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Statement of Solidarity with the Palestinians

June 7, 2021

The Board of the Association of Middle East Women's Studies (AMEWS) stands in solidarity with its members and scholars in historic Palestine who have recently experienced attacks that resulted in the death of dozens and injury of hundreds, ethnic cleansing, police brutality, unwarranted arrest and detainment at the hands of Israel. The recent violence began when Israeli forces tried to prevent Palestinians from worshipping in al-Aqsa Mosque during the holy month of Ramadan by attacking and arresting them.

AMEWS condemns the brutal assault on Gaza that left more than 230 Palestinians dead, including 65 children and nine members from a single family. Israel's 11-day barrage of attacks began on Eid al-Fitr and completely devastated the infrastructure of the area, which is home to 1.2 million Palestinians. Israel's indiscriminate strikes destroyed sewage and water systems, 1,000 buildings, including Gaza's only coronavirus testing laboratory, and damaged about 17 hospitals and clinics. Additionally, in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, dozens of families have been resisting ethnic cleansing and being forcibly removed from their homes to make way for Jewish settlers. Across historic Palestine, Palestinians joined forces to protest Israel's unending brutality. As a result, more than 20 people have been murdered, hundreds have been injured, and hundreds more have been arrested.

Militarism, patriarchy, and settler colonialism are at the heart of the Zionist settler-colonial project. Palestinians live under ongoing and escalating manifestations of settler colonialism and apartheid throughout historic Palestine. AMEWS is strongly committed as a feminist organization to the anticolonial solidarity struggle. Support of Palestinians living in historic Palestine, as well as in the diaspora, is central to that struggle. We therefore condemn the actions of the state of Israel and Israeli settlers in the strongest possible terms. We are also committed to supporting and advancing the work of Palestinian scholars, and plan to announce programming to that end.