



**MEDIA STATEMENT
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (SUHAKAM)**

EDITOR, NEWS DESK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (10 OCTOBER 2023) - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) is concerned over the escalating violence and human rights violations occurring in the conflict between Israel and Palestine. SUHAKAM is deeply alarmed by reports of over 687 Palestinians, including women and children were killed, 900 dead in Israel and over 3,000 were injured in the attacks.

SUHAKAM condemns the violence that has led to the loss of life, invoking fear and despair among innocent civilians in the region. The acts of terror, the killings, destroying public infrastructure including health facilities inside Gaza, residential buildings and places of worship are serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict, within the established framework of international law. Civilians must always be respected and safeguarded, and their infrastructure must never be targeted. It is incumbent upon both parties in the conflict to respect international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution in the military operations including the duty to minimize damages and injury.

Given the critical need for humanitarian aid to Palestinian civilians trapped in Gaza, SUHAKAM urges the international community to mobilize immediate humanitarian assistance and all relevant parties to allow the delivery of medical equipment, food, fuel, and other humanitarian supplies to those in need. SUHAKAM also urges restraint on all parties with hostages, emphasizing the potential humanitarian catastrophe that could result from the lack of access to water and food. In this light, SUHAKAM strongly urges the international community to look into and immediately tackle the root causes of this humanitarian tragedy that would lead towards a lasting peace. We will continue to support all efforts to ensure that Palestinians are able to live in peace within their own internationally recognized borders, in accordance with UN resolution recognizing the State of Palestine.

SUHAKAM vehemently stands for the protection and preservation of human dignity and rights for every individual, regardless of their race, religion, or nationality, even in times of conflict. Such acts of aggression represent a blatant violation of Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which upholds the inviolable rights of every individual to life, liberty, and security of person. The right to life, being the most fundamental of all human rights, remains non-derogable even in times of war and cannot be legitimately suppressed.

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**Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
10 October 2023**