



Report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee

Petition of Nigel Woodley on behalf of For the Protection of Zion Trust: Establish a New Zealand Embassy in Israel

December 2022

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Hon Jenny Salesa
Chairperson

Petition of Nigel Woodley on behalf of For the Protection of Zion Trust

Recommendation

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee has considered the petition of Nigel Woodley on behalf of For the Protection of Zion Trust—Establish a New Zealand Embassy in Israel—and recommends that the House take note of its report.

Request for a New Zealand Embassy in Israel

The petition was presented to the House on 10 August 2022. It requests:

That the House of Representatives urge the Government to establish an Embassy in the State of Israel.

Comments from the petitioner

The petitioner notes that New Zealand voted for the establishment of a Jewish state at the United Nations in 1947, and formally recognised Israel in 1949. However, New Zealand has never had a diplomatic presence in Israel.

Pastor Woodley believes that a formal New Zealand presence in Israel would lead to increased trade. He suggests this could start with a trade office, leading to a resident ambassador.

The petitioner believes New Zealand’s relationship with Israel cannot be adequately served by the Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. He advocates that New Zealand “shake their hands on their home soil rather than wave at them from Ankara”.

Pastor Woodley believes New Zealand’s diplomatic responses to issues in the Middle East, such as its consideration of Israel–Palestinian issues at United Nations meetings, would be better informed through having representation on the ground in Israel.

Our response to the petition

Decisions about the use of resources for foreign embassies are matters for the Government, rather than for this committee.

We encourage the petitioner to write directly to the Minister of Foreign Affairs about his request.

Appendix

Committee procedure

The petition was presented to the House on 10 August 2022 and referred to the Petitions Committee. The Petitions Committee invited and received a submission from the petitioner. The petition was referred to us on 29 September. We met between 27 October and 8 December 2022 to consider it.

Committee members

Hon Jenny Salesa (Chairperson)
Hon Gerry Brownlee
Golriz Ghahraman
Ingrid Leary
Hon Todd McClay
Ibrahim Omer

Marja Lubeck and Simon O'Connor participated in our consideration of this petition.

Evidence received

The documents we received as evidence in relation to this petition are available on the [Parliament website](#).