

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

*Rabee` al-Thani* 10, 1443 A.H./November 4, 2022 C.E

## **Rights of the Homeland**

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“Help one another to do what is right and good; do not help one another towards sin and hostility.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

Loving one’s homeland is a lofty human natural instinct and a great religious value. Our Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) has embodied the meaning of loving his homeland and being loyal to it, when his people forced him to leave Mecca. He (PBUH) addressed Mecca, saying, “How good you are as a land and how dear you are to my heart! Had your people not forced me out of you, I would have never come out and would have never resided in any other city but you.” Moreover, loving one’s homeland requires respecting its national flag, national anthem and other symbols, and maintaining its safety, security and stability.

It goes without saying that patriotism is not just words to be said, or slogans to be raised. Rather, it is a conduct, sacrifices, and rights to be

fulfilled. Among the loftiest and most important of these rights are: offering sacrifices for the sake of one's homeland. Homeland is considered one of the six major principles that the Islamic Shari'ah has fostered and protected with due means. Protecting homelands is one of the core objectives of religions. Self-sacrifice is considered the highest level of sacrifice as the Almighty Allah said, **"Allah has purchased the persons and possessions of the believers in return for Paradise."** Allah also said, **"The martyrs, with their Lord, will have their reward and their light."** Our Prophet (PBUH) has promised the ones who defend their lands and sacrifice themselves for its their sake saying, "Two eyes will never be touched by the fire of Hell; an eye which weeps out of Fear of Allah and an eye which spends the night in guarding in the Cause of Allah." In another Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Shall I not tell you of a night better than *Laylat al-Qadr*? The one who keeps watch [at night] over the troops, in a land of fear (i.e. war) for that he may not return to his family."

True patriotism also requires sincere participation in building one's homeland, through perfecting one's work and caring for the quality of production, leading to the progress and prosperity of the country. Our true religion does not ask people to simply work. Rather, it asks them to perfect their work and master it. Prophet (PBUH) said, "Allah loves someone who when works, he performs it in perfect manner." It is said: "If you want to know one's loyalty, nobility, and his good manners, then watch how much

he is loyal to his homeland, how much he is affiliated to it, how much he yearns for it, and how much he works for its sake.”

It is one of the rights of the homeland upon its citizens that they have solidarity and compassion among each others so that love and affection prevail, and the whole society enjoys a safe and stable life. The Almighty Allah said, **“The believers, both men and women, support each other.”** the Prophet (PBUH) said, “The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever.” In another Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) also said, “The most beloved people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to people. The most beloved deed to Allah is to make a Muslim happy, or to remove one of his troubles, or to forgive his debt, or to feed his hunger.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “He who has an extra mount should lend it to him who has none, and he who has extra provision should give it to him who has none.” Also, the Prophet (PBUH) said, “He who removes from a believer one of his difficulties of this world, Allah will remove one of his troubles on the Day of Resurrection; and he who is easy with (a debtor) who is in difficulty, Allah will be easy with him in this world and in the Hereafter.”

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All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

There is no doubt that one of the most important rights of the nation is to promote the values of loyalty and affiliation, deepen the sense of responsibility towards public properties and utilities, and avoid anything that harms other fellow citizens such as treason, fraud, monopoly or exploitation. Therefore, the Prophet (PBUH) forbade all these harmful diseases when he said, "A hoarder is cursed," and also said, "None withholds goods till the price rises but a sinner."

Moreover, we affirm that the earnings of those who trade on people's crises will be devoid of blessing in this world and in the Afterlife. Our Prophet (PBUH) also said, "Some people acquire Allah's Wealth (i.e. Muslim's wealth) in an unjust manner; such people will be put in the Hellfire on the Day of Judgement." He (PBUH) also said, "He who earns unlawful money but uses it to free slaves or act kindly to his relatives will have these actions counted against him."

How much do we need to observe the rights of our homeland! The homeland is for all its sons, and it cannot advance except with their hard work and striving, each one in his field and specialization: soldiers and policemen in the preservation of the homeland's security and safety;

doctors in their hospitals; farmers in their fields; workers in their factories; and students through their diligence in acquiring knowledge, etc. The Almighty says, "Help one another to do what is right and good; do not help one another towards sin and hostility."

We ask Allah to protect our country Egypt, and all other countries of the world!