



**Australian National Imams Council**

**مجلس الأئمة الفدرالي الأسترالي**

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## ANIC Press Release

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) condemns the brutal and disproportionate military action launched by the Israeli Government against innocent Palestinian people, including women and children. The ANIC believes that such aggression and bombing of heavily populated areas of the Gaza Strip should be regarded by the Australian Government and by the International Community as a severe violation of human rights that will not help the plight of the people living in the region and will only lead to the continued loss of innocent lives of many Palestinians, many of whom have been killed whilst in their own homes.

The gruesome scenes of lifeless bodies; women and children being pulled out from beneath rubble that was once their homes, violates every notion of human rights and should be viewed by the Australian Government as an attack on Palestinian civilians. This indiscriminate act of aggression by the Israeli Government has been a war against Palestinian civilians and their already limited infrastructure. There has already been over 400 civilian fatalities and many more severely injured.

The ANIC therefore calls on the Rudd Government to join the chorus of other nations calling on Israel to halt its disproportionate attacks on the people of Gaza and to immediately re-open border crossings to allow the distribution of urgent food, water and medical supplies into the densely populated strip.

The ANIC believes that such pressure placed on the Israeli Government will result in the restoration of basic human rights for the 1.5 million people affected by this conflict and restore peace to the Gaza region. It is the view of the ANIC that the Australian Government cannot stand idly by and be a silent witness to these atrocities as they unfold.