



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

**AFIC calls on the Australian government to pursue a just peace:
Even-handedly**

Media statement

13 October 2022

Today's "the Australian" ran an article leading criticisms from some guests to our annual dinner for having to share a room with his excellency the Russian Ambassador.

In this regard, AFIC president Dr Rateb Jneid has expresses the following sentiments:

"Firstly, I would like to assert our democratic right to invite any resident of Australia who has a legal right to be here. AFIC dinners are events that bring people together to create peace, friendship and goodwill. One of the secrets of our beauty, resilience and national security is our multicultural and multifait mix. I meet and engage in dialogue with people whose actions are agreeable and others whose actions are disagreeable, this encourages healthy debates and creates an opportunity to find common ground.

"AFIC is ready to do what it can to promote a truce between Russia and the Ukraine, we hate war, we hate violence and we hate their aftereffects. Hailing from the Middle East, I barely survived some of the wars of the region. I have lost family in these wars; we went through times when there was no access to food or water for extended periods. I know that war devastates and destroys, peace on the other hand builds and leads to a flourishing of society.

"I am though very disappointed in the double standards in our political establishment and in public debate. We see daily the persecution and killing of Muslims in historic Palestine, Kashmir, parts of India, Myanmar, East Turkistan (forcefully annexed by China) and Syria and our world sees the exploitation of the resources of the entire continent of Africa by European nations thus transforming the natural-resource-rich continent into the most impoverished. We have seen how our war on Iraq transformed the country from one of the safest, wealthiest most literate in the world to one of the worst. The international community exploits and plays lip service on the one hand and on the other, it runs to stand with one group against another instead of finding a pathway to peace.

"I call on our Labor, Greens and Liberal politicians to stop this hypocrisy, if you want to start fighting for human rights, start with the mother of all injustices, start with working to give a just peace to the people of Palestine and then march your way through East Turkistan, India and start paying fair compensation for Africa's natural resources."

Authorised by

Dr Rateb Jneid
President, AFIC

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils

*The peak body for Australian Muslims representing
State and Territory Islamic Councils and Societies*



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