The Council of Senior Ulema [religious scholars], in a fatwa (edict) as reported by *Asharq al-Awsat*, April 13, 2010**

“...any act of terrorism, including providing financial support to terrorists, a crime, regardless of where it takes place... the financier of acts of terrorism will be considered a partner in the crime.”

- **Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Call and Guidance Saleh Al-Asheikh, statement to the Saudi Press Agency, July 4, 2008**

Al-Asheikh emphasized the need for society and religious establishments to combat terrorism and extremist ideology. He noted that some young Saudis have been misled into branding people and even some Muslim religious scholars as infidels. Imams and preachers should teach and guide the youths before they fall prey to the influence of extremists and become outlaws.

Al-Asheikh said that the first responsibility lies with the family and then the imams at mosques to confront extremism and protect the youth from extremist ideologies.

- **Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Call and Guidance Saleh Al-Ashaikh, *Arab News*, May 10, 2008**

“A preacher should know that it is his religious duty to speak out against terror and misguided ideologies as he is aware of what the Shari’ah says on the matter... When a preacher believes in what he is saying and is in the need of uprooting extremist ideologies his words will be sincere and strongly influence the people.”

- **Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, in a press conference after opening the Seventh Engineering Conference at King Saud University, *Al-Watan*, December 2, 2007**

“Pulpits of mosques should be used to guide people. When they are used for other purposes, it is an error that can lead to the gravest danger, namely violation of the faith and rebellion against the ruler.”

- **Chief Justice of the Jubail Court Sheikh Riyadh Al-Muhaidib, *Al-Watan*, October 29, 2007**

“Cursing peaceful non-Muslims is not accepted in Islam ... Preachers are required to follow the guidelines of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs in this respect.” He added, “Preachers play a significant role in explaining Islam to all people, including People of the Book. Imams of mosques who deviate from the path of tolerance and moderation are few and do not represent a trend. Nonetheless, these isolated incidents should not be allowed to distort the image of our faith and country around the world, especially in areas where there is a large concentration of People of the Book, such as Jubail and Yanbu.”

- **Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, during a meeting to over 600 prayer leaders and imams in Jeddah, *Arab News*, June 21, 2007**

“It is your responsibility to confront this problem [deviant ideology] by applying your knowledge, minds and courage.” He noted that there are at least 14,000 Friday mosques in various parts of the Kingdom and continued, “This means we have 14,000 platforms. If the khatibs use this opportunity to expose the deviants and their ideology, it will have a great positive impact upon society.”

- **King Fahd, addressing the Shura Council, May 17, 2003**

“...It is the responsibility of our religious leaders to save our youth from the evil of destructive thoughts that propagate extremism and hatred and only result in devastation and ruin.”

STATEMENTS CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AGAINST INNOCENTS

- **Sheikh Salman al-Oadah, *Arab News*, January 6, 2008**

“...How much blood has been spilled? How many innocent children, women and old people have been killed, maimed and expelled from their homes in the name of Al-Qaeda? Are you happy to meet Allah with this heavy burden on your shoulders? It is indeed a weighty burden—hundreds of thousands of innocent people, if not millions. How could you wish for that?”

- **Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, in a statement following the killing of Egypt’s envoy to Iraq, July 8, 2005**

“Killing of the souls that Allah prohibited is a greater crime and one of the greatest sins, as Allah says: ‘And kill not anyone whom Allah has forbidden, except for a just cause,’ and Allah also says: ‘Because of that we ordained for the Children of Israel that if anyone killed a person not in retaliation of murder or to spread mischief in the land, it would be as if he killed all mankind.’”

- **Shaikh Saleh Al-Luheidan, Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council, Saudi Press Agency, May 2, 2005**

“Shedding the blood of the innocents is prohibited everywhere, and whoever does not believe in its prohibition is a sacrilegious deviant.”

- **Crown Prince Abdullah, in an address to the nation, May 13, 2003**

“As revealed in the Holy Qur’an, the taking of an innocent life is a crime against all of humanity. In the words of the Prophet (God’s peace and mercy be upon him): ‘He who kills a resident living in peace among you, will never breathe the air of heaven.’”

- **Council of Senior Ulema (religious scholars) edict, Press Release, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Washington, DC, February 11, 2003**

“The acts of shedding the blood of innocent people, the bombing of buildings and ships, and the destruction of public and private installations are criminal acts and against Islam. Those who carry out such acts have deviant beliefs and misguided ideologies and are to be held responsible for their crimes. Islam and Muslims should not be accountable for the actions of such people. Islamic Law clearly prohibits leveling such charges against non-Muslims, warns against following those who carry such deviant beliefs, and stresses that it is the duty of all Muslims all over the world to consult truthfully, share advice, and cooperate in piety and righteousness.”

- **Shaikh Muhammad bin Abdullah Al-Subail, Imam of the Grand Mosque of Makkah and member of the Council of Senior Islamic Scholars, Saudi Press Agency, December 4, 2001**

“Any attack on innocent people is unlawful and contrary to Shari’ah.... Muslims must safeguard the lives, honor and property of non-Muslims who are under their protection and with whom they have concluded peace agreements.”

STATEMENTS CONDEMNING SUICIDE BOMBINGS

- **Shaikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, Saudi Press Agency, April 22, 2004, the day after a suicide bombing in Riyadh**

Shaikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh issued a statement citing verses from the Holy Qur’an and the sayings of Prophet Muhammad that clearly stipulate such an act as “forbidden and highly sinful.” He also declared that it is forbidden to cover up such acts, or to express justification for them, and whoever does so, is an accomplice to the crime.

- **Shaikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, in a statement issued September 15, 2001**

“The recent developments in the United States constitute a form of injustice that is not tolerated by Islam, which views them as gross crimes and sinful acts.”

- **Shaikh Salih Al-Luheidan, Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council, in a televised statement on September 14, 2001**
 “As a human community we must be vigilant and careful to oppose these pernicious and shameless evils, which are not justified by any sane logic, nor by the religion of Islam.”
- **Shaikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, in an interview with *Sharq Al-Awsat*, April 21, 2001**
 “What you call suicide bombings in my view are illegitimate and have nothing to do with jihad in the cause of God. I am afraid it is another form of killing oneself.”

STATEMENTS ON PROMOTING MODERATION

- **Excerpt from the final statement issued by the Arab leaders attending the 19th Summit of the League of Arab States in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March 29, 2007**
 “We therefore decide: ...To spread the culture of moderation, tolerance, dialogue, and openness; to reject all forms of terrorism and extremism, as well as all exclusionary racist trends, hatred campaigns and endeavors.”
- **King Abdullah, Organization of the Islamic Conference Summit in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, December 7, 2005**
 “Fanaticism and extremism cannot grow on an earth whose soil is embedded in the spirit of tolerance, moderation, and balance.... I also look forward to the spread of moderation that embodies the Islamic concept of tolerance.”
- **Crown Prince Abdullah, *Arab News*, July 1, 2003**
 “Our youth must be inoculated against alien ideas. Families, schools and mosques as well as the country’s ulema and intellectuals and the media and every sincere person must contribute to this effort in order to expose alien thoughts and show the truth.”
- **King Fahd, addressing the Shura Council, May 17, 2003**
 “...And I say to every citizen that one of the most important obligations is to confront narrow mindedness, regionalism and social division. Confronting these ills is a requirement of our faith and contributes to national unity.



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