Executive Council of Australian Jewry

Preliminary statistics concerning surge in antisemitic incidents following Hamas atrocities in Israel on 7 October 2023

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Hamas attack in southern Israel on 7 October 2023

On Saturday 7 October 2023, several thousand Hamas gunmen and other armed Gazans crossed the border from Gaza and entered Israel by land, sea and air. Over the course of the day, they attacked many Israeli towns and kibbutzim, and young people attending a music festival. They proceeded to inflict multiple types of harm upon the people in southern Israel, including rape, mutilation and dismemberment while still alive, beheading, burning, and murder of babies, children and adults. Some 1200 people were murdered, approximately 6,000 people were injured, and approximately 249 people were kidnapped and taken into Gaza and held as hostages. Thousands of rockets were also launched into Israel. The Hamas terrorists videoed and published online the atrocities they committed.

Hamas is an Islamist organisation that calls for the violent "obliteration" of the State of Israel and for the elimination of Jews world-wide. It is a proscribed terrorist organisation in many countries including Australia.

More Jews were killed on 7 October 2023 than on any single day since the end of the Holocaust in 1945. The Hamas massacre harked back to previous times, to pogroms, the mass killing of Jews by armed mobs, often state-sponsored, that occurred sporadically but persistently throughout Europe and the Arab/Muslim world from the Middle Ages until the twentieth century.

Spike in anti-Jewish incidents in Australia

Within hours of this brutal attack directed mainly against civilians, anti-Israel groups and individuals began to mobilise politically and capitalise on the targeting of Jews around the world, including in Australia. On 8 October, a rally was held by extremist Muslims in Lakemba, Sydney, where a speaker and attendees expressed their exultation at the killing of Jews by Hamas. On 9 October, at a rally held by anti-Israel Muslims and left-wingers at the Sydney Opera House protesters chanted "Fuck the Jews" and "Gas the Jews" and burnt an Israeli flag. As the days and weeks went on, there was a surge in the number of anti-Jewish incidents across Australia.

Of great concern, were the death threats sent to Jewish organisations and the calls for killing Jews at anti-Israel street protests. There were organised acts aimed at intimidating and silencing Jews, such as convoys of vehicles from the western suburbs of Sydney, with its large

concentration of people of Arab and Muslim background, to the eastern suburbs, with its large concentration of people of Jewish background. In Melbourne, there was a protest in a park opposite a synagogue on a Friday evening, the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath, necessitating the evacuation of the synagogue during a religious service. In a separate incident, anti-Israel protesters confronted and verbally abused family members of Israeli hostages in their hotel while they were on a meeting tour in Australia. There were weekly anti-Israel street protests in most capital cities.

In addition to incidents, there were many other expressions of animosity towards Israel and Jews that are not necessarily categorised as incidents but were just as damaging to, and undermining of, the sense of security of members of the Jewish community, and their sense of belonging as part of the broader Australian community. Thousands of posters of the names and photos of those kidnapped by Hamas, which had been put up around multiple suburbs in Sydney and Melbourne and elsewhere, were ripped down and/or graffitied.

Data on anti-Jewish incidents in Australia Oct-Nov 2023

The following statistics are the reported numbers of antisemitic incidents that occurred in Australia from 1 October 2023 to 30 November 2023. These figures are **provisional** and based only on the incidents that have been reported so far to the ECAJ, either directly or via its constituent and affiliate organisations, and the Community Security Groups. As in the past, many incidents can take weeks or months to be reported, or if reported elsewhere, for the reports to be passed on to the ECAJ.
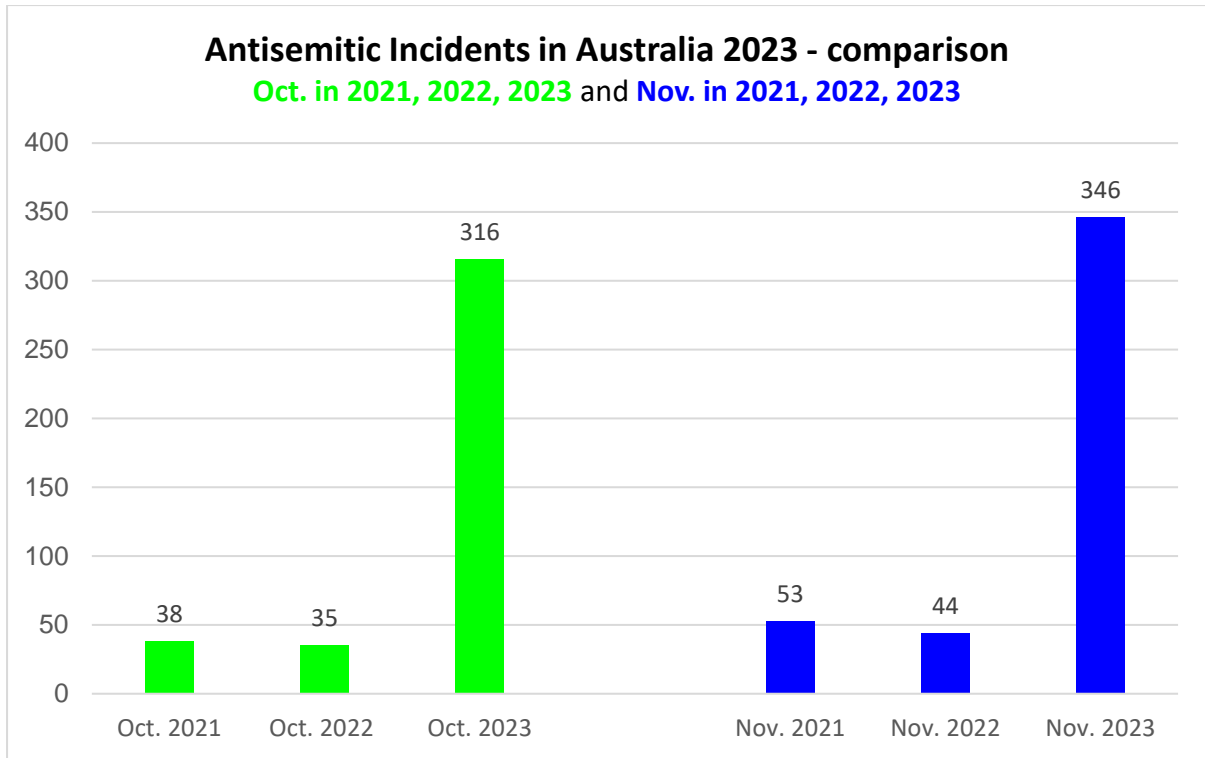
There were 316 reported antisemitic incidents in October 2023, only 5 of which were reported between October 1 and 7. A further 346 incidents were reported in November 2023, making a total of **662 antisemitic incidents** reported during October and November 2023.

By comparison, there were **495 anti-Jewish incidents** reported in Australia for the entire 12 months to 30 September 2023.

When comparing the number of reported antisemitic incidents in October and November 2023 to the number for the months of October and November in 2022, the percentage increase is **738%**, as shown in the Table below.

(The October and November 2021 figures are provided only to illustrate the approximate consistency of the October and November 2022 figures with the figures for the same months in the year prior).
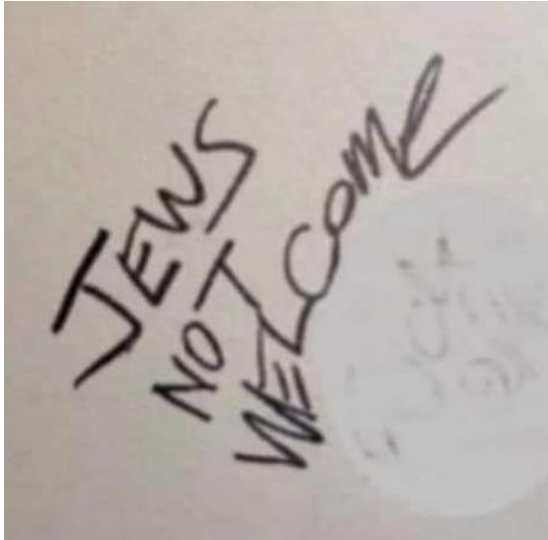
Date	Number of incidents	Percent increase from 2022 to 2023
October 2021	38	
October 2022	35	
October 2023	316	803%
November 2021	53	
November 2022	44	
November 2023	346	686%
October-November 2021	91	
October-November 2022	79	
October-November 2023	**662**	**738%**

Antisemitic Incidents in Australia 2023 - comparison
Oct. in 2021, 2022, 2023 and **Nov. in 2021, 2022, 2023**

Month	Value
Oct. 2021	38
Oct. 2022	35
Oct. 2023	316
Nov. 2021	53
Nov. 2022	44
Nov. 2023	346

Some incidents during October and November 2023

Graffiti of "Kill Jews. Jew Lives Here" Melbourne, 16 Nov. 2023

Graffiti "Jews Not Welcome",
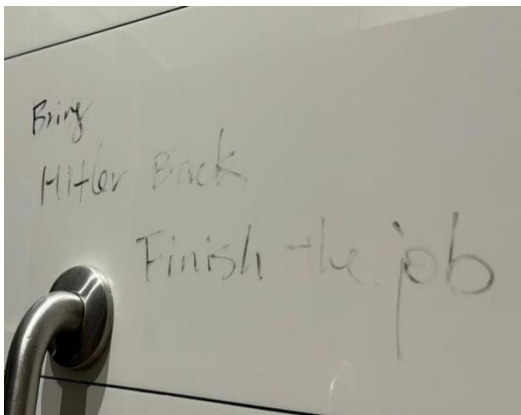Melbourne, 18 Nov. 2023

Graffiti "Jew Free Zone",
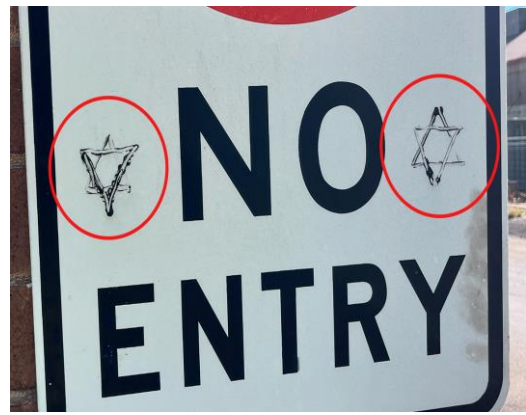Melbourne, 18 Nov. 2023

Graffiti "Fuck Jews",
Sydney, 9 Oct. 2023

Graffiti "Fuk Jews",
Melbourne, 16 Nov. 2023

Graffiti "Bring Hitler Back. Finish the job",
Sydney, 22 Nov. 2023

Graffiti, Newcastle, 8 Nov. 2023

…

Chant of "Gas the Jews"
Sydney Opera House, 9 Oct. 2023

Death threat sent to Jewish organisations,
Sydney, 12 Oct. 2023

Placard "Lets clean the world from
rubbish", Melbourne, 12 Nov. 2023

Graffiti "Zionism = Racism" on Kidnapped
poster, Sydney, 5 Nov. 2023

Poster of Hitler/Netanyahu analogy,
Sydney, 5 Nov. 2023

Sticker, Sydney & Melbourne,
5-6 Nov. 2023

List of some of the anti-Jewish incidents in Australia: 8 Oct. to 4 Dec. 2023.

- Verbal abuse and death threats against a rabbi and his 8-year-old son with "Fuck… pigs… Jews… die…" by four males in a car on the street, Melbourne (11 Oct. 2023).

- Threat by a man of "If I see you motherfuckers with that [Israeli] flag, I'll fucking kill you all" towards four Jewish teenagers who displayed an Israeli flag across their car, Bellevue Hill, Sydney (11 Oct. 2023).

- Threat of "We are coming for you soon, from western Sydney" accompanied by an image of a man in orange clothing about to be beheaded by ISIS, to the ECAJ Instagram account via a message, Sydney (12 Oct. 2023).

- Email titled "Filth" and the content of "History shows how hated you are I would crush a filthy Jew like a cockroach under foot . If you show your ugly head to me in my country I will cut it off and roll it down the street I'm not a rag head Bring back the Furher No difference" , to a Jewish organisation, Sydney (13 Oct. 2023).

- Graffiti of "Kill JEWS" on a bitumen path and another "Kill Jews" on a step, South Melbourne (13 Oct. 2023).

- Chant of "Intifada intifada" (referring to the terrorist bombing campaign to kill Israel Jews on buses, in cafes, and elsewhere) at anti-Israel rally in Melbourne (15 Oct. 2023 and 29 Oct. 2023).

- Man shouted "Allahu Akbar. Get the fucking Jews wiped out! … I'm a Muslim…", then "Albo… is siding with the Jews. … Liberate all of Palestine. … The Jews came barefooted …", at anti-Israel rally in Hyde Park, Sydney (15 Oct. 2023). The police officer told him he had a right to say what he did but that it is an offence to swear in public.

- Chants of "Khaybar Khaybar ya yahud, jaish Muhammad soufa ya'oud" ("Khaybar Khaybar oh Jews, the army of Muhammad will return" which refers to a massacre of Jews by Muslims at Khaybar in 628 CE, and used as a war-cry to threaten and attack Jews) then "Allahu Akbar" at anti-Israel rally in Melbourne (15 Oct. 2023).

- Verbal abuse of "Fuck the Jews! Jews get off the beach!" who was then confronted by a Jewish man, at which point the perpetrator threatened to kill his family, rape his wife in front of him, Camp Cove Beach, Watsons Bay, Sydney (23 Oct. 2023).

- Verbal abuse by a man who shouted "You should've all been killed!" at a Jewish group of people organising a Free the Hostages activity with shoes and red balloons and pictures of the hostages, Double Bay, Sydney (27 Oct. 2023).

- Verbal abuse of a Jewish man on a train of "If I could get a hold of a machine gun I'd gun down 10,000 of you tomorrow", "I'm going to blow a hole through your synagogue", "Jews aren't people, they're pieces of shit", "If Hitler had done it right, he would have gotten rid of all of you, and the human race would have no trouble", and

"Who do you think you are as Jews? Whatever you're capable of feeling, the Palestinians are capable 100 times" on a tram, Melbourne (27 Oct. 2023).

- Placards of "Well done Hitler would be proud" and "Same shit Different asshole", the latter with images of Hitler and Netanyahu, both placards making Nazi analogies to Israel, State Library, Melbourne (28 Oct 2023).

- Physical assault of a 44-year-old Jewish man in a public park by three males; the Jewish man had removed a previously torn poster which advertised an anti-Israel protest that had already occurred, a man came over to him, asked if he supported Israel, then threatened "I'll kill you!"; a crowd of men and women surrounded him, he was hit to the ground, and three men repeatedly punched and kicked him, including 12 punches to the head, while attacking him, the men asked him "Why are you in our area? Go back to Vaucluse", called him a "pro-Jew dog" and other slurs, they then repeatedly hit him on the head; he sustained two black eyes, concussion and four fractures to his spine, and was hospitalised for four days, Arncliffe, Sydney (28 Oct. 2023).

- Placard of "O Israel! Recall Khayber when one Ali (as) crushed your army & history will repeat itself with one Mehdi" (in reference to the slaughter of Jews by Muslims at Khaybar in 638 CE and the Mahdi of Islamic eschatology when Jews will be annihilated from the earth), at anti-Israel protest, Sydney (29 Oct. 2023).

- Placard of "Is genocide a Jewish value??? Boycott Israel!" at anti-Israel protest, Sydney (4 Nov. 2023).

- Three banners of Hitler removing his mask which is the face of Netanyahu, making an analogy between Nazism and Israel, on major roads, eastern suburbs, Sydney (5 Nov. 2023).

- Multiple Kidnapped posters torn and graffitied on with "Zionism = Racism", train station, Redfern, Sydney (5 Nov. 2023).

- Graffiti on Kidnapped poster of "Fuck Zionism", poster scratched and torn, Melbourne (5 Nov. 2023).

- Phone call of "You fucking Yehudi! [Arabic for 'Jew'] We are going to get you. You mother fucker", to a Jewish communal leader, Sunshine Coast, Qld. (5 Nov. 2023).

- Placards of "Holocaust of 2023", "Zionism is racism", "There is BLOOD on your hands" with the 'a' in 'hands' being a Star of David, "End the Palestinian Holocaust", at anti-Israel protest, Perth (5 Nov. 2023).

- Letter of four pages containing death threats composed of "I will fucking find you. Hunt you down. Gas you. Kill you. … Teach you a lesson. Your fucking Jew…. I will come after you. I know where you live. …" to a prominent Jewish figure, Sydney (6 Nov. 2023).

- Verbal abuse of an identifiably Orthodox Jewish couple by a group of eight young males of Arab appearance of "Free Palestine, motherfucker" repeatedly, then "Fucking

Jewish!" while on the boardwalk at the Cape Schanck Lighthouse Reserve Carpark, Victoria (7 Nov. 2023).

- Placard of "Israelis will lose. Palestine will shine. Wage a war against the innocent. You Zionists are dirtier than pigs & swine" (the latter in reference to the Quran referring to Jews as pigs), at anti-Israel protest, Melbourne (12 Nov. 2023).

- Graffiti of "Kill the Jews", on fence of the home of a Rabbi, Newcastle, NSW (10 Nov. 2023).

- Physical assault of a Jewish cyclist with an Israeli flag, the flag was grabbed by a woman, then two men pushed him on the ground then kicked him in the chest and back, Chapel St, South Yarra, Melbourne (12 Nov. 2023).

- Graffiti of "FUCK ZIONISM" on the boarding outside Burgertory restaurant, that was fire-bombed (police investigations have found it not to have been a hate crime), Caulfield, Melbourne (14 Nov. 2023).

- Graffiti of "KILL JEWS. JEW LIVES HERE" on brick fence of a residential apartment block, Clayton, Melbourne (16. Nov. 2023).

- Physical assault of a 72-year-old Jewish man, after the assailant had spotted Jewish items in his car, on the street in Bentleigh, Melbourne (18 Nov. 2023).

- Stickers of "Boycott" with a large Star of David on a supposed Israeli flag placed on Jewish owned shops, Glicks Bakery and Tavlin (kosher restaurant), and on other Jewish-owned shops, Carlisle Street, Balaclava, Melbourne (21 Nov. 2023).

- Bomb threat via email to multiple synagogues of "There are multiple bombs In the Jewish Centre The bombs will explode in a few hours. You will all DIE. I will also slash your familes throats, I will slice their veins with a knife" Australia and NZ (24 Nov. 2023).

- Yellow BDS stickers on Jewish-owned shop, of 'Anita Gelato' (BDS movement aims at the elimination of the State of Israel) on Bunda Street, Civic, Canberra (25 Nov. 2023).

- Placard of "Long Live the Intifada" (referencing the campaign of bombings of buses, cafes etc in Israel) at anti-Israel protest, Melbourne (3 Dec. 2023).

- Assault and harassment of group of 13-year-old Jewish girls wearing their Jewish school uniform, had food thrown at them by people on level above, then box landed near them, which contained several swastikas etched and drawn on it, Westfield Bondi Junction, Sydney (4 Dec. 2023).