

There is only one Friday Khutba left until elections. This election is as crucial for our Ummah as it is for America. Let's ensure mutual survival and growth instead of conflicts and misery.

Every vote counts. Remember that 104 million people voted in 2000 elections but President Bush got elected only by 537 votes. Therefore, let's not allow cynicism in each one of us keep us away from our role in these elections.

Attached is a sample khutba that can be delivered to your community as a final push and encouragement to them to go out and vote. Let's mobilize the Muslim Ummah by letting our voices be heard and having our concerns addressed.

Justice in Islam, voting, and our duties

Justice is prime value in Islam. Qist (justice & fairness) is the principle Allah sent all the prophets to help people establish it. (Quran 57:25)

The major themes of the Qur'an include God-consciousness, fairness, equity, justice, equality and balance in all our dealings. It stresses the doing of what is right because it is the truth and The Truth represents one of the ninety-nine "beautiful names" of God. As a reflection of His attributes of Al-'Adl (The Just One) and Al-Muqsit (The Upholder of Equity), we are urged to establish justice and deal with all in a manner that assures equity, fairness and balance and safeguards the rights, property, honor and dignity of all people. God assures us that even though He is All-Powerful and none can challenge His Authority, He deals with all with truth, kindness, justice, and the rights of none will be transgressed on the Day of Judgment.

The narrow dictionary equivalents for Justice and Equity are the words Insaaf, 'Adl and Qist. The first of these, Insaaf, is commonly used in the meaning of Justice in Persian, Urdu, Turkish and other Muslim languages that have borrowed heavily from Arabic. But the word Insaaf has its root in the concept of dividing equally in halves. This is not always Just or Equitable. The Qur'an, therefore, does not use this word in the sense of Justice or Equity. The words 'Adl and Qist are more comprehensive, represent two of God's ninety-nine Beautiful Names and are extensively used in the Qur'an. The words 'Adl and Qist, in their various forms, are used in the Qur'an about twenty seven times each.

The root meanings of the word 'Adl include the sense of Justice, Equity, Fairness, Non-Discrimination, Counter-Balance, to Rectify, Put in Order, Even-ness, Proportion and the like. When Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said "help the oppressor and the oppressed", he was stressing this same concept. The Companions responded that they understood what "helping the oppressed" meant, but what did he mean by "helping the oppressor"? He replied, "by preventing the oppressor from oppressing others". The root meanings of the word Qist include Equity, Fairness, Justice, Fair Distribution, Correctness, Balance, and Scale.

Zulm (oppression in the World)

Allah does not love the oppressors as he says in the Quran.

Our world has a lot of zulm. More than a million people have been killed in Iraq and four million refugees because of the war based on lies. This is a major zulm.

There are food riots in 34 countries of the world while 30 million people in America are living under poverty as well. This is zulm.

In America Muslims are being denied their civil rights. This is zulm.

Process for Justice

In America the way people make sure that oppression ends and justice is done is by making sure to elect the right leaders.

Our votes are power.

We should use it so our taxes are not used to kill people in the world but to save lives.

Our taxes can be used to feed people in the world and take care of poor without health insurance in America.

We are part of the system because of our taxes, because we are citizens.

So let's make sure that we decide who is better among the candidates to use our tax money in proper ways.

Call for Action:

As your imam today, I ask you for three things:

1. Vote early if possible
2. Take others for voting by providing rides to them, specially young and the older people and those who cannot drive.
3. Make dua that Allah give us leaders who make our country stronger on justice and kinder to poor people in our neighborhoods and around the world.