

**Translation of al-Azhar Statement Following Deletion of
Shaykh al-Azhar Statement on Gaza
(Originally issued in the early hours of 23 July 2024)¹**

The media center of al-Azhar is responding to comments raised on social media about the statement of al-Azhar al-Sharif related to the situation in Gaza, by clarifying that this decision came from the responsibility that al-Azhar bears in front of God Almighty towards the issues of our Arab and Islamic nation, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue and supporting the people in need in Gaza.

[Thus] the venerable al-Azhar, courageously and responsibly before God, rushed to withdraw its statement when it realized that this statement could affect ongoing negotiations regarding the approval of a humanitarian truce in Gaza to save the innocent, so that its statement would not be used as an excuse to retreat from negotiations or as a bargaining chip in them.

The venerable al-Azhar chose the interest of preventing constant bloodshed in Gaza, and in the hope that these negotiations will bring an immediate end to the waterfalls of blood, and to provide the most basic elements of life from which the oppressed Palestinian people have been deprived.

The venerable al-Azhar affirms this matter in all honesty and responsibility before God, and it calls upon Him--glory be to Him--to bestow upon the people of Gaza more patience, steadfastness and tranquility, and to look upon them with his eyes that do not sleep, He is the Caretaker of all affairs.

¹ For the original, see:
<https://www.facebook.com/100044235709016/posts/1304543324363512/?mibextid=xfxF2i&rdid=cNSUDyD6cf5JqhtV>