

Prime Minister
The Hon. Anthony Albanese
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
pminvitations.albanese@pm.gov.au

1 April 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

Our organisations are deeply concerned by the escalating humanitarian crisis in the Middle East, where over four million civilians have been displaced in Iran and Lebanon within the first three weeks of the United States and Israel's illegal attacks on Iran.

The United States and Israel's attacks on Iran and Lebanon and retaliatory attacks by Iran across the region are driving widespread devastation among civilians across the Middle East, with the conflict expanding at alarming speed. US and Israeli attacks on Iran have killed at least 1200 civilians, including 168 people at a girls' primary school, and displaced up to 3.2 million people in the first two weeks of the war. In Lebanon, Israel's invasion of Southern Lebanon and attacks in Beirut have killed almost 1000 people and displaced over 1 million people in just the first three weeks of war. 14 Israelis have been killed, and thousands wounded, in retaliatory attacks.

The United States' and Israel's unilateral war in Iran has no legal basis under international law. Israel's escalation in Lebanon could constitute violations of international humanitarian law, including disproportionate attacks, widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, and displacement orders affecting over 20 percent of the population. These attacks come after Israel has already been found by an independent UN Commission to have committed genocide and widespread violations of international law in Gaza.

This conflict is leading to escalating violence across the region, placing millions of lives at risk and driving global instability and insecurity. Attacks by all parties on civilian and energy infrastructure contravene international law and are contributing to a global energy crisis and supply chain disruption, with devastating consequences for Australian families already facing cost-of-living pressures, and for the world's poorest communities.

We are alarmed that Australia has supported the United States and Israel following their initiation of this war, despite the absence of any legal basis. Australia's support for such behaviour undermines respect for international law, with negative consequences for a global order based on respect for human rights. We are also extremely concerned by reports of the Government providing Australian military assistance in this war.

Australia has clear obligations under international law to refrain from complicity, and to ensure accountability for any violations. By providing military or logistical support, Australia risks direct complicity in actions that violate international law. Australia should be at the forefront of driving de-escalation and a diplomatic end to this conflict, in line with its longstanding commitment to ensuring peace and stability globally and in our region.

The United States and Israel's disregard for international law is putting global human rights and stability at risk. Australia has historically been a strong advocate for upholding international law. Its global leadership in working with likeminded governments to restore peace and stability to the region could not be more critical.

We urge Australia to:

1. Immediately withdraw support for any military engagement in the region;
2. Halt the transfer of weapons and any form of military assistance where there is a risk of contributing to violations of international law;
3. Support efforts to hold all parties to the conflict accountable for violations of international law and human rights;
4. Call for all parties to cease unlawful attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure, which risk devastating, long-term impacts for millions of people globally; and
5. Elevate Australia's voice to demand an immediate ceasefire and respect for international law.

Sincerely,



Michelle Higelin
Executive Director
ActionAid Australia

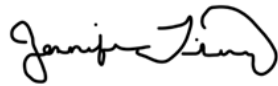
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Australian Civil Society
Coalition for Women, Peace
and Security



Ahmad Malas
CEO
Muslim Aid Australia



Amy Blain
Chair
Peoples Climate Assembly



Jennifer Tierney
Chief Executive
Oxfam Australia



Samir Bennegadi
CEO
Islamic Relief Australia



Ludmilla Kwitko
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Sam Klintworth
National Director
Amnesty International
Australia



Katie Shammas
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