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Last Update: 05:45 GMT, Monday, Feb. 22, 2010

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Question and Answer Details

Name of Questioner Ayman - Saudi Arabia

Title Seeking Martyrdom by Attacking US Military Bases in the Gulf

Question What is the Islamic ruling on attacking American military bases in the Arab and Muslim countries in spite of the opposition of the ruling regimes of those countries? Are those who die while attacking the American military bases martyrs?

Date 24/Mar/2003

Name of Counsellor Group of Muftis

Topic Relations during War

Answer

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

All praise and thanks are due to Allah, and peace and blessings be upon His Messenger.

Dear questioner, thanks very much for sending this question and we earnestly implore Allah to guide us to the best.

Before answering your question, we want to highlight the following main points:

- 1-**The presence of many American troops in the region is something that is categorically rejected by the people, who consider the American presence as an aggression against the land and its people.
- 2-**The main aim behind the American aggression is to take hold of the nation's resources, especially the oil.
- 3-**It is obligatory upon the Arab countries to defend themselves against American imperialism.
- 4-** If there was an acceptable cause to seek help from the American forces in the past, now this cause vanishes and hence their presence is no more than an invasion that must be faced tooth and nail.
- 5-**Any Muslim killed while resisting aggression will be in the highest degree of martyrdom.
- 6-**The attacks against the occupying forces should be directed against the aggressive soldiers. Tourists, workers, ambassadors and the like are not the target, and hence it is not allowed to attack them as they have the pledge of security.



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Your Mufti

Your Contribution

First: The Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar **Sheikh Muhammad Sayed Tantawi** told *Ar-ra' Al'am* Newspaper based in Kuwait on Sunday 29 September 2002 the following:

"It is obligatory upon Muslims to support the Iraqi people against any aggression, as facing the aggression against any Muslim country is a religious obligation and a Jihad at the same time. It is not permissible to help those aggressive troops in their schemes and actions.

I am totally against any actions that are capable of causing any harm to the Iraqi people, who are part and parcel of the Arab and Muslim Ummah. I earnestly implore Allah to help the Iraqi people and to grant them victory over their enemies.

We are totally in support of the Iraqi people, and we are against any aggression launched against Iraq. We totally reject injustice, aggression against any Arab or Muslim country."

Second: Dr. Ibrahim Zayd Al-Kilani, former Jordanian minister of Al-Awqaf (Public Endowments), states:

"It is well known that when the enemy invades the land of Islam, Jihad become *farid`ayn* (an individual duty). Referring to this, Allah Almighty says: **"And slay them wherever ye find them, and drive them out of the places whence they drove you out ..."** (Al-Baqarah: 191)

In addition, Allah Almighty commands us to breach the conditions of the peaceful treaties signed with non-Muslims when we fear that they will breach them from their side. Referring to this, Allah Almighty says, **"Lo! The worst of beasts in Allah's sight are the ungrateful who will not believe. Those of them with whom thou madest a treaty, and, then at every opportunity they break their treaty, and they keep not duty (to Allah). If thou comest on them in the war, deal with them so as to strike fear in those who are behind them, that haply they may remember. And if thou fearest treachery from any folk, then throw back to them (their treaty) fairly. Lo! Allah loveth not the treacherous."** (Al-Anfal: 55-58)

Thus, attacking American soldiers who came to launch war against Muslims is an obligation and Jihad, as they are true invaders.

Hence, killing any transgressing American soldier is an obligation and a kind of Jihad since those occupying troops came to invade Muslim lands."

Third: The prominent Iraqi religious scholar based in the city of An-Najaf Al-Ashraf, **Sheikh `Ali Husayn As-Sistiyan**, adds:

"Supporting the enemy of Muslims with any form of support is one of the major sins that entails humiliation in this world and severe punishment in the Hereafter. All Muslims should know that if, Allah forbid, the enemies' aims in Iraq are achieved, they will lead to a total disaster that will endanger the entire Muslim world.

In this critical stage that Muslims are passing through, Muslims have to unify their stance and try their best to defend their Iraqi brothers and sisters against the greedy enemies and their plots and schemes."

Fourth: Dr Yunus Al-Astal, Assistant Professor of Islamic Shari`ah in Palestine, states:

"Those who launch fierce fighting against the American existence in the Gulf are the best fighters in these days. They are the ones who are truly sticking to the teachings of Islam, and their martyrdom is classed in the highest degree of martyrdom, as they combat the current criminal and aggressive war on the Muslim world."

Fifth: Dr. Ahmad Ar-Raysuni, Professor of Shari`ah in Morocco, adds:

"The American presence in the Gulf region is considered an illegitimate presence, as it is not acceptable from the Shari`ah point of view and because the masses of the Arab region categorically reject such presence.

If the pretext of the American presence was to liberate Kuwait and protect the Kuwaiti regime against an Iraqi invasion, then such pretext is no longer in effect.

Great numbers of American and British soldiers invaded the Gulf region to launch attacks against Iraq, occupy its lands, violate its sanctity, and swallow up its wealth.

Thus, the aim of the aggressive American-led war on Iraq is crystal clear. Based on the above, I conclude that resisting such American invasion is a legitimate act, and the one who is killed while facing such invasion is a martyr.

Having stated the above, I add that combating such invasion will not lead to chaos or sedition, as the real sedition is to turn one's back to the American and British invasion, succumb to their demands, and to show total silence to what they are committing.

For sure, fighting the aggressive troops should not lead to clash among Muslims whether such clash is among Islamic groups themselves or among Islamic groups and the ruling regimes. Real combat and fighting should be directed against the invaders."

Sixth: Sheikh Faysal Mawlawi, Deputy Chairman of the European Council for Fatwa and Research, states:

"In the current crisis, our Ummah is facing a ferocious battle against the American aggression, and we need under these circumstances to unify efforts in fending off this aggression and invasion. What is important nowadays is to establish a historic reconciliation between the Muslim peoples and the ruling regimes, irrespective of all the justifications of clash with these regimes.

Although we clearly demand all Muslim rulers to refuse the existence of the foreign military bases on their lands and to take action to expel them as soon as possible as a commitment to the well known Shar`i ruling that prohibits the existence of foreign troops on our Arab and Muslim land, I do not encourage attacking these military bases if these attacks will lead to the breakout of internal struggle between the rulers and their peoples because this struggle may serve the interests of the aggressive and invading troops more than the existence of their military bases on our Arab and Muslim lands.

But if attacking these bases will not lead to internal strife, then the basic Islamic ruling is that they are aggressive troops and launching Jihad against them is *farid`ayn* (an individual obligation) upon every Muslim who is able to do so. It is worth stressing that in individual obligation, a Muslim does not need to seek the permission of the imam or the Muslim ruler."

Seventh: Dr. `Arafat Al-Minyawi, Professor of Islamic Shari`ah in Palestine, adds:

"Before clarifying the Islamic ruling concerning the presence of American troops in the Gulf region, let us ask ourselves the following question: why did those troops come to such countries? The answer is that those troops came to usurp the legal rights of the peoples of those countries and to swallow their properties, one country after the other. That is why they are considered aggressors. Allah Almighty ordered us to protect our property and honor, as well as our Ummah in general. Referring to this, Allah Almighty says, "**...And one who attacketh you, attack him like manner as he attacked you....**" (Al-Baqarah: 149)

Hence, it is obligatory upon every Muslim to halt their attempts to launch war against Muslims, as they primarily came to launch their aggressive war.

Having clarified the above, **I add that if those people came to the Gulf countries as guests, tourists or ambassadors (i.e. they did not come to launch war), then it is not permissible to attack them or launch war against them.**

Actually, the presence of the American troops in the Gulf is not for peaceful aims, but rather to launch the war. Those troops care for nothing but their interests, and those who fight them are **MARTYRS** who die in Allah's Cause. Referring to this, Allah Almighty says: **"Lo! Allah hath bought from the believers their lives and their wealth because the Garden will be theirs. They shall fight in the way of Allah and shall slay and be slain. It is a promise which is binding on Him in the Torah and the Gospel and the Qur'an. Who fulfilleth His covenant better than Allah? Rejoice then in your bargain that ye have made, for that is the supreme triumph."** (At-Tawbah: 111)"

Eighth: Dr. Salim Salamah Professor of Shari`ah in Palestine, adds:

"I cannot hesitate to say that the Jihad against the aggressive American troops is *fard `ayn* (an individual duty). Those troops with all their war planes, tanks and rockets are no more than imperialist troops whose aim is to occupy our lands, and hence Jihad against them is an individual duty.

It is categorically unacceptable from the Arab governments to bring their enemies to occupy their lands, enslave their peoples, liquidate their resources. No doubt that the oil of the Gulf region is the main aim of those troops.

Having said this, I conclude that those **who launch attacks against such troops and die as a result are martyrs**. Not only that, but the one who dies in this case will receive a **double reward of a martyr**. It is reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) told the woman whose son was killed in Allah's Cause saying: **"Your son will have a double reward of a martyr."** The woman said, "Why?" The Prophet replied, **"Because your son was killed by the People of the Book."** (Reported by Abu Dawud)"

Finally, the prominent Muslim scholar, **Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi**, concludes:

"The American presence in the region is not at all accepted from all the Arab peoples, and for sure clashes will occur, and the one who dies while attacking the American bases is **a true martyr** if he dies while having the intention to do that for Allah's Cause, as actions are judged by the intentions behind them.

The American aggression on the whole region wants to impose the total American hegemony on us, and such a procedure cannot be accepted at all. The one who launches attacks against the American presence is really carrying the spirit of true defenders. When one dies while carrying out such attacks, then he is a martyr, *in sha' Allah* if his intention was to do the act for Allah's Cause, even though some people consider him committing a wrong."

You can also read:

[How Can Muslims in US & Its Allies Support the Iraqi People](#)

[Retaliation against US and Allied Civilians](#)

[Backing Fellow Muslims in Iraq](#)

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to write back!

May Allah guide you to the straight path, and guide you to that which pleases Him, Amen.

Allah Almighty knows best.

Please feel free to contact the Living Shari`ah editor at:

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