



Lyrebird Dreaming Pty Ltd

Senator Penny Wong
Foreign Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2601

Subject: Australia must oppose Israel's draft death penalty targeting Palestinians

Dear Minister Wong

I am writing as an Aussie dad and as Australia's former National Focal Point for the Responsibility to Protect to urge you and the Australian Government to make clear and strong public opposition Israel's draft proposals to introduce the death penalty in a manner that would apply exclusively to Palestinians.

On 2 January 2026, the UN Human Rights Chief, Volker Türk, called on Israel to drop proposals before the Knesset that would impose mandatory death sentences "exclusively on Palestinians" under certain circumstances, raising serious concerns about discrimination, due process, and compliance with international law.

Australia's position is long-standing and principled: *Australia's Strategy for Abolition of the Death Penalty* states that we oppose the death penalty in all circumstances for all people. This is a core human rights stance we have advanced internationally for decades.

I respectfully request that Australia:

1. Publicly support the UN call for these proposals to be dropped;
2. Reaffirm Australia's opposition to the death penalty, including where it is discriminatory or mandatory; and
3. Raise these concerns directly with the Israeli Government about the deeply abhorrent nature of applying the death penalty selectively to a group of people.

Australia cannot credibly defend a rules-based international order while remaining silent on a proposal that would entrench unequal punishment based on identity.

Thank you for your attention. I would appreciate your response and any information on the Government's intended action.

Gregory Andrews
Canberra ACT 2600

3 January 2026

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