

Acceptance Speech by
H.E. Professor
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Winner 2012/1433H King Faisal International Prize
For Islamic Studies

34th Ceremony
Tuesday 6/3/2012 H 13/4/1433H

In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Your Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Abd AlH Aziz, Minister
of Defense,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Your Eminences,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests.

Assalamu Alaikum

Praise be to Allah who says: "By the Bounty of thy Lord H
Rehearse and Proclaim" and may Peace and Prayers be upon
our Prophet Muhammad, and to all his family and companions, who said:
"He who does not thank people, does not thank Allah."

My country has given me my human rights, especially education and
continuous education. One of the fruits of that bounty was my book:
"Encyclopedia of Human Rights in Islam and its Attributes in
Saudi Arabia" for which I have been awarded this PrizeH
So, thanks to the leadership of this country. And deep gratitude for the
honor bestowed upon me in this happy evening by the King
Faisal International Prize Board.

"Human rights" is an issue of paramount concern for
many governments. Some governments used this issue as a means to
achieve certain goals serving their own political, economic, trading,
social and cultural objectives, and as a pretext for interfering in the
affairs of other nations.

Some countries claim to be the champions of human rights H
the British citing their Magna Carta, the Americans citing the
Declaration of Independence while the French taking pride in
the human rights charter of the French revolution. In Islam,
Quranic verses and Prophet's Sayings indicate that the real history of
human rights started from the time of man's creation, and that Almighty
Allah has rewarded

man by granting him succession on earth. This is one of the reasons behind the Kingdom's adherence to Islamic teachings both in religious and worldly affairs.

Human rights in Islam are not simply personal rights without corresponding duties. It is not the right of any individual or group to abandon these rights, totally or partly, because they are human needs without which life cannot proceed. Protecting these rights, therefore, does not only imply one's right but also one's duty, while ignoring them is a crime in the eyes of Islam. Assaulting life, for instance by committing suicide, is a full crime entailing punishment according to religious law; this also applies to all other kinds of violations of the needs required to realize the true essence life.

I recall the words of the French Muslim thinker Francois Lake who Aminah's said: (The great Amna's orphan proved by himself, since early times, that the idea of rights was the greatest mercy for every weak and every poor person who needed help. Mohammad, Peace and Prayers be upon him, was a real mercy for orphans, wayfarers, those in destitute, civilians and all the poor and the workers striving to make a living. Mohammed, peace and prayers be upon him, was a mercy for women who, at that time, were treated like pieces of luggage or furniture throughout the world and in all religions and social system. So, let us say: peace and prayers be upon Mohammad and all his followers and those who love him."

Before closing, I am pleased to grant permission to re-print, publish and translate my book "Encyclopedia of Human Rights in Islam and its Attributes in Saudi Arabia" and to utilize its revenue for the benefit of the Library of the Holy Mosques in Makkah and the Library of the Prophet's Mosque in Al-Madinah, under the supervision of General Presidency of the Two Holy Mosques Affairs, and according to an agreement to be concluded with the donor.

Our last call is: "Praise be to Allah, Sustainer of the Two Worlds," and may peace and prayers be upon the Prophet Mohammad and all his family and companions.