

# AFIC Calls Aus. Government to Meet International Obligations and Prevent Genocide

Wednesday 25th October, 2023

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) **stands firmly behind the statements of the Secretary General of the United Nations**, Antonio Guterres. The Secretary General has renewed calls for a ceasefire, all hostages to be released and that International Law was being violated in the war between Hamas and Israel.

‘It is important to also recognise the attacks by Hamas did not happen in a vacuum. The Palestinian people have been subjected to 56 years of suffocating occupation,’ Guterres said.

‘The responses and escalation cannot justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian People’, said Dr Rateb Jneid, President of AFIC.

AFIC renews its call for the Australian Government and all world leaders to meet its international obligations to protect human rights and prevent genocide. ‘Government needs urgently demand a ceasefire and be prepared to support international observers and if needed peacekeepers. The 16-year siege of Gaza cannot be allowed to remain in place.’ Continued Dr Jneid.

Israeli calls for the UN Secretary general to step down demonstrate that Israel is not prepared to engage or commit to international law and is willing to violate them at will. They need to realise that world will not stay silent whilst they ethnically cleanse northern Gaza.

Israel needs to allow unfettered access to emergency humanitarian aid, including water, medicine, food and fuel.

This is against the backdrop of over 600 killed overnight in Gaza and the death toll reaching 5,000. We express our concern that Israel continues to attack neighbours in the region, such as South Lebanon and Syria, in what could be seen as an attempt to escalate the conflict, all the while positioning itself as the victim.

This matter needs to resolve **by law and not war**.

**Authorised:**

Dr Rateb Jneid  
President of AFIC