



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2023

The Arab American Bar Association of Illinois (AABAR) mourns the death of Wadea Al-Fayoume, an innocent 6-year-old Palestinian-American child who was brutally murdered in Plainfield, Illinois, due to bigotry, hate and ignorance. AABAR condemns the taking of all innocent human life. We express our grave concern that misguided and vitriolic public statements made by political leaders, the media, and members of the public have resulted in systematically dehumanizing groups of people and religions, inciting hatred against Arabs and Muslims, and leading to violent hate crimes like that which took the life of this young boy and critically injured his mother, Hanaan Shahn. We applaud Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker for his swift and [immediate statement](#) condemning this violence and hate crime and call upon all public officials to similarly condemn such actions.

AABAR is a professional association of attorneys from a variety of faiths and backgrounds, united and dedicated to the rule of law, which includes adherence to international law and norms. We condemn all attacks on the innocent Palestinian men, women and children of Gaza, and the deliberate withholding of food, water, and electricity as well as humanitarian and medical aid in violation of international law. We also condemn the targeted attacks on innocent Israeli men, women and children.

We call upon the international community to take immediate and decisive action to ensure the adherence to the rule of law and to put forth all efforts to end the violence and open a humanitarian corridor to allow for the entry of essential humanitarian supplies to the people of Gaza.