

Time for Scholars to Stand Up

July 2, 2007

Imams and khatibs must play a greater role in the fight against terrorism and destructive thoughts and ideas. This was the message of Interior Minister Prince Naif to 600 imams and khatibs who deliver Friday sermons in mosques across Saudi Arabia.

He urged them to expose the falsehoods of deviant ideology that continue to dupe Saudi youths to go to Iraq and blow themselves up, slaughtering the innocent and serving the interests of our enemies by tarnishing the image of Islam and branding the Kingdom as a terrorist haven.

It is the duty of every imam and every Muslim scholar to stop the spread of the deviant ideology that has hijacked Islam and threatens every Muslim in the world today. Muslim scholars should speak out to enlighten the faithful about the true teachings of Islam and promote Islamic principles of peace, tolerance and moderation in order to allow Muslims to coexist peacefully with the rest of the world.

The majority of the Muslims take their guidelines from khatibs and imams, especially during Friday sermons in the mosques, which is why it is imperative for the revered scholars to assume their role in delivering the proper teachings and providing the needed guidance to protect the well-meaning faithful from being perverted to become messengers of death and enemies of Islam themselves.

It is also crucial for Muslim scholars to make clear the spirit of Islam to the world. There is a confrontation between Islam and the West, and our scholars must bear the responsibility of addressing the controversial issues that have divided Muslims from the rest of the world.

The only thing terrorism has accomplished is alienation between the peoples of the world. Its victims are not only the ones who die but all those whose lives, whose dignity and whose futures are threatened