

CANADIAN MUSLIM PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

February 13, 2024

Member of Parliament and Chair of Liberal Muslim Caucus, Sameer Zuberi Honorable Minister Ahmed Hussen Honorable Minister Arif Virani Honorable Member of Parliament Omar Algahbra Member of Parliament Salma Zahid Member of Parliament Yasir Naqvi Member of Parliament Iqra Khalid Member of Parliament Majid Jowhari Member of Parliament Shafqat Ali

Member of Parliament Ali Ehsassi

Re: Urgent Call for Unified Muslim Caucus Statement Condemning Israel's Invasion of Rafah

Dear Muslim Liberal Parliamentary Caucus,

Almost five months into the Israeli aggression on Gaza, the Muslim Liberal Parliamentary Caucus must urgently address the crisis in Palestine and Gaza as a unified voice, particularly the deadly bombings and threat posed by Israel's invasion into Rafah. As the Canadian Muslim Public Affairs Council (CMPAC), we urge immediate, decisive action.

We are facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis with over 1 million displaced civilians trapped in Rafah, where Israeli bombardment is killing more than 100 people daily. The looming ground invasion would expand the unfolding genocide.

Since October 7th, the Muslim Caucus has had a lack of unity in condemning the genocide unfolding in Gaza, especially following the International Court of Justice's acknowledgment of the plausibility of genocide and its provisional measures against Israel. We are deeply troubled by the Caucus' silence on the situation in Palestine and the failure to condemn the Canadian government's inaction in 1) ending its support and involvement in Israel's war on Gaza, and 2) clearly demanding an end to Israeli military actions in Gaza and the West Bank.

While individual caucus members have independently voiced varied opinions, it is crucial for the Caucus to present a united front that truly represents Canadian Muslims' perspectives. In these critical moments, the Muslim Liberal Parliamentary Caucus plays a

vital role. As representatives with connections to our community, we count on you to uphold the principles of justice and compassion that embody our Canadian Muslim identity. Now is the time for leadership and bravery against injustice, even if it requires challenging the stances of your own government.

As such, CMPAC calls upon the Muslim Liberal Parliamentary Caucus to issue an unequivocal and forceful public unified statement denouncing Israel's aggression and invasion of Rafah and a call for an end to the military operation in Gaza and the West Bank to protect innocent Palestinian lives. Further to that, we expect that the Caucus immediately engage with the Prime Minister and the government.

The time for action is now, and our community is looking to you to stand up for the people of Gaza.

Sincerely,

Khaled Al-Qazzaz

Executive Director

Canadian Muslim Public Affairs Council www.canadianmuslimpac.ca