

*Ibn al-'Uthaymīn on the Bombings of Riyadh (1995) & Khobar (1996)*

**Original Title:** الفتاوى الشرعية في القضايا العصرية

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## The Bombings of Riyadh (1995) & Khobar (1996)

### **Question:**

You're aware of the bombing incident (in 1995) that took place in 'Ulayyā (a district of Riyadh) that killed innocent people from non-Muslims living in peace in our Muslim lands and other evils perpetrated by people young in age, having reckless and deficient intellects. And certainly you know the severity of this action and what it contains of opposition to the commands of Allāh and his messenger, of not being in accordance with the legislative proofs, neglecting the opinions of those scholars firmly-grounded in knowledge, and disobedience and opposition to the leader. And now a new bombing has taken place in Khobar (in 1996). So could you give a few words explaining the religion of Allāh (ﷻ) regarding this, warning of this dangerous way that a group of the youth – and they are the minority thanks to Allāh – seem to be traversing and that this is an act derived from the actions of the Khawārij although they may not know it? So is there something of support for Allāh's religion and a clarification (that you could give)?

### **Answer:**

First, no doubt this is an act that no intelligent person would ever approve of, especially no believer. No one should approve of this because it's in complete opposition to the Book (the Quran) and the Sunnah and because it harms Islam both domestically and internationally. This is because everyone who hears of this news will not associate it with anyone other than those who strictly follow Islam, saying, "So these are the Muslims? This is the character of Islam?" Yet Islam is free of this. So these people (the bombers) in actuality before anything else have harmed Islam. We ask Allāh to pay them back by His justice for this great evil they have committed.

Second, these people have also harmed, by this action of theirs, fellow Muslims who adhere to the teachings of Islam because when people imagine, including even some Muslims, when they imagine that this occurs from someone claiming to be a Muslim and

claiming to respect Islam, they will hate this and assume this is the behavior of every Muslim who follows Islam. It's well-known that this is not the behavior of one who truly adheres to Islam's teachings because such a person would follow the book of Allāh and the Sunnah of his messenger ( صلى الله عليه وسلم ) (both contradict such acts). And we all know that Allāh has ordered the treaties (of peace with other nations) and contracts to be fulfilled, He said:

﴿ إِنَّ الْعَهْدَ كَانَ مَسْئُولًا ﴾

**Surely, the covenant** (treaty, contract, etc.) (about it you) **will be questioned.**

[Sūrah al-Isra', 17:34]

And likewise, we all know that Allāh's messenger ( صلى الله عليه وسلم ) said:

مَنْ قَتَلَ مُعَاهِدًا لَمْ يَرِحْ رَائِحَةَ الْجَنَّةِ

“Whoever kills a Mu'āhid <sup>1</sup> won't even smell the fragrance of paradise.”<sup>2</sup>

And we also know he said:

ذِمَّةُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَاحِدَةٌ يَسْعَى بِهَا أَدْنَاهُمْ، فَمَنْ أَخْفَرَ مُسْلِمًا فَعَلَيْهِ لَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ  
وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ لَا يُقْبَلُ مِنْهُ صَرْفٌ وَلَا عَدْلٌ

“The asylum (pledge of protection) granted by the Muslims is a joint responsibility that even the lowest in position is to undertake. Whoever disgraces a Muslim (in this respect) then the curse of Allāh is upon him and that of the angels and mankind all together.”<sup>3</sup>

So fulfilling this (trust) and assuring that it's honored, could even be done by a single Muslim, though he may not be the leader. It could also be a single woman as the prophet ( صلى الله عليه وسلم ) once said:

1 Mu'āhid: a (Non-Muslim) ally with whom Muslims have a treaty, trust, peace, or agreement.

2 Recorded by al-Bukhārī (no. 3166) from the ḥadīth of 'Abd Allāh Ibn 'Amr (رضي الله عنه).

3 Recorded by al-Bukhārī (no. 6755) and Muslim (no. 1370) from the ḥadīth of 'Alī (رضي الله عنه).

قَدْ أَجْرُنَا مَنْ أَجَرْتِ يَا أُمَّ هَانِيٍّ

“We will guarantee safety to who you’ve guaranteed it, oh Umm Hāni’.”<sup>4</sup>

So how much more of a duty and trust is it upon us when such a treaty is made by the ruler? This (breaking such a treaty) is the very essence of aggressive opposition to Allāh and His Messenger.

Third, even if we were to assume the worst – that the country from which those killed were nationals, was a country that is against Islam – still, what was the actual crime of those people actually killed? Those people came here for legitimate reasons authorized by their governments. Some of them may not have even wanted to come nor had anything of enmity (towards Islam and Muslims). Furthermore, what was the crime of the Muslims who lived there (near the explosions)? Many children, helpless and elderly people were afflicted while they lay safe and secure in their homes, sleeping at the night in their beds!

For these reasons, this crime is considered one of the most abominable crimes ever. Yet, by the grace of Allāh, the transgressors will never be successful. Allāh willing, they will be stopped and receive their justified punishment. Nevertheless, it’s required for the students of knowledge to expose and clarify that this methodology is a filthy and devious one – the methodology of the Khawārij, those who make even the blood of Muslims lawful to shed while often saving the blood of the polytheists instead. Those people have no knowledge, are stupid, and extremely envious. They’re ignorant for not knowing the religious legislation because it commands that the trusts and treaties be fulfilled and honored, and Islam is the religion most honoring of such treaties. They are also stupid because such an incident will only result in evil and corruption, the effects of which only Allāh (ﷻ) knows. This is by no means a way of rectifying anything even though they say they only intend to better our situation. Rather, they are nothing but corruptors in reality and those full of envy towards this country and its people. We don’t know of any other

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4 Recorded by al-Bukhārī (no. 357) and Muslim (82/Kitāb al-Ṣalāh).

country that implements Islam as this one does, and all thanks are to Allāh. What are they trying to accomplish with this action of theirs? They want rectification? I swear by Allāh, they do not work for rectification of any sort. They're only deviant corruptors. So it is incumbent upon us to know the risk of how such false honor for Islam can lead to this extreme.

Fourth, undoubtedly, crimes like these harm this country, its people, and the safety of everyone in it. Everyone wondered how such a thing could happen in a land of safety such as this one.

We ask Allāh (ﷻ) to repay these people for what they did, and that He gives the ruler and government control over them and over whoever follows in their footsteps by committing such crimes so that the ruling of Allāh can be applied against them.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> From the cassette: Fatāwá al-'Ulamā fil-Jihād wal-'Amaliyyāt al-Intiḥāriyyah wal-Irhāb.