

Edit Note

# Murdoch, Australia and Israel: a response to the Daily Telegraph

TIM ANDERSON · WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018 29 Reads

Dear Dr Anderson,

The Daily Telegraph is doing a story about the Sydney Institute for Public and International Affairs forum held at State Parliament on August 10. Questions have been raised about the event, including some of your comments during your speech. The NSW Jewish Board of Deputies said the comments were "appalling".

The comments related to the "ethnic cleansing" of Palestinians and also the comment that: "In terms of the chemical weapons, I have studied all of the chemical weapons accusations against Syria and I can say there is no single case where independent evidence has supported that...they've just been pretexts to continue the war." Would you like to respond to that at all?

In April, then Foreign Minister Julie Bishop put out a statement condemning the "Syrian regime's illegal use of chemical weapons on 7 April in Douma". Do you stand by your comments? Are they not counter to Australia's international stand on this issue? Do you think the Forum, held in the State Parliament, is the right place to be arguing about foreign policy?

Thank you

Clarissa Bye, The Daily Telegraph

=====

Dear Clarissa

Discussion of international affairs, especially conflict and war, is essential these days. Our country (following the USA) is implicated in several wars, and has tried to normalise war. So yes, the forum at NSW Parliament last month was a welcome contribution to that debate.

It is not surprising that prominent supporters of Israel are upset about criticism of Israel. Mr Vic Alhadeff, CEO of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, is well known for his justification of Israel's massacres in Gaza. Indeed that is why he resigned as chair of the Community Relations Commission, back in 2014 (<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/community-relations-commission-chairman-vic-alhadeff-resigns-after-gaza-furore-20140727-zxd9l.html>)

For my part, I have studied the colonisation of Palestine and visited that besieged country earlier this year. I strongly agree with the latest report prepared by Richard Falk and Virginia

Tilley for the UN (<https://counter-hegemonic-studies.net/israeli-apartheid/>) that Israel has become an apartheid state and should be dismantled, just as the apartheid South African regime was dismantled, in favour of a democratic state.

If you are interested, here is my recent article on the future of Palestine (and Israel) (<https://counter-hegemonic-studies.net/future-palestine-1/>)

You might be aware that I have been a critic and opponent of the federal government's involvement in the dirty war on Syria. I wrote a book on this in 2016, *The Dirty War on Syria* (now in ten languages). Our federal government has misled the Australian public on the various pretexts for that war including the several fake stories about the Syrian Army supposedly carrying out chemical attacks.

Perhaps the most shameful chapter in our country's involvement in that war was the direct involvement of the Australian Air Force in the murder of more than 100 Syrian soldiers, as they were fighting ISIS. The federal government lied to the public that this was a 'mistake'. It was in fact a carefully planned aggression, which I documented here:

<https://21stcenturywire.com/2017/12/17/syria-us-war-crime-jabal-al-tharda-deir-ezzor-implausible-denials/>

best wishes

Tim Anderson

University of Sydney