

*Is Rebelling Against a Ruler an Issue of Ijtihād?*

**Original Title:** جوابا على من يقول : الخروج على الحاكم مسألة اجتهادية

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## Is Rebelling Against a Ruler an Issue of Ijtihād?<sup>1</sup>

**Question:** What do you say, may Allah preserve you, about a person who states that the issue of rebelling and opposing the ruler (king, president, government, etc.) is only a matter of *Ijtihād* (independent, personal interpretation) and says that there is a difference of opinion regarding the issue among the Salaf. Therefore, it is not permissible to accuse those who differ in this regard (those who allow political revolution and opposition) of being innovators or sinners.

**Answer:** This is a lie and slander against the messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم), and there is no room for Ijtihād in this issue. The prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) says:

مَنْ أَتَاكُمْ وَأَمْرُكُمْ جَمِيعٌ عَلَى رَجُلٍ مِنْكُمْ يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَفْرِقَ جَمَاعَتَكُمْ فَاصْرَبُوا  
عُنُقَهُ كَيْنًا مَنْ كَانَ

“Whoever comes to you while you are united in allegiance to one man (leader) among you and he wants to disunite your unified community, then strike his neck whoever he may be.”

[Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim]

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<sup>1</sup> This article is a translated transcription of a cassette (the first side) titled: “al-Liqā al-Maftūḥ” given in May, 2004 by Ṣāliḥ al-Fawzān.

And he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

مَنْ فَارَقَ الْجَمَاعَةَ وَمَاتَ وَهُوَ مُفَارِقٌ لِلْجَمَاعَةِ فَقَدْ مَاتَ مِيتَةً جَاهِلِيَّةً

“Whoever splits up the unified community and dies while he is disuniting the community, then he dies a death of *Jāhiliyyah* (a pre-Islamic state of ignorance).”

Or:

فَقَدْ خَلَعَ رِبْقَةَ الْإِسْلَامِ مِنْ عُنُقِهِ

“...then he has removed the guiding rope of Islam from his neck (disassociated himself from Islam).”

It is impermissible to oppose and rebel against the leader of Muslim affairs. Rather, it is an obligation to obey him and forbidden to oppose him due to what that entails of bloodshed, disunity, and the ruining and alienation of a nation. And you all witness now those lands in which people revolted against their leaders. You see the results such as fighting and killing, bloodshed, and the loss of safety and security when some of these leaderships are not Muslim governments. But when people rebel against their leaders, the same thing occurs – that which occurred in Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq, and every other place.

What if the ruler is Muslim? It is not allowed to oppose him due to what that will result in of bloodshed, the loss of security, the opportunity for non-Muslims to gain control over Muslims, and dissension and division among Muslims.