

Suicide Bombings¹

Question: Are bombings and acts of suicide considered legitimate means of propagating Islam?

Answer: Those people who carry out these kinds of acts assuming they are calling to the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم), they themselves are in need of being called to (Islam and having it propagated to them)! How could someone be promoting Islam among people while at the same time carrying out explosions and acts of destruction? This is not calling and propagation. Instead, it is deterrence and repelling (people from Islam).

Did the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) propagate the religion this way? When he was in Mecca, was there even a single day that he or his companions destroyed anything or carried out any act of devastation? Of course not, he did the very opposite; he used to call to his Lord with wisdom and good preaching, requesting the people to join and assist him in this. He never carried out any destructive acts among people because this harms the Muslims the most and even causes some of the non-Muslims to rejoice. So, it is never permissible or condoned (by Islam). It is rather a way of calling to Satan and calling to the fire (Hell). Allah (ﷻ) said:

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-Ḥuṣayn.

﴿ وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أَئِمَّةً يَدْعُونَ إِلَى النَّارِ ﴾

And we have made them leaders calling to the Fire.

[Sūrah al-Qaṣaṣ, 28:41]

And He says:

﴿ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى النَّارِ وَاللَّهُ يَدْعُو إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ ﴾

Those invite to the Fire, but Allah invites to Paradise.

[Sūrah al-Baqarah, 2:221]

So, it is possible for someone's way of calling and propagation to actually be a call to the Fire if that call is to misguidance as the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

مَنْ دَعَا إِلَى ضَلَالَةٍ كَانَ عَلَيْهِ مِنَ الْإِثْمِ مِثْلُ آثَامِ مَنْ تَبِعَهُ لَا يَنْقُصُ ذَلِكَ مِنْ
آثَامِهِمْ شَيْئًا

“Whoever calls to misguidance, there is upon him a sin similar to the sin of anyone who follows him in that without taking anything away from their own sins.”²

So, it is certainly possible that such a call could really be to the Fire and not to the truth.³

² Recorded by Muslim (no. 2674) from the Ḥadīth of Abū Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه).

³ Taken from the cassette: Fatāwā al-'Ulamā' fī al-Aḥdāth al-Rāhinah allatī Ḥadathat bisharq Madīnah ar-Riyādh.(1424 Hijrah / 2004).