

Shaikh Tariq Jamil's Written Testimony

As-salāmu ‘alaykum wa raḥmatullāhi wa barakātuh
Peace be upon you, and the mercy of Allah, and His blessings.

Respected members of the Commission,

I speak today not only as a representative of Islam, but as a student of humanity.

Over the course of my life, I have traveled to nearly one hundred countries across every continent. From the villages of Chad and Djibouti to the cities of Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom, I have met thousands of people from every religion, culture, and walk of life. I often describe myself as a traveler, a nomad, because much of what I have learned about life, Islam, and other faiths has come not only from books, but from sitting with people, listening to their stories, and witnessing their struggles and hopes.

I also consider myself a student of history. History teaches us that humanity and civilizations rise to great heights when people cooperate, share knowledge, and protect one another. It also teaches us that societies fall into darkness when difference is turned into hatred, when identity is made a reason for humiliation, and when one group begins to see another as less deserving of dignity.

I have seen how beautiful this world can be when people come together, when Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindus, and Sikhs, and people of other faiths work side by side, share meals, exchange ideas, and build something good together. I have also seen how painful life becomes when those same differences, which should make the world more beautiful, are used to divide people and turn hearts against one another.

Through my extensive travels, I have seen both realities.

I am a Muslim scholar, and I am here to speak about Islam. But I am not here only for Muslims. I have always tried to raise my voice for peace, for character, for piety, and for humanity. Islam teaches us that the honour of human life is sacred. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was sent as a mercy to the worlds, not as a mercy only to one nation or one tribe. His life was filled with examples of patience, tolerance, forgiveness, and cooperation with people of different faiths.

In Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ established a society where Muslims, Jews, and others lived under a shared covenant with rights and responsibilities. Later, when Sayyiduna Umar ibn al-Khattab رضي الله عنه entered Jerusalem, he gave protection and religious freedom to its people. These examples show the true spirit of Islam: justice with humility, strength with mercy, and faith with compassion.

Yet today, Islam is often misunderstood and projected as a religion of extremism. This is painful for Muslims, but it is also harmful for the whole world. When any religion or people are reduced to fear and stereotypes, the door opens to discrimination, hate crimes, and injustice.

Today, anti-Muslim hatred is rising globally. Muslim women are mistreated because of their dress. Muslim children are bullied because of their names. Muslim communities are viewed with suspicion because of their faith. But my message is broader than one community.

Today it may be Muslims. Tomorrow it may be someone else.

We all share the same earth, the same spaces, the same resources, and the same future. The attitude of “us versus them” is dangerous for everyone. If a Muslim woman is mistreated in a workplace, other minorities also begin to feel unsafe. If one community’s freedom is violated, every community’s freedom becomes fragile.

Justice, fair treatment, and freedom must be for everyone who lives peacefully and does not harm others. We cannot build peace by protecting only those who look like us, speak like us, or believe like us. We build peace when we protect the dignity of every human being.

At times of sectarian tension in Pakistan, I have tried to serve as a voice of calm between Sunni and Shia scholars. At times of political violence, I have spoken for restraint and for the value of human life above anger, revenge, or division. This is not separate from Islam. This is Islam.

My humble appeal is that governments, religious leaders, educators, and media institutions must work together to challenge anti-Muslim hatred and every form of religious hatred. We must teach our children that difference is not a threat. We must remind our societies that dignity is not a favour given by the powerful, but a right granted by God.

Let us not defend only our own, but stand for what is right, whoever is suffering.

Let us build a world where no person is feared because of faith, no woman is humiliated because of her dress, no child is ashamed of his name, and no community is denied dignity.

Let us not be remembered as those who drew lines between people, but as those who erased them.

Ma’ a as-salāmah
With peace

Thank you!