

Leader of UAE Emirate Sharjah demands Spain's Cordoba cathedral be restored to a mosque

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Tourists visit Cordoba's mosque cathedral, known as the Mezquita [AFP/Getty]

The ruler of the UAE emirate [Sharjah](#) Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi demanded [Cordoba](#) Cathedral in Spain be [restored to a mosque](#) on Thursday, *Arabi21* reported.

The Emirati leader said in an interview shared by *Sharjah News*: "At the very least, we demand the return of Cordoba Mosque, which was granted to the church, as this is a gift which doesn't belong to those who don't deserve it".

This contradicts statements made by other Emirati officials criticising Turkey for its decision to convert the Hagia Sophia to a mosque.

Emirati academic Abdul Khaleq Abdullah criticised the Grand Mufti of Oman's for blessing the Turkish move, calling Erdogan a "malicious Ottoman" on [Twitter](#).

The sixth-century Istanbul landmark's museum status - in place since 1934 - was revoked on Friday and control was handed to the religious authority.

The decision sparked condemnation from Western governments, [Russia](#) and Christian leaders - Pope Francis saying he was "very distressed".

The image is a screenshot of a Twitter post from the account 'الشارقة للأخبار' (@Sharjahnews). The post features a video player with a play button in the center. The video content shows a man in traditional Emirati attire speaking, with a news anchor's name 'الخط المباشر' visible at the bottom. The text of the tweet is in Arabic and discusses the conversion of Hagia Sophia to a mosque, mentioning the Grand Mufti of Oman and the Turkish government. The tweet includes several hashtags: #حاكم_الشارقة, #نطالب_بإرجاع_مسجد_قرطبة_الذي_تم_منحه_للكنييسة_فذلك_يعتبر_عطية_من_لا_يملك_لمن_لا_يستحق, #الشارقة_للأخبار, #الإمارات, #الشارقة, #إسبانيا, and #الأندلس. The video player shows a duration of 3:37 and 69.6K views. The tweet was posted at 8:01 AM on July 16, 2020, and has 1.7K likes and 1K people are tweeting about it.

الشارقة للأخبار
@Sharjahnews

صاحب السمو #حاكم_الشارقة : نطالب بإرجاع مسجد قرطبة الذي تم منحه للكنيسة فذلك يعتبر عطية من لا يملك لمن لا يستحق، لأن ملكيته تعود للمسلمين.
#الشارقة_للأخبار #الإمارات #الشارقة #إسبانيا #الأندلس

الشارقة للأخبار
SHARJAHNEWS

الخط المباشر

صاحب السمو / سلطان بن محمد القاسمي
الأعل - حاكم الشارقة

حاكم الشارقة : نطالب بإرجاع مسجد قرطبة الممنوح للكنيسة

صاحب السمو حاكم الشارقة خلال مداخلة سموه عبر "الخط المباشر" : نطالب بإرجاع مسجد قرطبة الذي تم منحه للكنيسة فذلك يعتبر عطية من لا يملك لمن لا يستحق، فملكه تعود للمسلمين.

3:37 69.6K views هيئة الشارقة للإذاعة و التلفزيون SHARJAHNEWS

8:01 AM · Jul 16, 2020

1.7K 1K people are Tweeting about this

Cordoba mosque, known as the Mezquita, in Spain's southern region of Andalusia was the holiest site of Muslim worship in the West during the Umayyad caliphate of the 10th and 11th centuries.

Read more: [What will happen to Turkey's Hagia Sophia after controversial mosque conversion?](#)

It has been a Catholic site since the Christian reconquest of the city in 1236, after which a cathedral was built inside the building.

Regarded as one of the finest monuments of Moorish architecture, the mosque-cathedral was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1984.

<https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/7/17/sharjah-leader-demands-restoration-of-cordoba-cathedral-to-mosque>