## From Gaza to Sudan...

"When we bestow favours upon Man, he turns away, acting arrogantly. And when difficulty afflicts him, he makes endless Du'ā for good." (Qur'ān Karīm, 41/51)

The brief lull in the brutal persecution of our brothers and sisters in Gaza should not make us complacent. The treachery of the Jews is proverbial, and the fact that the ceasefire is constantly being violated is sufficient proof for us not to have any great expectations of them.

Besides, the Ummah is faced with assaults on multiple fronts. While our eyes are turned towards Gaza, the relentless slaughter of our brothers and sisters in Sudan continues, unabated and unknown. Estimates are of more than 10 million people displaced, and over 500 000 children dead due to starvation. One cannot possibly fathom the wickedness of the UAE-backed militia. There are numerous accounts of women violated and murdered in the presence of their husbands, brothers and sons. Severe, unbearable torture and merciless killings are the order of the day.

Similarly, Muslims are suffering in China, Yemen, Syria, India, Myanmar, and only Allāh Ta'ālā knows how many other countries.

This is a time for an increase in Du'ā', A'māl, Sadaqah, and other efforts. At the very least, we should remain consistent with our previous A'māl. We cannot be content and relaxed while the Ummah faces relentless persecution.

Amongst the best we can do is to stay away from the disobedience of Allāh Ta'ālā, especially open and brazen sins.

Allāh Ta'ālā says: "Corruption has appeared on land and sea as a result of what people have earned through the actions of their (own) hands, so that Allāh may cause them to taste (the consequences of) some of their deeds, and so perhaps they might return (to the Right Path) (Qur'ān Karīm, 30/41).

We should draw attention to and assist in alleviating the plight of the Ummah by employing whatever means are available. However, in doing so, the protection of Dīn should always be our primary objective.

We cannot break Allāh Ta'ālā's commands while hoping for His assistance. Community multi-faith gatherings and rallies with intermingling of genders and music will be ineffective, or rather, counterproductive. Gatherings where anyone besides Allāh Ta'ālā is called upon cannot possibly aid the cause of the Muslims.

However, a seemingly small effort in accordance with the command of Allāh Ta'ālā and the Sunnah, will be exceptionally effective in attracting His Mercy and help.

In conclusion, the conditions around us shouldn't create a state of despair. A Mu'min will always be tested.

Allāh Ta'ālā says: "Do people think that they will be left to say: 'We believe', and they will not be tested?" (Qur'ān Karīm, 29/2)

Likewise, Islām and the Muslims will always prevail.

Allāh Ta'ālā says: "Do not falter, nor grieve, for you will have the upper hand, if you are indeed (true) Mu'minīn." (Qur'ān Karīm, 3/139)

May Allāh Ta'ālā unite the Muslims on truth, and may His divine assistance be with the believers wherever they may be. Āmīn.

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