



July 4, 2016

Fethullah Gulen issued messages of condolence for victims of the terrorist attacks in Iraq, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia:

I condemn in the strongest terms the brutal terrorist attacks that took place in Baghdad, Iraq, and Dhaka, Bangladesh, that claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent civilians, including many children. These attacks are grave crimes against humanity and carve deep wounds in our society's collective consciousness.

I also strongly condemn the terrorist attack near Prophet's Mosque, in Medina, Saudi Arabia that claimed the lives of four security personnel. It is deeply saddening to see this place, known as the land of security and peace, and dear to the hearts of all Muslims, to be bloodied by terrorists during the Holy Month of Ramadan. This is a display of utmost disregard and complete betrayal of a holy place whose virtue is expressed by the Holy Qur'an and by the Prophet Muhammad (upon whom be peace and blessings) himself.

On this sad occasion, I reiterate that any form of harm against civilians, persecution of minorities or sectarian violence completely contradicts the principles of the Qur'an and the life example of the Prophet (upon whom be peace and blessings) and they deserve categorical condemnation.

ISIS reportedly claimed responsibility for Baghdad and Dhaka attacks, and is strongly suspected being behind the Medina attack. No matter how they name themselves and whatever claims they make, the perpetrators of such cruel attacks should be recognized for what they truly are: Groups of people who, under the spell of a violent extremist mentality, have become monstrous terrorists that deny human beings their lives and dignity.

I send my heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased in Iraq, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. May God give them strength, patience and perseverance, and alleviate their suffering. I also pray for God to lead us all toward a day when the world may be free of the cancer of terrorism.

About Fethullah Gulen

Fethullah Gulen is an Islamic scholar, preacher and social advocate, whose decades-long commitment to interfaith tolerance and altruism has inspired millions in Turkey and around the world. Gulen is the honorary chairman of Rumi Forum, Washington D.C., the Intercultural

Dialogue Platform, Brussels, Belgium; and the Foundation of Journalists and Writers, Istanbul, Turkey.

About Alliance for Shared Values

The Alliance for Shared Values (AFSV) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves as a voice for dialogue organizations affiliated with Hizmet, a civil society movement inspired by prominent preacher and peace advocate Fethullah Gülen. Based in New York, the Alliance strives to promote peace and to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against any or all ethnic, cultural and religious communities. To learn more about the Alliance please visit www.afsv.org.

Media contact:

Tel: +1.212.682.4278 or media@afsv.org