



Putting pictures in a Masjid (mosque) or praying in a place that has pictures

Fatwa No. 1874

Q: We are working in one of the official buildings. They have appointed one of the distributing halls for performing Salah in the building where we are working. We perform Salah (prayer) in congregation while at work. They have put large pictures of notable people before us. We found hardship due to these pictures being in front of us during Salah. What is the ruling on putting pictures in a place dedicated for worship long time ago? Should we continue offering Salah at that place in such a case?

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A: Your Salah is valid and there is no blame on you for that as long as there is no adjacent Masjid to offer Salah at. But you should do your best in convincing those who are responsible to remove these pictures or to find you another place that has no pictures to offer Salah in. Performing Salah in a place where there are pictures before worshippers resembles those who worship idols. There are many authentic Hadiths that denote the prohibition of imitating the enemies of Allah and asked Muslims to differ from them. Moreover, hanging pictures of living beings is not permissible and one of the avenues that lead to extravagance and Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah) especially if these pictures are of noble people. We ask Allah to grant us all success and guidance.

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

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