

AN APPEAL TO SUNNI AND SHIA MUSLIMS FROM DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AND SAYYID MUHAMMAD KHATAMI.

For the first time in modern Muslim history, two prominent personalities, one a Sunni and the other a Shia, have come together to appeal to Sunni and Shia Muslims to stop the bloodshed and the killings that have blighted their relations for a long while. Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, and Muhammad Khatami, the former President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, made the plea in Putrajaya, the administrative capital Malaysia, on the 22nd of May 2013. Khatami was represented by his special adviser, Mr. Ali Khoshroo.

This Joint Appeal was initiated by Dr. Chandra Muzaffar as President of the NGO, the International Movement for a Just World (JUST).

A Joint Appeal to Sunnis and Shi'as

We, the undersigned, are greatly saddened by the violence and bloodshed which have characterised Sunni-Shi'a relations over time. Thousands have been killed in feuds between the two, mostly in certain Muslim countries. It is tragic that many innocent women and children have been among the victims.

Sunni-Shi'a animosity and antagonism have clearly weakened the Muslim ummah. It has made us more vulnerable to the manipulations and machinations of outside elements determined to subvert the unity and integrity of the ummah. It has allowed those who seek to establish their hegemonic power over us to succeed in their objectives.

It is indisputable that Sunni-Shi'a antagonism and conflicts which have resulted in massacres have tarnished the image and dignity of the ummah in the eyes of the world. Few other occurrences in recent times have had such a negative impact.

We appeal to all Sunnis and Shi'as, bound as we are by the same faith in Allah, guided by the same Noble Quran, honouring the same last Messenger of Allah, and facing the same Kiblah, to desist from massacring and killing one another immediately.

NO MORE VIOLENCE
NO MORE BLOODSHED
NO MORE KILLINGS

The two of us – a former Prime Minister from a Sunni majority state, and a former President from an overwhelmingly Shi'a nation – also address this appeal to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) which represents all Muslims of whatever sect or doctrine. The OIC could perhaps set up a task force that will examine the Sunni-Shi'a divide in depth and submit concrete proposals for the political and religious leaders of the ummah to act upon.

We also appeal to sincere, concerned individuals and civil society groups from all over the world to join in this endeavour to stop the violence and bloodshed and to promote peace and understanding between Sunnis and Shi'as.

This joint appeal will be widely circulated mainly through the online media. We shall follow up on this appeal with other activities and programmes.

May Allah Subhanahuwataala guide us in all our humble efforts to serve Him.



S. Muhammad Khatami
President of the Islamic Republic
Of Iran (1997-2005)



Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad
Prime Minister of Malaysia
(1981-2003)