

'Abd al-Azīz Ibn Bāz on on the 1995 Riyadh Bombings

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The following is the reply of the esteemed scholar, 'Abd al-'Azīz Ibn Bāz, to a question about to the recompense of those who cause terror among people and infringe upon their safety and security like what occurred with the bombings in Riyadh in the 'Ulayyá neighborhood last Monday (11/15/1995) that was carried out by criminals concerned only with terrorizing those who once felt safe and secure, killing innocent people and thereby causing the servants of Allāh (ﷺ) to remain in constant fear. What follows is the text of his answer:

There is no doubt that this is a grave, sinful act and extreme evil that results in nothing but widespread corruption and oppression. There's also no doubt that such a crime can only be carried out by someone who does not believe in Allāh and the last day. You will never find one who believes in Allāh and the last day – with correct faith – who would do a detestable criminal act like this, an act from which nothing is gained except the harming and injuring of people and mass devastation. Such incidents and others similar can only be perpetrated by immoral souls full of animosity, envy, evil, corruption, and void of faith in Allāh and His Messenger. We ask Allāh for rectification and safety; we ask Him to help those in authority in any way possible to thwart the plans of these people and to retaliate against them because their crime is a great one and their destruction is enormous. There's no strength or power except by Allāh. How could a true believer or Muslim ever approve of such a horrible crime resulting in such transgression against people, massacring them and injuring others with no right? All of this is evil and an enormous crime. We ask Allāh to frustrate the plots of these people, restrain them, and tighten their affairs around them. And we ask Allāh to cause failure to them and their supporters. We ask Him to grant success to the authorities in capturing them, serving justice against them, and exacting retribution from them for this horrible act they committed.

I advise and encourage anyone who knows any information about these people to relay it to the appropriate authorities. It is an obligation upon anyone who knows anything about them to report them as this is a form of cooperating for the prevention of sinning and transgression and to preserve the people's safety. Reporting them is also the way to achieve justice against these oppressors...¹

¹ This was published in al-Madīnah newspaper on 6/25/1416 Hijrah. See also Majmū' al-Fatāwā wal-Maqālāt (vol. 9, pg. 253).