

23 June 2022

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OIA 28022

Tēnā koe Andrew Li

I refer to your email of 23 April 2022, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

On 0855 Friday, a disgusting message was publicly posted on Twitter by the official MFATNZ Twitter account, suggesting that Palestinian victims were to blame for the repeated terrorist attacks by the zionist entity on the al-Aqsa Mosque, and that Palestinians were somehow morally obliged to refrain from responding against terror attacks launched by zionist invaders on the third holiest site in Islam and the Gaza concentration camp.

<https://twitter.com/MFATNZ/status/1517245771367673856>

I am requesting:

- 1) All internal notes and communications made by Ms Mahuta and her office with MFAT and other individuals and organizations which related to the production of this message.*
- 2) All internal notes and communications made by Ms Mahuta and her office with MFAT and other individuals and organizations which relate to the ongoing zionist terrorist attacks on the Al Aqsa mosque and Gaza, which have escalated with the particularly disgusting April 15 attack on the mosque.*
- 3) MFAT policy, documents, and messages related to how MFAT communications should address Palestine, and the so called state of 'Israel', as well as the conflicts between the native Palestinian population of Palestine and the zionist invaders.*

In addition to the questions above,

- 4) I am requesting the name of the individual responsible for posting the attack on the Palestinian people mentioned above:*

<https://twitter.com/MFATNZ/status/1517245771367673856>

On 12 May 2022, the deadline to provide a decision on your request was extended to 23 June 2022.

A decision has been made on your request, and you can expect to receive the information within the next 7 working days.

Some portions of the response will be withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;

- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy;
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments; and
- 9(2)(g)(ii): to protect officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, we have identified no public interest in releasing the information that would override the reasons for withholding it.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Julie-Anne Lee
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade