



October 7, 2026

**COSVIO CONDEMNS ISRAEL'S GENOCIDE IN GAZA, AFFIRMS PALESTINIAN HUMANITY,
AND CALLS FOR UNITY IN STRUGGLE AGAINST INJUSTICE AND OPPRESSION**

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

*"...We ordained for the Children of Israel that whoever takes a life—unless as punishment for murder or mischief in the land—it will be as if they killed all of humanity; and whoever saves a life, it will be as if they saved all of humanity."
(Qur'an, 5:32)*

The Council of Sacramento Valley Islamic Organizations (COSVIO) marks three years since Israel began its brutal, genocidal campaign against the people of Gaza. Despite agreeing to a ceasefire one year ago, Israel continues to terrorize, murder, and maim innocent Palestinians (both Muslim and Christian), while pursuing its ambitions for Greater Israel through ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, deadly attacks on its neighboring countries, and relentless territorial expansion.

On this day, we clearly and wholeheartedly affirm Palestinians' humanity, dignity, and right to life, safety, and sovereignty. We support Palestinians' struggle for liberation, which precedes October 7, 2023 with Palestinians enduring terrorist attacks from militias, land theft, and expulsion from their homes before, during, and after the creation of Israel in 1948. We affirm the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque as the third holiest site in Islam and affirm the inviolability of all synagogues, churches, and mosques where God's name is mentioned often (Qur'an, 22:40). We believe every innocent soul God willed into existence deserves the right to life, sustenance, care, protection and medical support needed to live and thrive.

As such, we condemn Israel's genocidal intent, war crimes, disregard for human rights, and incessant violation of international law. We unequivocally condemn Israel's targeting of innocent civilians, journalists, activists, and religious and academic scholars, as well as its destruction of mosques, churches, hospitals, schools, universities, museums, farmlands, bakeries, U.N. shelters, and civilian infrastructure. We also condemn Israel's weaponization of dehumanizing language against Palestinians and

Islamophobia to justify its barbaric atrocities against Palestinians. While we condemn antisemitism, anti-Muslim hate, xenophobia, and all forms of bigotry, we also condemn the weaponization of antisemitism to shield the state of Israel from criticism. In addition, we condemn Israel's deliberate starvation of Palestinians and its cruel blocking of humanitarian aid, life-sustaining medications and medical supplies from reaching innocent people in Gaza. We also condemn Israel's murder of innocent men, women, and children risking their lives to obtain food - whether flour on land or fish from the sea - to feed their starving families.

Furthermore, we condemn Israel's indiscriminate killing of animals in Gaza, as well as its poisoning of the soil and polluting of the air, groundwater, and freshwater supplies in Gaza. We condemn the hypocrisy of environmentalists who claim to care for the natural world while remaining silent about Israel's destruction of Gaza's environment, natural life, and ecosystems. We also condemn the hypocrisy of Western feminists who advocate for women's liberation while remaining silent about Israel's killing of women and destruction of women's reproductive health. We also condemn all government actors, financial institutions, media, tech, weapons companies, and any other entity complicit in aiding and abetting Israel in its genocide.

Conversely, we commend all local, regional and international actors who have spoken out against Israel's genocide with clarity and conviction. We support all local scholars, imams, religious leaders, world leaders, athletes, artists, students, activists, environmental advocates, journalists, celebrities and all courageous individuals who condemn Israel's genocide, refuse to remain silent, and continue to call for a Free Palestine—a Palestine free from Israeli oppression, occupation, apartheid, and injustice against anyone. We applaud all individuals and groups who continue to use their skills, talents, and platforms to give voice to Palestinian narratives and highlight Israel's atrocities through creative content, including short films, documentaries, social media reels, op-eds, books, and art exhibits.

We commend the courage and bravery of all those who risk their careers, fame, wealth, academic degrees, and well-being to speak for Palestinian human rights, despite facing potential or actual worldly consequences. We commend those who sacrifice the comforts of this life for the divine grace (God-willing) and inner peace that come from speaking truth, exposing injustice, and aligning words and actions with professed values and principles. This sharpening of moral conscience and straightening of our moral compass is how we remain defiantly human, honoring our God-given stewardship and the trust of divine light in a world marred by devastating cruelty, inhumanity and darkness.

Finally, we call upon all member organizations, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, and the community at large to continue speaking out

against Israel's atrocities and shedding light on Palestinian narratives and experiences. We firmly believe in the imperative to mobilize and organize to unseat and replace elected officials working for the interests of the genocidal state of Israel at the expense of everyday Americans. We believe the struggle for Palestinian liberation is intertwined with other national and global struggles including Black liberation, immigration justice, and environmental justice. As we strive to establish justice, mercy, and compassion first in our own homes and institutions, we call upon our Muslim community and the community at large to unite in our collective struggle against the systems perpetuating injustice against all oppressed and marginalized communities. If we believe, together, that nothing justifies taking the life of even one innocent soul, then perhaps we can rise together to save all of humanity.