

Imam Khomeini Addresses Ulema From Bangladesh :

Isreal Must Be Eliminated ; Bait ul Moqaddas Belongs to the Muslims

TEHRAN, Sept. 8 (Kayhan Int'l)—The Leader of the Revolution and Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeini today reiterated that the Zionist regime must be removed from the surface of the earth. The Imam also stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran favored peace with Iraq but not a peace without war reparations and the punishment of the aggressor.

Imam Khomeini made the statements in a meeting here with a group of Bangladesh Muslim ulema. During the meeting Maulana Mohammad ullah Hafezzi Huzur, the prominent leader of the Bangladesh Muslims was accompanied by Maulana Fazlul Haq, Professor Akhtar Faruq Maulana Imamaddin Taha, Maulana Aziz ul Haq, and Maulana Hamidullah (all Bangladesh Muslim leaders) as well as Ayatollah Ahmad Janatti, a member of the Council of Guardians.

First Maulana Hafezzi Huzur, expressing his pleasure over the meeting with the leader of the Islamic Revolution, visiting Iran and witnessing the revival of Islam in the Islamic Republic, expressed hope that a real Islamic system would also come into existence in Bangladesh and Iraq.

Then Imam Khomeini delivered the following speech :

"In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful,

I thank you all for your coming here ; and I hope that, during your stay in Tehran, you will assign some individuals among yourselves to go and talk to the people and see what is the situation in Iran ; are the people satisfied or not ?

"They should go and see for themselves how enthusiastically the people are aiding the government. They will witness that Iran is calm, the rule of Islam is prevailing and the people are free. If you go and participate in Friday prayers or other gatherings in (government) offices or elsewhere, you will see that the people have no objective other than Islam. And in the (Iraqi imposed) war too, the people are backing this government.

"But and this concerns the root of the Muslims' problems, we concede that the Shi'a and Sunni brothers, due to the hands which have been at work, and (our own negligence, have failed in creating the unity needed by the Muslims against the infidels and polytheists. At present too, they (the enemies) don't allow the (unity) to take place. There are many disputes in Pakistan

as well as India and Bangladesh, and elsewhere, and this has caused the weakness of the Muslims and the strength of the expansionists

“We expect them (the Muslims) to endeavor in their countries and among their neighboring governments to solve their differences so that the Muslims become united against infidels and polytheists. They (infidels) don't want Islam to exist so they may take from us our good qualities and virtues. At a time when all Muslims are facing trouble with infidels and munafiqeen, it is not the proper moment to fight and dispute with each other,

“However, the case between us and Iraq, which you may be unaware of, is that Saddam even when I was in exile in Najaf, was known for his opposition against Islam and for being a bloodsucking butcher. Of course at that time he was not the head of the government but later on when he became president, under the pretext that Iran and the Iranians were Persians and Magians and were instigated by the U. S. attacked Iran from air and land. But our nation and our armed forces stopped them, and now that we are approaching the third year of the war, Saddam remains the aggressor and we have always been in a defensive position.

“Islam, the Quranic decrees and logic impel us to defend ourselves. They (the Iraqis) attack Iranian cities and defenseless people with bombs and missiles every day and as long as they continue their aggression we will continue our defense, Saddam is always claiming he wants peace, but his peace consists in Khuzestan being given to him. Still we are after peace now (as we were in the past) but under the condition that the aggressor be punished.

“Our nation is standing firm and remains vigilant to fulfill its legitimate demands. The Iraqis have invaded our country and have destroyed with bombs wherever they have occupied. Now many of our towns and villages in western and southern regions have been completely devastated.

“Our demand is that the aggressor pay reparations, and responsible people come together to recognize the aggressor and punish him. We have never infringed upon the rights of the Iraqi people, while our forces are capable of hitting Baghdad or Basra. But they refrain from doing so. If you go and investigate you will see that Abadan and certain other cities of Iran are under daily Iraqi attacks and they are killing our innocent civilians but later on claim to have killed our military men.

“We are brothers with the Iraqi nation and the Iraqi land is sacred to us. It is the resting place of Amir al-Mo'menin Imam Ali (AS) and Imam Hassan (AS) and two thirds of the people there are Shi'as. The Sunni brothers too agree with us that Saddam is against the basic tenets of Islam, and is a follower of that man named (Michael) Aflaq. We are ready for peace but not a peace devoid of war reparations and punishment of the aggressor. Islam, does not permit us to do so.

“They are publicizing the idea, with the help of foreign radios, that Iran intends to conquer the Persian Gulf countries. But as we have repeatedly said the religious law does not give us the permission to have such an objective. But Muslims are now defending their lives, property and prestige. This is something allowed by God, logic and religion. We are an oppressed nation and request you to investigate the affairs pertaining to us.

“You noticed that in Lebanon, a hollow government with a population of two million, that is Israel, stood against one billion Muslims. It (Israel) launched so many attacks and committed such crimes that are unprecedented in history. Under these circumstances we see that the Islamic governments are trying to recognize it. We believe that Israel must be eliminated from earth and that Bait ul Moqaddas belongs to the Muslims and is the first Qibla of the Muslims. May God grant success to you all.