

Bondi Beach – Global Sumud Flotilla Event

On Father's Day September 2025, Jews Against the Occupation '48 held a peaceful family-friendly solidarity event at Bondi Beach in support of the Global Sumud Flotilla.

In the days leading up to the event, Zionist groups including Lions of Zion and StandWithUs circulated inflammatory social media graphics targeting our gathering. One widely shared image placed a red cross over our event poster with the words:

“No. Not in our backyard. They bring hate and support for terror to our community. We will not stay silent.”

The Australian Jewish Association (AJA) went further, posting:

“The Jewish community is not going to sit by and allow a bunch of troublemakers to bring their hate to Bondi Beach... Members of the Jewish community have plans to confront this hate.” Note: “The Jewish Community” as if that is a monolithic all-encompassing group of Jewish people.

The implication was clear: anti-Zionist Jews, Palestine solidarity activists and Palestinians were unwelcome at Bondi, ‘this was Zionist Jewish territory’ and we constituted a threat.

These campaigns encouraged confrontation and attracted not only aggressive Zionist agitators but also far-right extremists and neo-Nazis. The experience was deeply disturbing; the language spewed from the mouths of those agitators and their signs shocking. And what followed was complete absence of political or media concern regarding the treatment of attendees at our family friendly event, and disregard for the fact that AntiZionist Jews had organised the event. Instead, much commentary suggested Bondi somehow belonged exclusively to one type of Jew — Zionist Jews.

I later wrote publicly about the event: <https://michaelwest.com.au/white-supremacists-with-australian-flags-what-really-went-down-at-bondi/>

At the event, Mark Leach, co-founder of Never Again Is Now, part of the agitator group, stated to a Channel 10 News interviewer, whilst pointing back at us on the sand:

“That is not being organised by a Jewish group.” He then continued: “There may be a handful of people who have distant Jewish ancestry, but that is not representative of any Jewish group in this country at all. It is a handful of people who cosplay at being Jews.”

These remarks were heartbreaking. Video of him speaking here: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/8jsenw6ot3g7nbgx6h861/mark-leach-video.mp4?rlkey=m3rj1wh0wgusunq8xog9ft4li&dl=0>

For Jewish people to have their identity publicly invalidated because of their political beliefs is profoundly antisemitic.

Along with two other Jews, I lodged a complaint with the Australian Human Rights Commission against Leach. A mediation session was arranged but Mr Leach later withdrew from the process. We were left with no practical pathway except expensive litigation. AHRC Complaint Ref: 2025-16236.

Palestine Solidarity Rallies and Social Cohesion

Since October 2023 I have attended countless Palestine solidarity rallies and events across Sydney as an openly Jewish participant and member of Jews Against the Occupation '48. I have given speeches multiple times at the rallies.

At these rallies I have never experienced antisemitism. On the contrary, I have experienced solidarity, warmth, protection and genuine respect from organisers, Palestinians, broader Muslim communities and protest attendees in general. This directly contradicts the repeated public narrative that Palestine solidarity protests are threatening to Jewish people. My own lived experience as a Jewish woman attending these rallies has been the opposite of the fear-based narrative repeatedly promoted in sections of the media and by pro-Israel lobby organisations. Indeed, the hostility and abuse I have experienced has come not from Palestine solidarity activists, but from Zionists, far-right agitators and aggressively pro-Israel individuals.

I wrote publicly on this subject in January 2025: [How can pro-Palestine protests be intimidating to Jews when Jews attend them?](#)

The repeated portrayal of these peaceful rallies as antisemitic or ‘hate marches’ damages social cohesion by falsely framing large sections of the Australian public — including anti-Zionist Jews — as motivated by racial hatred rather than humanitarian concern for Palestinians. I find the implications deeply offensive. Suppressing protest and free speech, conflating anti-Zionism with antisemitism, and excluding anti-Zionist Jews from public discourse will not reduce

antisemitism. It just deepens division and mistrust.

Death Threats and Online Abuse

Following the Bondi massacre, fellow JAO48 member Michelle Berkon and I received death threats.

Anti-Zionist Jews routinely receive abuse online as I've mentioned previously in this submission. However, the threats received in December 2025 were much more sinister.

The messages were sent via the chat box of my online business after the sender deliberately tracked down my small business through my social media presence. On the same day Michelle's address was doxxed on social media.

The threats screenshot below became the subject of a Chatswood Police (my local station) and AFP investigation. The messages came over 2 days. Note the name the sender gave himself – Brenton Tarrant, the Christchurch terrorist. I was informed by police that the associated email address no longer existed, but I received no meaningful outcome or follow-up. The seriousness of these threats, combined with the ongoing abuse directed at me online, led me to install security cameras outside my home. The abuse directed at me comes from openly Zionist or pro-Israel accounts.

AFP Investigation reference: EC25-00479 Letter from the AFP to Senator David Shoebridge re: the investigation can be read here <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/xpwqmcmsjmvypzgej7nf9/EC25-004793-LoR-Correspondence-re-death-threats-and-doxxing-of-two-members-of-the-Australian-Jewish-community-Treanor-Berkon-Sen-Shoebridge.pdf>

Chatswood Police Event Number: E86585715

The screenshot shows a chat interface with a customer named Brenton Tarrant. The chat history includes a system message about a new customer and three abusive messages from the customer. The profile sidebar on the right provides details about the customer, including their name, email address, and location.

Brenton Tarrant
Customer

Conversation started from the online store
Brenton Tarrant (Australia) messaged you from the Ethical Gifts, Unique Bags, & Artisan Jewellery - Temples and Markets page.

Monday

A new customer was added to your store (maxwhiteman.xxv@gmail.com).

Ypu deserve a bullet in the head you rancid old Muslim apologist cunt
9:02 PM

And thanks for revealing your bitch friends name is Michelle.
9:07 PM

Gonna make hunting the bitch down and puttinh a claw hammer in her skull even easler. Die mad you worthless childless boomer cunt
9:07 PM

Tuesday

Lol. You do realise I'm following you and you are following me on twitter? Protecting your posts won't work, I say your hilarious post. But I'm not the one your friend, Michelle Berkon, should be worried about, I've got much bigger fish to fry as they say. I bet she's now wishing she had stayed home yesterday. I would not want to be her 🤔
3:43 PM

PS - your jewellery is shit. I hope you're not relying on selling the cheap poorly made junk to feed yourself? I'll be sure to leave an honest review though . 🤔
3:44 PM

Brenton Tarrant
Customer
Manage

Customer for 6 days
maxwhiteman.xxv@gmail.com
Perth, WA
10:15 am local time
Add note

I later wrote about this experience. Note: I wrote anonymously for fear of reprisals. <https://michaelwest.com.au/gun-vs-keffiyeh-one-kills-the-other-gets-you-death-threats>

Coogee Beach – “From Gadigal to Gaza” Solidarity Event

On May 3 2026, Jews Against the Occupation '48 organised a peaceful “From Gadigal to Gaza Origami Flotilla” action at Coogee Beach in solidarity with the Global Sumud Flotilla and the people of Gaza.

The event was designed as a calm and creative community gathering. Families, children and supporters gathered on the sand making colourful origami boats facing the sea as an expression of solidarity with Flotilla activists (one of whom is a member of our group) and the people of Gaza, suffering under siege.

Our event reflected the values anti-Zionist Jews are trying to uphold publicly: peace, international solidarity, compassion and opposition to war crimes and collective punishment.

This article shows that there were attempts to cancel our event. <https://www.jwire.com.au/standwithus-moves-to-counter-sydney-anti-israel-events/> In opposition to our gathering on the day, were approximately 30 Zionists agitators draped in combined Australia-Israeli flags. They lined up on the promenade, chanted obscenities with no regard for the children present, called us “ Hamas terrorists ” and complained that they were being prevented from entering a public beach. They were not; they could have gone anywhere except where we were gathered at the north end.

Fortunately, police were able to keep them from us for most of the event. Nevertheless, some Zionists made their way down to harass us on the sand. At one point, an Israeli flag was placed over a Palestinian flag and the words “that’s better” spewed out. Police then moved them back. At approximately 2 minutes into the recording of this SBS report you can see this taking place <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/8xsirwfb0k51onj7u9thk/JAO-Flotilla-event-on-SBS-3rd-May.mov?rlkey=4k0pdg5kf1oainqsexf5nwk31&dl=0>

The double standard is obvious. If a pro-Palestine group had turned up to abuse a Zionist gathering, particularly with children present, the police response would have been vastly different.

After the event I was threatened by the same individuals who had come down to the sand. One read out my car registration number and said: “We’ll remember that.” I provided a statement to police regarding the incident. Police were aware of who the individuals were and spoke to them. I was subsequently informed that the individuals denied making the threats and the matter went no further. Police Event Number 104561974

I am left with little confidence that threats and intimidation directed at anti-Zionist Jews are treated with the same seriousness afforded to other forms of antisemitic abuse.

I wrote publicly about the event here: [Green Left article on the Coogee flotilla event](#)