



28 March 2019

**Excellency Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister of New Zealand
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6012**

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you to express my sincerest condolences at what has been an extraordinarily difficult time for New Zealand and its people. I offer the same condolences to the families of the victims, whom have experienced a trauma from which they will never completely recover.

As you may be aware, Madame Prime Minister, six New Zealanders of Palestinian origin lost their lives on that horrific Friday. I wish to thank you for your sympathy and solidarity with their families and the victims of the other families. May all the victims' souls rest in Peace. We hope that such cowardly incidents will not recur again.





Allow me, Madame Prime Minister, to express also my deepest admiration and appreciation of your inspiring moral leadership throughout this tragedy. You have done much more than just sympathise with New Zealand's Muslim community. Your fortitude and resolve have not only been met with universal commendation, but have also served as a symbol of courage and humanity for all leaders around the world, both present and future.

As brutal and inhuman as these attacks were, they ought to remind us all of the very real threat of extreme populism, hate speech, xenophobia, Islamophobia and everything else that sows division and fear of 'the other'. Your moral clarity and resoluteness portray a remarkable message of cohesion epitomised by your sincere words "they are us, we are them" – are all testaments to your wisdom, and goes a long way in curbing xenophobic ideologies.

Sincerely,

Mahmoud Abbas

President of the State of Palestine

The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

