



Press Release

20 February 2020

Canberra, Australia

Australia's position regarding the International Criminal Court's decision for a formal investigation into the 'Situation in the State of Palestine'.

On 20 December 2019 The International Criminal Court (ICC) concluded that there was sufficient evidence for a formal investigation into the 'Situation in the State of Palestine' and alleged war crimes on Palestinians within West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip. The Prosecutor found basis to believe that war crimes have been committed by both Israeli Defence Force and Palestinian armed groups on Palestine.

Regrettably, on 14 February 2020, the Australian Government filed a request to intervene in the investigation, stating that it does not recognise the State of Palestine. Australia is among 5 other ICC State Parties to do so, including: Germany, Hungary, Austria, Brazil and the Czech Republic.

The Australian Government's interference of the process of this investigation by the International Criminal Court into the human rights violations of Palestinians is deeply disappointing.

The intervention on this matter, as well as its continued refusal to recognise the state of Palestine, contradicts Australia's commitment to upholding its support for international law, comprehensive and just peace, accountability and national interest. A call for an investigation by the ICC into the situation in Palestine, is justified and warranted. It is deeply concerning that the Australian government is intentionally jeopardising a warranted investigation into human rights





violations and raises concern about its intension, particularly vis-à-vis the genuine recognition of a Palestinian State on 1967 borders under which Palestinians have a right to a legitimate judicial process.

The General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific calls upon the Australian government to withdraw its request and allow for an investigation into the war crimes committed on Palestinians. Furthermore, to maintain its commitment to fostering peace and stability within the region. The Australian Government's belief that non-recognition of a Palestinian State is for the betterment of international peace is grossly misguided. We also call for the Australian Government to support General Assembly resolutions that supports a genuine two-state solution and condemn illegal settlements in West Ban as flagrant violation of International law.

