



**Australian National Imams Council**

**مجلس الأئمة الفدرالي الأسترالي**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ANIC CONDEMNS THE ACTIONS PORTRAYED IN THE PHOTO OF A 7-YEAR-OLD**

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) condemns in the strongest possible terms the outrageous depiction as reported in the media yesterday, of a 7-year-old boy shown holding the decapitated head of a victim.

Just as ANIC denounces the unspeakable atrocities committed in Gaza, so too do we speak out against the brutality carried out in Syria and Iraq including the alleged forceful eviction of various religious groups from their land.

Islam promulgates a comprehensive code of ethics when it comes to armed military combat. For example, non-combatants should not be targeted and the corpses of the dead are inviolable with Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him) prohibiting the mutilation of the deceased.

His Eminence, Professor Ibrahim Abu Mohamed, Grand Mufti of Australia stated that: "It is utterly deplorable for extremists to use Islam as a cover for their crimes and atrocities. Their misguided actions do not represent the overwhelming majority of Muslims who emulate the pure teachings of Islam such as justice, mercy and freedom."

It has previously been reported that during his teens, the 33-year-old Australian father of the boy shown in the photo suffered hallucinations and paranoia due to years of drug abuse. During his sentencing in 2009 for terrorism related offences a psychiatrist reported that he was on medication for schizophrenia.

ANIC believes that the current trend by many world leaders opting for injustice, unilateral aggression, duplicitous foreign policies and infringements on basic human rights, will only aggravate the state of global fear and violence. We call on all leaders of influence including those in Australia to act with responsibility, ethics and justice.

We pray that God, Almighty in all His Grace and Glory, brings an end to the turmoil currently prevailing especially in the Middle East. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the innocent victims and their families who suffer injustice and oppression.

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ANIC consists of more than 250 Imams across Australia representing their respective communities.

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