

The Emirati Khusran

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On the 28th of April 2026, the United Arab Emirates announced its withdrawal from OPEC[1] and OPEC+ effective May 1st. This came in the middle of the US-Israel war on Iran, while the Strait of Hormuz remains shut, while bombs fall on Muslim soil, and while Gaza continues to be erased. The UAE Energy Minister Suhail Al Mazrouei told CNN openly that the timing was deliberately chosen because the closure of Hormuz means the market will not feel the impact immediately. In this article, we expose what this announcement means for the Ummah and explain why this single act is the perfect proof that the so called Muslim nation states are in khusran, complete loss in this dunya and in the akhirah.

Khusran (خُسران) is a Quranic term meaning loss, ruin, bankruptcy. Lexically, khusr is the opposite of nafa' (profit). The Quran takes this commercial term and gives it eternal weight: failure in dunya and ruin in akhirah. Allah says:

وَالْعَصْرِ ۝ إِنَّ الْإِنسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ

> *"By time, indeed mankind is in loss."*[2]

Imam ash-Shafi'i is reported to have said that if Allah had revealed nothing of the Quran except this surah, it would have been sufficient guidance for humanity. Khusran is total failure. The nation states ruling the Muslim world have placed themselves squarely inside it.

What the UAE Actually Said

The honesty of the announcement is itself a confession. The Emirati state agency WAM declared that the decision was *"based on our national interest"*. The UAE plans to withdraw from OPEC on Friday, and the decision also extends to OPEC+, the larger group that consists of other oil producers such as Russia.[3]

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[1] **OPEC** is the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, founded in 1960. It controls roughly a third of global crude oil production and 79 percent of proven reserves. Whatever its flaws, OPEC was one of the few platforms where Muslim majority oil producers could collectively bargain against Western consumers.

[2] Surah Al-Asr, 103:1-2

[3] CNN Business
https://www.cnn.com/2026/04/28/business/uae-leaves-opec-oil-cartel-intl

Suhail Al Mazrouei was even more direct on CNN:

> *"Timing is right because it will not significantly impact the market and the price because the Strait of Hormuz is closed and restricted. So everyone is constrained, including us, but taking the decision now will help all of our friends… (to) not feel the pressure on the price."*[4]

Asked whether Saudi Arabia was consulted, Al Mazrouei said it was a "*sovereign national decision.*"[5]

Three confessions are buried in those words. The timing was chosen to exploit the war. The move is meant to benefit "*our friends*" in Washington and Brussels whose economies are bleeding from high oil prices, and not the Muslims of Gaza, Iran, Yemen, or Sudan. And the decision was made without any consultation with the Ummah it claims no responsibility toward.

The Architecture of Betrayal

This decision sits in a longer chain of UAE behavior. In 2020, the UAE was the first Gulf state to sign the Abraham Accords and openly normalize with the Zionist entity. When Iran launched missiles toward the Zionists in 2024 and 2025 in response to the Gaza genocide, the UAE was a central node in the regional air defense system that intercepted them. Reports confirmed that Saudi Arabia and the UAE provided critical intelligence and enabled the use of their airspace, contributing to a 99 percent success rate in neutralizing the strikes.

Now, with Hormuz strangled and oil at 102 dollars a barrel, the UAE leaves OPEC to pump more, please Washington, and break what little remained of Muslim coordinated economic leverage. Trump had been demanding exactly this. He had repeatedly accused OPEC of "*ripping off the rest of the world*". Trump linked US military support for the Gulf with oil prices, saying that while the US defends OPEC members, they "*exploit this by imposing high oil prices*".[6] The UAE has answered with full obedience.

Debunking the Defense

The apologists will speak of pragmatism and national interest. Let us address each lie.

"*It is just business.*" Oil is a strategic weapon placed under our feet by Allah Himself. When Iran alone used the Strait of Hormuz as leverage, the entire global economy buckled. The UAE leaving OPEC at the exact moment that lesson was being

[4] CNN *Live* https://www.cnn.com/2026/04/28/world/live-news/iran-war-trump-israel
[5] Ibid
[6] Al Jazeera https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/4/28/uae-leaves-opec-and-opec

demonstrated is sabotage. It is a deliberate weakening of Muslim collective bargaining power at the moment that bargaining power was actually working.

"They are pursuing their national interest, like every state." This argument concedes the entire problem. A Muslim ruler who frames his obligations through the borders drawn by Sykes and Picot has already accepted that colonial lines are more sacred than la ilaha illallah. The Prophet ﷺ said:

> *"The Muslim is the brother of another Muslim. He does not oppress him, nor does he hand him over to the enemy."*[7]

To exploit the closure of Hormuz, a closure caused by an American war on a Muslim country, for market gain is to hand a brother to the enemy in exchange for a contract.

"The UAE has the right to manage its resources." Under whose authority? The ruling family did not create the oil. Allah placed those reserves in Muslim land for the Muslims. The Prophet ﷺ said:

> *"Muslims are partners in three things: water, pasture and fire."*[8]

Classical scholars extend this to all common natural resources. Oil is the inheritance of the Ummah, held in trust. To privatize that trust into a "sovereign national decision" benefiting the West is theft under a flag.

The esteemed and erudite Hanafi faqih of the sixth century **Burhan al-Din Abu al-Hasan Ali ibn Abi Bakr al-Marghinani** (d. 593) says in al-Hidaya:

> *"It is not allowed for the ruler to grant (to a person/s) that which the Muslims collectively are in need of such as salt mines and large wells from which the people irrigate their lands."*[9]

In commenting on this the great Hanafi faqih and muhaddith of the ninth century Badr al-Din al-'Ayni (d. 855) elaborates on a numbers of points in al-Binaya Sharh al-Hidaya.[10] First, he notes that *"that which the Muslims collectively are in need of"* is everything that they cannot do with as a community. Second, he explains that the ruler granting something [iqtaa'], like a piece of land, is when he allots it to someone making it their private ownership. Third, he mentions that the jurists are agreed on this point, there being no difference of opinion on it. Fourth, he adduces as proof the hadith related by Tirmidhi and Abu Dawud:

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[7] Sahih al-Bukhari 2442
[8] Sunan Ibn Majah 2473
[9] Marghinani, al-Hidaya Sharh Biyadat al-Mubtadi, Dar al-Ihya: Beirut, 4:384. https://thoughts.returnofislam.com/2017/02/12/public-property-according-to-the-hanafi-school/
[10] Ayni, Badr al-Din, al-Binaya Sharh al-Hidaya, Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyya: Beirut, 12:292-3.

> *From Abyad bin Hammal (ra) that he went to the Prophet (saw) and asked him to allocate the salt reserve in Ma'rib to him so he (saw) did so. When he left a man from the gathering said, "Do you know what you just allocated to him? You allocated to him an unending (replenishable) ['idd] reserve." So he (saw) took it back from him."*[11]

The Quranic Verdict: This Is Khusran

Allah swore by time itself in Surah Al-Asr that mankind is in loss, **except** those who believe, do righteous deeds, exhort each other to truth, and exhort each other to patience.

Apply this verdict to the Emirati ruling regime. Is normalizing with the occupiers of Al-Aqsa a righteous deed? Is intercepting missiles fired in defense of Gaza a righteous deed? Is exploiting the war on Iran to pump more oil for Western allies an act of advising the Ummah to truth? **Every criterion of escape from khusran has failed.** What remains is the default Allah described: **loss**.

This is the khusran of the nation state. They built palaces while Al-Aqsa cried. They signed peace deals with murderers while Muslim blood ran in the streets. And now, in the middle of an active war on a Muslim country, they have chosen this exact moment to formally cut themselves loose from any pretense of solidarity, to deliver more oil to the friends of the killers.

The Bond to the Ummah: Why Unity Is Fard

The UAE leaving OPEC is one symptom of a deeper sickness, and the cure has been written in our books for fourteen hundred years. The unity of the Ummah is a Shariah obligation, an order from Allah, a promise from the Prophet ﷺ, and an ijma' of the classical scholars.

The obligation of unifying the Ummah under one Khalifah is the consensus of the classical scholars across all four madhahib.

Imam al-Mawardi, in his al-Ahkam al-Sultaniyyah, stated:

> *"The Imamah (Khilafah) is the succession of Prophethood in the protection of the deen and the managing of the worldly affairs, and its contract for the one who fulfils it in the Ummah is an obligation by consensus."*

Imam an-Nawawi, in his Sharh Sahih Muslim, transmitted the same consensus:

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[11] Abu Dawud, 3046; Tirmidhi, 1380.

> *"They (the scholars) consented that it is an obligation upon the Muslims to appoint a Khalifah."*

He also stated:

> *"It is forbidden to give an oath to two Imams or more, even in different parts of the world and even if they are far apart... they agree that it would be forbidden to appoint two Khalifah's at one given time, no matter how great and extended the Islamic lands become."*

The classical fiqh considered it haram to have even two leaders, let alone fifty seven. Every Emirati flag, every Saudi border post, every Pakistani passport that defines Muslims as separate sovereign entities operates in violation of explicit consensus.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

> *"Indeed, the Imam (Khalifah) is a shield, from behind whom you fight and by whom you are protected."*[12]

The shield is missing because the Ummah is divided. The Ummah is divided because we have accepted the legitimacy of the very system designed to keep us weak.

Conclusion

The UAE has officially walked out of OPEC at the most disgraceful moment imaginable. While Hormuz chokes Muslim shipping, while bombs fall on Iran, while Gaza bleeds, the Emirati state has chosen to pump more, sell cheaper to its "friends" in the West, and break the last remaining Muslim coordinated economic platform.

This is khusran. The Quranic verdict on those who do not believe, do not act righteously, do not advise to truth, and do not stand on patience.

The nation state has failed Palestine, Iran, Sudan, Yemen, Kashmir, East Turkistan, the Rohingya. The only solution is the one Allah commanded, the Prophet ﷺ promised, and the scholars confirmed. The unification of the Ummah under one Imam, one Khalifah, one shield. Until that day, every betrayal like this OPEC exit is another reminder of why the work cannot wait.

The Ummah is one body. The body is bleeding. And the limb that should have ached has instead picked the pocket of its dying brother.

May Allah unite us before more limbs fall.

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[12] Sahih Muslim 1841

W'Allahu Alam, Allah Knows Best

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