

Bismillāh wal-ḥamdulillāh

I had previously understood given that identical measures were being implemented in all countries—that countries have agreements and international treaties which they maybe party to (such as with the WHO), and hence, they implement these measures as part of those agreements. However, this explanation which I spoke with in places, suggests that the rulers are obligated and bound by these treaties and do not have their own free disposal over the affairs and are being coerced.

Rather, the rulers have full disposal over the affairs in their own nations and in full consultation with the scholars, they make whatever decisions they like for their own nation. Likewise, the scholars, they are the ones who derive rulings from the texts and inform the rulers and thus whatever regulations and measures are implemented they are from the full, independent choice and implementation of the rulers and the scholars. The scholars likewise are not bound by anything, or forced with anything. In this way, every Muslim nation, with its rulers and scholars has full disposal over how it decides to deal with the current situation. The rulers and scholars of every country are the ones who deal with the affairs of their own nation.

Thus, I take back the speech and I ask Allāh’s forgiveness and repent to Him for this slip, and I emphasize what I have said previously and have repeated often:

“Muslims must obey the restrictions placed by the rulers from the angle of obeying those in authority because they have made determinations based upon the information available to them and they must be supported and aided in all of that by their populations. To disobey them is a sin and lead to harm and corruption.” (29<sup>th</sup> March 2020).

And also:

“This is from the angle of obeying those in authority which Allāh has commanded Muslims with in His Noble Book. There is tremendous blessing and goodness in this and Allāh will grant relief and provide a way out for those who obey His command. To disobey the rulers is a sin and leads to harm and corruption. The Muslim rulers—may Allāh protect them and grant them tawfīq—have taken pragmatic and prudent measures out of genuine concern for their subjects, not as otherwise claimed by the Khawārij and Ḥizbīs on account of their doctrinal bias and partisan hatred.” (30<sup>th</sup> March 2020)

This is what I said as part of a refutation of some people of ḥizbiyyah who started attacking Saudi Arabia for placing restrictions during 2020, and shows that the Muslim rulers make their own decisions and they do so out of genuine concern for their subjects. And any and all similar speech that opposes the above is incorrect.

May Allāh make good mention of His Prophet and grant him peace and safety.

Abu ‘Iyaad  
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