

s 33(a)(iii)

Current issue

- *On 7 October 2023, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other militant groups launched a surprise attack against Israel from Gaza.*
- *The attacks have prompted the Israeli Government to declare a state of emergency and war. Fighting on both sides has resulted in several thousand killed and injured.*
- *Australia's \$25 million humanitarian assistance will help meet urgent needs in Gaza.*

Brief talking points

- The ongoing conflict in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories has already claimed a harrowing number of civilian lives, including children.
 - Our thoughts are with all those impacted.
- We want to take the next steps towards a ceasefire, but this cannot be one-sided.
 - Hamas is still holding hostages and is still attacking Israel.
- We are particularly concerned by the impact on medical facilities.
 - Australia wants to see hospitals and medical transport protected.
- We continue to support the ongoing efforts of international partners to de-escalate the situation.
- Australia reaffirms the call for safe, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access to enable lifesaving assistance to reach affected civilians.
- We are doing all we can to support the 76 Australians, their immediate family members and a small number of long-term visa holders still in Gaza who wish to depart.
- Australia unequivocally condemns the Hamas attacks on Israel as abhorrent acts of terror against innocent civilians.
 - Australia calls for Hamas to immediately and unconditionally release all hostages.
- Australia affirms Israel's right to defend itself, however the way it does so matters.
- Israel must respect international humanitarian law and protect civilian lives.
 - This requires the application of the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution.
 - Israel should do everything it can to ensure it observes these principles in its military operations against Hamas.
- We urge Australians in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories that have not yet done so to register via Smartraveller or call our consular emergency centre on +61 2 6261 3305.

Key facts

- *At least 2,148 Australians have now left Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.*
- *DFAT is providing consular assistance to 134 Australians as a result of the conflict, including three in Israel, 55 in the West Bank and 76 in Gaza.*
- *Between 14 October and 20 October 2023, eight Australian Government assisted flights have departed from Israel to a regional hub.*
- *DFAT has also facilitated the departure of 38 individuals and their families from the West Bank, and 28 from Gaza. We have assisted 22 of these individuals to return to Australia.*
- *Humanitarian access is insufficient, with 914 trucks entering Gaza since 21 October 2023.*

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- *The Australian Government has received confirmation of the tragic death of Galit Carbone. You expressed condolences to Ms Carbone's family and loved ones on 11 October 2023.*

Background

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- *On 9 November 2023 (8 November 2023 in Cook Islands), you spoke with Palestinian Authority President Abbas.*
- *On 1 November 2023, you spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu.*
- *On 28 October 2023, Israel announced it was 'expanding' ground activities in the Gaza strip.*
- *On 27 October 2023, you spoke with Israeli President Herzog.*
- *On 12 October 2023, you met with his Excellency Amir Maimon, Israel's Ambassador to Australia. You conveyed Australia's deepest sympathies and ongoing support to Israel.*
- *On 8 October 2023, the Foreign Minister spoke to Israeli Foreign Minister Cohen. On 9 October you told Sky News you spoke with the Israeli Ambassador to Australia on 8 October.*

Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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