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2001 Speech

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King Fahd, Crown Prince Abdullah Eid Al-Adha 1421 address

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah: Address on the Occasion of 1421 Eid Al-Adha, March 5, 2001

God Almighty said in his glorious Qur'an:

"The first house (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakkah: full of blessing and of guidance for all the worlds. In it are signs manifest: the station of Abraham - whoever enters it attains security, and pilgrimage thereto is a duty men owe to God - those who can afford the journey: but if any deny faith, God stands not in need of any of his creatures." (surat al-imran, 96-97)

and said also:

"For hajj are the months well known if any one undertakes that duty therein, let there be no obscenity, nor wickedness, nor wrangling in the hajj. And whatever good ye do, (be sure) God knoweth it. And take a provision (with you) for the journey, but the best of provisions is right conduct. So fear me, o ye that are wise." (surat al-baqarah, 197)

and said also:

"Remember Abraham said: 'O my Lord! Make this city one of peace and security: and preserve me and my sons from worshipping idols. O my Lord! They have indeed led astray many among mankind: he then who follows my (ways) is of me, and he that disobeys me, - but Thou art indeed oft-forgiving, most merciful. O our Lord! I have made some of my offspring to dwell in a valley without cultivation, by thy sacred house: in order, O our Lord! that they may establish regular prayer: so fill the hearts of some among men with love towards them, and feed them with fruits: so that they may give thanks.'" (surat ibrahim, 35-38)

Praise be to God for His great generosity and kindness, and God's blessings and peace be on the seal of prophets and messengers, our Prophet Muhammad, and on members of his house, his companions and those who follow his path till the day of final judgment.

Brother pilgrims to the inviolable house of God:

Peace and God's mercy be upon you. From this blessed land of Arafat and in the vicinity of God's Holy House, we are pleased to welcome you and extend to you our warm greetings. We ask God Almighty to grant the pilgrims who have come from all over the world a pilgrimage without flaw, and forgiveness for all sins; to accept your efforts and to ensure you a safe return to your homes.

Brother pilgrims to the inviolable house of God:

On Sunday, the 9th day of the lunar month of Dhu Al-Hajjah, you stood on the land of Arafat and performed the prayers of *dhuhr* and *asr* (jointly and shortened), following the example of God's Prophet, resembling each other in your white *ihram*, with piety alone differentiating you. God Almighty has said:

"O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye despise each other). Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)." (surat al-hujurat, 13)

Brother pilgrims to the inviolable house of God:

This great Islamic gathering of over two million brother pilgrims, who are present here today, is an assembly whose members are unified under the eternal banner of the tolerant Islamic creed, praising God and saying loudly: "There is no god but God and Muhammad is his messenger"; performing their rites in total peace and tranquility, in accordance with what God has ordered them to do. And due to their abidance by the word of God Almighty, love, fraternity and equality prevail among them, in complete harmony. They have come to these sacred lands in compliance with the order that God Almighty gave to Abraham, (peace be on him), when He said in his glorious Qur'an: ***"And proclaim the pilgrimage among men: they will come to thee on foot and (mounted) on every camel, lean (on account of journeys) through deep and distant mountain highways."*** (surat al-hajj, 27)

Brother pilgrims to the inviolable house of God:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which God Almighty has favored with service to His guests, is proud to accomplish its duties in order for pilgrims to perform their rites easily and comfortably. This requires that we continuously rally all our potentialities to make available everything that can help pilgrims to perform their rites in an environment full of safety and tranquility.

Brother pilgrims to the inviolable house of God:

Since the days of King Abdulaziz - may God have mercy upon him - the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken constant and persistent care of the holy lands: the cradle of Islam and the focus of attention for Muslims. The on-going unprecedented construction projects and the vast extensions at

the Two Holy Mosques are manifest proofs of the great work that this country has been carrying out, to facilitate the performance of this important Islamic duty. In addition to these, many other projects have been carried out, such as the construction of roads and bridges; the excavation of tunnels leading to the holy places; the setting up of upgraded tents, air-conditioned and fireproofed; and the establishment of a printing press in Madinah for the Holy Qur'an, which is translated into various languages and distributed to establishments, individuals, centers and mosques all over the world, so that everybody can recite it, understand it and contemplate it.

This country has also given great care to ensure security, in its comprehensive meaning, on the basis of the government rules emanating from Islamic *shari'ah* [law], to which we adhere in word and deed. Hence, it is normal that life in this country runs smoothly and that people behave in accordance with the just law of God, following His straight path. Each citizen and expatriate, each pilgrim of *hajj* and *umrah* [the minor pilgrimage], feels safe and at peace, with regard to his religion, his life, his honor and his assets. God Almighty has said in his glorious Qur'an: ***"(They are) those who, if we establish them in the land, establish regular prayer and give zakat [alms], enjoin the right and forbid wrong: with God rests the end (and decision) of (all) affairs."*** (surat al-hajj, 41)

Brother pilgrims to the inviolable house of God:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia follows a stable foreign policy, on the basis of mutual respect. And, by applying the principles of cooperation and solidarity with brotherly Arab and Islamic state, and with other friendly nations in order to attain stability, security and prosperity, the Kingdom's relations with other countries are constantly improving. This comprehensive policy, which was established by King Abdulaziz - may God have mercy upon him - still has the greatest impact in improving our relations with our brothers and friends and in preventing the Kingdom from falling into disputes with others.

Our first priority is to apply Islamic *Shari'ah* [law] in all our affairs, without fear, and to devote ourselves to the service of Islam and the Muslims. It is not strange, therefore, that we contribute to the call to God and support the just Muslim causes. In this connection, this country has established mosques, schools, Islamic centers and university research chairs in many countries, and has continued to support these institutions, as well as others, morally and financially, so that our common constructive efforts, aiming at the call to God, continue in a clear manner. We do not want to enumerate our contribution since its beneficiaries know perfectly well its domains and its blessed returns; and impartial observers also acknowledge them and bring them out in their documented materials. Our efforts will continue, God willing, on the same basis, in order to support the causes of the Arab and Islamic nations, and in particular the just cause of the Palestinian people to regain all their usurped rights in accordance with the United Nations resolutions, including that to establish their own independent state with its capital city in *Al-Quds Al-Sharif* [Jerusalem], and that of refugees to return to the cities and homes from which they were expelled. We will also work hard to ensure complete withdrawal from other occupied territories in Golan, seized following June 4, 1967, and from Shab'a farms in southern Lebanon.

Brother pilgrims to the inviolable house of God:

The Islamic world is required today to hasten to unify its word and surmount its differences, through friendly means, in order to be able to defend its just causes and sacred places. We also call upon Muslim thinkers, scholars and media men to make strong efforts to propagate Islamic culture and infuse its principles in the minds of Muslims, in order for the Islamic world to consolidate its internal front, preserve its identity, and be always prepared to confront the challenges that surround us.

Brother pilgrims to the inviolable house of God:

The phenomenon of terrorism has long existed in different parts of the world. And we, the majority of Muslims, have denounced it, as have all peace-loving peoples in the world. This denunciation is not new, since the first Caliph, Abu Bakr Al-Siddique, advised his soldiers fourteen centuries ago, not to cause harm to innocent civilians, old men, women, children or men who were devoting themselves to worship in hermitages; nor to cut down fruitful trees.

If you want to know more about such high-ranking examples, you can read our heritage books, which are full of similar examples. This means that Islam is innocent of all the false allegations attributed to it by hostile sources of information, which know perfectly well that terrorism has neither identity nor boundaries, and that the proof of this can be found in the flow of deplorable news that is transmitted daily by news agencies all over the world. In this respect, we must affirm that terrorism, extremism and violence are international phenomena and not confined to a specific country or religion. Hence, any fruitful effort aimed at eradicating these phenomena can only be made through an internationally agreed effort within the framework of the United Nations.

We would also like to draw the attention to the fact that biased people make deliberate attempts to confuse terrorism with legitimate liberation movements that struggle and spare no effort in the cause of recovering their usurped rights. These movements must be provided with the help and support needed so as to eradicate injustice and despotism, especially as the world is entering a new century in which we aspire to greater stability and security, instead of the tensions and disputes that many regions of the world are witnessing. We hope that the language of dialogue prevails, in order for the peoples of the world to overcome their differences and start to map out vast economical and developmental plans.

In conclusion, we would like to welcome you again as honored guests, wishing you a pilgrimage without flaw, your sins forgiven and your efforts accepted, and a comfortable return to your homes. Once again, we extend to you and to our brother Muslims all over the world our congratulations on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha and ask God Almighty to return it to you many times, with peace and prosperity.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

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