



## **SA BDS Coalition condemns Israeli state terror at Al Aqsa mosque and forced removals in Jerusalem**

8 May 2021

The SA BDS Coalition fully supports the Palestinian call for a Day of Rage today, in protest against the brutal acts in Jerusalem over the past week, ending with the storming of the Aqsa Mosque last night.

Over 200 Palestinians were reported injured when Israeli occupation forces stormed the Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City while thousands of people were at prayer. The police fired rubber coated steel bullets, set off sound bombs and unleashed tear gas into the mosque where hundreds of worshippers had gathered for prayers marking the last week of the holy month of Ramadan. The people were trapped inside the mosque compound for hours as police and soldiers surrounded it and emergency services battled to access the injured.

Since last week, the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of Jerusalem has also been under attack from Jewish settlers who, with the protection of Israeli soldiers, removed Palestinians and their possessions, taking over houses their families had lived in for generations. The world has watched in silence at pitiful scenes of dozens of people being hounded out of their own homes in the middle of the night while brutal and vulgar strangers moved in. We express our full support for the Palestinian families who have been left homeless as a result.

Would we hear the same silence from the world and South Africa if Muslims or Christians attacked a synagogue congregation on a Jewish holiday?

We demand that our minister of international relations, Minister Naledi Pandor, immediately issues a demarche to the Israeli ambassador in Pretoria expressing the anger of the South African government and people at these acts of state terror and crimes against humanity by Israel.

Last week Human Rights Watch released a report that shows exactly how Israel commits the crime of apartheid. The barbaric actions currently taking place in Jerusalem is an escalation of the ethnic cleansing and destruction of homes and villages that Palestinians have suffered since 1948. How many more atrocities must the Palestinian people suffer before South

Africa raises its voice loudly against Israeli apartheid brutality, expels the Israeli ambassador, breaks off diplomatic ties with Israel and imposes sanctions on the apartheid state?

The South African government must act now!

For more information please contact:

William Shoki: 081 305 2484

Naazim Adam: 082 336 6711

Judy Favish: 082 374 4190

Salim Vally: 082 802 5936

Roshan Dadoo: 082 816 2799