



27 January 2011

Yuval Rotem
Ambassador for Israel in Australia
Embassy of Israel
6 Turrana Street
Yarralumla, ACT 2600

Dear Ambassador,

I write to advise that the State Committee of Management of the Fire Brigade Employees Union passed the following resolution on Thursday 16th December 2010:

"That the NSW Fire Brigade Employees Union condemns the recent refusal of Israel to grant entry to Palestinian firefighters who had bravely volunteered their services in the Carmel fires of last week. The NSW Fire Brigade Employees Union further notes:

- i. Israel asked for and accepted to help of the Palestinian firefighters;*
- ii. The Palestinians responded out of "humane responsibility" despite the ongoing occupation of their homeland;*
- iii. Israel sought to recognize the bravery of the firefighters by awarding them a medal but the firefighters were stopped at the border and could not attend the ceremony; and*
- iv. Israel's hypocrisy in this incident is merely indicative of a regime who is prepared to use the land and resources of the Palestinians while continually denying their human rights, including freedom of movement."*

The Fire Brigade Employees Union seeks to show solidarity with our fellow firefighters around the world. We felt compelled to act when the work and generosity of the Palestinian firefighters was accepted and then the workers themselves shown such disrespect.

We ask that you convey our condemnation to the appropriate authorities in Israel.

Yours sincerely


Jim Casey
State Secretary