

# INDIGENOUS COALITION FOR ISRAEL

2 December 2022

To: Hon Minita Nanaia Mahuta

Tēna koe Hon Min Nanaia Mahuta

On the 15 November you tweeted:

*“Aotearoa NZ regrets our necessary abstention on the recent [@UN](#) General Assembly Fourth Committee vote on ‘Israeli Practices’, but remains committed to protecting & promoting the rights of Palestinian people”.*

Hon Minita, it is disappointing that you should express regret for your government’s decision to abstain on the resolution ‘Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem’, which was considered by the Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

Your office showed wisdom in wishing to carefully review a proposal which was foisted on the members with little time to consider the ramifications.

However, the voting history of New Zealand has been to support the resolution despite its obvious bias. We are concerned that this imbalance might continue with the new politicization of the UN against Israel - with Resolution A/C.4/77/L.12/Rev.1 calling for Israel to be directed to the ICJ.

This is effectively a politically motivated resolution under a legislative cover. The resolution uses language that pre-determines Israel’s guilt on issues that are contested and debatable.

Such unilateral approaches are counterproductive. Any chance of progress in the relationship between the parties will be severely reduced. Voting in favor of this resolution would contradict New Zealand’s long standing policy of balance, as well as the commitment to a negotiated settlement between the two parties.

[President Clinton](#) said of the 2000 Camp David Summit “Somehow you have to find a way to establish trust among adversaries... ..Agreement is not nearly as important as trust.” Clinton also spoke of his involvement in the signing of the 1995 Oslo II Accords.

**INDIGENOUS COALITION FOR ISRAEL**

AN INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN INITIATIVE

[www.indigenouscoalition.com](http://www.indigenouscoalition.com)

Directors: Hon Alfred Ngaro and Dr Sheree Trotter

He said the experience could be seen as an example for negotiators and mediators. In a conflict situation, he said, the two sides must learn to work together and trust each other rather than rely on outside mediation.

Supporting the ICJ resolution will have the opposite effect. It will further entrench the divide between the two parties and any progress made in the past few months will be undermined.

This resolution ignores Palestinian agency. It ignores the fact that Israel has on several occasions offered 'land for peace' deals, with up to 96% return of land with the rest covered by land swaps. The Palestinians have thus far refused every offer. According to Clinton, no agreement was reached under his aegis because although Israel, under Barak, agreed to give up 96 percent of the West Bank, the Palestinians, under Arafat, "never said yes."

The reason is quite clear. The rhetoric of Palestinian leaders and the messaging on the street, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" is a clear and unambiguous call to rid the entire land of Jews, as is "Intifada, intifada; globalise the intifada." The Jewish nation born out of the ashes of the Holocaust is not going to give up all of its indigenous homeland. Israel has always been willing to compromise on land issues (as exemplified in its withdrawal from Gaza in 2005), however Israel is committed to providing a safe haven for Jews. The Jewish people have learnt the hard way that they can't rely on other nations to protect them.

The ICJ resolution, like the other imbalanced UN resolutions singling out Israel, ignores the challenge Israel faces in the fight against terrorism. In the first six months of 2022, over 3,700 terrorist attacks were perpetrated against Israelis, leaving 21 people dead and 316 injured. While the world may continue to turn a blind eye to the murder of Jews, Israel will ensure the protection of its people.

Israel supports Palestinian self-determination, as long as peace is guaranteed. Israel has proven time and again a willingness to make peace; with Jordan and Egypt and since 2020, and under the Abraham Accords, we are witnessing a new paradigm for peace in the Middle East. Israel has signed four peace agreements with other states in the last two years.

Hon Minita, if you are serious about "protecting & promoting the rights of Palestinian people", then the Palestinian Authority must be pressured to uphold the human rights of its own people. This includes the right to free elections, the right to freedom of press, freedom from Fatah's incompetence and corruption, the right to freedom from hateful indoctrination and incentivisation to terror and the right to sell their own land to whomever they choose, without the risk of being beaten up or murdered.

No legislative or presidential elections have been held in the Palestinian territories since 2005. [Abbas's presidential term](#) was supposed to end in 2009. Twelve years later in 2021, an election was planned, but Hamas was poised to sweep the parliamentary election. This was widely seen as [the real reason for Abbas](#) postponing the poll, citing Israel's refusal to allow voting in eastern Jerusalem. Hamas and Fatah have been at loggerheads since 2007, when the Islamists seized Gaza.

Fatah faces charges of corruption, lacks public support and is facing a leadership crisis, which adds to general insecurity and the alarming rise in terrorist activity. Palestinian [lawyers](#) and other unions have staged protests in recent months, challenged decision making processes, deep-rooted nepotism and corruption among senior officials.

[Outrage in public discourse](#) has focused on inequity in government appointments and in the management of capital-intensive projects, which are redirected to benefit specifically the inner circle of Fatah. The Palestinian people thus lose out on the benefits of investments in such projects. They are demanding transparency and accountability.

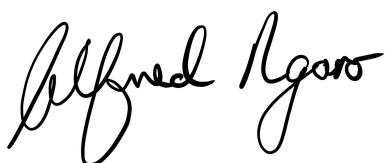
According to [Human Rights Watch](#), the Palestinian leadership goes to extreme lengths in its persecution of journalists and activists. The [HRW report](#) documents more than 80 cases of torture and arbitrary arrests, some for nothing more than writing a critical article or Facebook post, others for belonging to the wrong student group or political movement.

Both the Fatah-dominated Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Gaza have in recent years carried out scores of arbitrary arrests for peaceful criticism of the authorities, particularly on social media, among independent journalists, on university campuses, and at demonstrations. Children are indoctrinated to hatred with a [school curriculum](#) that encourages violence (and which your government sadly supports through its contribution to UNRWA), jihad and martyrdom, antisemitism, hate, and intolerance. This is further entrenched in [Summer camps](#) where children are encouraged to [become martyrs](#) and [recruited](#) to become child soldiers, a [war crime](#).

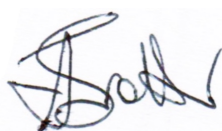
Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror groups are reportedly offering [cash incentives](#) (\$200) for shooting attacks on Israelis, on condition that a video of the assault is published on social media. The families of 'martyrs' are given financial rewards and Palestinians are punished for [selling land to Israelis](#).

Hon Minita, what hope is there for peace, when children are indoctrinated from babyhood to hate and murder Jews? If New Zealand is serious about seeking a solution to the Israel Palestinian conflict, and "committed to protecting & promoting the rights of Palestinian people" it will call the Palestinian leadership to account and resist campaigns to demonise the world's only Jewish state. We urge the government to oppose this one-sided, biassed resolution that will not help the Palestinian people, but will serve only to hinder and slow the path towards peace.

Sincerely



Hon Alfred Ngaro



Dr Sheree Trotter