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The Shia Muslim Council of Australia

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Subject: The SMCA Condemns Trump's Statements on Gaza and Sanctions on ICC

The SMCA **strongly condemns US President Donald Trump's statements** suggesting a plan to **seize control** of the Gaza territory and to **forcibly displace** the Palestinian people. His words seem to indicate the US plans to strip indigenous Palestinians of sovereignty over their land with a violent and intimidatory removal of the population.

Such a proposal goes directly **against international law** and would be likely classified as a **crime against humanity** according to Article 7 of the [Rome Statute](#). It may also be considered an **international crime of forcible transfer** under Article 49 of the fourth 1949 [Geneva Convention](#).

Australia remains a committed signatory to [both statutes](#) and the current Labor government claims to uphold a commitment to a **Palestinian state**. Yet, there has been no rejection of Trump's proposal from either Labor or Liberal leaders. This shows just how little regard there is for international humanitarian law amongst the major parties.

We also strongly condemn Trump signing orders authorising **sanctions on International Criminal court officials and their families**. This further highlights the lack of regard for any form of rules-based international order and the insistence on the part of the US that the Israeli regime has absolute impunity for its crimes.

It is moments like these that are a litmus test for the integrity of our political leadership and unfortunately, we have again seen a failure of true and genuine leadership.

We call upon Australian political leaders to **expressly and unequivocally reject Trump's proposal**, and to reaffirm Australia's commitment to **Palestinian self-determination** and to **condemn Trump's sanctions** on ICC officials.

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The Shia Muslim Council of Australia is an umbrella organisation for Shia Muslim communities in Australia. It currently has 37 member organisations from across the 8 states and territories of Australia.