



Indian Muslims for Secular Democracy  
Equality Justice Compassion Peace

May 9, 2017

### Press release

*(Statement issued at the Press Conference held in Mumbai on May 9, 2017)*

## **Renowned Maulana endorses IMSD's campaign for ban on triple talaq and halala**

IMSD fully supports the petitions in the Supreme Court of individual Muslim women victims of triple talaq which have been backed by three Muslim women's organisations. IMSD welcomes the fact that these petitions are now to be heard by a Constitutional Bench (11<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May 2017) and is hopeful of a verdict in favour of Muslim women. We hope that the apex court will also examine and include in its verdict the constitutionality of the "privilege" of unilateral divorce enjoyed by Indian men under Muslim Personal Law.

We applaud renowned Maulana Syed Shahabuddin Salafi Firdausi, Chairman, Athar Blood Bank, Sholapur (Maharashtra), for his whole-hearted endorsement of IMSD's ongoing campaign against triple talaq and halala. In a short statement handed over to IMSD, the Maulana has said: **"Instant divorce by uttering 'talaq, talaq, talaq' is a mockery of Islam and an act of cruelty against the daughters of Islam. Halala is like dacoity on the dignity of Muslim women and a brutal assault on their honour and self-esteem"**. (Original statement in Urdu attached).

In a detailed conversation with IMSD in Mumbai, Maulana Shahabuddin claimed that there were hundreds of ulema in the country who share his views and he hoped they will make their views public in the coming days.

In the past week, two top functionaries of an all India organization of ulema with a large following have also communicated to IMSD's Convener that they will welcome a verdict from the Supreme Court declaring triple talaq and halala practices to be both unconstitutional and un-Quranic.

IMSD appeals to the ulema to heed the voice of their conscience and speak up publicly for truth and for justice, as the Quran obliges all Muslims to do. *"O you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and*

*whether it be (against) rich or poor: for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest you swerve, and if you distort justice or decline to do justice, verily Allah is well-acquainted with all that you do."* [Sûrah al-Nisâ': 135]

IMSD believes that triple *talaq* (instant divorce), *halala* and polygamy as currently practiced amongst Muslims must be declared unconstitutional. We support the plea of some of the petitioners in the apex court that these blatantly unilateral, inhuman and anti-women practices be also declared "un-Quranic". Triple *talaq* not only violates the Constitutional Rights guaranteed to Muslim women, it is, in fact, anathema to the Islamic principles of justice, equality and compassion. Neither triple *talaq*, nor the shameful current day practice of *halala* finds any mention in the Quran.

The Delhi High Court has declared triple *talaq* to be illegal. Most Muslim majority countries too have put a statutory ban on it. However, in India a mischief continues to be played on Muslim women in the name of Islam by vested interests within the community. IMSD hopes to work towards bringing an end to this practice and secure equal rights to Muslim women.

IMSD also deplores the attempt of certain political parties to politicise and communalise what is clearly a straightforward issue of gender justice and fundamental rights guaranteed under our Constitution. We assert that those who engage in or rationalise the lynching of Muslim men, initiate or endorse government measures that at one stroke snatch away the livelihood of tens of thousands of Muslim families may posture as but can never be well-wishers of Muslim women.

We also appeal to the electronic media to refrain from turning the issue of gender justice into TV tamashas pitching Muslim women against moulvis especially chosen for their regressive views.

The press conference was addressed by the undersigned.



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Nasreen Contractor (Co-convener)

Outub Kidwai (Member, IMSD National Executive Committee)

Khatoon Shaikh (Member, Member, IMSD National Council)



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(Statement issued by renowned Maulana Syed Shahabuddin Salfi Firdausi, Chairman, Athar Blood Bank, Sholapur in support of IMSD's campaign against triple talaq and halala: Mobile No: 9561699373)

Instant divorce by uttering, '**talaq, talaq, talaq**'

Is a mockery of Islam

And,

An act of cruelty against the daughters of Islam.

**Halala,**

Is like dacoity on the dignity of Muslim women

And,

A brutal assault on their honour and self-esteem.

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(मुस्लिम महिलाओं को न्याय दिलाने की आयीएमएसडी द्वारा जारी मुहीम के समर्थन में जाने माने मौलाना सैय्यद शहाबुद्दीन सलफी फिरदौसी, चेयरमैन, अतहर ब्लड बैंक, शोलापुर का बयान. Mobile No: 9561699373)

एकबारगी "तलाक़ - तलाक़ - तलाक़" का दे देना

इस्लाम दीन का मज़ाक़ उड़ाना है

और,

इस्लाम की बेटियों पर जुल्म ढाना है.

**हलाला**

मुस्लिम औरतों की इज़ज़त पर डाका डालना है

और,

उनकी इज़ज़त को तार तार करना है.

For further information contact: Javed Anand (9870402556).

یکبارگی طلاق - طلاق - طلاق کا دینا

اسلام دین کا حراق (اڑانا) ہے۔  
اور: خواتین اسلام پر ظلم ڈھاتا ہے۔

» حلالک «

خواتین اسلام کی عزت پر ڈاکا ڈرانے  
اور: ان کی عزت کو تار تار کرنا ہے۔

سیدنا ابوبکر صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم

حیرتین اطہر بیلہ بینک سٹور لاپور (مہاراشٹر)

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