

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

رَبَّنَا النَّبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدًا

THE AMMAN MESSAGE

Declaration of World Islamic Leaders
and Scholars on Muslim Unity

إِنَّ هَذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُونِ ﴿٩٢﴾

‘Verily this Umma of yours is one Umma, and I am
your Lord, so worship Me’ (21:92)





IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE COMPASSIONATE, THE MERCIFUL
MAY PEACE AND BLESSINGS BE UPON THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD AND HIS
PURE AND NOBLE FAMILY

(1) Whosoever is an adherent to one of the four Sunni schools (*Mathahib*) of Islamic jurisprudence (*Hanafi*, *Maliki*, *Shafi`i* and *Hanbali*), the two Shi`i schools of Islamic jurisprudence (*Ja`fari* and *Zaydi*), the *Ibadi* school of Islamic jurisprudence and the *Thahiri* school of Islamic jurisprudence, is a Muslim. Declaring that person an apostate is impossible and impermissible. Verily his (or her) blood, honour, and property are inviolable. Moreover, in accordance with the Shaykh Al-Azhar's *fatwa*, it is neither possible nor permissible to declare whosoever subscribes to the *Ash`ari* creed or whoever practices real *Tasawwuf* (Sufism) an apostate. Likewise, it is neither possible nor permissible to declare whosoever subscribes to true *Salafi* thought an apostate.

Equally, it is neither possible nor permissible to declare as apostates any group of Muslims who believes in God, Glorified and Exalted be He, and His Messenger (may peace and blessings be upon him) and the pillars of faith, and acknowledges the five pillars of Islam, and does not deny any necessarily self-evident tenet of religion.

(2) There exists more in common between the various schools of Islamic jurisprudence than there is difference between them. The adherents to the eight schools of Islamic jurisprudence are in agreement as regards the basic principles of Islam. All believe in Allah (God), Glori-

fied and Exalted be He, the One and the Unique; that the Noble Qur'an is the Revealed Word of God; and that our master Muhammad, may blessings and peace be upon him, is a Prophet and Messenger unto all mankind. All are in agreement about the five pillars of Islam: the two testaments of faith (*shahadatayn*); the ritual prayer (*salat*); almsgiving (*zakat*); fasting the month of Ramadan (*sawm*), and the Hajj to the sacred house of God (in Mecca). All are also in agreement about the foundations of belief: belief in Allah (God), His angels, His scriptures, His messengers, and in the Day of Judgment, in Divine Providence in good and in evil. Disagreements between the 'ulama (scholars) of the eight schools of Islamic jurisprudence are only with respect to the ancillary branches of religion (*furu`*) and not as regards the principles and fundamentals (*usul*) [of the religion of Islam]. Disagreement with respect to the ancillary branches of religion (*furu`*) is a mercy. Long ago it was said that variance in opinion among the 'ulama (scholars) "is a good affair".

(3) Acknowledgement of the schools of Islamic jurisprudence (*Mathahib*) within Islam means adhering to a fundamental methodology in the issuance of *fatwas*: no one may issue a *fatwa* without the requisite personal qualifications which each school of Islamic jurisprudence determines [for its own adherents]. No one may issue a *fatwa* without adhering to the methodology of the schools of Islamic jurisprudence. No one may claim to do unlimited *Ijtihad* and create a new school of Islamic jurisprudence or to issue unacceptable *fatwas* that take Muslims out of the principles and certainties of the *Shari`ah* and what has been established in respect of its schools of jurisprudence.

AMMAN

RAMADAN 1425 HIJRI
NOVEMBER 2004 A.D.

Total number of signatures: 552 from 84 countries

- § True Islam and Its Role in Modern Society Conference, Amman (July 2005) • signed 201
- ¶ Forum of Muslim Ulama and Thinkers, Mecca (September 2005) • endorsed 42
- ★ Islamic Schools of Jurisprudence Conference, Aal Al-Bayt University, Jordan (November 2005)
• endorsed 33
- ∞ 9th Session of the Council of Ministers of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs, Kuwait
(November 2005) • endorsed 7
- ∫ 3rd Extraordinary Session, OIC, Mecca (December 2005) • endorsed 54
- ≈ Moderate Islamic Thought and Culture, Amman (April 2006) • signed 55
- ◇ International Fiqh Academy Conference, Amman (June 2006) • signed 68
- Π Muslims of Europe Conference, Istanbul (July 2006) • endorsed 157

*Many of those who endorsed or signed did so more than once, on separate occasions.
Hence the discrepancy in the total number vis-à-vis the sum of the numbers of the conferences.*

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2. Imam Tahir Zenelhasani π

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5. Prof. Dr. Ammar Talibi §
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6. Mr. Bouguerra Soltani § ≈
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Batna University
8. Dr. Mohamad Zourmane *
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Coordinator, European Muslim Network

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5. Shaykh Abdullah al-Harari *fatwa* §
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