



Date: Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Regarding latest middle east violence, Islamic Center of New England sentiment coincides with the statement issued by Islamic council of New England as below.

**Islamic Council of New England**

**The Islamic Council of New England condemns any acts of violence and the loss of life of the innocent civilians in the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. We wish to call for immediate cessation of all violence, the mass killings, mass bombings, and destruction of buildings and houses. We ask the world community to be fair and just in solving this conflict which has been ongoing for over 75 years. The root cause of this conflict and violence is the denial of the rights of Palestinians for living in peace and dignity in their own homeland. The world community must insist on the two-state solution.**

**Muslim communities in New England have many people of Palestinian heritage. Therefore, our hearts are with those innocent people under occupation and under severe blockade since 2007. Let the people of Gaza and West Bank live in dignity. We pray to God to give them relief from the occupation, oppression and humiliation they suffer everyday as a result of the occupation. While we deeply abhor the loss of innocent lives on both sides, we regret the conditions that have fostered this conflict.**

**We offer our condolences to the families of all innocent people who have lost their lives. As a principle of Islam, we call on all forces to use restraint and desist from harming non-combatants and innocent civilians, especially women, children and the elderly. We pray this conflict will cease immediately.**

**May Allah's Mercy and Compassion compensate all those who are suffering injustices. May Allah protect us and guide us.**

This is not a conflict of religion or a conflict between Muslims and Jews. For centuries, Muslims, Christians, and Jews have lived together in peace. For decades, Muslims and Jewish families have lived as neighbors in the town of Sharon with harmony. They have worked side by side to start initiatives that have benefitted the community. We can not allow foreign politics to divide and instill enmosity towards each other here at home.