

# Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc.

הוועד הפועל של  
יהודי אוסטרליה

The Representative  
Organisation of  
Australian Jewry

2nd Floor  
146 Darlinghurst Road  
Darlinghurst NSW 2010  
Australia  
Tel (+61 2) 9360 1600  
Fax (+61 2) 9331 4712  
Web www.ecaj.org.au  
Email info@ecaj.org.au

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of Victoria Inc.  
Jewish Community Council of  
Western Australia Inc.  
Queensland Jewish Board of  
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ACT Jewish Community Inc.

## AFFILIATES

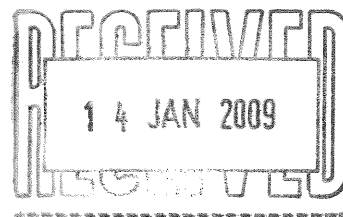
Australasian Union of  
Jewish Students  
Australian Federation of WIZO  
Union of Progressive  
Judaism – Australia  
Federation of Jewish Aged  
and Community Organisations  
Maccabi Australia Inc.  
National Council of Jewish  
Women of Australia

## OBSERVERS

B'nai B'rith of Australia/NZ  
Council of Progressive Rabbis  
Federation of Australian Jewish  
Ex-Service Associations  
Jewish National Fund  
New Zealand Jewish Council  
Zionist Federation of Australia



13 January 2009



Mr Ikebal Patel,  
Chairman,  
The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils Inc  
PO Box 7185 SSBH  
Alexandria NSW 2015

Dear Ikebal,

I refer to the AFIC media release dated 5 January 2009 “Condemnation of Muted Response”, issued under your name, which stated:

“This is not the time to blame but the time for action when one is witnessing the very victims of the Holocaust now **perpetrating much worse atrocities against the Palestinians...**”

“The USA and Australia...should speak against the **brutal aggression of Israel...**” (emphasis added)

The Australian Jewish community objects in the strongest possible terms to the assertion that Israel’s attack on Hamas’ military infrastructure in Gaza is in any way comparable to, let alone worse than, the treatment of Jews in the Holocaust. The comparison is obscene and contemptible.

Yes, the loss of civilian life on both sides of the border is a tragedy. But do I really need to remind you of the scale of the Holocaust and the methods used, of the mass transports of millions of people to death camps and their systematic slaughter in the gas chambers? I am sure you are aware that 6 million Jews, including over 1 million Jewish children, were butchered by the Nazis. You merely invite incredulity and ridicule by comparing these events to civilian casualties in Gaza, especially in the context of Hamas’s use of civilians as “human shields” and its unprecedented rocket attacks deliberately targeted at Israeli civilians.

Ikebal, of course you are entitled to express your and your organisation’s views on any topic and in respect of some of those views we will obviously disagree, sometimes profoundly. Indeed I have previously written to you (8 September and 7 October 2008), urging a moderation of the polemical language you use in your public statements. I haven’t received any response from you to my letters. The language that you have used most recently, demonstrates to me that our concerns have gone completely unheeded.

The Islamic world has on many occasions paid a heavy price for acting under the influence of the excessively fervid language of its leaders. Once again I urge you in the interests not only of our 2 organisations and the various dialogues and interactions that we are both involved in, but more importantly in the interests of the future relations of our respective communities, to express your views in temperate and not inflammatory language.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert M Goot', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

**Robert M Goot AM SC**  
**President**