

GAZA KHUTBAH CAMPAIGN

A Guide for Canadian Imams 1 Year Post Oct. 7



ASKS FROM OUR IMAMS & MASJID BOARDS

1. Use the Talking Points and Sample Khutbah below to give a Palestine-focused Khutbah on Friday, October 4th. The intent is to re-engage our community spiritually and practically on Palestine a year into the genocidal campaign in Gaza.
2. Please note that this is an attempt to recognize that almost one year has passed of an ongoing expanding genocide of our brothers and sisters in Palestine and now extending to Lebanon. It is not a celebration of any sort.
3. Plan for special programming between October 4th and October 10th, ideas include:
 - Joining the community strike on Monday, October 7th
 - Doing special qiyam with du'aa
 - Asking the community to fast and breaking fast together
 - Performing Du'aa Al-Qunoot after Isha
 - Conducting an educational session/ series on Al-Aqsa or Palestine
 - Announcing related events and activities the community can participate in (e.g., protests, fundraisers, talks and lectures, political engagement, election mobilization, etc.)

KHUTBAH TALKING POINTS

1. **One year into the Genocide** in Gaza marks one year of resilience against Israeli military aggression and 76 years of occupation

- Our brothers and sisters in Palestine have been resilient for over a year now, facing a brutal genocide under the watch and complicity of the international community. The faith of the Palestinians and their reliance on Allah are reasons for their resilience and perseverance. Their sense of responsibility to defend their people and their land is also a primary reason for their strength and determination.
- The Palestinians have been defending themselves as per their God-given right and as per International law using the limited means they have. This is a result of 76 years of brutal occupation that has continuously used violence and aggression against all Palestinians. Illegal occupation is the root cause of all trouble and violence in the region.
- The strength and resilience of Palestinians should inspire us to leverage the means we have and support them keeping our context in mind.

“And seek help through patience and prayer, and indeed, it is difficult except for the humbly submissive [to Allah].” (Al-Baqarah:45)

Sa’d b. Abī Waqqāṣ reported: I said: O Messenger of Allah, who are the most afflicted of all people? He replied: The prophets, then the righteous people, then those who are nearest to them in perfection and those who are nearest to them. Man is tested according to this piety; if he is strong in religion, his test is increased, and if he is weak in religion, his test is reduced. A believer will be tested until he walks on the earth sinless (his sins having been erased by the series of afflictions that he has endured). [Tirmidhi]

KHUTBAH TALKING POINTS

2. Palestine a Central Cause for Muslims

- The Palestinian cause is a central cause for Muslim. Standing up for this just cause is a core part of our belief.

- Justice is a core value in Islam, enjoining good, stopping evil and implementing justice are obligations on every able Muslim set by Allah.

“And think not that Allah is unaware of what the oppressors do. He only grants them respite until the day the eyes will stare in horror.” (Ibrahim: 42)

- The sanctity of human life is dear to Allah. We have an Islamic duty to protect it.

“That is why We ordained for the Children of Israel that whoever takes a life—unless as a punishment for murder or mischief in the land—it will be as if they killed all of humanity; and whoever saves a life, it will be as if they saved all of humanity. Although Our messengers already came to them with clear proofs, many of them still transgressed afterwards through the land.” (Al-Ma’idah: 32)

- Defending and liberating Muslim land is an obligation on Muslims.

- Al-Aqsa is at the heart of Palestine; It was the first Qibla for Muslims and the third Holy masjid encouraged to travel to for worship. It’s the blessed land, the land of the prophets and the place where Prophet Muhammad ascended to the seventh sky; the blessing of this land transcends space into blessing our life and time.

“Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from Al-Masjid Al-Haram to Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing.” (Al-Israh:1)

KHUTBAH TALKING POINTS

3. *We are one Ummah*

- The killing of our brothers and sisters in Palestine and Lebanon affects us directly as connected members of this ummah.
- The prophet SAW 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”. [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].
- قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه و سلم (مثل المؤمنين في توادهم و تراحمهم و تعاطفهم مثل الجسد؛ إذا اشتكى منه عضو تداعى له سائر الجسد بالشهر والحَمَى) متقف عليه.
- The strength and dignity of our Ummah are highly interconnected with the liberation of Palestine. All Muslims have a responsibility to contribute and support a free Palestine, all within their respective context and means.

4. *The Impact of the Palestinian Struggle in Canada*

- Palestine is not an isolated cause from the challenges our community experiences right here at home. It has become clear that Islamophobia and Anti-Palestinian racism are directly connected and feed one another and are provoked by the same groups.
- The attempts to silence protests, students and anti-genocide advocates shows that the struggle for Palestine is a struggle for our rights and freedoms in Canada. If we do not step up in support of the Palestinian cause, our livelihood will also be impacted as we have seen targeting of Muslims and Arabs on campuses, in big corporations, in health care and media institutions.

KHUTBAH TALKING POINTS

5. Our Responsibility to Act and What We Can Do?

Let those who would sacrifice this life for the Hereafter fight in the cause of Allah. And whoever fights in Allah's cause—whether they achieve martyrdom or victory—We will honour them with a great reward. And what is it with you? You do not fight in the cause of Allah and for oppressed men, women, and children who cry out, "Our Lord! Deliver us from this land of oppressors! Appoint for us a saviour; appoint for us a helper—all by Your grace." (An-Nisa: 74-75)

a. We have a responsibility to:

- Act as Muslims to do our maximum.
- Act because it is our religious duty.
- Defend our brothers and sisters by stopping complicit governments from arming and aiding the aggressors.
- Stand up for justice.
- Speak up for truth.
- Enjoin good and forbid evil (with our hands, our tongues and our hearts as the prophet pbuh said).

b. What can we do?

- Duaa and Prayers: We must dedicate a portion of our personal and collective worship (du'aa, tahajjud, qunoot) to seek Allah's assistance in enabling us to enact justice and alleviating the conditions of our brothers and sisters. This is important but not enough. We have to do more.

*Prophet Muhammad said, "**Beware of the supplication of the oppressed, for there is no barrier between it and Allah.**" [Sahih al Bukhari]*

- Engage and support advocacy to pressure the government to end its complicity in genocide, to put pressure to end the aggression and to contribute to the relief of our brothers and sisters. We need to think long-term and demonstrate that we can reward and punish politicians, we must be principled in how we speak out and how we vote.

KHUTBAH TALKING POINTS

“And do not follow the command of the transgressors, who spread corruption throughout the land, never setting things right.” (Ash-Shu’ara:151-152)

- **Influence Public Opinion:** We must engage in public dialogue (online and in person), change the narrative and increase public awareness with our cause. We must support the youth to carry the cause and spread it in their spaces.

“Oh you who believe, be conscious of Allah and speak words of clear truth.” (Al-Ahzab:70)
“Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching, and argue with them in a way that is best. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided.” (An-Nahl:125)

- **Change Ourselves:** We must seek to challenge ourselves, disrupt our lives a little, and elevate our activism in a consistent way. No pain, no gain. Making change is hard, we are not here to do easy things, we are here to do great things on earth and fulfill the purpose of our creation

“Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.” (Ar-Ra’d:11)

“So do not weaken and do not grieve, and you will be superior if you are [true] believers.” (Al-Imran: 139)

“For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease. Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.” (Ash-Sharh:5-6)

SAMPLE KHUTBAH

الحمد لله رب العالمين القوي المتين والصلاة والسلام على على قائد المجاهدين سيدنا محمد
!وعلى اله وصحبه اجمعين
قال الله تعالى في كتابه الكريم: يا أيها الذين آمنوا اتقوا الله حق تقاته ولا تموتن إلا وأنتم
مسلمون .

يا ايها الناس اتقوا ربكم الذي خلقكم من نفس واحدة وخلق منها زوجها وبث منهما رجالا كثيرا
ونساء واتقوا الله الذي تساءلون به والأرحام إن الله كان عليكم رقيبا
يايها الذين امنوا اتقوا الله وقولوا قولا سديدا يصلح لكم أعمالكم ويغفر لكم ذنوبكم ومن يطع
الله ورسوله فقد فاز فوزا عظيما
اما بعد

قال الله تعالى في سورة النساء:
يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ بِالْقِسْطِ شُهَدَاءَ لِلَّهِ وَلَوْ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِكُمْ أَوِ الْوَالِدِينَ وَالْأَقْرَبِينَ إِن
يَكُنْ غَنِيًّا أَوْ فَقِيرًا فَاللَّهُ أَوْلَىٰ بِهِمَا فَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا الْهَوَىٰ أَن تَعْدِلُوا وَإِن تَلَوُوا أَوْ تَعْرِضُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ
بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرًا

Allah (swt) unequivocally orders the believers in the Qur'an to actively seek justice, in all its forms, whether it's as small as fair dealings in the marketplace or as grand as implementing justice in how nations and tribes interact with one another.

Our brothers and sisters in Palestine and now Lebanon have been undergoing an unjust, oppressive and criminal military campaign for over a year now; they have been calling on the world, they have been calling on Muslim around the world to stand up for them, to do whatever is in their ability to support their pursuit of peace, freedom and justice.

Brothers and sisters, supporting those who need us around the world, and especially actively supporting our brothers and sisters in Palestine is as Islamic as praying and fasting.

SAMPLE KHUTBAH

وعن ابن عمر - رضي الله عنهما: أن رجلاً جاء إلى النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم فقال يا رسول الله: أي الناس أحب إلي الله؟ وأي الأعمال أحب إلى الله؟ فقال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: أحب الناس إلى الله تعالى أنفعهم للناس، وأحب الأعمال إلى الله تعالى سرور تدخله على مسلم، أو تكشف عنه كربة، أو تقضي عنه ديناً، أو تطرد عنه جوعاً، ولأن أمشي مع أخ في حاجة أحب إلي من أن أعتكف في هذا المسجد - يعني مسجد المدينة - شهراً، ومن كف غضبه ستر الله عورته، ومن كظم غيظه - ولو شاء أن يمضيه أمضاه - ملأ الله قلبه رجاء يوم القيامة، ومن مشى مع أخيه في حاجة - حتى يثبتها له - أثبت الله قدمه يوم تزول الأقدام. رواه ابن أبي الدنيا في كتاب: قضاء الحوائج، والطبراني وغيرهما، وحسنه الألباني

The Prophet of Allah told a man who asked him about the best of actions that for him (the Prophet), addressing the need of a brother is more beloved to him than doing i'tikaf in his Masjid (Masjid Nabawi).

Brothers and sisters, what other evidence or proof are we looking for, put yourself in their shoes and tell me how you would like to see the ummah around the world react.

Palestine is not just any cause, the blessed land as Allah (swt) called it many times in the Qur'an which includes Gaza has Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is the first Qiblah for our faith and a destination that we get rewarded for visiting. Praying in Al-Aqsa is rewarded 500 more times than elsewhere. This place was where our Prophet ascended to the seventh sky during Isra and Miraj. This is the only Masjid in the entire world, where all the Prophets visited and prayed, emphasizing its significance in the eyes of Allah to us and the rest of humanity. Palestine is not just history, it's a barometer for the strength and dignity of our ummah, it's the place the Muslim always prioritized liberating and looking after throughout the Khilafah whether at the time of Umar Ibn Al-Khattab in our early history or during Salahuddin Al-Ayoubi reign 800 years ago.

Brothers and sisters, this cause and this land isn't just a responsibility upon our shoulders, it's not just a burden, it is a blessed land as Allah (swt) called it and that blessing could be a cause for blessing in your life and affairs as well.

SAMPLE KHUTBAH

Allah (swt) says in the Qur'an:

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

Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing.

All of this should make us take this issue to heart, we should take it personally. That if I am not personally contributing to seeking justice, freedom, liberation of Palestine and of our brothers and sisters there, that it's me who's losing out, not them. Our brothers and sisters in Gaza have already passed their test, they're victorious in the eyes of Allah, and it's us that are now going through a test; what's happening in Palestine is connected to what's happening here in Canada. The manifestations of Islamophobia, the Anti-Palestinian racism, the silencing of voices whether on the streets or the workplace, the intimidation tactics, we cannot be silent in the face of what's happening over in Palestine or the side effects we're experiencing here in Canada either.

I ask Allah (swt) to enable us to prioritize this cause, allow us to take it seriously, make it part of our day to day life and make its blessing rub off on our personal, professional, and spiritual lives. Ameen!

ادعو الله وانتم موقنون بالإجابة!

SAMPLE KHUTBAH

بسم الله والحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله وعلى آله وصحبه ومن والاه . أما بعد .

Brothers and sisters, let's get practical.

The people of Gaza have not been staying silent, they have been defending themselves as per their God given right and per International Law and Article 51 of the UN Charter. The impact they're able to achieve with very few resources is incredible and they should be commended for their resilience in the face of the oppression they still face a year into this genocidal campaign.

To each is their context and in our context, there is a lot that we can do. Allah blessed us with safety and security, with health and wealth, with freedom to speak and positions of influence to utilize. We should use these means to do what we can from here in Canada to achieve two things:

- 1- Support the pursuit of our brothers and sisters for justice and liberation
- 2- Strengthen the position and influence of our Muslim community here in Canada

But, what can we do?

عن أبي سعيد الخدري رضي الله عنه قال : سمعت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم يقول : (من رأى منكم منكرا فليغيره بيده ، فإن لم يستطع فبلسانه ، فإن لم يستطع فبقلبه ، وذلك أضعف الإيمان) رواه مسلم

The ways we can achieve these objectives are plenty, the Prophet (PBUH) says that whoever witnesses wrongdoing, let him change it with his hand, if he cannot then with his tongue and if he cannot then with his heart.

SAMPLE KHUTBAH

So what can we do with our hands? A lot actually, we must keep this cause alive on the streets, protest this government's complicity and keep Palestine front and centre in the realm of public discourse, we can boycott businesses that are complicit, we must also utilize upcoming opportunities in Federal and provincial elections to vote anyone who was complicit in this genocide out of office, regardless of how we'd be impacted here at home, we must demonstrate strength and that we can reward and punish regardless of party line and however uncomfortable that maybe. Stay tuned for election strategy announcements from political advocacy organizations in the community.

What can we do with our tongues? Talking to your neighbors, engaging on social media, and educating the general public and even our own community, especially the younger generation who we need to raise with the love of Palestine and the love of justice in their hearts.

What can we do with our hearts? Making regular and persistent du'aa for our brothers and sisters, and making our Masajid alive in Qunoot prayers and other acts of worship that are pleasing to Allah (swt).

Brothers and sisters, the bottom line is this, we have no excuses. Not having time is not an excuse, being busy is not an excuse, not having skills is not an excuse. If we're not willing to challenge ourselves now, then when do we think we'll ever do that? If we're not okay to disrupt our lives in some shape way or form now, then are we really sacrificing. It's too easy. No pain, no gain. We must all try harder and try to take our activism up a level. It's been a year and our brothers and sisters in Palestine have not given up, so how could we? If not now, then when?

SAMPLE KHUTBAH

بِنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ
رَبَّنَا أفرغْ عَلَيْنهم صَبْرًا وَثَبَّتْ أقدَامهم وَأَنْصُرهم عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكُفْرِينِ
اللَّهُمَّ اسْتُرْ عَوْرَاتهم وَآمِنْ رُوعَاتهم وَاحْفَظهم مِنْ بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهم وَمِنْ خَلْفهم وَعَنْ أَيْمَانهم وَعَنْ
شِمَائِلهم وَمِنْ فَوْقهم
اللَّهُمَّ مَنِّزِلَ الْكِتَابِ سَرِيعِ الْحِسَابِ مُجْرِيِ السَّحَابِ هَازِمِ الْأَحْزَابِ اهْزِمهم وَزَلِّلهم وَأَنْصُرْنَا
عَلَيْهم

May Allah (swt) enable us to stand for justice and support our brothers and sisters in every way we could!

May Allah allow us to become bold and brave and able to face the challenges our ummah is going through whether here at home or in Palestine and other places around the world!

May Allah give us barakah in our work, enable us to be effective in what we do, and allow us to witness the liberation of Palestine firsthand and be amongst the ones who contributed to it!