



Josephites join the call for an end to the genocide in Palestine

As Israel continues to wreak destruction on what is left of Palestine, Josephites have joined religious, community and political leaders across the globe as they condemn the actions of Israel and call for an end to the genocide that is occurring.

“It is clear from media reports that the people of Gaza are gripped by existential terror, and are living daily in fear for their lives,” said Sr Jan Barnett, Josephite Justice Coordinator. “To watch as the Israeli Government describes the death and destruction of Palestinians as ‘unfortunate’ and claims that the IDF atrocities are aimed solely at the annihilation of Hamas, is deeply disturbing.”

Josephites denounce both the massacres and taking of hostages by HAMAS, and the criminal genocide being committed by the Israeli government. The Palestinian people are victims of both the corrupt Israeli Government and their own leaders. And meantime, the violence continues.

We repeat what has been argued over and over again. Denunciation of the atrocities in Gaza is condemnation of the Israeli Government, not discrimination against the Jewish people. Conflating anti-Zionist and anti-Israel sentiment with antisemitism has become the effective tool of the Zionist Movement and has been used to silence the voices of many who feel impelled to protest.

To speak out against the violence of the Israeli Government is not antisemitism; it is a cry for justice. To support the people of Gaza as they face annihilation is not antisemitism; it is a claim for life. To demand that UN food trucks be allowed to enter the Territory is not antisemitism; it is a call for efforts to end starvation. To condemn the destruction of Gaza is not antisemitism; it is a denunciation of wanton injustice. To stand for a two-state solution is not antisemitism; It is a claim for the rights of a devastated people.

[Many Jewish people are appalled](#) by the Israeli Government’s ruthless assault on Gaza, and its plan to depopulate and conquer the region. Yet, as has been pointed out, this is a battle, not just for Hamas or Gaza, but for the very soul of Israel itself.

As Israel continues its war crimes and genocide of Palestinians, Josephites continue to ask, what can we do? What will we do? These are questions for all of us who care about justice.

Jan Barnett ARSJ

