

South Africa Palestine Movement Statement on Gaza Ceasefire Deal – 17th January 2025

The South Africa Palestine Movement stands in solidarity with the people of Gaza, who, after enduring over 15 months of relentless terror by the Israeli regime, now await a ceasefire set for January 19th, 2025. Yet even now, in the days leading up to the ceasefire, Israel continues to mercilessly bomb Gaza, leaving a trail of unimaginable devastation and human suffering. This is not peace—it is the prolongation of agony under a promise of temporary silence.

This ongoing genocide is not just a tragedy but a calculated atrocity. It has been enabled by the political and military support of the United States, Germany, the UK, and other European nations. Since October 2023, the US has funneled over \$26 billion in weaponry to Israel—blood money that fuels the massacres. How many more children must die before the world calls this what it is—a genocide in plain sight?

Over 46,000 Palestinians have been murdered, 70% of them women and children. Thousands more remain buried under the rubble, their stories silenced by bombs. We will never forget Hind Rajab, a five-year-old whose dreams were stolen. We will never forget academic and poet Refaat Al Areer, or journalists like Duaa Sharaf, Mohammed Al Jaja, Salem Abu Daqqa, and over 150 others who paid with their lives to tell the truth. Their courage in the face of death is etched into our collective memory and demands justice.

For 76 years, Israel has operated as an apartheid state, its settler-colonialism built on the displacement, suffering, and blood of Palestinians. The so-called "livestreamed genocide" in Gaza is a horrifying escalation of that legacy, exposing the depths of impunity granted to Israel by the international community. Every bomb dropped, every life stolen, is a testament to the world's complicity.

A ceasefire, while desperately needed, is not a solution. It cannot whitewash the genocide or erase the systemic oppression of Palestinians. It cannot undo the destruction of Gaza, where the blockade, famine, and infectious diseases have turned daily life into a struggle for survival. The West Bank, too, remains under siege, with land stolen, settlements expanding, and violence escalating daily. The ceasefire must be the beginning of something far greater—a complete dismantling of apartheid, colonialism, and systemic injustice.

A Call to Action

The South Africa Palestine Movement calls on people across the globe to act with urgency, compassion, and unrelenting resolve:

Demand Immediate Ceasefire Compliance

Israel must stop its bombing campaign immediately, honor the ceasefire, and allow unrestricted humanitarian aid to flow into Gaza to address famine, disease, and the unimaginable suffering of displaced Palestinians.

Support Aid Organizations

We call for robust support of international and local aid organizations like Gift of the Givers and their partner networks, who are on the frontlines providing desperately needed assistance.

Reparations and Reconstruction

The world must hold Israel accountable for rebuilding Gaza. Homes, schools, hospitals, and infrastructure must rise from the ashes, funded by those responsible for their destruction.

Reparations are not charity—they are justice.

End the Siege of Gaza

The inhumane blockade must be lifted to allow Palestinians access to food, medicine, and the resources they need to rebuild their lives and their futures.

Prosecute War Crimes

Every act of genocide, torture, and systemic violence must be brought to justice. Perpetrators must face international courts for their crimes against humanity.

Hold South Africans Accountable

South Africans returning from participating in combat under the Israeli Occupation Forces must be prosecuted under the Regulation of Foreign Military Assistance Act (Act No. 15 of 1998), which prohibits involvement in foreign combat operations.

Boycott and Cut Ties

South Africa must sever all ties with Apartheid Israel until it transforms into a democratic society that guarantees equality for Palestinians and Israelis alike.

Boycott all Israeli goods and companies complicit in the occupation, including those profiting from illegal settlements.

Raise Our Voices

As South Africans, we must use our hard-won freedom to speak out against the enormous injustices suffered by Palestinians. We must amplify their stories and fight for their right to equality in their homeland, the right of return, repatriation, and the right to choose their own government.

The people of Gaza are not just statistics—they are fathers, mothers, children, teachers, healers, and dreamers whose lives have been ripped apart by an unjust and brutal system. Their courage in the face of unimaginable suffering calls us to act, to stand firm in the fight for justice, and to never forget that humanity's greatest power lies in its capacity to resist oppression and rebuild in the face of despair.

We cannot be silent. We cannot look away. The people of Palestine deserve more than a ceasefire; they deserve the ability to live with dignity, equality, and freedom in their homeland. They deserve the right to rebuild their lives, to return to their homes, and to choose their own destiny. And until that day comes, we will not stop fighting for them.

-- South Africa Palestine Movement

Lubna Nadvi: 0837864918

Saydoonisa Sayed: 0732413260

Nasiha Soomar: 0625689590