



PRESS RELEASE

MEMBER STATE COUNCILS:

The Muslim Council of
New South Wales Inc. (MCNSW)

The Islamic Council of
Victoria Inc. (ICV)

Islamic Council of
Australian Capital Territory Inc.
(ICTACT)

Islamic Council of
Queensland Inc. (ICQ)

Islamic Council of
Northern Territory Inc. (ICNT)

Islamic Council of
Western Australia Inc. (ICWA)

Islamic Council of
South Australia Inc. (ICSA)

Islamic Council of
Tasmania Inc. (ICT)

Islamic Council of
Christmas Island Inc. (ICCI)

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**AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL
ISLAMIC ORGANISATION
REPRESENTING
MUSLIM COMMUNITIES**

**45 Years of Community
Services**

29 December 2008

Condemnation of Disproportionate Israeli Aggression

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils unequivocally condemns the brutal terrorism inflicted upon the people of Palestine and condemned the Israeli government for the disproportionate bombing of heavily populated areas of Gaza by their powerful air force causing heavy civilian casualties.

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils calls upon the Australian Government to take a stand with the rest of the world in not only stopping the aggression but to becoming proactive in calling for an end to the occupation of the Palestinian territories and finding a just and peaceful solution to the long and brutal conflict that has seen the deaths of many tens of thousands of innocent people on both sides of the conflict.

Whilst urging dialogue and a cessation of hostilities from both sides, the President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC), Mr Ikebal Patel said that Israel has a proven record of committing brutal atrocities causing immense sufferings of hundreds of thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians at the slightest of provocations. "Where is the call for Israel's accountability?" asked Mr Patel. For too long now the Israeli government and its brutal military has subjugated, terrorised and humiliated the people of Palestine, mostly with the active support of the United States and tacit support of most of the Western countries, Mr Patel added.

He added that the majority of people in the world laid the blame on the West for the failure to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and that the current global turmoil and terrorism has been directly linked with this conflict and the roles played by the Western powers.

The situation is explosive not only for the middle east but for the peace and security of the entire world. The security of the region cannot be dictated by one country alone. Urgent action must be taken by the world community to find a just solution to this long conflict that is tearing apart the peace and security of the entire globe.

Mr Patel, expressing the outrage of Muslim Australians at the bombing of Gaza called on the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Australia to express this outrage to their Israeli counterparts and to use Australia's influence to ensure that the Middle East conflict will not further engulf the rest of the world in a resurgence of more violence. With an election looming in Israel, political expediency does not justify the indiscriminate killing of women and children just to demonstrate to the electorate in Israel who would be the most brutal when it comes to dealing with the opposition. Leadership also calls for patience and diplomacy.

Mr Patel called Muslim Australians for calm and prayers at this difficult time and to ensure that no one will act in any way to harm the peace, security and harmonious relationship that exists between members of the various communities in this country.

For further information, please contact:

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