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**Asem Judeh's supplementary Oral Evidence before the Parliamentary Standing
Committee on Petitions, October 30th 2008:**

**In addition to Mr Russell Broadbent MP question in relation to Foreign Minister
Stephen Smith, I would like to add the following at the public record:**

1. Based on many letters I have received from former Liberal Foreign Minister, DFAT Middle East Section and former Prime Minister Office I can confirm that all letters has exactly same context in reference to Middle East Peace Process and supporting two states solution. The only difference is the figures of Australia's aid to Palestinian Authority.
2. Australia's aid to Palestinain Authority is far less that foreign aid received from EU, USA, Canada and Japan;
3. In March-April 2002, Israeli Occupation Army deliberately destroyed Palestinian airport in Gaza and all Palestinian infrastructure. They have destroyed and wasted billions of taxpayers' money donated to Palestinian Authority since Oslo agreement, 1995.
4. One important Australian development project has been deliberately destroyed and Australian Liberal Government and Labor opposition did not raise their voice asking Israeli government to compensate Australian taxpayers money for the destroyed developments Australian funded projects!
5. Dr Helen McCue, who founded APHEDA the ACTU Humanitarian Arm and Director of WREN (Women Refugee Education Network) has issued a media release, **8 April 2002, 'WAR CRIMES IN PALESTINE MUST STOP'**;
6. Ms McCue demanded just that "WREN calls on the Australian Government to condemn Israel for these brutal actions; to publicly call for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions with regard to an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal of all Israelis forces from the occupied Palestinian Territories; and to call on the United Nations to immediately send an international peace keeping force to the region."
7. On another Media Release, **29 April 2002, 'ISRAELI'S LOOT AND DESTROY AUSTRALIAN AID OFFICE'** Ms McCue said just that "The head of an Australian funded aid project in the West Bank city of Ramallah Mr Sami Khader has reported that in the early hours of Saturday morning April 20th just hours before a withdrawal of the Israeli military forces to the outskirts of the city, Israeli soldiers blew open the doors of the Maan Development Centre and systematically destroyed the office."
8. Dr Helen McCue a former aid worker and United Nations consultant to the Middle East and Secretary of WREN said that "**the Australian Government and the Australian people along with the international community, will be called upon yet again to fund rebuilding of Palestinian infrastructure destroyed by Israelis. There is a type of obscenity when the Australian people, through our taxes, pay to repair again and again this disgusting and ongoing systematic destruction of Australian aid projects at the hands of the Israeli military. A military that not only commits war crimes but loots and steals and destroys projects that Australians in good faith have supported**".

As you can see Mr Broadbent, foreign aid requires moral courage to protect Australian taxpayers money and strong commitment to International Law and balanced foreign policy.

Asem Judeh

Principal Petitioner

Attached Dr Helen McCue Media Releases of 4 and 29 April 2002

8 April 2002

WAR CRIMES IN PALESTINE MUST STOP

"Sharon's brutal killing of Palestinians, his war crimes in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza must be stopped immediately," former United Nations consultant to the World Health Organisation in the Middle East, Dr Helen McCue said this morning. "Reports are emerging of a massacre by the Israeli army using tanks and Apache helicopters on the refugee's camps in Jenin and in Nablus. A serious war crime is being committed and we are remaining silent in the face of this madness," Dr McCue said. Dr McCue was a witness to the Sabra - Shatila massacre committed by Ariel Sharon in the Palestinian camps in Beirut in 1982. The Israeli investigation of that massacre, the Khan Commission, held that the then Defence Minister Ariel Sharon was responsible for the massacre of 2,000 innocent Palestinian and Lebanese women and children and he was sacked from the Government of the time. Mr Sharon is presently being tried in the courts in Belgium for that war crime.

In Palestine today there is more of the same. Dr McCue said. "There are reports of many dead and wounded and as in other areas under assault in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza, ambulances and health workers are being denied access to the wounded. Oxygen has been cut off from hospitals along with water and electricity so that no emergency work can be carried out. People are bleeding to death in front of health workers who are shot at as they try to reach the wounded. Throughout the Palestinian Territories, now under total siege for nine days, innocent civilians are being shot indiscriminately when they venture from their homes and access to health care all persons is being denied. Water is in short supply with water pipes being deliberately severed and dead persons are being left in peoples' homes for days on end. The risk of a serious outbreak of communicable disease is also high," Dr McCue said.

"The International Committee of the Red Cross has reportedly stopped sending its personnel to the area due to the threat to the lives of its emergency aid workers and journalists are being denied access to these areas. There has been wonton destruction of the religious places, educational facilities, local government and trade union offices. This is a full-scale assault not only on the lives of the Palestinian people but on their entire religious, civic, economic, social and educational infrastructure. Israel is blatantly breaking international humanitarian laws, is violating the Geneva Fourth convention with regard to civilians and medial workers and is carrying out a massive assault on the Palestinian people and is committing serious war crimes," Dr McCue said.

WREN calls on the Australian Government to condemn Israel for these brutal actions; to publicly call for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions with regard to an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal of all Israelis forces from the occupied Palestinian Territories; and to call on the United Nations to immediately send an international peace keeping force to the region.

"Ariel Sharon is once again being permitted by the virtual silence of the international community to commit war crimes against the Palestinian people. The implications from this present situation are serious indeed, not only for the Palestinian people and the Middle Eastern region, but for the entire international community," Dr McCue said.

29 April 2002

ISRAELI'S LOOT AND DESTROY AUSTRALIAN AID OFFICE

The head of an Australian funded aid project in the West Bank city of Ramallah Mr Sami Khader has reported that in the early hours of Saturday morning April 20th just hours before a withdrawal of the Israeli military forces to the outskirts of the city, Israeli soldiers blew open the doors of the Maan Development Centre and systematically destroyed the office.

"They destroyed the training rooms, the offices, computers and filing materials and the telephone system. They shot opened cupboards, shot the computers, tore off the tops of desks and looted valuable training materials. Racist and abusive graffiti was spread over the valuable Palestinian cultural pictures and artefacts", Mr Khader said.

The Maan Development Centre is located in the Commerce Building which had sustained a serious fire in the early days of the invasion and siege of the city, but this time the Israeli army returned and systematically destroyed the Centre largely funded by Australian aid monies. Maan Centre was one of nine organisations located in the downtown building all of which were subject to this brutal looting and systematic and calculated destruction.

Another of the offices in the same building is the Palestinian Labor Union office which has also been destroyed.

This is the third time that the Maan Center has been seriously damaged by Israeli aggression. In November 2002 Maan Permaculture office, located in Marda a small rural village in the West Bank, was totally destroyed. The project was assisting impoverished and marginalised farmers and women. In an earlier incident Israeli soldiers looted Maan office again targeting valuable training materials used to assist with various development projects.

Mr. Khader said that these were deliberate, vicious and targeted attacks on Palestinian non-government agencies who are committed to developing the health, welfare, social and economic infrastructure of Palestinian society.

Dr Helen McCue a former aid worker and United Nations consultant to the Middle East and Secretary of WREN said that "the Australian Government and the Australian people along with the international community, will be called upon yet again to fund rebuilding of Palestinian infrastructure destroyed by Israelis. There is a type of obscenity when the Australian people, through our taxes, pay to repair again and again this disgusting and ongoing systematic destruction of Australian aid projects at the hands of the Israeli military. A military that not only commits war crimes but loots and steals and destroys projects that Australians in good faith have supported".

Dr McCue said that "there is an urgent need for international peace keepers to protect the Palestinian people and to protect their civic and developmental institutions. The Israelis must withdraw from the territories that they have occupied illegally for over 35 years and it is time that Israel started to

obey international law and to behave like a civilised and law abiding member of the international community" Dr McCue said.