



**For Immediate Release**

**VIGIL FOR PALESTINE**

**IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**



**Charlottetown, November 1, 2023** – The Muslim Society of Prince Edward Island is organizing a "Solidarity with Palestine" vigil on Saturday, November 4th, starting at 2 pm, a few metres to the left when facing the cenotaph, on Grafton Street in Charlottetown. The event will feature several speakers addressing the ongoing events in Palestine. We extend an open invitation to all Islanders to join us in demonstrating our support and solidarity.

Given the distressing and escalating humanitarian crisis in Palestine and Israel, we strongly condemn the indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilians. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to peace, international law, the preservation of life, and the right to self-determination for all peoples.

As Canadians, we cannot remain passive while witnessing the tragic situation in Gaza/Palestine. Israel's recent indiscriminate bombardments have resulted, as of the latest count, in the loss of over 8,500 Palestinian lives, including at least 3,500 children, and have left many thousands more injured. More than 1.4 million Gazans have been forcibly displaced from their homes, and Gaza itself is facing systematic destruction. Furthermore, Israel has blocked access to water, food, fuel, and electricity for the 2.3 million residents in the enclave (approximately one-fifth the size of Kings County), putting their lives at risk.

Concurrently, in the West Bank, dozens of Palestinians, including dozens of children, have lost their lives due to the actions of Israeli soldiers and settlers. Settler-related violence, often accompanied by Israeli soldiers, has seen a surge, marked by intimidation, threats, theft, murders, and the forced ethnic cleansing of Palestinian villages. Violence against Palestinian citizens of Israel is also in the rise.

The situation in Gaza is undeniably a severe humanitarian catastrophe and a genocide with traumatic impacts that will linger for years to come. We urgently call upon the Canadian government, politicians, faith leaders, organizations, and the international community to stand for human rights, and to unite in demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire, an end to the Gaza blockade, a halt on Canadian arms sales to Israel, and the cessation of the occupation of the Palestinian people. Your support and advocacy are essential in bringing about positive change.

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