



Australian Federation  
of Islamic Councils

## **Twelve Months of Atrocity: AFIC Calls for Immediate Action to End the Suffering in Gaza and Lebanon**

Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) marks twelve months since the commencement of the catastrophic bombardment of Gaza—a period defined by immense suffering and an egregious violation of human rights. This tragic anniversary compels us to reflect on a year marred by devastation, during which the international community, including Australia, has largely remained silent.

Dr. Rateb Jneid, President of AFIC, stated, "The ongoing genocide in Gaza, now coupled with escalating violence in Lebanon, presents a critical global crisis. Over the past year, the Israeli occupation has resulted in the deaths of more than 42,000 Palestinians, 70% of whom were women and children. The recent expansion into Lebanon has further resulted in over 2,000 deaths and nearly one million displaced individuals. This relentless assault, characterized by a complete disregard for human life, demands an urgent and forceful international response."

The Prime Minister's recent statement on the first anniversary of the October 7 Attacks disappointingly failed to acknowledge these atrocities. Such an oversight not only deepens the wounds of those affected but also underscores a disturbing selective sensitivity to human suffering.

"This inaction by our leaders, who have otherwise been quick to condemn violence elsewhere, highlights a grievous inconsistency in the principles of justice and human rights," Dr. Jneid added. "The value of Palestinian and Lebanese lives must be recognised equally, and their prolonged suffering must come to an end."

AFIC calls upon the Prime Minister, the Australian government, and political leaders worldwide to stand firmly against the ongoing genocide and war crimes perpetrated by the Israeli occupation. Silence in this context is not neutrality but complicity. We demand the Australian government reevaluate its political and economic ties with Israel and take a principled stance to end this violence.

"We call for immediate humanitarian intervention, the opening of aid corridors, and a unified international effort to enforce a ceasefire. Enough is enough. It is time to end the illegal occupation and ensure the safety and dignity of the Palestinian and Lebanese people," concluded Dr. Jneid.

Authorised by  
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President of AFIC