

Executive Council of Australian Jewry

The Representative
Organisation of
Australian Jewry



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Anti-Jewish incidents caused by gutter racism, not Middle East politics

Grahame Leonard, the President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the peak body of the Australian Jewish community, said today:

"All decent and fair-minded Australians are appalled at the harassment of, and violence against, any members of the Australian community, and the ECAJ welcomes the strong condemnation of the incidents of anti-Jewish vandalism, violence and intimidation which have occurred during the past two months".

"While decades of research have shown there is no necessary correlation between rises and falls in Middle East violence and attacks on Jewish Australians, it appears some cowardly, bullying racists in Australia have taken advantage of Middle East tensions to act on their bigotry".

"The small minority of fanatical racists in Australia, on both the left and right, engage in behaviour which attacks the very fabric of our traditionally tolerant and peaceful society".

"This is not a matter of a 'race war' in Australia but should be a call to oppose racists at war with Australian values".

"Every decent Australian will condemn racism in any shape and form and will be affronted by attacks on synagogues, mosques, churches and temples regardless of personal religious affiliation".

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