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Sent: Thursday, 12 May 2022 1:57 PM
To: Committee, PJCIS (REPS)
Subject: Possible terrorist listing of all of Hamas

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I am aware that the Australian government is considering listing the entire Hamas organization as a terrorist organization. I am totally opposed to this idea.

Israel and its overseas lobbies, including its Australian lobby, are trying to make illegal and criminalize any opposition to Israel's state terrorism and its ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestine. I remember several years ago when Israel accused Mohammed El Halibi, an employee of World Vision in Gaza, of diverting millions of dollars in aid to armed groups for "terrorism" purposes. It had the desired effect when the Australian government automatically, as if by reflex, fell into line and cut off funding to World Vision in Gaza. El Halibi is still imprisoned by Israel with zero evidence of any wrongdoing on his part.

Several months ago Israel designated six Palestinian NGOs as terrorist groups; again, Israel provided no evidence.

BDS, an entirely non-violent initiative from Palestinian civil society in 2005, has been criminalized in more than a few states in the US and a member of the NSW parliament recently called for BDS to be outlawed here.

I glanced at the record of the PJCIS meeting of 1 October 2021. I spotted somewhere that one of the participants in the meeting claimed there was evidence of a desire or intent to wipe out another people; ie, Hamas wanting to destroy Israel. Even if Hamas wanted to do that, how would they? They are up against one of the most advanced and most sophisticated military forces in the world, nuclear armed, a de facto NATO member with the full and unconditional backing of the West, including Australia.

Israel's foundation stone is terrorism and ethnic cleansing. Witness the Zionist bombing of the King David Hotel, the Zionist assassination of peace envoy Count Bernadotte Folke and numerous massacres of Palestinians designed to terrorise them to flee. Israeli author Ilan Pappé's 'The ETHNIC CLEANSING of PALESTINE': "... it took six months to complete the mission. When it was over, more than half of Palestine's native population, close to 800,000 people, had been uprooted, 531 villages had been destroyed, and eleven urban neighbourhoods emptied of their inhabitants. The plan decided upon on 10 March 1948, and above all its systematic implementation in the following months, was a clear-cut case of an ethnic cleansing operation, regarded under international law today as a crime against humanity." It hasn't stopped. Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestine continues. In the past week the Israeli High Court gave the green light to the expulsion of 1,200 Palestinians in the Masafer Yatta area of the occupied West Bank.

In the last eighteen months human rights organizations have just about lined up to state the obvious and label Israel an apartheid state: B'Tselem, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

Gaza is regularly pulverized by Israel: 2008/2009, 2012, 2014, 2021 and has been cut off from the rest of the world for more than ten years by an inhuman Israeli siege.

When I turned my computer on this morning I saw that an Israeli sniper had assassinated the journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. It's state terrorism, plain and simple. Another journalist was wounded.

Listing the entirety of Hamas as a terrorist organization will achieve nothing except to reaffirm to Israel that it's business as usual; that it can continue, with full and unconditional support from Australia, its apartheid, its state terrorism and its relentless ethnic cleansing of Palestine.

Where is the sense in that? How is that good for Australia?

Shane McCartin
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