



Coalition of Ministers Supporting Israel

<https://fortheProtectionofZion.com/category/coms-israel/>

nigel@fortheProtectionofZion.com

COMS-Israel is a group of Church Ministers in New Zealand who come from Pentecostal, Baptist, Brethren, Polynesian, Presbyterian, Anglican and other churches who support the right of the Jewish State of Israel to protect its homeland. We currently number 113 ministers as at 7 June 2025.

Dear Minister,

COMS-Israel - The group has evolved out of the latest conflict in Gaza beginning 7 October 2023. Concerned with an imbalanced media perspective on the conflict, and disturbed and alarmed by marches and rallies calling for the end of the Jewish State, and with political leaders in both local and national politics adding inflammatory language to the conversation, we decided it was good to offer a clear Christian leader's voice to the narrative.

Before I introduce myself properly, let me explain why I am reaching out to you. The events of 7 October which shocked the world have been called by Israelis themselves as Israel's 9/11 and Pearl Harbour put together. The outpouring of sympathy and support for Israel which immediately followed, including from key political leaders in our nation, was heart-warming. Now 16 months after it began and with the war still not ended, as Israel attempts to remove the curse and threat of Hamas from themselves and from the people of Gaza, we have seen a concerning movement in New Zealand which calls for our government to blame the Israelis for everything. I am interested in finding like-minded ministers who support Israel and wish to do something to show that support. Primarily COMS-Israel is an attempt to bring a united Christian leader's voice to the public forum in support of Israel, where we can make press releases/media statements, and dialogue with politicians in support of Israel.

COMS-Israel is basically an email list of ministers who together are empowered to make public statements and counter the anti-Israel surge we see in our nation. It is time to stand with Israel.

Most often, before a press statement is released to the media I will send a draft to **COMS-Israel** email group and wait for responses/suggested improvements to it. **I will not publicise any individual's information on the list and will keep it private.** But I will front my name as spokesperson for the group. This keeps the group safe while offering some legitimacy to it. This of course does not prevent any of the groups members from expressing open public support for Israel on an individual basis.

One of my elders was woken from his sleep at 3:00 AM just after the events of 7 October 2023. What woke him? The Lord Jesus referring to Israel's current conflict said – **"WHERE IS MY CHURCH?"**. I will let you interpret that for what you will, but for me it stirs me to continue with what I am doing.

I can tell you that the *NZ Board of Imams* and the *Federation of Islamic Associations of NZ* are very active in lobbying political and public opinion against Israel. And now a new group calling themselves *Aotearoa Christians for Peace in Palestine* has just emerged. All three groups are misleading their followers with misinformation, exaggerations and lies against the Jewish State and examples of what those groups have been publishing follows this introductory letter. Just one example of the lies being told in the first letter is the fact that the reference to the Al Ahli Hospital was not the result of an Israeli missile but rather a misfired rocket from the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. There were no fatalities proven from it as it landed in the hospital carpark. The Imams claimed 1500 were killed "on the spot" from their malicious accusation it was an Israeli attack. The **Coalition of Ministers Supporting Israel** can speak as a united voice to push back against biased media coverage and the distorted narrative and lies being released by the enemies of God's Covenant people Israel.

The work of **COMS-Israel** has already begun and is serving its purpose. Here are the latest media releases published by Scoop News and the Platform:

COMS-Israel condemns antisemitism in NZ:

https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK2501/S00510/condemnation-of-antisemitism-in-new-zealand.htm?mc_cid=16b5ea3e1f&mc_eid=fbe43ee062

Sean Plunket on the Platform reads the press statement: <https://youtu.be/LJA4AE1BmeM?t=24>

COMS-Israel Urges MPs not to follow Chloe Swarbrick's Sanction Bill Against Israel:

<https://community.scoop.co.nz/2025/03/media-statement-from-coalition-of-ministers-supporting-israel/> - this was also sent to every MP in Parliament on Friday 14 March 2025.

If you would like to register with 113 other ministers already registered, then you can follow the link or QR code:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8KKOSwQl-ujUpo76xM1V93MCzr-L2N7ZD5jSKcY-1tP-A/viewform>



Who am I?

I am the senior pastor of the Flaxmere Christian Fellowship in Hastings and have been ministering here at the same church since 1982. Although we have always been an independent Church, we are well integrated into the general Church community of Hastings and Napier, and I have good relationships with many of the ministers here. I also sit on several Christian boards.

Most important to me is the Trust of which I am Chief Advocate – *For the Protection of Zion Trust*. This is the political wing of my ministry which keeps the charitable nature of the Church separate from the public advocacy we do regarding Israel. I have been doing this for eleven years now and you can see on the website below what I have been involved in. I have a respected relationship with the Jewish community in New Zealand and am well known to the Israeli Embassy in Wellington. I advocate for Israel out of a deep conviction and a sense of the call of God on my life.

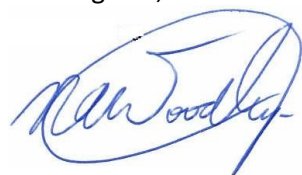
To check me out further you can go to these websites:

<https://fortheProtectionofZion.com/>

<https://flaxmerechristianfellowship.com/>

I invite you to join this group so that the Church can offer a united voice when it comes to supporting Israel in New Zealand.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Woodley', written in a cursive style.

Pastor Nigel Woodley
SPOKESPERSON

COMS 
Coalition of Ministers Supporting Israel



مجلس أئمة نيوزيلندا

NEW ZEALAND BOARD OF IMAMS

New Zealand Board of

3 Akatea Road,
Glendene, Auckland
nzboardofimams@gmail.com
www.nzbi.org.nz



19th October 2023

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

We pray to Allah Azza Wajall that this letter finds you all in the highest spirit of Iman and best of health. Aamiin.

Since 7th October 2023, the Zionist regime of Israel has continued its invasion in Gaza, Palestine, with extraordinary brutality to civilians that has caused 1 million people to become refugees. Over 5000 have died and 1350 of whom were children, ten of thousands of victims with serious and minor injury. Over the last two days since 17th to 19th October, Zionist Israel has bombarded Al Ahli Baptist Hospital in East Gaza with thousands of patients, doctors, and refugees taking shelter inside, causing 1500 people to die on the spot. If that wasn't enough, on 18th October, the Zionist Israel bombarded United Nation schools, mosques, and bread factories which were still able to operate during the invasion and were continuing to supply the needs of 100.000 people of Gaza. Further more various other densely populated housing complexes also being bombarded mercilessly.

New Zealand Board of Imams (NZBI) strongly condemns the Zionist regime of Israel. NZBI calls upon all Muslims in New Zealand and across the world to unite and make du'a to Allah Azza Wajall. Donate as much as you can through trusted channels, and join in the fight against all global media false narratives that distort the facts and lies with regard to the Palestinians situation that have been colonized and live under oppression for 75 years.

We need to remind ourselves as Muslims that the Palestinian struggles have never been separated from the intention of defending the third holiest place of worship for us Muslims, Masjidil Aqsha. Indeed every Muslims must feel involved in their struggles and never remain silent when their brothers, sisters, elders, children, in Palestine are being massacred. What the Zionist regime of Israel has done is GENOCIDE and violates every international agreements on war so it deserves to be brought to International Criminal Court. The world MUST take actions now. Tomorrow could be too late.

May Allah Azza Wajall helps all Muslims to uphold the truth and strengthen us all to face this major trial. Allahumma Aamiin.

**Barakallahu fiikum. Hayyakumullah.
Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh**

**Sheikh Dr. Reza Abdul-Jabbar
General Secretary NZBI**

SINCE 1979

14 November 2023

Rt Hon Chris Hipkins
Prime Minister (Caretaker)
&
Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister (Elect)
Parliament
Wellington

Kia Ora and Assalamu Alaikum,

URGENT NEED FOR NEW ZEALAND'S HUMANITARIAN VOICE

Further to our previous letter regarding this matter, Aotearoa New Zealand has always been an international beacon for timely humanitarian and peaceful initiatives - whether it was our nuclear free position in the Pacific, or our stance against participation in the Iraq war without UN sanction, or our nation's response to the tragic terror attacks of 15 March 2019. Aotearoa New Zealand has been recognised globally as being in the forefront of the international moral conscience at times when there was a need for a peaceful pathway forward.

We write now to once again raise our grave concerns and strongest plea for a Government response to the ever-worsening situation in Gaza. We note with appreciation New Zealand's recent voting at the UN General Assembly on Gaza.

In keeping with the above we request the Government's urgent diplomatic advocacy at both the UN and other global forums in seeking a complete cessation of hostilities in Gaza. Our appeal is grounded in the tragic truths and harsh reality of over 10,000 civilians killed by the Israeli military, **including over 4,600 children**. Of particular and unconscionable note are the harrowing images of rows of neonatal infants lying on the cold concrete floor. Such acts of deliberate and wanton genocide have not been seen in recent history and this is an appropriate time for the New Zealand Government to raise its voice.

We urge the Government, on the basis of every moral and humanitarian principle, to unequivocally condemn such genocidal assaults and wholesale bombing of innocent civilians as being contrary to all international norms of civil behaviour and law.

There are four specific positions that we feel New Zealand should immediately adopt as peaceful but profound initiatives in response to the above:

1. As a sign of New Zealand's concern for the escalating humanitarian crisis, and the breaches of international law, the Israeli Ambassador to New Zealand should be expelled. Particularly noting the Ambassador's criticism of New Zealand's moral and forthright positions in the past.
2. That New Zealand suspend its March 2020 agreement with the Government of Israel on cooperation in technological innovation research and development as it may have the potential for military application.
3. To immediately stop Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE) using the Cobweb Technologies software which was developed by ex-Israeli intelligence officials and has the potential to track, trace and monitor the private messages of Palestinians in New Zealand with their families and friends in Gaza. It should be noted that unlike other New Zealand intelligence-gathering agencies, there is no external independent monitoring of the usage of this software by MBIE. This lack of democratic oversight is most alarming.

4. The immediate increase of humanitarian aid to international agencies assisting with relief efforts in Gaza, including WHO, Red Crescent and UNRWA.

This plea is based on New Zealand's principled stance as we have recently taken. We note the parallels between the New Zealand response to the situation in the Ukraine and that in Gaza. The New Zealand response regarding the situation in the Ukraine was undertaken with a sense of urgency, timeliness and appropriateness with over \$83 million committed. The current response to Gaza has been neither timely nor commensurate to the gravity of the situation.

As we have been reminded by the United Nations, "The situation in the Gaza Strip is a growing stain on our collective conscience."

History will judge us for our lack of decisive action if we do not take a principled stance at this time.

Nga mihi,



**Ibrar Sheikh
President, FIANZ**

Copy To:

Chris Seed, Chief Executive and Secretary, MFAT;
Rebecca Kitteridge, Chief Executive, DPMC;
Carolyn Tremain, Chief Executive, MBIE;
Andrew Coster, Commissioner, NZ Police;
Andrew Hampton, Director-General, NZSIS;
Mervin Singham, Chief Executive, MEC;
Paul James, Chief Executive and Secretary, DIA



As our rōpu is comprised of people who live in Aotearoa and people who have deep connections to Aotearoa, we recognise Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the foundation for our belonging to Aotearoa. This means Te Tiriti must also be one of the main basis' of our Christian activism for peace in Palestine.

“As we stand and live on Māori land, we respect and acknowledge tangata whenua and mana whenua where we gather. Palestinians’ freedom and self determination also are not complete without that of Māori, as global colonial powers are one.”

For our activism to be Tiriti-led, we pledge to engage with and actively learn from tangata whenua voices speaking on Israel’s occupation of Palestine. We act in the knowledge that the land upon which we gather and organise is unceded whenua over which mana whenua exercise tino rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga. We bring to our activism the vision for justice and mutual flourishing that Te Tiriti o Waitangi envisions.

We are a cross-denominational group of Christians who stand for the biblical principles of justice and peace. We are followers of Jesus who showed us a non-violent, truthful, and loving way of standing against both the ideas and realities of the empire. We use non-violent ways to stand against violence and oppression. We follow the Way of the cross and of the resurrection. Because of this, we believe that life always triumphs over death, and that there is always hope for a new reality.

We live in a politically divisive age. We are deeply concerned about Zionist teachings in the church and especially the links drawn by Christians between the Gospel and the politics of Christian Zionism. We agree that:

“It should be clear that Christian Zionism is a problematic ideology. But it’s not enough to deconstruct Christian Zionism. We also offer an alternative theology that is centred on the liberatory message of Jesus.”

We recognise that we do not reflect the diverse beliefs of all Christians in Aotearoa. We ourselves are a diverse group of Christians in Aotearoa, however we are united in our stance that the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine and violence towards Palestinians must end, and that a just and peaceful resolution must be reached for all peoples living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. We commit to challenging Christians in Aotearoa who don’t realise the detrimental impact that their beliefs and opinions hold. We seek to take on a prophetic leadership/prophetic justice role, and thus act out the role we want the church to have, and be inviting ie: calling in not calling out. We are the church, we don’t wait for the Church to act.

Whilst our rōpu name does not contain the word justice, we believe that peace can not be achieved without justice, therefore we see them as intertwined necessities.

“While each anti-colonial struggle is unique, the Palestinian struggle shares characteristics with many other anti-colonial struggles across the world, and here in Aotearoa New Zealand. A close look at the powers that maintain Israel’s colonisation of Palestine shows that they are the same powers that enabled colonisation across the world and that makes all anti-colonial struggles interconnected.”

Tina Ngata, Ngāti Porou writer and activist

We see the connections between colonialism in Aotearoa and Palestine. We note that the whakapapa of the Israeli occupation of Palestine includes the former British and Ottoman occupations of Palestine.

As Christians located in Aotearoa, we recognise our unique role in uplifting and supporting the voices of Palestinian Christians and Kiwi Palestinian Christians, not least because the political ideology of Christian Zionism has been actively supporting the current state of affairs for decades. Whilst that is our unique role (to support Palestinian Christians), we also uplift and support all Palestinian’s that seek to work towards a just and peaceful resolution.

What we do as a rōpu

- Take non-violent actions that challenge the current status quo in regards to the State of Israel and its actions towards the people and whenua of Palestine and Israel. This includes their actions towards Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel. These actions we take include, but are not limited to: prayer; peaceful protest; sit ins; civil disobedience (whereby it brings no physical, mental or verbal harm to others); lobbying those who hold power in our own whenua and beyond to take actions that lead to sanctions, divestment, and boycotting; writing, signing onto, and delivering open letters, petitions, and ministerial letters to places that hold power; confidently calling church leaders and communities in Aotearoa (and beyond) to re-examine their soft or hard Christian Zionist beliefs and practices, and to stop their financial, practical, and verbal support for the State of Israel and it’s actions (via resources and connections we and others have made, and any other prophetically imaginative means at our disposal); joining with other kaupapa that exists to the same aims eg: signing on to other open letters, petitions, joining campaigns etc... with our rōpu name/logo, humanpower and resources.
- Amplify the voices of Palestinian Christians to churches in Aotearoa.
- Push for more media coverage in Aotearoa on the plight of Palestinians, and against the single-story narrative from the Occupying Powers.
- Outreach/education to churches; create a public witness for Palestinian liberation and justice and peace for everyone in Palestine-Israel.

Accessed from their website [Our Kaupapa – Aotearoa Christians for Peace in Palestine](#)