



IMAM HASAN CENTRE

ESTABLISHED 16TH OCTOBER 2004 / 1ST NIGHT OF RAMADHAN 1425 AH

17th May 2024

RE: 'from the river to the sea'

Today the Parliament of Australia sided with the *"names will never hurt me"* and closed its eyes to *"stick and stones will break my bones"*.

The Australian Senate has shown wilful disregard for humanity and truth. While it is infatuated with silencing the words of a resistance movement for freedom, it has closed its eyes to the genocide and continuous oppression of a defenceless people.

October 7th 2023 was not the beginning of the conflict, but can be made a turning point for good. We can take leaf out of the John Farnham ballad:

We've got two strong hearts, Reaching out forever like a river to the sea, Running free

The Australian government and opposition can play a role in facilitating dialogues to peace and the creation of two strong nations co-existing side by side. However, this can only happen with fair criticism rather than siding blindly with Israel.

We stand by Senator Fatima Payman's words: "how many international rights laws must Israel break for us to say enough? What is the magic number? How many mass graves need to be uncovered before we say enough? How many images of bloody limbs of murdered children must we see?"

Australian Muslim communities, including Imam Hasan Centre, continue to condemn attacks on innocent civilians on either side, since October 7th. We ask, when will the government and opposition pass motions in the Senate to criticise the atrocities occurring in Palestine rather than acting as mouthpieces for wealthy and powerful lobbyists?

As at the Eureka stockade, Australians have always backed fairness and equality, rather than capitulating to the wealthy and powerful.

The motion passed in the Senate is simply unAustralian and not supported by the majority. We request the Australian Senate to reverse or modify the motion to condemn all sides equally.

Imam Hasan Centre
Communications