



**PRESS RELEASE
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Al Jama-ah calls on SAJBD to denounce Israeli occupation of Palestine

The Al Jama-ah party views the SA Jewish Board of Deputies' accusations against the party as a distraction from highlighting Israel's human rights abuses perpetrated against Palestinians. The party is reacting to SAJBD's accusations that it is retarding service delivery to residents of Johannesburg by refusing to form a coalition with the DA in the City of Johannesburg (CoJ).

Al Jama-ah says it stands for the compassion that encompasses everything and everyone irrespective of differences in class, gender, ethnicity, religion, and national origin.

Party leader and Member of Parliament Hon Ganief Hendricks denies that Al Jama-ah was in an agreement with the DA to form a coalition in the CoJ. Al Jama-ah will not support parties that create hierarchies between human beings. "Al Jama-ah will continue the legacy of President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. There can be no difference in the value of a Palestinian in Gaza, a Jewish person in Tel Aviv and a South African on the Cape Flats. Al-Jama-ah asks SAJBD to be morally consistent and not privilege Jews over Arabs in Palestine, Israel or anywhere in the world," says Hendricks.

For as long as the killing, displacement, usurpation, expulsion, and disinheritance of Palestinians is not condemned by the DA and the pro-Israeli lobby, SAJBD Al Jama-ah will not take lessons on morality, ethics, and politics from SAJBD. We remind SAJBD of their support of oppression and exploitation of black South Africans, that their silence formed part of discriminatory service delivery legislation during apartheid.

It is ironic that SAJBD is now voicing concern over service delivery such as electricity, water, health care and social services for Johannesburg but support the denial of these services to Palestinians, especially in Gaza. SAJBD must condemn racism and apartheid in Israel, the military occupation of Palestinians the siege on Gaza and the right of return of Palestinians. SAJBD could do well to demand this as a political horizon for Israel. We take no lessons from SAJBD!

Al Jama-ah will continue to support the struggle for a free Palestine and for an end to Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. Al Jama-ah makes no distinctions between the rights of human beings.

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