

**DON'T LET HUMANITY DIE IN ALEPPO!**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ

وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

وَاللَّهُ فِي عَوْنِ الْعَبْدِ مَا كَانَ الْعَبْدُ فِي عَوْنِ أَخِيهِ

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا حَبِيبَ اللَّهِ،

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ...

**Brothers and Sisters!**

We observed Mawlid Night altogether on last Sunday night.

In the verse I have recited at the beginning of my khutbah, the Almighty enjoins: **“There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent example for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and who remembers Allah often.”**<sup>[1]</sup> May our Lord never let us veer away even for a moment from the example and blessed path of His Messenger. May He never let our hearts lack the enormous respect and fondness we have towards our Prophet, the grace for the worlds. May He grant us to be among those who understand him accurately, know him correctly and introduce to others as such, and properly benefit from the nice things he introduced to humanity.

**Honorable Believers!**

Imagine a city where bombs fall on people's houses and hunger falls on their dinner tables. Imagine a city where chemical weapons are being mercilessly experimented on people.

Imagine a city where dozens of innocent people –without exception for women, children, elderly- are killed every day. Imagine a city where the cries of the persecuted and the aggrieved shatter the heavens every moment.

**Brothers and Sisters!**

Imagine a city where hospitals are destroyed under heavy bombing, where the wounded cannot be treated due to desperation, where the cries for help by those seeking medicine echo in the streets.

Imagine a city where there is no bread to have, no water to drink, and no home to take shelter, where people freeze to death.

**Brothers and Sisters!**

This city is Aleppo. Today, a civilization, a history is being destroyed in Aleppo in front of the entire humankind. An ancient city is being wiped off the map with its residents. We are at a point where words fail. We as the humankind are witnessing one of the greatest tragedies in history, an unnameable plight.

**Brothers and Sisters!**

Let's ask ourselves: Will we keep silent as the persecutors gather victories and the persecuted wait before wire fences? Will we as world's Muslims gulp before the holders of power? Will we do nothing but resent, condemn, weep, and grunt?

Of course not! We will keep on voicing the truth, calling people to mercy and conscience, becoming the voice of the persecuted and hope of the aggrieved. We will keep on so that humanity may not die!

We will surely hear the devastating screams of children, the desperate cries of mothers, and the wails of fathers and elderlies in Aleppo. We will hear them so that humanity may not die!

We will certainly not turn down the hands reaching out to us from Aleppo with one last hope. We will not turn them down, so that humanity may not die!

**Brothers and Sisters!**

We have adopted the following hadith as a motto: **“As long as one helps a brother, Allah helps him as well...”**<sup>[2]</sup> Today, it's Aleppo's turn. It's our duty again to keep Aleppo alive and scream that humanity is not dead. It's our duty to show our brothers and sisters that they are not alone and to be a beacon of hope for them.

**Brothers and Sisters!**

The Presidency of Religious Affairs leads a new campaign bringing together non-governmental organizations for the persecuted and the aggrieved in Aleppo. We expect your support in this campaign launched with the call “Don't Let Humanity Die in Aleppo!” May the Almighty Lord bless you for the support you gave and will give.

[1] Al-Ahزاب, 33/21.

[2] Muslim, Zikir, 38.