



Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE DEATH IN DUBAI OF HAMAS TERRORIST MAHMOUD AL-MABHOUH

The President of the ECAJ, Robert M Goot AM SC today issued the following statement:

“The death of senior Hamas terrorist Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in Dubai, has given rise to speculation in the media about Israeli involvement, although no hard evidence has been found to support such a conclusion. In Australia, the speculation has been compounded by an allegation that the incident involved the abuse of passports of three former or current Australian citizens residing in Israel, who appear to have been the innocent victims of identity fraud.

“Al-Mabhouh bragged openly about his role in murdering two Israelis. He was a senior figure in the military wing of Hamas, which is listed as a terrorist organization under Australian law and openly committed to the destruction of Israel, a member state of the United Nations. He was also reportedly working with clandestine arms dealers and Iranian and other contacts to smuggle rockets and mortars into Gaza for use against both Jewish and Arab civilians in Israel. His every action was directed to perpetuating the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians and the misery and suffering it has brought to innocent people on both sides. He had enemies in many places, not only in Israel, and they included Palestinians, as a result of the recent murderous internecine conflict between Hamas and Fatah in Gaza. At the time of his death al-Mabhouh appears to have been traveling in Dubai under a false name with false travel documents.

“On the other hand, if the Australian passport regime has been abused and innocent people may be adversely affected, that is a matter of serious concern to all Australians, including the Australian Jewish community.

“The ECAJ believes therefore that the Australian Government has acted correctly in ordering a thorough investigation by the Australian Federal Police and ASIO. We note that both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister have also properly stated that the Australian Government will await the outcome of those investigations before drawing any conclusions.

“The ECAJ similarly believes it is not sensible or constructive to draw conclusions or make comments in a climate of speculation and conjecture, and in the absence of real evidence. It believes it is also wrong to draw any inference, one way or the other, from Israel's long-standing policy of neither confirming nor denying allegations relating to security matters, a policy based on both reason and necessity”.

1 March 2010

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