

A SCHOLARLY RESPONSE TO THE TERRORISM AND ANARCHY IN PARIS, FRANCE



COMMENTS AND ADVICE From the Salafī Scholar Shaykh ‘Ubayd al-Jābirī to the Muslims of France, Europe and America

“These actions emanate from the Khārijites, the scum, the [brainless] savages, the anarchists... The people of the Sunnah hold it as their religion before Allāh that there is - in the lands of Europe, America and other non-Muslim lands besides them in which they have settled - a covenant, a contract. Hence, they must not violate it [through treachery], ever.”

All praise is due to Allāh, the Lord of the Worlds, the Lord of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muḥammad. May the peace and blessings be upon them all. To proceed: The Salafī scholar, Shaykh ‘Ubayd al-Jābirī, of al-Madīnah (KSA) was asked the following question on 9th January 2015:¹

Questioner: “A couple of days ago a number of cartoonists who behaved maliciously towards the noble Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and some journalists and employees who worked for Charlie Hebdo in Paris were killed. Likewise, two men and a woman from the police were also killed. Until now, the perpetrators of these criminal acts have not been apprehended. However, some video clips have appeared in which there is glorification of one of the criminals and their saying that they committed this action - as they claim - out of revenge for the noble Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). As a result, fingers are now being pointed towards Islām and the Muslims in general and towards the Muslims who live in France specifically. Fires have been set alight and bombs have been hurled at some of the mosques So the question is - may Allāh protect you: What is the position of the Salafī towards these terrorist actions² and what is your advice to the Muslims of France and to the Salafī callers more specifically? May Allāh reward you with good.”

Shaykh ‘Ubayd al-Jābirī responded with the following comments and advice:

¹ The question was posed by Salafī Muslims seeking scholarly guidance and advice on the matter and the answer was subsequently published online and distributed through social media.

² The Salafīs and their scholars have always been at the forefront of warning and refuting extremists and terrorists because this type of extremism and terrorism fundamentally clashes with the foundations of pure, orthodox Islām and is behind the emergence of the very first sect in Islām, the Khārijites who abandoned the Prophet’s Companions (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ), excommunicated them and fought against them. Hence, this evil ideology is a war against Islām and its people before it is a war against anyone else.

“**Firstly**, there is no person who follows the Sunnah³ whose heart has not been tarnished with innovation,⁴ regardless of whether he is a scholar or a competent student of knowledge or he is from the students of knowledge less than them or a common person who sits with the scholars and their students except that **he rejects these [criminal] actions** whether they occur at [the likes of] this newspaper or others besides it and how numerous are [such newspapers].

Secondly, all the intelligent people from the Jews and Christians who have lived side by side with the Muslim in their lands recognize this. Even those [politicians] with major [positions of] responsibility in the European states, America and elsewhere feel safe and at ease with the people who follow the Sunnah and Jamā‘ah,⁵ they feel at ease and safe with the Salafīs.⁶

Thirdly, it has thus become clear from what has preceded that it is not permissible for these [criminal] actions to be ascribed to the person who is upon the Sunnah. Rather, they emanate from the Khārijites, the

³ The “Sunnah” is the way of the Prophet Muḥammad and represents the sum of what he practiced, in speech and deed (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ).

⁴ A reference to extremist doctrines and ideologies such as those of the Khārijites. Many are tarnished with such evil heresies on the basis of which they justify the killing of Muslims and non-Muslims whose life is sanctified in the Islāmic Sharī‘ah and is protected by it.

⁵ Those who remain steadfast and united as a single body upon orthodox Islāmic teachings.

⁶ Genuine, orthodox Salafīs should not be confused with the Khārijites and Terrorists who have hijacked the label and identity of “Salafism” in order to camouflage their evil which was previously exposed by the Salafīs and their scholars. This is a rouse by these evil people to acquire legitimacy and to tarnish the image of the very Salafīs to whom they are avowed enemies. One should also not be deceived by academics and journalists who perpetuate this confusion, either due to ignorance or deliberate intent and do not distinguish between genuine Salafīs and the evil Khārijites whom Islām is free and innocent of.

scum, the [brainless] savages and the anarchists.⁷ In some cases, these anarchists are Rāfiḍah and in some cases they are non-Muslims who wear the gown of Muslims [pretending to be Muslims]⁸ who plant themselves amongst the Rāfiḍah or the Khārijites from the fanatics amongst the Muslim Brotherhood and others besides them. For the group of the Muslim Brotherhood⁹ - which is one of the recently-sprung groups of da'wah and all of which are misguided and misguide others - they declare it permissible to seek the assistance of non-Muslims for what they desire of political [goals]. Thus, it is not far-fetched [to say] that this [criminal] act may have been perpetrated in order to cause injury to the people who follow the Sunnah specifically and to [cause injury] to the Muslims who

⁷ From the well-known, famous and authentically related statements of the Prophet (ﷺ) about this group include his saying, “*They depart from the religion (Islām) like an arrow passes through its game*” and “*Their faith does not pass beyond their throats*” and “*They recite the Qur’ān but it does not go beyond their collar-bones,*” indicating ignorance and false scholarship. He further said, “*They speak with the best speech of the creation,*” meaning, beautified, alluring speech and “*(They are) young of age, foolish of mind*” and “*Their speech is beautiful, alluring yet their actions are evil*” and “*They are the most evil of the creation*” and “*They call to the Book of Allāh, yet they have nothing to do with it.*” The Prophet (ﷺ) went further and also said “*They are the most evil of those killed beneath the canopy of the sky*” and “*If I was to reach them, I would slaughter them, like the slaughtering of Ād (a destroyed nation of the past)*” meaning, every last one of them until none of them remain as explained by the classical Scholar, Ibn Ḥajar. Finally, the Prophet also said of them, “*They are the Dogs of Hellfire.*”

⁸ The Salafī scholars are aware that not all acts of terrorism which take place in non-Muslim lands are actually perpetrated by Muslims. Many of these actions are covert operations by non-Muslims pretending to be extremist Muslims and are used to help shape public opinion to justify and facilitate certain interests.

⁹ The main ideological figureheads of the Muslim Brotherhood such as Ḥasan al-Bannā and Sayyid Quṭb are responsible for creating and spreading the doctrines which led to the birth of extremist Takfirī and Jihādī groups like al-Qaidah and ISIS.

reside in France and the [countries] besides it from the European and American states. [This act may have been done] so that commotion can be raised against the people who follow the Sunnah, specifically. In concluding this speech I advise our sons, the Salafīs, in whichever [land] they are found, whether in France specifically or in other than it from the European, American and African states, in the non-Muslim countries, I advise the [imāms] who give sermons, the teachers, the lecturers and Muslim journalists to unite upon a single word and it is: **To openly announce [their] disavowal and innocence from this action and other actions of anarchy.** The people of the Sunnah are those who safeguard their agreement and their fulfilment of it. The people of the Sunnah are the people who implement the [terms] of their agreement. The people of the Sunnah protect their neighbours, they maintain the honour of the neighbour [through benevolent treatment]. They do not transgress his honour, nor against his wealth nor against his person.¹⁰

¹⁰ The right of the neighbour is one of the **greatest rights** in Islām and it applies to every neighbour, **Muslim or non-Muslim**. This right was so highly emphasized in what was revealed to the Prophet (ﷺ) that he thought the neighbour would be made an inheritor of wealth alongside blood-relatives. The Prophet (ﷺ) said, “*The [angel] Jibrīl (Gabriel) has not ceased advising me with respect to the neighbour until I thought he (the neighbour) would be made to inherit (from his fellow neighbour).*” Reported by Imām Muslim. The Prophet also negated complete faith from the one who does not withhold from harming his neighbour, “*By Allāh, he does not have faith, by Allāh, he does not have faith, by Allāh, he does not have faith whose neighbour is not safe from his harm.*” Reported by Imām al-Bukhārī. Under the chapter heading, “*The Jewish Neighbour,*” Imām al-Bukhārī relates the following authentic tradition from the commentator of the Qur’ān, Mujāhid (d. 102H), who said, “*I was with ‘Abdullāh bin ‘Amr (a Companion of the Prophet) whilst his servant was preparing a sheep (for a meal) and he said, ‘O servant! When you have finished (cooking the meal) then begin with our Jewish neighbour.’ So a man present said, ‘The Jew, may Allāh rectify you?’ And he said, ‘I heard the Prophet (ﷺ) advising with (benevolence) to the neighbour (with such emphasis) until we feared he would relate to us*

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As I have already stated, the intelligent amongst the Jews, Christians and others respect the Salafīs and feel at ease and safe with the people who follow the Sunnah and they know that this [criminal action] has not come from them.¹² There remains [the issue] of the explosion of bombs at the mosques. I do not consider it far-fetched, in fact, I am certain that it was deliberate harm which may have been from the group of the political Muslim Brotherhood or it may have been from unintelligent non-Muslim maniacs.¹³ This is what I advise and affirm with respect to this criminal act and Allāh is the One who bestows success.” End of the statement of Shaykh ‘Ubayd al-Jābirī.

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Translated and prepared by Abū Iyaad (09/01/ 2015CE). v1.2
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(through revelation) that the (neighbour) is to inherit (from his fellow neighbour).” Ṣaḥīḥ al-Adab al-Mufrad (no. 128).

¹¹ The late Salafī Scholar, Shaykh Muḥammad bin Ṣāliḥ al-‘Uthaymīn of Saudi Arabia stated, during a tele-link in the evening of Friday, 28th July 2000, to an audience in the city of Birmingham, UK, during a conference organized by Salafī Publications: “*Likewise I invite you to have respect for those people who have the right that they should be respected, those between whom there is an agreement (of protection) for you. For the land in which you are living is such that there is an agreement between you and them. If this were not the case they would have killed you or expelled you. So preserve this agreement, and do not prove treacherous to it, since treachery is a sign of the hypocrites, and it is not from the way of the Believers.*”

¹² We commend and sincerely thank such intelligent and reasonable people from the non-Muslims and how many and plentiful they are.

¹³ A befitting description. How can you abhor terrorism and then go and perpetrate it yourself against a people who are equally its victims and abhor it just as much as you do?