

# Protesters flaunt terror symbols

**Wong 'non-comment' on hostage rescue angers Jewish leaders**

**EXCLUSIVE**  
ALEXI DEMETRIADI  
NSW POLITICAL REPORTER

Pro-Palestine activists in Melbourne have been displaying and wearing Hezbollah and Hamas emblems unimpeded, despite criminal legislation outlawing the usage of the two terror groups' symbols.

Photographs obtained by The Australian from recent Melbourne pro-Palestine rallies stretching back weeks show a cohort of activists wearing Hamas' distinctive emblem on their clothing — one activist donning the insignia is pictured less than a metre from Victoria Police officers.

In another from early June, two activists hold up a cardboard poster of the Hezbollah flag. One of those pictured, and a prominent leader of the rallies, is Mohammad Sharab, shown wearing a Hamas badge while leading one of the protests.

Sharab was charged in February after an alleged abduction, alongside another prominent activist, Laura Allam, after an incident in Melbourne's western suburbs. The entirety of both Hamas and Hezbollah are recognised by the federal government as terrorist organisations, and in certain circumstances the public display of the groups' insignias is a breach of section 80.2 of the commonwealth criminal code.

The outlawing of the groups' emblems was introduced into the criminal code in January, alongside the display of Nazi symbols. For someone to be charged with the offence, one further element is that the display of the symbols would also have to incite others to offend, insult or intimidate people of a certain race or religion, or advocate "hated" of that group. It is punishable with up to a year imprisonment.

Opposition home affairs



BRENDAN BECKETT

**Mohammad Sharab at a pro-Palestine protest near Melbourne's Flinders Street Station**

Hamas's emblem depicts two crossed swords in front of the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem while Hezbollah's flag is a distinctive green rifle on a yellow backdrop.

In other instances during pro-Palestine Melbourne rallies, Hamas bandannas can be seen worn by activists, T-shirts with the group's logo and of its spokesman, Abu Oubaida, as well as one protester wearing a shirt with the words "Khaybar, Khaybar, ya

in having anti-terror laws if they are not enforced", he said, adding their anti-Israel rhetoric and the display of the symbols had been "steadily escalating".

"Many people are questioning why the authorities are so timid in the face of Islamist extremism. Extremists will likely interpret the failure to act as a green light for further escalation.

A Victoria Police spokeswoman said the force respected the

# Pressure building for Hizb ut-Tahrir ban

**EXCLUSIVE**  
ALEXI DEMETRIADI  
NOAH YIM

Jewish leaders and the opposition are demanding the federal government take the threat of extremist "hate machine" Hizb ut-Tahrir seriously and designate it a terrorist organisation as a matter of urgency.

On Sunday, the Zionist Federation of Australia wrote to the government calling for the group's designation, setting out HUT's "hated of non-believers".

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry also warned Anthony Albanese of its anti-Semitic influence, urging it to draft legislation to designate it clearly as an "extremist organisation".

"The Jewish community and leaders of all backgrounds have been warning that there are serious threats to social cohesion with an explosion of extremism in Australia," a letter from ZFA president Jeremy Leibler and chief-executive Alon Cassuto read. "That is in large part because extremists like Hizb ut-Tahrir are actively working to destroy social cohesion."

It comes amid allegations HUT has accelerated domestic activities after October 7, with a particular presence at encampment protests at campuses.

The letter, sent to the Prime Minister, the Attorney-General, Mark Dreyfus, and Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil, said HUT had "built a hate machine".

"It is glorifying terrorism, radicalising Australians, and covertly using front organisations to ensure the safety of those attending and the broader community," she said. She also said Victoria Police would investigate any specific alleged incidents brought to the attention of the force.

In January, British Home Sec-

retary James Cleverly outlawed the group as a terrorist organisation, saying it was "anti-Semitic" and "actively promoting and encouraging terrorism".

The ZFA's letter to the government said HUT's threat was not contained to its community, but also to democracy and society, and that it should follow the lead of its British counterparts.

In its hatred of democracy, Jews and all non-believers, Hizb ut-Tahrir is a threat to us all," it read, alleging its ideology was a "gateway to terrorism".

The ECJA also warning the government of the group's anti-Semitism, suggested it establish a new, concurrent system to designate extremist groups such as Hizb ut-Tahrir, even if it didn't reach the criteria to join Hamas and Hezbollah on the terrorist list. "Rather than designate these organisations as terrorist groups when they have not engaged in acts of terrorism, Australia needs to enact national law analogous to state and territory laws applicable to criminal gangs, empowering the government to designate an organisation as an extremist organisation," co-chief executive Peter Wertheim said.

Mr Wertheim said the government would then need to be satisfied that members were associating for the purpose of broadly supporting activities aimed to "provoke animosity" between groups on the basis of "race or religion", and that the organisation or its members represented a "risk to public peace, safety or order".

He also suggested such a legislative scheme would open up a range of law-enforcement powers, saying Hizb ut-Tahrir had frequently been "anti-Semitic, misogynist, homophobic, transphobic and anti-Western".

A spokesman for the attorney-general said the government condemned the group's "hateful comments" and that those had "no place in Australia".

WORLDED P10

**16 June 2024 – Hamas logo worn by protestors including Mohammad Sharab at pro-Palestine rallies in Melbourne**

Source: <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/political-jewish-leaders-urge-crackdown-on-activists-hamas-hezbollah-symbols/news-story/8755b02e2228335c6128ba86d1fc6c9d>



Mohammad Sharab at a pro-Palestine protest near Melbourne's Flinders Street Station. Picture: Brendan Beckett



Pro-Palestine supporters march towards Trade Hall, Melbourne, during a recent rally. Picture: Diego Fedele



**13 June 2024 – Hamas logo worn by Mohammad Sharab**

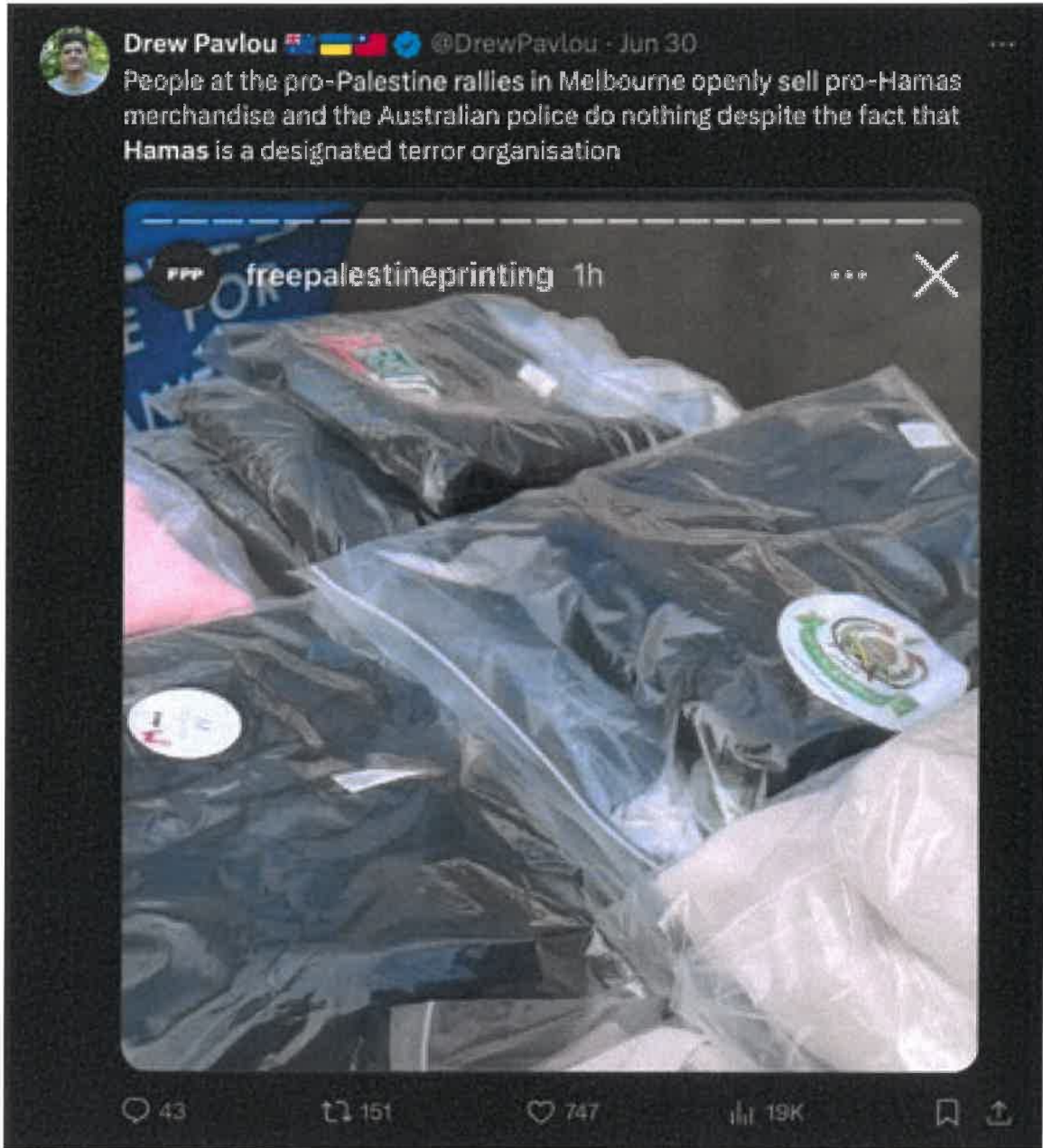
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-806040>



Mohammad Sharab wearing a Hamas emblem at an anti-Israel rally on Sunday.  
(photo credit: Screenshot/Mohammad Sharab/Instagram)

**30 June 2024 – Free Palestine Printing appears to be selling merchandise featuring the Hamas symbol at pro-Palestine rallies in Melbourne**

Source: <https://x.com/DrewPavlou/status/1807254662309085531>



**23 June 2024 – Free Palestine Printing appears to be selling merchandise displaying the Hamas symbol at pro-Palestine rallies in Melbourne**

Source: <https://x.com/DrewPavlou/status/1804855750797455574>



**Drew Pavlou**   
@DrewPavlou

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Free Palestine Printing is an Australian company openly selling sweatshirts with the Hamas emblem on them.

They sell these at the weekly Melbourne anti-Israel protests with total impunity. The Victorian Police don't touch them despite the fact that Hamas is a designated terror group.

Free Palestine Printing are the main poster, printing, stickers and apparel supplier for the anti-Israel protests in Melbourne which shows that the protest organisers in Melbourne are happy with open displays of support for Hamas.



10:35 PM · Jun 23, 2024 · **6,587** Views





**11 June 2024 – Hamas symbol worn by activists at pro-Palestine rallies in Melbourne**


Source: <https://x.com/DrewPavlou/status/1800492517366116436/photo/2>



**12 June 2024 – Hamas symbol displayed on drumkit by activist at pro-Palestine rally in Melbourne**

Source: <https://www.instagram.com/p/C8GaiE8MYHH/>



 elayoubi4palestine and ummah\_forpalestine

 elayoubi4palestine Free Free Palestine ps 3 w



84 likes  
12 June

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12 May 2024 – Hamas symbol displayed by activist at pro-Palestine rally in Melbourne

Source: <https://www.instagram.com/p/C69mAA6hFjF/?igsh=cTF1NTixMntvczJi>



sangblek\_

🎵 315 Prod by MON3OM DMC • محتلين



Fundraising for MATW Project

A\$506.39 raised of A\$500



Liked by australiangardenparty and others  
sangblek\_ 12 May 2024 | 4 Dhul'-Q 1445 AH | Naarm.  
For the 31st consecutive week, we never get tired to protest until Palestine is free. Our existence, is resistance. [#weareallreem](#) [#melbournerrally](#)

**11 June 2024 – Headband displaying Hamas symbol worn by pro-Palestinian activist in Melbourne**

Source: <https://x.com/DrewPavlou/status/1800493247749566841>

 **Drew Pavlou** 🇬🇧 🇲🇾 🇹🇼 @DrewPavlou · Jun 11


We have ID on one of the masked men seen wearing a **Hamas** headband at the Melbourne **rallies**. Izz Zaki is a Malaysian anti-Zionist activist who goes by the Instagram handle @sangblek\_ He personally threatened me for sharing this to Instagram [Instagram.com/sangblek\\_](https://www.instagram.com/sangblek_/)



8 15 71 4.7K


**11 June 2024 – Headband displaying Hamas symbol worn by pro-Palestinian activist in Melbourne**

Source: <https://x.com/DrewPavlou/status/1800492513347899462>

 **Drew Pavlou** 🇺🇸 🇦🇺 🇵🇹 🇵🇸 @DrewPavlou · Jun 11

Masked men wearing **Hamas** headbands at Melbourne anti-Israel rallies. **Hamas** is a designated terrorist organisation in **Australia**.

“Women’s Hub **Australia**” actually filmed this and shared it because they are proud of guys wearing **Hamas** headbands at their rallies.



8 20 96 4.2K



29 June 2024 – Hamas symbol displayed on headband worn by pro-Palestinian activist at a rally and posted on social media

Source: <https://www.instagram.com/p/C8y7Z5VB5UQ/>



sangblek\_

🎵 Shiko El Fanan - شيكو الفنان • Ya Falsteen - ...ي



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sangblek\_ In a city's heart, among the stone and glass,... more

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