

Maulana Syed Muhammad  
Abd-ul-Khabir Azad  
Grand Imam and Khateeb  
Badshahi Mosque, Lahore, Pakistan Chairman  
Interfaith Council for Peace and Harmony, Pakistan  
Dated: 15-10-2018

## The Spirit of Assisi and Geopolitics of Dialogues

نحمده ونصلى على رسوله الكريم اما بعد فا اعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم  
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم  
قل يا اهل الكتاب تعالوا الى كلمه سواء بيننا وبينكم الا نعبد الا الله ولا نشرك به شيئاً (سورة آل عمران)  
وقال الله تبارك وتعالى!  
مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ  
جَمِيعًا (المائدة)  
صدق الله العظيم.

Honorable President!

First of all I am thankful to the blessing of Almighty Allah that my mission, "to contribute for the good" is due to His kindness and blessings. Secondly, I on behalf of Interfaith Council for Peace and Harmony Pakistan, very thankful to the management and leadership of the Community of St Egidio for holding this conference and making it possible, which we see today in shape of this beautiful bouquet; surely it is the sign of sincere leadership. I salute to its leadership.

Respectable Audience!!

The topic that has been given is "THE SPIRIT OF ASSISI AND THE GEOPOLITICS OF DIALOGUE". The topic is comprehensive and really reflects current situation, challenges of the modern world.

In accordance with the topic first I will discuss it in the light of the Holy Quran, The sayings of the Holy Prophet(PBUH)

Distinguished Guests!!!

Islam is the religion of peace and well beings. The word Islam is a substance of Salam or Muslim and its meaning is submission and that is the true peace. Islam is the name of this well being and today the world is in great need of the same. Islam is not only a religion; its complete code of life.

Islam declares one individual murder, the murder of whole humanity and there is no difference or second opinion between Islam and other religions on this issue. This is very clearly stated in the Holy Quran

من قتل نفساً بغير نفس او فساداً في الارض فكما انما قتل الناس جميعاً ومن احياها فكما انما احيا  
الناس جميعاً (المائدة) رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم کی بعثت اور رسالت بھی تمام انسانوں کے لیے تھی۔

The Prophet (PBUH) has said that O people I am the Messenger of Almighty Allah to all of you

قل يا ايها الناس اني رسول الله اليكم جميعاً

When the Prophet(PBUH) is for all the human beings this means that His message is also for the rest of the humanity. The Religion of Islam has emphasized on a society based on kindness and mercy.

The importance of mercy and kindness can be easily understood from the this saying of the Holy Prophet(PBUH).

”من لا يرحم الناس لا يرحمه الله“

The one who is not kind towards the people, Allah will not shower His blessings upon him.

Once a delegation of Christians from najran came to Muhammad(PBUH).

Muhammad(PBUH) let them to stay in Masjid Nabawi and talked with them very politely. And when the time of their worship came Muhammad(PBUH) told them pray and worship as they wish. This is really a great message for all of us. Muhammad(PBUH) is a role model for all of us and who can deny the greatness of His Character.

Whenever it comes to Non Violence and the role of religions, I will talk about my home that whenever some unwanted situation has arisen whether it's the tragedy of APS or the tragic incident of Christen brothers of Joseph Colony or the incident of Kot Radha Kishen or other terrorists attacks; unfortunately these incidents have been given the name of religion. Upon our research and investigation we discovered that these conflicts were not religious conflicts. On these occasions, I took a delegation of the religious scholars and met with the victims of these tragedies. We assembled them in a church and console with victim families and assured them that they will not take rest till the arrest of these culprits. This is the real spirit of Assisi to help the victims and sue and chase the culprits.

We understand that it was very challenging and tragic situation, however, the factual scenario of Pakistan is not indifferent. During the course of the war on terror the nation has suffered a lot; mosques, Imam Bargah, shrine, religious and political gatherings, missionary centers, police stations, army personals and even schools, hospitals had not been spared. 70,000 people have been killed in the war against terror. The armed forces and security agencies personal have written a history with golden words. The newly married wives have lost their husbands. Billions dollars have been lost and the economy has become in shamble conditions. And the unfortunate sponce we have suffered all these sufferings in the war against terrorism.

Mr. President

Pardon me the temerity to declare before this august house that these incidents, tragedies and violence have on relationship with religions. These incidents are nothing except blackmailing religion. The need and demand of the time to tell the people that the religions are the emblems

of peace. Wherever from these terrorists are whether they are from USA, Europe or Pakistan. They have no religions. If they use the name of religion; they are actually animals in the garb of religious community. The Quran states that

أولئك كالأغنام بين هم أضل

These people are like animals rather bitter than animals.

The government, armed forces, security agencies, police personals, and national institutions have made unprecedented sacrifices. The forces are determined in annihilating these terrorists from the country and will not set at rest till the end of this challenge.

President

Today the people, the armed forces, and security agencies are on one page; against terrorism and extremism. We appreciate their services and contribution for this noble cause. Especially the religious scholars have made an effort in the form of Paigham e Pakistan. This compilation is really a great effort and hundreds of Fatwas (religious verdicts). I wish the respected audience may go for a reading or at least the unanimous fatwa and joint declaration. This is the real image and true narrative of Pakistan; to promote religious harmony, respect of humanity and tolerance at all levels.

Today the world is faced problems and challenges and heading towards collective destruction. We need to focus on the causes, factors and remedies as well.

My thesis is very clear about consoling the spirit of Assisi; we need to focus on Dialogue instead of other options. Why not we work on those fronts to create the environment that help in building the peace in the world.

Today we are in need to focus on the teachings of our religions and religious values.

If we work and practice in accordance with our teachings we can have the solutions of our many problems and challenges and can bring a positive change in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

From the resources of our faith, we the faith based and religious community wish to provide hope and strength to all who seek a world free of these issues, challenges and problems. Religion sustains one's capacity to live with danger without being overwhelmed by it; Religion is the will to struggle against obstacles even when they appear insuperable. Ultimately our hope rests in God who gave us life, sustains the world by His power, and has called us to revere the lives of every person and all peoples.

We propose, therefore, to discuss both the religious vision of peace among peoples and nations and the problems associated with realizing this vision in a world of sovereign states, devoid of any central authority and divided by ideology, geography, and competing claims. We believe the religious vision has an objective basis and is capable of progressive realization. Building peace within and among nations is the work of many individuals and institutions; it is the fruit of ideas and decisions taken in the political, cultural, economic, social, military, and legal sectors of life, We believe that the Community of St Egidio, as a community of faith and social institution, has a proper, necessary, and distinctive part to play in the pursuit of peace. This is the true spirit of Assisi and these initiatives will console the Assisi spirit.

Thank you very much.

*Mulana Syed Muhammad  
Abd-ul-Khabir Azad  
Khateeb & Imam  
Badshahi Mosque Lahore.*

Maulana Syed Abdul Khabir Azad  
Grand Imam and Khateeb Badshahi Mosque Lahore,  
Chairman: Interfaith Council for Peace and Harmony  
Pakistan. Cell: 0092 300 9410041  
Email: [badshaheimam@yahoo.com](mailto:badshaheimam@yahoo.com)