

End the Australian Government's support for Israel's murder of Palestinians in Gaza

See [https://candobetter.net/end-australias-support-for-genocide\(23/3/2024\)](https://candobetter.net/end-australias-support-for-genocide(23/3/2024)) for PDF and printing instructions. **Protest each Sunday from 12pm, Melbourne State Library**



Israeli snipers shot dead starving Palestinians seeking food and water, medical staff, hospital patients, UN staff, Merkava tanks 29 February, reporters, and their families



Palestinians seeking food & water under fire from snipers and Merkava tanks 29 February.

On 29 February, Israeli snipers and Merkava tanks opened fire on hungry Palestinians who had gathered to collect food. At least 112 were killed and hundreds more were wounded. Israel claimed that 112 Palestinians, many with bullet holes in their heads, had somehow stampeded each other to death. This is only one of many instances of Israel's ongoing effort to terrorise the 2.3 million Palestinian residents of the Gaza strip to flee for their lives across the border into the Sinai Peninsula and never be allowed to return. So far, over 31,988 Palestinians in Gaza are known to have been killed, 8,000 more are 'missing' beneath the rubble, and 74,188 more have been wounded. Many more face death due to starvation, thirst, and treatable diseases.

Amongst those murdered by Israel are 132 journalists and media workers and members of their families and 168 members of the UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency). 70% of the buildings in Gaza have been destroyed or seriously damaged.

This monstrous act has rightly been condemned worldwide. Huge protests have regularly occurred in the global south and in the streets of Israel's allies, including the US, Britain, France, Germany and Australia. At the **UN General Assembly** of 12 December last year, 153 to 10 voted for an "immediate humanitarian ceasefire." 23 abstained. On 26 January, the **International Court of Justice** ruled that Israel "take all measures within its power to prevent ... the killing, ... causing serious bodily or mental harm or deliberately inflicting ... conditions of life calculated to bring about [the] physical destruction of [the 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza] or the [imposition] of measures intended to prevent births [within that group]." Three times, since 7 October,



Released 23 October, Yochevid Lifschitz thanks her Hamas captors for humane treatment in captivity

the United Nations Security Council voted 10 to 1, that Israel end its war in the Gaza Strip, but, by its repeated use of its veto power, the US alone stopped the UN from acting to end the killing.

Netanyahu's 'October 7' pretext for mass murder

On 7 October, Palestinian Hamas resistance launched Operation *Al-Aqsa Flood* and overwhelmed IDF forces on and near the besieged Gaza strip borders. Almost 1,000 IDF were killed. Hamas also captured a number of civilians and military to use as hostages to exchange for Palestinian political prisoners.

The IDF forces had been sent there with orders to kill the Hamas 'terrorists' regardless of the consequences for their Israeli hostages. This is what caused nearly all of the Israeli civilian deaths on that day.

George Galloway, outspoken UK opponent of Israel's genocide, elected

On 29 February, UK voters in Rochdale, rebelled against this genocide by voting for George Galloway in a landslide against pro-war candidates from both the Labour and Conservative Parties. He is now using his voice in Parliament to hold to account the UK government for its complicity in this genocide. Galloway's huge grassroots support means that more like him will likely be elected at the forthcoming UK general election and could lead to a change of government and end UK support for genocide

Next week, make your Parliament debate Government complicity in genocide

On 16 October last year, the House of Representatives carried overwhelmingly – 127 votes for and "fewer than 5" against - a motion which unequivocally condemned Hamas and supported military action by Israel. Discussion lasted for over 2 hours with 11 speaking for the motion. However, 2 months after that, following the International Court of Justice ruling against Israel (see above), when Adam Brandt tried to move a motion which called for an end to Australia's support for Israel's war, those same 11 members, who so stridently "stood with Israel" back then, seemed to have lost their voices. Although Adam Bandt was able, to some extent, to hold the government to account for its shameful conduct, the procedural motion to allow for a full debate was still lost and little else was said about the mass murder in Gaza.

That the Government, in collusion with the Opposition, prevented Adam Bandt's motion being properly debated is an abuse of Parliamentary privilege. Bandt and other supporters of Palestine should be urged to try again this coming sitting week of Parliament, to put his motion. Should a full debate again be prevented, those MPs whose votes would have been used to prevent debate must be held to account by the Australian community at large and, ultimately, by voters in their own electorates.