



## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY Inc.

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Re: Arab League threat to block Australia's bid for a seat on the UN Security Council**

The President of the ECAJ Robert M Goot AM SC today said:

“The Arab League representative has brazenly admitted that his organisation is prepared to use sheer force of numbers to try to bully Australia into changing the way it votes at the UN. He should know that Australians do not succumb to stand-over behaviour.”

“Australia’s votes at the UN have been based on principle. Australia has condemned Hamas for firing rockets into Israel; acknowledged that Israel has both the right and duty to use force to defend its towns and cities against such attacks; boycotted the Durban 11 Conference in Geneva at which Ahmadinejad engaged in yet another antisemitic rant; walked out of the UN General Assembly when Iran’s President Ahmadinejad spoke in 2009; and supported Israel being given the opportunity to become a member of the UN Human Rights Council and to vote at its meetings.”

“Together with the US, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Panama, Poland, Slovakia and Macedonia, among many others, Australia voted against the adoption of the Goldstone Report by the General Assembly. Every other developed democracy abstained. By referring to all these States as “bad company”, the Arab League representative has insulted the entire western world and endorsed the odious dictatorships that were among the States which voted to adopt the Goldstone Report.”

“It would be a good thing for Australia to have a seat on the UN Security Council, but not if the price for obtaining it is to abandon our principles and bow to bully-boy threats. The Australian Jewish community is confident that the Government has the moral fibre not to compromise its principled bipartisan support for Israel, a two state solution and a comprehensive peace in the region.”

**3 February 2010**