



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Muslim Community Center, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MCC Statement on the Ongoing Violence and Destruction in Gaza, Al Aqsa Masjid, and Sheikh Jarrah

May 18, 2021

We, the members of the Muslim Community Center (MCC), are devastated to see the violence inflicted on Palestinian civilians and the evictions in Sheikh Jarrah, perpetuated by the Israeli Police before their courts could issue a decision on the land use. The use of rubber bullets and tear gas in Masjid Al-Aqsa while people were offering prayers is unacceptable

The escalating violence and ceaseless air raids targeted at Gaza, and rockets fired in self-defense from Gaza, has resulted in hundreds of injured civilians, 212 Palestinian deaths, including 61 children and 36 women, and 10 deaths in Israel. This will continue unless immediate action is taken by both parties. We urge that our government leaders and the international community take actions to halt the destruction of civilian properties and loss of innocent lives. We should make it unequivocally clear that the Israeli government's actions are nothing short of ethnic cleansing and apartheid. As a nation we must stand for justice and freedom. The Israeli Police violence, and the Israeli Government's efforts to displace Palestinian families in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and the disproportionate Israeli military response to Palestinian efforts of self-defense are completely unacceptable and the antithesis of the values of the United States. It must end.

These acts of terror are another painful example of the struggle of Palestinians continue to experience. The lack of response and condemnation shows how dehumanized Palestinian people have become in the global context. We must stand with people who stand for justice and equal rights for all humans, as we all have the right to live freely and with dignity. Palestinian civilians have been marginalized and used as pawns in this conflict for over 73 years. History has shown us that walls, discrimination and persecution have never worked. Let us all work towards making the Palestinian deferred dream a reality and stop the cycle of oppressed people turning around to become oppressors.

We urge all people of all faiths to do what is right, as all faiths teach us to respect the dignity of each individual; Palestinians should not be treated or perceived any differently. We must stand with our brothers and sisters and fight for their justice, humanity, and right to live freely. While we may be grappling to understand how we can meaningfully support our brothers and sisters, please consider the following efforts:

- Please call your Representatives, the White House, and your Senators and tell them how you feel about this conflict
- Donate to relief efforts
 - [Islamic Relief](#)
 - [Helping Hand for Relief and Development](#)



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- Continue to share and post information on the escalating violence and educate your friends and neighbors
- Join local and national conversations
- Continue to keep the Palestinian people in your prayers

We ask Allah (SWT) to bring justice to the people of Palestine, to end the ongoing air raids and destruction in Gaza and the violence in the West Bank, to protect Masjid al-Aqsa, and to awaken the world to the ethnic cleansing that has been taking place in Palestine for the last 73 years. Ameen.

MCC's mission is to promote brotherhood and human dignity among all by developing an environment of understanding, compassion, and justice in our personal and professional lives. We strive to serve the needs of the Muslim community and community at large in a manner that promotes its positive image and standing in a changing environment. We aim to represent the Muslim community in interfaith circles, in government, public and media relations, and in the society at large.

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For more information, please email info@mccmd.org or call 301-384-345.