



THE big RIDE for PALESTINE - AUSTRALIA

Dear The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Mr Schrinner,

On behalf of the organisation 'The Big Ride for Palestine-Australia' which, since 2017 has conducted an annual event that raises funds supporting Palestinian welfare programs in refugee camps and in the West Bank, we are writing to express our concerns about an issue for supporters of Palestine in Brisbane.

The issue is the decision of the Brisbane City Council to light up the Story Bridge in the Israeli flag colours due to the latest events that are still unfolding in Israel and the Gaza Strip.

As long-term residents of Brisbane, we find this disheartening.

Not because the council decided to sympathise with civilians who were killed or injured in a war. Many of our own supporters agreed with the council's decision to light the Story Bridge in the Ukrainian flag colours in solidarity with the Ukrainian people after the invasion of Ukraine.

However, we are extremely disappointed because this decision seems particularly one-sided in a complex conflict where, over the past several years, approximately 5,000 Palestinian civilians and children have been killed by Israeli occupation forces. We note that in that time, Israel continues to defy UN resolutions on resolving the conflict peacefully and has, on a daily basis, unleashed deadly force in a very uneven array of forces.

In stark contrast, when Israel launched major attacks on Palestinian people in 2008, 2012, 2014, 2018 and 2023, killing civilians and a large number of children no memorial nor any consideration was given to this tragedy by the Brisbane City Council.

This makes us feel that Brisbane does not care about Palestinian people as they have cared about others.

To make things right, I believe that the Brisbane City Council should take at least one or both of the following steps:

- a) Apologise to Brisbane's Palestinian community for lighting the Story Bridge in the Israeli flag colours, and;
- b) Light up the bridge in the Palestinian flag colours (Red, Green, White & Black) for the many hundreds of Palestinian civilians killed by the Israeli occupation forces in the latest clashes.

We urge you to take action to address this issue.

We are available to discuss this further and provide any additional information that may be needed.

Looking forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Curr and Lachlan Hurse

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