



# Palestinian American Boy Stabbed To Death In Hate Crime, Sheriff Says

By: *Rehan Qamar*

Several mourners gathered outside Chicago on Monday for the funeral of Wadea Al-Fayoume, the 6-year-old Palestinian-American boy who was stabbed to death in his home Saturday during an anti-Muslim hate crime.

Peaceful demonstrations in honor of the child are occurring across the country with social media posts raising awareness of the consequences associated with false narratives that spread Islamophobia in the U.S.

Muslim Americans across the country are being targeted as a



result of fear and propaganda spread in regard to the situation in Gaza

and Israel. Many feel as though the current situation is similar to

that of the aftermath of Sept. 11.

*Cont. on page 14*



# Thousands Rally In Chicago And Detroit For Palestine

By *M. Mohammed Ahmed*

In a powerful display of solidarity with the Palestinian people, thousands gathered in cities across America this weekend to protest against the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Over 12,000 protestors in Chicago and thousands in Dearborn took to the streets to peacefully draw attention to



the plight of Palestinians and call for an end to the violence that has escalated in recent days.

In Chicago, demonstrators converged at Daley Plaza, waving Palestinian flags and holding signs with slogans like "Free Palestine" and

"Stop the Violence." Chants of "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" resonated throughout the square. The crowd included people of diverse backgrounds, united in their support for Palestinian

*Cont. on page 14*

# Several Earthquakes Worsen Conditions In Afghanistan



By: *TMO Staff*

Afghanistan faced its second earthquake days after one killed more than 2,000 people and flattened whole villages in Herat in what was one of the most destructive quakes in the coun-

try's recent history.

The magnitude 6.3 earthquake on Wednesday was about 28 kilometers (17 miles) outside Herat, the provincial capital, and 10 kilo-

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# Op Ed: How The Israeli And Palestinian Conflict Impacts Ohio's Local Government

By TMO Staff

In October, the Palestine and Israel region's already existing conflict was exacerbated leading to a direct war between the two countries. The conflict has existed for decades and has claimed millions of lives, and displaced several people from their homeland.

The United States of America has always shown solidarity and support to only the Israeli side of the war.

"The safety of American citizens—whether at home or abroad—is my top priority as President. While we are still working to confirm, we believe it is likely that American citizens may be among those being held by Hamas. I have directed my team to work with their Israeli counterparts on every aspect of the hostage crisis, including sharing intelligence and deploying experts from across the United States government to consult with and advise Israeli counterparts on hostage recovery efforts," President Joe Biden said in a public statement.

In Ohio, lawmakers also have taken a stance to only support Israel. The legislature passed a resolution portraying their unwavering



support to the people suffering in the Israeli region. However, State Representative Munira Yasin Abdullahi is the first Muslim woman and Somali to serve in Ohio's legislature. And, has been open about both sides suffering due to the escalating tensions. She was the only lawmaker in the Ohio House of Representatives to vote "No" on the resolution.

"I will be voting No on the resolution today. I unfortunately will not be allowed to speak on my reasonings. This vote does not imply that I do not stand and pray for Jewish lives lost. But,

I cannot stand with a resolution that ignores the cost and plight of the Palestinian people," State Rep. Munira Yasin Abdullahi (D) Columbus said.

Abdullahi says every life is important and it was a hard decision to make. She says, no one wants to vote against a resolution that condemns violence. However, in her eyes, this resolution fell short of condemning the damage done to the Palestinian side of the issue.

"I still strongly pray for the Jewish lives lost and mourn with my Jewish friends and neighbors as they live through this

devastating moment," Abdullahi said.

Abdullahi described how the Palestinian children are emotionally, and physically suffering at the moment as well.

"The Palestinian children also deserve someone to stand up for them and condemn their murder. Those babies who right now are denied water, electricity, and medicine, deserve to have someone stand up for them and condemn their abuse. An abuse they have suffered for over 75 years. With over 6,000 Palestinian lives lost since 2008 and thousands more injured and displaced," Abdulla-

hi said.

Meanwhile, the Ohio House Democrats released this statement regarding the ongoing conflict:

"We condemn the violent assault on Israeli citizens in the strongest terms and stand with the people of Israel against any form of terrorism and extremism. Ohio is a longstanding and proud partner of Israel, and we support the Jewish and Israeli citizens who call Ohio home. This attack, designed to sow fear and terror, raises alarms for everyone across the globe committed to peace and stability. Every Israeli and Palestinian deserves to live without fear of violence. We are praying for the families who have already lost loved ones and who are worried about the days to come, and we stand firmly in support of the peaceful lives they deserve. This year, many of us were able to be a part of a bipartisan educational mission to Israel, where we saw, firsthand, determination and courage in the face of constant threats. We support the untiring pursuit of a safe, secure, and free future for Israel."

## Sports Reporter Loses Job Over 'Solidarity With Palestine' Tweet

By: Aysha Qamar

A sports reporter in Philadelphia lost his job after tweeting his "solidarity" with Palestine after Hamas' deadly attack on Israel on Saturday.

Jackson Frank, a writer who covered the Philadelphia 76ers professional basketball team, is "no longer employed by PhillyVoice.com," PhillyVoice.com chief executive Hal Donnelly confirmed to the New York Post on Monday.

Frank was terminated after he replied to a tweet by the 76ers saying he is in "solidarity with Palestine always."

"This post sucks! Solidarity with Palestine always," he posted on X, formerly Twitter. He has since deleted his X account.

The 76ers tweeted: "We stand with the people of Israel and join them in mourning the hundreds of innocent lives lost to terrorism at the hands of Hamas," alongside the hashtag #StandWithIsrael.

The tweet followed attacks near the Gaza Strip during which hundreds of Israeli and Palestinian civilians died, first by Hamas militants and then from retaliatory airstrikes

from the Israeli military, The Guardian reported.

News outlets across the country are reporting on the brutal incident in Israel and lives lost calling it terrorism. Several of them have also been accused of bias after failing to acknowledge the violence the people of Gaza have faced for years but reporting about Israel.

Social media users who are pro-Palestine have called out these companies and organizations who are condemning the violence in Israel, but have failed to post or acknowledge what has been done by Israel to Palestinians.

Several of them have allegedly lost jobs for doing so.

In addition to Frank, other media professionals have lost contracts or had partnerships terminated for depicting their support for Palestine.

Playboy terminated a partnership with the Lebanese American social media influencer and former porn actor Mia Khalifa after what they called "disgusting and reprehensible comments".

As of this report, war has broke out between Palestine and Israel, after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Ne-

tanyahu vowed "mighty vengeance" on Israel's attackers.

According to The Independent, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant ordered the "complete siege" of Gaza, leaving the area cut off from electricity and removed from emergency aid, food, and fuel.

Per Israeli officials more than 900 people have so far been killed, Palestinian authorities documented at least 687 civilians dead in Gaza after retaliatory strikes by Israeli forces.





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E-MAIL: info@muslimobserver.com  
www.MuslimObserver.com

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FOUNDER

**A. RAHEMAN NAKADAR, M.D.**

EDITOR IN CHIEF

**Dr. Aslam Abdullah**

dr.aslamabdullah@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR

**Aysha Qamar**

editor@muslimobserver.com

MANAGING DIRECTOR

**Javeria Ahmed**

marketing@muslimobserver.com

COPY EDITOR

**Nida A. Imam**

CHICAGO COORDINATOR

**Mujeeb Osman**

chicago@muslimobserver.com

HOUSTON COORDINATOR

Ilyas Choudry

houston@muslimobserver.com

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## Op Ed: The Followers Of The Most Merciful God Kill Each Other In Palestine



*By: Dr. Aslam Abdullah*

On the day when the followers of the world's two monotheistic religions exchanged fireworks, 600 humans received their passage to heaven according to their belief systems. Thousands of physically injured people filled hospitals, and property worth billions of dollars built by the US, UN, and other countries got destroyed.

The leading nations immediately took sides. The Anglo-Saxon world sided with the Zionist state, along with the Hindu nationalist government of India. Brazil, Japan, and several East European countries immediately supported the Zionist occupiers of the Palestinian land.

Russia said it is in contact with Israel and the Palestinians.

UN Middle East peace envoy said: "This is a dangerous precipice, and I appeal to all to pull back from the brink."

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Tuerk said: "This attack is having a horrific impact on Israeli civilians... Civilians must never be the target of attack."

The US condemned "the appalling Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel."

"The United States unequivocally condemns the unprovoked attacks by Hamas terrorists against Israeli civilians. There is never any justification for terrorism. We stand firmly with the government and people of Israel and extend our condolences for the Israeli lives

lost in these attacks."

US military chief Lloyd Austin said: "Over the coming days, the Department of Defense will work to ensure that Israel has what it needs to defend itself and protect civilians from indiscriminate violence and terrorism." Biden warned "against any other party hostile to Israel seeking advantage in this situation", adding he had spoken to Netanyahu.

The Muslim and Arab world stood by the Palestinians.

Arab League urged "an immediate halt to military operations in Gaza" and "the cycle of armed confrontation between the two sides." It said that "Israel's continued implementation of violent and extremist policies is a time bomb, depriving the region of any serious opportunity for stability in the foreseeable future."

Egypt warned of "grave consequences" from an escalation in tensions between Israel and the Palestinians in a statement from the foreign ministry carried by the state news agency. It called for "exercising maximum restraint and avoiding exposing civilians to further danger."

Jordan warned of the "volatility" of the situation, "particularly in light of what cities and areas of the West Bank are witnessing of Israeli attacks and violations against the Palestinian people."

The Lebanese armed group Hezbollah said it closely followed the situation in Gaza and was in "direct contact with

the leadership of the Palestinian resistance."

Following events involving Gaza fighters who fired a barrage of rockets into Israel, the statement added it was a "decisive response to Israel's continued occupation and a message to those seeking normalization with Israel."

The semi-official ISNA news site reported that an adviser to Supreme Leader Ali Hosseini Khamenei said Iran supported the Palestinians' attack.

"We congratulate the Palestinian fighters," it quoted adviser Rahim Safavi as saying. "We will stand by the Palestinian fighters until the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem."

Iran's foreign ministry said attacks by its ally Hamas were proof of the Palestinians' increased confidence in the face of Israel's occupation.

The element of surprise and other combined methods show the Palestinian people's confidence in the face of the occupiers," ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said.

The attacks "proved that the Zionist regime is more vulnerable than ever and that the initiative is in the hands of Palestinian youth," government spokesperson Ali Bahadori-Jahromi told state news agency IRNA.

Kuwait expressed its "grave concern" over developments between Israel and the Palestinians, blaming Israel for its "blatant attacks."

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# CAIR Joins 70+ Organizations in Urgent Letter to President Biden Ahead of Israel and Jordan Trip, Demanding Immediate Ceasefire, Lasting Peace

(WASHINGTON, D.C., 10/17/23) – The Council on American-Islamic Relations, the largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization in the nation, along with over 70 other American Muslim, Arab American, South Asian American, African American, and various faith-based and civil rights organizations, has sent an urgent letter to the White House. They call on President Joe Biden to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the pursuit of a just and lasting peace during his upcoming visit to Israel and Jordan.

In a statement, CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad said: “We, along with 70 other local, national and state organizations, urgently call on President Biden to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the pursuit of a just and lasting peace during his upcoming visit to Israel and Jordan. The root cause of this conflict, Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestine, must be addressed through credible negotiations. We strongly denounce attacks on all civilians, condemn ongoing Israeli bombings in Gaza, and call on the U.S. to uphold international norms for a just and lasting peace, failing which may lead to further generations of violent conflict and instability.”

In the letter, these organizations emphasize the need for the Biden Administration to protect innocent lives in Palestine and Israel. They strongly call for an end to the recurring cycles of violence through credible negotiations, including a demand for the U.S. to address the root cause of this conflict: Israel’s multi-decade illegal occupation of Palestine, which includes its 16-year siege of Gaza.

Letter signatories also condemn attacks on all civilians, regardless of their nationality, and vehemently denounce the ongoing Israeli bombings

in Gaza. They demand the U.S. government condemn the targeting of civilians in both Israel and Palestine, vigorously intervene to uphold international norms, halt the ongoing violence, and resolutely pursue a just and lasting peace.

The letter forcefully denounces the extensive destruction caused by the Israeli government’s bombing campaign in Gaza, which includes the obliteration of apartment buildings, mosques, schools, marketplaces, and refugee shelters. It underscores the grave humanitarian situation and the violation of international law through the Israeli government’s demand for the evacuation of one million Palestinians from northern Gaza.

The letter also firmly condemns Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s threats of severe collective punishment on the people of Gaza. It explicitly calls out the over 3,000 Palestinians, including hundreds of children, killed due to Israeli military bombings and related actions that constitute war crimes and violations of international law.

Failure to act, the letter signatories firmly warn, may result in further generations of violent conflict and instability.

## **Text of Letter Sent to President Biden**

October 17, 2023

The Honorable Joe Biden  
President of the United States

The White House

600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C., 20500

## **Re: Securing a Ceasefire in Gaza and Pursuing a Permanent Peace**

**Dear President Biden:**

On behalf of the undersigned civil rights groups, human rights organizations, and houses of worship, we write to call on your Adminis-

tration to urgently seek a ceasefire in the Holy Land to protect innocent people in Palestine and Israel, including American citizens and others in captivity, from further death and destruction.

We also call on your Administration to permanently end these recurring cycles of horrific violence by pursuing credible negotiations to bring a lasting peace, including by ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory.

Killing civilians is wrong, no matter whether the victims are Israeli or Palestinian, American, or any other nationality. That’s why we unequivocally condemn attacks against civilians in Israel and why we also unequivocally condemn the ongoing bombing attacks on civilians in Gaza.

Our nation must do the same. As your Administration condemns the targeting of civilians in Israel, it must not simultaneously sanction the targeting of civilians in Palestine.

For over a week, the Israeli government has conducted a massive bombing campaign of the blockaded Gaza Strip, destroying apartment buildings, mosques, schools, marketplaces, and refugee shelters. Israel’s far-right defense minister has said that Israel is fighting “human animals” in Gaza and would treat the entire population of Gaza accordingly by imposing a total ban on food, water, and fuel. The Israeli government also demanded that one million Palestinians evacuate northern Gaza, a violation of international law that the United Nations said was impossible.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned, “What we will do to our enemies in the coming days will reverberate with them for generations.”

With these words, he has threatened to inflict severe and lasting

collective punishment on the people of Gaza. This collective punishment is already underway: over 3,000 Palestinians have reportedly been killed to date, including hundreds of Palestinian children. These actions are a violation of international law and constitute war crimes.

To be clear, the Israeli government is not bombing military targets with precision to avoid civilian casualties. It is bombing many innocent people who had nothing to do with the attack on southern Israel. The Israeli government has even admitted that it no longer fires warning shots at apartment buildings before destroying them.

As you know, Prime Minister Netanyahu leads a government of far-right extremists who openly speak of ethnic cleansing. Giving him carte blanche to continue bombarding and blockading civilians in Gaza under the guise of fighting terrorism could lead to the deaths of thousands of more innocent people in the coming days. In recent years, we have seen what happens when the United States gives such far-right governments unqualified support.

Through the acts of bombing an office housing the Associated Press and other media outlets in 2021, killing Shireen Abu Akleh and other journalists, attacking worshipers at Al-Aqsa Mosque, and enabling wanton settler violence against Palestinian towns, successive Israeli governments have violated international law. The United States must step in to bring the ongoing violence to an end and demand that all involved abide by international norms, rather than violate them.

This is a critical moment for your Administration. By securing a ceasefire, averting more civilian deaths, and initiating credible negotiations to secure a lasting and just peace, including the end

of the occupation, your Administration can make history by stopping the cycle of violence once and for all.

The alternative – enabling Netanyahu’s far-right government to turn Gaza into the latest Aleppo or Grozny – will not bring peace or stability. On the contrary, it will spark further generations of violent conflict.

We stand ready to support your efforts to secure a just and lasting peace for all in the region.

Sincerely,

Al Ummah

American Muslim Community Foundation

American Muslim Empowerment Network (AMEN)

American Muslim Health Professionals

American Muslim Voice Foundation

Americans for Justice in Palestine (AJP Action)

Arab American Civic Council

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta

Birmingham Islamic Society

Brentwood Muslim Community Center

Center City Mosque, Philadelphia, PA

Center for Security, Race and Rights

Community Masjid of Atlanta

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

Dar al-Hijrah Islamic Center

Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)

18 Million Rising

Ensaaf

Emgage

Emgage PA

Gainesville Islamic Cultural Center

Habari Ummah

ICNA Council for Social Justice

ICNA Sisters

Inkerij Foundation

*Cont. on page 13*



# Israel Deprives Gaza Of Food, Water, And Electricity As Part Of Latest Offensive

By Yousuf Ali

In a significant development, Israel has instituted a comprehensive blockade on the Gaza Strip, following a major offensive by Hamas on Israeli territory.

According to Al Jazeera, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant announced on Monday that the blockade will encompass a ban on food, water, electricity, and fuel. This move intensifies the longstanding restrictions that have been in place since June 2007. The Gaza Strip, home to approximately 2.3 million people, stands as one of the most densely populated regions globally.

Israel currently maintains control over Gaza's airspace, territorial waters, and two of its three border crossings, with Egypt controlling the remaining one. Gallant emphasized, "We are implementing a complete blockade on Gaza... No



electricity, no food, no water, no gas – it's all closed."

Daniel Hagari, Israel's chief military spokesperson, confirmed on Monday that Israel has regained control over its communities following a significant incursion by Hamas fighters into its territory on Saturday. He mentioned some isolated incidents on

Monday morning but noted that "at this stage, there is no fighting in the communities." However, he said that there might still be terrorists in the region. Israeli forces are strategically stationed with tanks and drones at fence openings to prevent further infiltrations.

Fifteen out of twenty-four border communities have already been

evacuated, and the rest are expected to follow suit within the next 24 hours. Hamas, on the other hand, reported that their fighters are engaged in ongoing battles outside Gaza and have captured additional Israelis as recently as Monday morning. This is all in the contact of Israel's latest offensive against Gaza which has

severely harmed the population.

According to the Middle East Eye, in Beit Hanoun, Gaza, Palestinians were instructed by the Israeli army to evacuate to the city center, purportedly for safety. Hours later, the city center was bombarded, killing over 50 people. Witnesses described scenes of devastation, with bodies strewn across streets, malls ablaze, and homes demolished.

Many victims had heeded text messages urging them to seek refuge in the city center, following previous warnings from Israeli forces. The area targeted was near a UN agency-run school housing over 20,000 displaced Palestinians. Gaza, densely populated and facing severe infrastructure challenges, is one of the world's most densely populated areas.

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# Israeli Bombardment And Siege Of Gaza Endanger Family Of Scottish First Minister

By TMO Staff

Scottish First Minister Humza Yousaf, whose family is currently trapped in Gaza due to recent events, has accused the British government of not valuing Palestinian lives as much as Israeli lives. He expressed his distress over the situation in Israel and Gaza, criticizing the UK government for this perceived discrepancy.

Yousaf disclosed that his mother-in-law and father-in-law, who traveled from Dundee to Gaza to visit a sick relative and other family members, have been stranded there since Hamas' surprise attack on Israel. Despite his outreach, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has not contacted Yousaf about the situation, leading him to feel "angry and disappointed."

According to Politico, he also expressed frustration over receiving no response after writing to Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, who is currently in Israel.

A British government source confirmed that Cleverly had raised Yousaf's situation with the Israeli government. However, Yousaf em-



phasized that some UK politicians have failed to show sympathy for the people of Gaza.

On another note, UK Defense Secretary Grant Shapps defended Israel's decision to instruct over a million northern Gaza residents to evacuate in anticipation of a ground assault. The UN cautioned that such displacement could have severe humanitarian consequences.

Yousaf called on the UK

government to use its influential position as an ally of Israel to advocate for an end to collective punishment and to affirm that the lives of Palestinians hold the same value as Israeli lives.

While Yousaf empathizes with Israel's need for self-defense, he firmly affirms that the cost should not entail the collective punishment of two million people.

According to Al Jazeera, 180,000 Palestinians

have been rendered homeless, their homes reduced to rubble by strikes on once-populated residential areas. Additionally, Gaza's sole power plant has run out of fuel, intensifying the strain on already overburdened medical facilities, now at risk of plunging into darkness.

Yousaf implored leaders worldwide to recognize the value of both Israeli and Palestinian lives, vehemently denouncing the unjustifiable collec-

tive punishment inflicted upon over two million inhabitants of Gaza, encompassing men, women, and children.

In an emotional moment, Yousaf shared that he feels "powerless and helpless" about his in-laws' situation. He had promised his four-year-old daughter that her grandmother would be home for Halloween, but he now faces uncertainty about whether this will be possible.

## Israel-Hamas War: How The Attack On The Supernova Festival Unfolded

by Sky News

Israel's Supernova festival descended into chaos after Hamas gunmen allegedly stormed the desert event, killing hundreds of partygoers and kidnapping others in one of the militant group's deadliest attacks.

Dashcam footage showed a man being shot inside the site while another video appeared to show the moment a 25-year-old woman begged not to be killed as she was taken.

Using pictures and videos from social media and other witness testimony, Sky News has pieced together what we know so far about the assault and how the festival once described as

a celebration of "love and infinite freedom" turned into a massacre.

More than 260 bodies have been recovered from the festival, according to Israeli rescue service Zaka following the Hamas attack.

Held just 5km (three miles) from the Israel-Gaza border in the Negev desert in southern Israel, the Supernova trance festival began on Friday evening with thousands of young people attending.

The festival – featuring psychadelic trance artists, a genre of electronic dance music that emerged in the late 90s – also had an area for camping, a bar, food court, and an art space.

**Gunfire and panic**

Festivalgoers were seen dancing to bass music under colourful tents and fairy lights in one of the main areas before the camera panned to smoke rising in the distance – marked by six grey clouds in the sky.

Witnesses reported hearing rocket fire in the distance, but some ravers didn't hear explosions over the loud music.

Shortly after the music was stopped, around 6.30am, announcements were made and security staff began ushering people away from the stages.

Videos showed some people leaving hurriedly, appearing confused but not yet in panic.



With the sound of gunfire, people were seen frantically running into the surrounding fields to escape. We located one video to one of the fields east of the site across the road.

North of the festival, footage showed Israeli security forces and local police setting up a perimeter and fighting positions as festivalgoers took cover.

The markings on this

man's headband appeared to match the Hamas logo, and the location of the site according to the dashcam coordinate was also matched by a festival tent that appeared in the background.

The timestamp on the video indicates that the footage was captured approximately three hours after the militants appeared on the scene.



# What Happened In Israel? All About Israel-Palestine Conflict In Gaza

by TMO Staff

A surprise attack by Hamas fighters on Israel left about 250 Israelis dead on Saturday, prompting Israel to respond with intense airstrikes.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to demolish Hamas strongholds in Gaza, reducing them to rubble, as the conflict continues to escalate.

"We are at war and we will win," he asserted, adding, "Not an 'operation,' not a 'round,' but at war."

## What happened in Israel

At 6.30 a.m. on Saturday, Hamas fired a huge barrage of rockets into southern Israel. Air raid sirens across Israel shattered the morning silence and the Iron Dome system, one of the best air defense systems in the world, was again in action.

## 5,000 Rockets Rained From Sky

The group launched 5,000 rockets and in response, Israel's military fired 2,500 rockets.

Reuters report said that smoke billowed over residential Israeli areas and people sheltered behind buildings as sirens were heard.

"We announce the start of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood and we announce that the first strike, which targeted enemy positions, airports, and military fortifications, exceeded 5,000 missiles and shells," Mohammed Deif, head of the al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, said.

Over 300 Israelis and 232 Palestinians were killed in the deadliest escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in decades.

## Israel's reaction

"Today, we have seen the face of evil. Hamas launched a criminal attack, without distinguishing between women, children, and the elderly. It will realize



very quickly that it made a grave mistake. We will change the face of reality in the Gaza Strip," Israeli defense minister Yoav Gallant said in a video statement.

## What is Iron Dome

Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system is a land-based air defense system. It is designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets, mortars, and artillery shells fired from distances of 4 kilometers to 70 kilometers.

The system has guarded Israel since 2011. During the 2006 Lebanon conflict, thousands of rockets were fired by Hezbollah and several northern areas including Haifa were attacked, killing many. The 2006 attacks prompted Israel to develop its own air defense system.

## What is Hamas?

Established in 1987 during the First Intifada, Hamas' objective is to establish an Islamic state in Palestine. The group currently governs the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian territory on the eastern Mediterranean coast. After winning the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections, it seized control of Gaza in 2007 following a violent conflict with its rival, Fatah. Since then, Hamas has

been the de facto authority in Gaza, while Fatah governs the West Bank.

Hamas is considered a terrorist organization by Israel, the United States, the European Union, and others.

## History of the Israel-Palestine Conflict

The conflict began with Israel's 2005 withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. In August 2005, Israeli forces unilaterally withdrew from Gaza 38 years after capturing it from Egypt in the Middle East war,

abandoning settlements and leaving the enclave under the control of the Palestinian Authority, reported Reuters.

In January 2006, the Islamist group won a majority of seats in a Palestinian legislative election. Israel and the U.S. cut off aid to Palestinians because Hamas refuses to renounce violence and recognize Israel, the international agency reported.

Over the years, the conflict was not resolved

and in Jan 2023 Islamic Jihad in Gaza fired two rockets towards Israel after Israeli troops raided a refugee camp and killed seven Palestinian gunmen and two civilians.

In October, Hamas launched the biggest attack on Israel in years from the Gaza Strip.

Post a comment Israel's military said it was on a war footing, adding it had carried out strikes targeting Hamas in Gaza and had called up reservists.

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## Pakistan Tells All 'Illegal Immigrants' To Leave Country

By: TMO Staff

Pakistan ordered all undocumented immigrants to leave the country or face deportation after investigations found that more than half of suicide bombings in the country this year were carried out by foreign nationals.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar approved the plan Tuesday at a high-level meeting of his top civilian and military officials in Islamabad.

"All illegal immigrants residing in Pakistan have until November 1 to return to their countries voluntarily," Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti said during a post-meeting news conference. "And if they fail to leave by the deadline, all our state law enforcement agencies will unleash an operation with full-throttle to deport them."

According to Reuters, the undocumented migrants include 1.73 million Afghan nationals. There are some 4.4 million Afghan refugees in the



country, as Pakistan has taken them in high numbers ever since the Soviet invasion of Kabul in 1979.

"There are no two opinions that we are attacked from within Afghanistan and Afghan nationals are involved in attacks on us," Bugti said. "We have evidence that Afghans were involved in these attacks and are taking up the issue through our

foreign ministry with Taliban authorities in Afghanistan."

Per officials, 14 of 24 suicide bombings in the country this year were carried out by Afghan nationals. At least two bombings occurred during religious gatherings last week, killing at least 57 people.

The announcement to deport nationals who refuse to voluntarily

leave comes as relations between Kabul and Islamabad have been steadily deteriorating, with border clashes increasing drastically in the last month.

Per Bugti, Afghans may enter Pakistan only with a valid passport and visa as of Nov. 1.

According to VOA News, the "one document regime" will replace the system that allows for

permits to be given to individuals with divided tribes between the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

International organizations like the United Nations and Amnesty International have expressed concern over the increasingly hard line from Islamabad, with some experts fearing it will make deteriorating relations worse.

## Hijabi Former Chipotle Employee Sues Restaurant For Religious Harassment

By TMO Staff

A Muslim former employee of Chipotle, Areej Saifan, has filed a federal lawsuit against the fast-casual Mexican food chain, alleging religious harassment and retaliation.

The suit was filed by the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on Saifan's behalf. Saifan, who wore a hijab due to her religious beliefs, reported facing continuous harassment from her supervisor who pressured her to remove it.

According to CNN, The assistant manager persistently asked Saifan, approximately ten to fifteen times in a month, to take off her hijab. In one instance, the manager physically grabbed and yanked the hijab, causing part of it to come off, and exposing Saifan's

hair.

Despite Saifan reporting the harassment to a shift supervisor, the supervisor only warned the assistant manager once and did not escalate the matter to higher management. Due to the lack of action to address the harassment, Saifan decided to resign and gave her two weeks' notice on August 10, 2021. Unusually, Chipotle did not schedule her for any new shifts during the notice period, deviating from their standard practice.

In response to the allegations, Chipotle's Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Laurie Schalow, stated that they have a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination and that the implicated employee has been terminated. Schalow encouraged employees to report concerns promptly, providing an



anonymous 800 number for such purposes.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is seeking a jury trial in Kansas City and is requesting various remedies, including appropriate back pay with prejudgment interest, among other forms of relief.

Andrea G. Baran, the regional attorney for

the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's St. Louis District office, emphasized that individuals have the right to work free from harassment based on their religious beliefs and practices.

She particularly emphasized that harassment targeting women and girls who express their religious beliefs through

modest clothing or head coverings is never acceptable.

According to AP, "The lawsuit claims that Chipotle violated federal civil rights law protecting employees and job applicants from discrimination based on religion, race, ethnicity, sex, and national origin. In its suit, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said it wants Chipotle to institute policies that provide equal employment opportunities for employees of all religions and pay damages to the employee."

This is because Muslim women who wear the hijab do so because they believe it to be part of their religion's standards of modesty and American law prohibits discrimination based on religion.






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# Current State Of Gaza: No Medicines, Water, Food Scarcity

by AL JAZEERA

The Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip has turned a large part of the besieged Palestinian enclave into a pile of rubble, with people in desperate need of water and other basic necessities amid a total blockade of the enclave.

People have been forced to dig wells near the sea to fetch water as Gaza – home to 2.3 million people – is facing a shortage of water as well as food. Generators are powering hospitals after Israel cut electricity following the Hamas attack that killed 1,400 Israelis. The hospitals have few hours of fuel left.

“Food is running out, warehouses are all empty. In the few supermarkets that are open, most of the shelves are bare. There is also a shortage of water,” said Al Jazeera’s Safwat Kahlout from Gaza.

Here’s what’s to know about the current struggle for medical care, food and water in Gaza:

### Medical care

In a press conference on Tuesday, Juliette Touma, director of communications at the United Nations Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) said five trucks of fuel the organization had in Gaza were sent to various health facilities.

Despite telling people to head south for safety, overnight Israeli bombardments in Gaza’s south have killed 71 people and injured many, sending another stream of patients to overworked medical teams that are lacking essential supplies.

“There are around 2,000 patients served by 21 hospitals in north Gaza, and we better keep them there, otherwise if we move them it means that we are issuing a death certificate for them,” said Ahmed Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean.

Blood banks have only two weeks’ worth of sup-



ply left, said Dr Richard Peeperkorn, WHO in Occupied Palestine Representative

Painkillers have run out. Staff from Doctors Without Borders (Médicins Sans Frontières,

or MSF) have reported that wounded and sick patients are screaming in pain while they also

face the looming threat of bombardment.

Cont. on page 12

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## Canadian Accused Of Killing Muslim Family In Hate Attack Pleads Not Guilty

By TMO Staff

A Canadian man who is accused of running down four members of a Canadian Muslim family with his pickup truck because of their religious faith pleaded not guilty to murder on Tuesday.

Prosecutors allege Nathaniel Veltman, 22, smashed into the family in “a planned, premeditated act, motivated by hate” while they were on an evening stroll in London, Ontario.

He was charged with four counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder, in connection to what Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called at the time a “ter-



rorist attack.”

“(He pleaded) not guilty to five counts, and we chose the jury,” Veltman’s lawyer, Christopher Hicks, told AFP, during the opening of the jury selection.

Three generations of the Afzaal family were killed in the fatal attack

when Veltman’s Dodge Ram truck “mounted the curb and struck” them on June 6, 2021, police said.

Husband and wife Salman Afzaal, 46, and Madiha Salman, 44; their 15-year-old daughter Yumnah; and her 74-year-old grandmother, Talat Afzaal, were all

killed.

Salman and Madiha’s nine-year-old daughter was seriously hurt in the attack, but survived. She is now an orphan.

According to BBC, Veltman was arrested hours after the attack in a parking lot close to London’s oldest mosque —

where the Afzaal family attended.

He was wearing what was described as body armor and a helmet, police said.

Jury selection for the trial has started, prosecutors must prove both the murder charges and motive of anti-Muslim rhetoric.

The Afzaals were killed after a shooting at a mosque in Quebec City left six dead in 2017. The perpetrator of that shooting was not charged with terrorism.

If convicted, Veltman faces life in prison. The Superior Court trial is expected to last about three months

## Denmark Proposes Bill To Prevent Public Burning Of Religious Texts Including The Qur’an

By TMO Staff

The Danish government presented a bill on Friday, that could lead to a ban on publicly burning the Quran. This proposed legislation comes as a response to recent incidents where copies of the Quran were burned in Denmark and Sweden, often by far-right protesters and Islamophobic agitators.

The bill, titled “Denmark Proposes Bill Aimed at Preventing Quran Burnings,” would make burning a Quran publicly punishable by fines or imprisonment of up to two years. The law also would forbid burning the Bible and the Torah making Islam not uniquely protected by it.

According to Al Jazeera, Peter Hummelgaard, the justice minister, explained that the proposed law aims to prohibit the “improper treatment of objects of significant religious significance to a religious community.” He characterized the recent Quran burnings as “senseless taunts” aimed at inciting “discord and hatred,” stressing that national security was the primary motivation behind the ban.

Hummelgaard further stated, “We can’t continue to stand by with our arms crossed while several individuals do everything they can to provoke violent reactions.” The bill covers the Quran and extends to



the public burning of the Bible or Torah, making it a criminal offense.

The Danish government’s move has garnered attention globally, with Denmark’s Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen emphasizing its significance. Rasmussen stated, “This sends an important political signal about the values Denmark stands for and

it sends a signal to the rest of the world.”

While Denmark is known for its secular approach and abolished blasphemy laws in 2017, these recent incidents have prompted the government to address provocations more decisively. Sweden, which also lacks blasphemy laws, is considering measures to prevent public burning of

holy books if they pose a clear threat to national security.

The timeline for presenting the proposal to the Danish Parliament, known as the Folketing, remains uncertain. According to Euronews, the governing coalition, along with support from lawmakers representing semi-independent Danish territories, holds a majority in the 179-seat Folketing.

Denmark’s proactive approach to addressing provocations while respecting freedom of expression and unity underscores the complexities surrounding freedom, religious respect, and social harmony.

### Cont. from page 12. Current State Of Gaza

Essential services such as dialysis have been discontinued.

With some hospitals destroyed by the bombardment, and others being ordered to evacuate or running out of power, 20 of 23 governmental hospitals are partially operational and are treating an average of 1,000 patients a day – well above their capacity, according

to the UN humanitarian agency OCHA.

### Water

In eastern Khan Younis, the water supply was resumed by Israel but has had little effect. A lack of fuel and damaged pipelines have made it difficult to transport and pump the water.

The UN also said that parts of southern Gaza received water for only three hours on Tuesday, which only 14 percent of the population in the

Strip benefitted from.

Water consumption across all sources has dipped to three liters for each person per day, according to OCHA, which is increasingly concerned of dehydration.

The primary suppliers of water are unregulated, private vendors running small desalination and purification plants on solar energy. This also comes at a cost to a population that is already mostly below the poverty line.

Some people’s desperate search for drinking water has also led them to begin digging wells near the sea or to consume tap water from Gaza’s only aquifer, which is contaminated with sewage and seawater, according to Reuters.

“Concerns over dehydration and waterborne diseases are high given the collapse of water and sanitation services, including today’s shutdown of Gaza’s last functioning seawater desalination

plant,” the UNRWA said in a statement on Tuesday.

The electricity blackout and Israeli air strikes have affected what used to be Gaza’s drinking water sources – one desalination plant that shut down, six water wells, three water pumping stations, and one water reservoir – which collectively served more than 1,100,000 people.



CONTINUED STORY

**Cont. from page 3. The Most Merciful God**

In a statement, the foreign ministry called on the international community to “stop the provocative practices by the occupation” and the “policy of expanding settlements.”

“The Kingdom of Morocco expressed its deep concern at the deterioration of the situation and the outbreak of military action in the Gaza Strip, and condemns attacks against civilians wherever they may be,” a foreign ministry statement said.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said that the Palestinian people have the right to defend themselves against the “terror of settlers and occupation troops”, the official news agency Wafa quoted him as saying.

He spoke at an emergency meeting held in Ramallah with several top officials from the Palestinian Authority.

Qatar’s foreign ministry issued a statement

saying Israel alone was responsible for the ongoing escalation of violence with the Palestinian people.

It called on both sides to exercise utmost restraint and calls on the international community to prevent Israel from using these events as an excuse to launch a disproportionate war against Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

Saudi Arabia called for an “immediate cessation of violence” between Israel and the Palestinians. “We are following the unprecedented developments between several Palestinian factions and Israel occupation forces, which has led to a high level of violence on many fronts.”

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan called on Israelis and Palestinians to act with restraint and refrain from hostile acts that could exacerbate the situation.

“We call for restraint from all parties,” Erdogan said at a congress for his ruling AK Party in Ankara. “They must

refrain from aggressive acts,” he said.

The division between the Arab and Muslim worlds and the Christian, Jewish, and Hindu worlds is sharp and decisive. All have their theological and historical reasons to justify their positions.

This situation did not emerge in 2023. It is the outcome of 100 years of history in which the Zionists and the Anglo-Saxons played a significant role in denying the Palestinians their humanity and rights to their land because of a flimsy, fabricated myth that the Holy Land was a gift to Jews by a G-d, who relishes uprooting of the original inhabitants.

During the last 50 years, those who support the Zionists have witnessed 600,000+ Jewish Israeli settlers living on occupied Palestinian land, 100,000+ Hectares of land appropriated by Israel from Palestinians since 1967, 50,000 homes and structures demolished by Israel in the OPT over the past 50 years and 4.9+ million Palestinians faced

daily restrictions on their movement.

The Jewish state in Palestine was a deliberate, drawn-out, and violent process. The Zionists turned over 80 percent of Palestinians as refugees overnight. The Zionist forces attacked significant Palestinian cities, destroyed 530 villages, killed 13,000 Palestinians, and expelled 750,000 from their homes. Today, the refugees and their descendants are more than seven million. Many still languish in refugee camps in neighboring Arab countries, waiting to return to their homeland.

With the support of the European and Anglo-Saxon world, Israel is one of the remaining apartheid states.

The illegal occupation of Palestine is a reality that the world elites refuse to acknowledge and accept. It does not change that the creation of Israel in the name of the Bible and Zionism was the worst kind of violence humanity has ever seen.

Palestinians have a right to reclaim their country. In their view, every Zionist occupying their land is an aggressor and enemy. They do not make a distinction between the Israeli military and civilians.

Since the Israeli occupation, fixed-term military service has been compulsory in the country. The draft laws of the Israel Defense Forces only apply to citizens of three ethnicities: Jews (males and females), Druze (males only), and Circassians (males only).

Palestinians consider Israel an occupying nation and reject its Biblical assertion. Hamas does not regret its decision to attack Israel and views its military action as part of a noble freedom struggle.

The UN or European nations’ support to Israel does not change this reality, especially when it has refused to accept Palestinians as full-fledged humans deserving to reclaim their country stolen by those who claim to live the divine principles of justice.

**Cont. from page 4. CAIR**

- Islamic Association of North America
- Islamic Center of Morris County
- Islamic Community Center of Atlanta
- Islamic Council of Dayton
- Islamic Organization of North America
- Islamic Shura Council of Southern California
- Islamic Society of Basking Ridge
- Islamic Society of Central Delaware
- Islamic Society of Chester County
- Islamic Society of East Columbus
- Islamophobia Studies Center
- Justice Human and Dignity
- Lighthouse Mosque
- Majlis Ash-Shura (Islamic Leadership Council) of New York
- Majlis Ash-Shura Of Metro Atlanta (Islamic Leadership Council).
- Majlis Ash-Shura of

- Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley
- Masjid Ar Rahman Coatesville
- Masjid As Sabur
- Masjid Saad Foundation
- Masjidul Waritheen MSA West
- Muslim Alliance in North America (MANA)
- Muslim American Society
- Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC)
- Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley
- Muslim Community Network
- Muslim Community of Nassau County
- Muslim Forum of the Pacific Northwest
- Muslim Power Building Project
- Muslim Public Affairs Council
- Muslim Ummah of North America (MUNA)
- MVPA Musalla Islamic Center of Palo Alto
- No Separate Justice
- Noor Islamic Cultural Center
- Northern California

- Islamic Council
- Osman Gazi Mosque
- Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans
- PNW Justice group
- Safe Communities Initiative
- Sapelo Square
- South Florida Muslim Federation
- The Long Island Muslim Society
- The Mosque Cares | Ministry of Imam W. Deen Mohammed
- United Muslim Masjid
- US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)
- Voices of Muslims
- West Valley Muslim Association
- Yamna Noor
- Yaseen Foundation
- Yemeni Alliance Committee
- Young Muslims
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**Cont. from page 1.  
Boy Stabbed**

The first incident to make the news was Al-Fayoume's story.

Joseph Czuba stabbed Al-Fayoume and his mother in Plainfield, Illinois Saturday morning all because they are Muslim, the Will County Sheriff's Office said on Sunday.

The Will County stabbing and hate crime suspect wanted to kick the mother and son duo out of their home following the Israel-Gaza conflict, prosecutors said.

The child was fatally stabbed 26 times with a military-style knife, officials said. His mother, who was stabbed 12 times, remains in the

hospital.

"What we have is a murdered Palestinian child by someone who is radicalized by the environment in which we live right now, that casts Palestinians as human animals," said Ahmed Rehab, president of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Chicago.

"This person had no track record with the family. As a matter of fact, the father says he had built a treehouse for the boy, and allowed him to swim in a makeshift pool and brought him toys."

Czuba, 71, has been charged with first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder and two counts of committing

a hate crime.

The boy's father was too shaken to speak but joined Muslim faith leaders during a press conference, during which they said this hate crime is every Palestinian American's biggest fear.

"He was a lovely boy who loved his family his friends. He loved soccer, basketball, and he paid the price for the atmosphere of hate," Rehab said.

The family said the boy's 32-year-old mother left the West Bank to come to the U.S. 12 years ago, in hopes of avoiding the violence that continues today overseas.

In announcing the charges, the Will County Sheriff's Office called the crime "senseless"

and "cowardly," saying, in part, "Detectives were able to determine that both victims in this brutal attack were targeted by the suspect due to them being Muslim and the on-going Middle Eastern conflict involving Hamas and the Israelis."

The Council on Arab American Relations in Chicago described text messages sent to the family including one threatening them.

"He knocked on the door and that he attempted to choke her, and said, 'you Muslims must die,' and attempted to stab her, and stabbed her. And, she went to the bathroom and called 911. And, this was all in her own words," Rehab said.

While in serious condition, the mother is expected to survive, the sheriff's office said.

Investigators said Czuba, who is an Air Force veteran, has not provided a statement to police, but they believe they have enough physical evidence, as well as witness statements to back up the charges filed.

He is being held at the Will County Adult Detention facility and was in court Monday morning.

Prosecutors in court said Czuba confronted Al-Fayoume's mother over what was going on in the Middle East, and then an argument turned physical.

**Cont. from page 1.  
Earthquake in Afghanistan**

meters (6 miles) deep, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It triggered a landslide that blocked the main Herat-Torghondi highway, Information Ministry spokesman Abdul Wahid Rayan said.

Janan Sayiq, a spokesman for the Afghan Taliban government's national disaster authority said Wednesday's earthquake killed at least one person and injured around 120 others.

The aid group Doctors

Without Borders said Herat Regional Hospital received 117 who got injured in Wednesday's temblor. The group, also known by its French acronym MSF, said it sent additional medical supplies to the hospital and was setting up four more medical tents at the facility.

"Our teams are assisting in triaging emergency cases and managing stabilized patients admitted in the medical tents," MSF said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Villagers are distraught over the loss of their homes and livestock,

often their only possessions, and worry about the coming harsh winter months. Some said they had never seen an earthquake before and wondered when the shaking of the ground would stop.

The epicenter of Saturday's quake — also of the same magnitude 6.3 — was about 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of the provincial capital, and several aftershocks have been strong.

Taliban officials said more than 2,000 had died across Herat after the earlier quakes. They subsequently said the quakes killed and injured

thousands but didn't give a breakdown of casualties.

Nearly 2,000 houses in 20 villages were destroyed, the Taliban have said. The area hit by the quakes has just one government-run hospital.

On Tuesday, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said Zinda Jan was the worst-affected area, with more than 1,300 people killed and nearly 500 people still reported missing.

He said U.N. satellite imagery also indicated extreme levels of destruction in the district

of Injil.

"Our humanitarian colleagues warn that children are particularly vulnerable and have suffered severe psychological distress from the earthquake," he said.

He added a technical team of 49 members from Kazakhstan is assisting those affected by the quake.

In his post, Mujahid said Saudi Arabia provided financial assistance to the people of Herat while China donated \$200,000 in cash aid through the Afghan Foreign Affairs ministry.

**Cont. from page 1.  
Rally for Palestine**

rights. Speakers at the event highlighted the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the forced displacement of Palestinians, and the need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Samaha, 25, a medical student who did not wish to give her last name, attended with her friends and made her sign at home. "I want our world leaders to stop Israel's planned genocide of Palestinians"

In metro Detroit, a similarly impassioned gathering in light rain occurred in Dearborn where over 1000 marched through the main thoroughfare. This was one of several protests all week here. Protesters demanded an immediate end to the illegal Israeli occupation and siege of Gaza. The event featured powerful speeches from community leaders, who shared personal stories of the impact of the conflict on their families and loved ones.

David Finkel, from the Jewish Voices for Peace, spoke at the Dearborn event, asking the government to "Stop the siege of Gaza, end the occupation and Israeli apartheid. Free Palestine!"

People of all ages and backgrounds attended the events despite the inclement weather. Many police officers were present, but the crowd remained peaceful. The police chief and mayor of Dearborn are both Muslim Americans and had issued statements in sup-

port of Gazans and made the security of their local residents a priority.

Social media played a significant role in mobilizing these protests, with activists using platforms like WhatsApp, Twitter, TikTok and Instagram to share news, coordinate events, and amplify their message.

Ali Hammoud, 41, from Dearborn, stated that "I heard about the rally and get my news through whats app, I can't trust anything on CNN or Fox, they are filled with pro-

paganda against Arabs and Muslims"

Notably absent from these rallies and protests were non-Arab elected officials, many of whom have been silent about the plight of Palestinians. Instead, lawmakers have attempted to censure lawmakers who are Muslim or Arab, such as Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, State Rep Abraham Aiyash and State Rep Farhat Abbas for speaking against human rights abuses by Israel.

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