

# Independent and Peaceful Australia Network Media Release



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## **IPAN welcomes Payne decision on Middle East**

“The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network welcomes the Government’s decision not to increase Australia’s military forces in the Middle East. At last we see some semblance of common sense from the Government on this issue,” said Kathryn Kelly, spokesperson for IPAN.

“We also support the intention outlined by Defence Minister, Marise Payne, to provide ‘further humanitarian support for Syria and Iraq and to provide additional airlift support to benefit coalition humanitarian efforts’,” she continued.

“The reports of people starving in Syria as a result of the conflict are incredibly distressing. Diplomatic and other non-military efforts to resolve the situation must be a priority”, Ms Kelly said.

“ IPAN calls on the Turnbull Government to take a more independent stance in relation to Australia’s foreign policy. The Government should give notice to terminate the USA’s Marine deployment in Darwin and the Pine Gap communications base near Alice Springs, the latter being essential for the USA’s illegal drone attacks program,” she said.

IPAN is holding a conference in Alice Springs in early October to bring attention to the role of the Pine Gap base and the need for Australia to take a more independent and peace-promoting approach in the Asia-Pacific region and globally.

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