



29 June, 2020

Senator the Hon Marise Payne Minister for Foreign Affairs Parliament House, Canberra

Dear Minister

## **RE: PALESTINE AND ISRAEL**

MAPW (Australia) is very alarmed to read of the latest plans of the Israeli government to annex Palestinian land in the West Bank, and the Australian government's stance on this.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu plans to declare Israeli sovereignty over all of the Jewish settlements established illegally in the West Bank since the lands were seized in 1967, including the Jordan Valley. This is land that Palestinians seek for a future state. Netanyahu's plans are one of the most egregious threats in recent times to the rights of the Palestinian people and to the already fragile prospects of peace between Israel and Palestine.

These plans must be categorically condemned and opposed. Shamefully, Australia has failed to do so. Australia is only one of two countries (the other being the Marshall Islands) that recently voted against UN Human Rights Council resolutions for Palestinian self-determination, against Israeli settlements and settlers violence, and on Israeli human-rights abuses in the Palestinian territories.

For a nation that preaches "the rule of law", this stance beggars belief. MAPW urges you to unequivocally condemn the latest Israeli government plans. In addition, we urge you to prepare to impose hard-hitting sanctions on the Israeli government and its leaders if their plans are not abandoned.

Sincerely,

Dr Sue Wareham OAM President, Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia)



FOUNDER



