



PRESS RELEASE



SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHT'S DAY, 21 MARCH 2021

REMEMBERING THE HEROES OF THE STRUGGLE AND OUR ISLAMIC RESPONSIBILITY

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Human Right's day, 21 March 2021, we take this opportunity to reflect upon the sacrifices of the brave men and women who laid the foundation for a free and democratic South Africa. They spearheaded a campaign that symbolized the tenacious resolve of the oppressed masses to restore their human rights and dignity. Robert Sobukwe will forever be etched in the archives of our struggle for freedom as the one who led the campaign to abolish the oppressive pass laws enforced upon the native South Africans by the Apartheid regime.

On March 21st 1960, protestors against the pass law were massacred at Sharpeville. Sixty nine people tragically lost their lives and one hundred and eighty were injured. In Langa, Cape Town, in a similar protest, two people lost their lives. As South Africans we honor their sacrifice by honoring the rights of all South Africans.

Muslims believe in preserving and protecting the honor and dignity of all human beings. Our belief stems from the Quran and the lifestyle of our beloved Prophet Muhammad Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him. All Mighty Allah says in the Noble Quran: *"And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and the sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what We have created, with [definite] preference"* (al-Isra, v70)

Today all South Africans must raise their voices against all forms of human rights violations. The rights and dignity of South Africans will continue being violated if gang violence, drugs and corruption continue to plague our communities and society. It is every South African's right to have access to safety, security, employment, and education. Unfortunately, many South Africans struggle to access these fundamental rights.

The Muslim Judicial Council (SA) calls upon all South Africans to continue their struggle for human rights. We call upon the South African Government to be in the forefront of our struggle ensuring that our human rights are protected. We call on the leaders of our nation to champion the values our pioneers of the struggle died to uphold.

The human rights of all human beings must remain a priority. This means that we must add our voices in solidarity with those whose voices have been taken away. As recipients of international solidarity during the dark days of Apartheid, we must ensure that the oppressed feel the warmth and comfort of our solidarity in their time of need.

We appreciate the efforts of the men and women of the struggle and we remember them on this day. We must strive even harder as free South Africans to ensure that their legacy is preserved through activism and critical engagement.

End

Sh. Zaid Dantie
Office of the Secretary General
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