Muslims’ Responsibilities toward Palestine
Sh. Khalifa Ezzat
Muharram 19, 1430 – Jan. 16, 2009

Dear brothers and sisters: The Friday before last I dealt with our responsibilities as individual Muslims and the responsibilities of governments towards the Palestinian people who suffer from war and blockade. More than 1100 have died and six thousands are wounded. Many civilians and innocent people, including women and children have been killed in this criminal attack. Universities, mosques, and hospitals have been destroyed. There is no respect for human rights law or war etiquette towards the civilians.

It is strange to see this shameful silence from the decision-makers in the Muslim and Arab world. It is shameful to see the free world and the international community who support human rights and democracy silent towards this war crime.

Last Friday, I dealt with the unity of Muslims, in which I mentioned that unity is a key issue for Muslims and the way to success, strength and dignity. The main reasons for the Muslims’ weaknesses are the divisions, differences and disunity. Unity is the way to success and disunity is the way to failure. The Qur’an declared, ‘Verily, you are one Ummah. I am your Lord, worship me…’ [Al-Anbiya’]

And said about unity, ‘And hold fast, all of you, to the rope of Allah, and do not separate. And remember Allah’s favour unto you: how you were enemies and He made friendship between your hearts so that you became brothers by His grace…’ [Al-’Imran]

and warned us against divisions saying, ‘And be not like those who are divided amongst themselves and fall into disputation after receiving clear signs: for them is a dreadful punishment in store.’ And Allah said, ‘and don’t dispute…’. From these verses, we understand that dividing Muslims according to race, group, sect, pre-Islamic cultures, political opinions, ancestry and even by the Imam they follow is not Islamic.

Dear brothers and sisters: I will repeat what I have said in the last two speeches about Muslim unity and the Islamic duties and responsibilities of the individual and governments so that we may remind myself ourselves about these important issues. I will also attempt to answer the current question asked by many Muslims: What should I do as a Muslim to help the people of Palestine who are in need of medicine, food, and support?

A Muslims’ duty to them is to support the people of Palestine financially, spiritually, economically, and politically. It is a Muslims’ duty as individuals or governments to help the needy as much as possible. It is the duty of the religious brotherhood that the Qur’an and the Prophet recommend. The Qur’an say, ‘The Believers are but a single Brotherhood: So make peace and reconciliation between your two (contending) brothers.’ [49:10].

I recognize it is not easy to do that for many reasons, but a Muslim should do his best. By contrast, it is very easy for Israel to receive financial, political and economic support and help from Jewish and non-Jewish organizations and societies all over the world.

To help their brothers and sisters who need food, medicine, and homes in Palestine is Islamic duty. The Prophet [pbuh] said, ‘The example of the unity of the Muslims is like the example of a single structure, its parts strengthening and supporting one another’ (al-Bukhari)

It is our religious duty to show solidarity with our oppressed brothers and sisters who are suffering in Palestine.

It is our religious duty to offer charity and to give our Zakah early for the relief of the suffering. Individuals must donate as much as they can to the Palestinians. All individuals and governments must do
whatever they can to help the helpless Palestinians by assisting and donating to the legal authorities and organizations. British Muslims can do it through Islamic Relief or Muslim Aid.

It is a sinful act to see fellow Muslims living in hunger and hardship without lending them a helping hand.

It is our religious duty to remember them in our supplications. It is a duty upon every Muslim to do so. It is our religious duty to recite Qunut An-Nazilah. This is the kind of special prayer recommended in time of calamities and tragedies.

It is the duty of the scholars, writers, journalists, and intellectuals to deal with the Palestinian issue on every occasion. They have a big role to play to help alleviate the suffering of the oppressed.

Scholars are responsible for proposing plans to shape public opinion in order to end different forms of oppression and aggression against Muslims. Israel uses all means of propaganda all over the world to makes themselves appear the victims.

It is our religious duty as Muslim individuals and governments to coordinate and cooperate together. If we neglect this support, we will be questioned about it on the Day of Judgment especially, the Muslims leaders.

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Muslim leaders should do their best to uproot the causes and sources of this unjust and unfair punishment of Palestinians. Political ideologies and agendas should be put aside for the sake of hungry, thirsty, and oppressed Palestinians. Certainly, no Muslim individual or government would like to see more pain and hardship for the Palestinian people.

It is a Muslims’s duty to understand the significance of Palestine in the Islamic faith which is evident by the frequent references to it in both the Qur'an and the hadiths (traditions) of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). It is the land of Baitul-Maqdis which was the first Qiblah; the land of Isra’ and Mi’raj of Prophet Muhammad; the land of resurrection; land of prophets and messengers.

It is an individual Muslims’ and their government’s and businessmen’s duty, to boycott the products and commodities of Israel and those who support it. this is the duty of the individuals, and no body can force you to buy something you do not want.

What is happening to the Palestinian people represents the worst type of oppression, transgression and tyranny that could happen to any nation. The shocking thing though, is that the oppressor is succeeding in covering up his crimes behind the veil of ‘self-defence’ and ‘fighting terrorism.’

The land itself is attacked day and night. They destroy homes and leave the owners’ homeless suffering in the severely cold weather, sleeping on hard ground and having no cover except the clouds in the sky.

It is our religious duty to remember that Palestine is a land of faith, it is the holy land that contains the al-Aqsa Mosque, the land of prophets and messengers. It is the land where mankind will be resurrected and gathered together; and “One Salaah in it equals five hundred Salaah elsewhere” (Ahmad)

Dear brothers and sisters: I return again to the subject of unity because it is the key issue for Muslims. The Muslims have now divided into many groups and have more differences, they are supporting their groups more than they are supporting Islam. The Qur'an warned us against division saying, ‘As for those who divide their religion and break up into sects, thou hast no part in them in the least, their affair is with Allah, He will in the end tell them the truth of all that they did”.

The question that should be asked by every Muslim is: who is responsible for the disunity of Muslims? Is it the leaders and rulers who follow the Islamic way; or the Muslims themselves who follow their own desires and their own group or sects, or external forces which try to make troubles among Muslims?

Dear brothers and sisters: A good Muslim is one who is without any group, faction, or any other special loyalty. The Prophet (PBUH), in his final speech to the whole Ummah, said that between Muslims, there are no differences or distinction among Muslims due to race, language, or gender or tribe.

May Allah be with the Palestinian people and reward those people who will put an end to this critical and human crisis.