



جَمْعِيَّةُ الْعُلَمَاءِ وَالمُدرِّسِيْنَ الدِّينِ اِسْلَامِيَّةٌ بِسِنْجَاپُورَةَ

Persatuan Ulama dan Guru-Guru Agama Islam (Singapura)
Singapore Islamic Scholars & Religious Teachers Association

MEDIA STATEMENT

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PERGAS' RESPONSE ON THE ATTACKS IN MASJID AL-AQSA AND THE FORCED EVICTIONS OF PALESTINIANS FROM THEIR HOMES

With reference to local and international mainstream media reports, Singapore Islamic Scholars & Religious Teachers Association (Pergas) strongly comdemns the the ongoing attacks of Zionist security forces on Palestinians and congregations performing Terawih Prayers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque beginning on May 7, 2021 and the forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes with the purpose of building new settlements for Jewish immigrants – which too must cease.

2 Pergas is deeply concerned by news about the attacks that have injured more than a hundred Palestinians and other Muslims – especially in the vicinity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and in the month of Ramadan, which is one of the holiest mosques in Islam and also among the holiest places of worship among Jews and Christians. Islam itself forbids its followers from invading and damaging places of worship of belonging to followers of other religions. This prohibition is mentioned by Allah SWT in Surah Al-Hajj verse 40:

﴿الَّذِينَ أُخْرِجُوا مِنْ دِيَارِهِمْ بِغَيْرِ حَقٍّ إِلَّا أَنْ يَقُولُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ

لَهَدَمَتِ صَوَامِعَ وَبِيَعٌ وَصَلَوَاتٍ وَمَسَاجِدُ يُذْكَرُ فِيهَا اسْمُ اللَّهِ كَثِيرًا وَلَيَنْصُرَنَّ اللَّهُ مَنْ يَنْصُرُهُ إِنَّ

اللَّهُ لَقَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ﴾

Those who have been expelled from their homes unjustly only because they said: "Our Lord is Allah." - For had it not been that Allah checks one set of people by means of another, monasteries, churches, synagogues, and mosques, wherein the Name of Allah is mentioned much would surely have been pulled down. Verily, Allah will help those who help His (Cause). Truly, Allah is All-Strong, All-Mighty.

The lessons that can be learnt from this verse are not only beneficial for Muslims but for all humankind.

3 Israel's action of forcibly expelling Palestinians from their homes in Jerusalem and the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah is also a cruel and inhumane act. This clearly violates human rights as well as the ethics of international relations which give the right and freedom to every citizen of a country to live in peace and tranquility, regardless of ethnicity and religion. This is in accordance with the words of Allah SWT in Surah Al-Isra' verse 70:

﴿وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَىٰ

كَثِيرٍ مِّمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا﴾

Verily we have honoured the Children of Adam. We carry them on the land and the sea, and have made provision of good things for them, and have preferred them above many of those whom We created with a marked preferment.

4 Israel should respect the rights and freedoms of the Palestinian government to lead its people peacefully. Pergas will like to emphasize that peace and prosperity can only be achieved if this tyranny and oppression is put to an end. This is in line with the teachings of Islam which promote peace and prosperity between the two parties as stated in the words of Allah SWT in Surah Al-Anfal verse 61:

﴿وَإِنْ جَنَحُوا لِلسَّلْمِ فَاجْنَحْ لَهَا وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ﴾

"But if the enemy inclines towards peace, then incline to it (also) and rely upon Allah. Indeed, it is He who is the Hearing, the Knowing".

5 In closing, Pergas would also like to take this opportunity to call on the Muslim community of Singapore to remain calm in receiving the news of these attacks and violence. In conjunction with the month of Ramadan with Syawal imminent upon us all, let us take the opportunity to pray that Allah SWT provides protection and security to the Palestinians, and for humankind to be protected from tyranny. May Allah SWT grant patience and strength to the Palestinian people in facing this tribulation.

**SINGAPORE ISLAMIC SCHOLARS & RELIGIOUS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
(PERGAS)**