

AUSTRALIAN
CENTRE
FOR INTERNATIONAL
JUSTICE

IMPACT REPORT

2019+
2020

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we work and pay our respects to Indigenous Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge that this land – which we benefit from occupying – was stolen, and that sovereignty was never ceded.

It always was and always will be, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

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ABOUT THE ACIJ

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OUR PURPOSE

The Australian Centre for International Justice (ACIJ) is a specialist legal centre working to develop Australia's capacity to investigate and prosecute atrocity crimes and develop a universal jurisdiction practice. The ACIJ aims to provide access to justice to survivors of serious and egregious violations of human rights, in particular the crimes of torture, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

The ACIJ employs strategies to combat the impunity of the perpetrators to seek justice, redress and accountability for the survivors of these crimes.

Despite Australia's implementation of international crimes offences in law and the existence of a legal framework to prosecute these crimes, the practical legal implementation of international crimes investigations and prosecutions in Australia is still in its infancy. There have been only limited allegations, and investigations and minimal international coordination of strategy. We engage critically and constructively with Australian authorities through legal action, submissions, policy change and community engagement.

The ACIJ endeavours to place Australia as a new avenue for accountability on the global stage and contribute to ending the impunity of those responsible for committing atrocity crimes. We work with partners locally and abroad to ensure Australia's conduct is consistent with international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

OUR MISSION

The Australian Centre for International Justice is an independent not-for-profit legal centre dedicated to seeking justice and accountability for victims and survivors of serious human rights violations.

We work towards developing Australia's role in investigating, prosecuting, and providing remedies for these violations.

We work with affected communities and partners locally and abroad in the global fight to end the impunity of those responsible for these violations. Our work is informed by the values of justice, accountability, human rights, dignity, courage and solidarity.

OUR VALUES

**JUSTICE
ACCOUNTABILITY
HUMAN RIGHTS
DIGNITY
COURAGE
SOLIDARITY.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



RAWAN ARRAF*
DIRECTOR



ALISON RYAN
DIRECTOR



KATIE WRIGLEY
DIRECTOR

*Rawan Arraf is a full-time staff member who serves on the Board of Directors.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Advisory Council provides strategic guidance and advice. The Advisory Council members are:

Chris Sidoti – former member of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, international lawyer and former Australian Human Rights Commissioner

Melissa Parke – current member of the UN Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen, international lawyer and former MP and Minister for International Development

Professor Ben Saul – Challis Chair of International Law, Sydney Law School

Professor Louise Chappell – Scientia Professor, UNSW & Director of Australian Human Rights Institute

Andreas Schüller – Director of International Crimes & Accountability – European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)

Ben Batros – Director at Strategy for Humanity and a former lawyer with the Open Society Justice Initiative and former Appeals Counsel for the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court

Kate Eastman SC – Human rights lawyer and Barrister

Sarah Dale – Principal Solicitor, Refugee Advice & Casework Service

WELCOME NOTE

FROM OUR DIRECTOR

It is an honour to present to you this report, the first that we have released since the Australian Centre for International Justice was created two years ago.

It feels like it was only yesterday when we established our groundbreaking initiative in Australia, joined the global justice movement and worked to put Australia on the map as a serious actor in the global fight to end impunity for grave crimes. Two years on, in this report, we highlight some of our work and the significant impact it has created, which would not have happened without your support. We set out to find ways to disrupt and disable the impunity of perpetrators of grave crimes and hold them accountable, and work with survivor communities around the world in their fight for justice. This was and continues to be a challenging task. We recognise the obstacles and are ready to work to meet them.

Our work to date has been underpinned by our legal advocacy, strategic policy engagement and collaboration with others. We advocate for a victims and survivor centred approach and have maintained our policy reform agenda pushing for necessary structural change required to develop Australia's ability to conduct investigations and prosecutions of atrocity crimes. You will see in these highlights, details of our legal advocacy and policy and law reform work. We represent survivors and families of victims in legal actions, and for reasons which are obvious we are unable to present them here, but they remain a fundamental part of why we are here.

This year was a challenging year for all of us, and particularly those communities and societies most impacted by the global pandemic. For international justice, the year was also tumultuous, and especially for Australia with the release of the Afghanistan War Crimes Inquiry report. We led and collaborated on efforts to ensure a victims' rights approach is a focus for the coming accountability process. We will continue to work with our Afghan partners to this end. The establishment by the Australian Government of a dedicated body to investigate these crimes is welcome, and we have led the civil society call for such a focus. It's just a small part of the scope of our vision and mission and reinforces our impact and value.

It has been our privilege to support our clients and partners these past two years and an honour to have you join us in this fight. We are grateful for your support and belief in us and this vital work. We are excited to present you this report, it's interactive, so please click on the items to find out more.

With you as our partner, we weave hope into the struggles for truth, justice and accountability.

In gratitude and solidarity,



Rawan Arraf

Principal Lawyer & Director
Australian Centre for International Justice



Mathan represented here, is a Tamil survivor of atrocity crimes. He is featured in [Tamil Survival Stories](http://www.tamilsurvivalstories.com) documenting stories of survival of atrocity crimes perpetrated against the Eelam Tamil people by Sri Lankan authorities. Visit: www.tamilsurvivalstories.com © Brami Jegan

AUSTRALIAN WAR CRIMES IN AFGHANISTAN: A VICTIMS' RIGHTS APPROACH

Advancing victims rights to truth, justice & accountability

In November 2020, after a four-year administrative inquiry into allegations of war crimes by Australian special forces in Afghanistan, the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force, led by Justice Brereton, released the report of the inquiry. The release of the report marked a significant milestone in Australia's ability to confront the crimes and forge a process for individual and collective accountability.

The ACIJ was established anticipating that the domestic investigations and prosecutions of the allegations of war crimes by Australian special forces in Afghanistan will be a pivotal moment in shaping Australia's approach to an international crimes policy. Our strategic advocacy, policy engagement and collaboration with others, has provided focus on victims' rights and has had significant impact.

We have been coordinating efforts with human rights groups in Australia and around the world, but particularly in Afghanistan, to bring the critical perspectives, leadership and depth of experience Afghan human rights organisations and advocates have to offer. These efforts included a coordinated media campaign, including a joint call for action, bringing together Afghan, Australian and international human rights organisations. Our comments were sought on BBC World Live, Al Jazeera English, ABC The Drum, ABC News, ABC Radio National, ABC Triple J, community radio, The Guardian, The Age, ABC News and an international justice podcast.

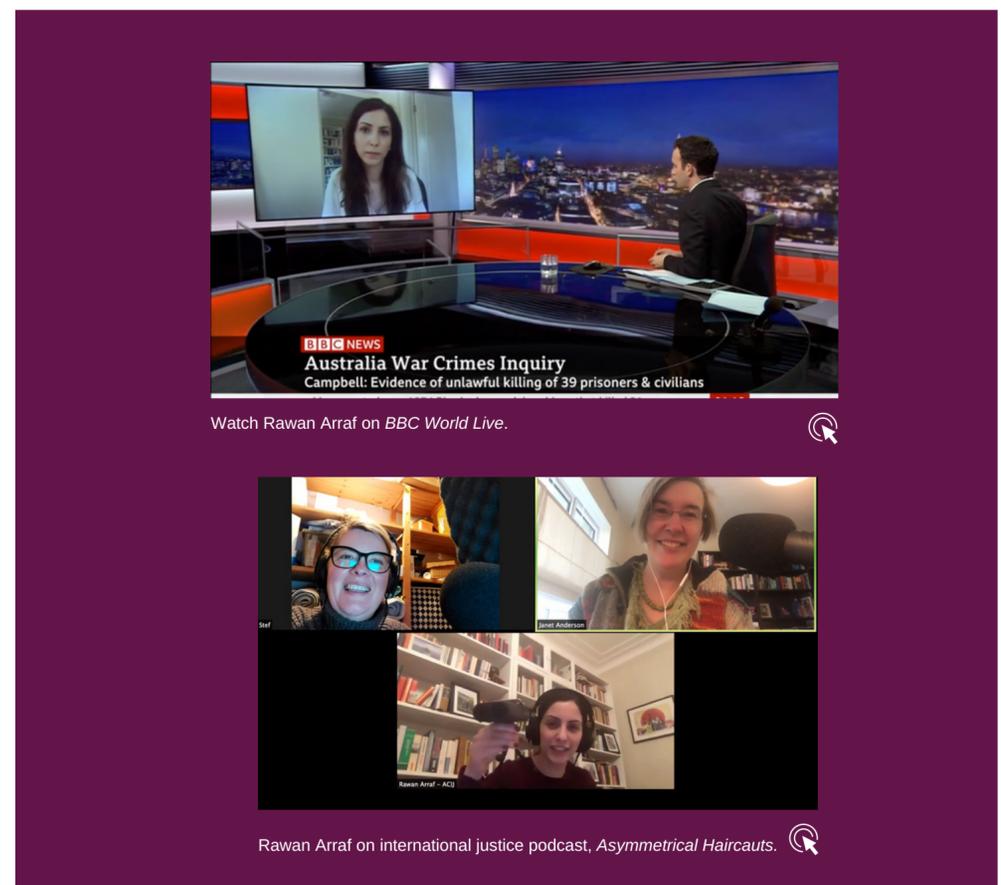
We have brought attention to Afghan human rights organisations to provide expert advice. Our media assistance ensured Afghan voices were reflected in the media, including on ABC News 24, [ABC Radio National](#), [ABC News Online](#), [The Guardian](#), [SBS](#), Al Jazeera English, regional newspapers in Australia as well as media in Afghanistan.

The Afghanistan Inquiry Report, years in the making, is a welcome first step. But the real work starts now. Lost in all of this, it's easy to forget that victims' families have never given up their demands for truth, justice and accountability. It's imperative for us to work to ensure their rights are respected, and enforced. The ACIJ is building a strategy that implements our mission and stays true to our values in advocating for victims and victims' rights. We are working with our partners in Afghanistan to find ways on how best to advocate for Afghan victims and to ensure what will follow is a full and comprehensive accountability process. There is much work ahead.



Without the participation of the victims, this investigation will be incomplete... Nothing can heal the open wounds of the victims and their families other than bringing those responsible to justice.

Hadi Marifat, Afghanistan Human Rights & Democracy Organization



STRUCTURAL & INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Recommendation for a specialised investigations unit

The ACIJ has been leading in advocating for broad structural and institutional reform necessary to conduct effective, thorough, independent and genuine investigations and prosecutions of the international crimes offences in the Commonwealth Criminal Code. We knew from our work in representing victim survivors that it is the missing piece in the puzzle required to engage authorities to undertake investigations and prosecutions into atrocity crimes.

This policy objective was the subject of our first policy submission, and we have continued to lead, and collaborate with others in the sector, to push for this necessary change. This included a joint submission with the Human Rights Law Centre to the Australian Law Reform Commission where our recommendation on this issue was accepted. We also joined the joint NGO submission on Australia's Universal Periodic Review at the UN, to call for reform to Australia's international crimes investigative structure. This push has been advanced in the context of strategic communications and public engagement, including through media comments published in the ABC and numerous opinion pieces.

Office of the Special Investigator

In November 2020, our persistent efforts and contribution to the debate achieved a **significant policy advance and a major breakthrough** with the announcement from the Australian Government to establish a new body, the Office of the Special Investigator (OSI) to conduct investigations and refer briefs for prosecution, in respect of allegations of special forces crimes in Afghanistan. This effort has been recognised by experts from leading human rights organisations in the world, including from the ECCHR and the CCR.

ACIJ was a leading voice in calling for this independent investigations unit to be established, and worked to contextualise the need for such a unit within concerted efforts globally on global atrocity crimes investigative mechanisms. We will continue to advocate for a permanent investigations unit to be a feature of Australia's justice landscape.



The opportunity is now to consolidate any build-up of Australia's expertise in investigating and prosecuting war crimes by special forces in Afghanistan and establish a permanent investigations unit, while developing a national strategy and program to join the global fight to disrupt the impunity that exists for those who commit atrocities and to assist victims and survivor communities around the world in their struggle for justice and accountability.

Rawan Arraf, Director

The nation needs a permanent war crimes unit

The public has been shocked by revelation after revelation of serious allegations of war crimes committed by Australian special forces in Afghanistan. There's been a steady stream of statements from the Defence Minister and, most recently, the Chief of the Army, preparing us for worse to come.

At the conclusion of Justice Paul Brereton's Afghanistan inquiry, we know there will be more referrals to the Australian Federal Police of war crimes allegations.

We know so far that Brereton's inquiry has investigated more than 55 incidents of alleged unlawful killings and cruel treatment of Afghan civilians and captured combatants. We know that the AFP is investigating at least three incidents, and it has been put on notice to prepare for more.

Our legal centre was established to push Australia to undertake more investigations and prosecutions into international crimes and to contribute to the global effort to end the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of these crimes. It has been saying for some time that the AFP needs specialist training, skills and resources to undertake such investigations. Authorities often find the challenges involved in investigating and prosecuting crimes committed extrajurisdictionally daunting, and consequently choose not to prioritise these cases.

Last week, the AFP's commissioner stated it has now set up a taskforce to manage the Afghanistan war crimes investigations. While that's a welcome sign, is it enough? Is the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions prepared?

This renewed focus on these types of crimes makes it clear that what is needed is a dedicated and permanent program ready and responsible for investigating and prosecuting international crimes.

This is not a novel idea. Recently the Australian Law Reform Commission accepted recommendations from human rights organisations and academic experts that the federal government consider establishing a specialised extrajurisdictional crimes investigations unit, and to undertake a further inquiry into investigating and prosecuting transnational crimes.

Such a unit has existed before. In 1987, a Specialised Investigations Unit, attached to the Attorney-General's Department, was set up to investigate the presence of alleged Nazi war criminals in Australia. It was disbanded in 1994 and, as is all too common, its experts found a home overseas with many leading teams in international criminal tribunals. One of these recently returned home after leading the team that helped capture the financier of the Rwandan genocide, Felicien Kabuga, who had been on the run for more than 25 years.

To develop that same level of expertise, the AFP and the CDPP will require additional resources, and most importantly the specialist training and skills to prosecute these crimes. The logical home for any permanent unit would be in the AFP.

There are serious challenges to prosecuting extrajurisdictional crimes that require creative strategies, international co-operation, and sharing of expertise. Investigators and prosecutors must overcome jurisdictional constraints, language, cultural and technical barriers. In addition there are issues with access to crime scenes and other evidence. Specialised units deliver depth of experience and over time the quality of investigations improves and investigation time decreases. In establishing such a body, Australia would be joining countries such as the Netherlands, Germany, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Britain and the US, which have long-established war crimes units that are actively investigating atrocities in Syria, Iraq, Myanmar, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to name a few. More specifically, in relation to Afghanistan, we need to ensure the AFP and the CDPP will conduct investigations and prosecutions effectively and genuinely. Otherwise, Australian nationals may face the International Criminal Court in The Hague. A parliamentary inquiry could be set up now to examine whether the AFP has the skills, expertise and resources to undertake the referrals to come, and specify the reforms needed to properly investigate and fund these investigations.

The opportunity is now to consolidate expertise in investigating and prosecuting war crimes by special forces in Afghanistan and establish a national program to join the global fight to disrupt the impunity that exists for those who commit atrocities and to help victims around the world in their struggle for justice and accountability.

Rawan Arraf is principal lawyer and director of the Australian Centre for International Justice.

Read the opinion piece in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 October 2020

Read the opinion piece in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 October 2020



#ausUPR

AUSTRALIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS SCORE CARD

AUSTRALIA'S 3RD UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Joint NGO Submission on behalf of the Australian NGO Coalition

APRIL 2020

This Joint NGO Submission is endorsed, in whole or in part, by 202 NGOs across Australia. The submission was coordinated by the Human Rights Law Centre, the Kingsford Legal Centre and the Caxton Legal Centre, working with an Advisory Group comprised of 16 NGOs, which provided expert guidance on the content and focus of the submission.

The sections in the submission were developed by 21 expert and recognised NGOs, working with 36 other diverse NGOs. Particular attention was taken to ensure intersectionality across the sections, reflecting the compounding nature of discrimination and disadvantage in Australia, and the direct participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their organisations.

This submission was finalised in April 2020, at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic was sweeping Australia and the world, resulting in delays in UN Universal Periodic Review processes. This submission was therefore submitted in July 2020 and an annexure included (Annexure C) that addresses COVID-19 and human rights developments in Australia between April and July 2020.

CONTACT

Read the joint NGO submission online.

Read the joint NGO submission online.



Human Rights Law Centre

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

Reform required to end corporate impunity

Submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission's Review into Australia's corporate criminal responsibility regime

31 January 2020

www.hric.org.au

Freedom. Respect. Equality. Dignity. Action.

Read the joint submission online.

Read the joint submission online.



JUSTICE FOR THE ROHINGYA PEOPLE

Highlighting the role of corporations in business links with the Myanmar military

Together with the Burmese Rohingya Community in Australia (BRCA), we submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request for the Future Fund to disclose any holdings it has in Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (Adani Ports SEZ). The Future Fund is Australia's sovereign wealth fund.

The FOI revealed the Future Fund has AUD\$3.2 million invested in Adani Ports SEZ, this is despite critical environmental, social and corporate governance failings of the company in Myanmar because of its commercial deal in Myanmar with a Myanmar military holding company, the Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC), as identified by the UN Human Rights Council's International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar in the August 2019 Report on the 'Economic interests of the Myanmar military.'

We wrote to the Future Fund, urging the fund to divest all holdings from Adani Ports SEZ, and any other entities that maintain business ties with Myanmar military-owned companies and the Carmichael coal project.

We worked in collaboration with partners in Australia's climate justice movement to highlight this story. The climate dimensions of the story are significant because of the links between climate damaging projects and human rights violations.

The story was covered on ABC News online, radio and television and shared widely on social media. Our legal advocacy will continue in 2021.



A genocide has occurred and we are technically funding them.

Mohammad Junaid, Burmese Rohingya Community in Australia (BRCA)

19 November 2020

The Hon Peter Costello
Chairman, Board of Guardians
Future Fund
Locked Bag 20010
Melbourne VIC 3001

Re: Future Fund's investments in Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd

Dear Mr Costello,

Through a Freedom of Information request, we recently became aware of equity holdings held by the Future Fund in Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones Ltd (**Adani Ports**) valued at AUD\$3.2million. We write to express our serious concern that the Future Fund, Australia's sovereign wealth fund, holds equity in Adani Ports, despite grave human rights concerns regarding Adani Ports' business in Myanmar. This is in addition to its recently revealed role in the Carmichael coal project in Australia¹ and the associated environmental, ecological and climate impacts, which is also a major threat to the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wangan and Jagalingou people.

Introduction

The Myanmar military (known as the **Tatmadaw**) is credibly accused of committing serious violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law, including violations which amount to the commission of grave crimes under international law, crimes which are serious criminal offences against the Commonwealth of Australia.² These in particular include allegations of: war crimes; crimes against humanity; and genocide against the Rohingya minority in Myanmar. In August 2017, following decades of persecution, the Tatmadaw engaged in 'clearance operations' of entire villages across Arakan state, marked by mass killings of civilians, widespread and systematic torture, torching of whole villages, widespread rape and other forms of sexual violence, including against children, and forced mass displacement. In September 2019, the UN Human Rights Council's Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar (FFM) concluded that the Rohingya people remain at serious risk of genocide under the terms of the Genocide Convention.³

The Rohingya community in Australia have suffered greatly through the actions of the Tatmadaw and the genocidal campaign against the Rohingya. Many in the Rohingya community have family members that are severely impacted by the violence of the Tatmadaw. Some managed to escape the horrors inflicted on them, and now live in

¹ Josh Robertson, 'Adani Launches Own Rail Company to Haul Coal from Carmichael Mine' ABC (10 September 2020) <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-10/adani-coal-mine-abbot-pond-terminal-rail-line-proposal/1244432>>

² Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth) sch 1, Divisions 268 and 274.

³ UN Human Rights Council, Detailed Findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, HRC, 42nd sess, Agenda Item 7, UN Doc A/HRC/42/CRP.5 (16 September 2019) <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/FFM-Myanmar/20190916A_HRC_42_CRP_5.pdf> (24).

Read the joint letter to the Future Fund online.

View of Ahlone Ports, Yangon, Myanmar.

ABC NEWS

Australia's Future Fund 'in bed with Adani' after freedom of information request reveals \$3.2 million investment

By national science, technology and environment reporter Michael Slezak
Posted Wed 16 Dec 2020 at 5:56am, updated Wed 16 Dec 2020 at 9:25am

Read the ABC News online story, December 2020.

Watch Rawan Arraf on ABC News 24 Live, December 2020

AM

3 m

Australian Government urged to divest from Adani company

AM with Sabra Lane

Documents, seen by the ABC, reveal the Australian Government is investing public money in an Adani

Listen to the ABC AM Radio segment, December 2020.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CRIMES IN SYRIA & IRAQ

Advancing rights for Yazidi, Syrian and Iraqi people

In 2015, the Australian Government introduced citizenship revocation provisions as a tool to fight terrorism and prevent foreign fighters from returning to Australia. These provisions were up for review by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security.

The citizenship revocation provisions are dangerous for many reasons and we highlight the role that it plays in inhibiting Australia's duty to prosecute Australians suspected of involvement in international crimes.

We presented detailed submissions and recommended that the provisions be repealed and for the Government to act to prosecute Australians involved in international crimes. We were invited to give evidence in October 2019 to the Committee, which was reported by [wire news services](#).

Legislative changes introduced

In September 2020 the Committee reported, and a bill was introduced recognising the need to consider international crimes conduct of foreign fighters in the Explanatory Memorandum. Though we fundamentally oppose the policy of citizenship revocation, we [welcomed the reform, implementing changes based on recommendations we made](#).

Changes introduced include that when determining whether a person's citizenship will be revoked, there must be a consideration of whether they were involved in the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide. Although it may appear at first instance that this is a minor reform, it introduces a significant change to the policy on citizenship revocation and is the first evidence of political will mandating that Australian authorities must exercise their obligation to investigate and where appropriate investigate the commission of grave crimes by foreign fighters.

Our specialist legal expertise on this issue was the first legal advocacy effort to press Australian authorities on their responsibility to investigate international crimes, and proved to be key in contributing to these changes.

Yazidi, Syrian and Iraqi survivors of crimes by foreign fighters can now press Australian authorities to implement these changes effectively. We will continue working with our partners to monitor the implementation.

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

Australian citizenship revocation provisions & Australia's duty to prosecute international crimes

Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

19 July 2019

Read the submission online.

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

Review of the Australian Citizenship Amendment (Citizenship Cessation) Bill 2019

Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

14 October 2019

Read the submission online.

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

Review of the Australian Citizenship Amendment (Citizenship Cessation) Bill 2019

Supplementary Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

25 October 2019

Read the submission online.

Rawan Arraf
AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

Rawan Arraf from the ACIJ presenting evidence before the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security in October 2019.

The Sydney Morning Herald

OPINION

Australians trapped in Syria should be brought home to justice

By Rawan Arraf
October 9, 2019

Read the opinion piece in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 October 2019

HUMAN RIGHTS SANCTIONS ACT

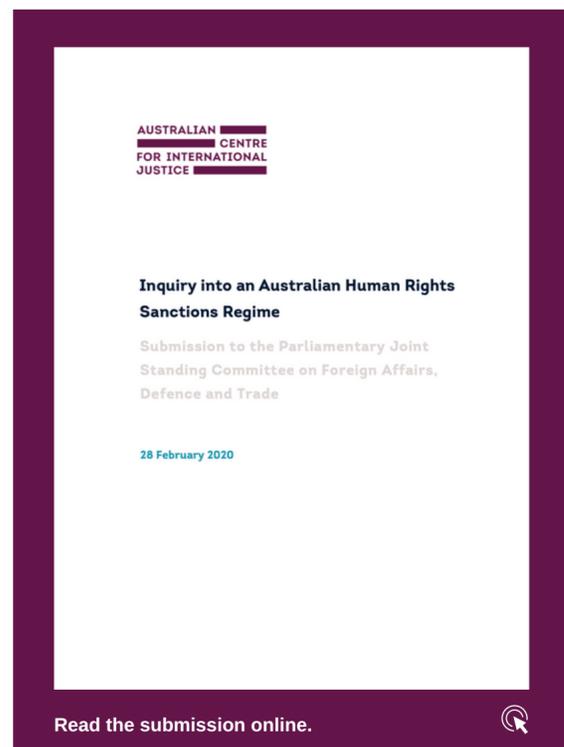
Advocating for new accountability tools

In February 2020, we made a submission to a Parliamentary Inquiry on whether Australia should introduce, Magnitsky style, human rights targeted sanctions laws. The introduction of a new Australian human rights sanctions regime represents a unique opportunity for Australia to protect and promote human rights globally, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, by targeting human rights abusers and corrupt actors, as well as promoting accountability.

The ACIJ recommended that any sanctions determination process must ensure that the criminal prosecution of perpetrators of gross human rights violations that amount to international crimes, should be Australia's primary objective to combating impunity for serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, but in circumstances where prosecution it is not likely, targeted sanctions can be a powerful tool to hold perpetrators accountable.

In March 2020, the ACIJ was invited to provide evidence to the Committee at a hearing. The Committee heard evidence throughout the year from impacted diaspora communities, academics and high-profile lawyers and advocates from around the world, including Geoffrey Robertson QC.

Our recommendations, that a sanctions determination process ensures contribution of civil society and NGOs, and that an independent committee be established to provide recommendations, monitoring and guidance, among others were accepted by the Parliamentary Committee in [its report released in November 2020](#). The ACIJ will continue to engage with the process when a draft bill is introduced in Federal Parliament in 2021.

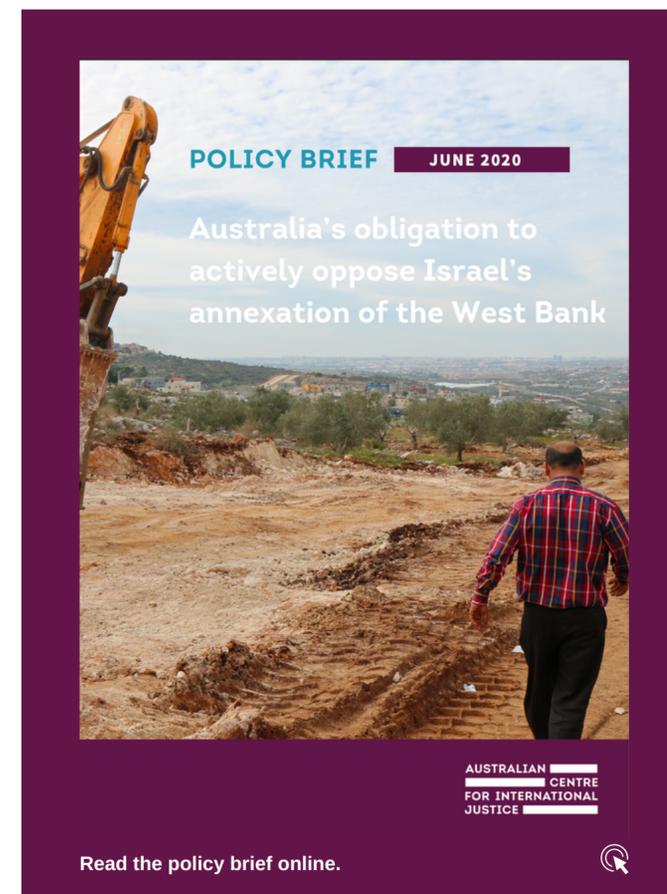


POLICY BRIEF: ANNEXATION & PALESTINE

Advocating for a just approach to Palestine

Our briefing paper on Australia's international law obligations regarding Israel's annexation of the West Bank was released in June 2020 in anticipation of Israel's imminent annexation of the West Bank. It was widely read and shared. It may even have influenced the statement released by the Foreign Minister which recognised "land appropriations, demolitions, and settlement activity" the issues that formed the focus of our brief. In a climate where the Australian Government is often dismissive of Palestinian human rights on the global stage, this was a welcome step.

We recommended the implementation of effective measures against any imminent annexation and present *de facto* annexation policies such as targeted sanctions, and other measures for violations of international law arising from Israel's occupation and settlement enterprise, which have expressly denied the Palestinian people fundamental human rights guarantees. We recognised Australia's response in respect of Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and recommended Australia consider other places impacted by occupation and annexation, such as Western Sahara and West Papua.



SUPPORT FOR THE ICC & ROME STATUTE SYSTEM

Advocating for support for the ICC against US sanctions measures

In 2020 we saw the amplification of attacks from the US Government against the International Criminal Court, with threats in March 2020 of sanctions measures against ICC staff, and subsequently in June 2020, imposition of sanctions against the ICC's Chief Prosecutor and another member of the Office of the Prosecutor.

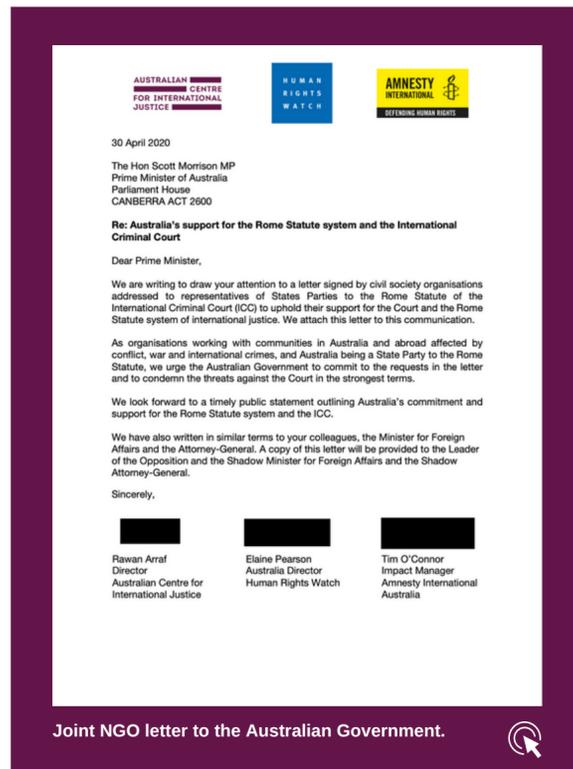
The ACIJ worked with human rights organisations to appeal to the Australian Government to condemn the threats and support the ICC against attacks, including through public and private engagement to pursue those ends. The ACIJ spoke to the ABC's AM about this event. The Australian Government joined other States Parties in joint statements to protest the actions of the US Government.

Participation at the ICC Assembly of States Parties, December 2019

For the first time, the Australian Centre for International Justice was represented at the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court meeting in its 18th session in The Hague in December 2019.

The ACIJ is the first ever Australian civil society organisation to be present at the ASP. We attended meetings and held discussions with delegations and with partners from civil society organisations from around the world to learn from, and contribute to advancing Australia's role in the fight against impunity for grave crimes.

Read the report of the ACIJ's participation at the ICC ASP 2019.



Joint NGO letter to the Australian Government.

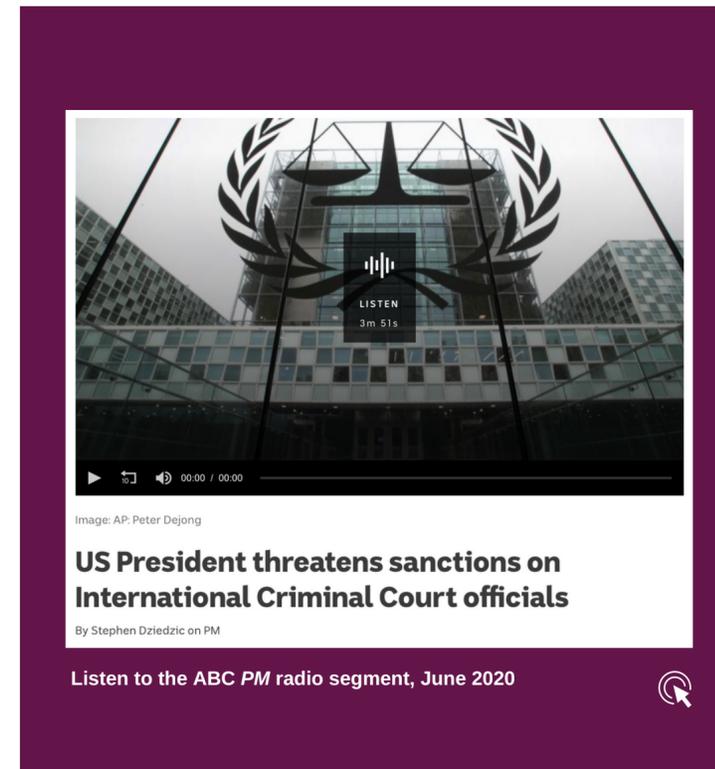


Image: AP: Peter Dejong

US President threatens sanctions on International Criminal Court officials

By Stephen Dziedzic on PM

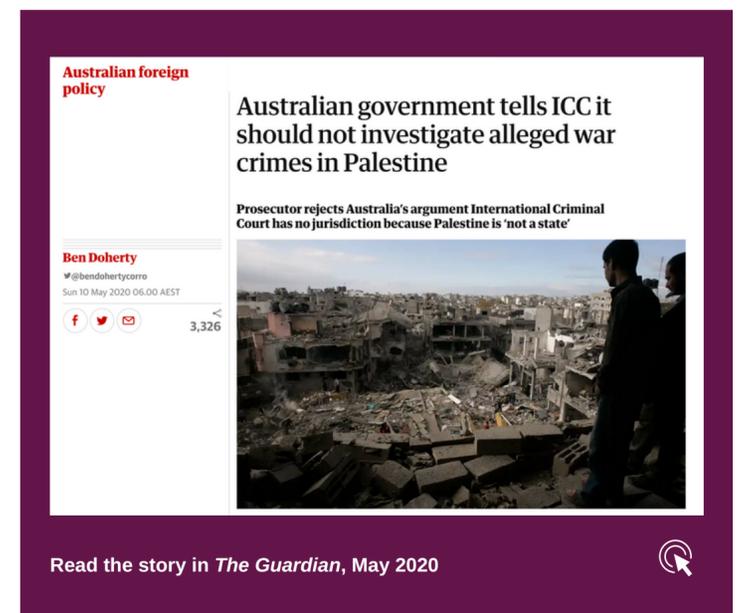
Listen to the ABC PM radio segment, June 2020

Supporting accountability at the ICC: Palestine

In February 2020, the Australian Government joined a small group of other States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC to intervene in ICC proceedings and provide observations to a Pre-Trial Chamber arguing that the Court has no jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute grave crimes in Palestine.

The ACIJ worked with human rights NGO partners in Palestine and others around the world to condemn this move and call on States Parties to support international justice and accountability and withdraw their requests to prevent an investigation from proceeding.

Our media release broke the news, and our comments were featured in *The Guardian*. Rawan Arraf appeared on community radio to explain the proceedings at the ICC and Australia's position. The ACIJ is committed to working with our NGO partners in Palestine and around the world, who represent victims groups from the occupied Palestinian territory in Gaza and the West Bank, to ensure access to justice at the ICC without discrimination.



Read the story in *The Guardian*, May 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful for the support of so many people and organisations who have assisted and supported us from the beginning.

Thank You

Awdah Arraf, Brami Jegan, Alexandra Lily Kather, Fiona Nelson, Scott Cosgriff, Raymond Bonner, Chris Sidoti, Professor Ben Saul, Andreas Schüller Ben Batros, Melissa Parke, Professor Louise Chappell, Kate Eastman SC, Dan Creasey, Andrew Ferguson, Sarah Dale, Wolfgang Kaleck, Jen Robinson, Raji Sourani, Daniel Machover, Katie Gallagher, Susan Power, Hal Wootten AC QC, Professor Gillian Cowlshaw, Frances Harrison, Yasmin Sooka, Professor Andrea Durbach, Emily Howie, Ruth Barson, Keren Adams, Amal Nasser, Sareta Ashraph, Sarah Finnin, Priya Pillai, Professor Kevin Jon Heller, Dan Oakes, Elaine Pearson, Sophie McNeil, Patricia Gossman, Ehsane Qaane, Hadi Marifat, Horia Mosadiq, Mahmoud Abdul-Nabi, Ibtisam Abdul-Nabi, Elise Keppler, Nyagoah Tut Pur, Tobias Freeman, Tim O'Connor, Simon Henderson, Dr Sue Wareham, Elise West, Joshua Scotland, Nicki Lees, Jacinta Lewin, Kristin Robson, John Ralston, Bob Reid, Graham Blewitt, Professor Sarah Williams, Dr Joanna Kyriakakis, Natalie Young, Hala Yousef Nguyen, Paula Abood, Alissar Gazal, Barbara Bloch, Ledia Andrawes, Ifdal Elsaket, Sofia Yiannikas, Reem Abdalla, Sarah Hassanen, Mariam Hakim, Amanda Alassad-Bruun, Alissar Chidiac, Nikolai Haddad, Randa Abdel-Fattah, Samah Sabawi, Jennine Khalik, Professor Bassam Dally, Sara Saleh, Sarah Ibrahim, Jennifer Killen, Safdar Ahmed, Isabelle Reinecke, Hollie Johnston, Rebecca Barber, Kobra Moradi, Nirmanusan Balasundaram, Mohammad Junaid, Kellie Tranter, Antony Loewenstein, Fatima Yazbeck, Joanna Soucek, Duncan Philp, Russ Hawkins, and many more.

Pro Bono Firms

King & Wood Mallesons, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers

Barristers

Matthew Kalyk (NSW Bar), Madeleine Bridgett (NSW Bar), Rose Khalilizadeh (NSW Bar), Felicity Gerry QC (Vic Bar), Talia Epstein (NSW Bar)

Volunteer Legal Advisors

Fiona Nelson, Dr Shannon Maree Torrens, Sofia Yiannikas

Volunteer Legal Researchers

Alexandra Touw, Michael Moryosef

Advocacy Partners

Afghanistan Human Rights & Democracy Organization, Amnesty International Australia, Australian Arms Control Coalition, Burmese Rohingya Community in Australia, Conflict Analysis Network, Human Rights Law Centre, Human Rights Watch, Save the Children Australia, Sunrise Project, Transitional Justice Coordination Group - Afghanistan, and many more.

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