

*The Saudi Arabian Government*

**Original Title:** الفتاوى الشرعية في القضايا العصرية

**Author:** Muḥammad Ibn Ṣāliḥ al-'Uthaymīn

## The Saudi Arabian Government<sup>1</sup>

**Question:** What is your reply to one who says that most of the evils present in the land of Tawḥīd (referring to Saudi Arabia) come from the government itself, and that the leaders are not Salafī (following the righteous Muslim predecessors)?

**Answer:** Our reply is that this is just like those people who used to say the prophet ( صلى الله عليه وسلم ) was insane or a poet. We reply with the famous Arabic phrase:

لا يَضُرُّ السَّحَابَ نَبْحُ الكِلَابِ

“No harm will come to the clouds from the barking of the hounds.”

There does not exist today a country like ours with regards to Tawḥīd and ruling by the Islamic legislation. Of course, it is not free of problems just like every other country in the world. Even in Medina during the time of the prophet ( صلى الله عليه وسلم ), there were some people who used to commit crimes such as stealing and adultery.<sup>2</sup>

And he (Ibn al-'Uthaymīn) also said:

Some people today have been tested with backbiting and speaking bad about certain groups from the Islamic nation like the leaders of its affairs: the scholars and those working within the governments. They let their tongues loose when they sit, talking about the scholars, the callers, those in authority, and the governments in general which are higher in position than the general authorities. Backbiting these people is an even greater sin and its effects are worse, causing dissension and division within the Muslim nation...

---

<sup>1</sup> This fatwā was taken from a book called “al-Fatāwā Ash-Shar'iyyah fī Al-Qaḍāyā Al-'Aṣriyyah,” a collection of various rulings by Muḥammad Ibn Fahd al-Ḥuṣayn.

<sup>2</sup> From the cassette, al-Radd 'alá Aḥmad Salām.

Oh brothers, certainly backbiting those in authority like the leaders and scholars is not only backbiting those individuals, but it's also backbiting and destroying what they stand for regarding their responsibilities. So when people talk badly about the scholars, the overall status and importance of scholars diminishes in the eyes of the people. Furthermore, what the scholars may say and advise with from the legislation of Allaah then loses its weight. This in turn results in people not acting in accordance with the legislation – all caused by that initial backbiting.

In that, there is a weakening of the religion of Allāh (ﷻ) among the common people. So people who speak badly of those in authority like the nation's leaders and governments, they harm the entire society. They don't harm only the government, but the whole society. This leads to infringement upon the safety and security of the society, its stability, and public order. When people dishonor their leaders (kings, presidents, etc.) and governments, their status and reputations are lowered among all the common masses. They begin to renounce allegiance to them, stop acting in compliance with what they command, and disregard whatever they may prohibit. At such a time, anarchy becomes acceptable to the society, each individual becoming his own leader. Then the affairs of corruption set in and the people live in chaos and disorder having no direction and leadership. So backbiting is a major sin and not something to be taken lightly.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> From the book: *Wujūb Ṭā'ah al-Ṣultān fī Ghayri Ma'ṣiyah al-Raḥmān* by Shaykh Muḥammad al-'Uraynī (pgs. 51-52).