

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

THE ISLAMIC RULE ON HIJACKING AEROPLANES

"Every Muslim's blood, property and honour are sacred to a Muslim."

The subject is hijacking aeroplanes belonging to the Muslim world, including the Arab countries; or the Kafir (disbelieving) countries with whom we are at war, like Israel; and those Kafir countries with whom we are not at war with.

If the aeroplane is from an Islamic country, including the Arab countries, it is not allowed to hijack it, nor to attack it, and it should not be damaged, because it is Muslim property, even though it may belong to the state, because if it belongs to the state it does not mean it belongs to the ruler, but it belongs to the Muslims, and it is held as a trust for the Muslims and it should not be violated; it is haram (sinful) to attack or damage such a trust. Hijacking aeroplanes means to attack the people in the aeroplanes without a just cause, for those people on board the plane are innocent bystanders, even if their ruler is an evil oppressor, ruling by something different to what Allah revealed - for this does not mean you can attack those on board, or hurt them. Whilst hijacking the aeroplane those on board have nothing to do with the injustice of the ruler, for they cannot be held responsible for the injustice of their ruler. Allah says "Each one carries the responsibility for his own actions." And hijacking aeroplanes, and imprisoning those on board and terrorizing them and threatening to kill them, all this comes under the heading of 'corruption on the earth' and within the subject of terrorism, which are both haram. Allah says, "The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His Apostle and strive to make corruption on the earth is only this, that they should be slaughtered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides or they should be imprisoned; this shall be as a disgrace for them in this world, and in the hereafter they shall have a grievous punishment." (5:33) Omar said he heard the Prophet (saw) say, "Don't punish the people, whosoever does that in this life Allah will punish him in the hereafter."

And attacking the people on board the aeroplane and terrorizing them means violating their honour and sacredness, and this is haram under the Shar'a (divine law) because the sanctity of Muslims, and the sacredness of their property, honour and persons should be respected and secure, and they should never under any circumstances be violated. The Prophet (saw) said, "Every Muslim's blood, property and honour are sacred to a Muslim." And the Messenger Mohammad (saw) said as he was going around the Ka'ba, "By Him whose hands hold Mohammad's soul the greatest sanctity of a Believer to another in the eyes of Allah is the sanctity of his property and blood and that he should think good of him."

And the killing of all or some on board is a great crime which Allah prohibited, and it is haram. Allah says, "And slay not the life which Allah has forbidden except with a just cause." (17:33) and He says, "Whosoever

kills someone without reason makes corruption on this earth as if he were killing everyone." And Allah put a rule that whosoever deliberately kills an innocent Believer Allah will put him in the hell forever and they will have the wrath and curse of Allah and Allah has prepared for him a painful punishment. Allah says, "Who deliberately slays a Believer, his is hell forever, Allah is wroth against him and He has cursed him and prepared for a painful punishment." (4:93)

If the plane belongs to a country at war with the Muslims, like Israel, it is allowed to hijack it, for there is no sanctity for Israel nor for the Jews in it and their property and we should treat them as being at war with us.

If the plane belongs to a Kafir state with whom there is no direct war with Muslims it is not allowed to hijack it nor to attack those on board because it is terrorism and Allah prohibited Muslims to be terrorists and He says, "Fight in the way of Allah against those who fight against you but begin not hostilities. Lo! Allah loves not aggressors." (2:190)

This is the rule in Islam on hijacking aeroplanes, which Muslims must hold to, and any political aim, whatever it may be, even if Islam orders us to do it, must be done according to the Shar'a. It is not allowed for Muslims to hijack aeroplanes or to terrorize, attack or kill people on board, whether Muslims or Kafir, except if they are Kafir at war with Muslims. So all the deeds of some of the groups or some organisers of hijackings or destruction of planes or terrorizing or killing those on board, all is this haram from the Islamic viewpoint, except if the aeroplane's passengers belong to a Kafir state at war with Muslims.

"This is Allah's limits and don't transgress them and whosoever transgresses Allah's limits are of the oppressors."

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