



IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MOST GRACIOUS,
THE MOST MERCIFUL.

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

From a gathering of Islamic Scholars, Centres and Activists | Sydney NSW

On Wednesday the 10th of October 2023, a meeting of Islamic scholars and heads of associations as well as community activists, was held at Arrahman mosque, Kingsgrove, to discuss the current state of affairs in Palestine. The meeting resolved as follows:

1. The Palestinian people have suffered **seventy**-five years of occupation and Israeli aggression, against their land, expulsion from their homes, Judaization of their sacred sites, and the bulldozing of their crops and trees.
2. Israel has seized the lands of the Palestinian people by killing and massacring their women and children for decades, and to this day, Israel continues to destroy Palestinian homes and wipe out their neighbourhoods and residential areas.
3. Israel arbitrarily detains thousands of Palestinians and imprisons them in difficult, inhumane conditions.
4. Israel continues to violate all international laws and disregards the Charter of Human Rights as expressed through Israel's racist rhetoric, describing the Palestinian people as "human animals,". In addition, Israel's apartheid wall forces Palestinians in Gaza, to live in the largest open-air prison and continues to besiege them and deprive them of water, food, fuel, and electricity, which is considered a war crime under international law.
5. Based on the above, we call on the Australian federal government and the New South Wales government to think carefully and wisely before making decisions regarding the war in occupied Palestine, while we appreciate the extent of pressure exerted on them by the Zionist lobby in Australia. We, therefore, call on all state and federal governments to be balanced in their discourse and take into consideration Australia's internal and external interests, away from a policy of double standards that encourages the unjust, the killer, and lets down the oppressed victim.

6. We add our voice to all the voices calling for the preservation of the democratic system and freedom of expression, including the right to peaceful demonstrations, while emphasizing the necessity of preserving expressions and slogans that are consistent with the tolerance of our religion, morals, humanity, and Australian values. The Australian Muslim community calls on Chris Minns, the member for Kogarah, the NSW Premier, to publicly affirm the government's support for the right to protest.

7. We pray to God, The Almighty to help the Palestinian people in these difficult days to relieve them of all anxiety and anguish and to inspire the Arab and Islamic people to stand with Palestine and its people so that security and peace may prevail in their lands and the return of its people from their displacement and exile. He is the Hearer and Answerer of all prayers.

