



4 Feb, for immediate release

APAN and IPAN condemn defence links with Israel

The recent announcement of an Israeli company, Raphael, joining with Varley Australia to produce the Spike LR2 missile in New South Wales is a disturbing development, says the [Australia Palestine Advocacy Network](#) (APAN) and the [Independent and Peaceful Australia Network](#) (IPAN). The announcement follows last year's signing by the Turnbull government of an agreement with Israel on Defence industry cooperation,

“The Australian government’s aim to become a major arms exporter is morally reprehensible, particularly when it involves military links with Israel,” said APAN President Bishop George Browning.

“Israel has been flouting international law for decades with the illegal military occupation, devastating attacks on, and siege of Gaza, as well as numerous human rights violations, including of children. The recent night time arrest of a 16-year-old girl, Ahed Tamimi is just one example,” he said.

“Malcolm Turnbull’s unquestioning support for Israel on his visit to commemorate the battle of Beersheba last year and his statement then that Australia and Israel share values of ‘freedom, the rule of law, democracy’ are shameful when Israel’s denial of freedom and the rule of law in relation to Palestinians is clear to see,” said IPAN spokesperson, Kathryn Kelly. “The systematic denial of democratic freedoms and equality for Palestinian Israeli citizens also makes a mockery of this statement.”

“We call on the Australian Government to condemn Israel’s collective punishment of Palestinians and to cease defence cooperation with them. Continued support from the Australian government will only give them confidence in their continued inhumane occupation of Palestine and the flouting of international laws,” Bishop Browning concluded.

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