



28 February 2024

Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Parliament House  
Canberra 2600

### **Letter to Government about West Bank Incursions by Israel**

Dear Anthony Albanese

I write on behalf of Australian Quakers to express deep concern at the recent moves by the Israeli government and armed forces to take extensive and destructive military action against Palestinians in the West Bank. The result is the forced displacement of many Palestinians without much prospect of return. This is occurring at a time when the whole world seeks a long-term resolution of the Middle East conflict.

We have noted that our government has taken some steps to support UN resolutions, and has increased financial commitments to UNRWA. It has also partnered with other nations in sanctioning Israeli extremist settlers for violence against Palestinians in the West Bank. The foreign Minister Penny Wong wrote in an op ed (Sydney Morning Herald and The Age, 6 November 2024) that 'Palestinian civilians cannot pay the price of defeating Hamas'.

We urge the government to condemn the extreme attacks by the IDF on the northern parts of the West Bank and the refugee camp in Jenin with the deployment of heavy tanks. We reiterate the call we made in a statement sent to all MPs and Senators on 26 July 2024 for Australia to affirm the International Court of Justice decision that Israel should dismantle the settlements and end its occupation of Palestinian lands.

The prospects for a peaceful future for people in the Middle East are at risk if the Israeli government is given impunity to continue military incursions that undermine the negotiations for the effective achievement of justice and peace.

In peace and justice,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Henry", with a horizontal line underneath.

Bruce Henry  
Presiding Clerk  
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

CC: Senator Penny Wong, Foreign Minister