

## Anthony Albanese issues strongest condemnation yet of anti-Israel slogan 'from the river to the sea' in interview for Josh Frydenberg's new documentary

Anthony Albanese has further condemned the use of the anti-Israel slogan 'from the river to the sea' in an exclusive sit-down interview with Josh Frydenberg.

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2 min read

May 7, 2024 - 6:00PM

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has doubled down on his condemnation of the anti-Israel slogan "from the river to the sea", endorsing a former ASIO boss' characterisation that the words are "very violent" and had no place in Australia.

Mr Albanese was interviewed by former treasurer Josh Frydenberg for an upcoming Sky News documentary on the rise of antisemitism.

Mr Frydenberg also interviewed former ASIO director-general Dennis Richardson, who called the slogan a "very violent statement".

"There are sections of the Australian community who do see people of the Jewish faith wherever they are around the world as part of Israel," Mr Richardson said.

"Therefore, statements of violence against Israel can very easily flow over into actions of violence against communities in our own country."

Mr Frydenberg said the remarks should serve as a wake-up call.

"Dennis Richardson's comment on our upcoming documentary that the chant 'from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free' is a 'very violent statement' is a major intervention in the current debate," Mr Frydenberg said.

"It makes the position adopted by many of our university leaders to these slogans and protests untenable.

"It is a warning from Australia's foremost security and intelligence expert that the slogans and protests we are seeing daily on our campuses and streets are dangerous.

“They are not without consequence, as Richardson makes clear when he said, ‘statements of violence against Israel can very easily flow over into actions of violence against communities in our own country.’

“If for those with their head in the sand this message alone was not powerful enough to change course, then the endorsement of Richardson’s comments by the Prime Minister must be.

“When I put it to the Prime Minister directly on the documentary that the river to the sea slogan was ‘an extremely violent statement’, he immediately agreed, saying, ‘it is.’

“I also put to him, ‘so it has no place on our streets?’ He replied, ‘I agree.’

“We have waited too long for strong action by our leaders, so now is the time they must step up and clamp down on these violent slogans and protests.

“The Prime Minister has rightly made clear what should happen across the country. It’s now up to him, university leaders and law enforcement to make it happen.

“These cannot be idle words by the Prime Minister. They must be words that are followed by action.”

Mr Albanese on Monday rebuked Education Minister Jason Clare’s characterisation of the chant as meaning different things to different people.