



Public Statement

Uniting the Imams and Community of Australia

Monday 14th October 2024

Israeli Occupation Burns Displaced Palestinian Civilians

The **Australian National Imams Council** strongly condemns the **abhorrent destruction** inflicted by the Israeli occupation forces on **displaced Palestinians sheltering** in tents outside al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Gaza's city of Deir El-Balah.

Verified footage from journalists and activists has revealed the **devastating impact** of Israel's overnight attack on the hospital, resulting in the **deaths** of at least four individuals and leaving dozens with **severe burn injuries**.

Dr. Mohammed Tahir, a volunteer surgeon at the hospital, said: "*Patients with significant high percentage burns – unfortunately, their fate is sealed. They won't even make it to the ICU. They will die.*"

The attack targeted a **displacement camp**, causing the tents to quickly **ignite** and leading to a large fire that engulfed both the tents and hospital facilities.

In line with the **Oxford English Dictionary** definition of **holocaust**, which includes '*a destructive burning of something; a large destructive fire, a conflagration*' - we can find no more accurate description of what continues to be inflicted upon displaced Palestinians today: **a holocaust**.

We stand in **solidarity** with the victims and their families during this **dark time** of selective application of human rights on the world stage.

The **genocide, suffering** and **dehumanisation** inflicted upon Palestinians is **sheer barbarism** and **evil**. We will continue to raise our voices in the face of tyranny and oppression towards a people who have suffered **over 76 years** of illegal occupation and had their land usurped under the guise of a sustained colonialist agenda.

The Australian National Imams Council calls upon the Australian Government to:

1. Impose an immediate arms embargo on Israel;
2. Suspend military cooperation and training programs with Israel;
3. Condemn human rights violations by Israeli forces and call for investigation and accountability;
4. Demand the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador; and
5. Ensure humanitarian aid is allowed to enter Gaza, especially the North where no food, water or medical supplies have entered for the last 9 days.

anic.org.au

For media enquiries, please contact: media@anic.org.au

Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) represents over 300+ Imams from all states and territories