

Ms Rebekha Sharkie MP
Shop 2, 670 Anzac Highway
Glenelg East SA 5045

Dear Ms Sharkie

I am a member of your electorate. I have been and continue to be alarmed and distressed about the situation in Gaza. I am writing to you to strongly urge you to do everything you can to influence the Government of Australia to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire and for increased and adequate aid to the people of Gaza.

The situation in Gaza is beyond anything we have seen in modern times. Up to 14,000 people, half of whom are children have so far been killed. The child deaths calculated at three weeks into this catastrophe surpassed the annual number of children killed in conflict zones in the entire world since 2019. The sheer destruction of Gazan infrastructure is unimaginable. Across the Gaza Strip, more than 46,000 homes have been destroyed and over 234,000 housing units have been otherwise damaged. These constitute over 60 per cent of the housing stock. Over 1.8 million people in Gaza, or nearly 80 per cent of the population, are estimated to be internally displaced. These people have no water, food, electricity or fuel, because these were cut off to them in October by the Israeli government, which has controlled everything that goes in and out of Gaza for over 16 years. As you know, hospitals, schools, refugee camps, whole neighborhoods have been bombed from the air for weeks, destroying the buildings and killing people sheltering in them. Then, as the Israeli ground troops have entered northern Gaza, they have bombed any substantial buildings still standing.

We see all this on our television screens and on our social media. There is no escaping the reality of it and there is no denying that this is beyond disproportionate and is collective punishment.

And we cannot forget that in the West Bank, while all eyes are on Gaza, the Israeli military and settlers have killed over 200 Palestinians since 7 October and have destroyed two entire Palestinian villages.

The occupation of Palestine has been in place for 56 years and the Palestinians have been affected by the loss of their country for over 75 years since the creation of the state of Israel. This conflict has no end in sight unless we in the international community demand that it end. We must use our influence at the UN and in other forums to say enough is enough.

The international community has brought an end to other conflicts with the use of UN peacekeepers, international monitoring, and the maintenance of ceasefires. Australia must be part of the solution!

So, I urge you again: please do all you can to enable the Australian Government to bring about an immediate and permanent ceasefire and a just and peaceful resolution for the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, based on UN resolutions and international law.

Finally, it needs to be noted that this war on Gaza carries with it a serious risk of escalating into a regional war that would likely draw in the Americans and their allies, including Australia.

Yours sincerely