

# *NGO says Joe Biden aids, abets and justifies Israeli crimes*

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Washington, May 16 (RHC)-- The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has denounced the Biden administration's support of Israeli bombing of "innocent men, women and children in Gaza," saying it will boycott the White House's annual Eid celebration.

CAIR, a prominent American Muslim organization, has announced it was joining with other groups in the boycott over the White House's "incredibly disappointing and deeply disturbing" response to the violence.

“We cannot in good conscience celebrate Eid with the Biden Administration while it literally aids, abets and justifies the Israeli apartheid government's indiscriminate bombing of innocent men, women and children in Gaza. President (Joe) Biden has the political power and moral authority to stop these injustices. We urge him to stand on the side of the victims and not the victimizer,” said CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad.

Awad warned the White House's current approach toward Israel's atrocities in Palestine would damage the relationship between the Biden's administration and Muslim Americans. “If the White House continues along this morally-unconscionable path as more Palestinian children die, the White House risks causing severe damage to President Biden's relationship with American Muslims and all others who defend civil and human rights.”

The Biden administration celebrated Eid and attempted to promote peace for both Israelis and Palestinians, recognizing the conflict in a statement celebrating the holiday Friday. “Jill and I are looking forward to the White House's commemoration of Eid this Sunday,” Biden said in a statement.

This comes as the Israel's aerial bombardment of the besieged Gaza Strip continued for its seventh consecutive day on Sunday. So far, at least 139 Palestinians, including 39 children and 22 women, have been killed, while 950 others wounded.

White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki on Friday avoided a reporter's inquiry on whether Biden believes Palestinians also have a right to self-defense in face of the Israeli regime's indiscriminate bombings of their neighborhoods in Gaza.

Also on Friday, the Palestinian Authority criticized Washington's position on the Gaza situation and called on the Biden administration to intervene. The White House has come under harsh criticism from progressive advocacy groups and liberals in Congress over what they assert is a Middle East policy too far in favor of Israel over Palestine.

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