



## Australian National University Students' Association (ANUSA)

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ANUSA condemns the Israeli government's blockade and the bombing of Gaza's civilian population, which escalated following October 7th. The Gaza Strip is home to over 2 million

people, half of whom are children. Currently, Israel has severely limited food, water, electricity, gas and medical supplies as well as destroyed enormous areas of civilian infrastructure essential to life and well-being of the population. The ability for Israel to wield this power reflects the asymmetrical nature of this conflict. Since Israel's bombing and invasion began, more than 29,000 Palestinians have been killed. At least 10,000 Palestinian children have been killed. Israel's actions are causing an ongoing humanitarian crisis and have inflamed international tensions. We have seen hate crimes against all religious communities that make up the demographics involved in this conflict, whether Jewish, Christian, Muslim or otherwise.

Collective punishment of a civilian population is a war crime. Indiscriminately bombing

civilians is contrary to international law. Attacks disproportionately affecting the civilian population are a war crime. Israel's total siege of Gaza is illegal under

international law.

Though the Government has expressed 'concerns' about the Israeli government's actions in Gaza, they have not called for a ceasefire. Instead, the government has defunded United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA), who provide a significant amount of aid to Gaza. Foreign Minister Penny Wong has said that this defunding was despite the government not having 'all the evidence'. Depriving humanitarian agencies of funding risks exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

ANUSA condemns the bombing, killing, and kidnapping of innocent Israeli civilians by

Hamas. These actions are totally reprehensible and illegal under international and national laws, and Hamas must be held accountable. ANUSA recognises that Hamas does not represent the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.

ANUSA will firmly stand against genocide, ethnic cleansing, and the targeting of civilians, and abhors any further violence against any civilians in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel. We unequivocally condemn antisemitism and islamophobia and affirm that all students are welcome on campus. We stand in solidarity with all students and communities affected by this crisis. ANUSA's advocacy for Palestinian rights is about the policies and practices of the Israeli government violating those rights.

The ICJ is currently considering whether the actions of the Israeli government in Gaza amount to genocide but has found the situation serious enough to require its consideration under the Genocide Convention. The ICJ has also mandated provisional measures for Israel to prevent genocidal actions in Gaza., the Israeli government has not shown any signs of implementing these measures. It is not enough for the Australian Government to say it is 'aghast' at actions like the Rafah military strikes where more civilians have died. The Government must call for a ceasefire and withdraw it's support for Israel's siege on Gaza.