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From: shane mccartin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 13 May 2022 12:00 PM
To: Committee, PJCIS (REPS)
Subject: Possible terrorist listing of all of Hamas

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

I would like to make another submission to the PJCIS on this matter, as follows:

Today I looked again at the record of the PJCIS meeting of 1 October 2021. I did not read the whole record. That would be too painful, reading such biased, pro-Israel propaganda from 'experts' who, really, are just advocates for Israel.

Why did the committee need to hear from someone in the US? The grandly named 'Foundation for Defense of Democracies' is, in reality, just another pro-Israel 'think' tank in disguise. If it was really interested in defending democracy it would, actually, be standing up for Hamas, who won the January 2006 Palestinian elections, an election that was widely seen to be fair and democratic. Israel had not wanted Hamas to be allowed to participate in the elections but the US insisted that Hamas be allowed to participate. Clearly, that was supposed to be part of a so-called democracy dividend from the invasion of Iraq in 2003. As the Israeli journalist Tanya Reinhart said in her book 'The Road Map to Nowhere – Israel/Palestine Since 2003', "Anyone interested in a cessation of bloodshed would undoubtedly welcome the commitment that Hamas had undertaken in early 2005, when it decided to abandon the armed struggle and join the democratic process instead."

Israel wasn't terribly happy when Hamas won. Israel refused to recognise the election result and pressured its friends to boycott Hamas. A Hamas which was willing to forego armed struggle, participate in the democratic process and then actually win an election was anathema to Israel. Naturally, Australia fell into line and boycotted the result of the election.

I would like to be able to say that I cannot believe this is how any Australian government would make policy, from a hearing that is stacked with advocates for a foreign power but, apparently, this is how it happens. No wonder our foreign policy is such a mess.

We pretend that we support that mythical beast, that forever disappearing mirage on the horizon, the "two state solution", a pretence that has always served only to buy time for Israel to kill the "two state solution" off but now buys Israel more time to well and truly bury it.

And we still pretend that we want peace in the Middle East.

Shane McCartin
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