

DENVER, July 20 (AP) - Hundreds gathered for a rally at the State Capitol and a march through downtown Denver to call for an end to what they called a humanitarian crisis brought on by conflict in Gaza.

Demonstrators waving red, black, white and green Palestinian flags and signs that read "End Collective Punishment" gathered on the Capitol lawn Saturday. Police said the group marched peacefully through Denver.

The rally was organized by a coalition of groups supporting a Palestinian homeland. One of the rally's leaders is Nadeen Ibrahim, president of the Muslim Student Association at the University of Colorado, Denver.

Rocket attacks from Gaza and Israeli military action over 12 days have killed five Israelis and 342 Palestinians. United Nations officials say that about 50,000 Palestinians are already staying in UN shelters.