

AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY CALL FOR FAIR TREATMENT OF PALESTINIAN CHILDREN

We the undersigned Australian Federal parliamentarians, call for urgent action to end the ill-treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system.

Israel is the only country in the world that automatically prosecutes children in military courts. And only Palestinian children. Up to 700 Palestinian children are arrested each year by the Israeli military, and this number is increasing. UNICEF reports that ill-treatment of Palestinian children is “widespread, systematic, and institutionalized throughout the process”. Children as young as 11 are detained by the military. According to well documented research, almost all children have no parent or legal counsel during interrogation; 75% report physical violence; a quarter are made to sign documentation in Hebrew, a language they do not understand; 60% are transferred into prisons in Israel meaning family usually cannot visit. Military courts have a 99% conviction rate for Palestinian defendants.

We call on the Israeli Government to comply with its obligations under the Convention on the rights of the child and to not arrest or detain Palestinian children unless this is a last resort, and if they are detained, to immediately institute protections for those children including that their safety and best interests are prioritised, and that they are permitted a fair trial.

Signed by

Dr Anne Aly MP	Federal Member for Cowan
Mr Adam Bandt MP	Federal Member for Melbourne
Senator Carol Brown	Senator for Tasmania
Hon Linda Burney MP	Federal Member for Barton
Hon Mark Butler MP	Federal Member for Port Adelaide
Ms Terri Butler MP	Federal Member for Griffith
Senator the Hon Doug Cameron	Senator for New South Wales
Dr Jim Chalmers	Federal Member for Rankin
Ms Lisa Chesters MP	Federal Member for Bendigo
Ms Sharon Claydon MP	Federal Member for Newcastle
Senator Sam Dastyari	Senator for New South Wales
Senator Richard Di Natale	Senator for Victoria
Senator Patrick Dodson	Senator for Western Australia
Mr Steve Georganas MP	Federal Member for Hindmarsh
Mr Andrew Giles MP	Federal Member for Scullin
Senator Sarah Hanson-Young	Senator for South Australia
Mr Ross Hart MP	Federal Member for Bass

Mr Chris Hayes MP	Federal Member for Fowler
Mr Julian Hill MP	Federal Member for Bruce
Mr Stephen Jones MP	Federal Member for Whitlam
Senator Skye Kakoschke-Moore	Senator for South Australia
Ms Justine Keay MP	Federal Member for Braddon
Ms Susan Lamb MP	Federal Member for Longman
Dr Andrew Leigh MP	Federal Member for Fenner
Senator Sue Lines	Senator for Western Australia
Senator Gavin Marshall	Senator for Victoria
Senator Nick McKim	Senator for Tasmania
Mr Brian Mitchell MP	Federal Member for Lyons
Senator Claire Moore	Senator for Queensland
Ms Cathy O'Toole MP	Federal Member for Herbert
Ms Julie Owens	Federal Member for Parramatta
Mr Graham Perrett MP	Federal Member for Moreton
Senator Louise Pratt	Senator for Western Australia
Senator Lee Rhiannon	Senator for New South Wales
Senator Janet Rice	Senator for Victoria
Ms Michelle Rowland MP	Federal Member Greenway
Ms Rebekah Sharkie MP	Federal Member for Mayo
Senator Rachel Siewert	Senator for Western Australia
Senator Lisa Singh	Senator for Tasmania
Hon Warren Snowdon MP	Federal Member for Lingjari
Ms Anne Stanley MP	Federal Member for Werriwa
Ms Susan Templeman MP	Federal Member for Macquarie
Senator Anne Urquhart	Senator for Tasmania
Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP	Federal Member for Calwell
Senator Larissa Waters	Senator for Queensland
Senator Murray Watt	Senator for Queensland
Senator Peter Whish-Wilson	Senator for Tasmania
Mr Andrew Wilkie MP	Federal Member for Denison
Mr Josh Wilson MP	Federal Member for Fremantle
Senator Nick Xenophon	Senator for South Australia
Mr Tony Zappia MP	Federal Member for Makin