



AFIC Cautiously Welcomes Limited Ceasefire in Gaza

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The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) cautiously welcomes the UN Security Council's resolution for an immediate, albeit limited, ceasefire in Gaza during the holy month of Ramadan. This resolution, which was supported by all members except for a US abstention, is a significant step towards alleviating the suffering of the Gazan people.

While AFIC appreciates this step, we emphasize that this ceasefire is only the beginning. The world must act decisively to enforce this resolution, ensuring that all parties comply, and that humanitarian aid is immediately allowed to enter Gaza without restrictions.

AFIC's President, Rateb Jneid, states, "The ceasefire is a welcome respite for the people of Gaza, but it is not enough. We must ensure that this ceasefire is not just a temporary measure but a stepping stone towards a comprehensive peace'.

AFIC on numerous occasions reiterated that all life is sacred, and this is highlighted in the month of Ramadan. However, it is imperative that the ceasefire leads to a lasting and sustainable peace beyond this Holiest of Months.

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's statement that "failure would be unforgivable" resonates with AFIC's stance on the urgency of the situation. We urge all parties to honour the ceasefire and allow for the much-needed humanitarian relief to reach the thousands of Gazans who have endured immense hardship.

The forthcoming report by a UN human rights expert, advocating for an arms embargo on Israel due to acts defined as genocide, is a stark reminder of the severity of the conflict. AFIC stands in solidarity with the people of Gaza and calls for immediate international action to prevent further atrocities and to uphold human rights for all.

AFIC calls upon the Australian government and international actors to support the enforcement of the UN Security Council's resolution and to work towards a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The people of Gaza deserve the right to observe Ramadan, and indeed live, in peace and security.

AFIC, established in 1964, stands as the Peak Muslim Organisation in Australia, with 170 members including 9 State and Territory Councils. It has a rich history of pioneering numerous community services and actively advocating for the rights and representation of the Muslim community.

Authorised:

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