

Protecting Human Life in Islam: Islamic Teachings on Peace, Justice, and Compassion

In recent times, the world has witnessed tragic events that force us to ask difficult questions about violence and terrorism. However, protecting human life in Islam remains a core principle deeply embedded in the Qur'an and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). This article explores how Islam champions the sanctity of life, condemns terrorism, and upholds justice and peace.

How Islam Focuses on Protecting Human Life

Islam is a religion of peace that prioritizes the protection of life, property, and dignity for all individuals—Muslims and non-Muslims alike. The Qur'an and Sunnah repeatedly emphasize the prohibition of harming innocent people. A well-known verse in the Qur'an states:

“Whoever kills a person [unjustly]... it is as though he has killed all mankind. And whoever saves a life, it is as though he has saved all mankind.” (Qur'an 5:32)

This verse not only reinforces the importance of **protecting human life in Islam** but also serves as a moral directive to cherish and safeguard life in every circumstance.

Additionally, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) strongly condemned harming innocent beings, emphasizing the sanctity of life through his teachings and actions.

The Prohibition of Targeting Civilians in Islam

Islam strictly forbids violence against civilians, including those visiting or living in Muslim lands under a pledge of security. Tourists and travelers who enter a Muslim country with official permission are under a covenant of protection (*'Ahd Aman*), which must not be violated. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) stated:

“Anyone who kills a non-Muslim under a covenant will not even smell the fragrance of Paradise.”

(Sahih [Al-Bukhari](#))

This ruling extends to all peaceful individuals, ensuring that no one is harmed unjustly. By forbidding the targeting of civilians, Islam reinforces the concept of [protecting human life](#) in Islam and condemns all forms of terrorism and violence.

Condemnation of Terrorism by Islamic Scholars

Leading Islamic scholars and institutions, including the International Union for Muslim Scholars (IUMS), have condemned terrorist attacks worldwide. The IUMS has issued statements denouncing violence against civilians in Egypt, London, Turkey, and other countries. Their key points include:

- **The Sanctity of Human Life:** Islam considers murder a severe crime, punishable by eternal damnation in Hell. (*Qur'an 4:93*)
- **Universal Accountability:** Every person is responsible for their own actions; collective punishment is unjust and un-Islamic. (*Qur'an 6:164*)
- **Prohibition of Terror and Fear:** Islam forbids terrorizing innocent people, even as a joke. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: *“It is not permissible for a Muslim to frighten another Muslim.”*
- **Legitimate Warfare Ethics:** Even in war, Islam prohibits the killing of women, children, the elderly, monks, farmers, and traders. Unarmed individuals must never be targeted.

- **No Justification for Injustice:** While injustices occur in Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan, Islam does not permit criminal acts in response. Resistance must follow legitimate means.

Islam's Message: Peace, Justice, and Compassion

Islam's teachings emphasize justice and compassion. The religion categorically opposes acts of terrorism and violence against civilians. Those who distort Islamic teachings for political or personal agendas contradict the very essence of Islam's message. As scholars and leaders reiterate, true Islamic principles promote peace, coexistence, and the protection of all human beings.

Conclusion

The tragic events in Dahab and similar incidents worldwide serve as a stark reminder of the need for accurate representation of Islamic teachings. Islam condemns terrorism, prohibits the killing of civilians, and upholds the sanctity of life. By adhering to these principles, we can work towards a world free of violence and misunderstanding.

Our final supplication is to thank and praise Allah, the Lord of the worlds.