

Ibn al-'Uthaymīn on Suicide-Bombings

Question:

Some people say it is permissible to carry out suicidal acts of Jihād such as they do by rigging a car with explosives and then storming into the middle of an enemy, all the while the perpetrator knows that he too is certain to die.

Answer:

My opinion of this is that it is nothing but suicide and that such a person will be punished in Hell just as has been authentically reported from the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).¹

...I believe that there is no excuse for one who commits this during our time because it is an ill-famed, modern-day form of suicide that's become widespread among people. So as such, it is incumbent upon every person to ask the people of knowledge regarding such acts so that correct guidance may be distinguished from sin. It is amazing that these people even kill themselves (along with others) when Allāh has clearly forbidden that, saying:

﴿وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِكُمْ رَحِيمًا﴾

And do not kill yourselves. Indeed, Allāh is merciful to you all.

[Sūrah al-Nisā', 4:29]

1 The ḥadīth is narrated by Abū Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) in which he said that Allāh's messenger (ﷺ) said: "Whoever kills himself with a piece of iron, that same iron will be in his hand and he will continue stabbing himself with it in the fire of Hell, living therein forever. And whoever drinks poison to kill himself, he will continue sipping it in the fire of Hell, living therein forever. And whoever jumps from a mountain to kill himself, he will continue jumping in the fire of Hell, living therein forever." It's recorded by al-Bukhārī (no. 5442) and Muslim (no. 109) and has also been narrated by Thābit Ibn al- Ḍaḥḥāk and others.

And most of these people want nothing more than revenge on their enemies no matter how they achieve it – whether by permissible or forbidden means. They want nothing but to relieve their thirst for revenge. We ask Allāh to give us the correct insight in applying His religion and in doing acts that please Him. He is capable of anything.²

² Taken from a conversation with Shaykh Muḥammad Ibn Ṣāliḥ al-‘Uthaymīn published by Al-Da’wah Magazine (issue no. 1598, 2/28/1418 Hijrah which corresponds to 7/3/1997).