



Black Muslim Activists, Leaders & Scholars Encourage Support for Pro-Ceasefire and Pro-Arms Embargo Presidential Candidate

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

As Muslims and Black Americans who care deeply about justice for all, we recognize that the 2024 election is a pivotal moment for our nation and for many people around the world impacted by our nation's policies, including Palestinians facing genocide in Gaza. We lean on the rich legacy of our faith and Black liberation—a testament to resilience and resistance in the face of injustice and oppression—to guide us in this critical moment.

For over a year, we have watched in horror as the openly racist Israeli government uses our taxpayer dollars to brutally slaughter, torture and starve our Palestinian brothers and sisters. We watch as they continuously bomb schools, hospitals, refugee camps and shelters, displacing millions of people, sparking a health crisis, creating an environmental catastrophe, and killing an estimated 186,000 men, women and children, according to the Lancet journal.

Due to the long history of solidarity between Black and Palestinian communities, we know that the genocide in Gaza is only the latest crime that the Israeli apartheid government has committed throughout 76 years of systemic oppression. Black communities here and around the world easily recognize the injustice of what Palestinians have experienced given our similar experiences, from the Jim Crow South to Apartheid South Africa.

As Black Muslims, we also know that the Israeli government's genocide in Gaza is a war on Islam. The Israeli government and its unhinged army of cowardly criminals have filmed themselves destroying mosques, burning Qurans, and slandering our sacred religious figures. The supremacist Israeli government has also destroyed churches and attacked the Palestinian Christian community.

All of this has occurred under the watch of the Biden-Harris administration, which has provided steadfast military, financial, diplomatic and rhetorical support for the Israeli government's war crimes for four years, including at least \$18 billion since the start of the genocide. Vice President Harris has had the opportunity to differentiate her position

from President Biden since she became the Democratic presidential nominee; she has refused to do so.

Vice President Harris has explicitly opposed an arms embargo on the Israeli government even though U.S. law requires it. She has refused to lay out any plan whatsoever to force Netanyahu to accept a ceasefire deal in Gaza that ends the genocide. She has validated the Israeli government's efforts to spark a regional war with Iran, leading to instability in the region and the world at large. Just this week, she said that she would not have done anything differently than President Biden over the past four years.

Although some Muslim Americans have nevertheless argued that our community must support Vice President Harris because of her positions on domestic issues or their belief that Donald Trump might be even worse on issues like Gaza, we respectfully disagree with their conclusion. We draw the line at genocide. Funding genocide is not a position that we can simply overlook. Funding genocide is not a position we can agree to disagree about.

As Muslims obliged to uphold justice and as Black Americans whose ancestors experienced the worst of crimes, genocide must be our red line. We simply cannot support a candidate who participated in a genocide and now refuses to lay out any plan to end that genocide.

That is why we are endorsing the stance of the [American Muslim 2024 Election Task Force](#), as well as the [Scholars Letter](#) signed by dozens of imams. We call on Muslim voters to support only a pro-ceasefire and pro-arms embargo presidential candidate, as well as candidates down the ballot who support other just policies, including economic justice, religious freedom, healthcare for all, humane immigration policy, reforming the criminal justice system, and racial equality.

To be clear, we understand the dangers of another Trump presidency. We have witnessed and sometimes experienced the impact of resurgent white supremacy, the targeting of Black and Muslim communities, and the harmful policies against other minority groups under his watch. If Trump manages to win this election due to Vice President Harris' failure to change course on Palestine, we plan to stand up against him and his harmful policies.

In the meantime, we cannot afford to fall for the false promises and empty rhetoric of politicians who claim to care for justice at home while actively perpetuating injustice abroad. Nor can we find ourselves trapped into voting for the Democratic Party nominee every election cycle because the Republican Party nominee is potentially worse on certain issues.

We recognize the intersectional nature of oppression, which extends beyond party lines. Both major parties sustain cycles of violence abroad, particularly in Palestine, where billions of dollars in unconditional U.S. aid to Israel directly undermines efforts to address urgent domestic issues. The resources needed to support struggling Americans instead go overseas, perpetuating injustice at home and abroad.

El Hajj Malik El-Shabazz famously said, “A man who stands for nothing will fall for anything.” This wisdom rings truer now more than ever.

Let this election be a moment of principled resistance where each and every eligible Muslim American casts their vote for pro-ceasefire, pro-arms embargo candidates at the federal level while also paying particular attention to down-the ballot races and propositions.

Let us stand for justice and put our trust in Allah (swt). May Allah guide us to be witnesses for truth and justice, and may He grant victory to the oppressed wherever they are. Ameen.

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