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## **Houston Imams and Rabbis on Events in Holy Land**

For the past decade, we Imams and Rabbis in the Greater Houston area have found common ground on several issues that have impacted our respective communities and the Houston community at large. Although challenging, we have done so again during this tumultuous time.

Our relationship over the years has been rooted in a belief that each of our faiths strives to shape our communities in similar ways. We have come to understand both Judaism and Islam are communities that seek to sustain a relationship with God and build a sacred community through teachings that stress similar values.

We do not always see eye to eye, and from time to time, our needs and interests diverge. This misalignment is most acutely experienced concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Following our most recent dialogue, we do, however, want people of all faiths and beliefs in our community at large to know the following:

1. We pray together that the ceasefire is respected by all parties, bringing reprieve to all children and their families. However, this ceasefire is not a long-term solution and is only a temporary measure. We must continue to find constructive ways to move the conversation forward and find a solution rooted in justice and peace for all.
2. Our hearts are filled with sadness and anguish over the unnecessary and unimaginable loss of life in the Holy Land and throughout the region.
3. We stand against any actions by governments, militias, radical groups, and anyone else that would violate the sanctity of our sacred spaces. The freedom to practice our faith peacefully is paramount and must remain unhindered.
4. We condemn in the strongest terms any action that intentionally targets children and civilians.
5. We call on all people to show restraint and not allow our anger and anguish to divide our communities through Islamophobic, anti-Arab, and anti-Jewish actions and speech. Anything less would not be representative of our faith beliefs and has no place in seeking justice and peacebuilding.
6. We remain committed to working together, learning from each other, and believe that communication and dialogue are even more critical during times of conflict and disagreement.

The disturbing realities continuing to unfold in the Holy Land must bring us together not only as Jews and Muslims but also as Americans to demand that President Biden and Congress play an active, constructive, and significant role in bringing about a just and lasting peace no matter how complex the process may be.

Through our interfaith dialogue and work, we have learned that our communities have many similar desires and needs, contrary to what many would want us and others to believe.

Together, we will forge a path forward through this dark time and identify ways to show solidarity and peace, and justice for all.

With blessings,

Imam Waleed Basyouni  
Imam Ra'ed Alrosan  
Imam Basem Hamid  
Imam Muhammad Haq  
Imam Salah Al Sawy  
Imam Abdurrahman Adesokan  
Imam Ahmed Ahmed  
Imam Salih Al Janabi  
Imam Wazir Ali  
Imam Main Alqudah  
Imam Kamal Elmekki  
Imam Ibrahim Ezghair  
Imam Jaime "Mujahid" Fletcher  
Imam Hamzah Ghia  
Imam Nasser Hamdan  
Imam Frederick Khan  
Imam Abdul Mian  
Imam Qassim Mohammad  
Imam Ahmad Shaheed  
Imam Ahmed Shhadeh  
Imam Ahmad Siddiqi  
Imam Mohammad Siddiqi  
Imam Mohammad Shibli Siddiqi

Rabbi Barry Gelman  
Rabbi Steve Gross  
Rabbi Scott Hausman-Weiss  
Rabbi David Segal  
Rabbi Anne Belford  
Rabbi Matt Cohen  
Rabbi Todd Doctor  
Rabbi Gideon Estes  
Rabbi Joshua Fixler  
Rabbi Sarah Fort  
Rabbi Edwin Goldberg  
Rabbi Dan Gordon  
Rabbi Marcy Greene  
Rabbi Oren Hayon  
Rabbi Daniel Horwitz  
Rabbi David Lyon  
Rabbi Steven Morgen  
Rabbi Shaul Osadchey  
Rabbi Samantha Safran  
Rabbi Aaron Sataloff  
Rabbi Deborah Schloss  
Rabbi Ariel Scholkloeppeper  
Rabbi Adrienne Scott  
Rabbi Jonathan Siger  
Rabbi Pamela Silk  
Rabbi Brian Strauss  
Rabbi Ranon Teller  
Rabbi Roy Walter