

Arab Revolt 2.0 – 5 Evidences in The Balance

The following are five of the most oft-quoted citations from the Holy Qur'an and the Hadith (statements) of the Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, either supporting the Arab Revolt which occurred at the start of the Islamic year 1432/ 2011 C.E. At the end, the most common slogan of the revolt, used across the Arab world, is contextualized by a Prophetic statement.

The Holy Qur'an

For: 'Allah does not change what is in a nation unless they change what is in themselves.' (13:11)

Against: 'Oh you who believe, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.' (4:59)

The Prophetic Hadith

2. For: 'Whosoever of you sees something wrong, let him change it with his hand. If he is unable, then let him change it with his tongue. If he is unable, then with his heart. And that is the weakest degree of faith.' (Muslim)

Against: 'There will be a civil strife that will sweep across Arabs, its dead will be in Hell. During which the tongue will be more severe than a blow of the sword.' (Tirmidhi)

Against: 'There will be civil strife which will render people deaf, dumb and blind regarding what is right. Those who contemplate it will be drawn by it, and giving rein to the tongue during it will be like smiting with the sword.' (Abu Dawud)

Against: 'Woe to the Arabs of an evil drawing night, its shadow has fallen on [them] by the Lord of the Ka'aba, its shadow has fallen on them.' (Abu Dawud)

3. For: "The best jihad is a just word in the presence of a tyrannical ruler." (Abu Dawud)

Against: "The best of your Imams are those you love and who love you, whom you pray for and who pray for you. The worst of your Imams are those you hate and who hate you, and whom you curse and who curse you." He said, "We said, 'Messenger of Allah, should we depose them?' He said, 'No, not as long as they establish the prayer among you. No, not as long as they establish the prayer among you.'" (Muslim)

4. For: 'Command the right and forbid the wrong, or Allah will put the worst of you in charge of the best of you, and the best will supplicate Allah and be left unanswered.' (Naqib al-Misri)

Against: 'Before you there will be commotions like pieces of a dark night in which a man will be a believer in the morning and an infidel in the evening. He who sits during them will be better than the one walks, who is better than he who runs. They (the people) said, 'What do you order us to do?' He replied: 'Keep to your houses.' (Abu Dawud)

The Slogan

5. For: 'The people want to overthrow the system.'

Prophetic Hadith Context: 'People are but like the case of one-hundred camels, you hardly find one among them worthy to ride.' (Bukhari)

