



MEDIA RELEASE

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Montaigne to Perform at Anti-Genocide Rally Calling on SBS to Boycott Eurovision: "Queer Rights, First Nations Rights, Palestinian Rights - Our Struggles Are Connected."

Musician and singer **Montaigne**, a proud member of the queer community and Australia's 2021 Eurovision representative, will perform this Sunday at a major Palestine solidarity rally outside SBS headquarters at Federation Square, Melbourne.

Called by **Free Palestine Melbourne** and **Boycott Eurovision Australia**, the rally urges SBS to join broadcasters in Ireland, Slovenia, Spain, and the Netherlands in withdrawing from the 2026 Eurovision Song Contest over Israel's continued participation.

For many activists, the double standard is impossible to ignore. Eurovision banned Russia in 2022 over its Ukraine invasion - yet continues to offer a global stage to Israel despite its UN-recognised genocide. Organisers argue that allowing Israel to participate while Palestinians live under military occupation is **the ultimate in pinkwashing complicity** and makes a mockery of their slogan, "United By Music". Under these conditions, it cannot honestly claim to unite anyone.

Former SBS World News anchor **Mary Kostakidis**, who was a member of the management team that started up and developed the broadcaster, has also backed the call for SBS to withdraw:

"When an institution like the Eurovision Song Contest purports to champion unity, diversity and equality, yet refuses to sanction one of its participating nations for documented and ongoing atrocities, Australia's public broadcaster must not be complicit - the choice to stand on the side of international law is clear. Israel refuses to abide by the Orders of the International Court of Justice with respect to the Occupied Territories and must face the same sanctions as South Africa".

Montaigne says the fight for queer liberation can't be separated from the struggle for Palestinian freedom:

"As queer people, we know what it means to fight for dignity, visibility, and safety. Those values mean nothing if we abandon Palestinians living under military terror - or First Nations people here who still face systemic injustice. Our rights are tied together. I'm calling on SBS and all Australian artists to boycott Eurovision for as long as Israel is allowed to participate."

Organisers say the public is far ahead of SBS:

"We love Eurovision, not genocide. 58% of Australians support the imposition of Russia-style sanctions on Israel," said Stefano Perfili of Free Palestine Melbourne. **"It's SBS - not the queer community, not artists, not everyday Australians - who are out of touch."**

Demonstrators will gather at 12 pm at the State Library before marching to the SBS building at Federation Square, where Montaigne and other artists will perform and call on SBS management to withdraw from Eurovision until Palestinian rights are upheld.

For more information or comment, contact Stefano Perfili 0439 623 074 or Muayad Ali 0401 268 974.