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Fatwa no. 4767

Q: The Secondary Postal Institute in Riyadh noticed the following statement of the Scout Pledge: "I promise on my honor, to make every effort to perform my duty towards Allah, the homeland, and the King; to help people at all times; and to act according to the scout law." This statement is written in the Scout Handbook, which was issued by the Arabian Scouts Association. We have attached a copy of the cover, the introduction, and the page containing this statement, in the hope that you will examine them and give us a Fatwa (legal opinion issued by a qualified Muslim scholar) about this Scout group, so we can either confirm or amend it according to the rules of the Shari`ah (Islamic law). I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation for the efforts you exert to serve this true Din (religion) of Islam. May Allah guide us all to the true path!

A: Firstly: It is Haram (prohibited) to swear by other than Allah, such as by swearing by a father, chief, by the honor or glory of someone, by a respectable person, or anything similar, according to what is confirmed to have been narrated from the Prophet (peace be upon him). He said, ("Anyone who has to take an oath should swear by Allah or be silent.") (Agreed upon by Al-Bukhary and Muslim) He also said, ("Anyone who has to take an oath should only swear by Allah.") (Reported by Al-Nasa'y) And he (peace be upon him) said, ("Anyone who swears by other than Allah has committed Shirk (associated others in worship with Allah).")

Secondly: A Muslim should not equate anything with Allah, such as the homeland,

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a king, or a chief, when making a pledge to work for them. They should say instead: "I pledge by Allah, to make every effort to perform my duty towards Allah Alone; and to serve the homeland and help Muslims; and to act according to the scout law, as long as it does not contradict the Shari`ah of Allah (may He be Exalted)."

Thirdly: Deeds should always be according to the Shari`ah of Allah (may He be Exalted), so it is not permissible to make a pledge to absolutely follow the laws of a state, sect, or a group of people.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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