

'Abdul-Azīz Ibn Bāz on Suicide-Bombings¹

Question:

What is the ruling of someone committing suicide by strapping explosives to himself in order to kill a number of Jewish people?

Answer:

We have already given our opinion of this many times before that such an act is never correct because it's a form of killing oneself and Allāh says:

﴿وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ﴾

And do not kill yourselves.

[Sūrah al-Nisā', 4:29]

And the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسَهُ بِشَيْءٍ عُدْبَ بِهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

“Whoever kills himself by any means, he will be punished by it on the Day of Resurrection.”²

The person should rather strive and seek to guide them and if fighting is legalized and legislated, then he fights alongside the Muslims. If he's then killed in this way, then Allāh is praised. But as for killing himself by booby-trapping his body with explosives, thereby killing others and himself, this is wrong and completely impermissible. Rather, he should

1 It is important to note that this particular religious verdict is dealing explicitly with Islam's condemnation of suicide itself; the question is about this specific act. As for the general forbiddance of killing people, Muslim or non-Muslim, whether by suicide attacks or not, this prohibition is clear from the verdicts given throughout numerous other articles on this site (Answering-Extremism.com). -T.N.

2 Recorded by al-Bukhārī (no. 6047) and Muslim (no. 176) from the ḥadīth of Thābit Ibn al-Ḍaḥḥāk (رضي الله عنه).

fight with the Muslims only when fighting is legitimately legislated. As for the actions of (some of) the Palestinians, they are wrong and produce no benefit. Instead, it is compulsory upon them to call to Allāh by teaching, guiding, and advising and not by such actions as these.³

³ Taken from the cassette: Fatāwá al-'Ulamā' fil-Jihād.