

Bahrain condemns terror plot targeting Makkah

DT News Network

Manama

Bahrain yesterday strongly denounced the attempt made by terrorists to attack the Holy Grand Mosque in Makkah as well as worshippers there.

“The despicable act of terrorism is contrary to all religious, moral and humanitarian values,” said Kingdom in a statement affirming that it stands “fully with Saudi Arabia in its leadership role to consolidate and enhance security and peace in the region and across the world.”

The statement also said that the Kingdom fully supports all the actions and measures by Saudi Arabia to eliminate terrorist organisations.

The statement further reiterated Bahrain’s firm position in rejecting terrorism and stressed the need for closer international cooperation to eliminate the phenomenon that threatens all nations and peoples without discrimination.

The Kingdom lauded the outstanding efforts of the security men in thwarting the cowardly terror plot and the role of Saudi Arabia under the wise leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in providing all the comforts and tranquillity for worshippers, visitors and pilgrims.

In a similar statement issued, the Shura Council said that such acts will not impede the development and progress strides made by Saudi Arabia as well as its efforts to ensure

the safety of the visitors to the holy mosques in Makkah and Medina.

The Council also reiterated Bahrain’s full-fledged support to the kingdom and backing of all measures necessary to ensure its security and stability, and combat terrorism.

In a statement to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Information Minister Ali bin Mohammed Al Rumaihi lauded Saudi security forces for thwarting the attack which targeted the Holy Mosque and worshippers. The minister stressed support to Saudi Arabia in all its measures to combat terror acts.

The minister also affirmed that the attempt in Makkah can only be carried out by a criminal devoid of all religious and humanitarian sentiments.

Separately, the High Council for Islamic Affairs said that the attempt reveals the extent of disregard to the rituals of Allah the Almighty and the blood of the worshippers.

The Council lauded the vigilance of the Saudi security bodies in foiling the terror crime and protecting the worshippers.

Echoing similar sentiments, Al Eslah and Al Menbar National Islamic Societies said that the criminal act breaches all Islamic principles.

Both societies lauded the efforts of the security officers who foiled the plot thanks to their vigilance and high competence. The role of Saudi security officers was also hailed by Al Asalah Islamic Society.

Eid Al-Fitr prayer grounds

Manama

The Sunni Endowments Directorate yesterday announced that Eid al-Fitr prayers will be performed at 5:10am at a number of Musallas (open prayer grounds).

The prayer grounds will be as follows:

1. **Muharrag: near the Muharrag Cemetery**

(Hamad bin Ali Kanoo, Al-Ghawi, Fatima Al-Huti, and Mariam Kanoo in Busaiteen mosques will be closed)

2. **Arad: Arad Fort Square** (Nearby mosques will not be closed)

3. **East Riffa: near Riffa Fort** (Al-Qalaa, Shaikh Salman and Bin Ghatam mosques will be closed)

4. **Hamad Town: Opposite the Kanoo Centre Roundabout 17**

(Mus’ab bin Omair, HH Shaikh Faisal bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Isa bin Mohammed Ali mosques will be closed)

5. **Hamad Town: Suq Waqef** (First Roundabout)

(Hamad Town mosques near the First Roundabout will be closed). The directorate also announced that the temporary Ramadan mosques will be closed.

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Women and the World

Meredith Ann O’Connell



The Invisible Women

They are called the “Invisible Women,” and yet there are an estimated 258.5 million widows around the world. According to the Loomba Foundation’s World Widows Report, the number of widows increased 9 percent between 2010 and 2015 thanks to a rise in disease and conflict. Yet despite the efforts of the United Nations (which proclaimed 23 June as International Widows’ Day) and non-profit organizations, widows around the world continue to suffer poverty, abuse and stigmatization—all because they have lost their husbands.

Why do widows face such disrespect and maltreatment? After all, no woman wishes to find herself a widow, and yet women whose husbands die before them are often treated with disdain at best and violence at worst. Around the world, and particularly in parts of Africa and Asia, widows face harassment, ostracization and financial

deprivation. In the case of widowhood, men and women couldn’t be more unequal: men whose wives pass away before them do not suffer such consequences. While it may seem normal or is even encouraged for a man to remarry, in many communities widows are discouraged to find a new husband.

This practice is particularly harmful, as widows in certain communities often find themselves financially vulnerable. Having spent their time fulfilling traditional roles of caring the home rather than working, women who lose their husbands suddenly find themselves unable to take care of themselves and their children. Remarrying would be one way of affording them financial stability, and yet sometimes they are forbidden to remarry. In other cases, widows may be denied their husbands inheritance or they may be forced out of their home by relatives.

Losing a loved one is a traumatic experience, yet widows may not be given the chance to mourn. In some communities widows are blamed for the death of their husband, shifting blame onto women for an act they did not commit. Others force widows to go through humiliating or violent mourning rituals. More commonly, widows simply lose their standing in society and find themselves “invisible” and without a voice to speak up for them. Such treatment can cause a psychological and emotional toll, not to mention health issues, yet widows may find themselves without an emotional support system.

As conflicts continue to rage on around the globe, the number of widows will likely only rise. Societies need to step up and support these women with compassion. It is bad enough that a widow has lost her spouse: she does not deserve to be treated with disrespect or lose her dignity.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)