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## ***Palestine- Gaza, West Bank, East Jerusalem To the Australian Parliament: Pleas for a Common Humanity***

In Gaza and the West Bank, we demand that Israeli slaughter, starvation, wasting of children, injuries to thousands, detention and torture of thousands, the destruction of hospitals, schools, universities, mosques, churches, houses, water and electricity infrastructure, banks, the legislative assembly, the killing of doctors and journalists, must end. So too must Australian complicity in genocidal acts as identified by the International Court of Justice.

Australia's silence in response to the Court's interim Finding of Plausible Genocide and its Orders for immediate cessation of genocidal acts is incomprehensible. Its inaction over the scale of death in Gaza represents abandonment of the principles of a common humanity, and indifference to shared responsibility for the interdependence of all peoples and all living things on planet earth.

We plead with the Australian government and with all Federal politicians to cease appeasing Israel against the supposed political costs of daring to take seriously the human rights of all Palestinians. We implore Australia's leadership to consider principles of a common humanity, which includes reference to Israelis' lives, and to the moral imperative to prevent complicity in enabling genocide.

While women and children are being slaughtered and starved to death, we witness the cowardly politics of the government's decisions to pause humanitarian funding to UNRWA, its refusal to support South Africa before the ICJ, its failure to respond to the ICJ's genocide ruling, and turning a blind eye to Australian arms sales to Israel. Our

government fears to condemn the policies of a state intent on the brutal elimination of a whole people.

Australian governments have joined the US war on terror that now extends to Hamas. Israel's carnage in Gaza is not as its leaders claim against Hamas but against all the Palestinian people. It is state terror, collective punishment and probable genocide. In defiance of the ruling of the ICJ, in breach of obligations under international law, Australia has no right to support this Israeli policy.

Respect for a common humanity means that Australia vigorously advocates the attainment of the human rights of all Palestinians, a goal which necessitates the dismantling of any racist, apartheid Israeli regime. Adherence to principles of a common humanity will benefit all Israelis because justice for Palestine means security for Israel.

Pleas for a common humanity include urgent, practical objectives:

- Join 139 countries in implementing the decision of the Labor Party general conference to recognize the State of Palestine.
- Reinstatement of funding for UNRWA
- Implementation of the rulings of the ICJ
- Demands for a permanent ceasefire and an end to the siege of Gaza
- Consider expulsion of Israeli Ambassador to Australia, recall of Australia's Ambassador to Israel
- Ending any Australian military support for Israel
- Developing plans for peace with justice in which Palestinians from all walks take a lead.
- Consider proposals for an international peace conference to address Palestinians' rights to self-determination and refugees' rights of return.
- Support for a UN led emergency humanitarian program to address the immediate medical, food and housing needs of Gazans

*From: Hannah Middleton 07.03.3024*