

Annex One: Advice provided to Wellington City Council by MFAT officials

Dear Mayor. Regarding the Palestinian flag question. The Divisional Manager of MFAT's Middle East and Africa Division has provided the following response:

This is for the Nakba (catastrophe) anniversary, which marks the end of the British mandate in Palestine, and for Palestinians the displacement of their people and s6(a) – and the creation of the state of Israel, which was declared in 14 May 1948. Our consistent message to councils who have been lobbied to fly the Palestinian flag on 15 May is that such an act could be construed as an act of state recognition s6(a) Lighting up the Michael Fowler Centre is not flying a national flag but given that it is council property it is likely to evoke s9(2)(g)(i) criticism from the Israeli Embassy, s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(g)(i) and a fairly diverse group of supporters of the state of Israel. It's the Council's decision but we would recommend against s6(a)

My MEA colleagues have provided similar guidance to AKL and CHC City Councils

Best regards

s9(2)(g)(ii)

MFAT

Annex Two : Transcriptions of internal text messages regarding advice provided to Mayor Foster

s9(2)(g)(ii)

- Saturday 14 May 9:30am

s9(2)(g)(ii) - sorry to disturb your weekend. Andy Foster has just rung me about a plan to light up the Michael Fowler Centre with the Palestinian flag on Monday (for a specific anniversary). Foster is asking for our view and if it will give offence to Israeli Embassy. s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(ii) Will message s9(2)(g) too.

s9(2)(g)(ii) Hi s9(2)(g)(ii) thanks - s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(ii) Thanks I will go back to the Mayor. s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(ii) Thanks heaps!

s9(2)(g)(ii) Reply from Mayor

Thank you s9(2)(g)(i)

That is very clear and as such very much appreciated.

I have told Wellington NZ who operate the MFC on our behalf, and the councillor who was pushing it about the advice and that that the answer is no.

Have a great weekend - thanks again.

Andy

s9(2)(g)(ii) Oh wonderful! You're a magician thank you!

s9(2)(g)(ii)

- Saturday 14 May 9:32am

s9(2)(g)(ii) Hi s9(2)(g)(ii) - sorry to disturb your weekend. Andy Foster has just rung me about a plan to light up the Michael Fowler Centre with the Palestinian flag on Monday (for a specific anniversary). Foster is asking for our view and if it will give offence to Israeli Embassy. s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(ii) This is for the Nakba (catastrophe) anniversary, which marks the end of the British mandate in Palestine, and for Palestinians the displacement of their people and

s6(a) – and the creation of the state of Israel, which was declared in 14 May 1948. Our consistent message to councils who have been lobbied to fly the Palestinian flag on 15 May is that such an act could be construed as an act of state recognition s6(a) Lighting up the Michael Fowler Centre is not flying a national flag but given that it is council property it is likely to evoke s9(2)(g)(i) criticism from the Israeli Embassy, s9(2)(g)(i) and a fairly diverse group of supporters of the state of Israel. It's the Council's decision but we would recommend against s6(a)

12:53pm

s9(2)(g)(ii) Thanks so much. Have shared this with the Mayor. If he has any further questions are you happy for me to give him your number? s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(ii) Yes absolutely. Thanks s9(2)(g)(ii)

6:11pm

s9(2)(g)(ii) Reply message

Thank you s9(2)(g)(ii)

That is very clear and as such very much appreciated.

I have told Wellington NZ who operate the MFC on our behalf, and the councillor who was pushing it about the guidance and that the answer is no.

Have a great weekend – thanks again.

Andy

s9(2)(g)(ii) Thanks s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(ii) **to Mayor Andrew Foster - Saturday 14 May 12:51PM**

s9(2)(g)(ii) Dear Mayor. Regarding the Palestinian flag question. The Divisional Manager of MFAT's Middle East and Africa Division has provided the following response:

This is for the Nakba (catastrophe) anniversary, which marks the end of the British mandate in Palestine, and for Palestinians the displacement of their people and s6(a) – and the creation of the state of Israel, which was declared in 14 May 1948. Our consistent message to councils who have been lobbied to fly the Palestinian flag on 15 May is that such an act could be construed as an act of state recognition s6(a) Lighting up the Michael Fowler Centre is not flying a national flag but given that it is council property it is likely to evoke s9(2)(g)(i) criticism from the Israeli Embassy, s9(2) and a fairly diverse group of supporters of the state of Israel. It's the Council's decision but we would recommend against s6(a)

My MEA colleagues have provided similar guidance to AKL and CHC City Councils

Best regards

s9(2)(g)(ii)

MFAT

Andrew Foster: Thank you ^{s9(2)(g)(ii)}

That is very clear and as such very much appreciated.

I have told Wellington NZ who operate the MFC on our behalf, and the councillor who was pushing it about the guidance and that the answer is no.

Have a great weekend – thanks again.

Andy

Released under the Official Information Act

Text message conversation between s9(2)(g)(ii)

[11:54 am, 15/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) : s9(2)(g)(i)

[11:54 am, 15/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(i)

[12:02 pm, 15/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(i)

[12:03 pm, 15/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(i)

[12:05 pm, 15/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(i)

[12:08 pm, 15/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) s6(a)

[12:09 pm, 15/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) s6(a) Out of scope
s6(a)

Out of scope

[7:47 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(i)

[7:53 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

[7:53 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(i)

[7:54 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) Indeed.

[7:54 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) Thanks. s9(2)(g)(i)

[8:01 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(i)

[8:01 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) Only s9(2)(g)(ii) has that so I will text her.

[8:02 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) Thanks

[8:09 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(i)

[9:48 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(i)

[9:51 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)	
[9:51 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii)	Alternatively happy to dial in if needed.
[9:51 am, 16/05/2022]s9(2)(g)(ii)	s9(2)(g)(i)
[9:52 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii)	s9(2)(g)(i)
[10:21 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii)	s9(2)(g)(i)
[10:21 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii)	s9(2)(g)(i)
[10:50 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii)	Out of scope
[10:50 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii)	Out of scope
[10:50 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii)	Out of scope
[11:25 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii)	s9(2)(g)(i)
[11:38 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii)	s9(2)(g)(i)
[11:39 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii)	s9(2)(g)(i)
[11:40 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii)	s9(2)(g)(i)
[11:40 am, 16/05/2022] s9(2)(g)(ii)	Thanks heaps
Out of scope	

Released under the Official Information Act

Annex Three : Communications between MFAT and other Government Bodies and Ministers of the Crown

Documents in scope:

From: ANKARA <ANK@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 12 May 2022 12:41 am

To: ANKARA <ANK@mfat.govt.nz>; MEA <DM-MEA@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) <PS.MFA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.P/S Associate MFA (Seemail) <PSAssociateMFASeemail@mfat.net.nz>; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail) <DPMCFPA@mfat.net.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; CAIRO <CAI@mfat.govt.nz>; CLU <CLU@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; LGL <DM-LGL@mfat.govt.nz>; MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>; PRD <DM-PRD@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: Out of scope

[RESTRICTED]
Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act

4 s6(a)

Our online research suggests that the PSNA is planning a national rally on Sunday 15 May with gatherings in Napier on 14 May and in Auckland, New Plymouth and Christchurch on 15 May. In Wellington there will be a cultural event organised by Wellington Justice for Palestine. s6(a)

Out of scope

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 11:12 am

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: FW:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

And the mayor's response below.

From: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 15 May 2022 2:32 PM

To: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

GOVE-1151755117-10202

Thanks, s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 15 May 2022 1:42 PM

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

MEDIA

<media@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks s9(2)(g)(ii) , s9(2)(g)(i)

Ta, s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Sunday, 15 May 2022 1:34 PM

To: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks for letting us know s9(2)(g)(ii) ,

s6(a)

Cheers

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent with BlackBerry Work

(www.blackberry.com)

From: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>

GOVE-1151755117-10202

Date: Sunday, 15 May 2022, 1:10 PM

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

MEDIA

<media@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc:s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: FW: [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi again

s9(2)(g)(i)

- s6(a)

- s9(2)(g)(i)

Ngā mihi, s9(2)(g)(ii)

Duty media 021 375 105

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Sunday, 15 May 2022 12:58 PM

To: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc:s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: FW:

GOVE-1151755117-10202

Thanks s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(ii)
Press Secretary | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta
s9(2)(a)

From: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>
Date: Sunday, 15 May 2022, 12:39 PM
To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: FW:

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora s9(2)(g)(ii)

Tom has asked us for comment as well – here's his request:

Hi all,

I have been talking to Wellington City councillor Tamatha Paul about a plan for the Michael Fowler Centre to belit up tomorrow in the colours of the Palestinian flag for Nakba Day (actually today but MFC aslreday had a booking for today). She claims that MFAT approached Mayor Andy Foster and strongly advised him against it, leading to the event being cancelled.]

Can I find out if this is true and get some comment about why? Were similar approaches made to Auckland and Chch councils, which are also hosting Nakba Day events at council properties today?

Thanks

Tom

s9(2)(g)(i)

Ngā mihi, s9(2)(g)(ii)

GOVE-1151755117-10202

Duty media 021 375 105

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Sent: Sunday, 15 May 2022 12:15 PM
To: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Subject: FW:

Kia ora koutou,

Could I get some advice/lines around this?

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(ii)
Press Secretary | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta
s9(2)(a)

From: Tom Hunt <tom.hunt@stuff.co.nz>
Date: Sunday, 15 May 2022, 9:37 AM
To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject:

Hi all,

I am told that WCC cancelled a plan to light up the Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington in the colours of the Palestinian flag tomorrow for Nakba Day (actually today but MFC was already used for that). I am told that this came after p[ressure to WCC from MFAT.

Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa chairman John Minto is this morning writing to the minister to ask her to reverse this advice. Would the Minister like to comment on this?

Thanks

--

Tom Hunt
Senior Reporter

E tom.hunt@stuff.co.nz | **P** s9(2)(a)
Fairfax Media, Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis St, Wellington, 6011. PO Box 2595, Wellington 6140.

GOVE-1151755117-10202

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 11:06 am
To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: FW: Palestine

[RESTRICTED]

Hi s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Cheers

s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 8:36 AM
To: s9(2)(g)(ii) SEED, Chris (CEO)
<Chris.Seed@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>;

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Palestine

[UNCLASSIFIED]

I took a Phone call from Andy Foster at 9.13am on Saturday morning. He had questions about the Palestinian flag light up Out of scope

Exact advise provided to the Mayor at 12.51pm following messages received from

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Reply is as follows:

"Dear Mayor. Regarding the Palestinian flag question. The Divisional Manager of MFAT's Middle East and Africa Division has provided the following response:

This is for the Nakba (catastrophe) anniversary, which marks the end of the British mandate in Palestine, and for Palestinians the displacement of their people s6(a)
– and the creation of the state of Israel, which was declared in 14 May

GOVE-1151755117-10202

1948. Our consistent message to councils who have been lobbied to fly the Palestinian flag on 15 May is that such an act could be construed as an act of state recognition s6(a) Lighting up the Michael Fowler Centre is not flying a national flag but given that it is council property it is likely to evoke a s9(2)(g)(i) and criticism from the Israeli Embassy, s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(g)(ii) and a fairly diverse group of supporters of the state of Israel. It's the Council's decision but we would recommend against s6(a)

My MEA colleagues have provided similar guidance to AKL and CHC Councils.

Best regards

s9(2)(g)(ii)
MFAT"

Mayor's reply:

"Thank you s9(2)(g)(ii)

That is very clear and as such very much appreciated. I have told Wellington NZ who operate the MFC on our behalf, and the councillor who was pushing it about the advice and that the answer is no.

Have a great weekend - thanks again, Andy"

Out of scope

s9(2)(g)(ii)
Deputy Chief of Protocol and Unit Manager
Protocol Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ph: s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 8:07 AM

To: SEED, Chris (CEO) <Chris.Seed@mfat.govt.nz>; ...s9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>;

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Palestine _____

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Mōrena s9(2)(g)(ii)

Thanks for your message. s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

I'm looping in s9(2)(g)(ii) who can share the advice that was provided to the Wgtn mayor which draws on feedback s9(2)(g)(ii) and I provided.

Cheers

s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: SEED, Chris (CEO) <Chris.Seed@mfat.govt.nz>

Date: Monday, 16 May 2022, 7:35 AM

To: ...s9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>, s9(2)(g)(ii)

KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Palestine [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Ack, tks.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

RESTRICTED]

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From:s9(2)(g)(ii)

Date: Monday, 16 May 2022, 07:23

To: SEED, Chris (CEO) <Chris.Seed@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>, s9(2)(g)(ii)

KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: Palestine

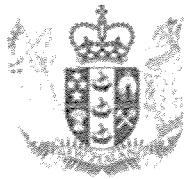
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/wellington/128648310/palestinian-commemoration-ruled-out-after-wellington-mayor-pulls-pin>

HI s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Regards

s9(2)(g)(ii)



s9(2)(g)(ii)

Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister of Local Government | Associate
Minister for Māori Development

M: s9(2)(a)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New
Zealand

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 12:57 pm

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: FW: Please approve Palestinian flags for Wellington City buildings to mark the Nakba

[RESTRICTED]

Kia ora s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(i)

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RESTRICTED

Cheers

s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 12:53 PM

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

ESD <DM-

ESD@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: FW: Please approve Palestinian flags for Wellington City buildings to mark the Nakba

Hi s9(2)(g)(ii)/ESD/MEA

s9(2)(g)(i)

Regards

s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 12:31 PM

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: FW: Please approve Palestinian flags for Wellington City buildings to mark the Nakba

s9(2)(g)(i)

Hauraki-Waikato MP

From: s9(2)(a) >

Date: Sunday, 15 May 2022, 7:03 PM

To: Hon Nanaia Mahuta <Nanaia.Mahuta@parliament.govt.nz>, N Mahuta (MIN)

<n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz>

Subject: Please approve Palestinian flags for Wellington City buildings to mark the Nakba

Dear and Honourable Minister Nanaia Mahuta,

I am told that the Wellington City Council has been advised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs not to light up the Michael Fowler Centre in the colours of the Palestinian flag -

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which has been arranged through councillor Tamatha Paul and approved by council – because Aotearoa New Zealand does not recognise a Palestinian state and this will cause offence to the Israeli Embassy in Wellington.

This is outrageous advice. I want you to intervene and immediately override this advice from your ministry officials so the Fowler Centre can be lit up tomorrow.

Firstly New Zealand's official policy is to support a "two-state" solution in historic Palestine and this policy in effect recognises a Palestinian state. You cannot have a "two-state solution" with just one state. Secondly it is deeply insulting to Palestinians to have official recognition of their national day – Nakba Day – effectively vetoed by ministry officials and the "sensitivities" of the Israeli embassy. It is Israel which is refusing to allow a Palestinian state to be formed. The current Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has said he refuses to meet with Palestinian leaders, refuses to negotiate a peace deal and will refuse to recognise a Palestinian state while he is Prime Minister. Why should Israel's veto over a Palestinian state dictate Aotearoa New Zealand's support for Palestinians?

Why would we take any notice of the "sensitivities" of an embassy which is supporting and promoting what every international human rights organisation has declared to be an apartheid state?

Parliament has flown the Ukrainian flag in recent weeks over Russia's invasion and occupation of Ukraine so why shouldn't New Zealand fly the Palestinian flag in recognition of Israel's ongoing brutal military occupation of the entire area of historic Palestine.

Within the last 10 days an Israeli court has approved the eviction of 1000 more Palestinians from their land and homes in the occupied West Bank of Palestine and the Israeli regime has announced it is ready to approve the building of 4000 more Jewish-only homes in illegal settlements on Palestinian land..

And just this last week we have seen the brutal "cold-blooded murder" of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and the shocking sight of pall bearers and mourners at her funeral being brutally attacked by Israeli state forces.

Aotearoa New Zealand is bigger than the venal, self-serving advice of cowardly MFAT officials.

Please direct your ministry officials to approve Wellington City Council lighting up the Fowler Centre tomorrow in the colours of the Palestinian flag.

*Respectfully,
s9(2)(a)*

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 1:33 pm

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

<media@mfat.govt.nz>

MEDIA

Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii)

LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office)

<Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: media enq Michael Fowler Centre Palestinian flag light display

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora s9(2)(g)(ii)

Thanks for your message. As requested please find below and attached media lines for Post Cab.

Kind regards

s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Unit Manager (Middle East)

Middle East and Africa Division

MFAT

s9(2)(a)

Post Cabinet Lines: Nakba: Palestinian Flag flying

- Aotearoa New Zealand has a strong history of protecting and promoting the rights of the Palestinian people, and has been vocal about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- *If asked about Councils' approach to MFAT with regard to flying Palestinian flag to commemorate the Nakba:* You would need to direct questions on that to the relevant Council or to MFAT.
- Aotearoa New Zealand will continue to pursue a principled approach to the Middle East Peace Process, including support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This is the best path for a durable and lasting peace in the region.

- Out of scope

- Out of scope

Background

MFAT was approached by Auckland Council, Christchurch City Council, Wellington City Council and was in touch with the New Zealand Parliament for advice on flying the Palestinian flag (or projecting it on the MFC) in support of the commemoration of the Nakba on 15 May. s6(a)

MFAT advice

2 s9(2)(g)(i)

3 s9(2)(g)(i)

4 s9(2)(g)(i)

5 s9(2)(g)(i)

Commemoration of Days

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6 s6(a)

7 The official UN international day of solidarity with the Palestinian People is 29 November s9(2)(g)(i)

8 Israel has its national day which is usually held in early May although the Israeli Embassy did not host a reception this year s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

Out of scope

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 12:19 pm
To: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: media enq Michael Fowler Centre Palestinian flag light display

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Many thanks s9(2)(g)(ii) – received and we will action together with the team copied.

Cheers

s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 12:08 PM
To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

GOVE-1151755117-10202

Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii) MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: media enq Michael Fowler Centre Palestinian flag light display

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi both,

s9(2)(g)(i)

Many thanks

s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 11:50 am

To: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: media enq Michael Fowler Centre Palestinian flag light display

Kia ora koutou,

s9(2)(g)(i)

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Press Secretary | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta

s9(2)(a)

From: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 15 May 2022 5:38 pm

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RESTRICTED]

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To: Kirsty Frame <Kirsty.Frame@rnz.co.nz>; MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: media enq Michael Fowler Centre Palestinian flag light display

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Kirsty

Thanks for your call earlier. Please attribute this statement to an MFAT spokesperson if need be:

MFAT was approached by Auckland Council, Christchurch City Council, Wellington City Council and was in touch with the New Zealand Parliament for advice on support for Nakba Day in response to lobbying from community groups. New Zealand takes a principled and balanced approach to the Israeli Palestinian conflict. MFAT's recommendation was that support for the day would not align with Aotearoa New Zealand's commitment to a two-state solution and lasting peace for Israelis and Palestinians alike, nor would it support the Middle East Peace Process.

Ngā mihi, s9(2)(g)(ii)

Duty media 021 375 105

From: MEDIA [<mailto:media@mfat.govt.nz>]

Sent: Sunday, 15 May 2022 5:35 PM

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject:

re: media enq Michael Fowler Centre Palestinian flag light display

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Good evening

s9(2)(g)(i)

Thanks, s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: Kirsty Frame <Kirsty.Frame@rnz.co.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 15 May 2022 5:32 PM

To: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: media enq re: Michael Fowler Centre Palestinian flag light display

Kia ora,

WCC has confirmed that after running the proposal by MFAT, it was advised not to light up the Michael Fowler Centre in the colours of the Palestinian flag for Nakba Day.

GOVE-1151755117-10202

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED]

Page 18 of 28

Can I please get comment as to what the advice MFAT gave WCC on this and why the advice was ultimately to recommend the light display not go ahead?

I understand the Palestine Solidarity Network has written an open letter to Minister Mahuta, does the minister have a response to the letter?

Was the Israeli Embassy involved in this at all? Did the embassy pass on a recommendation to MFAT?

Ngā mihi,

Kirsty Frame |(she/her)| **Reporter – Wellington Issues**

Radio New Zealand | Level 2 | 155 The Terrace

PO Box 123 | Wellington | New Zealand 6140

Mobile: s9(2)(a) | @kirstyframed



-----Original Message-----

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 11:33 am

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: Nakba - Palestinian Flag backgrounder.docx

[RESTRICTED]

Hi s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Cheers

s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 1:16 pm

To: LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

GOVE-1151755117-10202

RESTRICTED

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: media enq Michael Fowler Centre Palestinian flag light display

[RESTRICTED]

Fine by Media.

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Thanks
s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)
To: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Subject: RE: media enq Michael Fowler Centre Palestinian flag light display
Date: Monday, 16 May 2022 1:01:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

MEDIA:

Hi team - s9(2)(g)(i)

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 12:55 pm
To: LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii)

MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: media enq Michael Fowler Centre Palestinian flag light display
[RESTRICTED]

Hi team

Please find below draft post Cab lines and background – comments welcome.

Cheers

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Post Cabinet Lines: Nakba: Palestinian Flag flying

- s9(2)(g)(i)

- s9(2)(g)(i)

- s9(2)(g)(i)

- s9(2)(g)(i)

- s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Released under the Official Information Act

s9(2)(g)(i)

Released under the Official Information Act

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 11:59 AM

GOVE-1151755117-10202

To: LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii)

MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: ~~media enq Michael Fowler Centre Palestinian flag light display~~

Kia ora s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Cheers

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Text conversation between s9(2)(g)(ii)
s9(2)(g)(i)

and Amy Laurenson

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 10:39 am
To: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Cc: MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Twitter activity

[UNCLASSIFIED]

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 9:59 AM
To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Twitter activity

GOVE-1151755117-10202

RESTRICTED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Thanks,

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Unit Manager – Communications and Digital
Communications Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 16 May 2022 9:56 AM

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: Twitter activity

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia Ora both,

s9(2)(g)(i)



grant.brookes.nz
@grantbrookesnz

...

.@WgtnCC lit up the Michael Fowler Centre in beautiful yellow & blue for #Ukraine. But when Cr @TamathaPaul suggested it for #Palestine on #Nakba Day, @MFATNZ advised against and the Council buckled 🙄. We need more Councillors like Tamatha. #VoteLocalNZ #FreePalestine 🇵🇸



4:40 PM · May 15, 2022 from Wellington City, New Zealand · Twitter for iPhone

26 Retweets 6 Quote Tweets 111 Likes

<https://twitter.com/grantbrookesnz/status/1525697664972513280>

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Marilyn Garson
@skinonbothsides



The Wellington Mayor has prevented a public display of Palestinian colours on Nakba Day. Min Foreign Affairs advised that "displaying the Palestinian colours could result in complaints from the Israeli ambassador and other Israeli groups."

@MFATNZ , whose voices count here?

8:31 AM · May 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App

8 Retweets 2 Quote Tweets 23 Likes

<https://twitter.com/skinonbothsides/status/1525937018282254336>



Michael Reddell @MHReddell · 1h



Would be good if MFAT clarified exactly what they said (as distinct from the Minister's ex post spin). It would hardly be a surprise if a media outlet exaggerated from time to time, but it could readily be cleared up.

3



davem @davemac00 · 59m



I'm going to stake \$50 (to the charity of your choice) that the word "urge" doesn't appear anywhere in the advice

1



2



Michael Reddell @MHReddell · 43m



You may well be right. I'm not defending either interpretation, just relying on the capital city newspaper's reporting. Might think about OIAs to both the council and MFAT.



Hamish Price
@hamishpricerz



Replying to @MHReddell and @davemac00

You should. There's no reason for MFAT to prolong the release of the info.

9:09 AM · May 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

<https://twitter.com/MHReddell/status/1525936396024020992>

s9(2)(g)(i)

Cheers,
s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(ii) (she/her)

Digital Content Adviser – Social Media
Communications Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

s9(2)(a)

www.mfat.govt.nz | www.safetravel.govt.nz



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



From: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 15 May 2022 1:06 pm
To: s9(2)(g)(ii)
<Barbara.Mckerrow@wcc.govt.nz>; Sam Rossiter-Stead <Sam.Rossiter-Stead@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Catherine Hutton <Catherine.Hutton@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Andy Foster <mayor@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Tom Hunt query and draft response from MFAT and Mayor Foster

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Cheers
Richard MacLean – WCC Comms

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Sent: Sunday, 15 May 2022 12:44 pm
To: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Catherine Hutton <Catherine.Hutton@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Tom Hunt query

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora korua
s9(2)(g)(i)

Thanks, s9(2)(g)(ii)
Duty media 021 375 105

s9(2)(g)(ii)

She/her
Senior Communications Adviser
Kaitohutohu Pāpāho Matua
Communications Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

s9(2)(a)

195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901, Wellington 5045, New Zealand
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