

مجلس الأئمة القدر إلى الأسترالي

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL IMAMS COUNCIL



6 April 2023

## ANIC Strongly Condemns the Attacks on Worshippers inside Masjid Al-Aqsa

The Australian National Imams Council strongly condemns the attacks on worshippers inside Masjid Al-Aqsa before dawn on Wednesday, 5 April 2023. The official Palestinian news agency, Wafa, reported that dozens of worshippers, who spend all the night in Ramadan praying, were injured in a raid on the mosque. The Palestinian Red Crescent reported that Israeli forces had prevented its medics from reaching the mosque.

We unequivocally condemn the violent raid by Israeli police on the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem, and the subsequent arrest of over 500 Palestinian worshippers. The use of unwarranted excessive force, stun grenades, and tear gas, causing suffocation, injuries and beatings with batons and rifles, is a clear violation of the most basic of human rights.

We stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and call on the Israeli occupying authorities to respect their fundamental rights, including the freedom to practice their religion without fear of violence and intimidation.

Our Imams have been in touch with first hand eye witnesses, who have reported that the way in which Masjid al-Aqsa and its sanctity was attacked makes previous violations such as last year. Worshippers have had their hands and feet tied up, kicked, beaten and thrown to lay on the floor. Women and children have also been targets.

Masjid al-Aqsa was the first direction of prayer in Islam, the second house of worship of Allah 'God' established on earth, and the third holiest mosque in Islam.

The Arabic name for Jerusalem is Baitul Maqdis, the Abode of Purity and Sanctity. The recent aggression committed by the occupiers is at complete odds with the core qualities of this unique and special city, holy to the world's three major religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

We urge the Australian government to exercise its diplomatic relations to help bring safety and respect for the Palestinian people who are being usurped their right of peaceful worship during this blessed month of Ramadan.