

HUMAN RIGHTS IN ISLAM

In the last decade or two, the world has seen an escalation in calling for equal human rights. World leaders, in order to appease the masses, allocate a day here and there, for the people to shout out their pains and thus cool their fervour. Arise the next morning and its business as usual.

Infringement and usurpation continues from the side of those in power, and the masses feel really proud of themselves for standing up for the oppressed nations of the world.

Yet Palestine continues to cry, Afghanistan still bleeds, Iraq is still smouldering, innocent victims still languish in prisons, and the world sleeps easy, content that we have stood up for the rights of the oppressed.

When Allah's Beloved *Sallallaahu Alayhi Wa Sallam* came into this world, it was not smouldering. It was ablaze with every tyranny, corruption and evil that man is capable of. Yet when He *Sallallaahu Alayhi Wa Sallam* passed away, His legacy of Sahaabah, showed the world such an exemplary code of rights, that even a non-muslim citizen had the right to take on the Muslim ruler in the court of law.

Rights and justice were tangible realities under the law of Islam, in glaring contrast to the hollow sentiments they represent today. The Muslim Ummah was created to personify and vividly display the meaning of justice and fairness to mankind. Yet since this Ummah has fallen into the malady of self-gratification (*Nafsi, Nafsi*), the reality of justice and human rights has been lost to the World.

If only we could reform, if only we could appreciate the Quran and Sunnah, if only we could unite, if only, if only!!

**Wither have you gone O Muslim, the world laments,
Where are the beacons, the lanterns of spiritual intent?
Arise from your slumber and sincerely repent,
For the oppressed are crying and the tyrants hell-bent.**

17/03/2010

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