163630 - Is it permissible to bury the deceased in his house?

the question

Is it allowed for a muslim to be buried inside his own compound where he has built his house? This is because muslim cemetries are difficult to find in our area, and it has thus become the norm to see muslims burying their deceased inside the family compounds.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Firstly:

The Sunnah is to bury the dead in public graveyards.

Ibn Qudaamah (may Allah have mercy on him) said: Burial in Muslim graveyards was more liked by Abu ‘Abdullah [i.e., Imam Ahmad] than burial in people’s homes, because it is less harmful to the living among his heirs, and is more befitting, and it means that there will be more du‘aa’s and prayers for mercy for the deceased. The Sahaabah and Taabi‘een, and those who followed them, continued to bury their dead outside the city.

If it is said: The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) was buried in his house and his two Companions were buried beside him, the response is: ‘Aa’ishah said: “That was only done lest his grave be taken as a place of worship.” Narrated by al-Bukhaari.

And because the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) used to bury his Companions in al-Baqee‘, doing so is better than doing otherwise.

With regard to his Companions, they regarded this as something that applied only to him, and it was narrated that “The Prophets are buried where they die.” And it was to protect his grave and to distinguish it from others.

End quote from al-Mughni, 2/193

But… If it is not possible to bury a Muslim in the graveyard and there is no place to bury him other than in his house, then there is nothing wrong with that.

An-Nawawi (may Allah have mercy on him) said: It is permissible to bury the deceased in his house or in the graveyard, but the graveyard is preferable according to scholarly consensus.

End quote from Sharh al-Muhadhdhab, 5/245

You have to speak to the officials in your country about setting aside some land for burying the dead, or you can advise some good people to buy some land and set it aside as a waqf for burial of the dead, or let the people come together to buy it. That is because widespread burial of the dead in houses will reduce the space available for the occupants and it may lead to disrespectful treatment of the graves.

And Allah knows best.