



PRESS RELEASE

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AL Jama-ah appeals to Miss SA to withdraw from pageant in Israel

As the time draws closer to the Miss Universe beauty pageant which will take place in apartheid Israel early next month, the Al Jama-ah party continues to appeal to Miss South Africa Lalela Mswane to withdraw from the contest.

The party further beseeches her to seriously weigh the given options as to why she should not participate in an event held in Israel and rather to make the correct decision by considering the plight of Palestinians under Israeli occupation. She should be mindful that she holds a position of social responsibility wherever she goes. Miss South Africa should realise that the event is not about 'embracing all women' but about an event that takes place in surroundings where years of oppression and abuse have become the order of the day.

In an opinion piece written by Al Jama-ah's senior researcher Professor Muhammed Haron, he states, "Whilst Al Jama-ah is not completely satisfied with the South African government's lukewarm approach on Miss SA's participation in the Miss Universe pageant hosted by Israel, the party hopes that in the future it will adopt a more proactive position. It is sad that our government has been hesitant to temporarily withdraw Miss SA's passport; and, from Al Jama-ah's perspective, this boils down to a joke of sorts."

We say to Miss SA if you do not wish to heed Al Jama-ah's call for a boycott of the pageant we remind you of what former president Nelson Mandela said, "South Africa is not free as long as Palestine is not free." We say at least give your respect to Madiba and all those who sacrificed their lives for freedom in South Africa, Palestine and elsewhere!

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