

COUNCIL ON AMERICAN ISLAMIC RELATIONS MASSACHUSETTS STATEMENT ON PALESTINE

The Massachusetts Chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations unequivocally condemns violence against all civilians in the ongoing conflict in Israel and occupied Palestine. We support an immediate ceasefire and an end to violence. We call on elected leaders to pursue a just and lasting peace in the region. We call on Congressional leaders to support the Ceasefire Now Resolution currently proposed in the House of Representatives.

The horrors of occupation in Palestine have long been documented and condemned by several Human Rights organizations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, B'Tselem, and the United Nations Human Rights Council. Israel has completely blockaded the Gaza strip, denying water, internet and phone, electricity, fuel, and humanitarian aid to civilians during a constant campaign of military bombardment. Roughly half the population of Gaza is children. Despite international calls for a ceasefire, the civilian death toll in Gaza has risen to more than 7,000.

We call for fair and accurate reporting by the media in covering the war on Gaza and the ongoing occupation of Palestine. We call on the media to cover the perspective of innocent civilians who are dying by the thousands in Gaza, as well as their families grieving here in the United States. Misleading reporting that focuses primarily on one side's suffering perpetuates negative stereotypes about Palestinians and Muslims.

CAIR-MA has seen a 366% increase in calls from the Muslim community seeking assistance in dealing with harassment and threats to their safety. We have seen alarming reports of retaliation toward employees who call for justice. We also hear rampant reports of students facing bullying, harassment and retaliation, from elementary school through college. Schools must remain a safe haven for all students. No student should be bullied or harassed for their identity or self-expression.

Freedom of speech is a core value that has been upheld in Massachusetts long before the American Revolution itself. The right to speak without fear of repression or retaliation is one of the hallmarks of our Republic and this Commonwealth. We reaffirm our commitment to freedom of speech, and call on others to do the same.

CAIR-MA is mobilizing funding to aid families seeking legal assistance and provide immediate relief to the Massachusetts Muslim and Palestinian community in response to the unprecedented rise in hate-based discrimination, harassment, and threats to their safety. We affirm our commitment to protecting our communities and the pursuit of justice.

If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of harassment or discrimination based on religious, racial, or cultural identity, or as a result of the conflict in Gaza, please report using this "[Report an Incident](#)" form.
