

Statement: The Islamic Advisory Group for Polio Eradication
condemns deplorable attack on Polio workers; reaffirms the attack
contradicts with Islamic teachings

19 June 2021

Cairo, Egypt

The Islamic Advisory Group (IAG) Executive Committee strongly condemns the attack on health workers in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan which occurred on Tuesday 15th June 2021.

The deplorable attack led to the killing of six Polio vaccination volunteers, and the injury of four volunteers in five separate incidents during Polio Vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan.

The Executive Committee of IAG strongly believes the attack contradicts with Islamic teachings that clearly advocates for preserving lives of all people. Any attack on health workers who work to save children's lives through vaccinations, is an attack on children themselves, especially as Muslims everywhere are commanded to protect children's lives.

The Executive Committee of the Islamic Advisory Group calls for the necessity of working to stand against all acts of violence against health workers. Allah the Almighty says: **"Whoever takes a life—unless as a punishment for murder or mischief in the land—it will be as if they killed all of humanity; and whoever saves a life, it will be as if they saved all of humanity."** Surat Al-Ma'idah: 32).

Polio Vaccination Campaigns are vital to eradicating Polio and saving the lives of children, the Islamic Advisory Group has been working since 2014 to protect children from Polio Paralysis and life-long disability through vaccinations and has long advocated for how immunization measures, fully conform to Islamic principles.

The Executive Committee of the group would like to reaffirm what was issued by scholars and jurists who met in several conferences held in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, in which they stressed the importance of ongoing polio vaccination campaigns, and stated that children must be vaccinated against polio according to Shariah.

Islam commands Muslims to take all necessary precautions against life-threatening diseases. According to Islam, Muslims must heed doctors' instructions regarding Polio Vaccinations as its considered advice to prevent diseases. Allah the Almighty says: **"Do not throw [yourselves] with your [own] hands into destruction [by refraining]. And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good."** (Surat Al Baqarah: 195). Additionally, preserving bodies from everything that

exposes them to harm is one of the most affirmative duties in Islamic Sharia. Prophet Muhammad (blessings and peace be upon him) says: **"There should be neither harm nor reciprocating harm."**

Finally, The IAG Executive Committee extends their condolences to the families of the six health workers who were killed, wishes a speedy recovery to the injured and further denounces all attacks on innocent health workers, who are an essential part of the delivery of healthcare.

The Islamic Advisory Group for Polio Eradication (IAG) was launched in February 2014 after consultations among Al-Azhar Al Sharif of Egypt, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Its establishment was one of the top recommendations made during discussions with Islamic scholars on polio eradication in Cairo, Egypt, on 6-7 March 2013.

The group comprises leading Islamic institutions, religious scholars, technical experts, and academia from the Muslim world. It is aimed at exploring ways to muster support from Muslim religious scholars and groups, donor countries and organizations as well as other contributors for global efforts to end polio in the two remaining endemic countries (Pakistan and Afghanistan) and in outbreak countries, particularly Somalia.

For More Information on IAG:

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