

15 June 2010

The Hon. Simon Crean MP
Minister for Trade
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: S.Crean.MP@aph.gov.au

Re: Trade Visit to Israel

Dear Mr Crean,

Today unions in the Nordic countries are starting a boycott preventing the unloading of Israeli ships. Yesterday the International Committee of the Red Cross reiterated its condemnation of the siege of Gaza as collective punishment, an offense against the 1949 Geneva Conventions. The grieving for the nine activists who were murdered by Israeli soldiers in international waters is still raw, and the many wounded are still recovering.

In Australia, several national unions, union branches and regional TLCs have voted to support the isolation of Israel, until the illegal occupation of the Gaza Strip and West Bank is ended.

On behalf of AUSPalestine, the network of trade unionists supporting justice and peace for Palestinians, we call on you to postpone your trade visit to Israel on 14 July, which is out of step with Australian public opinions. We also call on the Government to cancel its contract for military communications equipment with the Israeli firm Elbit.

As Australian unionists, we'd be happy to meet with you to further discuss these issues.

Yours sincerely,



Kim Sattler
Secretary, Unions ACT
Branch



Sally McManus
Secretary, Australian Services Union NSW & ACT (Services)