

National Black Church Initiative

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For immediate release
Media Advisory

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NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE CONDEMNS ISRAEL FOR THE KILLING OF 1,300 PALESTINIANS IN THE GAZA

Israel has blood on their hands and their souls

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) morally condemns the Israeli Government military action into the Sovereign State of Palestine Gaza killing an estimate of 1,300 Palestinians. Eighty percent of the deaths are innocent women and children according to reports. Israel's indiscriminate use of American made bombs on the densely populated Gaza territory is morally unconscionable and reprehensible. As religious leaders, we cannot idly stand by and accept immoral excuses as Israel uses sophisticated weaponry to alienate the Palestinian people. Israel will have the Christian church to believe that it is holy and we are biblically mandated to agree with Israel as they systematically persecute and indiscriminately kill the Palestinian people. We see Israel's evil very clearly.

CNN reported that the Israeli Navy deliberately damaged the relief vessel – The Dignity, carrying medicine and food for the residents of Gaza. They wanted to prevent this humanitarian relief supply from reaching those who have been hurt and wounded from the bombing. This is one of the most despicable acts in all of humanity. This was verified because CNN correspondent Karl Penhaul was on board at the time of the incident. Former Honorable U.S. Representative Cynthia McKinney was also on board to witness this despicable incident. They wanted to stop her for witnessing the destruction that is raining down on the people of Gaza. Therefore as President of 34,000 African American churches, I have issued a directive to stop traveling to the Holy Land for the next five years and for every church to condemn Israel's vicious assault on humanity. Israel does not have a monopoly on what is good and merciful and does not in any way carry favor with God anymore than their Palestine brothers and sisters.

NBCI strongly rejects the notion held by a large majority of white evangelical conservative churches that the Christian church has a moral obligation to protect the

State of Israel. We believe strongly that this is a narrow and self serving biblical interpretation of the scriptures. The correct biblical interpretation compels us to condemn Palestinians or Israelis who innocently take the lives of others and wrap themselves up in the name of God, the Torah or the Koran. Any religious tradition that argues that they have a monopoly on righteous, godliness and mercy is not only wrong, but evil.

“I guess now that the Jewish community around the world will consider NBCI as anti-Jewish because we are not supporting the extermination of the Palestinian people, says the Rev. Paul Sewell, Southeastern faith command leader. We will let them think what they want to. We are going to call it like we see it. If the Jews have committed evil, we will denounce it. If the Palestinians have committed evil, we will denounce it as well. The Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI says that the response by the Israeli Government to the few rockets that landed in Israel proper is disproportionately and morally unfair of the amount of death that has occurred, and the use of the most sophisticated and advanced weaponry on a densely population like Gaza is just an unspeakable crime against humanity. It should be condemned and that’s why we are doing it. We are not afraid to be called anti-Jewish because we know it is a lie because we are on record of condemning the Palestinians as well and we can prove it because the Israeli Ambassador has written me in the past. In this case, the Israeli Government is guilty of murder.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 16,000 African American and Latino member churches works to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare. In addition to our member churches, we have 18,000 sister churches. NBCI is a faith based health organization dedicated to providing critical wellness information and preventive health screening to all of its members. The African American community ranks first in eleven different health risk categories. NBCI’s purpose is to partner with national health officials to provide health education, reduce racial health disparities, and increase access to quality healthcare