

# Executive Council of Australian Jewry

הוועד הפועל של  
יהודי אוסטרליה

## The Representative Organisation of Australian Jewry

2nd Floor  
306 Hawthorn Road  
Caulfield South Victoria  
Australia 3162  
Tel (03) 9272 5579  
Fax (03) 9272 5540  
Web [www.ecaj.org.au](http://www.ecaj.org.au)  
E-mail [info@ecaj.org.au](mailto:info@ecaj.org.au)

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The Hon Alexander Downer MP  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

5 July 2006

Dear Minister

***RE: HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - First special session - 5 July 2006  
Resolution concerning Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian  
Territory (A/HRC/S-1/L.1)***

As you are no doubt aware, the new UN Human Rights Council has taken up where the United Nations' Commission on Human Rights left off in pursuing one-sided resolutions against Israel. The resolution to review alleged human rights abuses by Israel passed last Friday was bad enough, but the draft resolution to be moved tomorrow at a Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council is utterly unacceptable.

We know Australia is working to ensure that any international response to the conflict in Gaza properly takes into account the needs of Israeli citizens to live in peace - particularly in Sderot and other towns adjacent to the Gaza Strip - without having to abide the daily barrages of Kassam artillery rockets fired by Palestinian terrorists at them.

Hamas should be called upon to put the needs of ordinary Palestinians ahead of its doctrinaire refusal to live in peace alongside Israel, and its active support for terrorism. The current humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip follows months of Hamas government failures to address the needs of ordinary Palestinians alongside internal warring with Fatah, and active support of terror against Israel.

We would be pleased to see public condemnation by the Australian Government of the resolution that is before the Human Rights Council-First Special Session scheduled for tomorrow, and we trust the Australian Government will continue to use its good offices to work towards real reform of the UN's human rights fora.

Yours sincerely

David D. Knoll  
Acting President