

Palestinian Motion Council February 26th

Support For Palestinian Territories

File No: C-123-6, D-11-1

That Council:

- acknowledges the pain and suffering many Palestinian residents are experiencing as a result of the recent bombing by Israel
- condemns all violence, and is particularly concerned with this disproportionate offensive by Israel
- highly commends the Rudd Government's courageous departure from the Howard Government policies when last November Foreign Minister Stephen Smith supported the UN resolution calling on the application of the Geneva Conventions to Palestinian territories
- calls on the Rudd Government to:
 - o condemn Israel's air strikes on civilians
 - o request an international independent investigation on alleged war crimes and violation of human rights in Gaza by the Israeli occupation forces
 - o demand that Israel lift the blockade to allow food, fuel, water and medical aid to reach the civilian population in Gaza, in keeping with Australia's support for the UN Geneva Convention
- writes to the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, sending a copy to the Israeli Embassy, regarding the above.

Moved: Cr Eisler

Background

During the twenty-three days of bombing, the Israeli army killed and wounded an unprecedented number of civilians, including women and children. UN institutions and personnel were attacked and killed. Ambulances and medics received direct hits and some were killed in the line of duty. Schools, police stations, universities, mosques, farms, and businesses were targeted and destroyed. This is in contravention of the Geneva Convention.

It is well documented that Israel used 1.5 million tons of explosives during its unrestrained expedition. They used internationally banned weapons as well as new and untested weapons on civilians.