

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 have 114 ministers on our list.**

Dear Minister Winston Peters,

We are disappointed by the Government's decision to sanction two Israeli Cabinet ministers yesterday. Apart from their rhetoric, exactly what have they done which demands sanctioning? There is much worse rhetoric from the opposing side being said. For example, calling for the end of Israel by chanting "from the River to the Sea...". Even those from within the House of Representatives here in New Zealand have stood by giving full approval to this chant – should a statement condemning such acts also be released publicly? I do note some conciliatory tones in your statement yesterday, nevertheless the principle that you would do this to a liberal democracy like ours is appalling. You have said this is against two people apart from the Israeli Government. That is not how the Israelis or Americans are reading this.

Following is our media statement in response to your sanctions on Ben Gvir and Smotrich:

Media Statement from the Coalition of Ministers Supporting Israel about Sanctions

Considering the controversy over the New Zealand Foreign Minister joining with his colleagues from Australia, United Kingdom, Norway, and Canada, which called for sanctions against two Israeli Cabinet Ministers, the Coalition of Ministers Supporting Israel has this to say:

- We call on the New Zealand Government to show parity by sanctioning those on the Palestinian side who continually call for the destruction of Israel. This includes all who chant "from the River to the Sea Palestine will be free", interpreted by many to be a call for the destruction and end of the State of Israel.
- COMS-Israel recognises the inalienable right of the Jewish people to build their communities on their historical heartland in Judea and Samaria (West Bank), where the sacred burial sites of their ancestors are located. We pray that the Palestinians will return to the negotiating table and attempt to work out an amicable solution with the Israelis. Unilateral decisions at the United Nations will not produce a real resolution to this conflict, but only a solution agreed upon by both parties.
- We call upon the New Zealand Government to respect the right of the Israeli Defence Forces to do all that is necessary to rescue their surviving hostages in Gaza. The blame for the suffering in Gaza, as terrible as it is, must be laid at the feet of the terrorists in Gaza and those who support them. While member states of the U.N. continually put a ceasefire ahead of the release of all hostages held in Gaza, Israel rightfully puts the priority the other way around – the release of the hostages first. We consider this to be fair and just. If all the hostages are released immediately and Hamas lays down its weapons, then the war would cease immediately.

<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO2506/S00117/the-coalition-of-ministers-supporting-israel-responds-to-sanctions-of-israeli-ministers.htm>

Thank you for your time,

Nigel Woodley

Pastor Nigel Woodley
SPOKESPERSON