

*Tracking Down the Terrorists is One of the Greatest Forms of Jihad*

**Original Title:** مطاردة الإرهابيون من أعظم الجهاد

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## Tracking Down the Terrorists is One of the Greatest Forms of Jihad<sup>1</sup>

**Question:** Noble Shaykh, may Allah grant you success. We are a group of police officers and we would like to direct a question to you since we have been entrusted in this country with investigating those who wish to disturb the peace or oppose and reject obedience to the leader of affairs.

And we have heard of a religious verdict stating that it is impermissible to track these people down to pursue them and fight them because they are “Mujāhidūn” (people making religious Jihad), and because they want to expel the nonbelievers who fight Muslims in other countries such as Iraq. So, what is the correct opinion regarding this, may Allah grant you success.

**Answer:** May Allah assist you; you are the ones making Jihad. You all, by this work of yours, are in Jihad. This is because by doing this, you intend to prevent the people of falsehood, secure the peace, and safeguard people’s lives, honor, and wealth. So, you are the ones making Jihad; may Allah assist you. And the reward of the Mujāhidīn will (instead) be written for you and for your compliance and obedience to the leader of the Muslims. This job of yours is a respectable, dignified job, very honorable. So, have no doubt about this.

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<sup>1</sup> This question was answered by Ṣāliḥ al-Fawzān verbally and the audio clip can be found at: <http://www.fatwa1.com/anti-erhab/lrhabion/lrhabion.html>. This particular audio clip is no. 22 in the list.

As for someone who issues a religious verdict that this (what the terrorists do) is Jihad – who says this is Jihad? Are the people who issue such rulings dependable, respectable or are they simply supporters and defenders – ignorant people? They are definitely not scholars, these people. Has a single, dependable and respectable scholar ever said that this is Jihad? Never. It is a lie. This (the actions of the terrorists) is not Jihad. Rather, it is sinning against Allah and His messenger, a violation and transgression against what Muslims hold sacred, and opposition and rebellion against the obedience to the leader of Muslim’s affairs. All of these things are sins – major sins, may Allah protect us. So, it is not a form of Jihad. This is – yes, this is for the sake of Satan, not for the sake of Allah because it harms Muslims.

As for expelling nonbelievers – this is not your business. The issue of expelling nonbelievers is a decision for the leader of affairs (ruler, king, president, etc.). He is the one who establishes a trust between them, allowing them to enter (a country) for some service or benefit the people need, and afterwards he may relieve them when their fixed period of stay ends. As for the messenger saying:

أَخْرِجُوا الْيَهُودَ مِنْ جَزِيرَةِ الْعَرَبِ

“Expel the Jews from the Arabian Peninsula.”<sup>2</sup>

This is a decision directed towards the leaders (and not every individual). For this reason, none of them ever expelled them except ‘Umar (رضي الله عنه). It is not for the people to decide and expel them. So, the one with the decision to expelling nonbelievers is the

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<sup>2</sup> Ḥadīth with similar wordings are recorded by al-Bukhārī (no. 3053) and Muslim (no. 1767).

leader of a country's affairs just as he is the same one who may allow them to enter the country; this is the responsibility of a leader. And they (non-Muslims) have not come here except for our advantage and with valid visas. They have come, invited, to fulfill some kind of work whether it be jobs in embassies, companies, or whatever. They have come to the Muslims to benefit them. They have been given a trust (of safety) – a covenant – and the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

مَنْ قَتَلَ مُعَاهِدًا لَمْ يَرِحْ رَائِحَةَ الْجَنَّةِ وَإِنَّ رِيحَهَا تُوجَدُ مِنْ مَسِيرَةِ أَرْبَعِينَ عَامًا

“Whoever kills someone (a non-Muslim) given a trust or covenant will not even smell the fragrance of Paradise even though its fragrance can be smelled from the distance of forty years away.”<sup>3</sup>

This is a severe threat. So, whoever passes some religious verdict that this (work of the terrorists) is Jihad – he is no scholar; he is either a misguided scholar who used to have knowledge or he is a complete fool who does not know what Jihad for the sake of Allah even means.

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<sup>3</sup> Recorded by al-Bukhārī (no. 3166) from the Ḥadīth of ‘Abd Allah Ibn ‘Amr (رضي الله عنه).