

AUSTRALIANS FOR PALESTINE

PO Box 2099
Hawthorn VIC 3122
Melbourne - Australia
Tel: 03 9818 5080
Fax: 03 9818 5009

info@australiansforpalestine.com
www.australiansforpalestine.com

MEDIA RELEASE 19 1 March 2010

Prepared by SK/AFP

Time for Australia to cool relations with Israel

Providing a Voice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release No 19 – 1 March 2010

The extra-judicial killing of Palestinian Hamas commander Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in Dubai on 20 January raises issues which are profoundly disturbing. First, that any state could sanction and/or collude in murder; second that the identities of any citizen could be knowingly or fraudulently used to perpetrate such a crime; and third, that such an act could be allowed to further jeopardise the tenuous peace and stability of the Middle East.

Australians for Palestine condemns unequivocally the assassination of Mahmoud al-Mabouh, which runs contrary to all principles of international law. Furthermore, it condemns the fraudulent use of Australian passports and the theft of Australian citizens' identities to help carry out this assassination.

Dubai authorities have named Israel as the most likely suspect. The forgery of foreign passports to provide fake identities for its assassins has been standard practice for Israel's intelligence agency Mossad for several decades, despite such acts having been previously exposed and condemned.

The recent condemnation by Australia's Foreign Minister Stephen Smith for the "misuse and abuse" of Australian passports needs to be followed up by measures that impugn Israel for its long and sordid history of human rights violations. There can be no double standards if the government is serious about counter-terrorism and the protection of Australia's passport regime. Israel has for too long acted as a state above the law, and Israel must not be allowed to ever again compromise Australia's international integrity and the safety of its citizens.

Australia must also view with grave concern Israel's policy of targeted assassinations. This policy violates the right to life and the right to a fair trial as set out in binding customary and conventional international law and is a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention to which Australia is a signatory. It is yet another example of past and present Israeli government criminality that puts it outside the norms of civilised society.

This should be a clarion call to the Australian government to revise its effusive relations with Israel: not only because Israel has betrayed the trust of a friendly nation and put at risk its citizens, but also because of the war crimes and crimes against humanity that it continues to perpetrate with impunity against a civilian Palestinian population under siege and occupation.

For further information contact:

- Michael Shaik 0431 573 368

END

