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Cc: [Media](#); [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
Subject: ****media alert**** Transcripts: Minister Ed Husic and Minister Clare O'Neil, various outlets, 19 October 2023
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[292A1514.PDF](#)
[292A1513.PDF](#)

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Good morning

Minister Ed Husic and Minister Clare O'Neil had a number of TV/radio appearances this morning talking about the Hamas-Israel conflict, repatriation flights, impacts on social cohesion and the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

Please find attached transcripts from

- Minister Husic on ABC Radio National
- Minister O'Neil on ABC News Breakfast
- Minister O'Neil on Today Show.

Regards

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Media Liaison Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
T [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | **E** media@dfat.gov.au

Note to media: Unless otherwise specified, the information contained in this email is for background only.



THE HON ED HUSIC MP
Minister for Industry and Science

TRANSCRIPT

E&OE TRANSCRIPT
RADIO INTERVIEW
ABC RADIO NATIONAL AUSTRALIA WITH PATRICIA KARVELAS
THURSDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2023

Subjects: Israeli conflict impact on social cohesion; Warning against inflammatory language; Humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza

PATRICIA KARVELAS: Conflict is deepening in the Middle East as protests erupt in Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen and Egypt, with calls for a day of rage over Israeli air strikes on Gaza.

The conflict is also dividing the Australian Parliament, prompting Australia's spy boss to warn against inflammatory language, saying Neo-Nazis and Islamic extremists could use this conflict as a recruitment tool.

Ed Husic is the Minister for Industry and Science. He joins me this morning from Parliament House. Minister, welcome.

ED HUSIC, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE: Hi Patricia.

PATRICIA KARVELAS: ASIO Chief, Mike Burgess, says this conflict could be used by extremists here. We've already seen some really significant protests. How worried are you about the impact of this on social cohesion?

ED HUSIC: I think the thing that Australians love about our country, either Australians by birth or by choice, is the fact that it's a peaceful community, it allows you to do the things that you want to do in your life free from that weight of fear.

But this doesn't come easily, we all - and it's not something that is just magically occurring - we all make a commitment to that, and Mike Burgess's words are an important reminder that social cohesion, we all must contribute to that, and it is important that we ensure that extremists also don't frame, shape, antagonise, or break down anyone's ability to maintain that cohesion.

It's been something I've thought deeply about, particularly in the aftermath of Christchurch, and my concern about the rise of far-right extremism, and I've always said, Patricia, that I don't care if it's an Islamist, or a far-right extremist, anyone that poses a threat to our social cohesion has to be dealt with and dealt with strongly.

PATRICIA KARVELAS: He also warned against using inflamed language. We've already seen some fairly, you know, aggressive or muscular language around this issue. Is language, for instance, at a Parliament setting a good example?

ED HUSIC: I think your question's a really important one, frankly. I think it's a reminder that people who are elected to office, like myself and colleagues, that our words do have greater weight in the public square, and that we should be very mindful about the way that they're used, and we can play - I'd like to sort of emphasise - I think we can play a positive role in bringing people together.

I think we should avoid at any cost political grandstanding, and we should recognise that Australians have an expectation that when it comes to social cohesion, parliamentarians should be at the frontline demonstrating by example, by virtue of our own actions, that if we believe in social cohesion, then we'll work hard to maintain it.

I think that is the best way I can respond to a really important question you've put to me.

PATRICIA KARVELAS: Is there anything you've heard that's out of step with that?

ED HUSIC: No, I just - look, I think going to those points counters exactly what I said then. I think this is a moment for us to all think deeply, and you know, from my own point of view, Patricia, I have said from the start, I've done two things: one is I have condemned Hamas's action, and this week I called them "abhorrent".

But I also last week said I was genuinely concerned about what happens from here, and I'm genuinely concerned about the impact that war has on people. We are leaving intergenerational scars. The rest of us will go on with our lives, but people in that part of the world in the Middle East will have to carry those scars, and we have choices here.

I mean we are seeing a humanitarian catastrophe unfold before our very eyes in Gaza, and there are choices that can be made to avoid that, and I think it's really important that we are conscious of that, and that we contribute to international voices speaking up for Palestinians, particularly innocent Palestinian families, 3,000 of which have already lost their lives, to say that there has got to be a more strategic and precise way to hold Hamas to account, but not affect innocent Palestinian families.

PATRICIA KARVELAS: The line from your government is that Israel has a right to defend itself. But when does that right get compromised and look like it is in fact a mass collective punishment that's being applied?

ED HUSIC: If you go back to what I was saying a few moments ago, Patricia, you know, 3,000 Palestinian deaths, approximately, 1,000 of which are children; you've got homes, schools, medical centres destroyed, that's before we even contemplate how they'll get rebuilt, no food, fuel, medicines, water, and it's no surprise that there are some saying that this is the collective punishment being extended to Palestinians.

PATRICIA KARVELAS: And do you see it as collective punishment?

ED HUSIC: I feel very strongly that Palestinians are being collectively punished here for Hamas's barbarism. I really do feel that there is an obligation on governments, particularly the Israeli government to, as we have said, follow the rules of international law and to observe, in particular, that innocence should be protected.

And I am very mindful of the words of our Prime Minister in saying that protecting innocent lives is not a sign of weakness, it is a sign of strength. And I think that is a really important thing that needs to be considered, and I genuinely believe there needs to be a de-escalation.

I don't think it's in Israel's interests long-term to engage in the occupation of Gaza, and it's not in Israel's interests, and certainly not in Palestine's interests, and I do think that this is a moment where we have to recognise there is a humanitarian catastrophe occurring in Gaza, where we force basically half the population into the south, and Gaza itself being roughly smaller than the size of Canberra. You just appreciate how difficult this is for innocent Palestinians.

PATRICIA KARVELAS: I can imagine it would be very difficult. There was a warning for them to move. Do you see that as unrealistic that they can move?

ED HUSIC: Well, it's very hard to have people move, and that's why you've seen out of the 600 displaced, 500,000 are living in UN shelters, in a climate where power's cut off, and it's hard to get access to food, water and medicine, and so it's made it very difficult.

And I think the Foreign Minister has been making the point very strongly, that there needs to be unimpeded safe access for humanitarian assistance. We have put an initial contribution of \$10 million for humanitarian assistance, 3 million of which is going to the International Red Cross, that's really important, and we do need to alleviate the plight and the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza in that way, but there's, you know, got to be a longer-term answer, and probably an immediate step, and that is that de-escalation, that's really important.

PATRICIA KARVELAS: That terror attack from Hamas on those innocent people in Israel; teenagers, kids, we've heard the most heartbreaking stories --

ED HUSIC: Yep.

PATRICIA KARVELAS: -- you know the argument, you've heard it, that Israel has a right to defend itself, and that needs to - that has consequences, which okay, leads in some cases to civilian deaths. You mentioned how small that area is, and it is half the size of Canberra. That means, according to the Israelis, it is incredibly difficult to also remove Hamas without some of these consequences. How do you reflect on that?

ED HUSIC: I've heard some pretty strong language, references to Palestinians as "human animals", which dehumanises Palestinians, it's just wrong, and references to collateral damage, that's wrong. A language - this is, you asked me earlier about the value of social cohesion and what parliamentarians can play.

People in these positions, decision-making positions, the language that they use not only has an impact on wider communities, but it also shapes the way in which decisions are taken, and we have to be very conscious of that, and you know, we just - as much as I hear what you're saying about the difficulties that are present, it just - governments are different to terrorist organisations, governments - there is a higher expectation that there will be a protection of innocent lives, and that expectation is also backed up with the fact that governments have resources at their disposal to ensure the protection of human lives, innocent human lives, can occur.

There is no doubt, and I just want to pick up on what you reflected on, Patricia, absolutely, Israelis paid a terrible price for the barbarism of Hamas, and the other thing that has to happen as well is the absolute unconditional release of Israeli hostages. Israelis have paid a high price, but I'm also worried about the price Palestinians are paying, and are going to pay --

PATRICIA KARVELAS: And you're trying to emphasise that, right? Do you feel like there's been a lack of emphasis from Australian politicians about that?

ED HUSIC: Let me put it in a way that might be difficult for some to hear, and it might also go to some way explaining why Palestinians and people who are sympathetic of them have reacted in the way that they have. Israel has described what happened on October 7, or it's been remarked that what happened on October 7 was Israel's equivalent of 9/11.

The number of Palestinians that have been killed so far equates to the number of people who lost their lives in 9/11. We don't see any public landmarks in Australia that are being lit up in red, black, white and green.

Now there will be people that are very uncomfortable with me making that remark. But it goes to the heart of what Palestinians and those who care for them in Australia, you know, this goes to the heart of what they think, which is that Palestinian lives are considered lesser than. My contribution --

PATRICIA KARVELAS: And do you feel - 'cause you're being quite frank about how you view it, and your own lived experience too of the way that this plays? Are you saying that you feel like those concerns from Palestinians and their supporters are correct, that those lives are not being treated with the same level of concern here in Australia?

ED HUSIC: Well, Palestinians have had to live under occupation, they've had to live with a range of things that would prompt a very strong reaction if, you know, people had taken that into consideration. And I think, I'm pointing to the fact, to help people, I'm doing what is - or describing something that is very difficult, but what I'm trying to do is explain how some people feel when they see what happens.

And I also made the point in Parliament this week, Patricia, we have to focus, we always have to acknowledge humanity. We have to acknowledge the human impact on Israelis, and we have to acknowledge the human impact on Palestinians and take steps at these critical junctures to stand up and say that we can avoid a humanitarian crisis.

And the other thing I really feel strongly about, just being completely frank, I think there was an important point in time where we sort of started saying it's important that there is a two-state solution, that we fight for that. What I'm genuinely concerned about now is that this is spoken more as a way in which we can just comfort ourselves at these points, and then when the situation and the tensions subside, nothing practically happens.

You know, this has been now set back, the cause of the two-state solution has been set back phenomenally, but once those tensions dissipate --

PATRICIA KARVELAS: But isn't Hamas responsible for that?

ED HUSIC: Well, yes, they absolutely are. They absolutely are responsible for that. And there are other players in the region who are quite happy to see this happen, most notably, Iran.

But the reality is the best way for us to avoid longer term the reoccurrence of what we're seeing, the repetition, and again that intergenerational scarring, is to ensure that Palestinians have their own State, they need to have it, and we need to take concrete steps to make that happen, not just say it, make it occur. And there are countries that can and should do that, because right now there are a whole bunch of countries that see advantage in this situation, from Iran to Russia, and they should not be seeing that.

PATRICIA KARVELAS: Before I let you go, I'm going to pre-empt something that I think could happen today - Parliament's sitting - I think it's possible that some of the words that you've used and the emphasis you put will be used to criticise you.

So I'm going to put it to you already, because I've been around long enough to know that some of the words, particularly the one about lighting up buildings, for instance, but not in Palestinian colours, but in Israeli colours, will be used to say that as a Cabinet Minister you're not in support of the Government's position.

Will this look like you've spoken up against support for Israel, and how do you respond to that?

ED HUSIC: I don't see how, after I've expressed the depth of feeling I have for Israelis that have suffered, and also acknowledging that a government like Israel's will respond to barbarism within their borders, I have made that clear, but I'm also genuinely concerned about what happens to innocent Palestinians from this point on.

So, you know, there will be people that seek to cause mischief. You cannot stop that in public life. But I look at what role I can play as a Cabinet Minister who has spoken up to a resolution that has passed the Parliament, that has recognised Israel's right to defend itself, but also called for the observance of international humanitarian law and the rule of international law and to speak up, quite frankly, to say we cannot - we cannot, and we should do - sorry, we cannot see innocent Palestinian lives lost, and we should take every step to protect Palestinians - innocent Palestinians where we can.

PATRICIA KARVELAS: Thank you so much for joining us this morning.

ED HUSIC: Thank you.

PATRICIA KARVELAS: Ed Husic there. He's the Industry Minister, and actually the first in history, unless I'm going to be corrected, but I'm pretty sure, Muslim Cabinet Minister.

You're listening to RN Breakfast.

ENDS

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THE HON CLARE O'NEIL MP
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR CYBER SECURITY

TRANSCRIPT

E&OE TRANSCRIPT

TV INTERVIEW

ABC NEWS BREAKFAST

THURSDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2023

Subjects: Hamas-Israel conflict, repatriation flights, terror threat level.

LISA MILLAR: Minister, good morning to you.

CLARE O'NEIL: Good morning, Lisa. Great to be with you.

LISA MILLAR: Can we just talk about some of the numbers and the Australians that you are still concerned about. First of all, perhaps the repatriation flights - can you bring us up to speed where we are on those?

CLARE O'NEIL: Thanks, Lisa. We had a flight arrive in Sydney early this morning, 252 people on board, about half of whom were Australian citizens. A flight left Tel Aviv very early this morning with 59 people on board, most of whom were Australians, and there is one more flight that is leaving Tel Aviv - subject to security conditions today. I just want to take a moment today to say I'm at Border Operations Command here in Canberra, where the very hardworking people around me are those who have done the hard yakka, working through nights and weekends to make sure we're able to provide safe travel for people back into the country. A lot of your viewers probably don't realise this is an enormous logistical effort that it takes for the Australian Government to repatriate people from what is effectively becoming a war zone, and I'm very proud of their efforts. And I just want Australians to be aware of that.

LISA MILLAR: Yeah, good to definitely give them a shout-out. Minister, we've got two, kind of, separate groups of people. We've got those in Israel and those in Gaza, who are unable to leave at the moment. Is it still 46, the numbers of those in Gaza? And where are they? Do you even know where they're placed?

CLARE O'NEIL: Lisa, just before I come to Gaza, can I just say about Israel - we have this one flight that's leaving today from Tel Aviv. This is the last planned flight that the Australian Government is supporting out of Israel. It doesn't mean that absolutely there will be no more flights, but what I would say to anyone who is in Israel, if you are planning to leave, please get on this plane. Don't assume that there will be continuous options to leave. If you want to leave, there is a flight leaving today, please get on it.

With regard to Gaza, we're aware of 46 Australians who have contacted us who are seeking information about leaving.

We're working incredibly hard to try to get more information about those people and to provide them some semblance of a plan to get them out. What we need to understand here is that Gaza is effectively locked off, there is 2 million people living in a tiny plot of land with only one entry and exit point that is currently not open. So, citizens of the UK, of the US, and Australia - like other countries around the world - are effectively not able to leave. We are working very hard diplomatically to provide a way for people to leave that region, working with the US and the UK, in particular, and it's a big focus of government. Unfortunately, the situation there is just incredibly difficult and I hope we'll have good news on that front at some stage, but no progress to report back today.

LISA MILLAR: Yeah, and the situation deteriorating every day. Has the Australian Government been shared, or given, any information about the bombing of the hospital? And who might be responsible?

CLARE O'NEIL: Lisa, I'm not going to get into who is responsible because I think your viewers can see that this situation is unfolding. What we do know about this is that hundreds of innocent people, who were at a hospital evidently already incredibly unwell and vulnerable, have lost their lives. And this was set off by these violent and inhumane, barbaric attacks by Hamas.

What we now see is loss of innocent lives, of men, women and children in Gaza, and I want Australians to know that, for any innocent loss of life, we stand with Australian communities who experience this pain very deeply, whether they are Jewish Australians who are mourning the loss of life in the Middle East, or whether they are Palestinian or Muslim Australians who are mourning the loss there. This really affects communities in our country and I want you to know that the Australian Government shares your grief with you. No innocent lives should be lost here. This violence will achieve absolutely nothing except war violence, and it is just extraordinarily sad what's going on in the region at the moment.

LISA MILLAR: And I do want to talk to you about the security situation in Australia, but first I just want to stay with the situation in Gaza. Because the Government's been under pressure from the Greens to change some of the language that's being used, and this motion, you know, that the Government recognises Israel's inherent right to defend itself and oppose a ground invasion. One of your colleagues, Ed Husic, has this morning said that basically Israel is engaging in a collective punishment of Palestinians in Gaza. Does he have a point?

CLARE O'NEIL: Look, Lisa, I'm not going to get into, you know, different comments that are made and what different political parties may have to say about this at this time. And I just don't think that's really helpful to be turning this into a party political matter. Because what really matters here is that we've got Australian communities that are grieving the loss of innocent lives. People's family members are dying here in the region and I don't think it's particularly helpful for me to express a view about, you know, any sense of the responsibility particularly.

What matters here is that people in our community are seeing friends, family, neighbours, and people from their faith community who are dying, who are innocent, who have nothing to do with this conflict, and we grieve the loss of innocent life, whatever part of this conflict it comes from. And I want Australian communities to understand that we stand with them. Now, our focus has got to be on the cohesion of our country. We have an incredibly beautiful, multicultural, peaceful country here, and that comes from us being respectful of the emotions that are high in the community right now...

LISA MILLAR: Ed Husic is one of your colleagues...

CLARE O'NEIL: Part of my job is to acknowledge that...

LISA MILLAR: He's a ministerial colleague and these are the comments he's made this morning.

CLARE O'NEIL: He's a ministerial colleague of Muslim faith. Ed Husic is the first Muslim Australian ever to sit around a cabinet table. I'm proud to have him sitting next to me in Cabinet, I'm proud to have him as my friend. Like many other Muslim Australians around our country, he is feeling what is going on in this region incredibly deeply. How could he not? With hundreds of people who have just lost their lives in Gaza, sitting in a hospital? It is absolutely, categorically something that should never happen. And so, of course, Minister Husic feels that very deeply, as do many of his community, and I stand with them in their grief and their loss.

LISA MILLAR: Does it mean, though, that the Government should be rethinking the words it uses when it talks about Israel's right to defend itself, when we're on the brink of a possible ground invasion of Gaza?

CLARE O'NEIL: Look, Lisa, Israel does have a right to defend itself. It has just suffered a heinous and barbaric terrorist attack including young people massacred at a music event. These things are also not possible to justify. What I would say is that we've gotta be really careful with our language here and think about our community here in Australia and the fact that we've got lots of people on different sides of this conflict who are feeling it really deeply, and I just want them to know that the Australian Government grieves all loss of innocent life, whether it's a Jewish Israeli who has died or a Palestinian Muslim.

LISA MILLAR: Minister, we've only got a minute left. I want to talk about the security situation here. Are you worried, as Michael Burgess and others have said, there could be spontaneous bursts of violence. Are you looking at changing the current threat level?

CLARE O'NEIL: So, it's obvious that there are people in our community who are feeling deeply what's going on in the Middle East and what Mike Burgess has also said is that we're not seeing indication that is we need to change our terror threat level in Australia. Our terror threat level was "possible" before these attacks in the Middle East. It remains "possible" today. What I do see is people are feeling anxious.

We've got Jewish Australian communities who feel deeply vulnerable right now. We've got Muslim and Palestinian Australian communities who also feel under additional threats than normal, and that's why the Australian Government is monitoring this so closely. We announced yesterday an additional \$50 million in supports for religious institutions of different kinds to make sure that they can upgrade their security.

What I would just say to Australians is that this is a really important time for us to come together as a country. Lots of people in our nation right now are feeling deeply and emotionally the events of what's happening in the Middle East. The best thing about our country is that we've got this beautiful, multicultural experiment which is so successful because we respect each other and we respect people's right to feel things. I just say, finally, let's just focus a little bit on the positives here too. Yes, there are some outliers in the Australian community, but in vast majority what I see is people being respectful, cohesive, and loving towards each other, and that's the way I'd like it to remain.

LISA MILLAR: Clare O'Neil, thanks for joining us this morning.

CLARE O'NEIL: Thank you.



THE HON CLARE O'NEIL MP
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR CYBER SECURITY

TRANSCRIPT

E&OE TRANSCRIPT

TV INTERVIEW

TODAY SHOW

THURSDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2023

Subjects: Hamas-Israel conflict, repatriations flights, terror threat level.

SARAH ABO: Thanks, Carl. Let's bring in the Home Affairs Minister, Clare O'Neil now, who joins us from Canberra. Minister, we've just heard from that CNN correspondent there. We know that these scenes are boiling over in the region, particularly in Israel - pardon me, particularly in Beirut and Egypt. What are your concerns? We know there are so many Australians living in Beirut.

CLARE O'NEIL: Absolutely, Sarah. I'm actually here today at Border Operations Command in Canberra, where our amazing Australian border force staff are gathered who have been working through the weekend, throughout the night to try to support the Australian Government efforts to bring back Australians who are stuck in the region. We've had an enormous effort being undertaken by the Australian Government and we're very pleased to see that about 1600 Australians have left Israel and the Palestinian territories thus far. People watching at home probably don't realise what an enormous logistical exercise this is, but we've got wonderful people around me here who have been very hard at work on this task and I'm really proud of their efforts.

SARAH ABO: Minister, do those efforts extend to Lebanon? To Australians in Lebanon?

CLARE O'NEIL: So, the Australian Government will be providing whatever support we can throughout the region and, of course, if that extends beyond Israel, we will need to look at those arrangements. The focus so far has been on Israel and people who are stuck in the Palestinian territories, and that's because that is where the main violence has been. But, Sarah, as all of your viewers would understand, we've got to take a watching brief here. Things are changing by the hour, by the day in the Middle East, and our priority is making sure that Australians are safe wherever they are in the world.

SARAH ABO: So, it's fair to say you haven't turned your attention there yet, but given those pictures, it's likely that you will now.

CLARE O'NEIL: Well, I wouldn't say that, Sarah. I'd say that there's people, literally thousands of people in the Commonwealth Government who are watching this situation very closely. We are triaging our efforts and making sure that we help Australians wherever we can. We've just undertaken an enormous effort to assist 1600 people leaving Israel and the occupied territories. If our attentions need to go around the region, then we'll look at those options.

SARAH ABO: Those escalating tensions that we're seeing overseas, including some of those lone attacks that we've seen in Europe and the US. Are you worried that that might spill over onto the streets here in Australia?

CLARE O'NEIL: This is something that we're watching really carefully, and you would have seen some comments by the Director-General of our security agency here in Australia that we are watching this situation very carefully. What's really important for Australians to understand is that we're not seeing evidence in the community that's sufficient to change our terror threat level.

Our terror threat level remains possible as it was about two weeks ago. What has changed is just the level of vigilance and watching that we're doing. We understand that tensions are really high around the world at the moment and there's very good reason for that. I do want to, though, focus on the positives here. What we're largely seeing in Australia is in vast majority, people are thinking about one another in a really difficult time. We've got a Jewish Australian community that's hurting badly, we've got Palestinian and Muslim communities who are also grieving the extraordinary loss of life that we're starting to see in Gaza. And what's really important right now is that we're respectful of each other's feelings. We've got people who are really hurting in our country and the Australian Government stands with them in condemning any innocent loss of life in the region.

SARAH ABO: Yeah, absolutely. And given the terror threat hasn't changed, Minister, that extra \$50 million that you're putting towards security at mosques and synagogues, is that just precautionary at this stage?

CLARE O'NEIL: Look, Sarah, what we acknowledge is that we've got communities in the country right now who are feeling very fearful. That's the honest truth. I've sat down with Jewish Australians who are concerned about sending their children to a Jewish school. I've sat down with Muslim Australians who are experiencing issues with Islamophobia in our country. We've got to make sure, as a government that we are protecting those people and wrapping our arms around these communities. So, the additional support is really in recognition of what are increased anxieties and tensions. And I just say again, it's really important that we focus on the history we have in this country. An extraordinary thing, people from all over the world of different faiths and nationalities here in Australia who live an extraordinarily peaceful life that

depends on us being thoughtful and respectful of one another. And that's in vast majority what I see from Australians today.

SARAH ABO: There is a lot in our own region that we are concerned about as well, Minister, that's sort of happening at the same time as the conflict in the Middle East. The US President visited Israel on a very risky mission. We know there are greater players involved in this unrest there. Do you think that his strong showing of support for Israel is going to impact that in a negative way?

CLARE O'NEIL: Sarah, it's really not for me to comment on the President's trip to the Middle East. My focus really is on Australians who are affected here. That's why we've just undertaken this huge effort to get Australians out of the region. We've got another flight leaving from Tel Aviv today and I'd urge Australians who want to leave the region to please get on that flight if they are planning to leave, because we can't guarantee that there will be continued opportunities to do so. And I'm also thinking a lot, Sarah, about the situation here in Australia. As I said, we've got communities that are feeling very deeply what is going on right now in the Middle East. And it's my job as Home Affairs Minister to just express on behalf of all other Australians, how deeply we feel the loss of innocent lives that are affecting communities here in our country. We stand with them in mourning, whether they're on the Israeli side of this conflict or on the Palestinian side.

SARAH ABO: Yeah, absolutely. And just very quickly, Minister, is that the last flight we're going to see? The repatriation flight? or more likely?

CLARE O'NEIL: Yeah so, we can't guarantee that there will be ongoing flights. So, I would say to people who are in the region, in particular, if you're in Israel, this should be considered to be the last flight. We will continue to provide every opportunity, but the situation is changing. We can't guarantee that. If you want to leave, please get on the flight that's leaving today.

SARAH ABO: Minister, thanks so much for your time this morning, appreciate it.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 20 October 2023 5:41 AM
To: Andrew Jory
Subject: FW: DFAT Early AM Press Brief - Friday 20 October 2023

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EARLY AM PRESS BRIEF

Friday 20 October 2023



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Minister for Foreign Affairs Mentions 15 items

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Albanese government accused of ‘deep division’ and ‘confusion’ over Israel-Hamas conflict stance

The Guardian by Sarah Basford Canales

Thursday 19 October 2023, 6:33pm AEDT

Sussan Ley’s comments come after Labor MPs including Ed Husic and Anne Aly break ranks to condemn Israel’s blockade on Gaza

The foreign minister, Penny Wong , has so far acknowledged Israel’s right to defend itself and urged all sides to show “restraint” in protecting civilian life.

Potential Audience: 387,000

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Potential Audience: 71,000

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Palestinians 'collectively punished' for Hamas: Husic

The Canberra Times by Tess Ikonomou

Thursday 19 October 2023, 9:17am AEDT

Palestinians are paying the price for Hamas' "barbarism" and have been subjected to dehumanising language, cabinet minister Ed...

...these are the monsters that we're fighting against and not the population of Gaza." Palestinian ambassador Izzat Salah Abdulhadi said he would meet with **Foreign Minister Penny Wong** to call on Australia to strongly condemn attacks on civilians in Gaza.

Senator Wong has warned Australians to leave Israel and take any opportunity possible amid the "highly challenging and rapidly changing" situation.

Potential Audience: 101,000

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

SYNDICATION

Australian Community Media [85 Syndications]

Industry Minister Ed Husic says Palestinians are being 'collectively punished'

The West Australian by Ellen Ransley

Thursday 19 October 2023, 6:40am AWST

A minister in the Albanese government has broken ranks to say Palestinians are being "collectively punished" in Gaza.

"And the Prime Minister and **Penny Wong** have been very careful to also talk about the loss of civilian lives in Palestine." Asked if she believed Israel had committed war crimes, Ms Aly said that was something that should be investigated, and if found to...

accountable". NED-10511-Gaza-escape-map The Palestinian ambassador to Australia, Izzat Abdulhadi, said he would meet with **Foreign Minister Penny Wong** to ask the government to "condemn in the strongest terms the attacks on civilians in Gaza".

Potential Audience: 80,000

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

SYNDICATION

Broome Advertiser, Harvey-Waroona Reporter, Kalgoorlie Miner, Sound Telegraph, The West Australian

Palestinians are being collectively punished for Hamas' 'barbarism': Labor frontbencher

SBS News by Finn McHugh

Thursday 19 October 2023, 7:50am AEDT

Labor frontbencher Ed Husic insisted politicians had a role in "bringing people together" to maintain social cohesion, but warned Palestinians were being subjected to dehumanising language amid the Israel-Hamas conflict.

...innocent lives is not a sign of weakness, it is a sign of strength." Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and **Foreign Minister Penny Wong** have repeatedly called for innocents to be protected where possible, but have not accused Israel of collective...

Passengers were welcomed home by family and friends after arriving at Sydney Airport. **Foreign Minister Penny Wong** has warned Australians to leave Israel and take any opportunity possible as the situation remains "highly challenging and rapidly changing".

Potential Audience: 334,000

[VIEW ONLINE](#)**Australian ministers say Palestinians are being 'collectively punished' for Hamas barbarism**

The Guardian by Paul Karp

Thursday 19 October 2023, 10:16am AEDT

Ed Husic backed by fellow Labor frontbencher Anne Aly who says Israel 'could be investigated' for alleged war crimes

The comments from the first two Muslim ministers in an Australian federal government go further than the foreign minister, Penny Wong, who has urged all sides to show "restraint" in protecting civilian life.

Potential Audience: 387,000

[VIEW ONLINE](#)**Cabinet Minister Ed Husic says Palestinians are being 'collectively punished' for Hamas' barbarism**

The Conversation by Michelle Grattan

Thursday 19 October 2023, 7:06pm AEDT

As the Middle East crisis risks raising tensions within Labor, which has a divided feelings about Palestine, Husic sought to tread a careful line, while emphasising the mounting toll of Palestinian victims

Foreign Minister Penny Wong told the Senate: "Every innocent life matters, whether Israeli or Palestinian." She said at home "our role as a government and I would say our role as a Senate is to do all we can to keep our country unified, to make sure our...

Potential Audience: 110,000

[VIEW ONLINE](#)**SYNDICATION**

[Mena FN](#), [The Conversation](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) this section and pages (19-21) are irrelevant and have been removed

PM under siege as party-line cracks deepen over conflict

The Australian by Geoff Chambers

Friday 20 October 2023, 12:05am AEDT - Page 4

Cabinet minister Ed Husic's invoking of "collective punishment" in Gaza - a war crime under international law - exposes deepening cracks inside the Albanese government over the Israel-Palestine conflict. Husic's intervention on Thursday came three days after the Industry Minister...

Cabinet minister Ed Husic's invoking of "collective punishment" in Gaza - a war crime under international law - exposes deepening cracks inside the Albanese government over the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The longer the Israel-Hamas war rages, spurred on by Iran and Hezbollah, the harder it will be for Anthony Albanese to maintain unity across Labor's ranks.

The Greens' hardline pro-Palestine position poses political problems for Albanese on his Left flank. Labor MP Maria Vamvakinou, a veteran Victorian leftwinger, joined the Greens at the protest and demanded Israel "halt its invasion of Gaza".

...said Husic was out of step with the government position and should be "admonished" by Albanese. The split inside Labor, which was always going to emerge, comes ahead of Albanese's visit next week to Washington and a White House state dinner hosted by...

The US President will have only just returned from the Middle East, where US officials are scrambling to avoid a wider conflict. Albanese is under extreme pressure to shield Australia from economic shocks and security risks at a time of global upheaval.

Potential Audience: 391,000

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

It won't be a good look for Albanese. It will be even worse for Biden. Peter Dutton says the Prime Minister should at least travel to the US via Tel Aviv to show Australia's solidarity with Israel.

...up for pulling out of the Quad meeting Albanese was scheduled to host in Sydney in May. That trip was cancelled so Biden could stay in Washington to nut out a debt-ceiling deal with Congress. The only thing Albanese has cancelled now is the House of...

This is the same Anthony Albanese who railed against the Morrison government for cancelling sittings during COVID. Scott Morrison did that on health advice. Albanese criticised him, claiming there were serious issues the Parliament needed to debate.

Potential Audience: 357,000

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DFAT advises Aussies to avoid travelling to Lebanon

The Weekly Times by Duncan Evans

Thursday 19 October 2023, 3:39pm AEDT

Australians have been warned to avoid travel to Lebanon as chaos in the Middle East continues to escalate.

DFAT advises Aussies to avoid travelling to Lebanon. Australians have been warned to avoid travel to Lebanon as chaos in the Middle East continues to escalate. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade issued the latest travel advice to its Smart...

About 90,000 Australians have Lebanese ancestry. Originally published as DFAT advises Aussies to avoid travelling to Lebanon

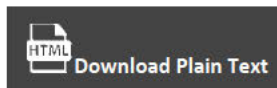
Potential Audience: 9,000

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SYNDICATION

Cairns Post, Geelong Advertiser, Gold Coast Bulletin, Herald Sun, Mercury, NT News, News.com.au, The Advertiser, The Australian, The Courier Mail, The Daily Telegraph, The Weekly Times, Townsville Bulletin

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Subject: FW: DFAT Daily Media Roundup - Friday 20 October 2023

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Sent: 20 October 2023 06:43:20 (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
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DAILY MEDIA ROUNDUP

Friday 20 October 2023



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Hot Issues and DFAT Mentions 5 items

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PM under siege as party-line cracks deepen over conflict

The Australian by Geoff Chambers

Friday 20 October 2023, 12:05am AEDT - Page 4

Cabinet minister Ed Husic's invoking of "collective punishment" in Gaza - a war crime under international law - exposes deepening cracks inside the Albanese government over the Israel-Palestine conflict. Husic's intervention on Thursday came three days after the Industry Minister...

Potential Audience: 391,000

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Ministers accuse Israel of 'collective punishment'

The Age by Natassia Chrysanthos Angus Thompson

Friday 20 October 2023, 12:03am AEDT - Page 5

Two federal government ministers say civilians in Gaza are being subjected to collective punishment by Israel, exposing tensions within the Albanese government over its position on the unfolding war, as a federal Labor senator called for landmarks to be lit...

Potential Audience: 285,000

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Albanese government accused of ‘deep division’ and ‘confusion’ over Israel-Hamas conflict stance

The Guardian by Sarah Basford Canales

Thursday 19 October 2023, 6:33pm AEDT

Sussan Ley’s comments come after Labor MPs including Ed Husic and Anne Aly break ranks to condemn Israel’s blockade on Gaza

Potential Audience: 387,000

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Palestinians 'collectively punished' for Hamas: Husic

The Canberra Times by Tess Ikonomou

Thursday 19 October 2023, 9:17am AEDT

Palestinians are paying the price for Hamas' "barbarism" and have been subjected to dehumanising language, cabinet minister Ed...

Potential Audience: 101,000

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SYNDICATION

Australian Community Media [85 Syndications]

Australian ministers say Palestinians are being 'collectively punished' for Hamas barbarism

The Guardian by Paul Karp

Thursday 19 October 2023, 10:16am AEDT

Ed Husic backed by fellow Labor frontbencher Anne Aly who says Israel 'could be investigated' for alleged war crimes

Potential Audience: 387,000

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Palestinians are being collectively punished for Hamas' 'barbarism': Labor frontbencher

SBS News by Finn McHugh

Thursday 19 October 2023, 7:50am AEDT

Labor frontbencher Ed Husic insisted politicians had a role in "bringing people together" to maintain social cohesion, but warned Palestinians were being subjected to dehumanising language amid the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Potential Audience: 334,000

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Cabinet Minister Ed Husic says Palestinians are being 'collectively punished' for Hamas' barbarism

The Conversation by Michelle Grattan

Thursday 19 October 2023, 7:06pm AEDT

As the Middle East crisis risks raising tensions within Labor, which has a divided feelings about Palestine, Husic sought to tread a careful line, while emphasising the mounting toll of Palestinian victims

Potential Audience: 110,000

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SYNDICATION

[Mena FN](#), [The Conversation](#), [The times](#)

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Date: Friday, 20 October 2023 8:17:33 AM
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[We acknowledge](#) the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

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Australian Passport Office

Friday 20th October 2023

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Australian Passport Office

12 items

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Palestinians being 'collectively punished' for Hamas

The New Daily by The New Daily
Thursday 19 October 2023, 10:12am AEDT

Palestinians are being collectively punished for Hamas' "barbarism", Labor

minister Ed Husic says.

Keywords: travel (1), Penny Wong (1)

Potential Audience: 68,000

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Palestinians 'collectively punished' for Hamas: Husic

Cowra Guardian by Tess Ikonomou

Thursday 19 October 2023, 9:17am AEDT

Palestinians are paying the price for Hamas' "barbarism" and have been subjected to dehumanising language, cabinet minister Ed...

Keywords: Penny Wong (1), travel (1), Senator Wong (1)

Potential Audience: 3,000

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SYNDICATION

Australian Community Media [85 Syndications]



Palestinians being 'collectively punished' for Hamas

The New Daily by Tess Ikonomou

Thursday 19 October 2023, 9:16am AEDT

Palestinians are being collectively punished for Hamas' "barbarism", Labor minister Ed Husic says.

Keywords: travel (1), Penny Wong (1)

Potential Audience: 68,000

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Palestinians being 'collectively punished' for Hamas

Michael West

Thursday 19 October 2023, 8:29am AEDT

Palestinians are paying the price for Hamas' "barbarism" and have been subjected to dehumanising language, Labor MP Ed Husic says. The industry and science minister said Australia needed to acknowledge the human impact on Palestinians after Hamas fighters killed 1400...

Keywords: travel (1), Penny Wong (1)

Potential Audience: 9,000

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From: [Media](#)
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Subject: MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary - Friday, 20 October 2023 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 20 October 2023 8:41:48 AM
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MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary
Friday, 20 October 2023
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

