

Office of Rt Hon Winston Peters

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister for Racing



17 May 2024

Andrew Riddell

fyi-request-26477-3e32d434@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Andrew Riddell,

Thank you for your email of 18 April 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

'copies of all briefings, emails, records of meetings and all other communications since you became the current Minister of Foreign Affairs on the following matters:

- (a) *The statement "barbaric violations of women and children" used when referring to the 7 October attack and since - given the number of 'barbaric violations' reported on October 7 which have since been shown to be false, what is the nature of these barbaric allegations you speak of, according to the briefings, advice and other communications you have received.*
- (b) *The investigations into serious allegations against certain UNRWA staff - what are the specific investigations you are looking forward to the outcome of? What briefings or reports have you received about the Israel's evidence supporting these serious allegations against certain UNRWA staff.*
- (c) *Given you say that building and expanding illegal settlements in the occupied territories and the forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza imperil the two-state solution, what advice or assessments have you received on the continued viability of a 2 state solution?*
- (d) *You say all must demand that Hamas release all remaining hostages immediately. What advice have you received about the legal status of Israeli military personnel held by Hamas - are these people hostages or prisoners of war? What advice and information have you received about the thousands of Palestinians held without charge by Israel, and their status under international law?*
- (e) *The press release of 14 April asserts that Iran conducted illegal strikes against Israel. Iran is citing its right to self-defence for these strikes, following the attack by Israel on its consulate at Damascus. What advice have you received on this 'self-defence' justification, and the legality of it.*
- (f) *Your speech to the United Nations acknowledges that Palestinian civilians bear the brunt of Israel's military action. Have you asked for or received any advice or briefings on the impacts of Israeli military action on Palestinian civilians in Gaza, and its legality in terms of international humanitarian law? I note that the government has imposed sanctions on some Israeli illegal settlers on the West Bank. Have you asked for and/or received any advice on imposing sanctions against members of the Israeli cabinet and military for their actions in Gaza'*

This letter is to advise that we will need to extend the time limit for responding to you by 25 working days, to 24 June 2024. This is because responding to your request necessitates review of a large quantity of information, and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with the operations of this office (section 15A(1)(a) of the OIA refers). However, if this process is completed before 24 June 2024, the response will be sent to you as soon as possible.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Allen', written in a cursive style.

Jamie Allen
Private Secretary (Advisory/Media)