

The Human Endangered Species: Free Speech

Endangering human rights many Westerners have taken for granted all their lives, endangering by mere attrition, has been going on quietly for the last few decades. The chipping has been done on many fronts. Teachers in some countries have been required to name their students one way in the classroom but another way on school reports, effectively being forced to lie to parents. Researchers have been pressured to conceal data that aren't convenient in the current cultural atmosphere, or not to research controversial issues at all. People in many professions have found that expressing their own opinions in forums completely unrelated to their work can get them disciplined or even fired if the management doesn't agree with their views. But nothing beats coming up against a well-funded lobby group determined to hold onto its power. These lobbies come in variety of flavours—all of them hostile to free speech—but one of the most insidious is the Zionist lobby.

The news from Israel and Palestine only worsens, as do reports from elsewhere in the world about the ugly penumbra of Zionism. It seems Israel cannot refrain from spreading the rancour and bile that characterise its relations with Palestinians elsewhere, its fury seeming to grow as it becomes aware that the tide of world opinion is turning against it, a tide showing no more sign of abruptly reversing itself than the tides of the sea do as they begin to ebb.

The sharp edge of this ideology is its attempt to control freedom of expression in places that have a long tradition of defending it. One means would be simply to buy up major media outlets, such as CBS and TikTok, and impose upon them, from the top down, an editorial policy that whitewashes Israel's genocide, apartheid, ethnic cleansing, collective punishment, and bureaucratised rape and torture, matching this bleaching of Israel's atrocities with concerted Islamophobia, so conducting a media war on multiple fronts. This has not happened just yet, but the fact that die-hard Zionists are attempting to buy even these two outlets raises the possibility of an incipient media war by hostage-taking.

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Another means is to issue top-down directives about what news to cover or how favourably to cover it. There was a time when this might have worked very well at keeping most people from knowing what powerful people didn't want the public to know, but it's a less effective strategy in a time when the internet gives ordinary people access to an audience of millions worldwide: no lobby and no host of powerful magnates can stop the mushrooming of social media platforms. Perhaps because traditional media outlets realise their own waning power, those who want to control information have to resort to other means.

One of these means the Zionist lobby has sought to seize control of freedom of expression around the world has been to urge adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of anti-semitism, a definition that conflates hate speech against Jews with criticism of the modern state of Israel. If such initiatives were successful, they would mean that countries with existing hate speech laws would get criticism of Israel and Zionism folded into those laws, effectively making publicly-expressed *objections* to ethnic hate punishable by laws designed to *combat* ethnic hate.

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A prime example of this is Australia. Home to a numerically-negligible Jewish community (about 117,000 out of a total population of 27+ million), there is nevertheless a powerful Jewish lobby. Over 2025, there were increasing reports of rising anti-semitism in Australia. These were prima facie puzzling: minority groups usually become the focus of attacks when they get large enough for the majority community to perceive a threat to its own identity. The Jewish population in Australia is largely located in two major cities, Sydney and Melbourne. These have a combined population of about 11 million. With most of the 117K Jews divided between them, it's hard to see how the majority in either city could possibly feel threatened—more likely, most Australians, even in these large cities, don't even know anyone who is Jewish, any more than they personally know a Tibetan.

Some of these anti-semitic attacks in Australia proved to be rather odd. First, they were almost all unsuccessful at any level other than minor vandalism. Australian police determined that they were the work, not of hate groups with an ideological agenda, but low-level local criminals already known to the police, whose motives, according to local news reports, were to divert police attention and 'create chaos'. Significantly, the police are pursuing leads not only in Australia, but abroad, leaving open the possibility that it is foreign entities that wish to 'create chaos' in Australia, by giving the impression that anti-semitism is rising alarmingly. It's unclear whether the police will ever get to the bottom of the matter, though, since the criminals seem to have been paid in cryptocurrency and the correspondence between them and their hirers was conducted via encrypted media that cannot be traced.

Local police have, however, traced the origin of some of the 'threats'. Numerous phone threats to Jewish organisations in Australia turned out to have originated from one teenage mischief-maker, located in Israel, whose robocalls also went out to other countries. He could be dismissed as just another wayward adolescent, but there have been cases of faked anti-semitism elsewhere in the world. One is that of Nancy S, the Parisian Jewish woman whose threats and vandalism of her apartment building were initially pinned on North Africans (i.e., Muslims). She was exposed and received a jail sentence, but not before media outlets had swallowed the whole affair and regurgitated it to their audiences as true. And then there are the café owners in Winnipeg who police say staged anti-semitic

attacks on their own business. And then there was the caravan loaded with explosives found in an exurb of Sydney that was supposedly destined for blowing up synagogues, which a police investigation confirmed was a hoax. There was also a case of a journalist tied to the Murdoch-owned Daily Telegraph (Australia) trying to provoke staff at a Middle Eastern restaurant to make anti-semitic remarks—unsuccessfully.

Speculation is rife on the internet that the commissioners of the faux anti-semitic attacks carried out by petty criminals in Australia lies, as with the robocalls, in Israel, as does the ultimate source of the Bondi beach attack, which some speculate is an Israeli-government-orchestrated false flag effort. If the Bondi attack were that, it would be shocking—but the speculation circulates in an environment where Israel’s prior use of false flag attacks is either well known or widely suspected. Some of the speculation is dismissed as conspiracy-theory mongering, but there are odd correlations that are hard to dismiss out of hand.

In the case of Australia, the Bondi beach attack was quickly attributed to Iran. This was an odd conjecture, since, first, Australia had recently announced it would recognise Palestine as a state, which would seem to put Australia in a favourable light, as far as Muslim nations are concerned. Why would an Islamic republic orchestrate an attack on Australian soil *after* that announcement?

Second, the Australian Jewish community is small and is located a long distance from the Middle East. It’s baffling to see how Middle Eastern Muslims, whether in Iran or elsewhere, would benefit from such an attack. They have bigger problems on their own doorstep than the existence of a small Jewish community on a faraway island.

However the oddest element of the incident was that for months, there had been reports of rising anti-semitism and fear in the Jewish community leading many to consider leaving Australia for Israel. Israel is in need of immigration: it is losing a significant chunk of its most highly-educated workers, presumably because they don’t think that living in a self-made war zone is either pleasant or safe. That means the population of those who actually turn the wheels of the economy,—as opposed to the Haredim, who contribute less in taxes and receive more state benefits than non-Haredim—is declining, while that of the Haredim grows, because of their high birth rates. To maintain Israel’s technology-based economy, fresh blood is needed and what better way to prod people to emigrate than to persuade them they are unsafe in, say, Australia?

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The bizarre element is that against this background of supposed threat to Australian Jews, the Chabad-Lubavitch, an ultra-Orthodox movement with strong Zionist connections, sponsored an event on Australia’s most famous beach, on Hanukkah, which attracted over a thousand people. Often referred to as a ‘Festival of lights’, Hannukah commemorates the

success of the Jewish revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BC, when the Maccabees regained sovereignty in Jerusalem, re-dedicated the Temple and the lamps in the Temple miraculously burned for eight days, fuelled by only a tiny flask of oil. While Hanukkah is generally associated with lighting menorahs and innocuous activities like spinning dreidels, it is fundamentally about Jews regaining rule over Jerusalem and as such, lends itself to interpretation as an ethno-supremacist holiday.

If Australian Jews felt so threatened, why would they turn up in such numbers to an open-air event that had been widely publicised, especially one celebrating the triumph of Jews over their enemies? Why would Chabad even hold such an event, rather than encouraging people to celebrate at home, the traditional locus of Hanukkah celebrations? Why on a beach, just about the last place you'd celebrate a holiday that focuses on lighting candles and a wide-open place where security would have been all but impossible. Although there is no hard evidence at this stage linking Israel to the attack, there was an odd disconnect between the relentless reports of anti-semitism in the months leading up to the attack and the decision of Jewish community leaders to hold a huge, well-publicised, open air Jewish event in the largest city of a country supposedly marinating in anti-semitism. Moreover, Israel had something to gain from the attack, as Iran did not.

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But finally, why is Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, 'assisting' with the Bondi investigation? Why did the Australian authorities even *allow* a foreign spy agency 'help' with it? The Israeli source of the mischievous robocalls was not uncovered by foreign experts. It was tracked down by a specialist unit of the Victoria police: if the state police could trace calls to Melbourne back to Israel, when police elsewhere in the world—in the US, for instance—had failed to discover the same source of those calls to their own country, why couldn't the New South Wales police handle the Bondi attack investigation without the help of foreign spooks?

What the reports of rising anti-semitism accomplished (both those of genuine vandalism and those that were clearly hoaxes or graffiti vandalism) was the rushing through the Australian parliament of a law the pro-Israel lobby had been pressing for: the adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-semitism in Australia. That means that existing hate speech laws are now to be interpreted in light of that definition and, consequently, criticism of the state of Israel now legally counts as hate speech. The Lobby got what it wanted—but only after the supposedly anti-semitic attacks before Bondi had done no more damage than teenage vandals do to pretty much anything. Only after the months of reports of anti-semitism that ultimately proved to be either fake or low-level was the new law rushed through.

The legacy of the Zionist lobby in Australia is not only the passage of a law that makes it punishable to question what Israel is doing in Gaza and the West Bank; it is the persecution, through professional disciplinary processes, of those who have engaged in any form of criticism of Israel, even though their views were expressed in their capacity as private citizens. One sphere in which this persecution has been prosecuted is the medical profession. That, however, is a tale for another letter. For now, Australia provides a stark example of how Zionist influencers can not merely chip away at standards of free speech that have stood the test of time in a robust democracy, but significantly subvert them.