

**Media Statement**  
**AFIC Condemns attacks by Israeli settlers and authorities on Palestinians**  
**Monday 10 May 2021**

We are sick and profoundly aggrieved that Israeli authorities and settlers continue to wreak terror on the people of Palestine. The latest pogroms against innocent Palestinians in their residential neighbourhoods and at the Al Aqsa Masjid, a place of worship, are sickening in the extreme, Israel has created a most vicious form of apartheid in Palestine.

“The ongoing Israeli pogroms in Sheikh Jarrah and at the Al Aqsa Mosque show the reality of Israel’s ambivalence about human life. Israel is a brutal expansionist apartheid state that will not stop without strong action from the international community, before the masses take matters into their own hands.” Said AFIC president, Dr Rateb Jneid.

“Israel’s use of stun, sound, light grenades and “rubber” coated bullets against worshippers and civilians is a crime against humanity, Israeli troops and those who gave the orders are guilty of war crimes and must be prosecuted as such. The responsibility starts at the top and goes all the way to the barbaric Israeli troops and settlers who are willingly committing these atrocities.” Said Dr Jneid

“The world turned a blind eye as the state of Israel was established through the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian villages by the Stern, Irgun and Haggana terror groups. Whilst we no longer hear these names, we see settlers, Israeli military and “intelligence” replacing these terrorist gangs and continuing the pogroms in full view of a seemingly-impotent international community.” Said Dr Jneid.

“Rather than put a stop to racist Israeli aggression, world leaders continued to punish the resolute people of Palestine by cutting aid to them and giving free reign to Israeli terror. The international community is continuing to lose credibility when it comes to issues of peace and war.” Said Dr Jneid.

“We call on our Australian government to take action and lead the international community in condemnation of Israeli apartheid and aggression and in organising international peacekeeping troops to the occupied Palestinian territories. Australia must also increase its aid to Palestinians beyond previous levels as we all witness the magnitude of need of the people of Palestine”. Said Dr Jneid.

“As I pray for a just peace in Palestine, my heart is shattered by the Israeli-State violence in East Jerusalem and at our third holiest Masjid. May Allah help us in this holy month of Ramadan and inspire saner minds to work for peace. Humanity cannot keep watching as a group of people oppress another group for no reason other than wanting to grab their land. May Allah help us all break out of this vicious cycle, May Allah grant peace and healing to our world.” Said the Most Eminent Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari, National Grand Mufti of Australia.

Authorised by:

Dr Rateb Jneid  
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The Most Eminent Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari  
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