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Message to South Africa

09.05.2024

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

**Appreciating the Role of a Free and Just South Africa -
Charting a Path to a Dignified and Free Palestine!**

In the name of the International Union of Muslim Scholars I am glad to convey this message to the leaders of the Republic of South Africa, especially His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, in response to our duty that is outlined in the Quran:

"Why should you not fight in the cause of Allah, and in the cause of those oppressed – men, women and children" [4:75]

This 'Kalimatus Shukr', is expressing gratitude and appreciation to the people, the government and the ruling party of South Africa because, as reported by Abu Huraira (r) our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S) has exhorted us:

"Whoever does not thank people, has not thanked Allah". Narrated by Abu Huraira

We thank the people of South Africa, from where a beam of light has been shone on the continuing genocide in Palestine. This genocide persists, inflicting devastating consequences on the oppressed in Palestine:

- In excess of 40 000 people have been killed, of which about 38 000 are civilians, of which 10 000 are women, and 16 000 are children; and other acts such as destroying hospitals, mosques, and churches, rendering approximately two million people insecure and unsafe.

As witnesses to the genocide we, Scholars and Leaders have been encouraged by the overwhelming outpouring of humanity in the streets, campuses, mosques and churches, as well as from charities and agencies in South Africa as a response to the genocidal tragedy, the humanitarian crisis, and mounting despair.

We are appalled that basic human empathy, justified peaceful outrage, and constructive criticism against the architects and supporters of the genocide are restricted by the spurious expansion of the definition of anti-Semitism, along with the brutal assaults on peaceful protests, because Islam does not differentiate between peoples and ethnicities, but calls them to know one another, Allah says: 'O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.' (49: 13)"

الاتحاد العالمي لعلماء المسلمين

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR MUSLIM SCHOLARS



We thank South Africa, a nation that has transcended its own tumultuous history of oppression, enslavement, genocide and violence, we witness its remarkable transformation into an abode of security, peace, freedom of belief, and democracy for Muslims, and all its inhabitants.

In expressing our gratitude to South Africa, we invoke an Islamic principle which is: just state can endure even under non-believing leaders, an oppressive state led by believers cannot endure (A'mal bil Ma'ruf 1/29). This underscores the enduring value of justice.

In this abode of justice, we stand in solidarity with our esteemed South African Scholars, Leaders, and Activists, embracing the country's inherent freedom of expression to extend our profound gratitude through the 'Kalimatus Shukr'.

We commend South Africa for its courageous initiative in presenting to the International Court of Justice the case against Israel's devastation of Gaza. This bold intervention at the ICJ, has illuminated a promising path towards freedom and dignity for the Palestinian people. With a sense of pride, we harness the limitless opportunities provided by South Africa's open platform to implore the global Ummah and all advocates of freedom to stand unwavering in ending the ongoing genocide in Gaza and Palestinian occupation.

The justice displayed by South Africa – under the leadership of President Cyril Ramaphosa, facilitated by Justice Minister Lamola, and carried out by International Affairs Minister, Dr Naledi Pandor - has provided the world with a beacon of hope and faith amidst the prevailing inhumanity and carnage. This commitment to justice was courageous in the face of grave threats to South Africa.

South Africa – on behalf of the Ummah and all freedom-loving people - won a prima facie case of genocide, authentically narrated the true history and plight of the Palestinian people, appealed to the conscience of adherents to the noble religion of Judaism, stirred the souls of young and old across the world, prompted governments rethink their foreign policies, and is increasingly isolating the architects and supporters of genocide.

It is imperative to safeguard the achievements and advancements attained at the ICJ from being short-lived, undermined, or misrepresented. Instead, they must be nurtured and harnessed as the essential means to halt the genocide, provide relief to the Palestinians, and establish a just and lasting peace in Palestine.

At this watershed moment in the world:

1. We call on the Global Ummah to unite for justice and peace to ensure that we defend the gains of the ICJ, and mobilise humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians, for Allah tells us to *"...co-operate in righteousness and piety, but do not co-operate in sin and transgression."* [5:2]

2. We implore the South African Government and ruling party to remain resilient in their pursuit of a just outcome at the ICJ so that the genocide can stop and a just peace be pursued for Allah exhorts us: *"Be not weary and faint-hearted crying for peace when you should be uppermost; for Allah is with you and will never put you in loss for your good deeds."* [47:35]

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3. We urge the global and South African components of the Ummah, to be mindful of Allah's warning when making pivotal governance decisions and political choices because Allah tells us: *"Do not take My enemies and your enemies as your friends and protectors – offering them your love ..."* [40:1]

4. We recognise the many disappointments experienced by the South African community as citizens. However, as global leaders, we extend to your government a hand of gratitude, redemption, and reconciliation – in the spirit of "kindness and justice." Allah teaches us: *"Allah does not forbid you from supporting those who do not fight you for our faith nor drives you from your homes ..."* [40:8]. Therefore, we urge South Africa to prioritise the ongoing efforts by the ruling party for Palestine, but also in building a South Africa free of corruption, violence and inequality.

5. We call on all leaders present to amplify this message on every platform and at every occasion, in every country and nation. Let the call for peace, justice and human rights reverberate through every medium and channel, reaching all people, by the will of Allah (t), and let us reiterate the call of the Holy Quran to all believers to enter into peace, as Allah Almighty says: 'O you who have believed, enter into peace completely [and perfectly] and do not follow the footsteps of Satan. Indeed, he is to you a clear enemy.' (1: 208)"



And Allah knows best.

Your Brother
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