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ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

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OC HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MOURNS WITH PALESTINIAN-AMERICANS AND DENOUNCES ISLAMOPHOBIA

Santa Ana, CA (11/9/23) The Palestinian struggle for land and home is generations-long. After the events on October 7th, more than one million Palestinians have been displaced, and an additional two million are expected to be displaced and their homes destroyed with nowhere to go and limited humanitarian aid. Thousands of Palestinian Muslims and Christians have been massacred, nearly half children. They have taken their last breath under concrete rubble, and many more are still longing to breathe free. We mourn the loss of these innocent Palestinian lives.

In Orange County we offer our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to our Palestinian neighbors for the tragic loss of life and ongoing violence in their homeland. We condemn the horrific hate crime and murder of a six-year-old Palestinian-American boy, Wadea Al-Fayoume, and the stabbing of his mother. As our Muslim, Palestinian-American and Arab-American communities in Orange County are grieving, we reiterate that they should not have to live in fear of harassment, discrimination, or hate anywhere.

The Orange County Human Relations Commission strongly condemns hate crimes and incidents against Muslims, Palestinian-Americans, and Arab-Americans. Prior to and following 9/11, Arabs and Muslims have been attacked and blamed for terrorist attacks due to the long history of racism and xenophobia in the US. Together, we must combat this false narrative that depicts Arabs and Muslims negatively and leads to hate in our communities.

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We are resolute and unwavering in our stance against hate and stand committed to fighting Islamophobia in Orange County. We urge all Orange County residents to treat our Muslim, Palestinian-American and Arab-American neighbors with respect and continue to hope for an Orange County where fear and violence yield to understanding and coexistence for all its residents.

The mission of the Orange County Human Relations Commission is to “seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance and attempt to eliminate those causes.”

If you have been a witness to an hate act or have been victimized, please report via the following ways: Online: <https://hatecrime.211oc.org/>; Call: 211, press #6; Text: OCHATEACTIVITY to 898211.