



PRESS RELEASE

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Al Jama-ah says the South African government is delaying the freedom of Palestinians

The Al Jama-ah party says Home Affairs Minister's response to its call to have the passport of Miss SA revoked to prevent her from participation in the Miss Universe pageant taking place in apartheid Israel only serves to delay the freedom of Palestinians.

AL Jama-ah's leader and Member of Parliament, Hon Ganief Hendricks made the submission for oral reply from Home Affairs Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi during a parliamentary plenary session yesterday.

Minister Aaron Motsoaledi replied that the prerogative remains with Dirco (Department of International Relations and Cooperation) as the matter is related to relations with another country.

In a supplementary question to the Minister, Hendricks asked the Minister if he agreed with former president Nelson Mandela, that South Africa can never be free unless Palestine is free and whether he would approach the President of Republic of South Africa for an executive order to prevent Miss SA from travelling to Israel.

The Minister reiterated that the government has supported the position of the Department of Arts and Culture that it is not in support of Miss SA's participation in the pageant.

Regarding the Minister's reply that the Department can only act against issuing a passport in cases of crime, "We wish to remind the Minister that apartheid is a crime and recognized as such by the United Nations," says Hendricks.

We continue to call on the ANC-led government to take a firm position and lead with the virtuous stature of a liberation movement that it is and demonstrate a true side of solidarity.

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