



**Australian National Imams Council**

**مجلس الأئمة الفدرالي الأسترالي**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **GRAND MUFTI AND ANIC REJECT GOVERNMENT'S VOTE AGAINST PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD**

His Eminence, the Grand Mufti of Australia and the Australian National Imams Council reject the latest vote by the Australian Government against Palestinian statehood.

On Tuesday 30th December 2014, the UN Security Council failed to adopt a resolution calling for the creation of a Palestinian state and a peaceful end to Israeli occupation. The veto powered US and Australia voted against the move.

The decision of the Australian government to be one of only two nations to vote against the resolution, when 13 other members of the security council voted in favor or abstained from voting is disappointing and regrettable.

“I would like to reiterate the message that we conveyed to the Honourable Foreign Minister, Julie Bishop, when we met with her in September: ‘Australia must take a balanced and just approach to the Palestine-Israeli conflict. At the moment it is blatantly one-sided,’” said the Grand Mufti, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohamed.

The Grand Mufti of Australia and The Australian National Imam council are concerned that such a vote will damage the relations of Australia with the free world and specifically the Arab and Muslim world.

The Australian government cannot champion human rights on the global stage yet turn a blind eye to the injustices and crimes committed against the Palestinian people.

The Australian government must therefore live up to international norms of justice by supporting the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and bring an end to the suffering of their sons and daughters.

End.....

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

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