

PRESS RELEASE

QURAN-BURNING MISADVENTURE: A CALL FOR CAUTION

We received with dismay, news about plans by a U.S Pastor to burn copies of the Holy Quran in commemoration of the September 11 terrorist attacks. This intention by Terry Jones, Pastor of the Dove World Outreach Centre in Gainesville, Florida is an inflammatory move that must be stopped.

For the avoidance of doubt, burning the Quran is completely antithetical to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Never in His lifetime and nowhere in the scriptures had Christ ever encouraged or supported attacks on adherents and sacred objects of other religions. When Jesus' disciples asked the Master to call down fire that would consume those who rejected Christ, Jesus rebuked them saying "you don't know the manner of spirit you have" (Luke 9:51-56). The gospel of Jesus emphasizes love and tolerance even for those with dissenting religious views.

Contrary to the pastor's claim that the Quran burning is meant to combat radicalism, the action will only fuel religious extremism. It has a potential of causing enmity and attacks by Moslems especially in crisis-prone areas of the world.

If the idea is an attempt by the American preacher to attract attention to himself, then it is time to nip it in the bud since he has received enough recognition already. There are more ethical ways to pay homage to victims of the infamous 9/11.

America's reputation for free expression must not be taken to such ridiculous heights. Christians all over the world should arise in condemnation of that plan and call Pastor Terry Jones to order.