

AFIC welcomes the Albanese government decision to keep the Australian Embassy at Tel Aviv

Media Statement

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"I welcome the announcement by Foreign Minister Penny Wong to not recognise West Jerusalem as a capital for the occupying state of Israel, I laud the minister and the Albanese government for their courage to take this stand." Said AFIC President Dr Rateb Jneid

"The Israeli occupation of historic Palestine is one of the longest and deadliest tragedies of our time, this occupation has forced generations of Palestinians out of their traditional homes with many of them fleeing to countries all over the world keeping in their heart an ever-dimming hope of safe return while the Occupation State continues to oppress and murder Palestinians at will." Said Dr Jneid.

"Australia and other powerful nations continue to state that they are friends of "Israel" – they do so whilst seeing firsthand every tentacle of the Occupation State trampling all our sacred human values and principles." Said Dr Jneid.

"A true friend cautions his friends when they do wrong, we should never be a rubber stamp for Israeli oppression, we should be there supporting the rights of indigenous Palestinians." Said Dr Jneid.

Authorised by:

Dr Rateb Jneid *President, AFIC*

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils

The peak body for Australian Muslims representing State and Territory I<u>slamic Councils and Societies</u>



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