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The New Zealand government must condemn collective punishment

WILPF Aotearoa calls on the New Zealand government to actively support any United Nations process that will see an end to the horrendous collective punishment of Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. More than 6,000 Palestinians have been killed in just three weeks, many of them children, and half a million internally displaced.

The events of 7 October 2023 did not occur in a vacuum, but follow years of Israeli oppression, most recently the confinement of Palestinians in what is nothing less than an open air prison. Withholding humanitarian assistance from an aid dependent population is unconscionable: it must end.

Genocide does not come out of the blue, as the world well knows, but follows from the type of hate speech being actively promoted in Israel.

We call on the New Zealand government to join with others demanding a cessation of hostilities and the immediate resumption of assistance in relation to need. These are minimum actions necessary if the world is to avoid a wider conflagration across the region.

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<https://www.wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Statement-on-the-Escalation-of-Violence-in-Palestine-and-Israel.pdf>