

# Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc.

הוועד הפועל של  
יהודי אוסטרליה

The Representative  
Organisation of  
Australian Jewry

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5 May 2010

The Hon Stephen Smith MP  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister *Stephen,*

#### Re: Walkout on Ahmadinejad at Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at UN

On behalf of the Australian Jewish community, I congratulate and thank the Australian government for Australia's principled and forceful response to the egregious remarks made by Iran's President Ahmadinejad to the UN NPT Review Conference on 3 May 2010.

In condemnation of Ahmadinejad's viciously antisemitic references to Israel, Australia's delegation did the decent thing and left the chamber, together with the delegations of several other countries.

The Government has consistently and strongly condemned previous such statements by Ahmadinejad.

In typical demagogic fashion, Ahmadinejad abused the forum of the UN to accuse other countries of all the sins of which his own regime is guilty. It is Iran which has consistently threatened and destabilized other countries in the region, supported major terrorist networks and violated international law with regard to its nuclear program.

Sadly, Ahmadinejad's latest polemic highlights the UN's crisis of credibility. The UN has not only given a platform to this advocate of genocide, but has also recently made the Islamic Republic of Iran a member of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women—a body dedicated to "gender equality and the advancement of women".

This is the regime that: murdered Neda Agha Soltan for daring to engage in a peaceful political protest; severely beats women for not covering their bodies; discriminates against them socially, politically and legally; and stones them to death for alleged adultery.

The cause of human rights is far too important to be allowed to be abused and discredited by the kind of demagoguery which, unfortunately, is exhibited all too frequently by representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As a middle power, Australia's principled actions set an important example which we hope will contribute towards an improvement in the reputation and integrity of the UN, and the UN Human Rights Council in particular

Yours sincerely



**Robert M Goot AM SC**  
**President**