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Muslim Lawmakers Call for Congressional Action on Gaza Crisis

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A group of Muslim American lawmakers, along with an allied colleague, has pledged to raise concerns about reported human rights violations in Gaza before the United States Congress. Representatives André Carson (D-IN), Ilhan Omar (D-MN), Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), Latifah Simon (D-CA), and Summer Lee (D-PA) committed to advocating for formal hearings on the humanitarian situation, pressing for aid delivery, and drawing attention to civilian suffering.

During a gathering in Oakland, California, the lawmakers met with representatives from the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), a Muslim American nonprofit organization. The meeting was held in coordination with the American Muslim Political Action Committee. ICNA's delegation, led by Dr. Asim Asad, included members who traveled from various states such as Florida, Texas, and California to discuss the deteriorating conditions in Gaza.

The lawmakers expressed their intent to bring the issue before the Congressional Human Rights Commission. Representative Tlaib, the only Palestinian American in Congress, has previously spoken out on the crisis and emphasized the need for immediate humanitarian support. The discussion highlighted growing calls among Muslim American leaders and constituents for stronger U.S. involvement in facilitating aid and pushing for a ceasefire.

One of the event's speakers, Dr. Bilal Piracha, a Pakistani American physician who recently returned from Gaza, provided a firsthand account of the destruction. Piracha described damaged hospitals, critical shortages of medical supplies, and widespread displacement. He characterized the conditions as "inhumane" and warned of worsening deprivation following the suspension of food operations by World Central Kitchen and delays in international aid deliveries.

Piracha encouraged U.S. lawmakers to consider both symbolic and direct actions, including visits to the Gaza border and support for aid convoys. He also appealed to Pakistan's military leadership to work with regional partners like Egypt and Jordan to airlift supplies into Gaza through the Rafah border using transport aircraft such as the C-130 Hercules.

Speaking passionately at the event, Piracha alleged that some private groups operating under the name "Gaza Foundation" are profiting from the humanitarian crisis and accused Israeli forces of using limited aid distributions to draw in and target civilians. These claims remain unverified and have not been substantiated by independent sources.

His medical relief team, reportedly supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and a humanitarian group known as Heroic Heart, reportedly included 30 volunteers working in high-risk zones. Piracha stated that funding shortfalls have led to the closure of most community kitchens in Gaza, with only four reportedly still operating at a cost exceeding \$120,000 per month each. According to him, these kitchens now provide limited meals made from locally grown vegetables to a small portion of the population.

In his closing remarks, Piracha posed a broader moral question to attendees and the global community: “Where is the Muslim Ummah? Where is humanity?” His emotional testimony drew applause from the audience and reinforced the lawmakers’ stated commitment to pursuing legislative avenues to address the ongoing crisis.

The meeting marks a renewed push by Muslim lawmakers and advocacy groups to spotlight the Gaza situation in Washington, as international calls for humanitarian aid and accountability grow.