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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



GAZA CEASEFIRE MUST NOT BE ANOTHER FALSE DAWN – UNFETTERED AID ACCESS NEEDED NOW

Today's news that Israel and Hamas have agreed to the first phase of a ceasefire deal is a significant but long overdue step, after two years of relentless atrocities and what a UN expert panel determined amounts to genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

But the big test will be what happens next. There must be no more false dawns and broken promises – world leaders must now ensure there is a permanent end to Israel's systematic attacks, displacement and starvation of civilians, and that all restrictions on humanitarian access are immediately lifted so that desperately needed aid can reach people in Gaza. Any agreement must not further entrench Israeli control over Gaza.

There can be no sustainable peace without justice and accountability, an end to impunity, and respect for international law. We need security, rights and dignity for all people, and this will only be possible when there is an end to Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine.

The most urgent need right now is to get aid into Gaza. There is no time to waste, as children are starving to death every day in a man-made famine and homes, hospitals, schools and other essential services are now rubble. Today's announcement alone does not stop the famine. Islamic Relief is ready to massively scale up our current lifesaving aid and help reconstruction efforts as soon as restrictions on humanitarian access are lifted.

The international community must ensure that new commitments are adhered to and hold parties accountable for any violations. A repeat of the last ceasefire – when Israel resumed its bombing and cut off all humanitarian aid after only a few weeks of respite – must not be tolerated. Israel must also not be allowed to use this opportunity to escalate its attacks and violations of rights of Palestinians in the West Bank. The world must act now to safeguard this moment and pursue a credible pathway to lasting peace.

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About Islamic Relief

Islamic Relief is an international humanitarian organization founded in 1984 in response to the famine in East Africa. The headquarters of Islamic Relief is located in Birmingham, United Kingdom. Islamic Relief operates in over 40 countries and has assisted more than 145 million people. Today, Islamic Relief Worldwide among one of the largest charity and development organizations in the world.

About Islamic Relief Malaysia

Islamic Relief Malaysia was established in 2004. It aspires to continue Islamic Relief humanitarian assistance in the Asia-Pacific region. Islamic Relief Malaysia serves as a fundraising and project implementer for international and local projects.

Kindly visit the Islamic Relief Malaysia website, www.islamic-relief.org.my, for more information.

Issued by: Strategic Communications, CEO's Office, Islamic Relief Malaysia.

For any inquiries, please contact Zafirah Zahari at 019-220 1788 or e-mail Zafirah.Zahari@islamic-relief.org.my