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Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**MEDIA TALKING
POINTS
DISTRIBUTION:
CRISIS**

Topic: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC
Subject: Hamas-Israel Conflict

Originating Division: CCD

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information and assisted
departures

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Talking Points

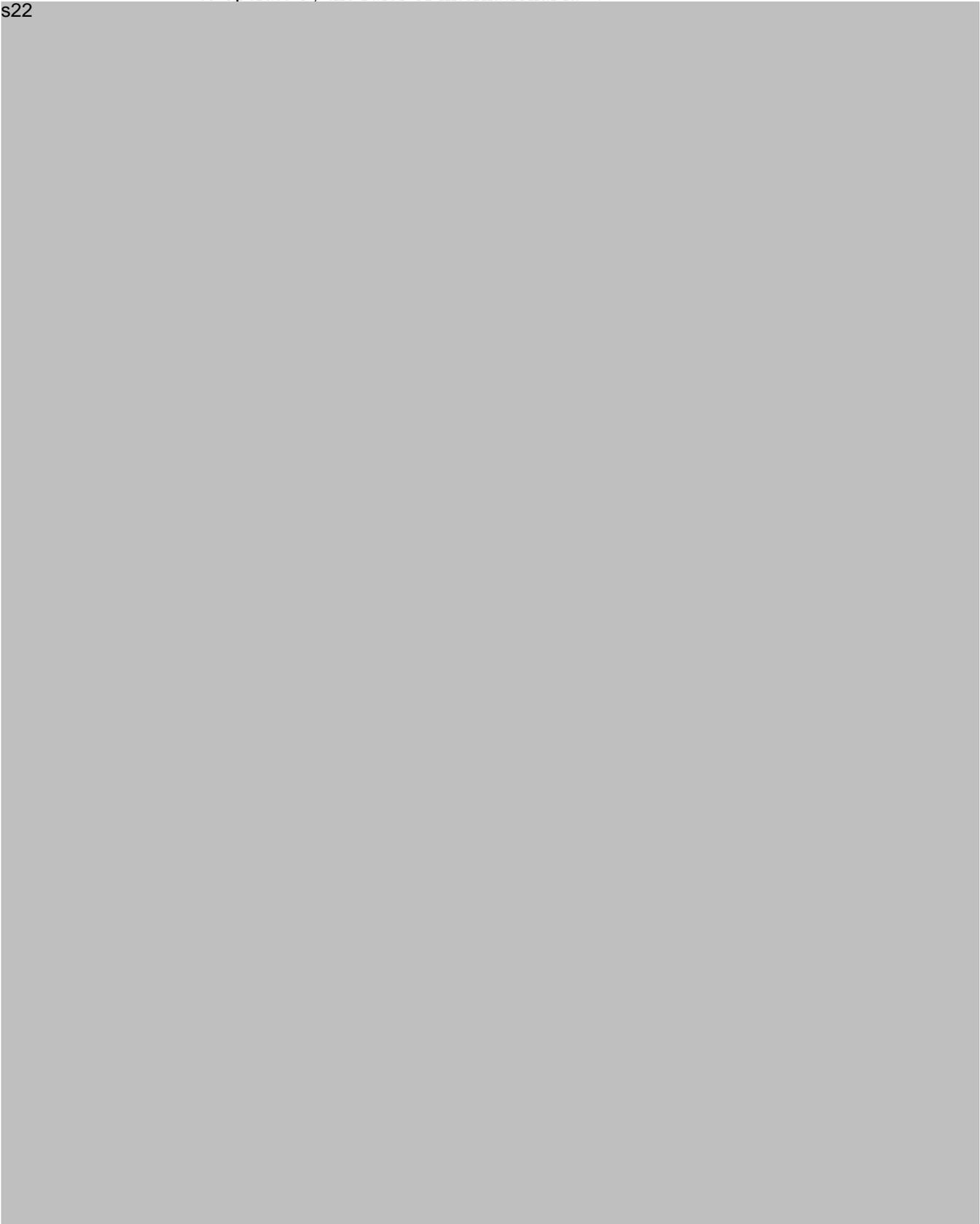
Headline messages

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- Australia stands with Israel and we recognise its right to defend itself.
- We call for the unconditional release of all hostages held in Gaza.
- We have already witnessed a devastating loss of life and innocent civilians on all sides are suffering.

- As hostilities continue, it is vitally important that international humanitarian law is respected and adhered to
 - we urge the protection of civilian lives and join with others in calling for Israel to operate by the rules of international law.

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What is Australia's view of the legality of Israel's military response?

- The Hamas attacks on Israel are abhorrent acts of terror against innocent civilians and outrageous breaches of international law.
- Australia recognises Israel's right to defend itself.
- Australia's consistent position in all contexts is to call for the protection of civilian lives and the observation of international humanitarian law.
- Australia joins with others in calling for Israel to operate by the rules of international law
 - we urge the protection of civilian lives in Gaza, where many innocent people are at risk.

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