



The State of Palestine

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

Annual Report 2022

1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022



Rally to Commemorate Al Nakba in Sydney, Australia

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Ambassador's Foreword

2022: Return and Recovery from COVID-19

Despite the repercussions of COVID-19 and the overall negative impact it had on diplomatic work throughout Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific, we, at the General Delegation of Palestine, are proud of the achievements and outcomes that we accomplished during 2022.

Perhaps this year was Aotearoa New Zealand's year par excellence, through two successful visits to this friendly country and meeting with Aotearoa New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Nanaia Mahuta. You can imagine the beautiful feeling I had when I met this Minister of Indigenous (Māori) heritage and saw her support for Palestinian rights and her emphasis on the strong links and shared experiences of the Indigenous peoples in both countries.

We also met with a delegation from the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, representatives of Australia's Indigenous (First Nations) peoples, at the Palestinian Embassy in Canberra, and I felt the same connection through shared experiences and the struggle against colonialism, occupation, and racial discrimination.

Our goal at the Palestinian Embassy was, and still is, to promote and disseminate the Palestinian narrative and the truth of what happened to the Palestinian people in 1948, the year of the Nakba, and the ongoing colonialism, occupation and racial discrimination against the Palestinian people. Perhaps the tight link between the Palestinian story and narrative and the developments in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is what distinguishes the work of the Palestinian Embassy in Canberra.

In another related matter, one of the most notable events in the region this year was the Australian Labor Party (ALP) victory in the federal elections, and its formation of the first Labor Government in nine years. This was considered good news for the Palestinian people, as we expect this new government to recognise the State of Palestine in accordance with the party's resolutions of 2018 and 2021. We also expect this government to adopt a new position towards Palestinian rights that is more aligned with the principles of international law and legitimacy.

In this context, the General Delegation of Palestine and Palestinian leadership welcomed the Labor government's reversal of the previous government's recognition of East Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and reaffirmation of Jerusalem as one of the final status issues.

We also welcome the other important steps taken by the current Labor government in this context, especially the change in its voting pattern in the United Nations General Assembly on resolutions related to Palestine. Additionally, we welcome its continued support for a two-state solution based on a just and enduring peace in the Middle East.

In this context, the General Delegation of Palestine intends to enhance its relationship with the new Australian government and encourage it to take positive and balanced steps towards Palestinian rights, especially recognising the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state within 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Wide support for Palestinian rights has been evident this year, particularly through the strong attendance of a large number of parliamentarians, members of the international diplomatic corps, representatives of civil society and Arab, Muslim and Palestinian communities in celebrations of the United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The speeches delivered during the celebrations in both the Australian Parliament and the Aotearoa New Zealand Parliament expressed broad support for Palestinian rights and condemnation of Israel's ongoing human rights violations, with repeated calls for recognition of the State of Palestine.

We have also noted the growing waves of solidarity with the Palestinian people not only in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, but also in most countries around the world. All of these are strong indicators of the justness of the Palestinian cause, especially in light of the growing influence of the far-right and escalating racist violations in Israel, as well as its increasing isolation from the international community.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues at the Palestinian Embassy for their diligent work and ongoing activities to promote Palestinian national rights in Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific.

Dr Izzat Abdulhadi



**Ambassador of the State of Palestine
Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific.**

Political Context

Australia

The Federal Election

The most prominent political development in Australia was former Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison's announcement of the dissolution of Parliament and the announcement of the 2022 federal election for the 47th Parliament of Australia.



Scott Morrison (Liberal) and Anthony Albanese (Labor)

The opposition Australian Labor Party (ALP) won the election after ten years of Liberal/National Coalition rule. By winning 77 out of 151 seats in the House of Representatives, the ALP was able to form a majority government without the support of the Greens Party or independent candidates.



The Liberal/National Coalition won only 58 seats, 17 less than their previous 77 seat majority. The Greens Party won four seats in parliament, which was three more seats than the previous parliament, which was considered a great victory for the party. Independents also won 10 seats, which was a surprise to many and considered to be a severe blow to the ruling coalition.

As for the Senate, twelve Senators are elected for each State and two Senators are elected for each territory, for a total of 76 Senators. Senators are elected by a system of proportional representation. The final result of the Senate elections was as follows:

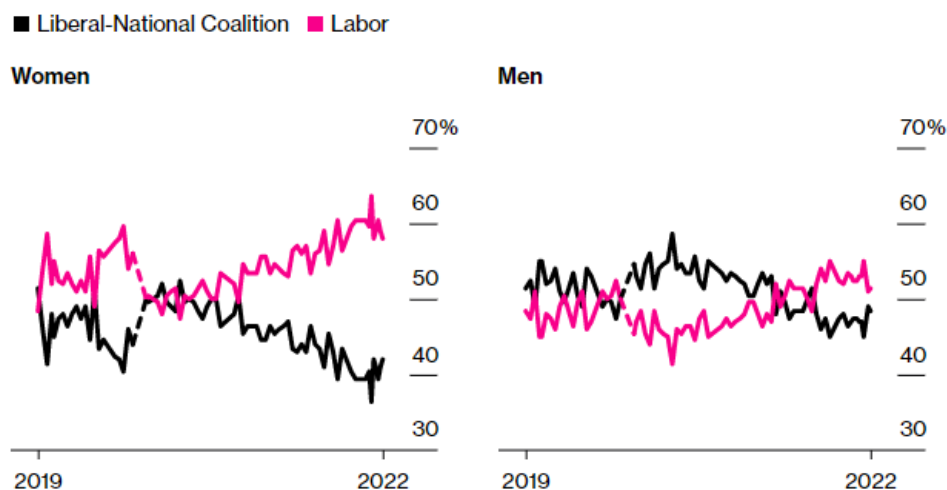
- Coalition – 32 seats
- Labor - 26 seats
- Greens - 12 seats
- Jackie Lambie Network - 2 seats
- One Nation Party (right-wing conservative) - 2 seats
- United Australia - 1 seat
- Independent (David Pocock) - 1 seat



Despite the numerical majority of Coalition Senators, the alliance that exists between the Labor Party and the Greens Party means that in practice, the Coalition is outnumbered by their combined total of 38 Senators. Therefore, the Coalition cannot pass laws without the approval of the Labor and Greens alliance, even if it allied itself with small conservative parties, given that the Independent Senator David Pocock is much more closely aligned with Labor and the Greens.

Political analysts have explained the defeat of the leading coalition in a number of ways:

1. The Australian people wanted a change in leadership for their country after nine years of Coalition rule.
2. The Liberal/National coalition failed to adopt a clear climate change policy, despite the fact that the issue of climate change and the existential threat it poses have become a major focus of the Australian people's attention following the devastating bushfires that broke out in Australia in 2020 and the destructive floods in Northern Australia. This can also explain the success of the independent candidates who advocated for firm and progressive policy regarding climate change.
3. Many analysts believe that many women did not vote for the Liberal Party due to the Morrison government's lack of interest in gender equality and feminist issues.



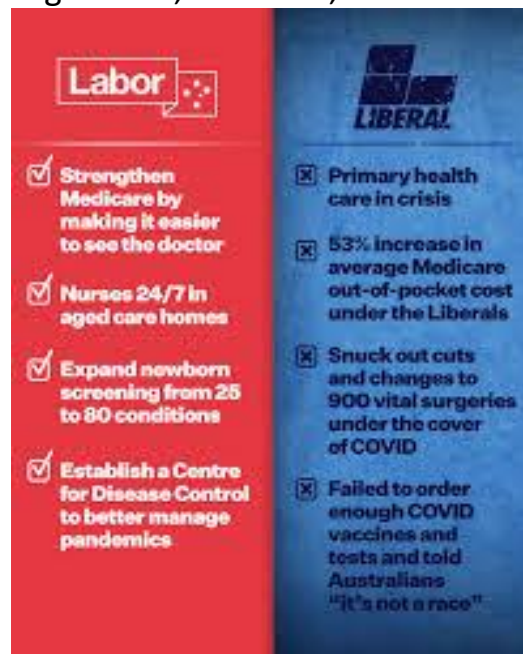
Source: Roy Morgan

Note: Voting intentions are based on two-party preference only, with latest poll conducted in week of April 18-24

4. The Coalition's failure to support the formation of a federal Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). This issue was considered one of the most important issues of interest to the Australian public after the numerous corruption charges were virtually ignored by the Morrison government.



5. The division and conflict within the Liberal Party, particularly between the more conservative and the more progressive members of the Party, has led to a weakening of public confidence in the party and its leadership.
6. The lack of development of the economic policy of the Coalition saw rising inflation and cost of living in the lead-up to the elections, meanwhile the Labor Party proposed an increase of minimum wage by 5%, and also proposed to increase the budgets for education, vocational training, mature-aged care, childcare, and others.



7. Morrison's leadership style, which was characterized by authoritarianism and haste, and his poor management of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the delayed vaccine rollout due to his failure to secure the necessary vaccines to combat the disease.

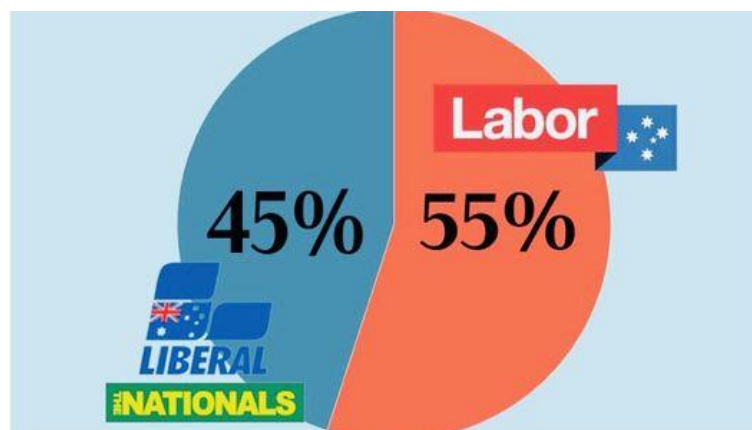


8. Other reasons related to Morrison's foreign policies, especially the increasingly tense relationship with China and some Pacific countries.

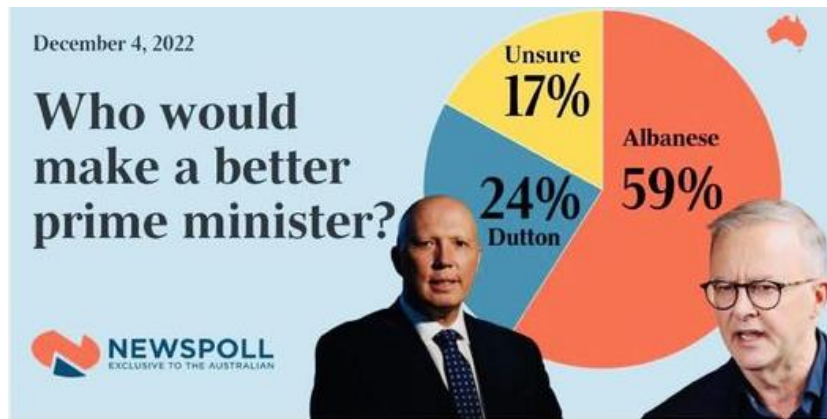


The New Labor Government

Almost six months after it formed the government, the Australian Labor Party (ALP) continues to enjoy the confidence of being the preferred party for the majority of the Australian public (55%, according to recent polls), and Prime Minister Albanese is also popular.



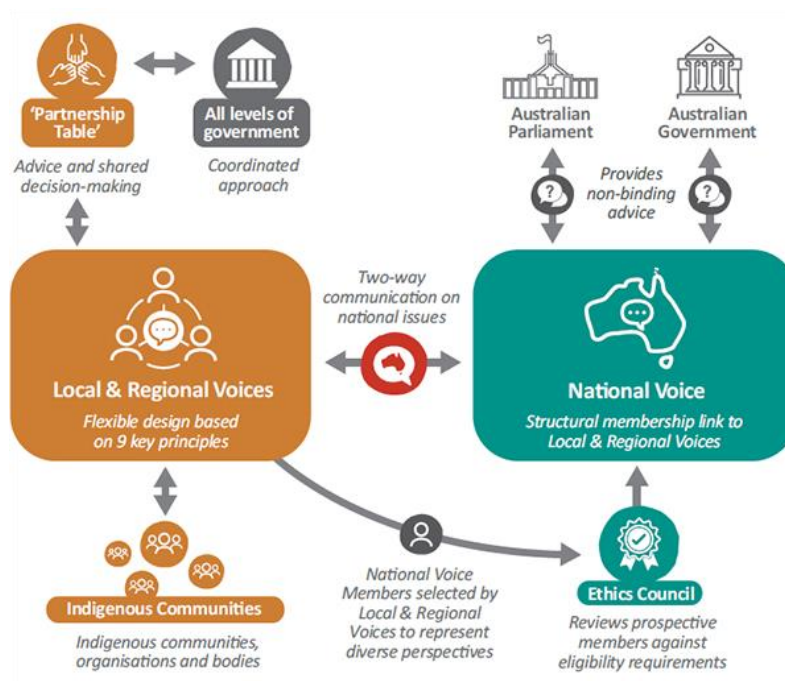
The Australian Newspoll, December 4th 2022



According to analysts, the Labor Party has been able to bring about significant changes in the first six months since the Federal Election, in both domestic and foreign policy.

On the domestic front, the ALP has proposed a number of initiatives and significant pieces of legislation that have increased its popularity among the Australian public.

1. The ALP government has been pursuing a referendum to enshrine an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the Australian Constitution. A Voice to Parliament would ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are heard in Federal Parliament.



According to analysts, this approach reinforces the right to self-determination of Indigenous peoples, and will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to deliver practical advice to Federal Parliament so that Indigenous needs and priorities are better reflected in the laws and policies that impact them.

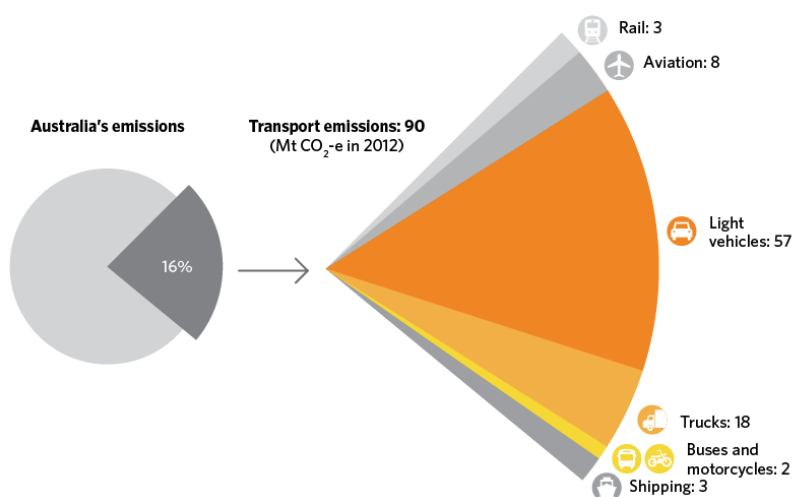
It is expected that this referendum will be held next year despite opposition from the Liberal-National Coalition, arguing that giving an independent voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will destabilize national unity by empowering some elites at the expense of the general population.

2. The Labor Party was also able to enact new industrial relations legislation in Parliament. This legislation strengthened and empowered the working class in Australia and both enhanced the economic rights of workers and regulated the relationship between workers and employers in accordance with the principles and guidelines of the Labor Party.

This legislation was issued following an important conference bringing together employers, workers, and the government. Many related issues were discussed, particularly increasing the number of skilled immigrants, the promotion of vocational education, and the importance and necessity of collective agreements.

3. The Labor Party also announced plans for climate change policy, including the reduction of Australia’s emissions by 43% by 2030 in order to reach Australia’s target of net zero by 2050.

The Greens Party have criticised this plan as insufficient, and have called for an immediate ban on the construction of new coal, oil and gas infrastructure and a switch to clean and renewable energy sources.



Australian Foreign Policy under Labor

The new Labor Government's foreign policy approach was clearly outlined in the important speech delivered by Senator the Honourable Penny Wong, Australian Foreign Minister, at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, USA.



Senator Wong clarified Australia's approach with Pacific countries, emphasising the importance of listening to these countries and not imposing development policies or priorities on them through financial aid. She explained that this approach is based on respect for the right of each country to make their own choices about their own development process, priorities, and political futures.

Senator Wong noted the importance of avoiding polarization in the Indo-Pacific region, preventing armed conflicts, and resolving thorny issues in a peaceful manner, referring to China-US and China-Australia tensions. However, she also noted the importance of strengthening Australia's military capabilities with nuclear submarines and other military infrastructure in order to best face challenges in the region.

In this context, Senator Wong emphasised the importance of maintaining its alliances with the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom and India within the framework of the Quad, AUKUS, the Five Eyes, and other treaties/alliances.



Senator Wong also stressed the importance of strengthening relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as the most important regional group representing the political, security and economic priorities in the region.

This refocusing of Australian foreign policy towards ASEAN has been demonstrated clearly by the multiple visits by Foreign Minister Penny Wong to member countries in the region, as well as by the participation of Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in the various summits held in the region, especially the ASEAN Summit, the G20 Bali Summit, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.



This foreign policy was further solidified when the Australian Foreign Minister and Minister for Defence travelled together to the United States and Japan for in December of 2022 for security and political consultations with the US Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense, and the Japanese Foreign Minister, respectively.

It is clear that Australia, the United States, and Japan are determined to address the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the context of China's growing influence in the region and conclusion of trade and security agreements with a number of Pacific countries.



Senator the Hon. Penny Wong with US Secretary of State and Japanese Foreign Minister

The ALP Government and the State of Palestine

The victory of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) in the Federal Elections is good news for Palestine. The ALP Conference in 2018 passed a resolution calling for the next Labor government to recognize the State of Palestine as an issue of priority.



Senator the Hon. Penny Wong at the 2018 ALP National Conference

As such, we hope that the State of Palestine will eventually be recognized by the ALP government despite obstacles such as the great pressures that the new Prime Minister Anthony Albanese may be subjected to, particularly from the USA, Israel, and the pro-Israeli lobby in Australia, and the shifting of Australia's priorities to focus on the Indo-Pacific and addressing its tense relationship with China.



The importance of the the pressure that the current government is facing to recognise the State of Palestine should not be underestimated. The majority of the Arab and Muslim public voted for the Labor Party in the federal elections, and all branches of the Labor Party have voted, with significant majorities, in favor of Australia recognising the State of Palestine. The current political steps taken by the Australian government regarding Palestine will not prevent the party rules and labor unions from continuing to demand that this government recognize the State of Palestine.

Justifications by the current government claiming that the 2018 ALP National Conference resolution is non-binding are innacurate, as it is binding from the perspective of many members and thinkers within the Labor Party. Therefore, work will continue with the current government through strong advocacy campaigns for recognising the State of Palestine.





Palestinian Ambassador Abdulhadi with Senator Wong

There has also been an important shift in the position of the Labor Party towards the Palestinian issue, particularly in Australia's voting pattern at the United Nations. For the last two months of 2022, Australia voted in favor of all resolutions related to UNRWA. Australia has also voted in favor of the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people and in favor of a resolution condemning Israeli settlements. However, Australia then voted against the Draft resolution "Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem" (document A/C.4/77/L.12/Rev.1) requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legality of the Israeli occupation.

In addition, there has been a change in Australia's stance towards ongoing Israeli violations of human rights, and several statements have been issued in this context. In addition, Australia is likely to increase development aid to the State of Palestine.

Australia also refused to sign a US-led statement criticizing the mandate and work of the independent commission established by the Human Rights Council to investigate Israel's human rights violations. Australia's decision not to join the 22 countries that signed this statement should be considered an encouraging sign of the growing independence of Australian foreign policy from US foreign policy, particularly in the Middle East context.

JUNE 13, 2022

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and in Israel
Joint Statement Delivered by Ambassador Michèle Taylor
Human Rights Council – 50th Session

Thank you, Mr. Vice President,

I read this statement on behalf of a growing cross-regional group of 22 countries, including the United States, that are deeply concerned about the open-ended Commission of Inquiry established following the escalation of violence in May 2021.

Resolution S-30/1 established a COI of open-ended mandate with no sunset clause, end date, or clear limitations connected to the escalation in May 2021. For this reason, many of the Council's members at the time expressed fundamental concerns when resolution S-30/1 came up for adoption.

To be clear, no one is above scrutiny and it is this Council's responsibility to promote and protect human rights the world over. We must work to counter impunity and promote accountability on a basis of consistent and universally applied standards.

We believe the nature of the COI established last May is further demonstration of long-standing, disproportionate attention given to Israel in the Council and must stop.

We continue to believe that this long-standing disproportionate scrutiny should end, and that the Council should address all human rights concerns, regardless of country, in an even-handed manner. Regrettably, we are concerned that the Commission of Inquiry will further contribute to the polarization of a situation about which so many of us are concerned.

I thank you.

—

US-led statement against the Commission of Inquiry, signed by 22 countries

Following Israeli attacks on Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Al Aqsa Mosque, continuous Israeli violations of human rights, and the unjust criminalization of six Palestinian non-governmental organizations, the Australian government issued multiple statements and sent multiple letters to the General Delegation of Palestine explaining its position with regards to these incidents. Australia's position rejected unilateral actions such as settlements, house demolitions, and forced evictions of Palestinians, while emphasising the importance of the continuation of the status-quo in Jerusalem.

Further to this, Australia took an important and tangible step when it withdrew its 2018 recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, returning to its longstanding policy of considering Jerusalem to be a final status issue. This position was widely welcomed by the Palestinian government and people.

The General Delegation of Palestine also issued an important statement following the announcement, in which it described this as an important step towards effective implementation of the two-state solution.

The former PM played political games with the hopes and expectations of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, and their Diaspora communities in Australia.

I regret that the shift away from Australia's longstanding position, and the shift back this week, have been distressing for communities that have a deep-rooted and keenly felt stake in the cessation of conflict, particularly the Australian Jewish community. And the timing of this week's announcement, falling as it did on Simchat Torah, was also deeply regrettable.

Reasonable people can disagree, as many readers will disagree with me. But I will always be straight with you, and I won't use this issue to score points.

My sincere belief is that Australia's role is the active and responsible pursuit of progress towards a just and enduring two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

As a responsible international actor, Australia will not impose its view of the final borders and boundaries, which should be the result of peace negotiations.

We continue to fight the scourge of antisemitism. And we will call out the unfair and disproportionate targeting of Israel in international forums.

When Australia first recognised the State of Israel, Evatt defined our objective as being "to reach a just and fair solution".

The pursuit of that objective remains our duty. It should remain beyond politics. I believe our policy is an expression of that duty.

Excerpt from Article by Senator the Hon. Penny Wong for "Australian Jewish News" on October 20, 2022, following the withdrawal of Australia's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel

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



دولة فلسطين
البعثة العامة لفلسطين
في أستراليا ونيوزيلندا والباسيفيك

Press Release

18 October 2022
Canberra, Australia

Reversal of Recognition of West Jerusalem

The General Delegation of Palestine to Australia welcomes the Australian Government and Senator the Hon Penny Wong's affirmation that Jerusalem is a final status issue that must be resolved through negotiations between Palestine and Israel.

The reversal of the Morrison Government's recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is a step in the right direction towards the effective implementation of the two-state solution and achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

It should be noted in this context that East Jerusalem is an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem in 1980 claiming a "complete and united" Jerusalem as its capital was a flagrant violation of International Law and has been condemned as such by multiple United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

It is our hope that the current Australian Government will recognize the State of Palestine without further delay to save the two-state solution, in accordance with International Law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

Press Release from the General Delegation of Palestine

Prior to the Federal Elections, the Liberal-National Coalition government placed the entirety of Hamas on Australia's official list of terrorist organisations, and

later issued an explanatory document/clause to elaborate on the specific implications of this decision, particularly with regards to the provision of aid by the Palestinian and Islamic communities in Australia to the residents of the Gaza Strip. The General Delegation of Palestine issued a statement in this regard, in which it considered that the classification of Hamas as a terrorist organization was a mistake and would result in negative consequences.

Another decision made by the previous government under Morrison was to support the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Anti-Semitism, which has received international criticism for its conflation of anti-Zionism or criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. This announcement sparked angry responses from Palestinian, Muslim and Arab communities in particular, in addition to pro-Palestinian advocacy groups.

Despite these controversial decisions, the Morrison government consistently emphasized its support for a two-state solution within agreed borders through bilateral negotiations, which is Australia's traditional position. Unfortunately, the new Labor government has also supported the IHRA Working Definition of Anti-Semitism, which has led to widespread expressions of disappointment from communities across Australia. The Australian Arab Federation in Sydney issued an important statement following this, and released a paper on “anti-Palestinianism” in response.

Media release

Canterbury Bankstown Council endorses the Sydney Statement on Anti-Palestinianism

President of the Arab Australian Federation (AAF), Mr Eddie Zananiri, has today commended one of the largest Councils in Australia, Canterbury Bankstown City Council, on its endorsement of the Sydney Statement on Anti-Palestinianism. The Council unanimously resolved to endorse the Statement at its meeting on 29 September 2022.

The Statement, supported by more than 65 community groups, was crafted by the Arab Australian Federation in response to the incessant violations by Israel of the Palestinian people's human, political, economic, and national rights under international law, including their right to self-determination and nationhood.

Speaking to a packed audience in the gallery, Mr Zananiri remarked that “In addition to broadly identifying a sample of some serious abuses suffered by the Palestinian people, this Statement upholds and encourages advocacy for Palestine and for the lives of Palestinians”. He added that “It does so by opening up and protecting the space for people to speak about oppression and to legitimately confront the oppressors without being hindered by contrived charges of anti-Semitism”. In fact, he reiterated the Federation's vehement opposition to all forms of racism, prejudice and discrimination including anti-Palestinianism, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism.

The Statement uses a measured language and has been endorsed by two former Australian Foreign Ministers Gareth Evans and Bob Carr. It is guided by eight principles and supported by irrefutable examples. In its introduction, it says the Statement was necessitated by decades of discrimination against the Palestinian people. “Today this discrimination is reflected in Israel's military occupation of Palestinian land, the containment of millions of Palestinians in refugee camps and the systemic attack on the lives and property of people under occupation”.

Speaking after the meeting, Mayor Khal Asfour said he was pleased with the outcome of the vote and the decision made by Council. “We have addressed a long-standing issue that has been a sore point for many in our community”, he said. “It was imperative Council showed leadership and provided space for concerned residents to speak their mind on the rights of the Palestinian people. “It was also about ensuring their rights under international law and their long-overdue aspirations for self-determination on their own land.”

Excerpt of AAF Media Release endorsing the Sydney Statement on anti-Palestinianism

In addition, the University of Melbourne's Student Union issued an important statement calling for boycott, divestment, and sanctions of Israel, describing Zionism as a "racist, colonial ideology" which is a unique precedent in Australia.

Policy, UMSU stances and actions:

General Stance:
UMSU stands against the Israeli occupation of Palestine and condemns the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestinians

UMSU supports the self-determination of the Palestinian people and their right to engage in self-defence against their occupiers

UMSU deems Zionism as a racist, colonial ideology

UMSU rejects Israel's continued settlement, expansion, and annexation of Palestinian land

UMSU condemns the Australian government's support for Israel and its ongoing crimes including occupation, settlement, expansion, and ethnic cleansing.

UMSU condemns any and all forms of anti-semitism against students of the Jewish faith, and stands in solidarity with Jewish students.

UMSU recognises that Israel's actions are not representative of the Jewish community. Similarly, Israel's crimes are its responsibility alone and not that of Jewish people worldwide.

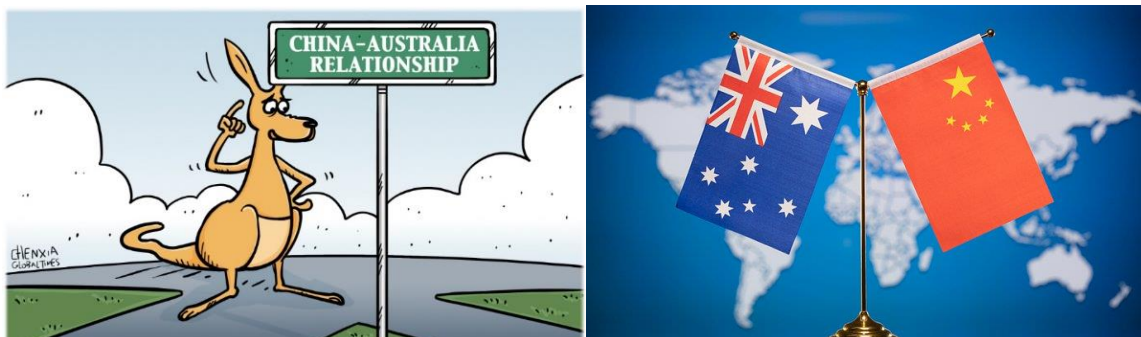
UMSU strongly endorses that Judaism and Zionism are not to be conflated as one

Academic Boycott:
UMSU supports the academic boycott movement of Israeli institutions

Excerpt from the University of Melbourne Student Union

Australian – Chinese Relations

The tense relationship between Australia and China has continued in the context of sharp polarization in the Indo-Pacific region. These tensions increased after China signed a security agreement with the Solomon Islands, as Australia considered this a direct threat to its national security.



However, there have been important developments towards reconciliation between the two parties following the success of the Labor Party in the Federal Elections. China signaled for reconciliation the basis of mutual respect,

independent Australian decision-making, and Australia retracting the many initiatives and statements that previously harmed their bilateral relationship and led to the suspension of trade cooperation between the two. Meanwhile, Australia's stance is that China should retract all sanctions blocking trade with Australia in order to correct the relationship and return it to what it was in the past. This was confirmed by both parties during the brief meeting between Australian Prime Minister Albanese with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the G20 summit in Indonesia and the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum in Thailand.

However, no concrete progress has been made thus far in this regard, with polarization in the region continuing to increase and Australia officially entering into the AUKUS alliance with the United States and Britain. Australia's position in support of Taiwan and its alliances with Japan have also contributed to the tense situation.

It is also important to note in this context that Australian Foreign Minister Senator Wong paid a visit to China in December as part of the sixth Australia-China Foreign and Strategic Dialogue, on the fiftieth anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Australia.



Senator Wong meeting her Chinese counterpart, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, in Beijing

Senator Wong referred to the importance of stable bilateral relations between the two countries, while also emphasising Australia's stance urging China to respect human rights, whether in Hong Kong, Tibet, or Xinjiang. Her visit to Beijing was an important step towards improving the relationship between Australia and China, and a clear reflection of the new direction and priorities of the Labor government.

Australia - Pacific Relations

Given that Pacific countries are Australia's neighbours, the Australian government considers strengthening relations in the region to be an important priority of Australian national interest. Australia has signed several security agreements with Pacific countries, and has continued to send financial aid to the region, affirming Australia's deep political, economic and social ties to the Pacific.

Senator the Honourable Penny Wong made multiple trips to the Pacific within her first ten days as Foreign Minister of Australia, visiting Fiji, then Samoa and Tonga. Senator Wong also visited the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, the Cook Islands, Niue, French Polynesia, Vanuatu, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.



Tweet by Foreign Minister Wong regarding her first visit to Fiji in May 2022

During these visits to Pacific countries, Senator Wong affirmed Australia's position in support of security and prosperity in the region, while emphasising the important priority of addressing climate change, which is an urgent and existential threat for islands across the Pacific. At a joint press conference with

Samoan Prime Minister Fiamo Naomi Mata’afa, Senator Wong also committed to investing more energy and resources into the Pacific, engaging more closely, listening respectfully, and working together “as part of the Pacific family”.



Samoan PM Fiamo Naomi Mata’afa with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong during her visit to Samoa in June 2022



Tweet by Australian PM Anthony Albanese regarding the 51st Pacific Islands Forum, July 2022

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders’ Summit in November 2022, held in Bangkok, Thailand, was an important occasion to confirm Australia’s continuing relationships and engagement in the region.



Attendees at the 2022 APEC Economic Leaders Summit in Bangkok, Thailand

Strengthening Australia’s relations in the Pacific also aligns with the United States’ strategic framework for enhancing its influence and relations in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as countering Chinese influence in the context of comprehensive cooperation frameworks having been signed between China and most Pacific countries, and the signing of a security agreement between China and the Solomon Islands.

In this context, the newly elected Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese participated in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) Leaders’ meeting held in Tokyo in May 2022 which brought together the President of the USA, the

Prime Minister of Japan and the Prime Minister of India. During the meeting, Albanese affirmed Australia's cautious stance towards China's foreign policy and increasing Chinese influence in the Pacific region.



Australian PM Anthony Albanese with US President Joe Biden, Indian PM Narendra Modi, and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida meeting in Tokyo for the Quad leaders' summit, May 2022

Australia and the Russian-Ukrainian War

Australia joined the United States and European countries by imposing harsh sanctions on Russia and receiving many Ukrainian refugees in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian War. Australia has fully coordinated its policy regarding this issue with the United States of America. Australia also joined the European Union in imposing a price cap on oil imported from Russia, estimated at about US\$60 per barrel.



In March 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the Australian Parliament, asking for further weapons and aid while thanking the Australian government for its assistance thus far.

The recently elected Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited Ukraine in July 2022 for a meeting with President Zelenskyy, during which he condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine and pledged to provide further Australian military and financial assistance to Ukraine.



Ukrainian President Zelenskyy welcoming Australian PM Albanese upon his arrival in Kyiv, Ukraine, July 2022

In August 2022, President Zelenskyy addressed Australians in a livestream hosted by the Australian National University in Canberra, urging the Australian government and general public to help Ukraine, particularly by combatting Russia's "propaganda machine" on social media.

Aotearoa New Zealand

Aotearoa New Zealand and Palestine

Aotearoa New Zealand's position in support of Palestinian rights continued in 2022, demonstrated in particular by regular affirmative voting for pro-Palestinian resolutions in the United Nations General Assembly.

In this context, the Palestinian Ambassador Izzat Abdulhadi met with Mr Jonathan Curr, the Divisional Manager of the Middle East and Africa Division at the Aotearoa New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) via Zoom in May to discuss the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Aotearoa New Zealand position on those developments. During this meeting, Mr. Curr affirmed his country's commitment to the two-state solution and the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people in an independent state. He also affirmed his country's commitment to continue its financial support for UNRWA and development in Palestine.



Zoom meeting between Ambassador Abdulhadi and Jonathan Curr

The Palestinian Ambassador also met with Mr Curr in person, along with his colleagues at the MFAT Middle East and Africa Division, in Wellington during a visit in June and again in December. During these meetings, the Palestinian Ambassador reaffirmed the position of the Palestinian government regarding the importance of recognizing the State of Palestine for the two-state solution and achieving a genuine, durable peace in the Middle East, in line with principles of international law and international legitimacy.



Ambassador Abdulhadi meeting with the Middle East and Africa Division of MFAT in Wellington

During a trip to Wellington in June, the Palestinian Ambassador met with with the Honourable Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Minister of Local Government, and Associate Minister of Māori Development for Aotearoa New Zealand. Foreign Minister Mahuta is the first Indigenous woman to lead the Foreign Affairs portfolio in Aotearoa New Zealand, and promotes a values based approach to foreign policy informed by a Māori world view. During this meeting with the Palestinian Ambassador, the Minister reaffirmed her country's continuing support for a negotiated two-state solution and appreciated the importance of recognising the State of Palestine. Other topics of discussion included the latest developments on the ground, especially Israel's continuous grave violations of the human rights of Palestinians, ongoing construction of illegal settlements, and the Judaization of East Jerusalem, all of which are collectively eroding the two-state solution.



Foreign Minister Mahuta and Ambassador Abdulhadi

An important discussion took place within the context of the Aotearoa New Zealand Labor Party conference in November regarding the important necessity of formally recognising the State of Palestine, which has been a focus for pro-Palestinian advocates across Aotearoa New Zealand, as well as in its Parliament.



Celebration of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People at Parliament, Wellington

During visits to Aotearoa New Zealand in 2022, the Palestinian Ambassador met with MP's from different parties to discuss recognition of the State of Palestine, urging for bipartisan adoption of a policy in favour of recognition, explaining the importance of this step towards implementing the two-state solution and outlining key legal, political and moral arguments supporting recognition. MP's included co-chairs of the Aotearoa New Zealand Parliamentary Friends of Palestine, Ibrahim Omer MP (Labour), Golriz Ghahraman MP (Greens), and the Honourable Duncan Webb MP (Labour), as well as the Honourable Gerry Brownlee, Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs for the Opposition.



Golriz Ghahraman MP with a gift from Ambassador Abdulhadi

Golriz Ghahraman MP of the Greens Party was also awarded the Medal of Appreciation from President Mahmoud Abbas in recognition of her activism and continuous support for Palestinian national and political rights.

It is important to also mention the important influence of active pro-Palestinian solidarity groups and Palestinian community organizations in demanding government policies supportive of Palestinian rights. The Palestinian Ambassador met with representatives from such solidarity groups during his visits to Aotearoa New Zealand in 2022 to hear more about their various activities promoting Palestinian rights, and to encourage further campaigning in support of formal recognition of the State of Palestine.



Ambassador Abdulhadi meeting with solidarity groups in Aotearoa New Zealand

Aotearoa New Zealand-China Relations

Aotearoa New Zealand has taken a more pragmatic approach in its relations with China when compared with Australia. While the government is cautious of China's growing influence in the Pacific and has expressed its opposition to certain Chinese policies, including its military presence in the South China Sea and human rights violations in both Hong Kong and Xinjiang, Aotearoa New Zealand has continued to maintain regular bilateral and trade relations with China.

These criticisms have not affected the strong relations between the two countries, even within the broader context of rising tensions in the Pacific region. In fact, Aotearoa considers China to be one of its most significant relationships.



NZ Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern with her Chinese counterpart, President Xi Jinping

In 2022, Aotearoa New Zealand celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations with China. To mark the anniversary, it selected three themes to highlight as foundations of its relationship and shared history with China: people, planet and prosperity.



Virtual meeting between FM Nanaia Mahuta and her Chinese counterpart, FM Wang Yi

Aotearoa New Zealand-Pacific Relations

In a speech delivered in July 2022 for the Lowy Institute, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern discussed Aotearoa New Zealand's foreign policy and reflected that Aotearoa is an independent state that is part of a collective Pacific family. As such, Aotearoa's foreign policy is shaped by the priorities of its Pacific family and principles of cooperation, values and moral responsibility. This approach is in stark contrast to Australia's position (particularly the previous Liberal-National Coalition government) which considered the Pacific as merely a backyard.



Aotearoa Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern (first row, far left) with her Pacific counterparts at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in July 2022

Aotearoa New Zealand's focus on cooperation towards Pacific-led priorities is evident in its highly progressive climate policy, and systematic strategy of close communication and engagement with Pacific countries through periodic consultations. Furthermore, Aotearoa emphasises respect for the independence of Pacific countries in deciding the nature of their own trade relations and development priorities.

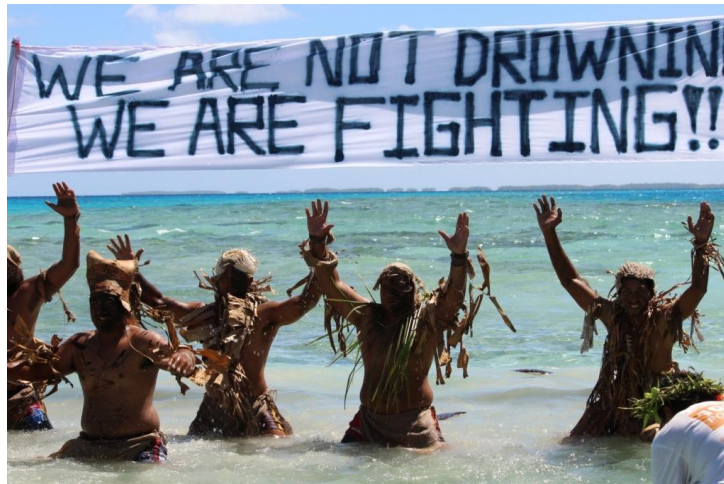
Aotearoa New Zealand and Russia-Ukraine

Aotearoa New Zealand has condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine as illegal and unjustifiable, and has imposed harsh sanctions on Russia itself as well as countries it considers complicit including Iran and Belarus.

Aotearoa New Zealand condemns, unequivocally, the unprovoked and illegal attack by Russia on Ukraine. Russia's actions are a grave breach of international law; the use of force to change borders is strictly prohibited under international law, as is the deliberate targeting of civilians.

Quotation from MFAT

Pacific Countries



Activists of the Pacific Climate Warriors project

Presidential Elections in Timor-Leste

One of the most important political developments in the Pacific in 2022 was the victory of Dr José Ramos-Horta in the Timor-Leste presidential elections and his inauguration as President for the second time. President Ramos-Horta came to power after a suffocating political crisis in the country that caused its parliament to dissolve twice and elections to be held twice in just two years. His campaign was backed by former President Mr Xanana Gusmão, known as the kingmaker of Timor-Leste. Post-election, President Ramos-Horta aimed to promote communication and unity across political parties to increase stability, possibly leading to the formation of a new coalition government or a snap election.



Elected President of Timor-Leste, José Ramos-Horta

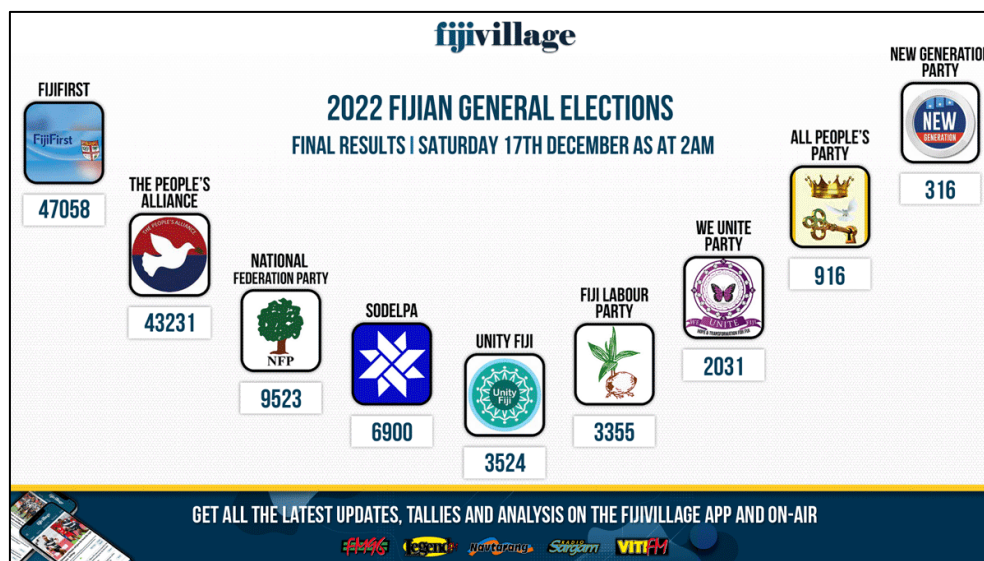
Palestine enjoys full diplomatic relations with East Timor. President Ramos-Horta visited Palestine in 2011 and met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah.



Timorese President José Ramos-Horta with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in 2011

Parliamentary Elections in Fiji

Results of the Fiji parliamentary elections held in December found that no party won a majority. The party of incumbent Prime Minister Bainimarama (FijiFirst) won 42.5%, the opposition, a two-party coalition between People’s Alliance (PA) and the National Federation Party (NFP) won 44.7%, and the Social Democratic Liberal Party (SODELPA) won the rest of the votes.



Following the election, PA-NFP and SODELPA came together to form a new coalition government, ending eight years of FijiFirst rule in Parliament. Bainimarama’s 16-year tenure as Prime Minister ended with the election of the Right Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka of the People’s Alliance as his replacement.



Signing of coalition agreement with Prime Minister Rabuka in centre

The leader of SODELPA, Deputy Prime Minister Viliame Gavoka, has indicated that the priorities and conditions of his party as stated in its manifesto are not negotiable. These non-negotiables include establishing a Fijian Embassy in Jerusalem, on the grounds that Fiji is a Christian country with a population that desires representation and a presence in the Holy Land. Additionally, the importance of prioritising the needs and issues of Fiji's indigenous people.

The new coalition government has also declared the importance of aligning Fijian foreign policy with that of Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, considered to be Fiji's natural allies.

Solomon Islands-China Relations

A third prominent political event in the Pacific in 2022 was the security agreement signed between Solomon Islands and China in April.



Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare with Chinese President Xi Jinping

Full details of the security agreement have not yet been made public, but the United States and Australia have expressed fears that it could lead to the establishment of a Chinese military base in the Solomon Islands. This has been denied completely by China and Solomon Islands, with Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare publicly guaranteeing this will not happen as it would significantly undermine regional security.

Pacific-China Relations

The signing of the China-Solomon Islands security agreement occurred within the context of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's tour of the Pacific in May. In addition to the Solomon Islands, the Foreign Minister also visited Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste, and had virtual meetings with the Federated States of Micronesia, Niue and Cook Islands. Through these meetings, Foreign Minister Wang was able to sign many trade and economic agreements, within China's framework of strengthening its presence in the Pacific region.



Samoaan Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mataafa and Chinese FM Wang Yi in Samoa, May 2022

It is important to note that these Pacific countries have adopted a "zero enemies" policy, allowing them to enjoy simultaneous support from China, Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and the United States. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong also made more than one visit to a number of Pacific countries in 2022, for example, hoping to strengthen Australia's relations with these countries. [Read more in Political Context: Australia]

2022 Activities

Highlights

Commemorating Al Nakba (The Catastrophe)

The General Delegation of Palestine commemorated the 74th anniversary of the Nakba at the Palestinian Embassy in Canberra with a memorial reception. Many members of the international diplomatic corps and representatives of the Palestinian community and civil society in Canberra attended this event in solidarity.

The Palestinian Ambassador delivered a speech on the occasion in which he discussed the implications of the Nakba and the Zionist colonial project, and the strength of the Palestinian narrative. He described the Nakba as ongoing, describing Israel's continuous grave violations against the Palestinian people, forced expulsion and land-theft through the demolition of Palestinian homes, the Judaization of Jerusalem, extrajudicial assassinations, illegal settlement expansion, and its many other crimes.



The Palestinian Ambassador delivering his speech

The Palestinian Ambassador also described the history of Palestinian resistance against the Zionist colonial project, and the many significant achievements of the Palestinian people despite the odds, especially in terms of returning

Palestine to the political map and international recognition of the State of Palestine. The Palestinian Ambassador also discussed the assassination of the Shireen Abu Akleh at the hands of Israeli forces, and called for an independent and transparent international investigation into her death, and accountability for all those responsible.



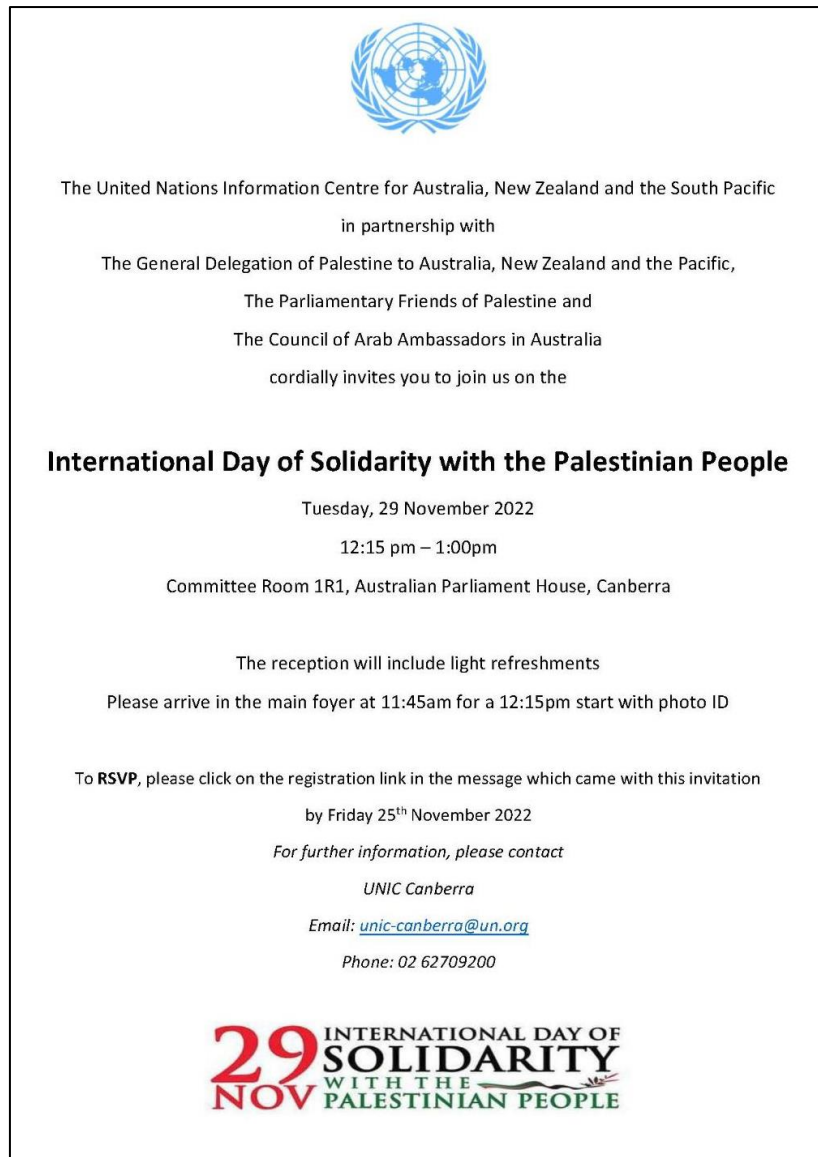
Attendees Listening to the Speeches

The Dean of the International Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and representatives of the Palestinian community in Canberra also delivered speeches on this solemn occasion.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in Canberra

The General Delegation of Palestine commemorated International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People with a major event at the Federal Parliament in Canberra, organized in cooperation with the United Nations Information Center, the Council of Arab Ambassadors, the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Heads of Missions Group, and the Australian Parliamentary Friends of Palestine.

Many members of Parliament, members of the Arab and international diplomatic corps, representatives of civil society, solidarity groups with the Palestinian people, and many members of the Islamic, Arab and Palestinian communities participated in this important event.



Invitation to the International Solidarity Day Event at Australian Parliament House

This celebration was a major demonstration of broad support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights, and clear condemnation of Israel's colonial policies and its continuous violations of human rights.

The event began with a screening of a short film about Palestine, followed by opening remarks from the Emcee, Maria Vamvakinou MP, co-chair of Parliamentary Friends of Palestine. A number of speeches were delivered in unanimous support of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right to return, self-determination, and to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Speakers included His Excellency Dr Izzat Abdulhadi, Ambassador of the State of Palestine and Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific, Mr Damian Cardona Onses, Director of the United Nations Information Centre, His Excellency Dr Ali Kraishan, Dean of the International Diplomatic Corps and the Council of Arab Ambassadors and

Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and His Excellency Dr Siswo Pramono, Chair of the OIC Heads of Mission Group and Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia. Closing remarks were presented by Senator Janet Rice and Mark Coulton MP, co-chairs of Parliamentary Friends of Palestine.



Attendees at the International Solidarity Day Event, Australian Parliament House, Canberra

Speakers commended the position of the current Australian government reversing the former government's recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, reaffirming that Jerusalem is a final status issue. The speakers also condemned Israel's ongoing settlement expansion project as illegal and destructive of a two-state solution. They called for an approach to resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict based in the principles and tools of international law and international legitimacy.

The Palestinian Ambassador delivered a comprehensive speech emphasizing the importance of recognizing the State of Palestine as self-determination is an internationally-recognised right, and because this is a vital step to save the two-state solution. The Ambassador explained that Palestine fulfils the conditions for statehood outlined in the Montevideo Convention, and that recognising the State of Palestine will enhance the negotiating power of the Palestinian government in front of Israel, therefore furthering advancement towards the goal of reaching a just and sustainable solution to the conflict. Additionally, the Palestinian Ambassador stressed that recognizing the State of Palestine is also a

moral responsibility, given Israel’s ongoing grave violations of Palestinian human rights.

In this context, the Palestinian Ambassador called on Australia to recognize the State of Palestine without delay, based on the Labor Party resolutions of 2018 and 2021 calling on the next Labor Government to recognise Palestine as a state as an important priority.



Palestinian Ambassador Delivering his Speech



Hon Mark Coulton MP Delivering Closing Remarks



Palestinian Embassy Staff prior to the event



Attendees at Australian Parliament House in Canberra



Embassy Staff, Interns, Palestinian Community Representatives, and Director of UNIC Canberra

In this same context, the Palestinian Embassy issued a press release confirming the message of the Palestinian Ambassador's speech, and produced a policy paper on the important necessity of Australia's recognition of the State of Palestine.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in Wellington

On December 6, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in commemorating International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People at Parliament House in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand.

This major event was hosted by Golriz Ghahraman MP in cooperation with Palestinian Youth Aotearoa, and attended by a large number of Members of Parliament, Ministers, members of the international diplomatic corps, representatives of solidarity and advocacy groups, and members of the Palestinian community.

The Palestinian Ambassador delivered a speech on the occasion, referring to the legal, political and moral arguments in favor of recognizing the State of Palestine. He called on the Aotearoa New Zealand government to do so without delay, in order to preserve the two-state solution and affirm the internationally-recognised right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

Many MPs also delivered speeches on the occasion, including Golriz Ghahraman MP of the Green Party and Rachel Boyack MP of the Labour Party, in addition to

a speech by a representative of Palestinian Youth Aotearoa. Speakers condemned Israel's gross violations of human rights and reiterated the importance and significance of recognizing the State of Palestine.



The Palestinian Ambassador Delivering his Speech



Attendees and Participants of the International Solidarity Day Event in Wellington



Attendees and Participants of the International Solidarity Day Event in Wellington



Bilateral and Multilateral Relations

1. On March 1, the Palestinian Ambassador welcomed Her Excellency the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco at the Palestinian Embassy after she presented her credentials to the Governor General.

The Palestinian Ambassador congratulated the Moroccan Ambassador on her appointment as Ambassador to Australia, and discussed with her the latest developments in Palestine and other regional and international issues.



HE the Palestinian Ambassador and HE the Moroccan Ambassador

2. On March 8, the Palestinian Ambassador welcomed His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia at the Palestinian Embassy. The two sides discussed the distinguished bilateral relations between Palestine and Indonesia, and the Palestinian Ambassador expressed sincere appreciation for the Indonesian position strongly in support of Palestinian rights.

The two sides also discussed the importance of activating the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Heads of Missions in Canberra Group, as the Indonesian Ambassador is the President and the Palestinian Ambassador is Vice-President of the group, and the possibility for Palestine to participate in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as an observer to enhance the role of the State of Palestine in the Asia-Pacific region.



HE the Palestinian Ambassador and HE the Indonesian Ambassador

3. On March 25, the Palestinian Ambassador, accompanied by his wife and Counsellor Noura Saleh, met with New South Wales MP Mr Hugh McDermott. The latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict were discussed, as well as the possibilities for cooperation between the General Delegation of Palestine and the Parliament of New South Wales.



The Palestinian Ambassador, Mr McDermott MP, Counsellor Noura Saleh, and Mrs Zeina Abdulhadi

4. On April 28, at the invitation of the Palestinian Ambassador, the Steering Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Heads of Missions in Canberra held an emergency meeting at the Indonesian Embassy to discuss Israeli attacks on Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

During this meeting, the Palestinian Ambassador detailed the repeated Israeli attacks on the Holy City of Jerusalem and Al- Aqsa Mosque as part of Israel's policy of dividing the Holy City, and other Israeli violations of human rights, referencing in particular the recent reports of Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International on the subject.

The group also discussed plans and strategies to further develop the work of the largest diplomatic group in Canberra, including commemorating the anniversary of the founding of the OIC and organising a seminar on Islamophobia.



Meeting of the OIC Heads of Missions in Canberra

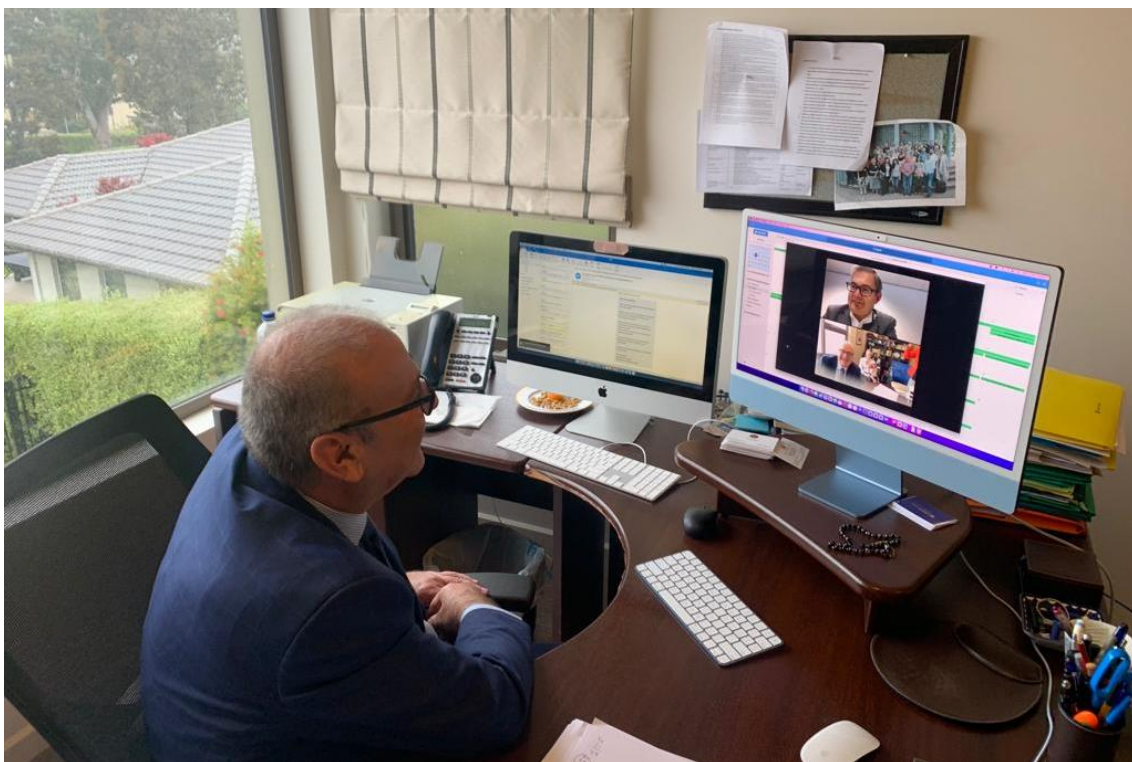
5. On March 31, the Palestinian Ambassador met via phonecall with Mr Marc Innes-Brown, Head of the Middle East, Africa and Afghanistan Division of DFAT, at his request. The content of the call centered on the recent military operations in Israel and the killing of a number of Israelis as a result of these operations. Mr Innes-Brown condemned the killings as terrorism and expressed the deep concern of the Australian government in this regard.

The Palestinian Ambassador reminded Mr Innes-Brown of the violent terror inflicted by Israeli settlers and armed forces, who assault and murder Palestinians on a daily basis, as well as other Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights, reaffirming the urgent need for the Australian government to condemn this violence as well. The Ambassador also expressed that the position

of the Palestinian government in this regard is clear, which is to denounce the killing of civilians on both sides.

6. On May 11, the Palestinian Ambassador met with Mr Jonathan Curr, the new Manager of the Middle East and Africa Division of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), via Zoom technology. The two discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the position of Aotearoa New Zealand in this regard.

During this meeting, Mr. Curr affirmed his country's commitment to a two-state solution and the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people in an independent state. He also affirmed his country's commitment to continue its financial support for UNRWA and development in Palestine.



Zoom meeting between Ambassador Abdulhadi and Jonathan Curr

7. On June 6, the Palestinian Ambassador travelled to Aotearoa New Zealand at the invitation of the Aotearoa New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

From June 7 to June 10, Ambassador Abdulhadi and Mrs Zeina Abdulhadi participated in a Diplomatic Study Tour organised by the Aotearoa New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) for the participation of heads of diplomatic missions in Wellington and non-resident heads of diplomatic missions in Canberra.



Heads of Missions at the Diplomatic Study Tour in Aotearoa New Zealand

The Study Tour's intensive program included visits to the most important emerging economic facilities in Northern Aotearoa New Zealand, focusing on the cities of "Tauranga" and "Hamilton", including a pilot project for the cultivation and export of kiwi fruit, factories for glass and aluminum, factories for robots and motorcycles powered by alternative energy, and others.



Cultural Performance for participants of Diplomatic Study Tour

The Study Tour program also included multiple visits to Māori (indigenous) communities and the residence of the Māori King, who is highly respected within Māori communities as well as in the broader Aotearoa New Zealand community.

Through these visits, the delegation learned about the traditions, customs, culture and heritage of the indigenous Māori people, and it was an opportunity for Ambassador Abdulhadi to meet with indigenous leaders and share the Palestinian narrative and history, especially in the context of the shared struggle against colonialism and racism.

The Study Tour also included meetings with officials in the two cities, who gave an overview of their various activities in managing the economy, infrastructure and others. In addition, the diplomats met with a number of academics working in universities in the region, and were briefed on their most important academic programs, including the conditions and procedures related to the admission of international students.

The diplomatic delegation also visited research and development centers, particularly centers related to the use of oceans for the food industry. They also visited the most important historical and tourism sites, and were briefed on important local heritage and cultural arts. The Study Tour also included many social activities for networking and coordination with business owners, industrialists and diplomatic officials.



Cultural Performance for participants of Diplomatic Study Tour

8. On June 11, the Palestinian Ambassador met with the Co-Chair of the Aotearoa New Zealand Parliamentary Friendship with the Middle East and Africa Group, Mr Ibrahim Omer MP. The meeting took place in Auckland, and the discussion included the topic of establishing an official Parliamentary Friendship with Palestine Group. It should be noted that previous meetings had already taken place between the Palestinian Embassy and the Co-Chairs of the Parliamentary Friendship with the Middle East and Africa Group to discuss the Parliamentary Friendship with Palestine Group, which is currently in the final stages of its establishment.

It should also be noted that Mr Ibrahim Omer MP is the first African Member of Parliament in Aotearoa New Zealand (he is of Eritrean origin), and the second MP to have entered Aotearoa New Zealand as a refugee. He is also one of Parliament's most important supporters of the Palestinian cause.

The Ambassador and Mr Omer MP also discussed the latest developments with regards to the Palestinian cause and the necessity for raising Palestinian issues in the Aotearoa New Zealand Parliament. It was also agreed to organize another meeting between the Palestinian Ambassador and the Co-Chairs of the Parliamentary Friendship with Palestine Group soon via Zoom.



Mr Ibrahim Omer MP with Palestinian Ambassador Izzat Abdulhadi

9. On June 13, the Palestinian Ambassador met with the Honourable Nanaia Mahuta, the Aotearoa New Zealand Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Local Government, and Associate Minister for Māori Development.

The Palestinian Ambassador thanked the Foreign Minister for Aotearoa New Zealand's principled stance towards the Palestinian issue, especially Aotearoa New Zealand's positive vote on all Palestinian resolutions at the United Nations. He also thanked the Foreign Minister for the support provided by Aotearoa New Zealand to UNRWA, as well as the technical assistance provided by Aotearoa New Zealand to support the renewable energy sector in Palestine. The Palestinian Ambassador also praised the independence of Aotearoa New Zealand's foreign policy from the USA in the context of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, particularly in its consistent respect for international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. He also thanked the Foreign Minister for the invitation to participate in the Diplomatic Study Tour.



Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta greeting Palestinian Ambassador Izzat Abdulhadi

The Palestinian Ambassador also gave a detailed briefing of the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, especially the continuation of gross Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights, Israel's repeated attempts to destroy the two-state solution, and the Judaization of Jerusalem.

The Foreign Minister noted Aotearoa New Zealand's commitment to a two-state solution and to the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people as an inalienable right. It was noted in this context the Minister's firm personal belief in these principles, grounded in her own indigenous identity.

On the subject of connections between the Māori people of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Palestinian people through their shared indigeneity, the Palestinian Ambassador referred to the shared colonial histories of both peoples, particularly in terms of land confiscation and the denial of their political, economic, social and cultural rights in the context of the struggle against colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

The Ambassador explained to the Foreign Minister that the current Palestinian approach to achieving self-determination is to use the tools of international law, especially the International Criminal Court, and emphasised that the achievement of the Palestinian State is not conditional on Israel's approval through negotiations. In this context, the Palestinian Ambassador suggested that Aotearoa New Zealand alter its understanding of this issue by not only talking about the achievement of a two-state solution through direct negotiations but talking about self-determination as a right guaranteed by international law.

In this context, the Palestinian Ambassador asked the Foreign Minister to recognize the Palestinian state, without delay, in order to preserve the two-state solution and to support the rights of the Palestinian people.

The Foreign Minister indicated that the issue of recognizing the State of Palestine is under review due to the uncertain political and negotiation process, and that recognition is subject to local, international and regional considerations. However, the Palestinian Ambassador concluded based on this conversation that recognizing the State of Palestine is genuinely being considered.

In this context, the Palestinian Ambassador noted the importance of promoting the legal status of the General Delegation of Palestine as a first step towards recognizing the Palestinian State.

The recent reports issued by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch describing Israel as being guilty of the crime of apartheid, and the first report by the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the

Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel, were discussed, as was the concept of one and two states and the manifestations and various components of Israel's apartheid regime. In this context, the Palestinian Ambassador emphasised the importance of Aotearoa New Zealand's boycott of settlement goods based on the measures proposed by the European Union in 2015.

The Palestinian Ambassador also presented to the Foreign Minister the Palestinian peace plan, which includes organizing a regional or international conference to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict based on clear terms of reference and principles of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, especially Security Council Resolution 2334.

The two parties also discussed enhancing bilateral relations through the following means:

- i. Holding an annual meeting between the Palestinian and Aotearoa New Zealand Foreign Ministries at the ministerial level or other political level.
- ii. The Palestinian Ambassador invited the Minister of Foreign Affairs to visit Palestine, and in response she expressed a strong interest to make this visit to Palestine and Israel. The Ambassador also suggested a visit by the Palestinian Foreign Minister to Aotearoa New Zealand. The Minister welcomed this visit and asked about the last time the Palestinian Foreign Minister visited Aotearoa New Zealand.
- iii. The two parties discussed ways to enhance Aotearoa New Zealand's support to Palestine in order to strengthen institution-building and empower the economic sector within the framework of the state building process, and in accordance with Palestinian priorities. They agreed to discuss these priorities through subsequent meetings.
- iv. Continuing to support Palestinian refugees through UNRWA.
- v. The Ambassador requested that the Aotearoa New Zealand government facilitate the preparation and implementation of development programs in Pacific countries through its financial support for such programs, as a third party, and through the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) within the framework of the South-South concept. The Foreign Minister inquired about this program and the role of PICA in this regard and praised the high rates of education and skilled human resources in Palestine, and its ability to provide this support to the Pacific countries.
- vi. The Ambassador also requested that the Foreign Minister facilitate the participation of representatives of Palestine, including the Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs, in any regional meetings for Pacific countries.

- vii. The Palestinian Ambassador urged the Minister of Foreign Affairs to organize visits for Aotearoa New Zealand MPs to Palestine and expressed the Palestinian government's eagerness to host them.
 - viii. The Palestinian Ambassador urged Aotearoa New Zealand to continue to support the legal framework for resolving the Palestinian issue through international law, the International Criminal Court and United Nations resolutions, and to support Palestine in all multilateral frameworks.
10. On June 13, the Palestinian Ambassador had a separate meeting with the Middle East and North Africa Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade led by the Division Manager, Mr Jonathan Curr.



Ambassador Abdulhadi meeting with MFAT Staff

This meeting addressed the same topics discussed in the meeting with the Foreign Minister, in addition to a focused discussion on relations with Hamas, the ideology of Hamas, Hamas' relationship with countries in the region, and other related topics.

The meeting also addressed the importance of increasing developmental and financial aid for Palestine by supporting the budget of the Palestinian government, thereby enabling it to perform its vital functions and serve the interests of the Palestinian public within the framework of promoting principles of sound governance.

11. On June 20, the OIC Heads of Missions Group held an important meeting chaired by the President of the Group, the Indonesian Ambassador, and the Vice-President of the Group, the Palestinian Ambassador.

The meeting covered many issues, most importantly the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The Palestinian Ambassador briefed the group on this subject, referring to Israel's ongoing destruction of the two-state solution by continuing to build settlements, its Judaization efforts in Jerusalem, blockade of the Gaza Strip, and other gross violations of human rights against Palestinians.

In this context, the Palestinian Ambassador referred to Israel's attempts to change the status quo of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and to divide Al-Aqsa Mosque. He also stressed the importance of recent reports by human rights organizations describing Israel as an apartheid regime.

The Ambassador also pointed out the importance of the international community taking action to protect the Palestinian people and hold Israel accountable for its repeated crimes against them. The rest of the group expressed their broad solidarity with the Palestinian people and condemnation of Israel's attempts to change the status quo of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.



Meeting of the OIC Heads of Missions Group in Canberra

The meeting also discussed the program and activities of the group during the current year, especially the celebration of the anniversary of the founding of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the organization of a symposium on Islamophobia on this occasion.

12. On September 8, the Palestinian Ambassador met with Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP, Chair of the Australian Parliamentary Friends of Palestine, in her office in the Federal Parliament in Canberra. The Palestinian Ambassador and Ms Vamvakinou discussed the implications of the Labor Party's success in the Federal Elections, particularly with regards to the important step of recognizing

the State of Palestine. The two parties also discussed the Parliamentary Friendship Group's planned program for the upcoming year.



Maria Vamvakinou MP and the Palestinian Ambassador

13. On September 13, the Palestinian Ambassador also met with Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, the Honourable Sussan Ley MP, in her office in the Australian Federal Parliament.



Sussan Ley MP and the Palestinian Ambassador

The Palestinian Ambassador briefed Mrs Ley on the latest developments regarding the Palestinian issue, especially the grave Israeli violations of human rights. The two sides also discussed the Mrs Ley's program for her upcoming visit to Israel and Palestine.

14. On September 22, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a working dinner organized by the Council of Arab Ambassadors with the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Tim Watts, at the residence of the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Dr Ali Kraishan. This dinner was a very important occasion to clarify the position of the Australian government towards various issues impacting the Arab World, especially the Palestinian issue.

Mr Watts reaffirmed Australia's position in support of the two-state solution and finding a sustainable resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. During the meeting, the Ambassadors stressed the importance of the new Labor government recognizing the State of Palestine, especially in the context of its 2018 and 2021 resolutions to do so as an important priority.

The Ambassadors also referred to the grave Israeli violations of human rights and the need for Australia to take a clear position in response that aligns with international law, relevant UN resolutions, and international legitimacy.

Mr Watts also briefed the Ambassadors on the new positions of the Labor Party towards various global issues, especially women's equality and climate change.



Meeting of Mr Tim Watts and the Council of Arab Ambassadors

15. On October 18, the Palestinian Government and the Palestinian Embassy in Canberra welcomed Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong's announcement reversing the previous government's recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Minister Wong reaffirmed that Jerusalem is a final status issue

that must be resolved within the framework of negotiations between the two parties.

In this context, the Palestinian Embassy in Canberra issued a Press Release in which it welcomed the decision of the Australian government, while calling on the Australian government to implement its 2018 and 2021 resolutions to recognize the State of Palestine.

Following the announced reversal, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in interviews with Australian media as well as Arab and Palestinian media. In these interviews, the Ambassador explained the supportive position of the Palestinian government regarding this development and emphasised the importance of Australia's recognition of the State of Palestine.



Press Release from the General Delegation of Palestine

16. On October 25, the wife of the Palestinian Ambassador, Mrs Zeina Abdulhadi, delivered a lecture on Palestinian heritage and culture at the invitation of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The lecture covered a range of topics from Palestinian cuisine to music and dabke, and was delivered in Arabic, with the goal of strengthening the Arabic language skills of Australian diplomats.



Mrs Zeina Abdulhadi delivering a lecture at DFAT

17. On November 30, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in the End of Year Reception organized by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) at its headquarters in Canberra. The reception was attended by members of the international diplomatic corps and a large number of officials, led by Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator Penny Wong, in addition to the Minister for Commerce and the Secretary of DFAT.



Australian Foreign Minister Senator the Hon Penny Wong delivering her speech

Foreign Minister Wong delivered a speech on the occasion, in which she thanked the heads of diplomatic missions for their efforts during the past year and their

important role in strengthening bilateral and multilateral relations with Australia. She also noted the achievements of her ministry during the year and wished the diplomatic corps happy holidays and a new year full of achievements.

18. On December 5, the Palestinian Ambassador travelled to Wellington to participate in the commemoration of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. In the context of this visit, the Ambassador met with the Aotearoa New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Middle East and Africa Division, including Divisional Manager Jonathan Curr and Policy Officer Meg Williams, for a briefing and discussion.

The Palestinian Ambassador also seized the opportunity of this trip to meet with a number of representatives from various political parties within the Aotearoa New Zealand Parliament.

During each of these meetings, the Palestinian Ambassador urged all political parties to adopt a common policy in favor of recognizing the State of Palestine, explaining the legal, political, and moral arguments for doing so. The Ambassador also outlined the important significance of recognition as a step towards implementing the two-state solution and achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

The Palestinian Ambassador met with Golriz Ghahraman MP, the Green Party Spokesperson for Justice, Human Rights, Foreign Affairs, Overseas Development Aid, Defence, Trade, Ethnic Communities, and Refugees.



Ambassador Abdulhadi meeting Golriz Ghahraman MP

Ms Ghahraman was recently awarded with the National Certificate of Honor for Academic Diplomacy in Support of Palestinian Rights by His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas, and would host the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People event at Parliament House later the same day.

The Palestinian Ambassador met with the Honourable Gerry Brownlee MP, National Party Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Chairperson for the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee.

The Palestinian Ambassador also met with the Honourable Dr Duncan Webb MP from the Labor Party, co-chair of Aotearoa New Zealand Parliamentary Friends of the Middle East, accompanied by representatives of the Palestinian community and leadership from Palestinian Youth Aotearoa.



Meeting with the Hon Dr Duncan Webb MP

19. The Palestinian Ambassador had a successful trip to Palestine, during which he met with His Excellency Dr Riad Malki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine. During this meeting, the Palestinian Ambassador briefed the Foreign Minister on key recent developments in the Australian, Aotearoa New Zealand, and Pacific contexts, particularly with regards to their positions towards Palestine. The Ambassador highlighted the Australian Labor Party victory in the Federal Elections as a particularly impactful development.

During this trip, the Palestinian Ambassador also participated in many community events and meetings with civil society representatives and government officials, including Mr Issa Kassis, the Mayor of Ramallah, and Mr Edward Russell of the Australian Representative Office in Ramallah.



Meeting with Mayor Issa Kassis in Ramallah



Meeting with Ed Russell, Australian Representative Office in Ramallah

International and Arab Diplomatic Corps

1. On January 6, the Palestinian Ambassador, his wife Mrs Zeina Abdulhadi, and Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in an art exhibition hosted by the Russian Embassy in Canberra.



Art exhibition organized by the Russian Embassy in Canberra.

2. On February 4, Counsellor Noura Saleh attended a Webinar on “Standing with the Kashmiri People” at the invitation of the Pakistan High Commission in Canberra.
3. On March 3, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a reception at the Official Residence of Jordan in Canberra to farewell HE the High Commissioner for Singapore.
4. On March 7, the Palestinian Ambassador and Counsellor Noura Saleh attended a Webinar on “Women Empowerment in Foreign Policy” at the invitation of the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Canberra, with Her Excellency Christine Clarke CSC, Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, being a featured speaker.
5. On March 15, Palestinian Embassy Staff attended a Webinar on “The Impact of Donating Responsibly after Disasters” at the invitation of the World Food Programme’s Pacific Multi-Country Office, in partnership with the Council for International Development New Zealand.
6. On March 16, the Palestinian Ambassador, his wife Mrs Zeina Abdulhadi, and Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in the celebration of Francophonie Day in Canberra. On the occasion, a number of Ambassadors of Francophone countries provided a historical overview of this concept and the French language, and discussed its enduring importance.



Commemorating Francophonie Day in Canberra

7. On April 7, the Palestinian Ambassador and his wife participated in a reception to welcome His Excellency the Ambassador of Peru, hosted by the Charge d'Affairs of Venezuela in Canberra.
8. On April 21, the Palestinian Ambassador and his wife participated in an iftar hosted by His Excellency the Jordanian Ambassador to welcome Her Excellency the Moroccan Ambassador to Canberra.
9. On May 20, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a reception at the Official Residence of Jordan in Canberra to farewell His Excellency the Ambassador of Myanmar, His Excellency the High Commissioner for Fiji, and His Excellency the Ambassador of Slovenia.
10. On May 27, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in commemorating the Independence Day of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at a flag-raising ceremony in Canberra. Many members of the international diplomatic corps and representatives of Canberra's Jordanian community attended this celebration.

The Jordanian Ambassador delivered a speech on the occasion, during which he discussed independence and the achievements made by the Jordanian people under the rule of His Majesty King Abdullah II. He also referred to his country's support for the Palestinian people and their rights, especially the right to establish an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

At the event, the Palestinian Ambassador was interviewed by several Jordanian television stations in attendance.



Flag-raising on the Independence Day of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

11. On June 17, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a reception at the Official Residence of Jordan in Canberra to farewell Her Excellency the High Commissioner for Cyprus, Her Excellency the High Commissioner for Uganda, and His Excellency the Ambassador of Sweden.
12. On July 1, Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in a farewell dinner in honour of Third Secretary Mr Sufyan Ababneh at the end of his posting at the Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Canberra.
13. On July 4, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a reception at Venezuela's Official Residence in Canberra to farewell Her Excellency the High Commissioner for Cyprus, at the invitation of the Charge d'Affaires of Venezuela.
14. On July 5, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in commemorating Algerian Independence Day at a flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremony at the Algerian Embassy in Canberra.

Many Australian officials, members of the international diplomatic corps, and representatives from Canberra's Arab communities attended to take part in the celebration.



Celebrating Algerian Independence Day in Canberra

15. On July 6, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a reception at the Official Residence of Jordan in Canberra to farewell His Excellency the Ambassador of Chile and His Excellency the Ambassador of Kuwait.
16. On July 7, the Palestinian Ambassador, his wife, and Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in the celebration of Africa Day, hosted by the Africa Heads of Mission Group at the Botswana High Commission in Canberra.



Celebrating Africa Day in Canberra

The Africa Day event was attended by Australian Deputy Foreign Minister Tim Watts and many members of the international diplomatic corps. On the occasion, participating diplomatic missions presented cultural activities and served a variety of popular foods from different African countries.

17. On July 12, the Palestinian Ambassador signed a book of Condolence at the Embassy of Japan following the passing of Former Prime Minister of Japan, ABE Shinzo.
18. On July 19, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a reception at the Official Residence of Jordan in Canberra to farewell His Excellency the Ambassador of Georgia, His Excellency the Ambassador of Poland, and His Excellency the Ambassador of Germany.
19. On July 20, the Palestinian Ambassador attended the presentation of the Award Order of the Merit of the Italian Republic to Mr Mohd Zeid Al-Basheer at the invitation of the Charge d’Affaires a.i. of the Italian Embassy in Canberra. Mr Al-Basheer, Executive Director of Qatar Airways, was honoured with this award for his work assisting hundreds of Italians to return home from Australia during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020.
20. On July 26, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a meeting of the Council of Arab Ambassadors led by the Head of the Council, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Dean of the International Diplomatic Corps.



The Council of Arab Ambassadors farewell His Excellency the Ambassador of Kuwait

In addition to discussing important political developments in the Arab World and Australia, including the latest developments regarding the Palestinian cause, this meeting was also an opportunity for the Council of Arab Ambassadors to bid a formal farewell to the Ambassador of Kuwait, His Excellency Mr Monther Al-Eissa.

21. On July 27, The Palestinian Ambassador and Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in a farewell lunch in honour of Counsellor Mr Mohamed Maamoun at the end of his posting at the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Canberra.
22. On August 5, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a farewell reception hosted by the Swedish Ambassador in Canberra, along with a number of other representatives of the international diplomatic corps.
23. On August 8, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a reception at the Official Residence of Jordan in Canberra to farewell His Excellency the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency the Ambassador of the European Union, His Excellency the Ambassador of Norway, and His Excellency the High Commissioner of Malaysia.
24. On September 9, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a dinner at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra organised by the Council of Arab Ambassadors to farewell the Algerian Ambassador and welcome the new Kuwaiti Ambassador.



Council of Arab Ambassadors at the Hyatt Hotel, Canberra

25. On September 14, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a reception at the Official Residence of Jordan in Canberra to farewell His Excellency the High Commissioner of Bangladesh and His Excellency the Ambassador of Algeria.
26. On September 15, the Palestinian Ambassador and his wife attended a business dinner hosted by Her Excellency the Moroccan Ambassador at the official Residence of Morocco.
27. On September 20, the Palestinian Ambassador welcomed the new Kuwaiti Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Bassam Al-Qabandi, at the Palestinian Embassy. The Palestinian Ambassador thanked the Kuwaiti Ambassador for his country's strong support for Palestinian rights and wished him a successful diplomatic posting in Canberra.



HE the Palestinian Ambassador with HE the Kuwaiti Ambassador

18. On September 21, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a celebration of International Day of Peace organised by the United Nations Information Centre, Canberra. During the ceremony, many speeches were delivered on the vital importance of the pursuit of world peace and peaceful resolution of disputes between countries.



Participating in the International Day of Peace hosted by UNIC in Canberra

28. On September 25, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in an important seminar hosted by the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates on Climate Change at Australian Parliament House in Canberra. The seminar discussed preparations for the upcoming climate conference to be held in Cairo, and the most important challenges facing the Arab World in this regard.



Seminar on Climate Change hosted by UAE Embassy at Parliament House, Canberra

29. On October 12, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a reception at the Official Residence of Jordan in Canberra to farewell His Excellency the Ambassador of Colombia.
30. On October 18, Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Heads of Missions Group at the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra.

During this meeting, the group discussed the current political situation in Palestine, the program for the group, the election of a new group President, and a proposal to organise seminars on the concept and applications of halal, and on Islamophobia in Australia.



Counsellor Noura Saleh at the OIC Heads of Missions Group Meeting in Canberra

31. On October 21, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in the celebration of 138 years of diplomatic relations between Costa Rica and Australia, and the unveiling of a bust of Pater Patriae of Costa Rica Mr Juan Rafael Mora at Latin American Plaza in Canberra.
32. On October 28, the Palestinian Ambassador attended a reception to celebrate the handover of the Conference of the Parties (COP) Presidency at the invitation of the British High Commission in Canberra, hosted by Her Excellency the British High Commissioner and the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Canberra.
33. On November 22, the Palestinian Ambassador and Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in a seminar organised by the Group of Organisation of Islamic

Cooperation (OIC) Member States on the trends and opportunities of halal industry in Australia, and the concept and applications of halal in Islam.

Researchers presented a discussion of the concept of halal industry and its broadening to include different sectors and categories, in addition to outlining various measures taken by Islamic governments with regards to halal products and trade.



OIC Seminar on Halal Industries



34. On November 23, Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in a meeting at the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates focused on women's empowerment. The

group discussed the importance of strengthening women's roles in diplomacy, and advancing women's positions in the field.



Counsellor Saleh with Attendees at Seminar on Women's Empowerment

35. On November 24, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a lunch meeting of the Council of Arab Ambassadors at the official residence of His Excellency the Sudanese Ambassador in Canberra.

During this meeting, the Council discussed a number of issues of shared interest, including Australia's reversal of its decision to recognise West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and other recent developments in the Palestinian cause. The Council also discussed its support for the preparations to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The Council also discussed the outcomes of the recent climate summit in Cairo and expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for its success in organising and hosting the FIFA World Cup.

36. On December 1, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a reception at the Official Residence of Jordan in Canberra to farewell HE the Ambassador of Portugal, HE the Ambassador of Türkiye, HE the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, HE the Ambassador of Thailand, HE the Ambassador of Korea, and HE the Ambassador of El Salvador.

37. On December 5, Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in the end of year celebration for Deputy Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Canberra. This was an important occasion to evaluate the activities of the international diplomatic

corps during the year, and to agree to continue strengthening the relationships between the Deputy Heads of Missions.

38. On December 14, the Palestinian Ambassador and Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in a farewell dinner hosted by the Council of Arab Ambassadors in honour of His Excellency the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the end of his posting in Australia.



HE the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan farewells HE the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Council of Arab Ambassadors

39. On December 15, the Palestinian Ambassador and his wife participated in a farewell dinner hosted by His Excellency the High Commissioner of Pakistan in honour of His Excellency the Ambassador of Türkiye.



Farewell to HE the Ambassador of Türkiye

This farewell event was also an important opportunity to thank both the Pakistani High Commissioner and the Turkish Ambassador for their broad solidarity and support for Palestinian rights, and for the Palestinian Ambassador to brief them on the latest developments in the Palestinian cause.

40. Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in monthly working lunches held for Deputy Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Canberra. These meetings aim to enhance coordination, cooperation and networking between diplomatic missions in Canberra.



Counsellor Saleh at the Monthly Deputy Heads of Mission Luncheon

41. During the year, the Palestinian Ambassador, his wife Mrs Zeina Abdulhadi, and Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in countless engagements with the international and Arab diplomatic corps dedicated to commemorating National Days, celebrating cultures, and networking.





Participation in National Days and other Cultural/Social Diplomatic Engagements





Participation in National Days and other Cultural/Social Diplomatic Engagements



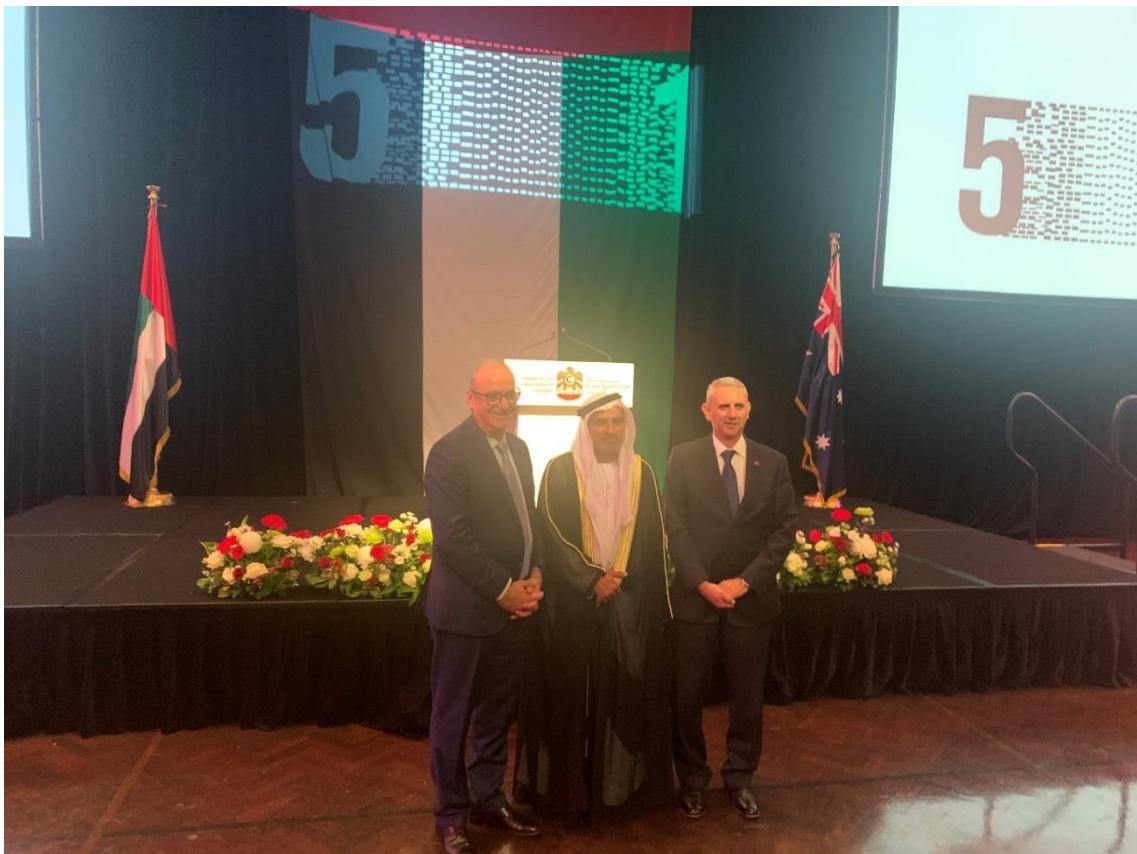


Participation in National Days and other Cultural/Social Diplomatic Engagements





Participation in National Days and other Cultural/Social Diplomatic Engagements





Participation in National Days and other Cultural/Social Diplomatic Engagements





Participation in National Days and other Cultural/Social Diplomatic Engagements





Participation in National Days and other Cultural/Social Diplomatic Engagements





Participation in National Days and other Cultural/Social Diplomatic Engagements





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Participation in National Days and other Cultural/Social Diplomatic Engagements





Participation in National Days and other Cultural/Social Diplomatic Engagements





Participation in National Days and other Cultural/Social Diplomatic Engagements



Public Diplomacy

1. On March 5, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a charity fundraising dinner, “Gaza Fights for Freedom” hosted by Gaza Children’s Fund and Sydney Community Connect. A large number of representatives from local Muslim, Arab and Palestinian communities were also in attendance at the event in Sydney. Over 250,000AUD was raised and sent to needy families in the Gaza Strip, and the occasion also included a ceremony to honour a number of outstanding Palestinian graduates.

The Palestinian Ambassador delivered a speech on the occasion, in which he referred to the grave consequences of the unjust siege on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. He also discussed the ongoing Israeli occupation and its violations against the Palestinian people, especially the continuation of its colonial settlement project and the strengthening of its apartheid regime.



The Palestinian Ambassador presenting certificates to outstanding Palestinian graduates

2. On March 6, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in Human Appeal Australia’s 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner in Sydney. Many representatives from the Australian government and local Muslim, Arab and Palestinian communities participated in this grand ceremony, in addition to representatives of civil society.



30th Anniversary of the Human Appeal

3. On March 11, the Palestinian Embassy in Canberra hosted a delegation of three students from the Australian National University as part of Girls Run the World. This is a program designed to encourage more young women to study and pursue diplomacy through hands-on experiences at Embassies and Diplomatic Missions in Canberra.



Delegates from Girls Run the World visiting the Palestinian Embassy

The three delegates from Girls Run the World learned about the goals and mandate of the Palestinian Embassy and its various programs. The Ambassador and Embassy Staff also presented a detailed explanation of the latest political developments in Palestine, with a focus on the key components of the Palestinian narrative and the continuous Israeli violations of human rights.

4. On March 12, the Palestinian Ambassador delivered a speech for the Online Launch Event of Palestinian Christians in Australia (PCIA) via Zoom. This new community organization was established to amplify the voices of Palestinian Christians, increase awareness of Palestinian Christian heritage in Palestine, and strengthen the role of Palestinian Christians in defending Palestinian rights in Australia.



Attending the PCIA Launch Event on Zoom

5. On March 13, the Palestinian Ambassador and Embassy staff participated in an event organized by the Palestinian community to celebrate Canberra Day, including an excellent show demonstrating a Palestinian wedding. This event was attended by many members of the Palestinian community and other residents of Canberra.



Celebrating Canberra Day

6. On March 19, Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in a celebration of International Women’s Day hosted by Integrated Women’s Network (IWN) in Canberra. The event involved an interactive session and cultural performances by Natyakala Canberra.



Celebrating International Women’s Day at the IWN Event in Canberra

7. On March 19, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a Community Fundraising Dinner in support of Wheelchairs for Disabled Jordanian Children. The event took place in Sydney and was organised by the Australian Jordanian Community Association. This event was also an opportunity to honour outstanding Jordanian graduates in the presence of His Excellency the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Palestinian Ambassador was able to participate in many activities during this celebration, including presenting awards to the graduates.

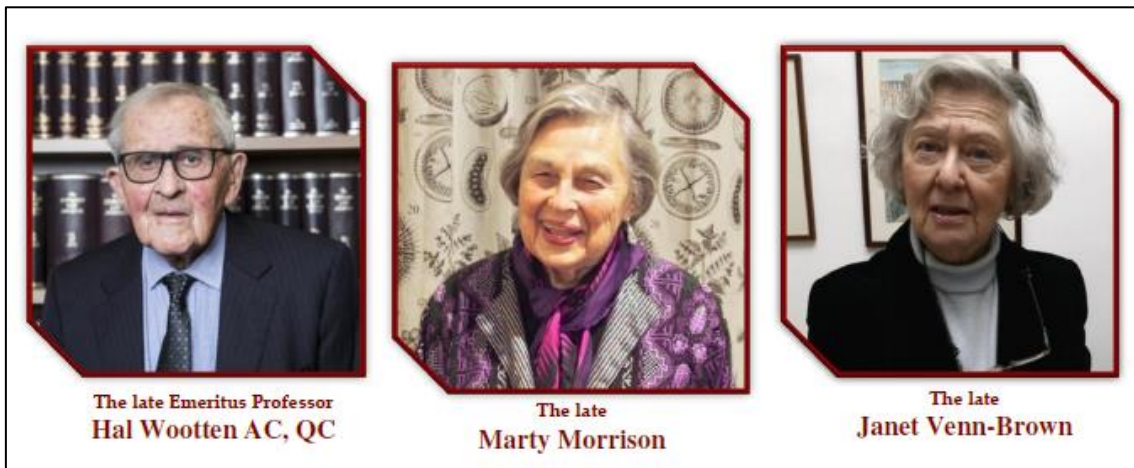


Presenting Awards to Outstanding Jordanian Graduates



Australian Jordanian Community Association Fundraising and Graduation Event

8. On March 21, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a ceremony honoring and of three supporters of the Palestinian cause who sadly had passed away. The Ambassador attended this event in the New South Wales Parliament at the invitation of the Honourable Shaoquett Moselmane MLC. This event was a celebration of the contributions of the late Emeritus Professor Hal Wootten AC, QC., the late Marty Morrison, and the late Janet Venn-Brown in working for full human rights for the Palestinian people. Relatives of the deceased and a large number of representatives of NSW Parliament and civil society participated in this memorial event.



During the ceremony, the Palestinian Ambassador had the honour to deliver a speech in praise of the departed and the incredible work they did during their lives in support of the Palestinian people, exposing Israel's violations of human rights, and promoting adherence to principles of international law.



Meeting with the Family of the Deceased



Delivering a Speech at the Memorial Event

9. On March 26, the Palestinian Ambassador, Mrs Zeina Abdulhadi and Counsellor Noura Saleh had the opportunity to attend Tales of a Homeland, an amazing and inspiring show performed by members of the Palestinian community.



Tales of a Homeland



Tales of a Homeland

This event was a celebration of Palestinian culture, identity, heritage, and history, and included a production of the Wedding Celebration of Zareef & Ataba, an exhibition displaying the history of Palestine, a fashion show of traditional Thobes, showcases of traditional folklore, cuisine, dance and more.

A large number of Australian politicians and representatives of local Muslim, Arab and Palestinian communities were in attendance to see the show. This show is an example of an incredibly successful cultural program organized by the Palestinian community.



Tales of a Homeland



Tales of a Homeland



SBS Interview at Tales of a Homeland

10. During the Holy Month of Ramadan, the Palestinian Ambassador and Embassy Staff had the opportunity to participate in many Iftar gatherings in Canberra and Sydney hosted by a variety of organisations, individuals and groups, including the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), HE the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Islamic Practice and Dawah Circle Inc. (IPDC), Australian National Imams Council (ANIC), Australian Federation of Islamic Council (AFIC), Canberra Palestinian Community (CPC), and Cllr Khal Asfour, Mayor of Bankstown.

These multiple iftars were attended by an unprecedented number of Australian politicians. In the midst of a fierce electoral campaign, many of these politicians recognised the importance of these Iftars as an opportunity to attract the votes of Australia's Muslim communities. These Iftars also represented an important opportunity for promoting religious and cultural pluralism in Australia.



Attending Ramadan Iftar



Attending Ramadan Iftar



Attending Ramadan Iftar



Attending Ramadan Iftar

11. On April 10, the Palestinian Ambassador and Embassy staff participated in an Iftar hosted by the Canberra Palestinian Community (CPC) which included a ceremony honouring activists in the community with certificates of appreciation.



Presenting Certificates at the CPC Iftar in Canberra

The Palestinian Ambassador also delivered a speech on the occasion, in which he called on the Palestinian community to enhance their cooperation and organize many community activities. He also called on them to strengthen their role in advocating for Palestinian rights by working with members of federal parliament in Australia.



Delivering a Speech at the CPC Iftar in Canberra



Embassy Staff at the CPC Iftar in Canberra

12. On May 4, the Palestinian Embassy hosted a delegation of students from the Australian National University International Relations Society. The students

were briefed on the latest developments regarding the Palestinian issue, especially the grave Israeli violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, and the Palestinian Ambassador also explained the historical framework of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and countered the Zionist propaganda describing Palestine as "a land without a people for a people without a land."

After this event, the students had an increased understanding of the Palestinian narrative from the discussions of the main elements in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The two parties also agreed to continue the dialogue through other student initiatives.



Visiting Student Delegation from the ANU International Relations Society

13. On May 11, the Palestinian Embassy hosted a meeting with a delegation from the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra. An excellent discussion took place on the historical struggles of both peoples against colonialism and racism, and respective approaches to combat them. It was agreed to continue coordination and cooperation between the two Embassies.

This meeting aligned with the Palestinian Embassy's ongoing strategy to strengthen relations with Indigenous peoples, given the similar historical circumstances of Indigenous peoples in Australia and in Palestine being subjected to settler-colonialism, ethnic cleansing, and racist oppression.

It should also be noted in this context that the Palestinian Embassy is currently preparing a comprehensive file on key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander institutions and personalities across Australia.



Exchanging Gifts with the Delegation from the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra





Displaying Flags with the Delegation from the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra

14. On May 13, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in the launch ceremony of the book "Scattered Lights" by the late poet Naim Courey at the invitation of Algethour Cultural Association and the Australian-Arab Cultural Centre. A large number of Lebanese and Palestinian writers attended the event in Sydney.



Launch of "Scattered Lights" in Sydney

15. On May 14, the Palestinian Ambassador, Mrs Zeina Abdulhadi, and Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in the launch of the Al-Awdah International Cinema Festival in Sydney, hosted by Algethour Cultural Association together the Palestinian Film Forum and the University of Palestine, to coincide with the 74th anniversary of the Nakba in Sydney. The event honoured pioneering Palestinian women, and included a minute of silence and a eulogy for the martyr Shireen Abu Akleh. Two films were presented about Palestine before the Nakba, with stories narrated by elderly Palestinians who lived through the Nakba.

The Palestinian Ambassador delivered a speech on the occasion, in which he thanked the organisers for hosting this important event. He also discussed the Nakba as both an catastrophic event in history and an ongoing struggle that continues today. The Ambassador then spoke of the determination and steadfastness of the Palestinian people in their ongoing resist against the Zionist project in Palestine. In this context, the Ambassador referred to the strong state-building and institutions in Palestine as an important component in implementing the vision of self-determination, that is the right of the Palestinian people. In this context, he called on the Australian government to recognize the State of Palestine without delay. The Palestinian Ambassador was also interviewed by SBS Radio about the event and the assassination of the martyr Shireen Abu Akleh.



Launch of Al-Awdah Film Festival in Sydney



Launch of Al-Awdah Film Festival in Sydney



Interview for SBS Radio at the Launch of Al-Awdah Film Festival in Sydney

16. On May 15, in continuation of the activities commemorating the Nakba, the Palestinian Ambassador and Embassy Staff participated in a major demonstration in Sydney. During the rally, many speeches were delivered that

referred to the Nakba in 1948 and the ongoing Israeli violations of the rights of the Palestinian people. Many also called on the Australian government to immediately recognize the State of Palestine.

Thousands of members of the community, Australian politicians, civil society organizations and solidarity groups participated in this demonstration.



Nakba Rally in Sydney





Nakba Rally in Sydney





Nakba Rally in Sydney



17. Following the assassination of the martyr Shireen Abu Akleh on May 11, the Palestinian Embassy carried out many activities in response. The most important of which was the issuing of a press statement on the subject, sending of identical letters to the Foreign Affairs Ministers of Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and Pacific countries, and opening a virtual Book of Condolences to members of the Canberra International Diplomatic Corps. The martyr Abu Akleh was also eulogized on the Palestinian Embassy's website and social media accounts.



Diplomatic Note Regarding the Virtual Book of Condolences for Shireen Abu Akleh

18. On June 3, the Palestinian Embassy hosted a delegation from the Communist Party of Australia (CPA). The Palestinian Ambassador briefed the delegation on the latest developments in the Palestinian cause, especially ongoing Israeli violations of human rights and attempts to undermine the two-state solution.

The members of the CPA delegation expressed their broad solidarity with the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights, especially their right to self-determination and establishment of an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The members of the CPA delegation also indicated that they had spoken about the rights of the Palestinian people within the Australian trade union movement, and expressed their determination to establish a student movement to support and advocate for Palestinian rights.



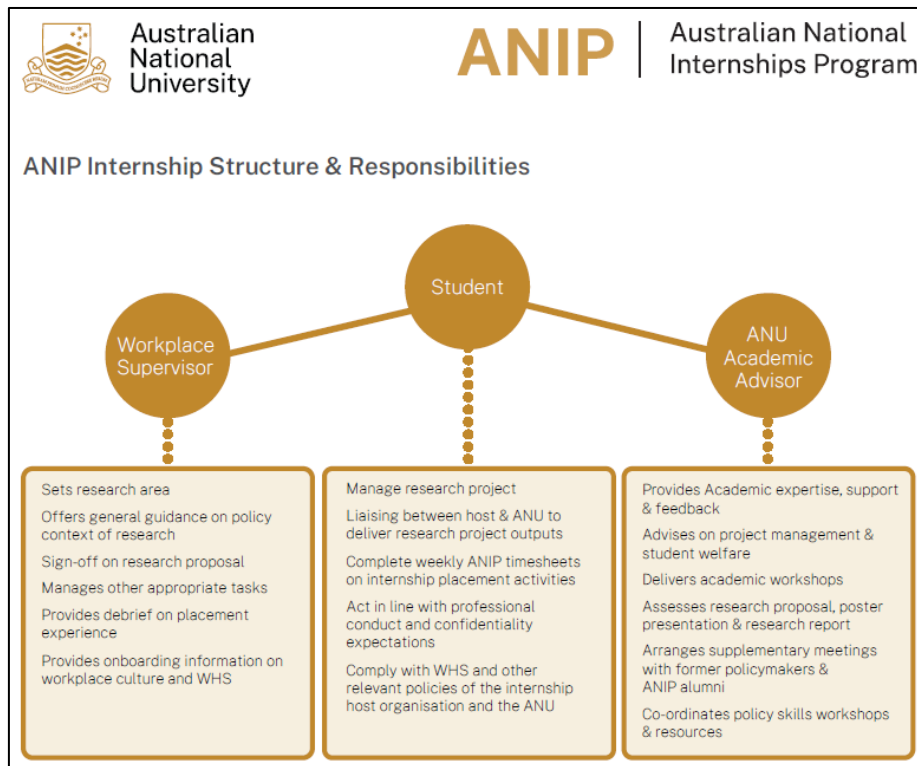
CPA Delegation at the Palestinian Embassy in Canberra

19. The Palestinian Ambassador and Embassy Staff participated in many seminars, both online and in-person, dealing with important topics related to diplomacy and international relations, especially with regards to the Asia-Pacific Region. These seminars are hosted by organisations specializing in Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand foreign policy, and often included analysis of the positions of these governments on important international issues such as climate change and Covid-19, for example.



Zoom Seminar

20. On July 29, the Palestinian Ambassador met with Dr Laurence Brown, Director of the Australian National Internship Program (ANIP), at the Palestinian Embassy in Canberra. During this meeting, the two parties discussed the development of the internship program at the Palestinian Embassy and its partnership with the Australian National University through ANIP.



ANIP Structural Overview

21. On August 30, the Palestinian Embassy hosted a delegation from Darulfatwa Islamic High Council of Australia, including His Eminence the Chairman of Darulfatwa Professor Sheikh Salim Alwan.

During this meeting, the Palestinian Ambassador briefed the delegation of the latest developments of the Palestinian cause and ongoing Israeli violations of human rights. The delegation expressed its appreciation for the role of the Palestinian Embassy in Australia and its unconditional support for Palestinian rights.



Darulfatwa Delegation at the Palestinian Embassy in Canberra

22. On August 27, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a webinar hosted by Palestinian Christians in Australia (PCIA). A speech was delivered by Patriarch Michel Sabbah, in which he referred to the role of Palestinian Christians in the Palestinian national struggle and discussed the continuous Israeli violations of human rights.



23. On October 1, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a reception on the occasion of the formal launch of the Canberra branch of the Community Party of Australia (CPA). On the occasion, the Palestinian Ambassador delivered a speech praising the supportive position of CPA towards Palestine, and expressed the willingness of the Palestinian Embassy to continue its engagement with the CPA branch in Canberra.



CPA Canberra Branch Launch Event



Delivering a Speech at the CPA Canberra Branch Launch Event

24. On November 11, Mrs Zeina Abdulhadi and Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in the opening night of the Palestinian Film Festival in Canberra. The opening film screened was "Farha" directed by Darin J. Sallam, a film set in 1948 that presented the suffering of the Palestinian people during the Nakba in a compelling cinematic style.



Palestinian Film Festival in Australia

25. On November 12, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in the Inaugural Gala Dinner hosted by Palestinian Christians in Australia (PCIA) via a recorded speech that was presented at the event. The event included a virtual tour of Jerusalem, during which the participants learned about Islamic and Christian holy sites, and showcased Palestinian cuisine, live music, and Dabke.

In his speech, the Palestinian Ambassador thanked PCIA for its important work amplifying the voices and experiences of Palestinian Christians and campaigning for Palestinian rights in Australia, introducing the Australian public to the situation of Christians in Palestine as well as the countless valuable historical contributions of Christians participating in the Palestinian national struggle.



PCIA Logo

26. On November 23, the Palestinian Ambassador and Counsellor Noura Saleh attended the annual Australian National University (ANU) Migration Update at the National Museum of Australia. Keynote speakers included experts from ANU and the International Organization for Migration, and the Honourable Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs. The Update presented important statistics related to migration and immigrant

communities in Australia, and launches a series of ANU policy briefings covering the latest data on the changing dynamics of migration to Australia and emerging global migration flows.

27. On November 27, the Palestinian Embassy Staff participated in Run for Palestine, which is organised annually in Canberra as well as other cities across Australia to raise awareness and show solidarity with the Palestinian cause. This event in Canberra was organized by Australians for Justice and Peace in Palestine and the Palestinian community.



Run for Palestine in Canberra



Run for Palestine in Canberra

28. On November 29, the Palestinian Ambassador, Mrs Zeina Abdulhadi, and Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in the Canberra Multicultural Leaders Reception hosted by Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) Incorporated with the central theme “Racism – it Stops with Me.” The keynote speaker was Mr Chin Tan, Race Commissioner from the Australian Human Rights Commission. In his speech, he discussed the causes of racism in a multicultural society, and approaches to combatting it. Each speaker stressed that racism is, unfortunately, still a major problem in Australia, despite many attempts by the government to combat it.



Canberra Multicultural Leaders Reception “Racism – It Stops With Me”

29. On December 1, the Palestinian Ambassador spoke on a Panel on the Middle East Region, hosted by the Australian Institute for International Affairs (AIIA) ACT Branch in Canberra. In addition to the Palestinian Ambassador, the Panel included His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Egypt, and His Excellency the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait.

The Panelists focused on scenarios for resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the context of ongoing gross Israeli violations of human rights, and emphasised the importance of recognizing the State of Palestine in this context.



The Palestinian Ambassador Speaking on the AIIA Panel on the Middle East Region



The Kuwaiti, Palestinian, and Egyptian Ambassadors at the AIIA Panel on the Middle East Region

30. On December 4, Counsellor Noura Saleh attended the launch of “Feared and Revered” an exhibit at the Australian National Museum in Canberra on “feminine power through the ages.” This exhibit from the British Museum presents historical statues and objects from around the world that depict powerful, spiritual female beings in cultural traditions and beliefs.



Launch of Feared and Reveres at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra

31. On December 10, the Palestinian Ambassador and Mrs Zeina Abdulhadi attended the 33rd Annual Ethnic Business Awards Gala Presentation Dinner in Sydney at the invitation of the Ethnic Business Awards. The Ethnic Business Awards specifically honour businessmen and women of migrant or Indigenous Australian backgrounds, and Mr Khalil (Charlie) Shahin AO of Peregrine Corporation Pty Ltd, a Palestinian refugee, won the 33rd Annual Henry Ngai Medium to Large Business Category.

In his impressive and emotional introduction, Mr Shahin spoke about his journey from a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon to Australia, making connections between the challenges he faced and the mountainous journey of Palestinian resistance against colonization and occupation.

The ceremony was an important occasion to celebrate the successes of the Indigenous peoples of Australia and Palestine, and many economists, businessmen and women, members of Parliament and members of the international diplomatic corps attended the ceremony, including former Australian Prime Minister Tony Burke of the Labor Party.



Seated with Mr and Mrs Shahin at 33rd Annual Ethnic Business Awards in Sydney

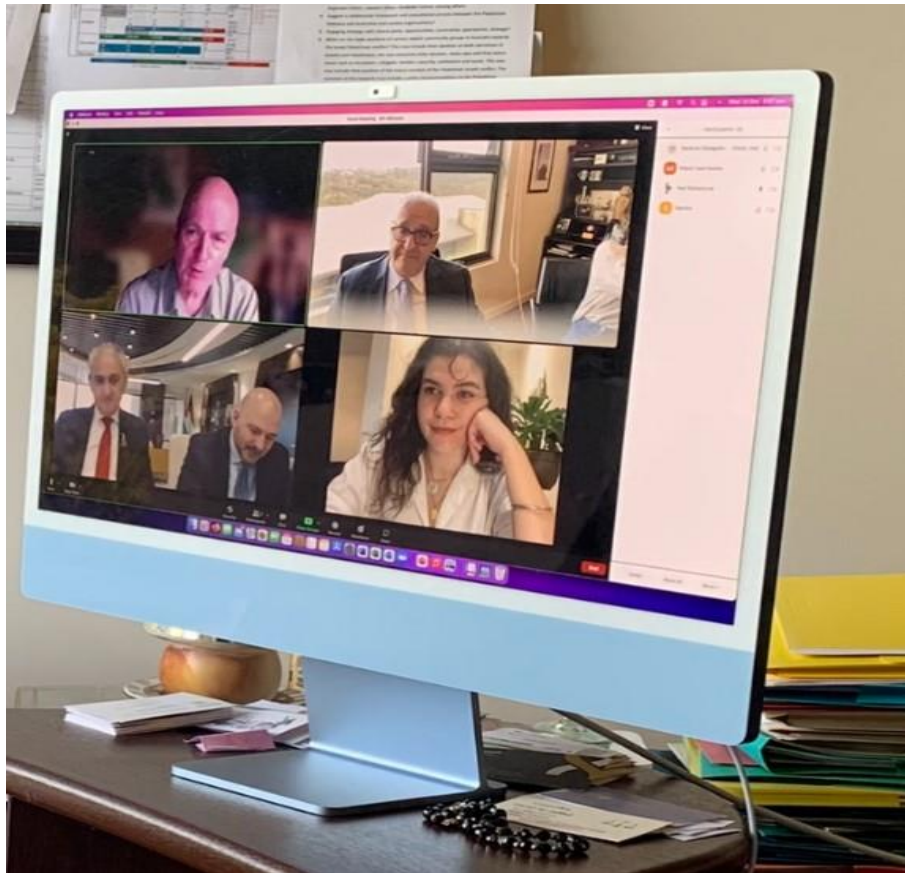


33rd Annual Ethnic Business Awards in Sydney

32. On December 14, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in an important Zoom meeting with representatives from the Ramallah Municipal Council, including Mayor Issa Kassis, and representatives of Justice for Palestine, a Wellington-based Palestinian advocacy group.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Sister City project that would link the municipalities of Ramallah and Wellington. Participants in the meeting unanimously agreed on the importance of this project and the need to move

forward in developing a clear plan of action to strengthen the relationship between the cities of Wellington and Ramallah.



Zoom to Discuss Wellington-Ramallah Sister Cities Project

33. The Palestinian Embassy continued its important program of increasing knowledge and awareness of the Palestinian narrative, history and current events through effective campaigns on social media, especially Instagram and Twitter. Posts were produced and shared marking important events and to commemorate special occasions, such as the anniversary of the Nakba, the 1967 War, International Women's Day, and others.

<p>AL NAKBA [THE CATASTROPHE]</p> <p>74 YEARS OF EXPULSION AND LAND THEFT. 74 YEARS OF RESISTANCE AND STEADFASTNESS.</p>	<p>74 YEARS OF EXPULSION</p> <p>In 1948, over 700,000 Palestinians were violently expelled from their homes by Zionist armed forces, displaced to Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza (around 70% of the population of Gaza are refugees). Today, their descendants are still awaiting the fulfilment of their right to return home.</p> <p>Israel's policy of displacing Palestinians is ongoing primarily through house demolitions, forced evictions, and illegal settlements. Last year in the West Bank alone, over 1,200 Palestinians were displaced from their homes and in the besieged Gaza Strip, the destructive Israeli assault in May left over 7,500 refugees displaced in just 11 days.</p> <p>This month, Israeli courts have approved the forced expulsion of over 1,300 Palestinians from villages in Masafer Yatta, Al-Khali (Hebron). In this context, the EU Representative Office in Palestine emphasised that "Under international law, individual or mass forcible transfers and deportation of protected persons from occupied territories are prohibited, regardless of their motive. As the occupying power, Israel has the obligation to protect the Palestinian population and not displace it."</p>	<p>74 YEARS OF LAND THEFT</p> <p>In 1948, Zionist armed forces destroyed over 500 Palestinian towns and villages and seized 78% of historic Palestine for the creation of the State of Israel. Israel occupied the remaining Palestinian territories during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War.</p> <p>Land theft is still ongoing. Israel's illegal settlement policy in particular has enabled the theft of over 2 million dunams of Palestinian land, the establishment of over 280 settlements, and a population of over 712,800 Israeli settlers living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, violating the Fourth Geneva Convention and multiple UN resolutions, including 446 and 2334.</p> <p>On May 6, Israel announced plans to build 4,000 illegal settlement units across the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In an identical letter, Dr Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the UN, wrote the following in this context:</p> <p><i>"There have been 11 Israeli Prime Ministers since the occupation began in 1967, and the establishment of colonial settlements across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, has not stopped for a single minute. Like its predecessors, the current occupation government proves time and again that the only peace it wants is another piece of Palestine."</i></p>
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Instagram Post to Commemorate Al Nakba

34. On December 15, the Palestinian Embassy hosted a lunch for the Embassy Staff and interns to celebrate the achievements of past year, and look forward to the beginning of 2023. This social event was also an opportunity for the Palestinian Ambassador to thank the Embassy Staff and interns for their hard work and successes despite the many challenges presented in 2022.



End of Year Lunch with Embassy Staff and Interns

35. The Palestinian Embassy continued its successful internship program, hosting a number of high-calibre interns from various Australian universities, particularly the Australian National University in Canberra. Interns take on research projects and produce analytical reports on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Palestinian, Arab and Islamic communities in Canberra, issues related to identity, Australian foreign policy, and other important topics.

Reports from this year explored topics including, “The Politicisation of Palestinian Youth Identity in Australia,” “Culturalisation of Palestinian Indigeneity”, and “How the Australian aid program to Palestine should change under a Labor government”. These reports and reports from previous years are published on the Embassy’s website for public access.



Olive Picking with Embassy Interns



Administrative and Financial Affairs, Consular Affairs, and Program Management

The General Delegation continued regular reporting and assessments of its work through the year. In the month of January, the Embassy Staff participated in several collaborative strategic planning sessions to brainstorm, formulate and prepare the Annual Plan for 2022, which was sent to the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates.



Strategic Planning Session at the Palestinian Embassy in Canberra

The General Delegation continued to produce regular professional administrative and financial reports on the progress of work at the Embassy, including four Quarterly Financial Reports and four Quarterly Progress Reports outlining the activities completed and the relevant political context. The Embassy also prepared the 2021 Annual Report in Arabic to be sent to the Palestinian Foreign Ministry.

The General Delegation continued to provide quality consular services to members of the Palestinian community in particular, and the wider Australian community in general. The General Delegation has also continued regular development of consular procedures to align with the expansion of available consular services.

In 2022, the General Delegation completed over 400 consular documents.

Activities:

Administrative and Financial Affairs,
Consular Affairs, and Program Management



The General Delegation was honoured to regularly host members of the Palestinian community at the Palestinian Embassy in Canberra throughout this year:



Activities:

Administrative and Financial Affairs,
Consular Affairs, and Program Management



Activities:

Administrative and Financial Affairs,
Consular Affairs, and Program Management



Activities:

*Administrative and Financial Affairs,
Consular Affairs, and Program Management*

