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PUBLIC STATEMENT

AAM and ANIC call on the Australian Government to Honour Rome Statute Obligations and Abide by its Rulings and Regulations

The **Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM)** and the **Australian National Imams Council (ANIC)** call on the Australian Government to honour its legal obligation under the Rome Statute by recognising Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant as war criminals, and to arrest them if they enter Australia.

On Thursday, the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**, which is formed by the Rome Statute, formally issued the arrest warrants for PM Netanyahu and his former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant. This significant move comes 6 months after ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan first requested arrest warrants for the Israeli officials in May 2024, highlighting the urgent need for justice and accountability for the grave crimes committed during the ongoing Gaza conflict, particularly the atrocities endured by the Palestinian people.

The Israeli war criminals are being accused of using starvation as a weapon of war on almost 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza from as early as October 8, 2023, until May 2024. Additionally, the warrants outlined the Israeli Governments deliberate targeting of medical institutions, all of which have been bombed, along with their obstruction of humanitarian aid, listing these as “crimes against humanity of murder, persecution and other inhumane acts”.

Just last week, the UN Committee found the Israeli Occupation’s warfare tactics consistent with genocide, which covered the first 9 months of the war and concluded that Israeli officials have been vocal in their support to severely restrict and strip the Palestinians of their basic human rights through water, food and fuel.

Since its announcement, several of Australia’s allies (France, Spain, Italy, Norway, The Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden, Ireland, South Africa, Austria, Turkey and the European Union) have announced their commitment to uphold their legal obligation to recognise the Israeli officials as war criminals and arrest them if they set foot in their country.

The selective application of justice not only undermines international legal institutions but also perpetuates the ongoing oppression of the Palestinian people, therefore we call upon Australia to announce their commitment to recognise the arrest warrants issued by the ICC and fulfill its legal obligation under the Rome Statute. Respecting the ICC’s decision is not only a legal obligation, but also a moral imperative to protect the most vulnerable and uphold the values of fairness and dignity for all.

For media inquiries, please contact: media@australianmuslims.org.au

The Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM) represents over 250 Muslim organisations and the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) represents over 270 Imams from all states and territories.