

Monday 17th May 2021

We, the undersigned, concerned citizens of the UK, share our serious concerns about the inhumane ethnic cleansing caused by Israel against the Palestinian population in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, more importantly the targeting of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Israeli Defence Force continues to behave inhumanely with little or no condemnation of its use of violence towards innocent civilians. The current escalations stem from the attack on worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque and threat of forced dispossession of Palestinian territory in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of East Jerusalem.

Under international law, East Jerusalem is recognised as Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel continues to disregard this, and to date has breached countless human rights. Currently in the town of Sheikh Jarrah 19 families have been threatened with forced dispossession evicting them from their homes, many of whom had lost their homes in 1948 and were placed there in homes built for them by the UNWRA. Masjid Al-Aqsa is sacred to all Muslims across the globe especially during the sacred month for Muslims, Ramadhan. Unarmed civilians have been subjected to violent attacks involving grenades with no regards at all to the sanctity of this holy place. Reports suggest that over 300 Palestinians have sustained severe injuries and wounds.

These continuous breaches of international law and disregard of basic human rights for the Palestinians cannot continue to be overlooked and unnoticed. This continuous disparaging of international law, human rights and conventions demands an international response. Unfortunately, the United Nations has not fulfilled its purpose in this matter as it has a mission statement which promotes world peace and justice. Our Government in the UK and the International community must strongly condemn the gross violations committed by the Israel as well as the settler colonialism evident in this state.

This crisis is a violation of human rights and can be described as a one-sided affair despite what the media portrays. The fact is this is not a 'clash' but is an unfair ordeal as Palestine is deprived of a government and does not have the resources to retaliate. In contrast Israel is in positions of power and are able to exercise their sovereignty through the Israel defence forces. Israel aims to remove Palestine from the map and take that land and expand Israel. Palestine is an independent state and it is the lack of authority and absence of a government which exposes it to threats of becoming extinct.

This is a massacre and it shows that Israel is showing no mercy expressing their ruthless nature by taking the lives of families including children every day. Airstrikes, missiles and bombs have become the new normal in the city of Jerusalem. All these citizens have had their lives transformed in a small amount of time and are always at risk of losing their homes at any given moment. The situation is at its peak moment as many have said that the death toll is always increasing, making it more worse than the 2014 crisis. To conclude, this is a depopulation of Palestine and as Palestine has no defence mechanism they are helpless with no option to escape this terror and trauma. We the citizens of the UK can make an intention to spread the message and create that awareness.

Unity is our Strength

Union of Muslim Organisations- Walsall

Aisha Mosque and Islamic Centre

**Central Mosque Committee and Community
Centre, Chuckery**

Darus Salam Masjid, Darlaston

Dar-us-Sunnah Madani Trust, Caldmore

**Ghausia Qasmia Trust Mosque & Community
Centre, Caldmore**

**Jalalia Sunni Jami Masjid & Islamic Education
Centre, Caldmore**

Karimia Institute (Al-Aqsa), Birchills

Masjid Abu Bakr (Abu Bakr Trust), Palfrey

Masjid Hamza, Butts

Masjid-Al-Farouq, Palfrey

Masjid-E-Umar, Darlaston

Masjid-E-Usman, Caldmore

Minhaj-ul-Quran Walsall, Alumwell

Shah Jalal Mosque, Caldmore

Walsall Central Mosque, Birchills

Zia-E-Madina Mosque, Darlaston

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