

## **SACC Condemns Horrific Gaza Massacre by Israeli Forces**

**May 15, 2018**

### **Media Release**

The South African Council of Churches (SACC) has reacted indignantly to the horrific massacre of protesting Palestinians by the Israeli military in Gaza.

“For the Israeli snipers to have used live ammunition on non-violent civilians is rogue behaviour, demonstrating complete disregard for human life, and utter disdain for International Law and protocols”, said SACC General Secretary, Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana.

In one day no less than 55 people are reported to have been killed, and over 2000 injured, in a territory where health services are severely constrained due to Israel’s blockade of Gaza.

“We welcome the South African government’s action of recalling Ambassador Sisa Ngombane from the mission in Tel Aviv, and we appeal to the Community of Nations to condemn the Israeli treatment of Palestinians, which like apartheid, should be declared a crime against humanity. Palestinian lives are human lives! Both Israel and Palestine deserve to live in peaceful coexistence side by side. The current developments can only push the prospects for peace further and further away”.

The SACC believes that the move of the USA embassy to Jerusalem, which is a recognition by the USA of Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel, adds fuel to the fire, and is an unnecessary aggravation of a volatile situation that can only further undermine the quest for a win-win solution.

The SACC has sent messages of support to the Palestinian churches who have an impossible pastoral responsibility at this time.

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For media queries contact:  
Moagisi Sibanda  
Communications Director  
South African Council of Churches  
Tel: 082 295 1581  
Email: [moagisi@sacc.org.za](mailto:moagisi@sacc.org.za)