



**CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES
IN NEW SOUTH WALES
CLRI (NSW)**

ABN: 52 476 362 010
Member of Catholic Church Religious Group

June 2, 2010

H. E. Mr Oğuz ÖZGE
Ambassador,
Republic of Turkey
6 Moonah Place
Yarralumla ACT 2600

Your Excellency

I am writing to you on behalf of the NSW Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes' Social Justice Committee. This body, which represents many thousands of religious in New South Wales, at its meeting this morning requested that I pass on to you that we were appalled at the actions of the Israeli Defence Force against the people aboard the *Mavi Marmara* who had exercised compassion and human regard for the people of Gaza who have been blockaded for so long. We also express our sadness and grief that peaceful people of your country, and of other countries, have been killed and wounded leaving their families grieving because of the ultimate price people sometimes pay for peace and justice.

The Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes of NSW Social Justice Committee is deeply concerned and saddened at the loss of life in such circumstances when aid to an impoverished people is considered a weapon and as assistance to terrorists. We are also heartened at the fact that people from various countries have taken responsibility to bring about change in an unjust situation.

Further, the apparent silence in the past and the failure to strongly condemn the powers in Israel for their human rights abuses against Palestinian people in the past and the present tears at the hearts of people concerned for peace and justice for Palestinian and Israeli people of good will. We can only hope that the Australian Government will now quickly condemn Israel's actions and stand strong for the protection of human rights.

Yours sincerely

Father Claude Mostowik msc
for Social Justice Committee

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

PO Box 259, ROSEBERY 1445
(72 Rosebery Avenue)

Ph: (02) 9663 2199 Email: clrinsw@ozemail.com.au Website: www.clrinsw.org