

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

المجلس الإسلامي الأصيل لغرب استراليا

THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PRESS RELEASE

Attention: News editors, social affairs, Ethnic media, interfaith media, and community writers

Friday, 20th June 2014

Abbott government's foreign policy change over East Jerusalem

The Islamic Council of Western Australia (ICWA) would like to express disappointment of the West Australian Muslim community about the change of East Jerusalem's reference from "Occupied territory" to a "Disputed territory" by Abbott government.

The change of language was surprising and totally irresponsible when announced by the Attorney General, George Brandis. Mr Brandis said "Australia would not "describe areas of negotiation in such judgmental language". Although Mr Abbot has recently said "The government had made only a terminological clarification with no change in policy", his government's has ambiguously disregarded the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 478 and 476[1], which condemned Israel's 1980 declaring Jerusalem to be Israel's "complete and united" capital, as a violation of international law. The resolution states that the United Nation's Security Council will not recognize this Israeli declaration, and calls on member states to accept the decision of the Security Council. The resolution was passed with 14 votes to none against.

ICWA would like to echo the concerns of eighteen nation's representatives and protest against the decision made by Australia's Foreign Affairs Department. Australia's bias in favor of Israeli injustices will isolate Australia in international forums that seek peace and justice and potentially harm Australia's trade and diplomatic relationships with neighboring Muslim countries.

ICWA invites the Australian Government to distance itself from such injustices on the Palestinian people, uphold international law and United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

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Islamic Council of Western Australia Inc.

The Islamic Council of Western Australia (ICWA) was established in 1976 and incorporated as a State Council for Islamic affairs in 1977. We promote unity and friendship amongst Muslims and other communities within and outside of Western Australia.
<http://www.islamiccouncilwa.com.au/>