



## **CIOGC Condemns the Assault upon Innocent Civilians in Gaza**

**(CHICAGO, IL - 10/08/23)** - The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC), the largest federation of Muslim institutions in greater Chicago, condemns the military actions of the nation of Israel in Gaza. Its declaration of war and its military actions are morally repugnant and violate the letter and spirit of the Geneva Convention.

Under the terms of the Geneva Convention, Israel's conflict in Gaza is an international conflict (Part IV, Article 1(3)), not a war. A declaration of war cannot be used as a pretext to escalate the indiscriminate use of military force.

Under the terms of the Geneva Convention, "to ensure respect for and protection of the civilian population and civilian objects, the Parties to the conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives and accordingly shall direct their operations only against military objectives." (Part IV, Article 48).

Israeli bombing of concentrated civilian areas of Gaza does not distinguish the civilian population from combatants. The enormous loss of innocent lives within the last 24 hours is evidence that civilian lives are not distinguished from combatants.

This conflict is rooted in the confiscation of Palestinian land, illegal settlements, and illegal blockades. Further escalation of military action by the nation of Israel is not a just and moral resolution, and its military action must stop. International law demands it. Respect for the sanctity of life commands it.

As a representative body of American citizens, we demand that the U. S. Government exercise its economic, political, and moral influence to bring a cessation of Israel's military action. As a member of this nation's community of faith, we call on faith partners to join our call to end the military action.

As communities of faith, we must remain vigilant in our protest of human rights violations. May our voices strengthen the call for the protection of life of all human beings

*The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC) is the premier federation of over 70 Islamic organizations and the leading advocate of Muslim community interests throughout the metropolitan Chicago region.*

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**CONTACT:** Office: (312) 506-0070; email: [info@ciogc.org](mailto:info@ciogc.org)