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Media Release

Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer

10 August 2001 / FA121

Bomb Attack in Jerusalem

I am horrified by the terrorist attack in Jerusalem, which killed and injured so many people last night. There can be no justification for such acts. Terrorism in all its forms must be condemned.

I wish to convey personally, and on behalf of the Australian Government, my sincere condolences to the families of the killed and injured, particularly the family of 15 year old Malki Roth, originally from Melbourne. I have directed the Embassy in Tel Aviv to provide whatever support they can in this dreadful situation.

I agree with the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan, that attacks against civilians violate international and humanitarian law. The use of violence can only result in further acts of violence, creating a spiral that can only exacerbate the suffering of innocent civilians on all sides. Violence is not the answer to the problems of the Middle East.

I recognise that President Arafat of the Palestinian Authority has denounced this cowardly attack. We call on the Palestinian Authority to exert all efforts to stop such attacks and to bring to justice the perpetrators.

As I have said before, there can be no military solution to this conflict. A cessation of the violence is the only way that both sides can hope to see a resumption of their negotiations to achieve a comprehensive and just outcome to their conflict.

*Media inquiries: Matt Francis (Ministerial) 02 6277 7500, Lyndall Sachs (Departmental)
02 6261 1555*