

On the Anniversary of 'Al-Aqsa Flood', Confidence and Resilience... Readiness and Preparedness



be to Allah, Lord of the worlds; and blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah, Prophet Mohamed (PBUH), and upon his kinship, and all his companions and whoever follows his guidance until the Day of Judgment.

Brothers and Sisters,

The third anniversary of the surging 'Operation Al Aqsa Flood' comes while your brothers in the Gaza Strip – known also as 'Ghazzat Hashim' or 'Gaza of Hashim' – hold fast to the burning embers of patience. Though both those near and far have turned their backs on them (people of Gaza), they remain steadfast in Allah's promise, undeterred by those who have forsaken them. They still stand as 'murabitoun' (operating as guards or protectors of the land of Palestine, particularly the holy sites) in the environs of Jerusalem, awaiting the fulfillment of Allah's promise and the glad tidings of His Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) regarding liberation and victory over the brutal occupier.

On our part, this historic juncture demands unwavering certainty and unshakable faith in Allah's promise – regardless of any apparent signs of weakness or the tightening of siege – for Allah's victory does not come until the believers have been tested and shaken with a severe shaking.

Your brothers in Palestine in general, and in Gaza in particular, have exerted the utmost effort and attained the highest honor; "among them is he who has fulfilled his vow 'to the death', and among them is he who awaits 'his chance'". They fully prepared for the task – including training and doing their best in everything – before taking the

enemy by surprise and inflicting heavy losses upon it. They humbled the enemy, shattered its arrogance, and destroyed its sense of security and invulnerability. Had it not been for the abandonment by regimes and the constraints shackling our peoples, this round of conflict would have yielded far greater results; yet such is the wisdom of Allah, and for every term (appointed time), there is a decree.

Yet, these momentous sacrifices did not come without a price! They revived the spirit of "jihad" (struggle) within the nation – particularly among its younger generations – and left the usurping occupier internationally isolated, as the peoples of the world witnessed the heinousness of its crimes and the justice of the Palestinian cause as a struggle for national liberation. The blessed 'Al Aqsa Flood' restored the (Palestinian) cause to its central place in the consciousness of peoples.

It has also imposed it (the cause) onto the regional political agenda, after everyone had assumed it could be bypassed. Instead of evolving into a partner in security and prosperity for certain Arab regimes, the occupation entity has revealed its ugly face as an expansionist project that threatens the entire region and seeks to dominate it. It has reverted to its true status as an overt threat to the region – even if political calculations prevent some from explicitly admitting this fact.

Our non-negotiable duties:

Brothers and Sisters,

Just as the 'Al Aqsa Flood' lesson teaches us the value of proper preparation, we must remain in a state of constant readiness. It is our responsibility to ensure that our brethren suffer no harm through any fault of ours, and to prevent frustration from taking hold of souls – causing them to falter in offering support (to Palestinians) in all its forms. Indeed, our responsibility becomes greater than ever when people turn away or are crushed by the relentless grind of life.

Muslim Brotherhood (MB) have adopted the cause of Palestine, sacrificed their lives for it, and fought the occupier since 1948, and the martyred Imam Hassan Al Banna paid with his life (as a price) for the advance of MB volunteer brigades for jihad (fighting) in Palestine. As we bear the concerns of the great Muslim cause (the Palestinian cause), we should not lose patience and resilience, and our resolve should not falter if media coverage diminishes and cameras turn away from broadcasting incidents of daily violations. A Muslim is not only moved by scenes of blood, but before that there is the deep-seated sense of belonging. So let us show Allah goodness within ourselves, and continue to work for Palestine and for the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, no matter how much evil gathers its energies, resources and numbers:

Allah Almighty says in Surat Al Imran: ﴿Those to whom hypocrites said, 'Indeed, the people have gathered against you, so fear them.' But it [merely] increased them in faith, and they said, 'Sufficient for us is Allah, and [He is] the best Disposer of affairs.'﴾ (Al Imran: 173)

The Palestinian cause is passing through its most critical historical phase, which requires our advocacy more than ever before.

The lives of civilians in Gaza, our holy sites in Jerusalem and Al Khalil (also known as Hebron), and our lands in the West Bank have been reduced to mere electoral fodder – a bidding contest among extremists within the occupation government vying to prove their ruthlessness and secure victory in the elections of the usurping entity.

The so-called 'Peace Council' has abandoned its neutrality, transforming into a vehicle for advancing the scheme to uproot the Palestinian people in Gaza from their land – thereby achieving through politics and diplomacy the displacement plan the enemy failed to realize through missiles and guns. The resistance has fulfilled its duty, and its leaders have moved to rally the nation. We must not lose hope in the inherent goodness of this nation, provided that a steadfast, faithful vanguard rises to heed its call and lift the veil of blindness from its eyes.

Allah Almighty says in Surat Al Nisa: ﴿ So fight, [O Muhammad], in the cause of Allah; you are not held responsible except for yourself. And encourage the believers [to join you] that perhaps Allah will restrain the [military] might of those who disbelieve. And Allah is greater in might and stronger in [exemplary] punishment.﴾ (Al Nisa: 84)

The duty of continuous awareness-raising – a form of jihad (struggle) through speech and reasoned argument – and the provision of relief aid – an essential form of jihad through financial support – must be sustained among our Muslim peoples; this is the least that is incumbent upon us. Therefore, look after the families of your brethren and martyrs in the best possible manner.

Our priority at the current stage:

In this context, we reaffirm the fundamental principles underpinning the Muslim Brotherhood's stance and its vision for the region during the phase of reconfiguration it has been undergoing since the launch of the blessed 'Al Aqsa Flood' – such principles that are as follows:

The just nature of the Palestinian cause; the right of its people to resist the occupation and defend their land and their continued presence upon it; and the duty of the entire Islamic nation – governments, institutions, elites, and peoples alike – to support this right and provide the means for its exercise. It is impermissible to criminalize this right wherever occupation exists. The greatest regional threat is the scheme to establish a regional order based on Israeli military hegemony – a threat in the face of which all internal disputes and conflicts must be set aside, and where the priority must be to mobilize the efforts of the region's states, peoples, and active forces to resist it. The emerging Arab and Islamic defense arrangements and alliances – which bolster the region's capacity to deter Israeli ambitions and expand the scope of its strategic independence – merit support and consolidation. Regional stability requires a balance built upon realistic understandings among the region's key states – understandings that curb the conflicts weakening them all and draining their resources, while thwarting those who seek to ignite such strife. Internal conflicts in a number of countries in the region must not be resolved through armed force; they can only be settled through national solutions that put an end to their exorbitant humanitarian, economic, and security costs. Furthermore, the external interventions – regardless of their source – that fuel these conflicts or usurp national decision-making must be rejected. Containing sectarian polarization within the Islamic world, rejecting the exploitation of sectarian identity in political conflicts, and refraining from rhetoric that deepens division are duties incumbent upon all forces of the nation – particularly the religious scholars – for this polarization is the breach through which those who wish the nation harm gain entry.

Understanding Allah's Laws to Attain His Victory:

Muslims – both as individuals and as collectives – must prepare themselves to align with Allah's laws of change so that they may bask in the shade of victory; for this religion triumphs through men who have been true to the covenant they made with Allah. In his treatise "To What Do We Summon Mankind?", the martyred Imam Hassan Al Banna sought to remind Muslim brothers of the principle of self-transformation found in Allah Almighty's words in Surat Al Raad: ﴿ For each one are successive [angels] before and behind him who protect him by the decree of Allah.

Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. And when Allah intends for a people ill, there is no repelling it. And there is not for them besides Him any patron. ﴿Al Raad: 11﴾.

He Almighty explained that the cause of nations' weakness is the frailty of their spirits and the absence of virtuous morals and qualities of manhood from their hearts.

When a nation revels in ease, grows accustomed to luxury, drowns in materialism, becomes captivated by the fleeting allure of worldly life, and forgets how to endure hardship, confront adversity, and strive for the sake of truth – then bid farewell to its glory and its hopes.

So, gather your strength, O brothers and sisters, and renew your confidence – first in Allah's promise, and then in your da'wa (call) and in yourselves. Cast aside the worldly distractions that hinder the pursuit of the ultimate goal: that Allah be pleased with us and employ us to champion His religion and establish His justice. For Allah will support His servants and will help them liberate the Al Aqsa Mosque, the site of His Messenger's Isra (the Prophet's Night Journey). ﴿...And they say, "When is that?" Say, "Perhaps it will be soon.﴾ (Al Isra: 51).

Allah Is the Greatest, and Praise Be to Allah,

Dr. Salah Abdel Haq

Acting Muslim Brotherhood General Guide

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