

# End of Year Newsletter

## Palestinian Delegation to Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand & the Pacific

It has now been 75 days of Israel's genocidal onslaught against the Palestinian people in Gaza, collective punishment, war crimes, crimes against humanity, forcible displacement, escalating violent settler terrorism, occupation incursions, and mass arbitrary detention of Palestinian civilians. But, in spite of being subjected to atrocities and suffering at a scope and scale shocking humanity, the Palestinian people remain firmly committed and determined to achieve their inalienable national and political rights, including the right to self-determination and the right to return. All attempts by Israel, the brutal occupying power, to destroy this vision and annihilate the Palestinian people as a nation have failed. They will continue to fail, because of the unmatched resilience, steadfastness and resistance of the Palestinian people.

The brutality of Israel's illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime, and its systematic policy of violence and naked power, enabled by the double standards of the USA and the Western block and the failure of the international community to impose a permanent ceasefire or act in the face of Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity, should not drag us away from our strong belief in the strength, nobility, and importance of international law. Israel is bullying, attacking, and intimidating any organization or individual who stands for the rule of international law in a desperate attempt to shield itself from accountability for its violations and crimes. Israeli exceptionalism and impunity must end, and its war criminals must be brought to justice before the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The reference for the Palestinian struggle must always be international law, United Nations legitimacy, and adherence to our unshakeable values of justice, equality and dignity. The world's governments cannot ignore the strength of our cause precisely because it is deeply rooted in principles of international law and justice. The adoption of these principles by the Palestinian people is one of the core reasons for the historical and ongoing support and solidarity of international grassroots movements, civil society organizations, and oppressed, colonized, and persecuted peoples around the world. The Palestinian liberation movement has the capacity, history and experience to support a global agenda based on justice and collective liberation by building an international coalition against colonization, discrimination, persecution, and apartheid, to demand dignity, equality and justice based on international law, the multilateral system, and global democracy.

As 2023 comes to an end amidst the most difficult and devastating time in our modern history, thoughts of our brothers and sisters in Gaza never leave our minds. We are all praying for them, for their lives, and for their rights, and we are taking action by demanding a permanent ceasefire without further delay. All peace-loving nations and their leadership must be courageous and act immediately to stop Israel's criminal assault and atrocities against our people in Gaza, to guarantee their safety, well-being, dignity, and survival. Time is running out.

***His Excellency Izzat Abdulhadi***

*Ambassador of the State of Palestine*

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

“Everything in this world can be robbed and stolen, except one thing; this one thing is the love that emanates from a human being towards a solid commitment to a conviction or cause.”

— Ghassan Kanafani

# ACTIVITIES

*Recent activities responding to the Israeli aggression against Gaza and the Palestinian people.*

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**



On 15 November, the General Delegation of Palestine, in partnership with the United Nations Information Centre, the Council of Arab Ambassadors and the Parliamentary Friends of Palestine, hosted an event observing the **UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People** at the Australian Federal Parliament in Canberra.

The main speaker at this event was Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, in addition to Chris Sidoti, former Australian Human Rights Commissioner and Member of the UN Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory. **[Read More](#)**



On 10 December, the General Delegation of Palestine observed International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People for a second time in Canberra. [\[Read More\]](#)



Observing International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 16 December, in cooperation with Falesteen Inc. at the United Workers Union in Brisbane. [\[Read More\]](#)

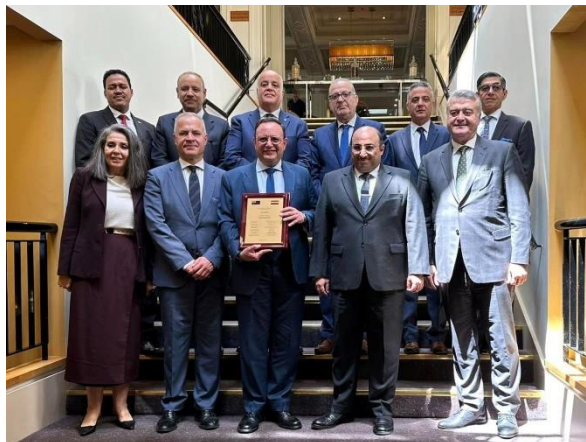
## KEY MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS



On 21 November, Ambassador Abdulhadi conducted a meeting with NSW MPs regarding on the catastrophe in Gaza and the Palestinian demand for a permanent ceasefire. [\[read more\]](#)



On 29 November, the Embassy hosted a delegation from Labor Friends of Palestine NSW visiting Canberra to call on Labor MPs and the Australian Government to support a permanent Gaza ceasefire.



On 27 November, the Palestinian Ambassador participated in a meeting of the Council of Arab Ambassadors at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra.



On 27 November, the General Delegation of Palestine met with a delegation from Amnesty International, Australia.



On 6 December, a delegation representing the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Heads of Mission Group met with Foreign Minister Penny Wong at Federal Parliament House for a discussion of the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and calling for a complete and permanent ceasefire. [\[read more\]](#)



On 6 December, Ambassador Abdulhadi participated in a Roundtable Discussion on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) hosted by Senator Lidia Thorpe.



On 7 December, the Ambassador and Embassy Staff met with Senator Lidia Thorpe at the Palestinian Embassy in Canberra.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES



On 5 December, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Heads of Mission Group in Canberra and the ANU Indonesian Student Association hosted a Seminar for Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The Ambassador of the State of Palestine presented at the event, for which the primary goal was to raise awareness and foster solidarity with the Palestinian people given the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza.



On 12 November, the Ambassador of the State of Palestine and Counsellor Noura Saleh participated in a Fundraising Dinner organised by Palestinian Christians in Australia (PCIA) to support displaced families in Gaza and students in Palestine, with guest speaker Francesca Albanese, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. [\[Read More\]](#)

## MEDIA AND INTERVIEWS



The Ambassador of the State of Palestine has continued to appear in television and radio interviews with major media outlets in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, outlining and explaining key developments in the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, and the official Palestinian position (see highlights below).

The Palestinian Embassy continues to use its [website](#) and social media channels to monitor and report on the daily developments in Israel's ongoing aggression on Gaza, including on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

**Interview with Ajyal Radio Network** (أجيال - فلسطين) on the observance of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in Australia [27/11]





### Interview with The Age

Ambassador Abdulhadi urges Penny Wong to “be brave” and break with US over war in Gaza [5/12]



Interview with Radio NZ denouncing Israeli military operation at Gaza hospital [17/11]

Interview with The Guardian urging Australia to back ceasefire in looming UN vote [12/12]

Interview with ABC RN Drive: Joint statement from PM Albanese 'a step in the right direction' [13/12]

## **DEMONSTRATIONS AND VIGILS**

We have seen massive demonstrations in support of the Palestinian people across Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, and around the world. Grassroots and social movements everywhere are standing in solidarity with the Palestinian people - from human rights defenders, NGOs, Indigenous-rights activists, feminist and anti-racist organizations, academics, students, unionists, faith-based organizations, and, importantly, from our progressive anti-Zionist Jewish brothers and sisters.

The Ambassador of the State of Palestine and the Embassy Staff have continued to follow and participate in protests, vigils, and demonstrations around Australia.



Palestinian Solidarity Protest at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy on 8 December, calling for permanent ceasefire, end to



Israeli apartheid, and indigenous land rights in both Palestine and Australia.



Ambassador Abdulhadi speaking at a Vigil in Parramatta Square on 23 November, organised by Arab Australian Federation Inc. (AAF).



Ambassador Abdulhadi speaking at a rally in Gungahlin on 22 December, organised by Canberra Palestinian Community (CPC).