



Alliance
for
Shared Values

March 24, 2024

Message of Condemnation and Condolences for the Victims of Terrorist Attack in Russia

We strongly condemn the brutal terrorist attack that resulted in the deaths of over 140 Russian citizens in a Moscow concert hall and claimed by ISKP, an affiliate of ISIL. We offer our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and all Russian people.

All forms of terrorism, attacks targeting civilians for political purposes, and disregard for the value of human life deserve nothing but condemnation. It is doubly saddening for us to witness this brutal attack claimed by a group of savages who use Islam in their name without shame.

In light of this tragic attack, we reiterate the words of Fethullah Gulen, the inspiration behind Hizmet movement, in his condemnation of previous ISIL attacks with a message published in major U.S. newspapers a decade ago on September 17, 2014:

As a practicing Muslim deeply influenced by the tenets of my faith, I strongly condemn the brutal atrocities of the ISIL terrorist group. Their actions are a disgrace to the faith they proclaim and crimes against humanity. Religion provides a foundation upon which to establish peace, human rights, freedoms and the rule of law. Any interpretations to the contrary, including the abuse of religion to fuel conflicts, are simply wrong and deceitful.

ISIL is not the first group to use religious rhetoric to mask their cruelty - Al Qaeda did so 13 years ago, and Boko Haram more recently. What they all have in common is a totalitarian mentality that denies human beings their dignity.

Any form of violence against innocent civilians or persecution of minorities contradicts the principles of the Qur'an and the tradition of our Prophet (upon whom be peace and blessings). ISIL members are either completely ignorant about the faith they proclaim, or their actions are designed to serve their individual interests or those of their political masters. Regardless, their actions represent those of a terrorist group and, as such, they should be brought to justice and compelled to answer for their horrific crimes.

We ask God, the Merciful, to lead us all toward mutual respect and peace, and invite everyone around the world to join us in these prayers.

About Alliance for Shared Values

The Alliance for Shared Values (AFSV) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves as a voice for cultural organizations affiliated with Hizmet, a civil society movement inspired by prominent preacher and peace advocate Fethullah Gülen. The Alliance strives to promote peace and social harmony by helping reduce misinformation and false stereotypes about any or all ethnic, cultural and religious communities. To learn more about the Alliance, please visit www.afsv.org.

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