



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF
AUSTRALIAN JEWRY Inc.

Suspect Bona Fides

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ANTONY Loewenstein, founder of Independent Australian Jewish Voices, does not accept Israel's commitment to a two-state solution and admits IAJV's petition singles out Israel as solely responsible for its impasse with the Palestinians ("Jews 'free to debate Israel' ", 07/3).

One must question the IAJV's supposed even-handedness when its founder ignores, for example, the Camp David summit in 2000 when Yassar Arafat rejected then Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak's offer of the creation of a Palestinian state (following Israeli withdrawal from all of the Gaza Strip and some 95 per cent of the West Bank) and Palestinian control over East Jerusalem.

Similarly, IAJV's bona fides are suspect if its signatories disregard any Palestinian responsibility. The Palestinian government's position is unequivocal: "Palestine is an Islamic Waqf land consecrated for Muslim generations until Judgement Day (Hamas Covenant, Article 11)" and "There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad (Article 13)".

Neither Australian Jews nor Israelis need convincing of a two-state solution. Rather, it's intractable Islamists whom IAJV should be targeting.

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