

Officials' meeting with UN Special Rapporteur: Francesca Albanese

Haurongo – Biography



Francesca Albanese is Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967. Albanese was appointed to the position in May 2022.

Albanese is an Affiliate Scholar at the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University, as well as a Senior Advisor on Migration and Forced Displacement for a think-tank, Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD). Albanese has also worked as a human rights expert for the United Nations, including the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees (in Jerusalem).

Whāinga – Objectives

- Further understand the Special Rapporteur's views of the Israel/Gaza conflict.
- Highlight the caretaker government context in New Zealand and the constraints this places on New Zealand's policy decisions.
- Profile New Zealand's humanitarian support for those affected by the current conflict.

Pito korero – Talking points

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

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s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Papamuri – Background

1. United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Francesca Albanese, is visiting New Zealand on 19 - 21 November, following a similar visit to Australia.
2. The Special Rapporteur is an independent expert appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council to assess and report on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
3. s6(a)
4. s6(a)
5. Albanese's visit is being conducted in an 'informal' capacity (i.e. not at the formal invitation of the New Zealand Government). Several civil society groups, including the PACC (Palestinians in Aotearoa Co-ordinating Committee) and PSNA (Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa) have assisted with arranging her visit. s6(a)
6. Albanese is also likely to meet with media, civil society organisations and Members of Parliament during her trip. We understand Albanese's programme also includes a meeting with New Zealand's Human Rights Commission.
7. In Australia, Albanese undertook meetings with MPs, a television interview and delivered a public lecture. s6(a)
8. During her visit to Australia, Albanese:
 - Criticised the international community for being almost completely paralysed.
 - Suggested that in response to the 7 October attacks, Israel should have requested the UN send in its own force to demilitarise Gaza.
 - Stated her view that Israel does not have the right to wage war in self-defence under international law. Israel cannot claim the right of self-defence against a threat that emanates from the territory it occupies.
 - Put significant focus on the conditions and historical context of Israel's occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories, as part of the wider context for the current cycle of violence.

- Offered criticism of Australia's positions s6(a)

9. s9(2)(g)(i)

Israel/Gaza Taskforce
November 2023

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Annex one: 'if raised' talking points

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¹ s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)