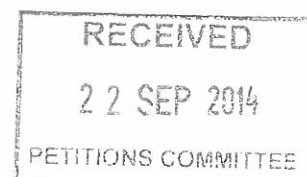




THE HON JULIE BISHOP MP

Minister for Foreign Affairs



Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Chairman
Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chairman

Thank you for your letter of 27 June 2014 concerning a petition before the Standing Committee on Petitions on the kidnapping of three Israeli teenagers.

The Australian Government condemns all acts of violence, especially where it affects innocent civilians. I publicly condemned the murder of Israeli teenagers Eyal Yifrah, Naftali Frenkel and Gil-Ad Shaer in a media release on 1 July. I called on the Palestinian Authority to make every effort to apprehend those responsible for these crimes. I also condemned, on 3 July, the murder of Palestinian teenager Mohammed Abu Khdeir and called for the perpetrators of this crime to be held to account.

The Australian Government extends its profound condolences to the families and friends of the victims.

I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Julie Bishop

10 8 AUG 2014