

22(1)(a)

From: Kiersten Dybing
Sent: Monday, 17 December 2012 11:47 AM
To: Ian Bignall
Cc: Vanja Jukic
Subject: RE: Aust Jewish News Peace Centre BDS enquiry [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: 121210 TPs - University of Sydney Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies.doc

Hi Guys

I am just letting you know that at this morning's media meeting the DG has requested us to update the BDS talking points today. I have attached the last version we have here.

Request was made to include points along the lines of:

- 1. No, we didn't know the CPCS had a pro-BDS stance (I recall we had this in your original version of the response last week. Can we confirm this was absolutely the case?)**
2. Use the lines of Sydney Uni Vice Chancellor in the Oz last week about these being the views of an individual, not the uni (I am getting that)
- 3. When did Jake Lynch start at the CPCS? (Do you guys have an idea about that?)**

Are you able to possibly find the answer to the questions highlighted above and I will update the points and then send to you for fact-checking and clearance.

Call me to discuss if you need to.

Thanks so much in advance

Kiersten

Kiersten Dybing

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Ian Bignall
Sent: Tuesday, 11 December 2012 4:38 PM
To: James Gilling
Cc: Layton Pike; Catharine O'Ryan; Scott Kelleher; Kiersten Dybing; Sophie Gordon
Subject: FW: Aust Jewish News Peace Centre BDS enquiry [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

James

The attached media inquiry response has been approved by Layton and Fleur.

For your clearance please.

Thank you
Ian

Ian Bignall



The Australian Government is committed to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals

From: Scott Kelleher
Sent: Tuesday, 11 December 2012 3:36 PM
To: Ian Bignall; Vanja Jukic; Fleur Davies; Ali Gillies
Cc: Kiersten Dybing; Ausaid Media; Lisa Wright
Subject: RE: Aust Jewish News Peace Centre BDS enquiry [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

All,

ADG Ali Gillies has approved the response on page 2 (highlighted).
Appreciate Fleur's approval ASAP.

Thanks,

Scott Kelleher

Director Media | Media Unit | AusAID

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From: Scott Kelleher
Sent: Tuesday, 11 December 2012 3:12 PM
To: Ian Bignall; Vanja Jukic; Fleur Davies; Ali Gillies
Cc: Kiersten Dybing; Ausaid Media; Lisa Wright
Subject: Aust Jewish News Peace Centre BDS enquiry [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

All,

Appreciate consideration of this response based on the information previously provided by Ian and Vanja yesterday and today. Deadline is this evening and I will have to clear through Exec and the FMO, so ASAP please.

Thanks,

Scott Kelleher

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The Australian Government is committed to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals





Subject: Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney

Version 1, 12:30 PM, 7/12/12

Key spoken message: The International Seminar Support Scheme (ISSS) provided \$46,592 to the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney. The funds were for 18 delegates to attend the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) biennial conference titled "Communicating Peace" 6 – 10 July 2010 at the University of Sydney.

Talking Points

- The International Seminar Support Scheme (ISSS) provided \$46,592 to the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney.
 - The funds were for 18 delegates to attend the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) biennial conference titled "Communicating Peace" 6 – 10 July 2010 at the University of Sydney.
 - The delegates were from Philippines, Mexico, South Africa, Guatemala, India, Nepal, Kenya, Peru, Thailand, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Cambodia and Fiji.
- Funds were approved on 29 April 2010 and the Centre was notified on 5 May 2010. Funds have been acquitted.
- ISSS only funds travel and accommodation for delegates to attend a conference. Funds are not provided as core funding to the host organisation.
- ISSS grants are awarded competitively and must meet the criteria of supporting developing country participant attendance at international development-oriented seminars held both in Australia and overseas.
- The ISSS assists the Australian government's objective of helping developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through developing knowledge and technical expertise in these countries and building linkages between the government, academic and community sectors in Australia and our partner developing countries.
 - In this case, support was strongly recommended by the relevant AusAID area - the Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation and Recovery Group (now the

Fragility and Conflict Branch).

- ISSS also funded the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies for four participants to attend the Peace and Justice in a Globalised World Conference at Mie University, Japan 24 – 28 November 2012. This was the next iteration of the biennial conference.
 - \$14,036 was provided for delegates from Philippines, Mexico and Kenya. Funds are not yet acquitted. Peace and Conflict Branch advised that the conference purpose had merit.

Background

The Foreign Minister's Office requested talking points on an article that ran in The Australian on 7 December 2012 about a \$47,000 AusAID grant given to the University of Sydney's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies in 2010.

Academic defends stance on Israel by [REDACTED]

THE head of the University of Sydney Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies has defended his refusal to assist an Israeli civics teacher who has designed programs for Jewish and Arab children with research work in Australia.

In a stinging critique of Australia's foreign policy, Jake Lynch said the centre boycotted Israeli institutions "because of the deficiencies of official foreign policy and diplomacy by Australia and other influential states".

He said supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel sent a "message of unacceptability for Israel's expansionist policies and militarism". "The message has not been clear enough from many governments, including Australia's, and that has contributed to the problem," Mr Lynch said.

"By withholding our co-operation on an institutional level, we are doing our bit to make up for that."

The Australian revealed yesterday that the centre had rejected a bid by Hebrew University of Jerusalem academic [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for assistance with research on the basis of the policy.

Civics education is one of the most sensitive subjects in the Israeli school curriculum. Earlier this year [REDACTED] took a strong stand in a clash over the treatment of a senior education official over the treatment in the curriculum of the incidents of 1948 that led to the birth of the Jewish state. He warned in local media against "an agenda that places an emphasis on nationalistic values at the expense of civil values".

On moving beyond the Jewish and Palestinian civil divide, 7F(1) has warned how "locked horns represents a static headlock, which causes psychological and sociological immobility and consequently a diminished quality of life".

The ban on 7F(1) provoked anger from the Coalition, which called on Foreign Minister Bob Carr to reveal if the centre declared its pro-BDS stand before receiving a \$47,000 grant from AusAid in 2010. Associate Professor Lynch said this was like comparing "apples and oranges".

Opposition foreign affairs spokeswoman Julie Bishop demanded Senator Carr repudiate the BDS campaign.

"The decision of the centre to put a ban on contacts with Israeli academics is completely at odds with the aims of a centre that purports to be dedicated to studies in peace," Ms Bishop said.

The centre is outspoken on other policy issues, with its most recent annual report attacking the war on terror and accusing "official Australia" of attempting to sweep the issue of West Papua "under the carpet".

Sydney University provides two salaried staff positions, including Associate Professor Lynch's, at the centre.

Associate Professor Lynch said the centre received research income tied to specific programs and "a few diddly amounts" as a part of Sydney University's school of social and political sciences.

Background (not for release)

Author	Ian Bignall
Cleared by FADG	Fleur Davies, ADG DGP
Consultation	Sophie Gordon, AusAID Media
Point of Contact <ADG or above>	Fleur Davies, ADG DGP