



Bismillah-hir-Rahmaan-nir-Raheem

In the name of God, the most Gracious, the most Merciful

Statement on Israel War in Gaza

Surrey Muslim Association is deeply concerned with the horrifying ongoing Israeli siege and assault on Gaza, in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

As Muslims following a religion which promotes justice and peace, SMA condemns the killing of any innocent civilians and people, regardless of faith, background, and worldview.

SMA is horrified at the collective punishment and killings of a captive population of 2.2 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, half of which are children, and a humanitarian catastrophe of unimaginable proportions.

The ongoing Israeli siege and assault on Gaza is unconscionable in its brutality. Human Rights Watch has confirmed Israeli forces have used white phosphorous, a banned weapon, in Gaza – a war crime. The Israeli government has been pursuing a policy of collective punishment since Monday, 9th October 2023, laying complete siege to Gaza and cutting off all water, electricity, food and fuel - a war crime. Israeli forces have ordered the evacuation of 1.1 million Palestinians from the north of the Gaza Strip to the South, including hospitals in the area – a forcible population transfer, which, apart from possibly amounting to a war crime, could constitute a crime against humanity. UN experts have decried the bombing of hospitals and schools as crimes against humanity.

As of the 6th of November 2023, over 9,500 people including around 6,000 Palestinian children have been killed in this conflict so far.

Our political leaders, whether in government or opposition, must understand the gravity of this moment in time. The solution to this devastating conflict is a political one.

1. SMA asks all UK Political leaders to do everything within its power to broker an immediate and complete ceasefire, an end to the siege of the Gaza Strip and the opening of a humanitarian corridor through the Rafah crossing, allowing entry of all the desperately needed humanitarian aid into Gaza as a matter of utmost priority.

2. SMA asks that all UK Political leaders and all the public act to support already vulnerable local Muslim and Jewish communities at this time, who face the harrowing prospect of a further increase in Islamophobic and Anti-Semitic hate crime, prejudice, and discrimination.

3. SMA asks the Government and all UK political parties to work with the international community to demand progress on reaching a peaceful solution to the historical conflict to prevent future atrocities taking place.

The UK must demonstrate leadership on the international stage, ensuring international law is respected, the sanctity of all human life is protected, and a just and lasting peace prevails in the region.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We eagerly await your response.

Yours faithfully,

Imam Hashmi, Head Imam, Shah Jahan Mosque, Woking.

Imam Mahboobur Rahman, Bangladeshi Cultural Association, Horsell.

Imam Dr Syed Naqvi, Imam Hasan Foundation, Woking.

Imam Muhammad Husain Kazi, Ashford and Staines Community Centre.

Imam Tahir Fayyaz, Ashford and Staines Community Centre.

Imam Sadik Miah, Ashford and Staines Community Centre.

Imam Misbah Uddin, Dorking Muslim Community Association Ltd.

Imam Abdul Malik Ezhari, Al Kharafi Mosque, Camberley.

Imam Abdur Rab, Surrey Muslim centre, Addlestone.

Imam Dr Husni Hammuda, Chaplain and Imam, University of Surrey.

Momade Faizal, Chairman, Runnymede Muslim Society

Imam Joynal Ahmed, Surrey

Mohamed Kharbouch, Wokingham Muslim Society.

Abdullah Sindhu, Chairman, Leatherhead District Islamic Society.

Nisar Shaikh, Chaplain, Royal Holloway University London.

Shamim Ahmed, Chairman, Molesey Islamic and Cultural Centre

Aamer Khan, Chairman, Surrey Heath Muslim Association

All members of the Surrey Muslim Association.

The Surrey Muslim Association is a platform for Muslim organisations and individuals, and a voice for the Muslim community in Surrey.

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