



**Final Statement and Recommendations
of the Medical Fiqh Symposium:**

**Shariah Rulings
regarding
the Use of Covid-19 Vaccines, the Purchase of these
Vaccines and the Financing of their Distribution with
Zakat funds**

held via videoconference

Monday 10 Rajab 1442 / 22 February 2021

10:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m., Mecca Time.

First: Final Statement

Praise to Allah Lord of the worlds, and may the blessings and peace be upon whom He sent as a mercy, our master Muhammad, upon his family, companions, and those who follow them until the Day of Judgment

With the grace of Allah, the Secretariat General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) held via videoconference on Monday 10 Rajab 1442 (22 February 2021) a medical fiqh symposium on *Shariah rulings regarding the use of Covid-19 vaccines, the purchase of these vaccines and the financing of their distribution with Zakat funds*, following two questions received from the OIC Secretariat General and the Islamic Development Bank.

The symposium brought together several eminent scholars who are also members and experts of the Academy (list of names attached), and opened with a recitation of the Holy Quran.

H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, President of the Academy and Advisor to the Royal Saudi Court, delivered the opening address in which he welcomed the distinguished participants and thanked them for accepting the invitation of the Secretariat General of the Academy to participate in the medical fiqh symposium.

Afterwards, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, presented in the keynote address the first question of the Secretariat General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the second question of the Islamic Development Bank, which both read:

- 1) **What is the Shariah ruling on the use of Covid-19 vaccines?**

- 2) **What is the Shariah ruling on the purchase of Covid-19 vaccines and the financing of their distribution to the poor using Zakat funds?**

After presenting the two questions to the jurisconsults and doctors, the seminar's audience listened to a detailed presentation of the participating

doctors who gave essential explanations on the most important substances that make up the currently available vaccines against Covid-19 from a medical point of view. Then the audience listened to the interventions of the jurisconsults on the questions mentioned above.

A committee was therefore formed among the symposium participants to formulate its recommendations. The Secretariat General of the Academy contacted the participating jurisconsults and doctors in order to submit their proposals on the recommendations. The Academy received many interesting proposals, and after review, the following recommendations were concluded:

Second Recommendations

1) Components of Current Covid-19 Vaccines

Specialists in pharmacology and preventive medicine confirm that the vaccines available against Covid-19 consist of the messenger RNA (ribonucleic acid) of the "SARS CoV2" virus, recombinant DNA material, the common cold virus (adenovirus), other viruses, bacteria, compounds of quillaja tree and plants (as bioreactors), in addition to other auxiliary substances such as potassium, sodium, magnesium, phosphate, acetic acid, tromethamine hydrochloride, diacetate, polysorbate, sucrose, lipids, cholesterol, histidine, ethanol and water.

Therefore, these vaccines do not contain pig or human derivatives, and during their production, chemical reactions and transformations occur between their components, which fall within the Shariah rulings regarding metamorphosis in Islamic jurisprudence.

2) Shariah Ruling on the Use of Current Vaccines

Based on the above medical description of the current vaccines, their use for vaccination against Covid-19 is **permissible according to Sharia law**.

Moreover, **vaccination becomes mandatory if the government obligates it**, because the government's rulings are commended by upholding public interests.

On this basis, this symposium calls on Muslims around the world to comply with the instructions issued by the governments of their countries and by the competent health authorities in their communities, in order to implement the Shariah objective of the preservation of life, which is one of the necessary purposes in Islamic law.

3) Shariah Ruling on the Use of Zakat funds for the purchase of Covid-19 Vaccines

After examination and review of the Shariah-based evidences, the supreme purposes, the general maxims, the finalities of actions, the jurisprudential efforts (Ijtihad) of the renowned jurisconsults, past and present, on the meanings of the eight categories of the Zakat recipients mentioned in the Quranic verse:

"Zakat expenditures are only for the poor and for the needy and for those employed to collect [zakat] and for bringing hearts together [for Islam] and for freeing captives [or slaves] and for those in debt and for the cause of Allah and for the [stranded] traveler - an obligation [imposed] by Allah. And Allah is Knowing and Wise." Al-Tawbah 60.

The symposium recommends the following:

(A) It is permissible to use Zakat funds as this is contained in the above category of "and in the cause of Allah"; as a matter of fact, the Covid-19 pandemic threatens all humanity, and it must be fought with all the scientific and material means that are permitted. Therefore, the ruler (government) has the right to use the Zakat funds for the elimination of this danger.

(B) **To say:** it is legitimate under Sharia law to use Zakat funds to purchase vaccines and finance their distribution, **does not allude to spending all Zakat funds for that purpose.** Indeed, only a part of its funds would be spent for that while taking into account the rest of the beneficiaries based on the evaluation of interests and needs.

4) **General Recommendations**

1- Calling on the states of the world, especially those that are able to cooperate in making vaccines available to countries that cannot purchase them, to finance their distribution to the needy people of the world, because the fight against Covid-19 must be global and for all the countries of the world so that everyone will be protected against the pandemic, in sha Allah.

2- Calling on states, organizations, health authorities, media and all humanity to consider vaccination as a humanitarian issue, which requires cooperation and solidarity in vaccines distribution between countries and humans in a simple and accessible manner.

3- Calling on scholars, preachers, imams, orators and counsellors to advise people to respond favorably to the Covid-19 vaccination campaigns and to warn against rumours and irregular fatwas that sow confusion about the legitimacy of the use of these vaccines, which have been medically proven to be effective and capable of protecting humans against this pandemic.

4- Calling on Muslims to return to Allah, to repent even more, to seek for forgiveness, to give more charities and acts of obedience, so that Allah may spare this pandemic from us and the world, and may He accept those who have perished because of this pandemic. May Allah grant them His forgiveness and mercy, and may He hasten the healing of the sick, protect us and all mankind, for He is All-Capable.

We ask Allah to hasten the end of this pandemic and may wellness, security, and peace prevail over all peoples.

May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon our prophet Muhammad, his family and all his companions.

(statement and recommendations published by the Secretariat General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in Jeddah on Sunday 22 Rajab 1442, corresponding to 07 March 2021

List of Participants

- H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, member of the Council of Senior Scholars, Imam at al-Masjid al-Haram, and President of the Academy.
- H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy.
- H.E. Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Muslim al-Khalayla, representative member of the Academy, Minister of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs, and Holy Sites in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- H.Em. Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamad al-Khalili, Grand Mufti of the Sultanate of Oman.
- H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saad bin Nasser al-Shathri, Advisor to the Saudi Royal Court, member of the Council of Senior Scholars.
- H.E. Dr. Hussein al-Gezairy, former Minister of Health in Saudi Arabia.
- H.E. Fahd bin Saad al-Majid, Secretary General of the Council of Senior Scholars, Saudi Arabia.
- H.E. Sheikh Prof. Saad bin Turki al-Khathlan, former member of the Council of Senior Scholars, Professor at al-Imaam University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Muhammad al-Khanein, former member of the Council of Senior Scholars.
- H.Em. Dr. Ahmed bin Abdulaziz al-Haddad, member of the Academy, and Grand Mufti of Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- H.Em. Dr. Muhammad Taqi Usmani, member of the Academy, President of the High Justice of the Republic of Pakistan, Vice-President of Dar-Uloom University Karachi, Pakistan.

- H.Em. Sheikh Dr. Ali Jumuah Mohamed, member of the Academy, former Grand Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- H.Em. Dr. Hamdati Maa' al-Ain, member of the Academy and the Constitutional Council of the Kingdom of Morocco.
- H.Em. Dr. Mohamed al-Bichari, member of the Academy, SG of the World Council of Muslim Communities.
- H.Em. Dr. Abdulatif Mohamed Aal-Mahmoud, Academy expert, member of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs, Kingdom of Bahrain.
- H.Em. Dr. al-Ayachi Fedad, Academy expert, senior expert at IRTI, Islamic Development Bank.
- H.Em. Dr. Ahmed Mubalaghi, President of the Research and Studies Center at Qom, Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Dr. Abdulbari Mashal, President of Raqaba Group, United States.
- Prof. Said bin Muhammad Bagdash, Professor at Islamic Studies Department, Taibah University, Madinah, KSA.
- Dr. Yaqub al-Mazru, Epidemiology Consultant, President of the of Islamic Advisory Group's Executive Committee.
- Dr. Abdullah Aljoudi, Social Medicine Consultant, President of Ethics Committee at King Fahd University Hospital at Khobar, KSA.
- Prof. Ilham Bajunaid, Fiqh and its Roots Professor, King Abdulaziz University.
- Mr. Abdullah Muhammad, Islamic Development Bank.
- Prof. Mayada Hasan, Fiqh and its Roots Assistant Professor, King Faisal University.
- Dr. Shadiya Mohamed Kaaki, Fiqh Assistant Professor, King Abdulaziz University.

- Mr. Mohamed Mondher Chouk, Directors of Cabinet and Protocols, IIFA.
- Dr. Abdulqahir Qamar, Director of Research and Fatwah Department, IIFA.
- Sh. Abdullah al-Tamimi, Directors of Sessions and Conferences Department, IIFA.
- Mr. Adnan al-Fihri, Director of Finance and Administrative Affairs Department, IIFA.
- Mr. Mohamed Walid al-Idrisi, Director of Public Relations, Media and Communication, IIFA.
- Mr. Moez al-Riyahi, Interim Director of Financing, Investment, and Projects, IIFA.
- Dr. Ismail Cebaci, Head of Research and Encyclopedia Department, IIFA.
- Dr. Mohamed Mostafa Shoaib, Head of Fatwah and Studies Department, IIFA.
- Mrs. Sarah Amjad Hussein, Public Relations Supervisor, IIFA.
- Mr. Mourad al-Talili, Communication Advisor, IIFA.
- Mr. Hasan Kumait, Head of IT Division, IIFA.
- Mr. Amjad Mustafa al-Mansi, Head of Protocols Division, IIFA.
- Mr. Saad Salahudin Samar, IT Supervisor, IIFA.
- Mr. Walid Mubarak al-Hadhrami, Supervisor at the Sessions and Conferences Department, IIFA.