Assalamu alaikum,

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam,

The issue of the human rights and the protection of them remain to be on the major themes of political, philosophical and legal discourse.

Fourteen hundred years ago the most important declaration of bill of rights was the sermon of the Prophet Mohammad (Sall-Allaahu alayhi wa sallam) delivered during the last Pilgrimage. This bill of human rights was issued not merely as pious wishes for the future, but evidently the Prophet (Sall-Allaahu alayhi wa sallam) declared it at ‘Arafah in year 10 A.H., by then he had successfully established every thing in practice.

This sermon is referred as ‘Magna Carta of Islam’.

Syed S. Z. Hashmi.

Quranic Studies

[aal-Imraan] The first House (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakka: Full of blessing and of guidance for all kinds of beings: [3:96]

In it are Signs Manifest; (for example), the Station of Abraham; whoever enters it attains security; Pilgrimage thereto is a duty men owe to Allah,- those who can afford the journey; but if any deny faith, Allah stands not in need of any of His creatures. [3:97]

The Arabic word “Hajja” means ‘to intend to a certain target or to aim at’. The word “Hajjun” is used for the pilgrimage. To understand the significance of Hajj it is important to have correct concept and meaning of the Quranic term ‘Sha-a-ir Allah’. In The Holy Qur’an Allah (SWT) says:

[al-Baqara] Behold! Safa and Marwa are among the Symbols of Allah. So if those who visit the House in the Season or at other times, should compass them round, it is no sin in them. And if any one obeyeth his own impulse to good,- be sure that Allah is He Who recogniseth and knoweth. [2:158]

The Quranic term ‘Sha-a-ir Allah’ (signs, marks) means all those religious services which Allah (SWT) has appointed to us as signs or the rites and ceremonies of pilgrimage and ……
THE LAST SERMON OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD
(FAREWELL PILGRIMAGE)

This sermon was delivered on the Ninth Day of Dhul-Hijjah, 10 A.H. (632 CE) in the 'Uranah valley of Mount Arafat in Makkah. It was the occasion of the annual rites of Hajj (the pilgrimage). It is also known as the Farewell Pilgrimage.

After praising, and thanking Allah (The One True God) the Prophet (Sall-Allaahu alayhi wa sallam) began with the words:

"O People! lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether after this year I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore, listen carefully to what I am saying and Take These Words to Those Who Could Not Be Present Here Today.

"O People! just as you regard this month, this day, this city as Sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your LORD, and that he will indeed reckon your deeds.

"Allah has forbidden you to take usury (interest), therefore all interest obligations shall henceforth be waived. Your capital is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity. Allah has Judged that there shall be no interest and that all the interest due to Abbas ibn 'Abd al-Muttalib (Prophet's uncle) be waived.

"Every right arising out of homicide in pre-Islamic days is henceforth waived and the first such right that I waive is that arising from the murder of Rabiah ibn al-Harithiah.

"O Men! the unbelievers indulge in tampering with the calendar in order to make permissible that which Allah forbade, and to prohibit which Allah has made permissible. With Allah the months are twelve in number. Four of them are holy, three of these are successive and one occurs singly between the months of Jumada and Shaban.

"Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope of that he will be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.

"O People! it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under Allah's trust and with His permission. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with anyone of whom you do not approve, as well as never to be unchaste.

"O People! listen to me in earnest, worship Allah, say your five daily prayers, fast during month of Ramadan, and give your wealth in Zakat (obligatory charity). Perform Hajj if you can afford to.

"All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety and good action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly.

"Do not therefore do injustice to yourselves. Remember one day you will meet Allah and answer your deeds. So beware, do not astray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.

"O People! No Prophet or Apostle Will Come after Me and No New Faith Will Be Born. Reason well, therefore, O People! and understand words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the QU'R'AN and my SUNNAH (i.e., sayings, deeds, and approvals) and if you follow these you will never go astray."
O Allah! Inspire my heart to guidance and save me from the evil of my nafs (soul).
the places where the rites and ceremonies are performed. Regarding the sanctity of the symbols of Allah (SWT) The Holy Qur’an says:

\[\text{[al-Maaida] O ye who believe! Violate not the sanctity of the symbols of Allah, [5:2]}\]

Further more to respect or honour anything which stimulates the remembrance of Allah (SWT), without the intention of worship, is described as the piety of heart. The Holy Qur’an says:

\[\text{[al-Hajj] Such (is his state): and whoever holds in honour the symbols of Allah, such (honour) should come truly from piety of heart. [22:32]}\]

The above Aya [22:32] defines both the outer aspect (za’hir) and the inner aspect (ba’tin) of Haj. All forms of obligatory prayers in Islam can be performed in home as well as outside the house in masajid or at any place individually or in congregation. Haj is the exception as it is the only religious duty (ibada) that requires believer to leave his home (from any corner of Earth) and make the journey to Makkah. About three million pilgrims leave their homes and gather at Makkah. They wear special dress, perform certain rites and rituals and do visitation of certain places. All these are done in fixed number of days in certain dates every year but still within this congregational prayers each and every person performs ibada individually. In another sense it is uniquely his own – since within that great gathering he will stand alone. To get the promised blessing of Haj each person has to perform every step of Haj with immersed in and imbeded with the spirit that each action represent.

The description in the Holy Qur’an “and whoever holds in honour the symbols of Allah, such (honour) should come truly from piety of heart.” [22:32] shows the relation between action; the outer aspect [za’hir] and the piety heart; the inner aspect [ba’tin].

Those who are blessed and have the “piety heart” honour the symbols of Allah and those who want to be blessed and get the piety heart must make this journey. Honoring the signs of Allah is expected to produce some significant changes in the personality, attitude and outlook of a person. As has been reported from the Messenger of Allah Sall-Allaahu alayhi wa sallam, the person performing the Hajj is forgiven and purified as if he is a newborn baby.

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**Hadith/Sunnah**

**The Last Sermon**

“All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly.

“Be my witness O Allah, that I have conveyed your message to your people.”

As part of this sermon, the Prophet recited them a Revelation from Allah which he had just received and which completed the Qur’an, for it was the last passage to be revealed:

*This day the disbelievers despair of prevailing against your religion, so fear them not, but fear Me (Allah)! This day have I perfected for you your religion and fulfilled My favor unto you, and it hath been My good pleasure to choose Islam for you as your religion (al-Maaida 5:3).*

The sermon was repeated sentence by sentence by Safwan’s brother Rabiah (RA), who had a powerful voice, at the request of the Prophet and he faithfully proclaimed to over ten thousand gathered on the occasion. Toward the end of his sermon, the Prophet asked “O people, have I faithfully delivered unto you my message?” A powerful murmur of absent “O Allah, yes!” arose from thousands of pilgrims and the vibrant words “Allahumma na’m” rolled like thunder throughout the valley. The Prophet raised his forefinger and said: “Be my witness O Allah, that I have conveyed your message to your people.”