

'PRO-HATE, PRO-INCITEMENT': GREENBLATT SLAMS ANTI-ISRAEL PROTESTS

ADL chief visits scene of Bondi terror attack

GARETH NARUNSKY

THE head of the world's oldest antisemitism watchdog this week urged the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion to recognise anti-Israel protests as "pro-hate".

Speaking at the site of the Bondi Beach terror attack on Monday, Anti-Defamation League (ADL) CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said it was necessary to "shed this illusion" that the protests since October 7, 2023 are merely anti-Israel.

"They are pro-hate. They are pro-incitement," he said.

"Does anyone still maintain the fiction that somehow these protests are focused on a peaceful resolution of the conflict? They are not. They are pro-conflict, because they bring the conflict here.

"They are pro-Hamas. They are pro-hate, and they are wrong," he said.

Describing the arrest of a Jewish man with an Israeli flag at the October 9, 2023, Opera House demonstration as "an inversion of justice", Greenblatt expressed gratitude for the Royal Commission examining protests this week.

He credited the community with pushing for the Royal Commission. "The whole world

is watching what happens here."

Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) co-CEO Alex Ryvchin, who appeared alongside Greenblatt, said examining the protests was "absolutely critical" and "long overdue".

"They operate as an incubator for hatred, and eventually the hatred that was expressed there manifested in our streets, our universities, our homes, our synagogues, and right here [at Bondi Beach] as well," he said.

Greenblatt said he had travelled from New York to stand with the Australian Jewish community, describing 2025 as "one of the deadliest years for the Jewish people globally", with 20 Jewish people murdered in antisemitic attacks in the United States, the United Kingdom and at Bondi.

He said visiting the site of the Bondi attack was "gut-wrenching".

"It is emotional to be here at Bondi ... to see the memorial and the faces of these people," he said, noting the dead ranged from a 10-year-old to people in their 80s, "whose only offence was their identity".

Ryvchin opened the appearance by thanking Greenblatt for the visit, describing him as "one of the world's foremost defenders of human rights and advocates against antisemitism", and



ECAJ co-CEO Alex Ryvchin (left) and ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt at Archer Park.
Photo: Gareth Narunsky

thanked Australian Friends of Magen David Adom for facilitating it.

Greenblatt's arrival followed the release last week of a global report that stated Australia recorded the sharpest rise in antisemitic incidents of any of the world's seven largest Diaspora Jewish communities over the past five years.

The J7 Large Communities' Task Force Against Antisemitism, which tracks incidents across Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, found antisemitic incidents in Australia rose 270 per cent between 2021 and 2025 – ahead

of Germany on 215 per cent and the United States on 131 per cent.

The report also listed the Bondi Beach massacre among the deadliest antisemitic attacks anywhere in more than three decades. It recorded that 20 people were murdered in antisemitic attacks last year – 15 of them at the Chanukah by the Sea event at Bondi Beach – making 2025 the deadliest year for antisemitic violence in the Diaspora since the 1994 AMIA bombing in Buenos Aires.

The report documented more than 23,000 incidents across the seven countries in 2025, comprising over 90 per cent of the Jewish Diaspora.

Measured per capita, Australia's rate of 14.14 incidents per 1000 Jewish residents was the second highest of the seven countries, behind Germany and ahead of the United Kingdom.

The Australian chapter of the report, written by the ECAJ, identified the community's central concern as the risk of further harm to Jews after the Bondi attack, and called for governments and police to do more to ensure physical safety, including the timely sharing of security information with the Jewish community.

It also named Islamist and left-wing extremism as threats that need to be prioritised and dealt with effectively.

Citing research commissioned by Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism, the report said antisemitic attitudes were highest among younger Australians, with 18 to 35-year-olds expressing the most negative views of the Jewish community of any age group, and students recording the highest antisemitism scores of any group in the population.

On the year ahead, the report struck a grim note. "It is unknown whether Jews will be murdered in 2026, as they were in 2025, but this remains a key concern," it stated.

JNF GALAS

Former Israeli hostage Alon Ohel to play in Aus

JESSICA ABELSOHN

FORMER Hamas hostage and musician Alon Ohel will make a live musical appearance at JNF Australia's annual campaign events in Sydney and Melbourne, performing on piano for the Australian Jewish community as part of his recovery from 738 days in captivity.

Ohel, 25, was taken hostage from the Nova music festival on October 7, 2023, and was among the last group of hostages to be released. The pianist has spoken publicly about how music



Alon Ohel.

Photo: Instagram @ujafederation

sustained him during his ordeal underground.

In a video for the Jewish Funders Network in the United

States, Ohel described how he survived captivity by retreating into an imaginary world of music.

"I imagine the music ... sometimes just playing. Imagine playing on the piano. Sometimes just imagining me on stage," he said. "I just focus on that and not on where I am and why it's happening to me, and why it's over, and I'm going to die over here. It's just be focused on that music, on this special world that is in my head."

In May, Ohel appeared alongside fellow former hostage Eli Sharabi in London with Ohel telling guests that resilience was

essential to his survival. The two men formed a close bond during captivity, with Ohel forced to endure a further 247 days alone after Sharabi's earlier release.

"We do not have the privilege to give up. We have to move forward," he said, as reported by the *Jewish News UK*.

JNF Australia said the appearances would be an opportunity for Ohel to express his gratitude to the Australian Jewish community for the support and solidarity shown to Israel during one of the most difficult periods in its history. Music, the organisation said,

had become a central part of his healing journey, allowing him to reconnect with who he was before captivity.

The annual campaign events, held under the theme "For a Stronger Israel. Yesterday. Today. Tomorrow", mark 125 years of JNF, with funds supporting a trauma recovery project in southern Israel. British barrister and international law specialist Natasha Hausdorff will also headline the events as the campaign's international speaker.

To book tickets, visit jnf.org.au

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