



(Part No : 8, Page No: 435)

Burying more than one dead person in the same grave

Fatwa No. 6455

Q: In some areas in the south, people dig graves that are two meters in length and one meter in width. This grave is usually dug by the oldest person in the family. If this person dies or any other person in the family dies, they will be buried in this grave. They bury many dead people in this grave whether they are male or female. The number of dead people buried in one grave can reach fifteen from the members of one family. Is it permissible to do this? If it is not permissible, it will be better to warn people against it in through the media.

A: Every dead person should be buried in a separate grave. They should be put in a Lahd (a crevice on the side of a grave facing the direction faced for Prayer). It is not permissible to bury more than one person in the same grave except in cases of hardship such as in the times of plagues or mass killing when it becomes difficult to put every dead person in a grave due to great numbers of dead people. A righteous person should be put first towards the Qiblah (direction faced for Prayer towards the Ka`bah) as the Prophet (peace be upon him) did with those who were murdered in the battle of Uhud.

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

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