

## Newsletter

A Newsletter of the Mobile Islamic Community



### READ THE HOLY QURAN DAILY

#### The Israeli-Palestinian Crisis A Statement from the International Coalition for Peace and Reconciliation (I-CPR)

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We are saddened by the most recent conflict between Israel and Hamas, a conflict that refocuses the world's attention on long, unresolved flashpoints.

The wanton gunning down and hostage taking of non-combatants by Hamas is not acceptable in Al-Islam.

No matter who we are, no matter where we live on this earth, no matter what our religious affiliation, no matter how much our hearts are paining because of suffering, or unresolved grievances, there is no justification for us to make innocent men, women, and children the targets of their terror and violence.

Islam teaches us that Prophet Muhammed (saws) is the most excellent model of human behavior and decency. He is the leader of the Palestinian Muslims in the world. If only for a moment Hamas were to ask themselves, "Would Prophet Muhammed (saws) slaughter innocent

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### Read, Listen, and Study Lectures of Imam W.D. Muhammed

#### The Middle East Crises: The Inevitability of the Human Nature

Imam Dr. Abdel Jaleel Nuriddin  
On Behalf of the Conveners of Imams

*O you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest you swerve, and if you distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily Allah is well-acquainted with all that you do. (Qur'an 4:135)*

Certainly, our hearts are saddened by the strife and carnage we are seeing in the Middle East. All human life is sacred. Al-Islam, (Islam), does not permit terrorism, nor the taking of innocent lives, therefore, we categorically denounce and condemn such behavior from Hamas, Israel, or any person, group, or government on this earth. We must all work for justice and the dignity of the human being. Understanding that justice can be both subjective and relative, justice for some won't be justice for others. Peace is a difficult thing to reach after a long period of strife, but mankind must continue to

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### Jumada Al Awwal is the Fifth Month of the Islamic (Hijri) Calendar

#### Israel Blockade of Gaza is Inhumane Despite Ghastly Attack by Hamas

Rami Nashashibi and Rabbi Andrea C.  
London in USA Today

There's a horrific war going on between Israel and Gaza. Many of us have been glued to the nonstop news coverage and social media feed as the horror unfolds before our eyes. The question for all of us is how can we respond in a way that will bring hope and peace as opposed to more bloodshed and persecution.

The two of us have a long history of working with and alongside each other in community organizing and social justice work in and around Chicago. We also just returned home from an absolutely transformative journey in Jerusalem and its surrounding area with a phenomenal interfaith group of community leaders, scholars, artists and others.

Our journey lasted for two weeks. The last day of the trip coincided with horrific violence and attacks inside Israel on Saturday that have led to yet another round of aerial bombardment and an inhumane blockade on Gaza. Our group experienced the direct horror of indiscriminate rockets being fired from Gaza into Israel as we ran for cover with people of all faiths and

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### The Israeli-Palestinian Crisis

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men, women, children, and the elderly just to get to the enemy or to bring attention to his cause? Would he do that? No, he wouldn't.

As Muslims, the teachings of our religion do not permit us to engage in disgraceful warfare tactics, regardless of our pain. We are to conduct ourselves according to what Al-Islam dictates. We cannot abandon the excellence of our Islamic character, even as a warrior meeting the challenges of an unscrupulous enemy. Al-Islam inspires Muslims toward the most excellent human character and behavior.

Almighty G'd does not allow us to come out of our character because of our hatred of another people. Even while facing the ravages of war, we are to adhere to the demands on us for genuine respect for human life, particularly the life of non-combatants. They should NEVER be the target of our violence-NEVER. Therefore, we condemn the strategy of targeting non-combatants, no matter who they are. We reject such strategies. What matters the most, is that we obey Almighty G'd and His messenger, Muhammed the Prophet (saws). Almighty G'd prefers that we be with the peacemakers, not with or seek to appease the warmongers.

We extend our regards and condolences to all the families afflicted by actions that are beyond the realms of healthy human sensitivity. We are praying for a lasting peace between Israel and Palestine. And we are praying that the retaliatory actions of the Israeli military be tempered with respect for the lives and well-being of Palestinian non-combatants.

We stand together with all the oppressed people in the world-Muslims, Jews Christians-no matter who they are. We feel their pain. Their hurt is our hurt. Palestinians have suffered, and their scars run deeply. The very least that the nations of the world should do-along with all right-minded people, Christians, Jews, Muslims, and others is to pray for the peace and the prosperity of Israelis and Palestinians and work to help bring about a just, honorable existence for the Palestinian people, and for all our brothers and sisters in the family of mankind.

### The Middle East Crises: The Inevitability of the Human Nature

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work as honest brokers and as equals seeking a fair and equitable two-state solution. We pray for peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

In 1917, with the Declaration of the Balfour Accord, the British Government decides to give Palestine to the Zionist as a Jewish state for a national homeland. The Palestinians objected to the action. Since that time the global distaste for that action has been consistent from onlookers who believe in Justice.

In 1948 the State of Israel declared its independence. The name of the land mass changes from Palestine to Israel. Israel took more of the land than what was proposed by the United Nations. How can you have a two-state solution when the process started off unjustly? Palestinians wouldn't agree to the United Nations proposal, because they didn't see it as just. The human nature is not going to accept an unjust proposal with its eyes open. The world's population has been watching this scenario for over a century and things haven't changed. Until justice is on the table circumstances won't change.



Muslims believe oppression is worse than slaughter. You can't treat human beings as subhuman and not expect reprisal. The African American experience of slavery is a testimony to that. The history of the Irish people is another testimony to that. And there are other struggles for freedom and liberations going on throughout the globe today that testify to that.

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### Israel Blockade of Gaza

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backgrounds at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport.

Our own fear and the fear of those who were sheltered with us was palpable. We knew that wherever these other travelers were headed, this trauma would be carried with them and have an impact on communities across the globe and geopolitics. We tried to comfort ourselves and others around us as we searched for a safe way home, eventually crossing into Jordan to catch flights back to America. Nothing in Muslim, Jewish faiths justifies Hamas attacks.

The stories of ghastly attacks by Hamas are gut-wrenching to watch, and there is nothing in our understanding of our faiths and righteous pursuits for justice that justify such horror. We know that these brutal images and stories bring up deep-seated trauma for the Jewish community and worry and sadness for the many who have been killed, injured and taken captive.

Meanwhile, the carnage and blockade being imposed upon the civilian population in the Gaza Strip by an overwhelming military force is barbaric and inhumane – and yet not often condemned by the world. The attacks on and closure of Gaza will certainly lead to the deaths of innocent children.

While in Jerusalem, our multifaith group had the opportunity to connect to the Jewish traditions of Sukkot (the weeklong fall harvest festival), attend Shabbat dinner, sit through a soaring church service on the Mount of Olives and attend powerful outdoor Friday prayers along the road to Tiberias.

We leaned into one another's rich spiritual backgrounds and commitments to justice, mercy and peace by exploring underappreciated connections to this sacred land, and in so doing, tried to forge another path for radical empathy and connection to the stories, hopes and aspirations of those working for and dreaming of more dignified pathways for all people on this land.

Throughout our journey, we were reminded of the daily humiliation, hardship and injustice experienced by Palestinians living under military

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### Israel Blockade of Gaza

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We are also concerned about the safety of Muslim and Jewish communities here in the United States as tensions flare in Israel and Gaza. Some parts of both communities are receiving threats at this time.

Palestinian people are not the enemy; Jewish people are not the enemy. The true enemy is any ideology that degrades and diminishes the sacred light resident in all humanity.

We recognize the fear, anger and helplessness so many feel at this precarious and violent time, but our traditions teach us to turn to prayer, loving support of one another, and working for justice and peace as outlets for these feelings and not violence.

We must stand up for the safety and security of everyone. Our hearts break for all who live under the threat of terror and sit under the canopy of hopelessness. We call upon our religious leaders, politicians and communities to stand together for justice and peace and not resort to sloganeering or jingoism at this time.

May more of us of all backgrounds dig deep into the highest ideals and practices of our traditions so we can truly radiate the divine light of truth, justice and mercy so desperately needed now in Gaza, in Jerusalem, across this ancient holy land, here in Chicago, and across the globe.

**NOTE:** Opinion originally published in USA Today.

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For complete article with inserts visit  
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/voices/2023/10/11/hamas-attack-israel-blockade-gaza-innocent-palestinians/71136888007>

**Editor's Note: This newsletter contains three points of view regarding the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis. Your comments are appreciated.**

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### The Middle East Crises: The Inevitability of the Human Nature

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In the eighteen hundreds, the American government realized that if it didn't fight the system of chattel slavery it couldn't have a semblance of a civilized society. Freedom is the birth right of all people. The human nature is not comfortable when it is not free. Jews, Christians, Muslims and others let's be honest and true to humanity. Our basic nature tells us, that we are to be free to express the inalienable rights that has been given to us by our Creator and until we have that freedom, it's in our human nature to strive and sacrifice for it.

As this crisis continues to escalate, our prayer is that Almighty G-d will protect the innocent civilian lives affected by this conflict.

As Salaam Alaikum

Peace Be Upon You

On Behalf of the Conveners of Imams



As we move into November, the month of nationwide "Thanks Giving" in the USA, we are faced with happenings in the world and at home that make us sad, troubled, questioning. Thanksgiving is observed the fourth Thursday here. We are reminded to take this time, even if we do not take the time regularly, to be thankful. As noted throughout the newsletter are reminders to be thankful. But let us remember those who are sad, troubled, and questioning. Let us remember them. And in our prayers of thankfulness ask that they be reminded of "something" to be thankful for.

*...Also call to mind when your Lord proclaimed: If you give thanks, I will certainly grant you more...Holy Quran 14:7*

### Israel Blockade of Gaza

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occupation in refugee camps and surrounding areas. In Jerusalem, we heard of forced evictions, home demolitions and a widescale system of harassment and abuse that make life unbearable for most Palestinian families struggling to survive. While none of that justifies the carnage of innocent civilians, it must be understood as the ongoing context in which decades-old Palestinian grievances are being ignored or exploited.

Now back in Chicago, we know our work will soon return to the issues that connected us before this journey together: social, racial and economic justice and equity in our city and ways to bring faith and other communities together around a larger vision for a more just and equitable Chicago.

Meanwhile, we cannot forget what we experienced together in the Middle East, especially at a time when much of America and news outlets seem to be cheering on Israel's blockade and bombardment of one of the most densely populated and essentially imprisoned populations in the world.

We pray for the healthy return for all Israeli children, families and others taken hostage in the Gaza Strip as we pray for the cessation of collective punishment upon innocent Palestinian families.

We call upon our politicians to support an immediate end to the full blockade on Gaza and a humanitarian corridor for relief for families inside Gaza. Among the things we were reminded of by many people of all faiths and backgrounds on this journey is the interconnected and interwoven reality of all our collective experiences, suffering and dreams for justice.



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