



**Palestine Solidarity Alliance**  
United Against Apartheid Israel



## **Palestine Solidarity Alliance South Africa**

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**06-04-23**

### **Al Aqsa Mosque Attacked**

#### **Zionist thugs once again violate a place of worship in the middle of the night but WHY THE NEWS BLACK-OUT?**

Over the past two nights dozens of paramilitary police attacked worshippers using the usual tools of repression: batons, rubber-bullets and teargas as well as the drones. This violation of basic human rights and the right to worship was further violated with jackboots and sidearms of hate set out to expel the worshippers from the mosque.

Over a hundred were injured and it is clear that nothing is sacred for these intruders who cannot see Palestinian Muslims praying in one of Islam's holiest sites of worship. This is also not a once off assault on Al Aqsa but rather a repeated occurrence every Ramadan when Muslims globally fast and seek spiritual connections with Allah and wider humanity. It is also not the end as we anticipate further aggression from the illegal settlers, supported and protected by the Israeli occupation forces.

The Israeli Government at this stage of their mis-rule seem more out of control; they have a debt to pay to the right-wing settlers who now dominate their pseudo democratic government. This heavy repression is not a surprise to the Palestinians and those who love freedom and universal human rights. The only surprise is why these horrific events and violations of the right to worship is not widely condemned nor covered in all the world's media. Is it because the victims are of a darker skin, Muslim and Palestinian, while the perpetrators are largely Israeli, Jewish, and of European descent?

In recent years, numerous human rights groups such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and B'Tselem have produced studies that confirmed that Israel is an apartheid state. These reports merely confirmed what the countless United Nations reports have said in the past. In addition, the state of Israel is a violator of UN resolutions and its repression, including the building of the apartheid wall, are violations of human decency and international human rights law.

It is disappointing that the South African media blindly apes Western media, that silences and marginalizes the legitimate struggles of Palestinians and by so doing they align with the racism of the apartheid state.

South African journalists fought bravely against censorship and they should not allow their shareholders to silence their voices on Palestine. Many focus only or disproportionately on Ukraine, something that deserves coverage, but they conveniently choose to ignore struggles in Ethiopia, now subject to a peace process, the catastrophe in Yemen, the drone attacks in Pakistan and more. **Why is this?** Is it because they are not a deserving cause or is it because the editors do not have the courage to publish the truth, fearing scathing personal attacks and false accusations of antisemitism the moment one exposes Israel's crimes.

According to International agreements, The Al Aqsa compound is meant to be under the protection and management of the Jordanian government yet the Israeli police continue to violate this agreement and enjoy impunity from the international diplomatic world bodies. This too the media could have written about but they have ignored it, as they have to a great extent ignored the murder by Israeli sniper of Al Jazeera journalist and Palestinian Christian Shireen Abu Akleh and dozens of other murders of civilians this year alone.

Reporting the daily humiliation of Palestine – the checkpoints, the assaults, killings, house demolitions is not that difficult to do and is honest journalism. However, failure to do so makes one complicit with the now open fascism that has reared its head in Israel.

The Palestinian rights movements are everywhere, as are the recordings of the massacres and there is no reason, other than complicity, why Palestinian oppression and suffering is not reported more justly.

The Palestinians have a rich culture and over the years have produced documentaries and films that have educated and entertained the world. My own favorites are Farha, The Present, Five Broken Cameras and numerous others. If you want to be informed you must step out of your comfort zones and I reiterate the words of Madiba “We cannot be truly free until Palestine is free.”

The attack on Masjid Al Aqsa last night during the holy month of Ramadan is an attack on Palestinians and believing people. This attack has angered a billion Muslims and many more who believe in human rights all over the world. This attack is but another clear indication that the racist state is in its demise and that Zionism, because of its inherent racism, will never win. Israel cannot deflect from their failed state by attacking Palestinians with impunity.

It is time that they and all those who promote and defend Zionism are held to account for the crime of apartheid and genocide. This goes for our media as well, which cannot be fully free until and unless they cover violations of human rights wherever and whenever they happen, without fear or favor.

Issued by the Palestine Solidarity Alliance