

**Pax
Christi
Australia**

**International
Christian Peace Movement**

National President: Father Claude Mostowik MSC

61+2+9550 3845

0411 450 953

mscjust@smartchat.net.au

November 19, 2012

Senator the Hon Bob Carr
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Carr

Pax Christi Australia, which is part of the international movement for peace, Pax Christi International, is deeply concerned at what appeared to be an unequivocal support of Israeli crimes against the people of Gaza. Your support for Israel's behaviour which amounts to a war a crime should be unequivocally condemned.

In your interview on ABC Radio this morning with Samantha Hawley, you could have condemned the illegal and disproportionate assault and illegal collective punishment of the people of Gaza.

You showed no apparent recognition of concern for the historical grievances of the Palestinian people. The people of Gaza all have names. They are not anonymous to their families, neighbours, colleagues, friends and they are not anonymous to our organisation that has for years been active in supporting peace and reconciliation. We have a list of their names.

The following words put into context the injustice delivered to the people of Palestine by a people whose collective psyche is dominated by another unimaginable historic injustice:

You take my water
Burn my olive trees
Destroy my house
Take my job
Steal my land
Imprison my father
Kill my mother
Bomb my country
Starve us all
Humiliate us all
BUT
I am to blame
I shot a rocket back.

*Pax Christi is a Christian worldwide movement for peace and disarmament.
It regards justice and human rights as central to peacebuilding
and fosters the spiritual dimension of peacemaking.*

Postal Address: PO Box A681 Sydney South NSW 1235 Australia

Pax Christi Australia is deeply concerned that you are giving Australians the deceitful impression that Israel, the world's 4th largest nuclear military power is, or can be, the innocent victim of Hamas' rockets. Pax Christi Australia condemns the firing of rockets by Hamas' against the people of Israel but this is a question of proportionality. You also failed to mention that this latest outbreak of violence was sparked by the illegal assassination of Mr Ahmed al Jabari who was misleadingly described as a military leader when in fact he was a key player in maintaining the truce on the Palestinian side.

The unequivocal support of you and the Government you represent for Israel's impunity to commit war crimes demean Australian decency. Australia has recently gained a seat on the UN Security Council for the next two years. You sold this to the Australian people on the strength that Australia is a good global citizen. We as Australians would like to see that demonstrated by our government taking a less partisan and more balanced approach to this complex issue.

Yours sincerely

Father Claude Mostowik msc

*Pax Christi is a Christian worldwide movement for peace and disarmament.
It regards justice and human rights as central to peacebuilding
and fosters the spiritual dimension of peacemaking.*

Postal Address: PO Box A681 Sydney South NSW 1235 Australia