

Comment by Michael C H Jones

There has always been something diplomatically unhealthy about the unity of Jewish lobby groups across the USA and Australia with respect to the State of Israel.

Apart from questions of "justice" whether to Jews or Muslims, Israelis or Palestinians and so forth, there is the issue of Australia's sovereignty and the rights of non-Jewish Australians. The same principle will also apply to non-Muslim Australians in future decades when their lobby groups become more politically influential. Allegiances ought to be to Australia?

At present it appears that Australians are told virtually nothing concerning the relationships/agreements between US/Israeli/Australian security organisations. Any questioning of Israel is immediately denounced and the anti-racist arguments trotted out to character assassinate dissenters to mainstream media opinion that the Jewish State of Israel is sacrosanct. One suspects the current campaign to paint the Muslim religion as a totalitarian ideology is not in anyway discouraged in certain quarters. Unfortunately the pronouncements of various West Asian government/religious officials give succour to this propaganda, as does the extremist terrorism of highly publicised minority sects within Islam. Nevertheless bolstering the aggrandisement of Israel in its Settlements policies, condoning its State sanctioned assassination strategies, and acquiescing in its illegalities towards other countries such as the forging/misuse of Australian passports, will not contribute to peace in the region. On the contrary it will ultimately make the dissolution of the Jewish State of Israel even more bloody. How long can the Muslim Arab residents of Israel be disenfranchised - only a small proportion have and will sign up to a Jewish State. Apartheid for the time being is the de facto situation.

It is the broader perspective of the West Asian region that concerns Australia. As a current member country of the UN Security Council already our voting policies have brought division in Australia - in the first instance on the question of a possible future Palestinian State. If we support a Two-State Solution than we had better redouble our diplomatic efforts quickly as time is running out. I would argue that the horse has already bolted and hence a One-State Solution is the only realistic policy for Australia. Increasingly the half million and more Muslim residents of Australia will vote that way - the two or three federal seats with large Jewish populations will simply be overwhelmed. The migration/resettlement of several million Arab residents in Israel beyond its borders is the absurd dream of fundamentalist Jews.

So the pantomime of close and "transparent" cooperation between Israeli and Australian security organisations is performed to speeches by Prime Ministers and Attorney Generals in both countries with no acknowledgement of approximately 60 vetoes since 1967 by the US in the UN Security Council. Less than half a dozen Chinese and Russian vetoes on Syria get prime time media attention but the inhumane plight of the Palestinians at the hands of the West is hardly mentioned. 45 years is a good innings, or nearly 65 since the creation of Israel in 1948, but it will not last forever. New US Secretary of State John Kerry will simply join the passing parade of Americans, Australians and Israelis in denial - peace will come as in South Africa and other troubled parts of the world when the people - all the people - are given their citizenship rights. Better it be a Turkish solution than the one playing out currently in Egypt.

As for Iran, lets talk about a Nuclear Free Zone for all West Asia - the dismantling of the alleged 200 stockpile of Israel nuclear bombs, as well as the pulling back from virtual failed-state status of nuclear Pakistan. Realistic policies rather than stand-over and blackmail tactics by US governmental agencies and their security minions in Australia and Israel are urgently needed. And in the meantime deal with the "look" of a young Australian-Israeli hanging himself in a "hang-proof" isolation cell in an Israeli prison without access to family and friends. And no-one said anything. No wonder the Chinese and Russians just laugh.