

ADVISORY

To all Muslims regarding the pandemic of **COVID-19**



His eminence, the Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah

May Allah's peace and blessings be upon the Prophet Muhammad, his family, and his companions.

Brothers, Assalamu alikum wa rahmatu Allahi wa barakatuh.

No doubt that what has occurred is indeed a calamity. Allah says, "No calamity strikes upon the earth or among yourselves except that it is in a register before We bring it into being - indeed that, for Allah, is easy." [57:22]. And also says, "And whatever strikes you of calamity - it is for what your hands have earned; but He pardons much." [42:30]. And also says, "Why [is it that] when a [single] calamity struck you [on the day of Uhud], although you had struck [the enemy in the battle of Badr] with one twice as great, you said, "From where is this?" Say, "It is from yourselves." [3:165].

This great pandemic is a reminder and a warning sign for people, awakening their hearts from the heedlessness of Allah in which they were engrossed, so that they may know full well that, despite all their might, intelligence, and knowledge, they have no power to cause themselves benefit nor protect themselves from harm. Their minds have struggled to comprehend this microscopic organism which spreads everywhere. Exalted be the Most Wise, the All-Knowing! This is so that they know that: "Allah is over all things competent and that Allah has encompassed all things in knowledge." [65:12]. When one knows that this is the decree of Allah, he should place his full trust and dependence on Allah, and ask Him to remain steadfast and upright upon the truth, and to protect Muslims from this trial. Muslims must return to upholding the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ.

We have heard the call to prayer given in all major European countries. This shows that the whole world has acknowledged with certainty that mercy and compassion are indeed part and parcel of the religion of Islam, which commands all that is good, and inspires having patience in the face of calamities, giving glad tidings of reward for those who do so, as the Muslim will be rewarded for his patience in face of trials. The Prophet ﷺ says, "How amazing the state of the Muslim is! All that happens to him is good. If he is afflicted with hardship, he is patient, and if he is tested with prosperity, he is thankful." This is only the case with the believer who is patient at the time of hardship and thankful at times of prosperity.

Brothers, if congregation perhaps might lead to spreading the virus, then this is a dangerous matter. **Thus, the funeral prayer is to be performed by some of the relatives in the graveyard, thereby fulfilling the collective obligation of the prayer, whereas the rest may perform the funeral prayer in absentia in their homes upon their dead.** I hope that this will be better, in shaa Allah.