

**INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC FIQH ACADEMY**

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09/08/2009

**H.E. Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu  
Secretary General of the  
Organization of the Islamic Conference**

*As-salam alaykum warahmatullah wa barakatuh:*

Sequel to the OIC General Secretariat's Note no. OIC/ST-16(19)/2009/004060 of 11 July 2009, seeking the IIFA Secretariat's clarification on vaccination against polio, the Academy issued a statement in this regard, a copy of which is transmitted to your Excellency herewith.

May Allah guide us to do His will and include this effort in our scale of good deeds.

Excellency, please accept my sincere regards and appreciation.

**Professor Dr Abdul Salam Dawud Al Abadi  
Secretary of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy**

**BISMILAHİ AR-RAHMAN AR-RAHEEM**

**STATEMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC FIQH  
ACADEMY TO ENCOURAGE VACCINATION AGAINST POLIO**

All praise be to Allah. May the peace and blessings of Allah be on the messenger of Allah, our master Muhammad and on all his family members and companions.

The Secretariat of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) has seen the content of the resolutions adopted at Organization of the Islamic Conference sessions at the levels of leaders, presidents and ministers of health, with the aim of eradicating polio and raising awareness among Muslims on the need to be free from the disease, in addition to the benefits of vaccination against the disease, as well as its danger, as seen in the thousands of children who have been affected and have thus been exposed to various forms of physical handicap.

Based on the clarifications sought by the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference as contained in its Note to the IIFA number OIC/ST-16(19)/2009/004060 dated 11 July 2009, and in support of the efforts being made to eradicate polio through the ministries of health in member states and in collaboration with relevant authorities;

Having considered the reports issued by specialized medical agencies, the IIFA wishes to explain that vaccination against polio has been proven to be a useful and common practice, and received by all children of the world, whether from the east or from the west. Those reports have confirmed that vaccination campaigns have been successful by the grace of Allah in lowering the spread of disease among children in the Muslim world by more than 25%. The reports also indicate that failure to vaccinate in some countries has led to hundreds of children being infected with polio. Furthermore, it has led to the virus being transmitted by travelers to neighbouring Muslim countries. According to the reports, intensified campaigns in outlying regions can produce more positive results, even though they warn that the campaigners are facing serious difficulties in convincing some parents who, due to misunderstanding, perceive vaccination as a cause of infertility among girls. After having ascertained from trusted medical specialists that these are

unfounded rumours, the ministries of health in Islamic countries are convinced that those vaccinations are free of any harm.

Bearing in mind the danger of this disease on children and that it is a contagious disease which spreads among children in various ways, and when a child is affected by the disease, it remains with him for the rest of his life, handicapped and requiring special and continuous care; he may also be dependent on others; the disease could also cause him psychological and social injury.

The International Islamic Fiqh Academy calls on the relevant agencies in the ministries of health in Muslim countries to carry on the campaigns for vaccination against the disease. It also calls on parents to vaccinate their children against it, as a matter of urgency for the following reasons:

I – Allah has been gracious to mankind, having created him in the best of forms. Allah says in the Qur'an; **((We have indeed created man in the best of moulds))** *Qur'an, Chapter 95 Verse 4*. Allah also praised His prophet Zakariyya (P.B.U.H.) when he prayed to Allah for good offspring. Supplication for good offspring includes physical wellbeing and soundness. Allah says: **((There did Zakariya pray to his Lord, saying: "O my Lord! Grant unto me from Thee a progeny that is pure: for Thou art He that heareth prayer!))** *Qur'an, Chapter 3 Verse 38*.

II - Allah makes it compulsory for human beings to safeguard and maintain the soundness of their bodies and to avoid as much as possible all that could harm the body. Allah says: **((...and make not your own hands contribute to (your) destruction; but do good; for Allah loveth those who do good.))** *Qur'an, Chapter 2 Verse 195*.

Allah also prohibits man from killing his children through any form of killing, which includes nonchalance about what could harm them. Allah says: **((Kill not your children for fear of want: We shall provide sustenance for them as well as for you. Verily the killing of them is a great sin.))** *Qur'an, Chapter 17 Verse 31*. Thus safeguarding and preserving life from anything that could imperil it is one of the emphatic duties of the Islamic Sharia. Allah says:

**((On that account: We ordained for the Children of Israel that if any one slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - it would be as if he slew the whole people: and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people.)) Qur'an, Chapter 5 Verse 32.**

This reiterates the established rule in the Sharia of prohibiting the initiation or return of harm in all its forms. This is the text of a prophetic tradition narrated by Ibn Abbas saying: *The Messenger of Allah (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said: There shall be no harming of one another neither in the first instance or in return.* Reported by Imams Ahmad in his *Musnad*, Hakim in his *Al-Mustadrak*, among others.

III - Islam encourages man to seek the means of power and to take up whatever could be beneficial to him. Abu Huraira, May Allah be pleased with him narrated: *The messenger of Allah said: The strong believer is better and more beloved to Allah than the weak Muslim, and in all that is good seek that which will benefit you...* Reported by Muslim in his authentic collection under the chapter: *Instruction to seek strength and to shun lethargy and dependence.*

IV – Islam has placed a heavy responsibility on parents towards their children, both boys and girls, especially those who are yet to attain maturity. Many prophetic traditions have been reported in this regard, including:

- The narration by Abdullah Ibn Umar (May Allah be pleased with both of them) who said: I heard the Messenger of Allah saying: *"Each of you is a shepherd and responsible for his flock; the Imam is a shepherd and responsible for his flock; the man among his family is a shepherd and responsible for his flock; the woman in her husband's house is a shepherd and is responsible for her flock."* Reported by Bukhari and Muslim.
- Abdullah Ibn Umar narrated: I heard the Messenger of Allah saying: *"It is enough a sin for a man to lose someone under his sustenance."*

V – Many traditions have been reported concerning encouragement to seek treatment and all means of cure and remedy including the one narrated by Abu Huraira, may Allah be pleased with him from the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be Upon Him) Allah has not created any ailment except He

also created its remedy, reported by Bukhari under the chapter: [Allah has not created any ailment except He also created its remedy]. In another narration by Usama Ibn Sharik, may Allah be pleased with him, he said: I came to the Prophet Peace and Blessings of Allah be Upon Him and his companions and found them transfixed as if birds have patched on their heads, I greeted them and sat down, then nomadic Arabs came from here and there saying: O messenger of Allah, can we seek healing and he replied: "*seek cure for Allah has not made any ailment without a cure except senility.*" Reported by Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi and Ahmad.

VI – Vaccinating children against polio is a preventive treatment against the disease that is feared before it strikes, which in contemporary times is termed preventive medicine. Islam recognizes this principle and, in this regard, the Prophet was reported to have said: "*Whoever eats 7 of Madina dates, first thing in the morning will not be harmed by magic or poison.*" Reported by Bukhari under the chapter: Cure with Al 'Ajwa. He also endorsed same through reports on the rules of quarantine during *plagues*. *The Prophet said: "If you hear of a plague in a place, do not go there; and if it occurs where you are, do not leave such a place."* Reported by Bukhari under the chapter on plague.

Islam calls for the utilization of research and scientific accomplishments that make life easy for mankind...Islam has come to achieve the good and happiness of man in this world and the hereafter. Allah says: **((Ask people of knowledge, if you do not know))**. Qur'an, Chapter 16 Verse 43. Allah also says: **((We have sent you only as mercy to the world))**. Qur'an, Chapter 21, Verse 107.

VII – Prevention of disease through vaccination is not a negation of trust in Allah, just like prevention of hunger, thirst, heat and cold with their opposites cannot negate trust in Allah. Indeed, real trust in Allah cannot be achieved except by embracing the apparent causes which Allah has designed, by destiny or by law, as requirements to produce effects. Thus, not giving vaccination could be a prohibition if it causes harm.

Based on the foregoing, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy Secretariat hopes that ministries of health in member states would intensify their efforts to eradicate polio. It also hopes that parents and guardians would respond to the campaigns with a view to providing all that can be of benefit to their children

and avoiding everything that can harm them. It also hopes that religious scholars and mosque leaders would urge people to respond to those campaigns and encourage them to vaccinate against this disease.

May the peace and blessings of Allah be on our master, Muhammad and all his family members.

**Professor Dr. Abdul Salam Dawud Al Abadi  
Secretary, International Islamic Fiqh Academy**

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