

Khateeb Talking Points

Israel's Genocide Campaign & The Palestinian Cause

Key Messages

1. **Have hope.** What is happening is a sunnah of Allah - don't feel hopeless and focus on what you can do.
2. **Significance of current events.** Muslims have two obligations to Palestine - to support their Palestinian brothers and sisters who are being oppressed and to preserve and sanctify the Mosque of Al-Aqsa
3. **Focus on action.** Use this as an opportunity to gain reward and be on the side of truth and justice by taking action.

Note to Khateeb: we are not religiously obligated to mention any specific entity within the Palestinian resistance. We firmly support the right of Palestinians to resist illegal occupation, in accordance with UN resolutions. Hamas is a U.S. designated terrorist organization that we cannot legally support - the group should not be mentioned in your khutbahs. This does not impact our obligation to stand for justice and to mobilize American Muslims and the American public in support of the Palestinian cause.

Talking Points

1. What is happening is a **sunnah of Allah**, one of the divine laws at work:
 - Severe tests, hardship, fear, oppression, and loss are a necessary part of life that many of us will experience at some point.

أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَنْ تُدْخَلُوا الْجَنَّةَ وَلَمَّا يَأْتِكُمْ مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ مَسَّتْهُمُ الْبَأْسَاءُ وَالضَّرَّاءُ وَرُلُّوا حَتَّى يَقُولَ الرَّسُولُ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مَعَهُ مَتَى نَصْرُ اللَّهِ ۗ أَلَا إِنَّ نَصْرَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ

“Do you suppose that you will enter the Garden without first having suffered like those before you? They were afflicted by misfortune and hardship, and they were so shaken that even their messenger and the believers with him cried, ‘When will God’s help arrive?’ Truly, God’s help is near.” *Surah al-Baqarah* 2:214



- The people in Gaza have Allah on their side - He is enough for them. We must learn from their generosity towards each other, the strength of their spirit, and their hope in Allah even in the darkest circumstances.

الَّذِينَ قَالَ لَهُمُ النَّاسُ إِنَّ النَّاسَ قَدْ جَمَعُوا لَكُمْ فَاخْشَوْهُمْ فَزَادَهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَقَالُوا حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ

“Those who were warned, “Your enemies have mobilized their forces against you, so fear them,” the warning only made them grow stronger in faith and they replied, “Allah is sufficient for us and He is the best Protector.” *Surah Aal-Imran 3:173*

- Allah knows everything that is happening - it is all according to His plan. He is All-Hearing and All-Seeing. When you suffer, know that the enemy is also suffering, but the difference is you hope to receive something from God while they have nothing to hope for.

وَلَا تَهِنُوا فِي ابْتِغَاءِ الْقَوْمِ إِنْ تَكُونُوا تَأْلَمُونَ فَإِنَّهُمْ يَأْلَمُونَ كَمَا تَأْلَمُونَ وَتَرْجُونَ مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَرْجُونَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا

“Do not be faint-hearted in pursuing the enemy: if you are suffering hardship, so are they, but you hope to receive something from God for which they cannot hope. God is all knowing and wise.” *Surah an-Nisa' 4:104*

2. Masjid al-Aqsa and the surrounding lands are blessed by Allah and have deep spiritual meaning to all Muslims.

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَرَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ

Glory be to the One Who took His servant ‘Muhammad’ by night from the Sacred Mosque to the Farthest Mosque whose surroundings We have blessed, so that We may show him some of Our signs. Indeed, He alone is the All-Hearing, All-Seeing. *Surah al-Israa 17:1*

In addition to the significance of the land of al-Aqsa, Muslims are one ummah. Whenever our brothers and sisters anywhere in the world feel pain, go through hardship and disaster, or fall victim to oppression, we must react and take action. It is a sign of *iman* to feel deeply distressed at what is happening. Prophet Muhammad (s) said, “*The believers, in their love, mercy and*

compassion for each other, are like one body. When any limb is afflicted, the entire body reacts with sleeplessness and fever.” (Bukhari & Muslim)¹

3. The root cause of this conflict is the **illegal Zionist occupation** of Palestinian lands. It is not a complex issue. There is no intrinsic animosity between Muslims and Jews. Palestinians have the moral, legal, and religious right to resist against their oppressors. Occupation is illegal according to international law. People have the legitimate right to resist against occupation according to a 1982 Resolution of the U.N. General Assembly, which: “reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial and foreign domination and foreign occupation by all available means, including armed struggle.”

4. Palestinians have been living under **inhumane conditions for over 75 years**. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch document a long list of crimes against the Palestinians within the West Bank: apartheid (institutional regime of oppression and domination on grounds of race/ethnicity), unlawful attacks and killings of civilians, arbitrary detentions, torture, persecution, and ill-treatment, enforced disappearances, no right to fair trial and reparations, restriction of movement. This does not include the violent control and siege of Gaza, which is now being subjected to genocide and complete destruction by the Israeli military.

5. We must remain hopeful and have certainty (yaqeen) in the power of Allah and the wisdom of Allah

- Believers never lose hope
 - And do not lose hope in the mercy of Allah, for no one loses hope in Allah's mercy except those with no faith.” Surah Yusuf 12:87
 - Now is not the time to slow down and feel powerless. Do not lose heart or despair- if you are true believers you have the upper hand. Surah Aal-Imran 3:139
- Believers know that victory has nothing to do with numbers or physical strength.

عَنْ النُّعْمَانَ بْنِ بَشِيرٍ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ مَثَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَوَادُّهِمْ وَتَرَاحُمِهِمْ وَتَعَاطُفِهِمْ مَثَلُ
الْجَسَدِ إِذَا اشْتَكَى مِنْهُ عُضْوٌ تَدَاعَى لَهُ سَائِرُ الْجَسَدِ بِالسَّهَرِ وَالْحَمَى
صحيح البخاري كتاب الأدب باب رحمة الناس والبهائم 6011

صحيح مسلم كتاب البر والصلة والآداب باب تراحم المؤمنين وتعاطفهم وتعاضدهم 2586

- ...When he and the ‘remaining’ faithful with him crossed the river, they said, “Now we are no match for Goliath and his warriors.” But those ‘believers’ who were certain they would meet Allah reasoned, “How many times has a small force vanquished a mighty army by the Will of Allah! And Allah is ‘always’ with the steadfast.” Surat al-Baqarah, ayah 249
- Most assuredly, we will give victory to our messengers and to those who believe, both in this world and on the day the witnesses are summoned. Surah Ghafir, verse 51.

Action Takeaways

As American Muslims, we have a unique role due to our government’s unequivocal financial and moral support of Israel. We must demand zero funding for state-sponsored genocide. Here are four things we must all do:

1. Make urgent dua for the people of Gaza and oppressed peoples across the world.
2. Educate ourselves, our families, our coworkers, and neighbors about the plight of Palestinians. If your school, university, or workplace sends out a letter in support of Israel, respond firmly.
3. Get engaged in political advocacy for Palestine: sign a petition, call your representative, attend a rally, or organize a meeting.
4. Give generously to verified organizations providing relief in Gaza.

Resources

If Americans Knew

Amnesty International 2022 Report

American Muslims for Palestine: Palestine in a Nutshell series:

<https://www.ampalestine.org/educate/palestine-nutshell>

Reflection & dua for Palestine: Omar Suleiman:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/y-60Ue2HYQg?si=SFF7oR7dppJopmPP>

What are the blessings of Masjid al-Aqsa?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijVSz9-CxW0>