



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Concerning Masjid Al Aqsa**

Lewisham Islamic Centre and the Muslim Community of Lewisham are greatly distressed with the recent loss of life and the restrictions being applied to Masjid (Mosque) al Aqsa in the Holy Land of Palestine.

We urge world leaders to demand an end to all hostility towards the Palestinians and violating the sacredness of their religious sites. What is taking place there is unacceptable to any people and an affront to the Muslim world.

As many will know, Masjid al-Aqsa is one of the holiest sites in Islam. In fact, in the first verse of Chapter 17 (Surah al Israa), Allah (God) Almighty mentions Masjid al-Aqsa as one of His signs. It has a great history and tradition in Islam that is rarely surpassed. Reflecting on its history, it becomes apparent just how today's world would benefit immensely implementing the legacies of Umar (second Caliph in Islam) and the great leader Salahaddin, both of whom brought peace to this sacred land and guaranteed the rights of all faiths and the protection of their places of worship.

We also urge Muslim leaders and Imams to use this unfortunate episode to educate Muslims, especially the youth about Masjid al-Aqsa and the high status it has in Islam and its many virtues, and to keep Masjid al-Aqsa and the Palestinians in their dua (supplications) to Allah Almighty. We pray that Allah brings a swift end to all occupation and oppression.