



MEDIA RELEASE | For Immediate Release | 11 July 2024

Muslim Women Australia and Islamic Council of Victoria Urge Government Action in Response to Israeli Attack on School Shelter

Muslim Women Australia (MWA) and Islamic Council of Australia (ICV) express deep concern and grief over the recent tragic incident in Khan Younis, Gaza, where an Israeli attack on a school sheltering internally displaced Palestinians resulted in the loss of at least 29 lives. Survivors, in a desperate bid for help, transported casualties – both deceased and injured – to Nasser Hospital.

The heart-wrenching testimony of a young boy, who now stands as the sole survivor of his family, underscores the devastating impact of this violence. As a community, we mourn the lives lost and stand in solidarity with those affected.

"It's been nine months of aggression, displacement and human rights abuses. People continue to flee from one place to another looking for safety, but nowhere is safe. In what world is this acceptable, let alone defensible? Palestinians are being killed, bombed, and having their schools, hospitals and entire cities destroyed by Israel.

There can be no justification. There can be no reason or excuse. We will not lose hope in humanity. We will continue to speak out for justice. To stand up against oppression. This is not a new normal. This is not acceptable." Maha Krayem Abdo, CEO of MWA.

"Another shelter bombed. This time a school. Scores more innocent women, children, and elderly slaughtered. This Israeli genocide against Gaza continues to plumb new depths of cruelty and barbarity. There is no place in Gaza safe from Israel's murderous violence. How much Palestinian blood must be spilled for the world to say enough!" Adel Salman, ICV President.

MWA and ICV urgently call upon the Australian government to take decisive action in response to this tragedy:

- 1. Stop the Double Speak:** When a Ukraine hospital was struck by Russia, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs on 9 July 2024 described Russia as conducting an 'illegal, immoral war.' We call for the same language to be applied to Israel, which has struck **four schools in Gaza over the last four days.**

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2. **Diplomatic Sanctions:** The Australian government must engage in diplomatic efforts to condemn violence against Palestinian civilians and advocate for a peaceful resolution, whilst immediately recognising the state of Palestine. We call for a strong stance that prioritises **human rights and protection for all**.
3. **International Pressure:** Australia must continue to work with the international community to hold accountable those responsible for this attack. Justice and accountability are essential for preventing further loss of innocent lives. It is not enough to demand restraint from Israel, as their track record has shown they continue their offensive with impunity and no accountability.

MWA and ICV stand united with other organisations, faith communities, and concerned citizens in urging the Australian government to act swiftly and decisively. Our collective humanity demands no less. Enough is enough.

For media inquiries please contact

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