

The General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific

News

June 2020 Annexation

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Ambassador's Foreword:

Israeli annexation is a flagrant violation of international law



I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Australian and New Zealand communities for the heartening support and solidarity demonstrated during the past months since the new Israeli government revealed its plan for the unilateral annexation of West Bank settlements, Jordan Valley and North of the Dead Sea.

This plan is entirely illegal under international law and a flagrant violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions, and the human rights of the Palestinian people.

The consequences of such actions would immediately result in the abolition of any possibility for self-determination of Palestinian people and statehood. Such actions would not only be catastrophic for any prospects for peace with Palestinians but would also undoubtable severely threaten any prospects for advancements of peace, security and stability in the region and worldwide.

Encouraged by statements of the Australian and New Zealand governments on the illegality of Israeli annexation of significant parts of West Bank, the General Delegation of Palestine (GDOP) has called on the Australian and New Zealand government to support the following positions:

1. To reject and condemn the Israeli future plans to annex West Bank settlements, Jordan Valley and North of the Dead Sea, as a violation of International law, UN Security Council Resolutions and Palestinian people human rights and freedom. If the colonial plan is implemented, it is our expectation that Australia and New Zealand would impose sanctions on Israel.
2. To support the establishment of a sovereign, independent and democratic Palestinian State on 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital and a just solution to the Palestinian refugee's plight.
3. To work with the international community, the Arab League, Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC), European Union, UN, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Russia, China and others, to support a multilateral approach to solve Israeli Palestine conflict based on international law and UN Resolutions.
4. Finally, to recognize, without delay, the State of Palestine on 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Izzat Abdulhadi

Ambassador of the State of Palestine



Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific



Position of the Palestinian Leadership towards the Israeli annexation plan

- * The unilateral modification of borders by occupying forces, through the annexation of land, is illegal by international law and is in direct violation of all agreements and United Nations Security Council Resolutions, in particular, Security Council Resolutions 242, 334 and 2334.
- * The Palestinian leadership remains dedicated and committed to the two-state solution on 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, as a just and sustainable solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict. Annexation would ultimately abolish this solution and subsequently undermine any genuine advancements for peace, not only within the context of Palestine and Israel, but would further lead to regional instability. A sustainable and just solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict requires a multilateral approach through an international conference based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions, in particular, resolutions 242, 338 and 2334.
- * Due to the Israeli government's abrogation of its obligations and violations of agreements towards the Middle East peace process, the Palestinian Leadership are absolved of all agreements and understandings, including their commitments, with both the US and Israeli governments.
- * Subsequently, and based on the Palestinian Leadership decision and in accordance with international law, Israel now holds the responsibilities and obligations as the occupying authority over the OPT.





- * The Palestinian leadership will continue to shoulder its responsibilities towards the Palestinian people, by protecting national institutions, asserting sovereignty, as well as affirming the State of Palestine on the international stage.
- * The Palestinian Leadership reaffirms its firm commitment to international legitimacy and condemning and fighting international terrorism and in keeping in line with its commitment to international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.



The GDOP calls on the Australian and New Zealand governments to condemn Annexation

The Australian government must do more, including, yet not limited to declaring its position regarding the Israeli annexation plans by aligning its position with upholding its commitments to support international law and United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

In response to the Israeli annexation plan the GDOP calls on the Australian and New Zealand Governments to recognise the State of Palestine on 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.



Trump’s so-called peace plan “Peace to Prosperity”



This month at the Delegation

The GDOP Advocacy Campaign

During the months of May and June, the GDOP has been implementing its advocacy campaign against the Israeli annexation plan of West Bank settlements, Jordan Valley and North of the Dead Sea, under the mission statement “annexation is illegal under international law”.

The specific objectives of this campaign included :

1. To raise awareness about the negative impact and consequences of the Israeli annexation plan and Trump’s plan within Australia, New Zealand and Pacific societies.
2. To lobby decision makers in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific to reject Israeli plans and recognise and support the State of Palestine, including the Palestinian right to self-determination.
3. To enhance networking cooperation, coordination and consultation amongst all civil society organisations, advocacy groups, grassroots movements, and Islamic, Arab and Palestinian communities’ organisations to reject the Israeli annexation plan and promote Palestinian rights and self-determination.
4. To design, enhance and implement an effective media strategy.



Palestina-australia.com

As part of this advocacy campaign, the following activities were implemented:

- * Ambassador Abdulhadi sent letters to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in both Australia and New Zealand.
- * Letters were sent to community members, Churches, Islamic community, NGOs, Advocacy groups and members of parliament, calling for support and urging the Australian and New Zealand governments to publicly present a clear position towards the Israeli annexation plan.
- * Ambassador Abdulhadi held several meetings with members of parliament to discuss this matter.
- * The GDOP also published several press releases and a position paper in response to this plan.
- * The GDOP hosted a meeting with the OIC Heads of Mission Group in Canberra to discuss the response of the OIC Group towards Israeli annexation plan.
- * The Council of Arab Ambassadors (CAA) held a meeting with the First Assistant Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, to discuss annexation and Australia’s response regarding this.
- * Ambassador Abdulhadi and GDOP staff held a meeting with APAN to discuss the annexation plan and ways to coordinate advocacy responses.
- * The GDOP assisted the Negotiations Affairs Department of the PLO with their Advocacy Campaign.
- * Additionally, many resources and news articles including analyses about the Israeli annexation plan were circulated to the communities and on social media.



The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Heads of Mission Group in Canberra meeting

On 25th June the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Heads of Mission Group in Canberra held a meeting at the premises of the General Delegation of Palestine in Canberra to discuss the threat of the Israeli annexation plan, and the actions needed in Australia.

The members agreed on a certain action plan to raise awareness about this issue and expressed their deep concern of the tragic consequences of the annexation plan. In this context, they agreed to meet with the Australia Foreign Minister to ask her to clarify Australia position regarding this matter.

As an outcome of this meeting, an Aide-Memoire was developed and approved in another follow-up meeting conducted in the Indonesian Embassy, which included the firm position of the OIC towards the illegality of the Israeli annexation plan, and called on the Australian government to provide a clear position of the Israeli annexation plan based on Australia's commitment to international law.

The Council of Arab Ambassadors (CAA) met with the First Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ambassador Abdulhadi, accompanied by the Dean of the CAA and some Arab Ambassadors in Canberra met with the First Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dr Angela Macdonald, to discuss the Israeli Annexation plan and Australia's response to this plan.

All the ambassadors present expressed the same position and pointed out the importance of respecting international references for the peace process, especially the Arab Peace Initiative. The Ambassadors expressed their absolute rejection of this plan and reaffirmed the importance of the two-state solution, including the establishment of a Palestinian State on 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The Palestinian Ambassador spoke during this meeting, clarifying the Palestinian position and calling on the Australian Government for a clear position on this plan based on the International law and UN resolutions.

The First Assistant Secretary of the Middle East and Africa Department referred to the position of the Australian Government by saying its position remains the same, in support for the two-state solution, including the establishment of a negotiated Palestinian State with a capital in East Jerusalem.



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Ambassador Izzat Abdulhadi met with several members of the Australian Federal Parliament

Ambassador Izzat Abdulhadi hosted meetings with several members of the Australian Federal Parliament to discuss the threat of the Israeli annexation plan and the Australian government and Opposition Party's responses to this plan.

The various parties discussed the political context and threat of the Israeli annexation plan on the two-state solution and the response from the Labor Party and Australian government. The various parties also discussed the necessity to further discuss this.



Ambassador Abdulhadi held media interviews about the Israeli annexation plan

Ambassador Abdulhadi held several media interviews, during this period, centered around the Israeli Annexation plan.

Ambassador Abdulhadi explained the threat that this annexation plan has on the two-state solution and the viability of the future of a Palestinian state.

He also discussed the Australian government and opposition position in this context and urged them to respond effectively to this.



Meeting between the GDOP and Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN)

The GDOP and APAN held a fruitful discussion about the current political situation in light of the Israeli annexation plan and the threat that this would have to a sustainable solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict.

The Ambassador briefed APAN, including President of APAN Bishop George Browning, Vice-President Nasser Mashni and Executive Officer Jessica Morrison, of the Advocacy campaign by the GDOP and Bishop George, briefed GDOP staff of APAN's advocacy campaign.

The two parties agreed to coordinate some aspects of each advocacy campaign and continue the consultation process of the issue and to follow up in this regard.



Palestinian Leadership Advocacy Campaign



STATE OF PALESTINE
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION
NEGOTIATIONS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

PLO Negotiations Affairs Department (NAD) Advocacy Campaign

The PLONAD has been instrumental in its advocacy campaign against the Israeli annexation plan. The PLONAD has implemented several projects to raise awareness and advocate on an international scale.

The following projects have been implemented:

- * The Video Advocacy Campaign “One Voice Against Israel’s Annexation”, presenting one minute videos from prominent international academics, advocates, politicians and lawyers, amongst others, making a statement condemning the Israeli annexation plan.
- * The book, entitled “Looming Annexation Israel’s Denial of Palestine’s Right to Exist” was published. It contains significant political, legal and technical contributions and sheds light on the illegal annexation policy since Israel occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem in 1967, and Gaza Strip, until the present.

Find the Advocacy Campaign “One Voice Against Israel’s Annexation” on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/nadplo?lang=en>



The Palestinian Leadership’s advocacy campaign

The Palestinian Leadership has also been highly involved in raising international awareness of the threat of the Israeli annexation plan.

Including by contacting global organisations and governments around the world, which, as a result, guaranteed a supportive position from all these stakeholders.

Additional resources on the Israeli annexation plan

PLO Negotiations Affairs Department: “The Threat of Annexation: Israel’s Acquisition of Lands, Belonging to the State of Palestine, by Force”:

<https://www.nad.ps/en/publication-resources/faqs/threat-annexation-israels-acquisition-lands-belonging-state-palestine>



Factsheet

Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN) Factsheet about Annexation:

<https://apanaustralia.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/annexation.pdf>

U.S. Middle East Project (USMEP): “Israeli Annexation in the West Bank: The State of Play, Dynamics and Responses”:

https://www.usmep.us/media/filer_public/7a/31/7a314ad8-49c2-496f-af73-156d2d854612/usmep_briefing_memo_-_israeli_annexation_in_the_west_bank.pdf

PLO Negotiations Affairs Department: “Looming Annexation Israel’s denial of Palestine’s right to exist”:

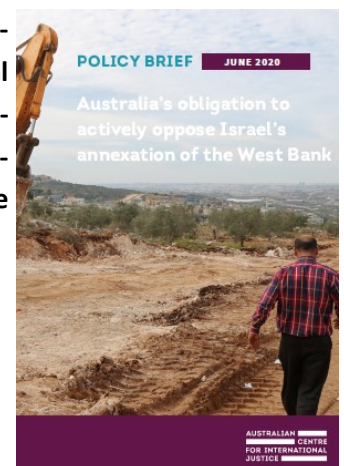
<https://www.nad.ps/sites/default/files/06302020.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3SpU7rMQOB-z7o5tQQj0vVG-t5LI0DySY1N4MXe7GNNnKDIC8Q78nmTMU>

OIC Position Paper “Resolution Adopted by the Open-Ended Virtual Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the Level of Foreign Ministers on the Threats of the Israeli Occupation Government to Annex Parts of State of Palestine’s territory Occupied in 1967”:

https://www.oic-oci.org/topic/?t_id=23484&ref=14035&lan=en

Policy Brief by the Australian Centre for International Justice: “Australia’s obligation to actively oppose Israel’s annexation of the West Bank”:

<https://acij.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ACIJ-Policy-Brief-June-2020.pdf>





Reactions by the Australian and New Zealand Governments and Political Parties

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Marise Payne: “Statement on the Middle East” <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/statement-middle-east>

Australian Greens and Adam Bandt: “Australia must urgently condemn Israel’s annexation plans: Bandt” <https://greensmps.org.au/articles/australia-must-urgently-condemn-israels-annexation-plans>

Labor Party: Senator Penny Wong and Richard Marles MP: “Labor Party Opposes Annexation of West Bank Land” <https://www.richardmarles.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20.07.01-LABOR-OPPOSES-ANNEXATION-OF-WEST-BANK-LAND.pdf>

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Winston Peters MP “New Zealand expresses concerns over proposed Israeli annexation plans” <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-expresses-concerns-over-proposed-israeli-annexation-plans>

Senator Penny Wong “A risk the world cannot afford” <https://plus61i.net.au/featured/risk-world-cannot-afford-penny-wong-slams-west-bank-annexation-plan/>



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- **Instagram:** palestiniandelegation_au_nz



Embassy of the State of Palestine

The General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific