

# Open letter from Parliamentarians in Australia, Canada and New Zealand on recognition of the State of Palestine

20 November 2024

To: Hon Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister of Australia  
Rt Hon Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand

We, the undersigned Parliamentarians from Australia, Canada and New Zealand, call on our governments to immediately recognize the State of Palestine.

The Palestinian people have the right to a state, and this right is nearly universally recognized at the United Nations. Today, 149 other states have already recognized the State of Palestine representing the vast majority of states and people on Earth. After decades of the near universal affirmation, including by Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, that the Palestinian people have a right to self-determination, members of the international community must see to it that this right is finally given effect before it is too late. Only months ago, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Slovenia and Armenia recognized the State of Palestine. Today, we urge Australia, Canada, and New Zealand to do the same.

For 57 years, the Palestinian people have been subject to a brutal foreign military occupation that, on 19 July 2024, was declared to be illegal by the International Court of Justice. According to the International Court of Justice, the basis of this illegality is rooted in “[t]he sustained abuse by Israel of its position as an occupying power, through annexation and an assertion of permanent control over the Occupied Palestinian Territory and continued frustration of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.”<sup>1</sup> The Court determined that Israel is under an obligation to withdraw from the Occupied Palestinian Territory “as rapidly as possible”, a standard subsequently determined by the United Nations General Assembly to require Israeli withdrawal from the whole of the territory on or before 17 September 2025.<sup>2</sup> The devastation over the past year, coupled with increasing public calls by senior members of the Israeli Government to re-establish Israeli settlements in the occupied Gaza Strip following the

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<sup>1</sup> *Legal Consequences Arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*, Advisory Opinion, ICJ, 19 July 2024, para. 261.

<sup>2</sup> A/RES/ES-10/24, 18 September 2024.

forced transfer of millions of Palestinian civilians, has only accelerated the urgent need for recognition of the State of Palestine by our three countries.

As the civilian death toll rises and the destruction of Gaza continues, at the same time that extremist settler violence threatens Palestinians in the West Bank, the international community must end its inaction in line with its obligation to see to it that the Palestinian people are freed from the tyranny of Israel's continued illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and allowed to realize their right to self-determination in a state of their own.

There will be no peace in the Middle East without a two-state solution. There can be no two-state solution without a Palestinian state. In the absence of a peace process, Palestinians will continue to suffer at the hands of Netanyahu's government. It is more urgent than ever that the international community meets this moment with principled action. As noted by the International Court of Justice, all states are under an obligation "to ensure that any impediment resulting from the illegal presence of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to the exercise of the Palestinian people of its right to self-determination is brought to an end."<sup>3</sup>

The recognition of Palestine as a state is a step towards restarting rights-based peace talks and will reinforce the moderate voices on both sides who seek a peaceful and political solution in line with the requirements of international law. Currently, neither the Palestinian nor the Israeli people can live their lives in security. Recognizing the State of Palestine will benefit both Palestinians and Israelis.

While the international community has so far failed the Palestinian people, it is not too late to show the political will and moral courage necessary to rectify this historical wrong. As Parliamentarians representing our constituents across Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, we urge our governments: recognize the State of Palestine.

Signed by:

1	Steve	Abel MP	New Zealand
2	Elizabeth-Watson	Brown MP	Australia
3	Sam	Lim MP	Australia
4	Senator Penny	Allman-Payne	Australia
5	Hon Ginny	Andersen	New Zealand
6	Charlie	Angus MP	Canada

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.*, para. 279.

7	Niki	Ashton MP	Canada
8	Jenica	Atwin MP	Canada
9	Taylor	Bachrach MP	Canada
10	Adam	Bandt MP	Australia
11	Lisa Marie	Barron MP	Canada
12	Stephen	Bates MP	Australia
13	Camilla	Belich MP	New Zealand
14	Glen	Bennett MP	New Zealand
15	Stéphane	Bergeron MP	Canada
16	Rachel	Blaney MP	Canada
17	Alexandre	Boulerice MP	Canada
18	Rachel	Boyack MP	New Zealand
19	Hon Rachel	Brooking	New Zealand
20	Richard	Cannings MP	Canada
21	Kahurangi	Carter MP	New Zealand
22	George	Chahal MP	Canada
23	Max	Chandler-Mather MP	Australia
24	Laurel	Collins MP	Canada
25	Senator Dorinda	Cox	Australia
26	Leila	Dance MP	Canada
27	Hon Marama	Davidson	New Zealand
28	Reuben	Davidson MP	New Zealand
29	Don	Davies MP	Canada
30	Blake	Desjarlais MP	Canada
31	Benjamin	Doyle MP	New Zealand
32	Hon Barabara	Edmonds	New Zealand
33	Senator Mehreen	Faruqi	Australia
34	Leah	Gazan MP	Canada
35	Hon Julie Anne	Genter	New Zealand
36	Steve	Georganas MP	Australia
37	Matthew	Green MP	Canada
38	Shanan	Halbert MP	New Zealand
39	Senator Sarah	Hanson-Young	Australia
40	Francisco	Hernandez MP	New Zealand
41	Rt Hon Chris	Hipkins	New Zealand
42	Senator Steph	Hodgins-May	Australia
43	Lori	Idlout MP	Canada
44	Hon Willie	Jackson	New Zealand
45	Gord	Johns MP	Canada
46	Peter	Julian MP	Canada
47	Mariameno	Kapa-Kingi MP	New Zealand
48	Takutai	Kemp MP	New Zealand
49	Iqra	Khalid MP	Canada

50	Jenny	Kwan MP	Canada
51	Ingrid	Leary MP	New Zealand
52	Hon Jo	Luxton	New Zealand
53	Hūhana	Lyndon MP	New Zealand
54	Alistair	MacGregor MP	Canada
55	Hana-Rawhiti	Maipi-Clarke MP	New Zealand
56	Brian	Masse MP	Canada
57	Lindsay	Mathysen MP	Canada
58	Elizabeth	May MP	Canada
59	Hon Kieran	McAnulty	New Zealand
60	Senator Nick	McKim	Australia
61	Hon Tracey	McLellan	New Zealand
62	Heather	McPherson MP	Canada
63	Ricardo	Menéndez March MP	New Zealand
64	Mike	Morrice MP	Canada
65	Debbie	Ngarewa-Packer MP	New Zealand
66	Hon Damien	O'Connor	New Zealand
67	Greg	O'Connor MP	New Zealand
68	Hon David	Parker	New Zealand
69	Tamatha	Paul MP	New Zealand
70	Graham	Perrett MP	Australia
71	Lan	Pham MP	New Zealand
72	Senator Barbara	Pocock	Australia
73	Senator David	Pocock	Australia
74	Senator Louise	Pratt	Australia
75	Hon Willow-Jean	Prime	New Zealand
76	Hon Priyanca	Radhakrishnan	New Zealand
77	Rt Hon Adrian	Rurawhe	New Zealand
78	Hon Dr Deborah	Russell	New Zealand
79	Hon Carmel	Sepuloni	New Zealand
80	Senator David	Shoebridge	Australia
81	Jagmeet	Singh MP	Canada
82	Lemauga Lydia	Sosene MP	New Zealand
83	Anne	Stanley MP	Australia
84	Senator Jordon	Steele -John	Australia
85	Chlöe	Swarbrick MP	New Zealand
86	Cushla	Tangaere-Manuel MP	New Zealand
87	Susan	Templeman MP	Australia
88	Hon Jan	Tinetti	New Zealand
89	Teanau	Tuiono MP	New Zealand
90	Hon Phil	Twyford	New Zealand
91	Tangi	Utikere MP	New Zealand
92	Maria	Vamvakinou MP	Australia

93	Celia	Wade-Brown MP	New Zealand
94	Rawiri	Waititi MP	New Zealand
95	Senator Larissa	Waters	Australia
96	Hon Dr Duncan	Webb	New Zealand
97	Senator Peter	Whish-Wilson	Australia
98	Helen	White MP	New Zealand
99	Andrew	Wilkie MP	Australia
100	Arena	Williams MP	New Zealand
101	Scott	Willis MP	New Zealand
102	Hon Megan	Woods	New Zealand
103	Lawrence	Xu-Nan MP	New Zealand
104	Salma	Zahid MP	Canada
105	Tony	Zappia MP	Australia
106	Bonita	Zarrillo MP	Canada