

## Oppression

Unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power.

Fir'aun (Pharaoh) said: "I show you only that which I see (correct), and I guide you only to the path of right policy **(40:29)**

Thus did he make fools of his people and they obeyed him: truly they were people disobedient to Allah. **(43:54)**

Then he said: I am your lord, the most high. **(79:24)**

Then pour over his head the torment of boiling water, Taste; you are indeed the mighty, the honorable **(44:48-49)**

### **Rules of Islam:**

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Allah, the Exalted, and Glorious, said; My servants, I have made oppression unlawful for Me and have made oppression unlawful for you, so do not oppress one another"

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Beware of the supplication of the oppressed, for there is no barrier between it and Allah".

In the Farewell Pilgrimage the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "Your blood, your property and your honor are inviolable (protected from assault/haram) to you all like the inviolability of this day of yours, in this city of yours and in this month of yours." The lives and properties of Muslims are inviolable for each other. In other words, it means that each of them is a protector and guardian of the life, property and honor of the other.

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Allah would torment (suffering, torture) those who torment people in the world."

Thus We let some of the wrong-doers have power over each others because of what they earned. (Support) **(6:129)**

Allah commands justice and the doing of good **(16:90)**

and their rule is to take counsel among themselves (42:38)

**The Prophet (PBUH) and the Companions:**

The Quraish were much worried about the case of a noble woman who had committed theft and wondered who should intercede for her with Messenger of Allah (PBUH) (so that she would not get punished for her crime). Some said Usamah bin Zaid (RA) was his beloved and so he may dare do so. So Usamah (RA) spoke to him about that matter and the Prophet (PBUH) said to him, "Do you intercede when one of the legal punishments ordained by Allah has been violated?" Then he got up and addressed the people saying, "The people before you were ruined because when a noble person amongst them committed theft, they would leave him, but if a weak person amongst them committed theft, they would execute the legal punishment on him. By Allah, were Fatimah, the daughter of Muhammad, to commit the theft, I would have cut off her hand."

A Bedouin came to Omar (RA) and said to him: O Omar, fear Allah. One of the people sitting with Omar got up and he was ready to hit the Bedouin and said: Somebody like you say to Amir Al Mo'eminin fear Allah? So Omar said: Leave him, there is no good in you if you don't say it and no good in us if we don't hear it. Let him say it, it is the best thing somebody said to me.

Then he called all Muslim to a gathering in the masjid and got up on the minbar and said: O Muslim what would you say if I leaned toward Donia? I am afraid that if I behave wrong nobody will push me back to the right path out of respect or fear. If I behave well, help me and if I behave badly straighten me out. A man stood and said: If we see you deviate from the truth we will push you back to it. Another man jumped and said: By Allah if we see you move away from the truth we will straighten you out with our swords. Omar Said: May Allah bless you, Al Hamdu Lillah that he made among you people that will straighten Omar out with their swords.

Omar (RA) said: "How can you enslave people when they are born free by their mothers".

**What are Muslims supposed to do:**

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Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change it themselves. (13:11)

Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim. So he should not oppress him nor should he hand him over to an oppressor.."

Muslims should live like family members. No one should leave his brother to oppression, nor leaves him helpless in trouble, but helps him when he is in need of it

Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "Help your brother, whether he is an oppressor or is oppressed". A man enquired: "O Messenger of Allah! I help him when he is oppressed, but how can I help him when he is an oppressor?" He (PBUH) said, "You can keep him from committing oppression. That will be your help to him".

It is our duty as Muslims not only to help the oppressed but also to stop the oppressor's oppression. Doing so requires that we develop the moral courage to stop the oppressor from tyranny, or at least protest against it verbally.

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Whoever amongst you sees an evil, he must change it with his hand; if he is unable to do so, then with his tongue; and if he is unable to do so, then with his heart; and that is the weakest form of Faith".

Hadith Qudsi, Allah Almighty says: "I shall take revenge on the oppressor in this life and the next. I shall take revenge on someone who saw a person being oppressed and was able to help him but did not help him."

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "No obedience for evil deeds, obedience is required only in what is good."

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "The best type of Jihad (struggling in the way of Allah) is to speak a word of truth to a tyrant ruler."

The highest level of all Jihad is the effort of communicating the Message of Allah to an unjust ruler.

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "The master of the martyrs is Hamza ibn Abdul Mattalib, and a man who stands (in front of) an oppressive ruler and enjoins the good and forbids the evil and so is killed for it"