

Quakers

The Religious Society of Friends - Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri
Aotearoa/New Zealand

29 June 2020

Jacinda Ardern
The Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings

Dear Ms Ardern,

Quakers are deeply concerned about the plans Israel has announced for the annexation of Palestinian land in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We have a long history of working for peace and justice and consider that the moves proposed by Israel can only escalate the long-running conflict.

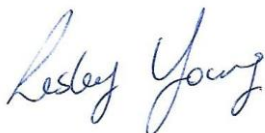
The move by Israel will make negotiated settlement of the conflict virtually impossible, and we note that the Palestinian Authority has already withdrawn from all agreements for co-operation with Israel.

The United Nations, the European Union, the Arab League, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates have all spoken out against the Israeli plans. We are therefore surprised and disappointed that your Government has to date, been silent

The previous Government made New Zealand's opposition to the illegal occupation of Palestinian lands abundantly clear. It also co-sponsored United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 in December 2016 which amongst other things stated that Israel's settlements on occupied Palestinian land constituted a "flagrant violation" of international law and had "no legal validity". It demanded Israel stop such activity and fulfil its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

It appears that Israel remains set on a course of aggressive action. Only pressure from the international community is therefore likely to change the tragic course of events. We urge the Government to speak out against the injustice of Israel's plans and their continued flagrant breaches of international law.

In Peace and Friendship



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Yearly Meeting Clerk

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