



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 20, 2023

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## **OFFICIAL PRESS STATEMENT**

By Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony

### **LET THERE BE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST!**

*"Peace is not simply the absence of conflict, but the existence of justice for all people,"*  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**DETROIT** – The destruction of innocent civilian life is abhorrent, inhumane, and reflects a distortion of the true value of our basic humanity. The Detroit Branch NAACP condemns terrorism and violence as a means to resolve conflict. The recent events in the Middle East have torn at our hearts and constantly rip at our very spirit. It is clear the longer this war goes on, the more innocent lives will be lost. Our greatest fear is the escalation and the continuous degradation of human life both at home and abroad. The FBI reports a significant rise in antisemitism throughout our nation, resulting in Jewish Americans being threatened, attacked, and left with a feeling of insecurity within their communities. The same is true for Arab Americans as reports in the rise of islamophobia continue to manifest itself. Most recently in Chicago a six-year-old boy was stabbed to death 26 times simply because he was Muslim. This should cause each of us to think deeply before we step further into an abyss from which there is no return.

The African American community can most assuredly and unhappily relate to these events as history records the violence and horror visited upon Blacks down through the years. If peace is really to be achieved, we believe it will require both the Israelis and Palestinians to one day sit at a table where they themselves decide their own individual and collective pathway for the future. We urge humanitarian aid for those innocent civilians without food, water, medicine, and electricity. We believe that persons kidnapped should be freed unconditionally, to be reunited with their families. Further, those innocent Americans and other foreign nationals who happened to just be visiting in the region should be allowed to go back to their homes immediately. This is our prayer. This is our hope. This must be the work for all who believe in true justice and in the intrinsic value of human life.

Let There Be Peace In The Middle East.

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