

In the Name of God, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful

5 November 2023

The Muslim Students Association (MSA) at the University of Arizona firmly supports the Palestinian population enduring grave hardships, including loss of life, destruction, and displacement in Gaza. Our thoughts and prayers are with the countless innocent individuals, both adults and children, who have tragically lost their lives during the ongoing crisis in Gaza. We extend our heartfelt condolences to our compatriots residing in the West Bank and the Palestinian diaspora, who have been deeply affected by the prolonged acts of inhumanity committed within their ancestral homeland over decades.

As Muslim students committed to the pursuit of justice for all, and in alignment with the guidance from Allah (SWT) and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), we assert the fundamental principle that causing harm to innocent individuals is ethically wrong, irrespective of their nationality. Regrettably, numerous educational institutions have failed to uphold this principle by exclusively condemning recent acts of violence against Israelis, while simultaneously disregarding or, in some instances, endorsing the oppressive, occupying, and destructive actions imposed upon the Palestinian population in Gaza. We stand firmly in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their rightful aspiration to lead a life characterized by justice and the peaceful enjoyment of an unoccupied homeland.

The year 2023 has been designated as a period marked by heightened violence and loss of life in Palestine, attributed to the increasing extremities exhibited by the openly discriminatory Israeli apartheid government. Regrettably, the United States persists in extending support, encompassing military, financial, and diplomatic assistance, despite the ongoing activities of the Israeli government's leadership, which openly promotes ethnic cleansing in northern Gaza. Moreover, numerous educational institutions have also come under scrutiny for releasing biased and one-sided statements that unequivocally endorse the Israeli apartheid government while neglecting the profound hardship experienced by the Palestinian populace.

Our religious convictions compel us to raise our voices against injustice, engage in rigorous self-examination, and actively counteract indifference in our pursuit of embodying a community that aligns with the principles set forth by the Prophet. In light of this, UA MSA encourages the American Muslim student community to

fervently champion the cause of a liberated Palestine, enlighten their fellow students about the injustices stemming from the occupation, and staunchly oppose any endeavors that seek to rationalize or bolster the oppressive actions of the Israeli apartheid government towards the Palestinian population within our campus environment.

We call upon our Muslim Students Association and its constituents to join together in the following unified endeavors:

Dua - The Most Potent Weapon of a Believer:

Dua, or supplication, holds significant importance in Islam. UA MSA encourages individuals and communities to include Palestine and its people in their prayers. This practice serves as a formidable means of invoking divine intervention and seeking support for those confronted with adversity.

Community Initiatives - Solidarity for Justice

Taking collective action by boycotting companies that provide support to the Israeli government and its unjust activities is a significant step. Refraining from channeling funds towards actions that perpetuate harm to our Palestinian brethren in Gaza represents the least we can do. This endeavor serves to underscore our unity and heighten awareness of the Palestinian cause within our local communities. Together, as one Ummah, our voices carry greater strength.

Enhance Engagement - Promote Informed Awareness

Effectively disseminating information about the situation in Palestine through social media is crucial, and UA MSA advocates for responsible sharing. It is paramount to rely on verified and credible sources when spreading accurate information. This practice not only counters the spread of misinformation but also fosters a more comprehensive understanding of the matter at hand.

Knowledge Acquisition - Grasp the Truth

The protracted and illegitimate occupation of Palestine has its roots in decades of conflict and warfare. We strongly encourage all MSAs to deepen their understanding of the Palestinian situation by exploring the following educational resources: <u>American Muslims for Palestine</u>, <u>Students for Justice in Palestine</u>, and <u>Visualizing Palestine</u>.

Donate - Support the Cause

Providing financial support is pivotal for humanitarian organizations committed to delivering assistance and relief to Palestinians in need. UA MSA emphasizes the significance of individuals and organizations contributing to established charities and relief initiatives dedicated to the cause of Palestine, including the following:

Baitulmaal
Palestine Children's Relief Fund
Islamic Relief

Helping Hand for Relief & Development

Support Palestine - A Lifelong Commitment to Justice

Beyond advocating for justice in Palestine, UA MSA underscores the vital role of wholeheartedly backing the Palestinian cause. This enduring commitment encompasses enlightening community members, fostering constructive dialogues, and mobilizing resources to enhance endeavors for justice in Palestine, ensuring it is a lifelong dedication. By taking a firm stance in support of Palestine, we actively contribute to the pursuit of a more equitable global community.

May Allah (SWT) guide us as a collective to follow the example of the Prophet (PBUH). May He provide solace and relief to the oppressed, both in this world and the hereafter. And, even as the world is currently mired in injustice and obscurity, may He swiftly envelop it in His divine radiance and equity.