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Jamiatul Ulama

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COUNCIL OF MUSLIM THEOLOGIANS
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Jamiatul Ulama South Africa's View on Ulama Appearing on Television Clarified

The recent statement by the Jamiatul Ulama South Africa (JUSA) regarding Ulama appearing on television has been misunderstood as the Jamiat's approval and encouragement of owning and watching television. The JUSA's position with regards to the harms of television is clear. Television erodes our modesty; it weakens our imaan, it is a means of committing zinaa of the eyes and attracts the displeasure of Allah. The greatest tragedy is that we have become immune to the sins we commit while watching television, some of which are:

- Watching immorality, nudity, illicit sex, pornography, etc
- Listening to obscene language and music
- Incitement to fornicate and acceptance of aggression, and deceit as a mode of behaviour
- Diversion from the remembrance of Allah and the hereafter
- Erosion of hayaa and respect

Despite the very harmful and detrimental impact of television, it is an extremely powerful medium used to create hatred, exploit prejudice and to misinform. *"The average person spends about nine hours a day using some type of media, which is arguably in excess of anything we would have envisioned 10 years ago."* (Ball State's Center for Media Design)

The propaganda value of television has a two-fold impact with specific regards to Muslims. It has been used to sow seeds of mistrust, hatred and to malign Muslims and Islam in the eyes of non-Muslims. It has also been used by unqualified Muslim 'authorities' to mislead the Muslims themselves by pronouncing on matters of Fiqh and by misinterpreting the Quran. The harsh reality is that:

- The masses are swayed by the constant flow of misinformation which threatens their aqeedah
- There are scores of so called 'scholars' from deviant sects pronouncing on matters of faith
- The negative portrayal of Islam and Muslims is creating an identity crisis among unsuspecting Muslims

Operating in Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Free State and Northern Cape Provinces

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The misrepresentation of Islam has prompted some Ulama who understand their role of providing leadership to the masses to look at ways and means to combat the free flow of misinformation on television. These Ulama have taken their cue from the following leading luminaries:

- **Moulana As'ad Madni (ra):** Former Ameer of Jamiatul Ulama India & Shura member of Darul Uloom Deoband
- **Moulana Arshad Madni:** Present Ameer of Jamiatul Ulama India & senior ustaadh at Darul Uloom Deoband
- **Qadhi Mujahidul Islam (ra):** Chief Judge Imaratul Shariah of the State of Bihar and Orissa
- **Mufti Nizamuddin Shamzi (ra):** Former Sheikhul Hadith of Madrasa Newtown Karachi
- **Mufti Rafi Uthmani:** Principal of Darul Uloom Karachi
- **Mufti Taqi Uthmani:** Former Judge of the Shariah Court & Sheikhul Hadith – Darul Uloom Karachi
- **Mufti Jameel Thanvi (ra):** Former Chief Mufti, Jaamia Ashrafia Lahore
- **Moulana Saalim Saheb:** Principal of Darul Uloom Deoband (Waqf) & Son of Qari Tayob Saheb the former rector of Darul Uloom Deoband
- **Moulana Fazlur Rahman of Pakistan:** President of Jamiatul Ulama Pakistan
- **Moulana Abdul Hafiz Makki:** A renowned and leading aalim of Makkah Mukarramah

The following *Ulama* also share the view of permissibility:

- Qazi Abdul Jalil
- Moulana Riyaz Ahmad Salafi
- Dr Quadratullah Baqwi
- Mufti Mahboob Ali Wajeahi
- Moulana Sultan Ahmad Islahi
- Dr Abdul Azim Islahi
- Moulana Azizur Rahman
- Moulana Abu Sufyan Miftahi
- Mufti Wasim Ahmad
- Moulana Zafar Alam Nadwi
- Moulana Khurshid Ahmad Azami
- Moulana Asjad Nadwi
- Moulana Shafiqur Rahman Nadwi
- Mufti Sabahuddin Malik Falahi
- Moulana Mustafa Qasmi

All of these men of Islamic learning hold that the establishment of the TV station with the sole object of defending Islam and Islamic teachings and propagate the message of Islam is a right step in the right direction. To some it is even commendable, even a religious obligation. The only provision is that it must be free from the things indisputably forbidden.

One hundred and fifty Ulama hailing from the various Darul Iftaas of India attended 8th Fiqh Conference of the Jamiatul Ulama Hind's Juristic Research Division in Bangalore (27-29 April 2005) wherein the issue of television was debated among other issues. Resolution No (2) of this conference regarding television states that:

'If there is an attack against the fundamental beliefs of Islam or against Muslims themselves and, it is made via the TV medium, and, not providing an answer to this onslaught will risk either an incorrect impression of Islam being created or doubts regarding Islam being created in the minds of Muslims; or severe harm being perpetrated against Muslims, then, it would be permissible to appear on TV on the basis of necessity as well as a defensive ploy.'

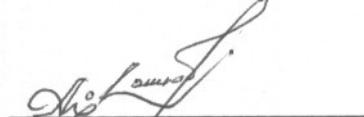
It must be noted that only one participant out of more than one-hundred-and-fifty Ulama had a reservation about the resolution.

On the question of the establishment of dedicated da'wah TV channels, the Islamic Fiqh Academy (India) reports about a resolution taken at the 12th seminar of the academy's seminar series:

"Another pertinent question relates to those channels, which have been established with the sole pious objective of religion and Da'wah and those, which are in the process of being launched. Is the establishment and drawing benefits from such channels, which are free from all sorts of vulgarities and obscenities permissible, or not? Almost all the participants of the Seminar have voted in favour of it while a handful of them do not favour it even under such conditions." (Islamic Fiqh Academy (India). 2007. *Juristic Decisions on Contemporary Issues*. p.191. New Delhi: IFA Publications.

JUSA reiterates that it does not promote watching television and appeals to the public to be aware of the indisputable harms of television. However, JUSA's position also takes into account the divergent views of Ulama regarding the use of television. Based on these views, we cannot condemn ulama who appear on television for religious purposes.

On behalf of **Jamiatul Ulama South Africa**



Ayoob Kachwee (Moulana)
Vice President

23 Sha'baan 1433 (13 July 2012)