



Honouring Palestine. A Vigil for the Victims of the Gaza Genocide.

On 7 October 2025, the Palestinian community of Victoria will hold a peaceful public vigil to honour our loved ones killed by Israel, and to bring into the light what has too often been demonised and forced into silence: our grief, our humanity, and our right to survive. We invite all people of conscience to join us in truth and compassion, affirming that mourning is a universal human right.

For 77 years, Palestinians have lived under violent dispossession, apartheid, and illegal occupation.

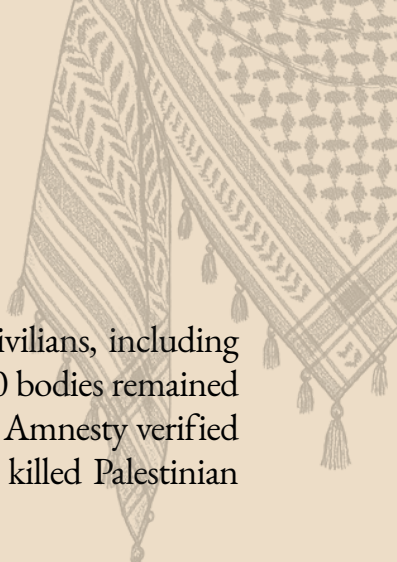
Our grief has been erased.
Our resistance demonised and criminalised.
Our humanity denied.

Since 1967, Gaza has been a prison under Israeli control. Even after the so-called 2005 “withdrawal,” Israel retained control over our borders, airspace, sea, population registry, and trade. Since 2007, Gaza has endured a suffocating blockade and relentless bombardments, killing Palestinians with impunity.

Yet western governments, institutions and media turned a blind eye, exposing the double standards in how Palestinian lives are valued - in stark contrast to the outrage over 7 October, 2023.

On that day, Hamas fighters breached the prison fence confining the Gaza Strip in an unprecedented large-scale assault. People died. Reports also indicate the Israeli military invoked the Hannibal Directive - a protocol permitting extreme measures to prevent abductions, even at the risk of hostages' lives. Meanwhile, 250 hostages were taken into Gaza, with Hamas stating their goal was to negotiate for the release of thousands of Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, many without trial.

That same night, Israel unleashed a massive bombardment on Gaza. Despite claims that no such attack took place, Amnesty International documented the destruction and deaths in those first days.



Between 7 and 22 October, more than 3,793 people were killed, mostly civilians, including over 1,500 children. At least 12,500 Palestinians were injured, and over 1,000 bodies remained trapped under the rubble. In the narrow window of 7 to 12 October alone, Amnesty verified thousands of Israeli airstrikes that levelled residential neighbourhoods and killed Palestinian civilians.

Entire multigenerational families were wiped out. By mid-October, at least 47 Palestinian families had been permanently erased from the civil registry in Gaza. These facts are a matter of public record. To deny them is to deny the truth, and to deny the humanity of those killed.

From 7 October 2023, Israel chose to prosecute a full-blown genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people, which mainstream media and political leaders obscured under the guise of self-defence. Entire neighbourhoods in Gaza were reduced to rubble. Tens of thousands of civilians were slaughtered by airstrikes and sniper fire. Children were starved, orphaned, and maimed. Women were denied safe childbirth, sexually assaulted, and left to bleed to death. Men were tortured, raped, and sexually assaulted in Israeli prisons. Some were bound as human shields to tanks, others trampled and killed beneath them.

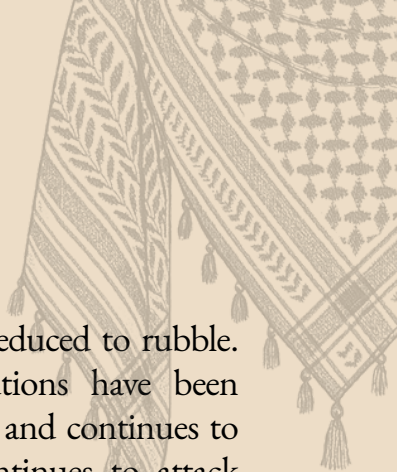
A man-made famine was imposed, with starving Palestinians shot and killed as they tried to reach food and water under the so-called US-Israeli “GHF” scheme. Emergency workers and medical staff were executed and buried in shallow graves. Palestinian journalists were deliberately targeted and killed, without so much as a whimper of protest from mainstream media colleagues worldwide

Gaza has become a place where children are executed by sniper fire, burned alive, or buried under rubble; where infants are decapitated; where bodies are riddled with over 350 bullets - all met with silence from the media and from world leaders who claim to stand for civilisation, human rights, and compassion.

Yet we, the Palestinian community, stand steadfast in the face of the relentless dehumanisation and demonisation of our people and our children.

Despite its long history of belligerent occupation, persecution, and the slaughter of Palestinian civilians, Israel is celebrated by Western politicians and media as “the only democracy in the region” - even as it wages a barbaric genocide in plain sight.

The ICJ has ruled Israel’s occupation unlawful. The UN General Assembly has demanded Israel’s withdrawal from all occupied territories by September 2025. The UN Commission of Inquiry, along with other international bodies, has declared Israel guilty of genocide.




Entire neighbourhoods have been flattened. Over 80% of Gaza has been reduced to rubble. Homes, hospitals, schools, universities, farmland, and cultural institutions have been systematically targeted - nothing of civilian life spared. Israel has imposed, and continues to maintain, a famine on the entire civilian population of Gaza, and continues to attack humanitarian aid workers in Gaza and in international waters. Children, journalists, medics, and aid workers, including Australian Zomi Frankcom, have been massacred with complete impunity. The majority (83%) of the Israeli civilian population openly support the genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people. Israeli and US officials have publicly voiced genocidal intent, boasting of “erasing” Gaza’s people and redeveloping its shattered, blood-soaked land into luxury beachfront property. Israel’s leaders stand accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Meanwhile, in the West Bank, Israeli settlers attack Palestinians, and steal their land and homes with impunity, while the state passes laws to annex what little Palestinian-owned territory remains, advancing Israel’s vision of a fully ethno-national state. Yet through it all, Australia and other Western powers grant Israel impunity, preserving trade, research partnerships, and diplomatic ties, so long as the bodies destroyed are Muslim, Palestinian, Arab, Black, or brown.

All the while, Palestinians in Australia are told not to “import our conflict here,” even as the government approves export permits and signs defence contracts with Israeli arms companies. These firms openly advertise their weapons as “battle-tested” on Palestinian bodies.

One such company is Israel’s state-owned Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, which has signed contracts and joint ventures directly with the Australian Defence Force. It has even used footage of a Palestinian man killed by its weapons as promotional material. Australia’s complicity runs deep. Components made here, which our Foreign Minister calls “non-lethal parts,” are used in the very machines that massacre our loved ones in our ancestral homeland.

At the same time, accusations of antisemitism are too often weaponised to silence and persecute Palestinian and pro-Palestinian voices, and to pressure politicians, media, government agencies, and institutions. Under the guise of protecting “social cohesion” and public safety, lobbies, media, and politicians push for the censorship, erasure, and demonisation of Palestinians and their supporters, with government representatives, institutions, universities, and media all too willing to comply. The harm was compounded further a few days ago when the Prime Minister, once well aware of the suffering and colonial persecution faced by Palestinians, stood on the world stage and claimed we teach our children to hate.



These efforts stoke anti-Palestinian hatred and Islamophobia, working to silence our voice and erase our existence, even here. Palestinians are demonised in life and dehumanised in death. With the complicity of politicians, lobbyists, and the media, narratives are crafted to erase our identity and history, and minimise and justify the killing of our loved ones.

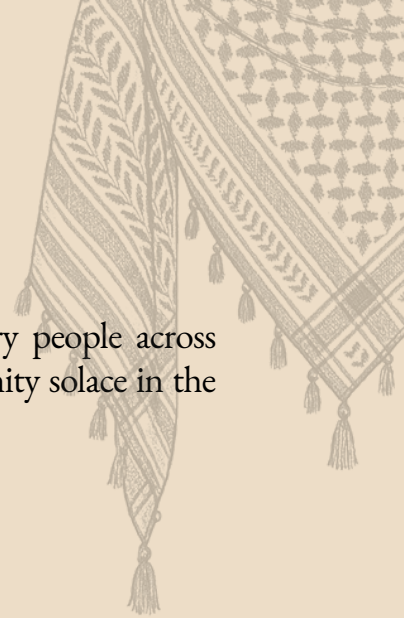
Last year, when our community gathered for a vigil on the first anniversary of October 7, we faced harsh public criticism. Prime Minister Albanese described the event as “provocative,” choosing only to acknowledge the grief of the pro-Israeli community. Other public figures condemned it as a “celebration of hate and death.” Some even denied that Israel bombed Gaza on October 7, despite evidence to the contrary.

New South Wales Premier Chris Minns called our vigil “hugely insensitive” to Jewish Australians for what he said was a lack of space for their mourning. Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan likewise described the vigil as “deeply inappropriate,” implying, as she has consistently done when referring to Palestinian suffering and cries for freedom and justice, that it amounted to “hate speech” and “antisemitism.” Yet neither leader, nor other politicians or media commentators, recognised the grief of the Palestinian community.

For Palestinians in Australia, already carrying unbearable loss and grief, these attacks on our right to grieve cut deeply. The lack of formal acknowledgement of our suffering, and the absence of political and religious representatives, has been heartbreaking. The media compounded this harm by mocking the vigil and focusing on controversy rather than the symbolism and message of abandonment we sought to convey. We kept an overnight wake on the steps of the Parliament, providing ample time for leaders to come and pay their respects. No one came. In moments like these, so-called Australia appears to embrace Israel’s mission to erase Palestinian identity and presence from its own shores.

We acknowledge the loss and grief experienced by Israeli families and affirm their right, as with all people, to mourn. But Palestinians alone are denied that same right. Our grief has been silenced, dismissed, and criminalised.

While Israeli grief has been met with the sympathy of governments, religious institutions, and media, Palestinian grief has been dismissed, demonised and denied. Every Palestinian carries loss in this genocide, some mourning one loved one, others mourning over a hundred. And all of us carry, too, the grief of 77 years of colonial dispossession, persecution, expulsion, and the martyrdom (i.e., the violent death) of countless loved ones. Yet there has been no acknowledgement from government, no compassion from political leaders, and no recognition from religious institutions.



Still, we have been comforted by the compassion and solidarity of ordinary people across Australia. Their recognition of our grief and suffering has given our community solace in the face of such cruel abandonment.

Our rights are not conditional.
Our humanity is not negotiable.

We mourn publicly because apathy and silence have been forced upon us.
We stand in defiance because erasure and submission have been demanded.
We refuse disappearance, we refuse subjugation.

The Palestinian people in Palestine and the diaspora, including in so-called Australia, are a proud and beautiful people, yearning to live in freedom, dignity, and security in their ancestral homeland. We reject dehumanisation. We teach our children to refuse tyranny and occupation, and to embrace love: for life, for justice, and for freedom.

Until this truth is honoured and this right protected, we will not be silenced. We will continue to resist every attempt to subjugate and erase us. We exist. We existed before 1947 on our ancestral homeland, and we will prevail, thriving for millennia to come on our homeland. Palestinian lives, like all lives, are precious and enduring. We have every right to live and thrive in freedom and safety on our ancestral homeland.

Whether in crowds or in solitude we grieve for our loved ones. All of our loved ones killed by Israel, all of our children, babies, women and men, even those whose bodies will never be recovered, deserve to be acknowledged and mourned.

At this vigil, we will gather peacefully and with dignity to honour our loved ones, to grieve openly, and to stand in truth. In silence and solidarity, we will connect through our shared humanity, bearing witness to lives that must be remembered, to grief that must no longer be erased, and to lives that must be protected and freed.

We call on all people of heart and conscience to support us in our grief, and to stand against the erasure of our humanity, identity, and history, and the denial of our suffering.



Join us on 7 October, 2025, for a public vigil in Naarm (Melbourne), and stand with us in grief, in dignity, and in recognition of our common humanity.





Event Details

Date: Tuesday, 7 October 2025

Procession

 **Time:** 5:00 PM
 **Start Location:** MP Pavilion
Queen Victoria Gardens
St Kilda Rd, Naarm (Melbourne)
(opposite the NGV)

Vigil

 **Time:** 6:30 PM
 **Location:** Parliament House
Spring St, Naarm (Melbourne)

Event Guidelines

We ask all present to respect the grieving families and the silence of the procession.

Please do not bring or display signage, posters, or flags during the procession or vigil.

There will be designated Palestinian spokespersons present at the event. Please refrain from speaking to the media, which too often misrepresents our community.

Kindly follow the directions of volunteers and marshals, who will be there to support you and the Palestinian community.

¹ United Nations Human Rights Council (Michael Lynk, UN Special Rapporteur, 2022):

"Israel remains the occupying power in Gaza. Despite the 2005 disengagement, Israel continues to control Gaza's airspace, territorial waters, population registry and virtually all access in and out of Gaza."

UN OHCHR statement

² B'Tselem (Israeli human rights organisation):

"According to the disengagement plan, Israel retains sole control of Gaza's airspace and territorial waters and continues to control all movement of people and goods into and out of Gaza."

B'Tselem – Control over Gaza

³ United Nations Special Rapporteur (2017):

"Israel's 10-year blockade of Gaza has created a humanitarian crisis and amounts to collective punishment contrary to international law."

UN News – Gaza blockade is collective punishment

⁴ Amnesty International (2021 Gaza war report):

"Israeli forces carried out attacks on residential buildings and family homes, killing entire families. These attacks were carried out with reckless disregard for civilian lives and may amount to war crimes."

Amnesty report – May 2021 escalation

⁵ The New Humanitarian (Editorial, Oct 2023):

"Western media coverage of Gaza and Israel reflects deadly double standards, portraying Israeli suffering with full humanisation while rendering Palestinian suffering abstract, decontextualised, and less worthy of empathy."

The New Humanitarian – Double standards in coverage

⁶ AFP/France24 (citing Israel's National Insurance Institute):

"The total number killed stands at 1,139: 695 Israeli civilians, 71 foreign nationals, and 373 members of the security forces."

France24 – AFP, Sept 2024

⁷ Haaretz investigation (via Times of Israel):

"IDF officers invoked the defunct Hannibal Protocol in several instances during the October 7 fighting, ordering forces to use any means necessary to prevent abductions, even if it endangered civilians."

Times of Israel – July 2024

⁸ The Guardian (quoting Hamas official Ali Baraka):

"Hamas's plan was to capture hostages to exchange for Palestinian prisoners."

Guardian – Oct 2023

⁹ B'Tselem:

"As of 30 September 2023, Israel was holding 1,326 Palestinians in administrative detention — the highest number in over 30 years."

B'Tselem – Oct 2023

¹⁰ Al Jazeera. Israel army launches air attacks on Gaza (Photo report, 7 Oct 2023). Available at: [Al Jazeera Israel Oct 7 Launch](#)

Al Jazeera. Israel pummels Gaza after Hamas's morning attack — in pictures (Photo report, 7 Oct 2023). Available at: [Al Jazeera Israel Oct 7 Bombings](#)

¹¹ Senator James Paterson (Shadow Home Affairs Minister) — 3 October 2024

"No civilised society allows the celebration of death. That is exactly what the pro-Palestinian rallies planned are there to do. They are there to celebrate the anniversary of the largest loss of Jewish life since the Holocaust."

Senator Paterson – "Despicable": condemning October 7 anniversary rallies

¹² Amnesty International:

"On the evening of 7 October, Israeli forces struck a three-storey residential building in al-Zeitoun, Gaza City, killing 15 family members across three generations."

Amnesty International – Oct 2023

¹³ UN OCHA snapshot (Sept 2025):

"At least 65,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since October 2023, according to figures provided by the Ministry of Health and cited by the UN."

OCHA – Sept 2025

¹⁴ Save the Children (Jan 2024 update): "More than 10 children a day lose one or both legs as a result of bombardment."

Save the Children

¹⁵ IPC Famine Review Committee (Mar 2024): "Children are already dying of starvation in Gaza. Famine is imminent unless aid access is restored."

IPC Alert

¹⁶ UNICEF (Feb 2024): "At least 17,000 children in Gaza are unaccompanied or separated from their families."

UNICEF

¹⁷ UN COI (Mar 2025): "The Commission has reasonable grounds to believe that sexual and gender-based violence has been systematically inflicted on Palestinians during the conflict."

UN COI press release

¹⁸ UNFPA (Nov 2023): "Thousands of pregnant women in Gaza face life-threatening risks as maternity care collapses, with women giving birth without medical assistance and some dying of haemorrhage."



¹⁹ UN COI (Sept 2025): Documented “systematic torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment” of Palestinian detainees.
[AP News](#)

²⁰ OHCHR (Feb 2024): “We have received credible reports of sexual violence against Palestinian men and boys in Israeli detention.”
[OHCHR](#)

UN COI (Sept 2025): Sexual violence confirmed as part of genocidal acts, including against detainees.
[Reuters](#)

²¹ Reuters. Israeli forces strap wounded Palestinian to jeep during Jenin raid (22 June 2024). Available at: [Reuters – Jenin human shield](#)

²² Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor. Israeli tanks have deliberately run over dozens of Palestinian civilians alive (29 February 2024). Available at: [Euro-Med Monitor](#)

Middle East Eye. War on Gaza: Israeli tanks deliberately running over dozens of Palestinians alive (1 March 2024). Available at: [Middle East Eye](#)

²³ UN COI (Sept 2025): Explicitly recognised starvation and denial of aid as acts of genocide.
[Reuters](#)

²⁴ OHCHR (Aug 2025): “UN experts call for immediate dismantling of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which has been linked to killings and injuries of civilians seeking food.”

[OHCHR](#)

²⁵ Al Jazeera. Foreign doctors say Israel systematically targeting Gaza’s children (14 September 2025). Available at: [Al Jazeera](#)

²⁶ Al Jazeera. Over 20,000 children buried, trapped, detained, lost amid Gaza war: Report (24 June 2024). Save the Children report estimates nearly 21,000 children missing in Gaza; many are believed to be trapped under rubble, buried in unmarked graves, or lost in chaos. Available at: [Al Jazeera – Gaza’s Missing Children Report](#)

²⁷ Middle East Eye. Forensic Architecture probe concludes Israeli tank likely killed Palestinian child Hind Rajab (21 June 2024). The investigation found that the family’s car was hit with 335 bullets, with most entries from the right side, and concluded that the shooter would have clearly seen civilians inside, including children. Available at: [Middle East Eye – Hind Rajab Investigation](#)

²⁸ The New Arab. Gaza father mourns baby son decapitated in Rafah massacre (6 June 2024). The report states that 18-month-old Ahmad Al-Najar was decapitated when Israeli forces struck tents sheltering displaced Palestinians in Tal ai-Sultan, Rafah. Available at: [The New Arab – Rafah massacre](#)

²⁹ B’Tselem (Jan 2021): “A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid.”
[B’Tselem Report](#)

Human Rights Watch (Apr 2021): “Israeli authorities are committing the crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution.”
[HRW Report](#)

³⁰ International Court of Justice (19 July 2024): “Israel’s continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful and must end as rapidly as possible.”
[ICJ Advisory Opinion](#)

³¹ UN Press Release (19 Sept 2024): “The General Assembly demanded Israel withdraw from the Occupied Palestinian Territory within 12 months, by September 2025.”
[UN Press Release](#)

³² UN COI (Sept 2025): “Israel has committed genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza.”
[AP News summary](#)

Amnesty International (Dec 2024): “Amnesty International has determined that Israel is committing the crime of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.”
[Amnesty Report PDF](#)

International Association of Genocide Scholars (Sept 2025): “By overwhelming vote, the IAGS finds Israel’s actions in Gaza constitute genocide under international law.”
[IAGS Resolution](#)

³³ UN OCHA (Sept 2025): “Over 80% of Gaza’s housing units have been destroyed or damaged; hospitals, schools, universities, farmland, and cultural institutions systematically targeted.”
[OCHA Gaza Report](#)

³⁴ IPC (15 Aug 2025): “Famine (IPC Phase 5) has been confirmed in Gaza Governorate. More than half a million people face catastrophic levels of hunger, with starvation, destitution, and death already occurring.”
[IPC Famine Report](#)

³⁵ • UNICEF (May 2025): “In total, more than 50,000 children have reportedly been killed or injured since October 2023. Over a 72-hour period, attacks killed families and children in school bombings and in their homes.”
[UNICEF “Unimaginable Horrors” Statement](#)

³⁶ Committee to Protect Journalists (Sept 2025): “At least 197 journalists and media workers have been killed in Gaza since October 2023—the deadliest conflict for the press on record.”
[CPJ Report](#)

³⁷ WHO (2025): “Hundreds of health workers have been killed and nearly all hospitals in Gaza have been attacked or rendered non-functional.”
[WHO Attacks on Health Care](#)

³⁸ UNRWA (2025): “Over 300 UNRWA staff have been killed—the highest ever recorded in UN history.”
[UNRWA Statement](#)

OCHA (2024–25): “Humanitarian workers have been repeatedly targeted and killed during Israeli military operations in Gaza.”
[OCHA Humanitarian Update](#)

³⁹ BBC News (2 Apr 2024): “Australian aid worker Zomi Frankcom, working with World Central Kitchen, was killed in an Israeli strike.”
[BBC Coverage](#)

⁴⁰ Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant (Oct 9, 2023): “We are fighting human animals... there will be no electricity, no food, no fuel.”
[Times of Israel Coverage](#)



⁴¹ Jerusalem Conference (Jan 2024): Ministers advocated resettlement of Gaza and turning it into a "Riviera."
[Guardian Report](#)

⁴² International Criminal Court (May 2024): ICC prosecutor sought arrest warrants for PM Netanyahu and Defence Minister Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity.
[ICC Statement](#)

⁴³ OCHA, "West Bank — Settler Violence — 29 May 2025" video/story (Khallat Athaba, South Hebron Hills): "Homes, animal shelters, latrines, water systems, even the community centre ... have been demolished, and nothing was spared. About 50 people were displaced, half of them children."
[OCHA Settler Violence, 29 May 2025](#)

OCHA, "Humanitarian Situation Update #305 — West Bank" (mid-2025):
"Between January 2023 and mid-July 2025, at least 2,895 Palestinians from 69 communities across the West Bank ... have been displaced due to settler violence and access restrictions ... 636 displaced so far in 2025."
[OCHA West Bank Update #305](#)

⁴⁴ OHCHR (18 March 2025): "Israel's settlement policy, its acts of annexation, and related discriminatory legislation and measures are in breach of international law. The ongoing transfer of Government powers over the Occupied Palestinian Territory from the Israeli military to the Israeli Government is facilitating the advancement of Israeli settlements in the West Bank ... and the steady integration of the occupied West Bank into the State of Israel."
[OHCHR Press Release: "Israel ramps up settlement and annexation in West Bank"](#)

⁴⁵ ABC News (14 August 2025): "The federal government has upheld dozens of military export permits to Israel ... most relate to military-specific goods."
[ABC: Australia defence export permits to Israel](#)

ACIJ (April 2025) media release: "Despite government claims ... Australia still exporting lethal arms to Israel ... 'Australian components were sent ... bypassing export controls ... ready for its genocidal campaign'."
[ACIJ: Despite Government Claims](#)

"Australia's \$2 billion 'Global Supply Chain program' includes five companies supplying Israel's military ... specimen subject to UN warnings — critics argue it could undermine due diligence." (May 2025)
[AMUST: Global Supply Chain program links](#)

ABC News (April 2025): "An Australian-designed weapon system has been trialled by Israel's military ... Canberra-based defence company ... lethal product ... up to two kilometres away."
[ABC: Australian weapons trialled](#)

"Tel Aviv University academics have expanded partnerships with Australian universities in areas including cybersecurity, mathematics, computer sciences, climate change, archaeology, and neurosciences."
[Australian Jewish News — Building Research Partnerships](#)

⁴⁶ ABC News (14 Aug 2025): "The federal government has upheld dozens of military export permits to Israel."
[ABC — Defence export permits to Israel](#)

Michael West Media (Aug 2025): "Austender data shows... dozens of deals with Israel's largest defence companies over two decades."
[Michael West — Billions in Israel defence contracts](#)

⁴⁷ +972 Magazine (17 Jan 2024): "Gaza war offers the ultimate marketing tool... investors drop cash on 'battle-tested' weapons."
[+972 — Gaza war as marketing for 'battle-tested' arms](#)

⁴⁸ Middle East Eye (14 Jul 2025): "Israeli weapons firm Rafael uses Gaza killing in marketing campaign" — video shows Spike Firefly drone tracking/killing a person in Gaza as marketing content.
[MEE — Rafael uses Gaza killing in marketing](#)

Michael West Media (2025): "Snuff videos as a sales pitch... Rafael boasts of human testing in Gaza; Australia's government awards rich contracts to Rafael."
[Michael West — "Snuff videos as a sales pitch"](#)

⁴⁹ Amnesty International Australia (11 Apr 2025): "ABC reporting that counter-drone tech designed and built by Australian company EOS was tested by Israeli forces... Amnesty calls for export transparency and controls."
[Amnesty Australia — Australian-designed system tested by Israel](#)

ABC News (14 Aug 2025): "Dozens of military export permits to Israel upheld."
[ABC — Defence export permits to Israel](#)

⁵⁰ Crikey (15 Jul 2025, analysis): "How to silence academic speech on Palestine... mobilising the IHRA definition with far-reaching implications."
[Crikey — Silencing academic speech on Palestine](#)

Antoinette Lattouf v ABC (Federal Court, 24–25 Jun 2025):
"The Federal Court found the ABC contravened the Fair Work Act... including that she held a political opinion opposing the Israeli military campaign in Gaza."

[ABC News — Court Decision](#)
[Federal Court Online File](#)
[The Guardian — "orchestrated campaign by pro-Israel lobbyists" summary](#)

Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne — event cancelled (Sept 2025):
"RCH cancelled a panel on 'Children and War' after a complaint warned it could cause emotional harm... Speakers and MSF condemned the decision as suppression of humanitarian discussion."
[The Guardian](#)
[ABC News](#)

Jayson Gillham (MSO cancellation → legal action) (Oct 2024; case continuing 2025):

"Melbourne Symphony Orchestra cancelled one of his performances over comments he made on stage about the war in Gaza."

[ABC News](#)

Calls to restrict or ban pro-Palestinian protests (2025):

"Australia's antisemitism envoy wants restrictions on when and where pro-Palestinian protests can take place; PM said he'd support banning protests outside places of worship."

[SBS News / AAP](#)

Central News (12 September 2025):

Antisemitism summit more focused on protesters, says councillor." Inner West councillor Izabella Antoniou said the summit was less about antisemitism and more about targeting pro-Palestine activism; she highlighted concern over the banning of certain slogans and symbols like "watermelon" and questioned why slogans opposing genocide were treated as antisemitic.

[Central News article](#)

SBS News (Aug–Sep 2025):

"Antisemitism envoy criticised over 'dangerous' call to ban pro-Palestinian city protests." This piece covers how the special envoy (Jillian Segal) proposed restrictions on when and where pro-Palestinian protests can be conducted, which critics interpret as silencing dissent.

[SBS News article](#)

Amnesty International Australia (2 months ago):

"Special Envoy's plan to combat antisemitism risks chilling effect ..." The report argues that the policies and proposals emerging from antisemitism initiatives (including the summit) are designed to suppress freedom of expression and protest, especially criticism of Israel.

[Amnesty Australia statement](#)

"St Vincent's Hospital investigates claims by heart transplant cardiologist Peter Macdonald that Mossad behind terror attacks" — The Australian, 3 September 2025

[The Australian – Hospital investigates Macdonald remarks](#)

⁵¹ The Guardian "Victorian parliament deems keffiyeh 'political' as it bans MPs from wearing it (15 May 2024). The ban was enforced by upper house president Shaun Leane and lower house speaker Maree Edwards, under rules disallowing political paraphernalia in the chamber. Available at: [The Guardian – Keffiyeh ban in Victorian Parliament](#)

Australian Jewish News. Keffiyeh banned in Victorian Parliament (15 May 2024). Caulfield MP David Southwick said he supports banning the keffiyeh in state parliament, describing it as "offensive." Available at: [AJN – Keffiyeh ban in Victorian Parliament](#)

⁵² Guardian Australia. Complaint letter emerges after Melbourne hospital's decision to cancel 'Children and War' panel angers staff (15 Sept 2025). Available at: [Guardian – RCH cancels Children and War panel](#)

ABC News. Melbourne Symphony Orchestra cancels pianist Jayson Gillham's next performance after Gaza comments (14 Aug 2024). Available at: [ABC News – MSO cancels Gillham](#).

ABC News — More than 50 participants withdraw from Bendigo Writers Festival over censorship concerns (14 August 2025). This reports that over 50 writers and moderators pulled out of the festival because of concerns with a code of conduct seen to limit speech on Gaza / Israel.

⁵³ Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner / The Guardian. University of Melbourne breached student privacy by using Wi-Fi network to monitor pro-Palestine protest (20 August 2025). The report found UoM used Wi-Fi location data, student card photographs, and CCTV footage to identify students and staff involved in a pro-Palestine sit-in at Arts West, violating two Information Privacy Principles under Victoria's Privacy and Data Protection Act. Available at: [Guardian – UoM WiFi surveillance](#)

University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU). University of Melbourne first in Australia to expel pro-Palestine student activists (23 Oct 2024). The university upheld disciplinary recommendations to expel two students and suspend two others for their participation in a pro-Palestine protest. Available at: [UMSU – Melbourne expulsions](#)

EduResearch Matters (AARE Blog). These are deeply disturbing patterns of censorship across Australian universities (2025). Reports that universities including Sydney, Melbourne, and Western Australia have engaged in punitive measures, censorship, and surveillance against students involved in pro-Palestine speech and protest. Available at: [EduResearch Matters – Censorship in universities](#)

⁵⁴ Central News. Antisemitism summit more focused on protesters, says councillor (12 September 2025). Inner West Greens Councillor Izabella Antoniou criticised the Australian Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism for what she called its real intent to "quash pro-Palestinian activism," including use of the IHRA working definition. Available at: [Central News – Antisemitism summit more focused on protesters](#)

Australian Jewish Council. Media Release: Jewish Council condemn mayors and councillors' junket to far-right antisemitism summit (8 August 2025). The statement criticises councillors being offered free flights, accommodation, and meals to attend the summit, describing it as pushing a one-sided agenda that silences criticism of Israel.

Available at: [Jewish Council – Media Release](#)

⁵⁵ Al Jazeera. Court says Australian broadcaster ABC wrongfully dismissed journalist (25 June 2025). This report confirms that Antoinette Lattouf was fired by the ABC following her posting of a Human Rights Watch report alleging Israel's use of starvation in Gaza, and that the Federal Court found ABC's dismissal unlawful and motivated partly by her political views. Available at: [Al Jazeera – Antoinette Lattouf wrongful dismissal](#)

Al Jazeera. Australia's ABC staff's concerns over Gaza bias revealed (26 March 2024). Internal documents showed staff raised concerns that coverage relied too heavily on Israeli sources and language, downplaying Palestinian suffering. Available at: [Al Jazeera – ABC Gaza bias](#)

⁵⁶ UN Special Rapporteur (Oct 2024): Genocide as Colonial Erasure — documents dehumanising rhetoric and systemic practices targeting Palestinians. [OHCHR – SR Report to UNGA \(A/79/384\)](#)



Le Monde (April 2024)

"40 beheaded babies": The itinerary of a rumor at the heart of the information battle between Israel and Hamas.

[Le Monde – "40 beheaded babies": The itinerary of a rumor](#)

⁵⁷ Keffiyeh banned in Victorian Parliament (May 2024):

"Victorian MPs told to remove keffiyeh; chamber deems it a political statement."

[SBS News](#)

Amnesty International (2021 Gaza war report):

"Israeli forces carried out attacks on residential buildings and family homes, killing entire families. These attacks were carried out with reckless disregard for civilian lives and may amount to war crimes."

[Amnesty report – May 2021 escalation](#)

⁵⁸ James Paterson. Transcript | Sky News First Edition (3 October 2024). Senator James Paterson official website. In this interview, Paterson stated: "There was no Israeli Defense Force response on the 7th of October. There was no military activity in Gaza on the 7th of October. There was only a slaughter of Jews." Available at: [Sky News First Edition transcript](#)

⁵⁹ Anthony Albanese (Prime Minister) – 9News, 6 Oct 2024

"Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has warned against planned pro-Palestinian rallies marking the Oct 7 anniversary, saying they have the potential to cause disharmony."

[9News – Albanese warns against Oct 7 rallies](#)

Anthony Albanese (Prime Minister) – The New Daily, 7 Oct 2024

"This anniversary carries terrible pain, particularly for Jewish Australians... There is no place in Australia for discrimination against people of any faith."

[The New Daily – PM calls for cohesion on Oct 7](#)

Jacinta Allan (Premier of Victoria) – Herald Sun, 6 Oct 2024

"Pro-Palestine protesters need to show respect... October 7 is a day of profound grief for Victoria's Jewish community. Protests through memorial spaces would be deeply inappropriate."

[Herald Sun – Allan warns protesters](#)

Steve Price (Herald Sun, 4 October 2024): "Melbourne's Oct 7 rally is an obscene act of bastardry" — in an opinion piece, Price condemns a pro-Palestine vigil planned for Oct 7, 2024, calling it "an obscene provocative act of bastardry" and criticizing the Victorian government for allowing it.

[Herald Sun – Price: Melbourne's Oct 7 rally is an obscene act of bastardry](#)

Senator James Paterson (Shadow Home Affairs Minister) — 3 October 2024

"No civilised society allows the celebration of death. That is exactly what the pro-Palestinian rallies planned are there to do. They are there to celebrate the anniversary of the largest loss of Jewish life since the Holocaust."

[Senator Paterson – "Despicable": condemning October 7 anniversary rallies](#)

Amnesty International:

"On the evening of 7 October, Israeli forces struck a three-storey residential building in al-Zeitoun, Gaza City, killing 15 family members across three generations."

[Amnesty International – Oct 2023](#)

