

AFIC Embraces Temporary Ceasefire, Calls for Lasting Peace in Israel-Gaza Conflict

Thursday 23rd November, 2023

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) acknowledges with cautious optimism the announcement of a temporary ceasefire between Israel and Gaza. We embrace the release of hostages and those Palestinians who have been detained without charge, recognising this as a step towards peace.

Dr. Rateb Jneid, President of AFIC, stated, "While we welcome the pause in violence and the release of detainees, we must emphasise that this is a temporary measure, not a lasting solution. A sustainable peace cannot be built on pauses, it requires a cease to hostilities and a commitment to dialogue."

AFIC urges the Australian Government to advocate for a comprehensive ceasefire and for the de-escalation of armed conflict. We must not confuse a cessation of violence with the resolution of underlying tensions. The siege of Gaza must be lifted to provide immediate and unimpeded humanitarian access and to initiate the rebuilding process for the devastated region.

We further call on Australia to contribute to a durable solution founded upon a human rights framework, and one that holds all parties accountable. It is critical to acknowledge the asymmetry of power and influence in the conflict. We must not be seduced by the fallacy that might equates to right.

"The path to peace is paved with the principles of justice and equity, not with the force of arms. We stand with the Palestinian people in their quest for dignity and self-determination," Dr. Jneid added.

AFIC remains committed to supporting initiatives that foster genuine dialogue, mutual understanding, and respect for international law. We stand ready to work with all communities towards achieving a just and enduring peace in the region.

Authorised:

Dr Rateb Jneid
President of AFIC