

Harming Non-Muslims Who Reside in Muslim Lands¹

Question: What is the ruling of showing hostility towards foreign tourists and visitors residing in Islamic lands?

Answer: This is forbidden. Showing hostility is not permitted against anyone whether he is a tourist or worker because he's been guaranteed safety and security merely by entering the country legally under a contract of peace. So, hostility towards them is not allowed. Rather, if any issues need to be raised, then the proper authorities must be informed in order for them to be prevented (from committing any crimes). As for individuals showing hostility and aggression toward them, this is forbidden. Individuals have no right to kill them, beat them, or harm them in any way. Instead, it is binding upon them to bring any matter to the attention of those in authority. Any form of aggression against them is considered a transgression against someone who has entered the country in peace, being guaranteed safety, and is thus impermissible. So, if there occurs anything from them (foreign tourists and visitors) that is questionable, then the matter should be raised to the appropriate authorities – those who have the capability of preventing them from entering the country or preventing them from the crimes, if any, they may be committing.

As for advising them and calling them to Islam or to abandon committing sins, this is required if they are Muslims. The general legislative evidences indicate this.

We seek help from Allāh as there is no strength or power except by him. May he send prayers and peace upon our prophet Muhammad and upon his family and companions.²

¹ This fatwā was taken from a book called "Al-Fatāwā Ash-Shar'iyyah fī Al-Qadhāyā Al-'Asriyyah," a collection of various rulings by Muhammad Ibn Fahd Al-Husayn.

² Majmū' al-Fatāwā wal-Maqālāt (8/239).