

Communal Iftars

Question: I heard from some brothers that communal Iftars – whether during the month of Ramadan, or for supererogatory fast – is a **Bidah**. So is this correct?

The Standing Committee for Scholarly Research and Issuing Fatwas: There is no problem with having communal Iftars during Ramadan or outside of Ramadan, so long as it is not thought that this communal gathering is worship. This is based upon the statement of Allah the Exalted:

لَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ أَنْ تَأْكُلُوا جَمِيعًا أَوْ أَشْتَاتًا ﴿٦١﴾

There is no blame upon you whether you eat together or separately. (Soorah An-Nūr 24:61)

But if it is feared that communal Iftars for the supererogatory fast will involve showing off or seeking to be heard in order to distinguish those who are fasting from those who are not fasting, then this is hated. And with Allah lies all success. And may the Salutations and peace of Allah be upon our Prophet Muhammad and his family and his companions.

<http://www.alifta.net/fatawa/fatawaDetails.aspx?BookID=3&View=Page&PageNo=4&PageID=13573>

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