

THE NEED FOR CONSISTENCY IN NZ FOREIGN POLICY

**NZ GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE
BOMBING OF QATAR BY ISRAEL**

A Brief Review

RT. HON. MINISTER WINSTON PETER'S RESPONSE TO THE BOMBING OF QATAR BY ISRAEL

We value and respect the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to foster our country's profile as a vanguard for global peace.

New Zealand has a **foundational principle** and enviable track record of supporting **international rule of law and a rules based international order**. In the past we have consistently made a strong commitment to international law and institutions as the basis for states to conduct dispute resolution. In this context, we expect that our Foreign Minister to ensure that the two key metrics, that of **impartiality and consistency** are transparently applied in our foreign policy settings.

Unfortunately there appears to have been a misalignment and we request a clarification from the Rt Hon Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs. We recognise that he has extensive knowledge and expertise in his foreign affairs portfolio and had hoped his response would be based on the wisdom gained from his twenty years of experience.^[1]

Unfortunately, what we have noted is a clouded and meek response, when we had expected unequivocal clarity with condemnation of Israel for the illegal bombing of Qatar.



Qatar is "important partner",
Prime Minister Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

By way of background, to mark 40 years of diplomatic relations, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani recently met with the Prime Minister of NZ, Rt Hon. Christopher Luxon in Wellington. At the meeting the Prime Minister Luxon stated that the State of Qatar was an "important partner from the Middle East region" and acknowledged that "Qatar has played an important role as a regional mediator in the conflict between Israel and Hamas."^[2]

For More Information:
Abdur Razzaq
Chairperson, FIANZ Advocacy
15 September 2025

[1] Winston Peters first became the Minister of Foreign Affairs in October 2005

[2] <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/prime-minister-qatar-visit-new-zealand>



DISRESPECTUAL DUAL STANDARDS

The bombing of Qatar by Israel is a clear violation of international law. Yet the Rt. Hon Winston Peters has failed to condemn Israel. On another occasion he unequivocally condemned Iran. So why the double standards? An explanation is required, particularly when the Prime Minister had stated that the State of Qatar is an “important partner.” We had expected that our Foreign Minister would have strongly supported our “important partner” and condemned Israel’s gross violation of international law. He has failed to do so.



Mr Peters' unequivocal condemnation of Iran

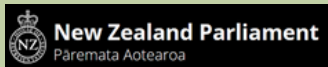
Absolute dual standards by Mr. Peters.



No condemnation of Israel and a rather meek response by Mr Peters.

We believe that an urgent clarification is required from Mr Peters for such disrespectful inconsistency.

To be fair Mr. Peters had in the past “condemned” Israel (on 22 July, 2025), so why not now when there has been clear violation of international law.



Sitting date: 22 Jul 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Situation in the Middle East—Update on Government Response

Rt Hon WINSTON PETERS (Minister of Foreign Affairs):

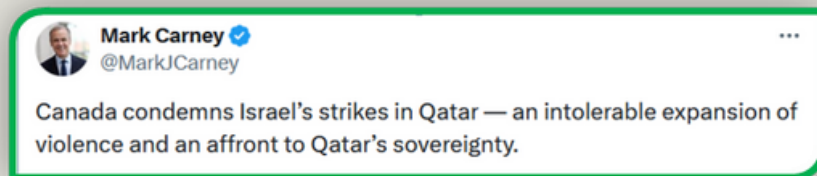
....we condemned Israel's policies, which are leading to untold and unimaginable suffering and death among Palestinian civilians. And we call for it to comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law.



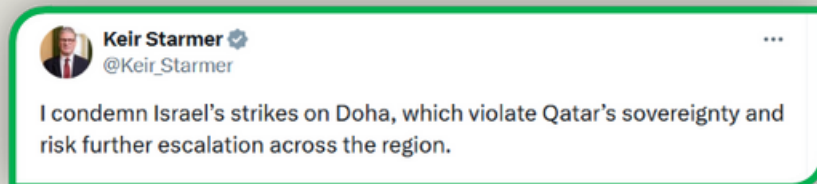
The dual standards and inconsistency is puzzling. Qatar has been pivotal in trying to facilitate a negotiated path to peace in Gaza, and has been acknowledged as such by our Prime Minister. Mr Peters’ clouded and meek response to the illegal bombing by Israel needs clarification. He should condemn Israel unequivocally and support our trusted partner in the Middle East in such times of need.

INEXPLICABLE SILENCE

Mr. Peters has also fallen short of the shared normative standards of our Five Eyes partners and the United Nations who immediately and unequivocally condemned Israel. We expect our Foreign Minister, Mr. Peters to explain his silence by failing to condemn Israel in unequivocal terms.



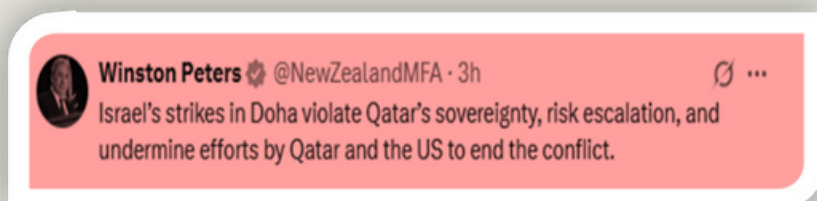
**'Condemnation' of Israel
by Canada**



**'Condemnation' of Israel
by the UK**



**'Condemnation' of Israel
by the United Nations**



*No "Condemnation" of Israel
by Mr Peters.*

*This is inexplicable silence at a
time when NZ should have
supported Qatar with
unequivocal condemnation of
Israel.*

BALANCED INFORMATION

For the sake of a balanced perspective we have noted the relevant official statements by the State of Qatar and New Zealand government.



Doha – 10 September

The State of Qatar strongly condemns the reckless statements made by the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, regarding Qatar's hosting of the Hamas office, and the shameful attempt therein to justify the cowardly attack that targeted Qatari territory, as well as the explicit threats of future violations of state sovereignty.

Netanyahu is fully aware that the hosting of the Hamas office took place within the framework of Qatar's mediation efforts requested by the United States and Israel. He is also fully aware of the office's role in facilitating numerous exchanges and ceasefires, which have been widely acknowledged and appreciated by the international community and have brought relief to Palestinian civilians and Israeli hostages in desperate need of basic humanitarian relief from the ruthlessness that has ensued since October 7th.

The negotiations were always held in an official and transparent manner, with international support and in the presence of U.S. and Israeli delegations. Netanyahu's insinuation that Qatar secretly harbored the Hamas delegation is a desperate attempt to justify a crime condemned by the entire world.

The false comparison to the pursuit of al-Qaeda after the terrorist attacks is a new, miserable justification for its treacherous practices. There was no international mediation involving an al-Qaeda negotiating delegation, with which the United States could engage with international support, to bring peace to the region at the time.

Such statements are hardly surprising coming from an individual who relies on extremist rhetoric to win elections and is wanted for international justice, facing mounting sanctions on a daily basis—factors that only deepen his isolation on the global stage.

On the other hand, the international solidarity shown with Qatar underscores that such reckless threats directed at sovereign states are categorically rejected the world over.

Despite his attempts at discrediting its credibility and efforts, the State of Qatar continues to act as a trusted and impartial international partner to establish security and stability in the region and beyond and will take all necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and territory. No effort will be spared in confronting with resolve any attempts to undermine its standing and role. We will work with our partners to ensure Netanyahu is held accountable and that his reckless and irresponsible actions are brought to an end.

Qatar's unwavering commitment to international law and the Charter of the United Nations is unequivocal. We call on the international community to shoulder its responsibility by rejecting Netanyahu's Islamophobic and inciteful rhetoric and putting an end to political distortions that undermine mediation efforts and obstruct the pursuit of peace.

NZ GOVERNMENT' STATEMENT ON UPHOLDING INTERNATIONAL LAW



Beehive.govt.nz

The official website of the New Zealand Government

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RT HON WINSTON PETERS

Foreign Affairs

New Zealand's response to the Israel-Hamas conflict is also grounded in upholding international law, including international humanitarian law.

While the multilateral system has served us all well for many decades, it most certainly is not without flaws. We recognise that defending, strengthening, and modernising the rules-based system also means supporting reform of multilateral institutions.

We actively support efforts to make these institutions more responsive, efficient and effective to ensure they are focused on making a difference for our citizens, and we feel an urgency around necessary reform.

NZ Government Statement on Bombing of Qatar by Israel



Winston Peters @NewZealandMFA · 3h

Israel's strikes in Doha violate Qatar's sovereignty, risk escalation, and undermine efforts by Qatar and the US to end the conflict.

We need an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and full humanitarian access in Gaza. The violence must stop.

- WP

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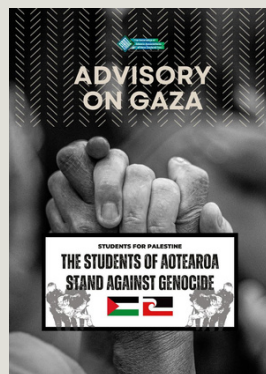
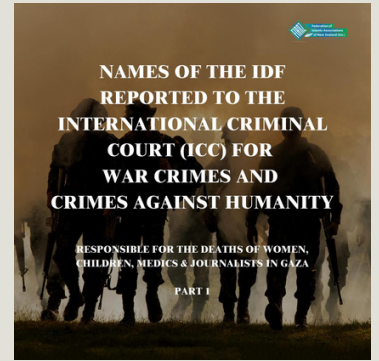
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