



The following announcement is a glimpse of victory for the Ḥaqq. It is a means of great joy and happiness for us that some of the most senior ‘Ulamā’ in Pakistan have taken the following stand regarding photography and videos in the light of the teachings of the pious predecessors. We agree with these senior ‘Ulamā’ in this particular ruling. We also make *du‘ā* for steadfastness upon the whole of Dīn and the ability to practically implement these noble teachings.

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOS

by:

MAULĀNĀ QĀRĪ MUḤAMMAD ḤANĪF JALANDHARI –  
CHAIRMAN OF WIFĀQ-UL-MADĀRIS AL-ARABIYYA, PAKISTAN

On Thursday night, 3 Sha’bān, our respected teacher, Maulānā Shabīr-ul-Ḥaq Kashmīrī - Ustādh of Ḥadīth at Khayr-ul-Madāris in Multan, passed away. May Allāh have mercy on him. He had been blessed with great knowledge of the logical and divine sciences. At his *Salāt-ul-Janāzah*, which was held at the large stadium in Qāsim Bāgh, Maulānā Qārī Muḥammad Ḥanīf Jalandhari *dāmat barakātuhum* delivered a very important speech. Amongst other things, he said:

“A few days ago, Wifāq-ul-Madāris held a meeting that was chaired by Maulānā Anwār-ul-Haq. Shaykh-ul-Islam Maulānā Muftī Muḥammad Taqī ‘Uthmānī *dāmat barakātuhum* was also present. The topic under discussion during this meeting was the kind of videos that have become very common. Everyone agreed that although there is a difference of opinion among the scholars, videos should nonetheless be avoided especially amongst the people of knowledge. They should abstain from making any videos of their programs.”

He then said: “From today, no videos of any kind should be taken at Khayr-ul-Madāris, and I make an appeal to all teachers and students to abstain from it at all times. I repent for whatever has happened thus far. Nobody should come to the office and request me to take a photo with them. Should someone come, they should not feel bad when I decline their request.”

The Nāzim A’lā of Wifāq-ul-Madāris issued a sterner statement: “Any Khayr-ul-Madāris graduate who takes videos has absolutely no relationship with Khayr-ul-Madāris and with me; we will be absolved from any obligation to him.”

Whilst this announcement was being made, Maulānā Munīr Aḥmad Munawwar said, “It is obligatory to abandon this because it is *Mamnū’ li Ghayrihi* (forbidden due to an external factor i.e. even if one considers it to be permissible in itself, it is still incumbent to abandon it as its harms far outweigh its benefits).”

Maulānā Qārī Muḥammad Ḥanīf Jalandhari *dāmat barakātuhum* responded, "Yes, absolutely. Jazākallāh".

**KINDLY HANDLE WITH CARE AND RESPECT AT ALL TIMES**



Words cannot describe the joy, happiness and relief experienced on hearing this announcement from the Chairman of Wifāq-ul-Madāris. No matter how much we appreciate and praise this declaration of truth, it will not be sufficient. This is the voice of every restless heart, and this is the call that our Shaykh, Maulānā Salīmullāh Khan *rahimahullāh* made in his last few moments with great passion.

The country's two largest Madrasah's, Jāmi'ah Al-'Ulūm Al-Islāmiyyah Binnori Town and Jāmi'ah Fārūqiyyah Karachi, have already implemented this ruling.

Two months ago, Jāmi'ah Dār-ul-'Ulūm Karachi also imposed, within its boundaries, a complete ban on mobile phones with cameras for its students. We have also heard that there is strict, limited permission for use of such mobile phones which are not touch screen.

This year, on the occasion of the Sahīh Bukhārī completion Jalsah which was held at Dār-ul-'Ulūm Karachi, only a live audio of the program was broadcast as opposed to a live video broadcast.

The Jumu'ah lecture at Jāmi'ah Khayr-ul-Madāris, Multan, delivered by Maulānā Qārī Muḥammad Ḥanīf Jalandhari *dāmat barakātuhum* was also broadcast via audio means only.

The reality is that the occupation with videos and photos has snatched a great deal from us. Videos and the social media monster has deprived students that study higher sciences like the Noble Qur'ān and Ḥadīth of the purity of their soul and heart - attributes which are essential and basic requirements to acquire proficiency in these sciences.

Focus and dedication to lessons is vanishing. The intelligence and talent of students is being affected. The number of those who fail examinations has increased more than ever.

The obsession with social media has not only caused futile involvement in it but also alienation, rebellion and resentment from students towards teachers. We have noticed that wherever the camera went, so did extravagant accessories and demands go with it.

May Allāh ﷻ forgive us, looking at some of the events taking place in the Masājid, one would think they are in a wedding hall.

Moreover, videos have affected our privacy. Those taking videos did not consider whether anyone was sick or ill, to the extent that even the dead were not spared. All precautionary measures and requirements were violated in the obsession of getting maximum likes for the Facebook page and increasing the views of the YouTube channel. The instruction of 'gatherings are held in trust' has also evaporated.

In this context, the announcement made by the Chairman of Wifāq-ul-Madāris of Pakistan, Maulānā Qārī Muḥammad Ḥanīf Jalandhari *dāmat barakātuhum*, without any hesitation, reluctance or fear of backlash etc. is a great and revolutionary step.

We must not only appreciate it with an open heart, but also spread this message of truth and put it into practice in our Madāris and Jāmi'ahs.

May Allāh ﷻ bless this decision of our akābir and grant us perseverance in it ... Āmīn!

Khādim of the 'Ulamā' of Ḥaqq

Muḥammad Aḥmad Ḥāfiz

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