

28 February 2023

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Tēnā koe Ali Anwar

I refer to your email of 30 January 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*On 27 January zionist terrorists conducted thrill-killings throughout Jenin refugee camp, successfully slaughtering an elderly women, successfully wounding many children, and murdering eight brave men who stood up to defended their people against the zionists. On 28 January, a soldier of the government of Palestine, democratically elected in the last free and fair elections of 2006 before further elections were blocked by the zionist entity and its PA puppets, successfully carried out a counterterrorist action against illegal occupational forces in an illegal settlement in response to the ritual slaughter of the Jenin nine.*

*MFAT issued statements repeatedly blaming the victims of zionist terrorism for their murder by zionists, while pretending that measured military responses by the sole indigenous and legitimate population of the land of Palestine were unprovoked 'terrorism':*

<https://twitter.com/MFATNZ/status/1618870929018482688>  
<https://twitter.com/MFATNZ/status/1619268433073565697>

*I am requesting all information held by MFAT in regards the production of these two incredibly disgusting statements that support zionist terrorism, including communications with other ministries or external individuals or groups.*

Per section 16(1)(e) of the OIA, we have elected to provide a summary response to your request for information. Please find our response below.

All public-facing statements made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry), including those on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, are prepared and go through appropriate levels of approval including review by senior officials.

We can confirm no communication with other Ministries or external parties took place during the production of these messages.

We also take this opportunity to refute your characterisation of the Ministry's public statements as "blaming the victims of Zionist terrorism for their murder by Zionists etc." Aotearoa New Zealand abhors all violence and any civilian deaths that result from that violence. We also

consistently condemn all terrorism. This approach is based on international law and international humanitarian law.

New Zealand continues to pursue a principles-based approach to the Middle East Peace Process, including support for a two-state solution to the conflict. This is the best path for a durable and lasting peace in the region.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade