



11 May 2008

PALESTINIANS HURT TOO

An urgent appeal to make Palestine the issue on 15 May

Donate to make it happen

http://1948.com.au/2008events/national/palestine_motion.html

To supporters of Palestine in Australia

Most of you would know that the *Australian Friends of Palestine*, *Women for Palestine* and *Australians for Palestine* have been running a campaign over the last few weeks to get endorsements for letters to the prime minister and the opposition leader Dr Nelson which request them to move a bipartisan Palestine motion in our parliament. We seek an acknowledgment of 60 years of Palestinian suffering. This is a fair request in light of the bipartisan motion passed on 12 March congratulating Israel on its 60 years of independence.

The letters were sent by express post to the prime minister and Dr Nelson on 23 April, and the following day, letters were posted to every member of parliament in both Houses requesting them to support our appeal for a bipartisan motion. This was followed by individually addressed emails to every single parliamentarian. To date, we have not heard a word from any member of parliament, despite our attempts to find out if the letters have been received or read. Those letters are available on our website <http://www.1948.com.au> for people wishing to know who has endorsed our appeal.

A very public and honourable endorsement was given by former prime minister the Right Hon Malcolm Fraser in an article published in The Age newspaper on Saturday 10 May, and hopefully, this will encourage others to also take a stand.

Last week, Australian Democrats Senator Lyn Allison tabled a motion along similar lines in the Senate, but it was voted down by members of the Labor Party and the Coalition. The leader of the Democrats in South Australia, the Hon Sandra Kanck MLC also tabled a motion in the State's Legislative Council, but debate was adjourned until the parliament sits again in four weeks' time.

We have decided to mount a media campaign by taking out advertisements in newspapers with the largest readership - The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, The Herald Sun and The Daily Telegraph - for publication on Thursday 15 May 2008. The cost for four advertisements is likely to be around \$20,000 and the size of those advertisements will be dictated by our ability to fund them. Like last time, we need to ask for your help, but in order for our message to be as effective as possible, we have decided this time to omit the names of people endorsing the advertisement and instead to list everyone with approval on our website: http://1948.com.au/2008events/national/palestine_motion.html. There, you will be able to make a donation direct through PayPal or if you wish to donate in other ways, you can use the form provided to fax through your donation. In either case, you must let us know if you wish to have your name listed under ENDORSEMENTS.

This is a real opportunity for Palestine support groups to mobilise for al-Nakba and show our government that there is a strong and united voice for Palestine that will seek consideration and balance on all issues relating to the Israel-Palestine conflict. We have barely three days to get this under way and we would be very grateful if you could make the same commitment that you made when you overwhelmingly supported the "Improper Motion" advertisement on 12 March.

Attached, you will find the advertisement that we intend to run and also a copy of the article by The Right Hon Malcolm Fraser endorsing our appeal.

Throughout this week, we really need to make Palestine the issue in Australia as we join millions of people around the world calling for the long overdue recognition of Palestinian suffering and entitlement. It can only work with your help. Please broadcast this appeal to as many people as you can.

Many thanks.

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