

Statement of the Muslim Association of Canada on the current crisis in the Middle East

(Toronto, ONTARIO, July 24, 2014) –The current conflict in the Gaza Strip has left over 1000 people dead and 5000 injured, with almost all the victims being Palestinian civilians. Hundreds of homes have now been destroyed in the Gaza strip and critical civilian infrastructure such as Gaza’s only power generation plant has been bombed. Hospitals and a United Nations school sheltering displaced Palestinians have also been bombed in the past week.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said on Wednesday, July 22, that Israel’s military actions are responsible for the death of a child every hour in recent days. On July 23rd, the United Nations Human Rights Council voted to launch an independent inquiry into purported Israeli violations of international humanitarian and human rights laws in the current Gaza offensive.

The Muslim Association of Canada is saddened by the tragic loss of life in this conflict which has disproportionately included many women and children. We condemn the indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians.

The Muslim Association of Canada calls on our Canadian Government to intervene to protect civilian lives from conflict. We urge the Canadian government to take action to mitigate the serious humanitarian consequences of the conflict. The displacement of Gazans has created a serious humanitarian crisis, with limited food, clean water, shelter and medical supplies available to the more than 1.5 million inhabitants.

Canada has a long and proud history of advocating for protection of civilians and our government should continue that tradition.

The Muslim Association of Canada is a grassroots Islamic movement that embodies a holistic understanding of Islam emphasizing God consciousness and good works. By balancing authenticity and creativity we advance an understanding of Islam that is relevant to Canadian society. We serve the Muslim community and society at large through our own initiatives as well as constructive engagement with others. We inspire, enable, and engage people to uphold the fundamental values of faith, justice, and being of benefit to all of humanity.