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J'accuse!... the Jew who accuses his fellow Jews of being antisemites

By Jeffrey Loewenstein

Feb 23, 2025



A rally on the steps of the Victorian Parliament under the banner of Jews for a Free Palestine was arranged for Sunday 9 February. At 11:11pm on the eve of that rally, Mark Leibler — lawyer, who claims to have a high profile and speak on behalf of Jews by the totally unelected organisation AIJAC — put out <u>a tweet</u> on X (and paid for an advertisement of the same posting) as follows:

"Nothing, but nothing, is worse than those Jews who level totally unfounded allegations of genocide and ethnic cleansing against the State of Israel. They are repulsive and revolting human beings. Their relatives who were murdered by the Nazis — the role models for Hamas — will undoubtedly be turning in their graves, Their avowed anti Zionism is clearly no more than a cover for the reality that they are vicious antisemites."

As someone Jewish, the son of Holocaust survivors and members of whose family were murdered by the Nazis, it is hard to know whether to characterise Leibler's tweet as offensive, appalling, contemptuous, insulting or a disgusting, shameful and grievous introduction of the Holocaust, and those who were murdered by the Nazis, into his tweet – or all of the foregoing!

Leibler's tweet is most likely a breach of recently passed legislation, both federally and in various state Parliaments, making hateful words and actions, and doxxing, criminal offences It will be "interesting" to see how the police deal with the complaint taken up with the police alleging Leibler's breach of the legislation.

In the end, Leibler's attempted intimidation of those who might have been thinking of going to the rally failed – miserably!

There are many Jews who abhor what Israel is doing in Gaza (and the West Bank) but feel intimidated by the Leiblers of this world who accuse them of being antisemitic for speaking out against Israel's actions and not those rusted-on 100% supporters of Israel who blindly and uncritically support whatever Israel does, however egregious.

Leibler, and others like him, who label Jews as antisemites because they dare speak out about Israel's actions, certainly need to be called out.

As a lawyer, Leibler knows that actions have consequences. A group of concerned Jews (the writer included) are in the process of lodging a complaint about Leibler's tweet with the Commonwealth Human Rights Commission. Separately from that, this coming week (slated for Tuesday 25 February) will see full-page adverts in both the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* — signed by hundreds of Jews — bearing the heading:

"Australia must reject Trump's call for the removal of Palestinians from Gaza. Jewish Australians say NO to ethnic cleansing"