

Australia must act to stop Israel's murder of men, women, children and babies



Since 7 October, in full view of the whole world, and in real time, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) are killing, in Gaza, as many Palestinian civilians - men women, children and babies - as they are able to. As of 16 December, 18,700 are known to have been killed. This excludes many hundreds more buried beneath the rubble and many more injured. The IDF has killed these civilians, either directly, in cold blood, with gunfire or,

inside the buildings in which they were seeking shelter - residences, hospitals, schools, mosques, churches and shops - with tank and artillery shells, rockets and aerial bombardment including with banned phosphorous.

The stated goal of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is to drive all the residents of Gaza into the Sinai Peninsula, whilst killing all those who remain or who do not depart quickly enough.

How could anybody not feel revulsion at this conduct? How could any decent person not want to do all that he/she is able to force Israel to cease this mass murder and to bring Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu and those around him before the International Criminal Court to be tried for their monstrous conduct?

Israel disregards overwhelming United Nations votes for ceasefire

On Friday, 8 December, 13 of the 15 members of the United Nations Security Council voted for a ceasefire, whilst the UK abstained and the US voted against, thereby, with its veto, thwarting the wishes of the near-unanimous majority. So even though, at the subsequent Emergency Special Session on 11 December, there was a similarly overwhelming vote in favour of that motion - 93 members, including Australia, voting for ceasefire, only 10 members voting against and 23 abstaining - this 'non-binding resolution' could not make the United Nations act to force Israel to end its military action.

Since the vote, Netanyahu has barely blinked. The killing has continued, whilst the resistance of the unjustifiably vilified Hamas (see below) has almost certainly prevented the civilian death toll from being even worse.

Australia could act to help end the killing

If the United Nations as a body will not act effectively, then those Governments who spoke out and voted against Israel at the General Assembly, including Australia, should, themselves, act to force Israel to end its killing spree. Ships from Israel could be prevented from docking at Australian ports (including at the East Swanson Dock this coming



Tuesday – see below). Export licenses for companies which supply weapons or weapons parts used by Israel, such as a part which allows F-35 fighters to release bombs, which is manufactured in Brisbane, should have their export licenses revoked. The US Pine Gap spy base in central Australia, which is forwarding spy satellite data to help Israeli bombers target Gaza, should be closed down.

Did Hamas fighters kill 1,200 Israeli civilians on 7 October?

Unfortunately, many who have spoken out very movingly in support of Palestine[1] have still failed to challenge this lie. Because Israel included the deaths of IDF personnel in the death toll, the number of civilians killed on that day is widely believed to be even more – 1,200. This makes the apparently monstrous killing of 260 civilians on that day seem even more outrageous. This has led many to believe that actions by IDF in Gaza are understandable in the circumstances.

In fact, as even surviving Israelis have testified, the IDF and not Hamas fighters, first opened fire on that day. Hamas fighters were attempting to take the hostages back to Gaza to exchange for several hundred Palestinian prisoners imprisoned in Israel. Under the *Hannibal Directive*, under which the IDF does not willingly allow any Israeli to be captured, the IDF soldiers on the scene were ordered to kill all of the Hamas fighters regardless of the consequences for their hostages. [2]

Then the killings were attributed to Hamas. The Hamas fighters were armed solely with Kalashnikov assault rifles and grenades, but injuries to the festival attendees showed that they were shelled from helicopters and tanks. Surrounding settlement infrastructure was also destroyed by aerial bombing and tank-fire, with bodies there found burned alive, buried under rubble. How could Hamas have caused all of this destruction without planes, helicopters or tanks?

How can the international community allow Netanyahu to go unpunished for his vile conduct?

How you can help

Attend the weekly Melbourne protest for Palestine which commences outside the State Library at 12pm on Sunday.

This coming Tuesday 19 December at 7:30pm **attend a picket against an Israeli ZIM ship** which is scheduled to dock at the **East Swanson Dock, Phillips Road, West Melbourne**. The ZIM shipping line is used to export Weapons of Mass Destruction to Israel.

Print copies of this leaflet and distribute them. The PDF, from which this leaflet was printed, can be downloaded from

<https://candobetter.net/james-sinamon/blog/6762/australia-must-act-stop-israels-mass-murder-gaza-palestinians>

Post to social media about Palestine. Read articles at <https://candobetter.net/Palestine>, post comments and promote the articles on Twitter, Facebook and other social media.

Footnotes

[1] This includes Spanish MP Ione Bellara, former Spanish Social Rights Minister (Twitter handle @IoneBellara), who still condemns Hamas whilst she is very outspoken against Israel. On both days of the Emergency UN General Assembly Special Session of Monday this week, even the overwhelming majority of those who have voted for a ceasefire, still condemned Hamas's actions of 7 October in their speeches.

[2] See *VIDEO: What really happened on October 7? (18/11/23) | The Grayzone* by Max Blumenthal at <https://thegrayzone.com/2023/11/18/video-what-happened-october-7/> and *Why is Israel trying to HIDE this hostage interview? (26/10/23) | Redacted News* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HugMS0k0kB4>