# 7866 - Burying Muslims in a non-Muslim country

**the question**

It is a great honour for a group of Muslims in the city of Brussels in Belgium to ask you for a fatwa (Islamic ruling) on the question of burying Muslims in a Christian graveyard or elsewhere. We have decided to establish an Islamic graveyard in this city, and the Belgian government has asked us to show them a fatwa (ruling) on this matter. We are asking you because of your great efforts on behalf of this religion. We await your response with expressions of our deepest respect.

**Detailed answer**

Praise be to Allah.

The deceased Muslims must be buried in a graveyard that is exclusively for them. It is not permissible to bury them in non-Muslim graveyards. Imaam al-Sheeraazi said in al-Muhadhdhab: “A non-Muslim should not be buried in the Muslim graveyard and a Muslim should not be buried in a non-Muslim graveyard.” Imaam al-Nawawi said in al-Majmoo’: “Our companions (may Allaah have mercy on them) agreed that a Muslim should not be buried in a non-Muslim graveyard and a non-Muslim should not be buried in a Muslim graveyard.” From this it is clear that there has to be a place that is exclusively for the burial of Muslims in a graveyard of their own.

And Allaah is the Source of strength. May Allaah bless our Prophet Muhammad and his family and companions, and grant them peace.