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DREYFUS QTB

Category: Daily Issues
PDR: QB23-000123

Israel/Hamas conflict

- Australia unequivocally condemns the attacks on Israel by Hamas. These are distressing, egregious acts and Hamas bears the responsibility.
- Australia affirms Israel's right to defend itself, while also saying the way it does so matters.
- Australia calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held in Gaza.
- As hostilities continue, it is vitally important that international humanitarian law is respected and adhered to.
- The Australian Government is closely monitoring the conflict to manage the security of Australians in the region and at home.

What is your response to the recent protests in Caulfield?

- I recognise that there are many individuals in Australia who are deeply affected by this conflict.
- I urge communities to remain respectful and I condemn anyone who incites violence and hatred.
- I acknowledge the important work of state and territory police in ensuring community safety, including in response to recent protest activity we have seen in Melbourne and Sydney.

Contact s 22(1)	Phone s 22(1)	Date Created 12 October 2023	Date Updated/Reviewed 13 0 November 2023
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~~The Government has full confidence in state and territory police to manage any protest activity.~~

- I encourage anyone who becomes aware that an individual or group is planning to resort to violence to contact the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400.

How does the Government respond to reports of rising anti-Semitism/Islamophobia in the community?

- There is no place for anti-Semitism or Islamophobia in Australia and any related violence is unacceptable.
- All Australians have a right to be safe and to feel safe.
- We cannot allow the understandable distress over this conflict to turn into anger and hate that divides us.
- Hate crimes, including online hate speech and hate-motivated criminal damage, are the responsibility of State and Territory Police, in particular where incidents are connected to community activism and/or lawful assembly where there is a risk of violence.
 - The AFP works jointly with State and Territory police on matters involving the urging of violence against groups, members of groups or advocating terrorism.

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- Irrespective of background or race, where an individual is suspected of committing a Commonwealth offence the AFP will act to protect Australians and the Australian community.

What is Australia doing in response to this conflict?

- The Australian Government is closely monitoring the conflict as the situation evolves.
- The Australian Federal Police is working with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to support Australian citizens in Israel.
- The Australian Federal Police continue to engage with affected communities through its community liaison teams and provide protective security arrangements for Israeli diplomatic staff and premises.
- The AFP and other Commonwealth agencies work closely with state police to ensure they have the most up to date intelligence and the information they need to protect the community.
- Questions on consular assistance, travel advice and humanitarian funding should be directed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

What is the legal status of Hamas in Australia?

- Hamas is listed as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code since 2022.

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- Hamas is an ideologically violent extremist organisation, which fuses Palestinian nationalist and Sunni Islamist objectives.
- The stated aim of Hamas is not a two state solution, but a single state from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, where there is no place for Israel. Its aim is to “obliterate” Israel.
- This is why Hamas in its entirety is listed as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code, and is in many other countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Can Australians send money to Hamas?

- Under Australian law, Australians are prohibited from directly or indirectly providing funds to terrorist organisations, where those funds assist the organisation to engage in, prepare, plan, assist in, or foster the doing of a terrorist act.
 - Hamas is a terrorist organisation under Australian law.
 - Any Australian citizen or resident that provides financial support to Hamas may be committing a criminal offence.

Can Australians send money to people in the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- Sending money to a friend or family member in the Occupied Palestinian Territories may constitute a criminal offence if:

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- the money is provided with the intention that it be made available to Hamas, or
- the person sending the money is aware there is a substantial risk that the money will be made available to Hamas.

What is the Government doing to prevent money reaching terrorist organisations?

- AUSTRAC collects and provides financial intelligence to law enforcement, national security agencies and international counterparts to combat terrorism financing.
- AUSTRAC has provided material to the AFP and the sanctions office in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on appeals for cryptocurrency donations for Hamas.
- Terrorist organisations will seek to exploit financial systems through whatever means necessary.
- This is why the Government is seeking to extend the current regulation of digital currency exchanges to include cryptocurrency transfers.
- Australia is also working with international bodies to combat the use of cryptocurrency by terrorists and other serious criminals, including through the Financial Action Task Force.

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Can Australians travel to fight in conflicts overseas?

- Australians who travel to fight may be committing a criminal offence.
- Australian law prohibits Australians from engaging in hostile activities overseas, unless serving in or with the armed forces of a foreign country.

Sydney man charged over alleged anti-Semitic incident

- I am aware that NSW police have arrested and charged a Sydney man with intimidating with intent to cause fear of physical harm.
 - As the matter is before the courts, it would not be appropriate to make any further comment.
- I strongly condemn anyone who incites violence and hatred within the community.

What about the death of the Australian woman in Israel?

- The Australian Government has received confirmation of the tragic death of Galit Carbone, an Australian citizen murdered in the attacks on Israel by Hamas.
- The Australian Government conveys its deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of Ms Carbone.

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- The loss of life from these attacks has been devastating and unacceptable. Australia has called for the immediate and unconditional release of all those taken hostage.
- Our thoughts are with all those killed and injured in these attacks and all others affected.
- I understand the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is providing consular assistance to Ms Carbone's family in Israel and in Australia.

How will Australia respond to reported violations of international law?

- Australia continues to call for the protection civilian lives as required under international humanitarian law.
- Australia also strongly urges the establishment of a corridor for humanitarian aid to Gaza and safe passage for humanitarian workers.
 - We continue to call for humanitarian pauses to the conflict so that food, water, medicine and other essential assistance can reach people in desperate need.

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Why didn't Australia support Jordan's UN General Assembly Resolution on 'Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territories'?

- Australia abstained with disappointment from the final resolution because we believed it was incomplete.
 - The resolution did not recognise Hamas as the perpetrator of the 7 October attack.
 - Australia again calls for the immediate and unconditional release of hostages.
- Australia agrees with the central proposition of the resolution, that the humanitarian situation in Gaza is dire and human suffering is widespread and unacceptable.
- Australia supports Israel's right to defend itself and has underlined that how it does so matters.

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Background

On Saturday 7 October at approximately 0630 local time (1430 AEDT), Hamas and other militant groups including Palestinian Islamic Jihad launched a surprise attack against Israel from Gaza. The attack involved rocket fire towards southern and central Israel and coordinated incursions into southern Israel and attacks on towns. Large numbers of soldiers and civilians have been taken hostage although there are conflicting reports on the total number (estimated at between 100-150). As well as Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad is claiming to be holding a number of hostages. Some of those taken are foreign nationals - from Thailand, Nepal, UK, Canada, Mexico and Germany.

In response, Israel declared a state of emergency and war. Launching 'Operation Iron Swords', Israel has responded with a barrage of air strikes on targets in the Gaza strip and a total blockade on Gaza (no electricity, food or water). 300,000 additional Israeli reservists have been recalled for duty, adding to the 31 battalions already deployed to the vicinity of Gaza. Skirmishes continue in Israeli territory around the border with Gaza. The combined death toll now exceeds 10,000 with over 25,000 injured. On 29 October, Israel commenced its ground incursion into Gaza with the objective of eliminating Hamas leadership and disabling Hamas' military capabilities.

There are over 672,000 people seeking refuge in UN facilities across Gaza and UN contacts expect this number to increase. It is reported that over 1.4 million people are displaced in Gaza. Israel is yet to agree to the creation of a humanitarian corridor to allow civilians to leave and aid to enter.

Authorities are watching for flare ups in the West Bank, along the Northern border and in mixed cities. At least five Palestinians were killed in separate incidents in the West Bank on 7 October, following reports of settler violence. The Israeli Defence Force has struck Hizballah targets in southern Lebanon after rocket and artillery fire from Hizballah targeting northern Israel 'in solidarity with Palestine'. Extra reserve forces have been deployed to the north and villages cleared.

On 10 October, there were media reports that Hamas's Al-Qassam Brigades was threatening to execute one Israeli captive for every further unannounced Israeli attack on civilians in Gaza. On 12 October, Hamas claimed the release of a woman and two children hostages.

Since the beginning of the conflict 2,018 Australians have departed Israel, with 1,175 of these returning to Australia. The Government has facilitated the return of 399 Australians via assisted flights and commercial options. The Government has also assisted 26 Australians to depart the West Bank.

Caulfield Protest – Friday 10 November

On Friday 10 November 2023, Victoria police were required to separate approximately 400 pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian supporters in Caulfield, Victoria. One arrest was made in connection to the protest and one individual received treatment for minor injuries. The protests occurred after a fire at a business owned by a local pro-Palestinian advocate. Victoria Police are treating the fire as suspicious, noting that enquiries are yet to indicate any religious or political motivation for the incident.

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Ministerial Direction

On 25 March 2022, the then Attorney-General issued a ministerial direction requiring the CDDP to seek the consent of the Attorney-General prior to instituting a prosecution against a person for an offence under Division 102 of the Criminal Code, where the alleged offending relates to the person's conduct in connection with Hamas.

In conjunction with the issue of this direction, the department published a policy guidance document outlining the factors to be considered by the Attorney-General when considering whether to consent to the prosecution of terrorist organisation offences in relation to Hamas (**Attachment A**). This is publicly available on the department's website.

While the public interest considerations in the *Prosecution Policy of the Commonwealth* mitigate against prosecution in some cases, an Attorney-General direction to the CDDP under section 8 of the DPP Act provides a greater level of certainty about how such cases would be handled. This also assists with public messaging, by giving assurance to Australians who may be exposed to the offences but are not otherwise supportive of terrorism.

Foreign incursions offences

Part 5.5 of the Criminal Code prohibits Australian citizens and residents, and holders of Australian visas from engaging in hostile activities overseas unless serving in or with the armed forces of a foreign country.

It is an offence to:

- enter a foreign country with an intention to engage in a hostile activity, unless serving in or with the armed forces of the government of a foreign country
- prepare to enter, or to prepare another person to enter, a foreign country with an intention to engage in a hostile activity, or
- recruit persons to join an organisation engaged in hostile activities, or recruit persons to serve in or with an armed force in a foreign country.

Foreign incursions offences carry penalties of up to life imprisonment. The recruitment offences carry penalties of up to 25 years imprisonment.

Under Part 5.5 of the Criminal Code, 'engaging in a hostile activity against the government of a foreign country' means doing an act with the intention of achieving one or more of the following aims:

- overthrowing a government of a foreign country by force or violence
- causing the public in the foreign country to be in fear of suffering death or injury
- causing the death or injury of a person who is the head of a state or holds or performs duties of public office, or
- unlawfully destroying or damaging property belonging to the government of the foreign country.

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Under s119.8 of the Criminal Code, the Attorney-General, as the Minister responsible for the Australian Federal Police, can declare that foreign incursions activities (recruitment and hostile activities) do not apply to service with a specified armed force, where this is in the interests of Australia's defence or international relations. This would permit a person to serve with a specified armed force. A declaration under this provision has never been made.

Thirty-four persons have been convicted in foreign incursions prosecutions between 1981 and 29 August 2023.

Terrorism financing offences

Part 5.2 of the Criminal Code prohibits Australian citizens and residents from getting funds to, from or for a terrorist organisation.

It is an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly receive funds from, make funds available to, collect funds for or collect funds on behalf of a terrorist organisation.

Part 5.2 also contains general prohibitions on terrorism financing. These offences do not require the consent of the Attorney-General to prosecute.

It is an offence to:

- Provide or collect funds with a reasonable suspicion that the funds will be used to facilitate or engage in a terrorist act
- Provide funds to or collect funds on behalf of another person with a reasonable suspicion that the other person will use the funds to facilitate or engage in a terrorist act.

Policing response

s 47E(d)

The AFP, through its partners in the Joint Counter Terrorism Teams (JCTTs), are working closely with state and territory police and are on heightened alert for any domestic Australian threats inspired by the events in Israel. Any impact on Australian domestic extremists or the Australian domestic threat environment is being monitored closely by the AFP and its law enforcement and intelligence partners.

The AFP and its partners continue to engage with individuals seeking to travel to deter them from jeopardising their safety where they participate or contribute to the violence and on-going conflict. The AFP and its partners continue to monitor for Australians who may be interested in travelling to the region to engage in hostilities, including Australian visa and passport holders offshore.

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The AFP's Community Liaison Teams (CLT) build, support and manage productive, diverse and complex stakeholder relationships and networks. CLTs, through a holistic approach, actively engage with communities across all religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds to establish confidence and trust in law enforcement. This allows the AFP to address tensions when they arise and provides opportunities for the AFP to support communities during or in the aftermath of significant events such as the Israel/Hamas conflict.

AUSTRAC regulation of digital currency exchanges

The Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) is Australia's financial intelligence unit (FIU) and anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CTF) regulator. As Australia's FIU, AUSTRAC provides financial transactions data and actionable financial intelligence to law enforcement, national security, human services and revenue agencies, as well as international counterparts. Partner agencies use this information to assist them to detect, deter, prevent and disrupt money laundering, terrorism financing and other serious crime.

Businesses that provide a designated service listed in section 6 of the AML/CTF Act are reporting entities and have certain regulatory obligations. Currently, only transfers between digital currency and fiat currency is regulated. The AML/CTF reforms will seek to also cover digital currency to digital currency transfers, and apply a range of international funds transfer obligations that already apply to financial institutions.

Media Report – Police on high alert to anti-Semitism as man charged (Attachment B)

On 12 October 2023, Australian Associated Press reported that a Sydney man was charged by New South Wales police with intimidating with intent to cause fear of physical harm. The charges were laid after the man allegedly verbally abused four teenagers who displayed an Israeli flag across their car.

The same report noted that Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan confirmed security would be increased around key locations such as synagogues and schools. The report included statements from Jillian Segal, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, who described the attacks by Hamas as "a date that will live in infamy".

Media Report – Threat at home: ASIO (Attachment C)

On 18 October 2023, the Sydney Morning Herald reported comments from ASIO Director-General Mike Burgess, warning of an increased threat of on-shore violence in response to the Israel-Hamas conflict. In a press conference with the Director of the FBI, the Director-General issued a public warning about spontaneous violence surrounding protests and counterprotests. The article quoted the co-chief of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and the executive director of Islamophobia Australia, both reporting an increase in threats and acts of violence towards their communities since the latest conflict.

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Media Report – Aussies asked for crypto donations to Hamas (Attachment D)

On 19 October 2023, the Australian Financial Review report that AUSTRAC alerted the AFP and the sanctions office at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to appeals on the Telegram messaging app for cryptocurrency donations to fund the militant group Hamas. The article noted that AUSTRAC does not have the power to police communications devices or social media platforms, such as Telegram. However, AUSTRAC is responsible for regulating cryptocurrency exchanges and their compliance with international money transfer and terrorist financing laws. This includes obligations to report suspicious transactions and identify customers and payment beneficiaries.

Attachments

A	<i>Hamas-related terrorist organisation prosecutions</i> , Policy Guideline – 30 March 2022
B	<i>Police on high alert to anti-Semitism as man charged</i> , Australian Associated Press – 12 October 2023
C	<i>Threat at home: ASIO</i> , Sydney Morning Herald – 18 October 2023
D	<i>Aussies asked for crypto donations to Hamas</i> , Australian Financial Review – 19 October 2023

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Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Attorney-General
Minister for Industrial Relations
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate

Policy guideline – factors to be considered by the Attorney-General when considering whether to consent to the prosecution of terrorist organisation offences in relation to Hamas

The Australian Government does not condone the actions of groups that use terrorism to achieve their political, religious or ideological objectives. Australia has a comprehensive suite of laws in response to terrorism. These laws not only target terrorist acts, but also the organisations that plan, finance and carry out such acts.

Offences relating to terrorist organisations are set out in Division 102 of the Criminal Code.¹ Under that Division, a terrorist organisation is an organisation that:

- is directly or indirectly engaged in preparing, planning, assisting in or fostering the doing of a terrorist act; or
- has been listed in regulations as a terrorist organisation.

Division 102 includes offences for providing support to a terrorist organisation, providing or receiving funds from a terrorist organisation, and associating with a terrorist organisation. Further detail on the terrorist organisation offences is available on the website of the [Attorney-General's Department](#). A list of terrorist organisations, and a factsheet on the offences, is available on the [Australian National Security](#) website.

Listing of Hamas

On 4 March 2022, Hamas was listed as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code, after the Minister for Home Affairs was satisfied that the organisation meets the criteria for listing, as set out in section 102.1 of the Criminal Code.² A statement of reasons in support of the listing is available.³

On 25 March 2022, the Attorney-General issued a ministerial direction to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP), under subsection 8(1) of the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1983*.⁴ The effect of this direction is to provide that the CDPP must seek the Attorney-General's consent in order to institute proceedings for the prosecution of a person for an offence under Division 102 of the Criminal Code, where the alleged offending relates to the person's conduct in connection with Hamas.

Purpose of the policy

This policy provides guidance on the factors that the Attorney-General will take into account when deciding whether to consent to the CDPP commencing a prosecution of a person where the alleged offending relates to the person's conduct in connection with Hamas.

¹ [Criminal Code Act 1995](#)

² [Listing instrument](#)

³ [Statement of reasons](#)

⁴ [Ministerial Direction](#)

Given Hamas' linkages and involvement in Gaza, there may be reasons why a person may need to engage with Hamas that are not related to terrorism. Hamas provides public services in Gaza, including health, education and security. The requirement for the Attorney-General's consent to a prosecution of offences relating to Hamas is intended to provide an additional safeguard to ensure that prosecutions only proceed where they are in Australia's national interest, and directed at conduct that supports terrorist aims and purpose. It is not the intention of the Australian Government to prosecute Australians engaged in daily activities not connected with terrorism or terrorist acts.

In addition to the Attorney-General's consent requirement, the CDPP must also be satisfied that a prosecution would be in the public interest. The CDPP makes this decision in accordance with the *Prosecution Policy of the Commonwealth*, and in particular, the public interest factors set out in paragraph 2.10.⁵

Factors to be considered

In deciding whether to consent to a prosecution of a person for terrorist organisation offences in relation to Hamas, the Attorney-General will consider the circumstances of each individual case.

In considering whether to consent to a prosecution, the Attorney-General will consider whether the conduct directly or indirectly assisted Hamas to engage in, prepare, plan, assist in, or foster the doing of a terrorist act, and whether the person intended that it would do so, or was reckless as to that fact. The Attorney-General may be less likely to consent to a prosecution where this is not the case.

The Attorney-General will consider whether prosecution would be in Australia's national interest, having regard to any relevant matters, including but not limited to, national security, defence, international relations and economic well-being.

The Attorney-General may consider any other matter which they consider relevant.

Without limiting the discretion of the Attorney-General, examples of conduct where consent is unlikely to be granted may include:

- paying taxes to the de facto governing authority of Gaza
- accessing or paying for food, medicine, education or fuel provided by Hamas
- voting for Hamas in an election
- sending remittances to a member of Hamas for their personal education, health and/or basic living expenses
- being engaged in employment by Hamas in a capacity where responsibilities are not linked to the preparation or planning of terrorist acts, and
- selling goods or providing services to Hamas where the goods or services are not linked to the preparation or planning of terrorist acts;

where such conduct does not indirectly or directly assist Hamas to engage in, prepare, plan, assist in, or foster the doing of a terrorist act.⁶

Individuals should seek independent legal advice on their circumstances. It should also be considered that, as Hamas is a listed entity under Australian sanctions law, there are offences which apply to dealing with assets owned or controlled by Hamas, and making assets available

⁵ [Prosecution Policy | Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions \(cdpp.gov.au\)](#)

⁶ Conduct of the kind listed may not necessarily fall within the scope of the terrorist organisation offences. The inclusion of conduct in this Guideline does not reflect a view of the Australian Government that it would be in breach of the Criminal Code. These examples are included to provide assurance on activities which are unlikely to be prosecuted as terrorist organisation offences.

to Hamas, either directly or indirectly.⁷

⁷ Information on Australia's sanctions regimes is available on the website of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, [What You Need to Know | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(dfat.gov.au\)](https://www.dfat.gov.au/what-you-need-to-know).



16 NOV, 2023

Fake corpses in MPs' office protests



Courier Mail, Brisbane

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Fake corpses in MPs' office protests

Fake children's corpses were left outside the electorate offices of several Labor MPs, including federal ministers, on Wednesday.

The offices of Victorian-based Immigration Minister Andrew Giles, Defence Minister Richard Marles, NDIS Minister Bill Shorten, Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney and Jagajaga MP Kate Thaites were targeted.

The bloodied "corpses"

were accompanied by signs saying "no more bodies in Gaza", "end the occupation" and "free Palestine".

Mr Marles said he was aware of protest activity at his Geelong office, adding his first concern was for staff's "safety and wellbeing".

It comes as tough new penalties for people who publicly display symbols for terrorist organisations or Nazi symbols are set to be passed

this year, after the federal parliament's security and intelligence committee gave an Albanese government bill the green light.

The war between Hamas and Israel has increased anti-Semitism across Australia.

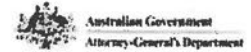
The release of the report on Wednesday now clears the way for the parliament to pass the bill – already before the House – with amendments in the final sitting week.



18 OCT, 2023

Threat at home: ASIO

Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney



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■ 45 Australians trapped ■ Hostage begs for release ■ Biden to visit Israel

Threat at home: ASIO

**David Crowe,
Farrah Tomazin**

Jewish and Islamic communities fear a growing threat at home from extremists reacting to Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel and the war in Gaza, after US and Australian intelligence chiefs issued a public warning about spontaneous violence.

The joint warning intensified concerns after murders by suspected Islamist radicals in Belgium and France and the fatal stabbing in Chicago of a six-year-old Muslim boy, and the wounding of his mother, by an assailant who yelled that Muslims must die.

With Israeli troops and tanks ready to cross the border into Gaza in a bid to eradicate Hamas, the Australian political debate escalated with the Greens, some teal independents and one Labor senator urging Israel to avoid a war that would kill Palestinian civilians.

US President Joe Biden will make a high-stakes visit to Israel today as it prepares to escalate an offensive against Hamas militants that has set off a humanitarian crisis in Gaza and raised fears of a broader conflict with Iran.

Biden's visit will mark a significant show of US support for its top Middle East ally after Hamas gunmen killed 1300 people during a rampage through southern Israeli towns on October 7.

Gaza authorities say more than 2800 people

have been killed in Israeli attacks since October 7, around a quarter of them children, and more than 10,000 wounded are in hos-

pitals desperately short of supplies.

Israeli officials say the Iran-backed group took 199 hostages into Gaza. Hamas released a video yesterday in which a French-Israeli woman captive was shown having her injured arm treated by an unidentified medical worker. She identified herself as 21-year-old Mia Schem and asked to be returned to her family as quickly as possible.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Opposition Leader Peter Dutton backed Israel in remarks to their party room meetings yesterday, but the comments by Labor senator Fatima Payman highlighted the divisions within Labor on support for Israel, in contrast to the unequivocal message from Liberal and Nationals MPs.

Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation director-general Mike Burgess sent the warning about potential violence during a rare press conference with FBI director Christopher Wray in California, on the sidelines of a meeting of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance.

"We, of course, recognise this is a moment that drives feelings and attitudes in our respective countries and in Australia, so we're on the lookout for that as we see protests and counterprotests ... but we do anticipate spontaneous violence around these,"

Burgess said.
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18 OCT, 2023

Threat at home: ASIO

Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney



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Threat of violence, extremism here is real: ASIO boss

From Page 1

"We do see a direct correlation between language that inflames tension and out of that tension does grow a small number of people who think violence is the answer. It's something that we all have to be mindful of, and that's for all Australians to play their part."

Asked if this was a message for Australian politicians – some of whom have been accused of stoking tensions with their rhetoric – he replied it was "for everybody".

Colin Rubenstein, the executive director of the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council, said. "There's no question the level of alert in our community has gone way up. We're very concerned and we appreciate the vigilance of the authorities. Unfortunately, the concern is well-placed – there's no doubt about it."

Executive Council of Australian Jewry co-chief Peter Wertheim said there had been an outpouring of sympathy since the Hamas attacks but also a surge in acts of hatred and threats from neo-Nazis, some on the extreme political left and extremist Islamists and jihadists.

"We need federal and state governments to work together to build a program of counter-prejudice education into the core curriculum from an early age with a clear and specific focus on the most prevalent forms of hatred in our society, including antisemitism."

The executive director of Islamophobia Australia, Shahara Attai, said reports of Islamophobia had increased four-fold since the latest conflict.

"The current climate in Australia, which dehumanises and devalues Palestinians, is emboldening racists and Islamophobes to

commit acts of hate," she said. The Islamophobia Register Australia said on Monday some incidents included direct references to the Israel-Palestine situation, backing Burgess' earlier warning that everyone should consider the implications for social cohesion when making public statements.

Albanese described the Hamas attack as "horrific" and told Labor MPs of the government's support for Israel and its right to defend itself, but he emphasised Labor's support for a two-state solution for the Israeli and Palestinian people.

Dutton delivered an "absolute condemnation" of the Hamas attack during a Coalition party room meeting where Israel's ambassador to Australia, Amir Maimon, was invited to address MPs.

"I was in Israel when Hamas attacked the people of Israel in the southern border," the ambassador told the MPs in Parliament House.

"We're in a war, a war that we didn't start, nor ask for, but we are determined to win."

There was no similar invitation from the Labor caucus to hear the ambassador, although he has thanked the prime minister as well as Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Defence Minister Richard Marles for their responses to the attacks.

The divisions in federal parliament were laid bare on Monday when Greens leader Adam Bandt gained initial support from two teal independents, Kylea Tink and

Sophie Scamps, to amend a motion on the Hamas attack to condemn Israel and accuse it of war crimes.

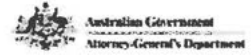
Their move was rejected yesterday by their fellow independent, Allegra Spender, whose has a substantial Jewish population.

Burgess said Australia's threat level was at "possible" and ASIO did not see a reason to change it.



19 OCT, 2023

Aussies asked for crypto donations to Hamas



Australian Financial Review, Australia

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Aussies asked for crypto donations to Hamas

Tom Richardson and Andrew Tillett

Australia's counter-terrorism financing agency AUSTRAC has alerted the federal police to appeals on the Telegram messaging app for cryptocurrency donations to fund the militant group Hamas.

A channel titled Support Palestine on Telegram has spread antisemitic content and sought donations from Australian donors in bitcoin, ethereum and tether for Hamas' terrorist fighters since October 9.

After being tipped off to the pseudonymous appeal for terrorist and civilian financing by *The Australian Financial Review*, AUSTRAC warned that financing of terrorism in Australia is a crime under the Criminal Code Act 1995.

The agency, which regulates all money transfer businesses captured by the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006, said it had reported the Telegram activity to the sanctions office of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

AUSTRAC also warned that it boasts digital intelligence and surveillance powers related to terrorist financing in partnership with national security services, but "does not comment on operational matters".

Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil cautioned that Australians who funded Hamas on the dark web would fall foul of tough anti-terrorism laws.

"It's illegal under Australian law to provide material support to Hamas, a listed terrorist organisation, including by providing any form of monetary support," she said.

Australians who wanted to support civilians in Gaza should do so through a reputable aid organisation such as the Red Cross, she said.

The Support Palestine Telegram channel continued to appeal for donations for "freedom fighters" and civilians in Gaza yesterday morning in Australia.

AUSTRAC's legal power does not extend to policing communications devices or social media platforms such as Telegram.

However, the agency is responsible for regulating cryptocurrency exchanges and their compliance with international money transfer and terrorist financing laws, including obligations to report suspicious transactions and identify customers alongside payments beneficiaries.

On Monday, Assistant Treasurer Stephen Jones announced at The Australian Financial Review Cryptocurrency Summit that Australian cryptocurrency exchanges would be subject to tougher regulatory and licensing laws from next year.

The *Financial Times* reported on Tuesday that Israeli law enforcement agencies had moved to halt the flow of crypto funding to Hamas by closing more than 100 accounts linked to crypto exchange Binance and seizing millions of dollars of cryptocurrencies.

Telegram is now the fourth most popular app globally after WhatsApp, WeChat and Facebook Messenger, with about 800 million monthly active users as of August, according to reports in TechCrunch. The app's parent company, Telegram FZ-LLC, lists Dubai as its base.

Dark web terror

TELEGRAM

SUPPORT PALESTINE
596...

Pinned Message #1
DONATIONS BTC bc1qzr7vtuv2fmx7mzjhqjpfwvamntaXX XXXX

October 9 - Channel created

SUPPORT PALESTINE
On October 7, our brave troops launched a full-scale invasion of the Sinai isthmus. These vile creatures terrorized us, now it's time to answer for their actions. We are collecting funds to help our fighters, as well as civilians who are caught up in this conflict. Any donations will be welcome. Share this post with your friends.

DONATIONS
BTC

DONATIONS

BTC
bc1qzr7vtuv2fmx7mzjhqjpfwvamntaXX
XXXXXX

ETH
0x4EAC0e491ab401c391F2047c6afe065
2XXXX XXXX

USDT (TRC20)
0x4EAC0e491ab401c391F2047c6afe065
2XXXX XXXX

IF YOU WANT TO DONATE IN OTHER CRYPTO - LET US KNOW

Messages in a Telegram app channel available to the public in Australia, seeking cryptocurrency donations to fund Hamas' fighters against Israel and to support civilian causes. The channel sought more donations on Wednesday morning.

SOURCE: FINANCIAL REVIEW, TELEGRAM APP