

## Residency in a disbelief country

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

**Question:** Is residing in the country of disbelief associated with the ability of the Muslim to perform his religion and demonstrate (showing) the rituals of Islaam only? Or are there other standards? And when migration is an obligation, is a Muslim of French origin obliged to migrate; taking into consideration the difficulty of travelling between countries and the subsequent administrative complications? Thank you.

**Answer:** All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers until the Day of Resurrection:

Travelling to a country of disbelief and residing there is [permissible], if it is temporary and associated with the need, whether it is for Da'wah (i.e., Calling to Allaah عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) or business or other permissible purposes. Given these points, it is required that the Muslim traveller should be able to secure his religion as well as to profess the Islaamic rituals in a perfect way without fear or opposition. Among these rituals, we mention here: the apparent conduct including the look, the clothes and suchlike. It is also required that the Muslim should be able to show loyalty and disavowal by hating polytheism and disbelief and their followers, without feeling any love for them and never consider them as Auleeyaa' (allies). Furthermore, he should neither love them nor imitate them in what is of their characteristics. Besides, he should abstain from taking part in their feasts and ceremonies and even from congratulating them of that. He should also abstain from glorifying them and suchlike. Briefly, showing disagreement with them covertly and overtly.

As for the weakened, whether being an original Muslim or an unbeliever converted to Islaam, be it a male or a female, who could not migrate because of health, administrative, political or geographical conditions that made migration difficult, or he/she could not afford migrating because of the weakness; those are excluded by Allaah عَزَّ وَجَلَّ. In other words, they are not subject to Allaah's warning (of punishment) reserved for he who does not secure himself from the temptation or whose residency in the disbelief country made him loyal to the unbelievers.

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Allaah عزّ وجلّ said:

وَمَنْ يَتَوَلَّهُمْ مِنْكُمْ فَاِنَّهُ مِنْهُمْ

[And if one amongst you takes them as Auleeyaa' (allies), then surely he is one of them]<sup>1</sup>

Allaah عزّ وجلّ also said:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَوَفَّيْتُمُ الْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الظَّالِمِيْنَ أَنفُسَهُمْ قَالُوا فِيمَ كُنْتُمْ قَالُوا كُنَّا مُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا أَلَمْ تَكُنْ أَرْضُ اللَّهِ وَسِعَةً فَهَاجِرُوا فِيهَا فَأُولَئِكَ مَا لَهُمْ جَهَنَّمَ وَسَاعَتْ مَصِيرًا ٩٧ إِلَّا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ وَالنِّسَاءِ وَالْوِلْدَانِ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ حِيلَةً وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ سَبِيلًا ٩٨ فَأُولَئِكَ عَسَى اللَّهُ أَنْ يَعْفُو عَنْهُمْ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَفُوًّا غَفُورًا

[Verily as for those whom the angels take (in death) while they are wrongdoing themselves (as they stayed among the unbelievers even though migration was obligatory for them), they (the angels) say to (to them): In what (condition) were you? They reply: We were weak and oppressed on the earth. They (angels) say: Was not the earth of Allaah spacious enough for you to migrate therein? Such people will find their abode in Hell-what an evil destination! Except the weak ones among men, women and children who cannot devise a plan, nor are they able to direct their way. Those are whom Allaah is likely to forgive them and Allaah is Ever Oft-Pardoning, Oft-Forgiving]<sup>2</sup>

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah عزّ وجلّ; and our last prayer is all the praises and thanks are to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds, and prayers of Allaah are to Muhammad and his Family, Companions and Brothers until the Day of Resurrection.

Algiers on: Al-Muharram the 27th, 1432 H Corresponding to December the 22nd, 2011 G.

<sup>1</sup> Soorah al-Maa'idah[5:51]

<sup>2</sup> Soorah an-Nisaa'[4:97-98-99]