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Fatwa No. 1448

Q: Someone built a Masjid (Mosque) in Yemen and ordered his family to bury him inside. When he died, they buried him in the Masjid in the direction of the Qiblah (direction faced for Prayer towards the Ka`bah). The distance between the courtyard where his grave and the Qiblah is only one meter, please guide us concerning this issue.

A: This grave should be dug up and the corpse should be carried to any place far from the Masjid such as the town graveyard. Placing a grave in the Masjid is a means leading to Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah). It is severely prohibited if the grave is in the direction of the Qiblah and considered an act of Shirk as it may lead to worshipping the dweller of the grave. This is based on what is related by [Al-Bukhari and Muslim in their Two Sahih](#) (authentic) Books of Hadith on the authority of [Abu Hurayrah](#) (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) stated, ([May Allah curse the Jews and the Christians for they have taken the graves of their prophets as places of worship.](#)) Also [Muslim](#) related that the Prophet (peace be upon him) stated, ([Do not sit on graves and do not pray towards them.](#)) Moreover, [Muslim](#) related that the Prophet (peace be upon him) stated, ([Beware, for those who preceded you used to take the graves of their prophets and righteous men as places of worship, but you must not take graves as mosques; I forbid you to do that.](#))

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

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