**DATE: June 15, 2018**

**EID AL-FITR**

**Brothers and Sisters!**

We feel deeply sad about leaving the Holy Ramadan behind, which captured our hearts with its mercy and forgiveness, and made us experience again the awareness of being a servant to Allah and the peace of worshiping Him. But we also feel the joy of waking up to this blessed morning of Eid Al-Fitr, having attained the three holy months, the holy nights and the sultan of the eleven months. Eternal praise be to our Almighty Lord, who let us reach the Eid. May our Eid be blessed.

**Honorable Believers!**

In the verse I have recited, Our Almighty Lord enjoins, **“And hold firmly to the rope of Allah (the Qur’an) all together and do not become divided. And remember the favor of Allah upon you –when you were enemies and He brought your hearts together and you became, by His favor, brothers. And you were on the edge of a pit of the Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus does Allah make clear to you His verses that you may be guided.”[[1]](#endnote-1)**

And in the hadith I have read, our Prophet (s.a.w.) defines us as such, **“A faithful believer to a faithful believer is like the bricks of a wall, enforcing each other.”[[2]](#endnote-2)**

**Honorable Brothers and Sisters!**

We have reached this Eid after days of fasting, abundant iftars, and sleepless suhurs. We have struggled with our nafs throughout Ramadan only in hopes of attaining our Lord’s countenance. We have started the test of patience with suhur and completed it with iftar. We have had our share of unity and solidarity from tarawih, and of freshness from sadaqa and infaq. We have fed our souls by the recitation of the Qur’an. While we went back to 14 centuries ago with muqabala, we have recited, pondered, drawn lessons, and acquired direction. Thanks to Ramadan, we have grasped once again the value of being contented with less, and sharing. Finally, we have reached the Eid–one of the most valuable stations in our journey of life. Today it is time to be grateful for our Lord’s unique blessings, and share our peace and happiness.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters!**

In days of Eid, we once again feel deeply the values and principles of Islam, which are a blessing for the humanity, and the honor and responsibility of being a Muslim. For believers who refrain from frailties of nafs in imsak, this Eid is a gift which comes together with the iftar. Eid is a return to our nature and turning towards our essence, following a material and spiritual purification. Eid is worship, salutation, supplication, silat al-rahim, habituation, and brotherhood. Eid is the time for remembering our elders, relatives, friends and neighbors whom we neglect at times because of daily constraints. Eid is the time for fondling an orphan’s head, visiting the forlorn people, putting a smile on the faces of the needy, and spend time with the sick people. It is every believer’s duty in Eid to spread this merriment as much as possible, and to salve the broken hearts.

**Honorable Brothers and Sisters!**

Let us remember that Ramadan is an opportunity and Eid is a reward. Let us open our hearts to each other just as we open up our dining tables. Let us build bridges of trust and sincerity by ending resentments and discontents. Let us take the first step and go to those who do not come to us, call those who do not call us. Let us hug each other, turning our back to hatred, rage, grudge, and malice.

Come, let us go through the gates of Heaven with the blessings of our parents. Let us make up to our spouses with whom we take the burden of life together with its ups and downs. Let us make our children happy and work for our families to attain Allah’s countenance.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters!**

Let us remember and send salat wa salam to our Beloved Prophet who personally invited all believers –the young and the old, the kids and the elders, the men and the women, the rich and the poor, the married and the single, and brought them all together in the morning of Eid at the mosque. Just as our Prophet who did not deprive any member of the Ummah of being united with the Salat al-Eid, being illuminated with the Eid Khutbah and refreshing with the Eid Takbir, let us strive for our nation and the Ummah. Let us pray to Our Exalted Lord for the salvation of our brothers and sisters who cannot enjoy the Eid in the shadow of the guns, and cannot know of suhur or iftar while suffering under tyranny and oppression.

**Honorable Muslims!**

## On this Eid, let us follow this divine advice, “The believers are but brothers.”[[3]](#endnote-3) and strengthen our unity and solidarity. Let us strive to be perfect believers by desiring for others what we desire for ourselves. Let us not forget that we believe the same God, the same Book, and the same Prophet, and we face the same Qiblah. Let us remember that the real Eid, peace, salvation and justice will be achieved on Earth with our hardwork.

**Brothers and Sisters!**

## Following the order of Allah Almighty, “And worship your Lord until there comes to you the certainty (death).”[[4]](#endnote-4), let us continue the spiritual gains we have acquired during Ramadan throughout our lives. Let us reach many Eids during which we will observe the borders of haram and halal, and dedicate ourselves for the Qur’an, and to the benefit of Islam and the humanity just as we do when we fast. May this Eid conduce toward our unity, solidarity and brotherhood, and peace and prosperity in the Islamic world, and salvation and guidance for the humanity. Amin.

1. Al-i ‘Imran, 3/103. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Bukhari, Salat, 88; Muslim, Birr wa Sila, 65. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Hujurat, 49/10. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Hijr, 15/99.

 ***General Directorate of Religious Services*** [↑](#endnote-ref-4)