

Harming Americans¹

Question: Some people give religious verdicts allowing the killing of Americans in all lands throughout the world, saying they are all at war (with Islam and the Muslims). What do you say about this?

Answer: Such a person giving this verdict is ignorant because this is a detailed matter. As for someone that has a peace agreement with us and he enters our country legally in safety or if we (our government) have requested them to come to perform some work we need from them, then such people are under a covenant of safety from us and a peace treaty. It is not permissible for anyone to act treacherously towards such people nor is it permissible to harm or kill them. Any country that there exists between them and us a treaty or diplomatic relations, it is forbidden to act hostile against them. Those Non-Muslims who have entered our country legitimately with permission (by obtaining a visa), it is forbidden to harm them. Allah (ﷻ) says:

﴿ وَإِنْ أَحَدٌ مِّنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ اسْتَجَارَكَ فَأَجِرْهُ حَتَّى يَسْمَعَ كَلَامَ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ أَبْلِغْهُ مَأْمَنَهُ ﴾

And if anyone of the polytheists (disbelievers, non-Muslims, etc.) seeks your protection, then grant him protection, so that he may hear the word of Allah (the Quran), and then escort him to his place of safety and security.

[Sūrah al-Tawbah, 9:6]

¹ This fatwá was taken from a book called “al-Fatāwá al-Shar’iyyah fī al-Qadhāyá al-‘Asriyyah,” a collection of various rulings by Muḥammad Ibn Fahd al-Ḥusayn.

So, it is not allowed to harm or act treacherously against anyone who enters any land of the Muslims legally with their permission or if the Muslims request their presence. Such talk is forbidden.²

² Taken from the cassette: Fatāwá al-'Ulamā' fī al-Aḥdāth al-Rāhinah allatī Ḥadathat bisharq Madīnah ar-Riyādh.