



10 November 2024

Her Excellency Mrs Gerarda Adriana Cornelia Maria Braken
Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Australia
120 Empire Circuit
Yarralumla, ACT 2600

Email: can@minbuza.nl

Your Excellency

We are writing to you to express our revulsion and outrage at the large-scale anti-Jewish violence that occurred in Amsterdam last week, when Israeli and Jewish supporters of an Israeli football team were set upon by a large group of thugs who shouted anti-Jewish slogans as they carried out their car-ramming attacks, vicious beatings, attempted kidnappings and other brutal acts.

Our organisation is the peak, elected, representative body of the Australian Jewish community, whose constituent and affiliated organisations, and their respective constituent and affiliated organisations, number approximately 200 major Jewish organisations across Australia, including Jewish schools, places of worship, women's organisations, student organisations, sporting clubs and cultural groups. The views expressed in this letter may reliably be taken as reflecting the feelings of the overwhelming majority of Australian Jews.

The events in Amsterdam can only be described as a pogrom. By all accounts the violence was pre-planned via social media and other online channels. Israeli intelligence services forewarned their Dutch counterparts of what was being planned, but the Dutch authorities apparently failed to act on this information, or give it sufficient credence. The Dutch police were conspicuously absent or ineffectual during the violence.

This disgraceful failure to carry out the most basic duty of police officers came a month after news reports that officers in the Dutch police force had refused to protect Jewish targets and events: <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-823171>. Your King, His Majesty Willem-Alexander, was entirely correct when he told Israel's President Isaac Herzog that the Netherlands had failed the Jewish people during the Holocaust and it has failed them again now.

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Union for Progressive Judaism
Federation of Jewish Aged Car Services
Maccabi Australia
National Council of Jewish Women
B'nai B'rith of Australia/ NZ
Jewish National Fund of Australia
Joint Distribution Committee Australia

OBSERVERS
Council of Progressive Rabbis
Federation of Australian Jewish
Ex-Service Associations
New Zealand Jewish Council
Zionist Federation of Australia
Council of Orthodox Synagogues
of Australia



We would add that the Netherlands has not only failed the Jewish people, but has also betrayed its own best traditions. Historically, the Netherlands was renowned as a haven of enlightenment and tolerance, providing refuge to Jews who had fled the horrors of the Inquisition in Spain and Portugal and persecution in other countries. Its recent treatment of Jews is all the more shameful in light of that history.

We call upon the Dutch government and law enforcement authorities to turn a new page in their attitudes towards the Jewish people and Israel. We note that steps have now begun to bring the full force of the law to bear against the alleged perpetrators of the pogrom. However, a full public inquiry is also needed into the causes of the violence, including any errors, misjudgements and prejudices on the part of the relevant Dutch authorities that contributed to the events. Any police officers or other officials who are found to have failed to enforce the law and discharge their duties impartially, or to have failed to carry out their duties in accordance with the principle of equal justice, should summarily be dismissed.

We would be grateful if you would convey this letter to your government.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Aghion KC
President

Peter Wertheim AM
Co-CEO

Alex Ryvchin
Co-CEO

cc Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs