



Synopsis of Friday Sermon

Ameer Mustapha Elturk



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Synopsis of Eid al-Fitr Sermon - 2024

Standing in Solidarity with Gaza - A Call for Justice, Peace, and Hope

“Say (O Prophet), ‘By the Grace of Allah and His Mercy let them rejoice, it is better than all they accumulate.’” (Yunus,10:58)

We, at IONA, extend our warmest congratulations to you, your families, and loved ones on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr. May this Eid be filled with blessings, happiness, and the abundant mercy of Allah (SWT).

During this special time, let us reflect on the spiritual journey we embarked upon throughout Ramadan. We dedicated ourselves to fasting, prayer, and acts of worship, seeking closeness to our Creator. As we celebrate Eid, let us carry forward the spirit of devotion and commitment beyond the blessed month.

Remember, Eid is not just a celebration but also a reminder to continue our journey towards righteousness and piety. Let us strive to maintain the good habits and practices we cultivated during Ramadan, including regular prayers, recitation of the Qur’an, and acts of charity.

As we gather with family and friends to celebrate, let us not forget those who are less fortunate, particularly our brothers and sisters in Gaza and other parts of the world facing hardship and adversity. Let our joy be tempered with compassion and solidarity as we remember them in our prayers and extend a helping hand to those in need.

In light of the ongoing genocide unfolding in Gaza and the immense suffering endured by its people, particularly during this blessed occasion of Eid al-Fitr, we urge our Muslim brothers and sisters to remember them and feel their pain and suffering.

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) narrates, “The parable of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When a limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever,” thus, we cannot ignore the suffering of our fellow Muslims.

The situation in Gaza demands our immediate attention and action. As members of the global Muslim community, it is our duty to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Gaza and to show our unwavering support for their plight.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza and condemn in the strongest possible terms the ongoing genocide that is taking place there. The loss of tens of thousands of innocent lives, predominantly women and children, along with the systematic destruction of residential buildings, schools, hospitals, churches, and mosques, as well as the forced displacement of Gazans, is a grave injustice that cannot be overlooked.

As the IDF prepares to attack Rafah, the world has witnessed a disturbing wave of ethnic cleansing, genocide, and egregious war crimes in Gaza, leaving a lasting impact on the collective conscience of humanity. The toll is staggering, with nearly 40,000 martyrs mostly children and women, and more than 100,000 injured becoming victims to the devastating force exerted by the Israeli military machinery.

Homes numbering in the hundreds of thousands have been razed to the ground, and essential structures such as

mosques, churches, schools, and public spaces have been obliterated. Even hospitals, meant to serve as sanctuaries for the afflicted, have not been spared, forcing the evacuation of patients from intensive care units.

The two million inhabitants of Gaza endure relentless day and night bombings. The suffering extends beyond the immediate impact of air strikes, tanks, and artillery, reaching a grim climax with intensified starvation.

We urge all members of the community to join us in this critical moment and to demonstrate compassion and solidarity with the people of Gaza.

As members of the global Muslim community, we stand with our brothers and sisters in Gaza against the injustices inflicted upon them.

The following are some ways supporting our brothers and sisters in the Holyland.

- 1) Through prayers: Praying for the people of Gaza is a compassionate and meaningful way to offer support during difficult times. Pray that Allah (SWT) with his might and power brings an end to the war and alleviate the sufferings endured by our brothers and sisters in Gaza and Palestine.
- 2) Through financial contribution: Contribute to reputable humanitarian organizations that provide aid and support to Gaza, such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), among other charitable organizations such as Mercy USA and Rahma Worldwide.
- 3) Advocate for Peace: Use your voice to advocate for peaceful resolutions to the conflict in Gaza and support diplomatic efforts to address the root causes of the ongoing humanitarian crisis.
- 4) Raise Awareness: Raise awareness about the situation in Gaza by sharing information, stories, and resources on social media, organizing community events, or writing to elected officials to urge action.
- 5) Foster Solidarity: Show solidarity with the people of Gaza by attending rallies, vigils, or demonstrations, and by standing up against discrimination, injustice, and human rights violations.
- 6) Additionally, staying informed about the situation in Gaza and continuing to support long-term solutions to the underlying issues of the conflict is crucial for creating lasting change and promoting peace and stability in the region.

We call upon the international community to take immediate action to end the violence and oppression in Gaza and to hold those responsible for these atrocities accountable for their actions. Only through collective efforts and unwavering commitment to justice can we hope to bring about meaningful change and ensure a better future for all.

As we rejoice in the blessings of Eid, let us also pray for peace, justice, and prosperity for all. May Allah (SWT) grant relief to the oppressed, alleviate the suffering of the needy, and shower His mercy upon the entire ummah.

"O Allah, bring peace to the land of Gaza and all areas affected by conflict. Protect the innocent civilians, children, and families who are suffering. Guide the leaders and decision-makers to work towards peace, justice, and reconciliation. Grant strength and resilience to the people of Gaza during these challenging times. Ameen."

"O Allah, alleviate the suffering of the people of Gaza who are facing hardship and adversity. Provide them with food, water, shelter, and medical care. Comfort those who have lost loved ones and grant them patience and solace. Shower your mercy and blessings upon the people of Gaza and grant them relief from their trials. Ameen."

"O Allah, protect the people of Gaza from harm and danger. Shield them from violence, oppression, and injustice. Surround them with your divine light and safeguard their homes, schools, and places of worship. Grant them safety and security, and guide them towards a future of peace and prosperity. Ameen."

"O Allah, unite the hearts of people around the world in support of the people of Gaza. Inspire compassion, empathy, and generosity among individuals and communities to come together and provide aid and assistance to those in need. Strengthen the bonds of humanity and solidarity, and empower us to work towards a world free from conflict and suffering. Ameen."

"O Allah, send your healing mercy upon the wounded and injured in Gaza. Grant them swift recovery and restoration of health. Ease their pain and suffering, both physical and emotional. Bless the hands of the medical workers and caregivers who are providing care and treatment. Bring healing and wholeness to the people of Gaza and grant them strength and resilience. Ameen."

Eid Mubarak to you and your families. May Allah (SWT) accept our fasting, prayers, and good deeds, and may He (SWT) bless us with joy, prosperity, and guidance in the days ahead. Ameen

End.