



Pro-Palestine protesters attempt to disrupt attendees outside an event commemorating Israeli soldiers at Monash University's Clayton campus. Picture: David Caird

Campus clash outside salute to Israeli troops

**Suzan Delibasic
Susie O'Brien**

Pro-Palestine protesters and a small group of Israeli supporters clashed at Monash University on Monday night after an event commemorating Israeli soldiers was held at the Clayton campus.

The protesters, who were wearing keffiyehs and high-vis vests, turned up to "disrupt" the university's Yom HaZikaron event at the Robert Blackwood Hall, which honours fallen soldiers that have died in terrorism attacks.

A large police presence and campus security surrounded protesters and stood outside the hall while the Israeli event took place inside.

But the pro-Palestine pro-

testers and a small group of Israeli protesters clashed outside about 6.30pm.

The Israeli supporters were seen holding their flags at pro-Palestine supporters as they walked past the hall.

"You're the terrorists," one Israeli supporter shouted at the protesters.

Police stepped in after one pro-Palestine supporter put a flag over an Israeli supporter's head.

The protesters chanted "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free".

Last week Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the chant was a "violent statement" that had no place on Australian streets and opposed a two-state solution.

The pro-Palestine support-

ers also chanted "out, out, Israel out".

Zionism Victoria executive director Zeddy Lawrence said the event was a "sombre affair".

"It's not glorifying war criminals, it's honouring soldiers that have fallen in battle and victims of terrorism," he said.

In a statement from Monash University, it said the university had taken formal action to exclude individuals not affiliated with Monash, from university precincts to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all individuals.

"We will continue to work with Victoria Police to ensure the safety of our campus operations," the university said.

It comes after dramatic footage showed a group of pro-Palestine supporters running

away from two men wearing balaclavas, who were seen throwing objects and verbally abusing University of Melbourne students at the Parkville campus on Sunday night.

The video showed smoke billowing from fire extinguishers at the encampment, with the vandals shouting "F--- Palestine".

A fire extinguisher and what appeared to be a tent could also be seen floating in one of the university's nearby ponds.

Classes were also disrupted at Deakin University on Monday morning, with lecturers allowing "terrified" students to be addressed by encampment protesters.

Footage showed a young woman from the pro-Palestin-

ian encampment at the Burwood campus stand at the front of the room and addressing students.

"Right now our university is helping to develop weapons that go to Israel," she said.

"Those weapons are part of carrying out the genocide that has been taking right now in Gaza.

"We are protesting for our university to cut all ties to weapons manufacturers.

"We don't think our university should have any ties to any companies that make bombs."

Last week, mobile surveillance cameras were erected by police at Monash University after outside activists hijacked student encampment protests. suzan.delibasic@news.com.au

Dan puts Israel plans on hold

**EXCLUSIVE
Carly Douglas**

Daniel Andrews has had his Israel travel plans pushed back due to security concerns, as new light is shed on the former premier's post-politics advocacy.

The ex-Labor leader was set to join a high-profile delegation headed for Israel this week to visit the communities targeted by Hamas

during the October 7 terrorist attacks, meet key Israeli figures and learn from Israel's world-leading innovation and technology start-ups.

Prominent lawyer and president of the Zionist Federation of Australia Jeremy Leibler was due to host Mr Andrews, alongside NSW Liberal senator – and former ambassador to Israel – Dave Sharma.

But due to escalating threats from Iran last month, the pair's bipartisan trip has been delayed until November.

Mr Leibler, who has previously taken other prominent politicians including former prime minister John Howard to Israel, will fly over to the Jewish homeland with a group of 25 others this week before returning again in November.

Sources told the Herald Sun Mr Andrews – a long-time supporter of Israel and a driving force against anti-Semitism – has remained a solid advocate for the Jewish community since his shock resignation in September.

One prominent figure suggested that the former premier has been helping his successor, Jacinta Allan, understand the complexity of the Jewish community and its connection to Israel.

"I know of at least one instance where Daniel counselled Jacinta on her engagement with the Jewish community," they said.

"It's only natural that her predecessor, who was very well acquainted with the community and Israel, should give her some advice."



Daniel Andrews

Point the finger at China on anti-Semitism, says US

**EXCLUSIVE
Simon Love**

Victoria political reporter,
Sky News

The US President's specially appointed anti-Semitism monitor says Jewish people everywhere, particularly in Melbourne, shouldn't be held responsible for the actions of Israel's government.

Aaron Keyak, who is in Australia for high-level meetings,

has also accused China of taking advantage of Jewish discrimination in the Western world.

The senior diplomat, who is on a global mission to counter anti-Semitism, told Sky News the discrimination of Jewish people was already on the rise before Hamas launched an attack on Israel on October 7.

"Since October 7 throughout the world, we've seen just a tsunami of anti-Semitism," Mr Keyak said. "You have Jewish

families right here in Melbourne and elsewhere feeling unsafe when they're just going about their daily lives."

Mr Keyak called out encampments at universities and campus leadership for the response in the US and Australia.

"Obviously, students at university can't learn if they don't feel safe and what we're seeing right now ... is a failure of leadership there," he said.

"The universities have to do

whatever they can to make sure students feel safe. And if that takes the police, so be it."

Mr Keyak agreed there is a delicate balance between the American tenet of free speech and combating anti-Semitism.

"I strongly believe in ... the freedom of speech, but that does not protect the right to incitement or calls to violence.

"Collectively blaming Jews everywhere for the actions of the Israeli government, or any

government for that matter, is not some sort of policy disagreement, or some sort of human rights issue. That's anti-Semitism."

Mr Keyak welcomed Victoria's nation-leading policy to ban the Nazi salute and symbols, but he accused one nation of seizing on the social unrest.

"We should all be calling up China for engaging in this sort of spread of anti-Semitic rhetoric," he said.

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