



Israel Threatens Western Governments, Demands Censorship After Bondi Beach Shooting

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Glenn Greenwald (GG): Here's the statement I actually referenced earlier. I was talking about a different clip, and it's this one, where Netanyahu in Hebrew gave a speech, and he has recently been not just condemning Western governments, but issuing explicit threats. He's not specific about how these Western governments will pay if they don't stop doing what he demands they do, but he is threatening them that they will pay. And here is what he said in Hebrew about the responsibility of Western governments.

Netanyahu: I demand that Western governments do what is necessary to fight antisemitism and provide the required safety and security for Jewish communities worldwide, they would be well advised to heed our warnings. I demand action from them now.

GG: This is a tiny little country that depends on the kindness of the rest of the world, on the kindness of the American worker, on the kindness of the American government, on the guilt of European countries to supply them with arms, to supply them with money, to protect them at all times. And these countries have been doing it for decades, largely out of guilt over the Holocaust, but recently because of the power of the pro-Israel lobbies that exist in most of these countries. And it has given Netanyahu this increasingly arrogant almost like global imperial attitude that he can dictate the Western governments on which he relies on which his country depends to be able to wage the wars that give them imperial dominance in that region that he can issue them demands to their citizens to their democratic governments about what steps they have to take to protect Israel accompanied by very explicit warnings of the price they will pay if they don't adhere to it. I also think this is a sort of thing that is increasing not just anti- Israeli sentiment but anti-semitic sentiment as well. But it's also understandable because typically when Netanyahu issues demands of that kind, the United States, Australia, Canada, and most of Western Europe ask how quickly, how much time they can have before they comply. And they have, and that has given them this belief, and given Netanyahu belief that he can speak openly now to Western governments this way. And I think it's just causing more and more people to notice. Here is the Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel, Sharren Haskel, talking today on Sky News Australia about what Israel's view is of all of this.

Sharren Haskel: Well, fight racism, fight violence against Jewish community, fight racism in workplaces as strongly as possible. Look, when you see those hate marches in the streets, whether it's London or Sydney, and in the Sydney Opera House, they chanted: Gas the Jews, Gas the Jews. Not even a single arrest, not even a single person who had to answer for that, but they tried to cover that. When you hear them chanting to globalise the intifada, what do you think that means? Globalising the intifada means exactly that, to go on massacres, shooting people in the streets to violently attack them, this is what it means. And if you let that continue and run in your streets, waving flags of terrorists, pictures of people who murdered innocent children, if you don't fight it, in your silence, you actually support that, you justify that. And to globalise the intifada means exactly that; a terrorist attack on a beach in Australia where Australian civilians are being murdered and killed. This is what it means. So when you hear that, start acting, enforcing, persecuting, punishing. So that people understand this is absolutely unacceptable. No racism, no violence will be accepted, not in Australia and not in the UK either.

GG: Let's leave aside just for the moment the sickening irony of a high-level Israeli official going on television and purporting to be so morally outraged by the killing of innocent civilians, given what we've all watched Israel do, especially over the last two years, but for many, many decades, leave that aside, that's an obvious point, it is amazing to just watch these Israeli officials – again, this tiny little country – just so openly spread throughout all of Western media and go on television and start demanding that these governments crack down

on speech that in their countries people have the right to express. When these campus protests in the United States first broke out for the first several months, and Israel supporters were petrified of them, because student activism in the past has been very effective. It single-handedly prevented Lyndon Johnson from seeking reelection in 1968 over the Vietnam War, created a lot of turbulence in the 60s. It helped bring down the apartheid regime in the 1980s. A lot of that boycott South Africa energy came from college students. College students typically are or people of that age, younger people, are more politically active in those ways; for their own families, they have the energy. And that's why when the boycott movement aimed at Israel started on college campuses. That's why Israel made it a point to fund huge amounts of efforts to target American college campuses as a place of bigotry and hatefulness and radicalism. That's why so much of the American pundit class focused on what was happening with sophomores at colleges. A lot of it was about Israel. And you have these Israeli officials going on television in every Western country saying: You're allowing this speech and you need to stop it. And I remember when those campus protests broke out, and there were a lot of people in both political parties calling them criminals and terrorists, including under the Biden administration, the Biden White House is what really set the groundwork for considering these protests against the Israeli war in Gaza to be anti-Semitic, even though the encampments were filled with Jews, all things we've been over before, I remember when I would defend the right of college students to politically organise and to express their political views, kind of foundational to the whole idea of the United States and Western democracies, I would constantly hear from conservatives who had spent the previous decade posing as free speech absolutists that it's not free speech to go around chanting: Kill all the Jews, kill all the Jews. And I remember on social media I spent about six weeks when I kept hearing this at the beginning saying: Where did that happen? On what American college campus did students gather and chant: Kill the Jews, kill the Jews. It did not happen. Every time I asked that question, no one had an answer. They knew it happened, but nobody could show me a news article, a claim, because it didn't happen. That wasn't part of what they were chanting. They were chanting: Opposition to the Israeli government, but since that's protected speech, much harder to demonise, they had to pretend they were chanting: Kill the Jews. As it turns out, the reason why people started claiming that was because at one of the earliest protests against the Israeli bombing of Gaza in Australia, there was a gathering of about a hundred activists, and one guy, who knows who it was – could be some stray idiot, some unwell person, some government plant, or maybe just a genuinely anti Semitic person – picked up a cardboard amplifier and said three times: Kill the Jews, kill the Jews, kill the Jews. One guy in Sydney, Australia. And from then on, it became: Oh, these protests are chanting: Kill the Jews. That was not what the protests were about. The protests were about protesting what Israel was doing in Gaza. And yet, here you have Israeli government officials going to every Western country telling their governments, you better stop allowing free speech of your citizens. You need to put people in jail for these things. You need to stop letting them say this. Or you are gonna be the ones guilty of allowing Jews to die.

Is that actually gonna help how Israel is perceived around the world and in the West? Do you think Western citizens are gonna appreciate turning on their TV and hearing Israeli officials in a heavily accented English, telling them and their governments and their countries that

they better stop allowing people to protest in the streets against Israel or their government support for Israel? I think it's a lot more likely to produce resentment. I think it's gonna put pressure on these politicians who are funded by the Israeli lobby. I do think it works that way. But I also think it's gonna continue to feed what people are in, what used to be taboo to say, but which is now completely tolerated to say and commonly said because it's so true, that there is an extremely disproportionate, almost inexplicable influence and power of Israeli officials and their supporters inside Western democracies to dictate to Western democracies how they can function when it comes to Israel. And as support for Israel has unravelled, they become more out in the open, more explicit. John Mearsheimer has talked about this, one of the pioneers of making public how the Israeli lobby operates, that they have been forced out into the open in a way that they never wanted to be. And do you hear these people? They're demanding that Western governments curb their own citizens' free speech, not to protect that country's interest, but to protect Israel and are insanely trying to claim that if you protest Israel or even allow a protest of Israel, you're now responsible for ISIS targeting individual Jewish civilians. Just to give you a sense for how this works among the elite class, the cowardly elite class, probably the most cowardly elite class in the West is the British government. I got to know the British government and British political culture unfortunately very well. I worked at the Guardian, the Snowden story at a major pardon in the UK. They were probably the most authoritarianism defending NSA surveillance. They actually sent armed agents into the Guardian's newsroom in London to demand that they physically destroy the Snowden files, even knowing that these files were kept all over the world and would achieve nothing, they still demanded it. They were the ones who detained my husband as part of the reporting to intimidate him, they detained him, threatened to arrest him on terrorism charges. In any event they got super repressive and they've only become more repressive in arresting people who protest the Israeli government; and it's a labour government. It's a centre-off government. It's not the conservative government. But they're all filled with worms, like careerist worms who are petrified of their own shadow. And here's one of the worst. His name is Wes Streeting. He's kind of like the Pete Buttigieg of the UK Labour Party. He's openly gay. I don't even want to call him centrist because there's too much credit as though he has a set of beliefs. He's just an absolute vacant careerist. And as the current British Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, shortly after being elected, has shockingly high, almost historically high levels of hatred and disapproval among the British people, there's not an election for four years, but there's an attempt now to get him out of the leadership of the Labour Party, and therefore the prime ministership, this Wes Streeting is one of the top two or three candidates to replace him, as vacant and soulless as a person you will ever find. Here he is on BBC today, also essentially blaming the free speech rights of Israel critics for their rhetoric somehow leading to this ISIS attack in Sydney. Here's what he said.

Wes Streeting (WS): I think the chief rabbi is absolutely right. And the term globalise the intifada, there will be a whole bunch of daft people in this country who've used those words online or use them in the streets and watching the TV right now be shouting, of course it doesn't mean terrorism against Jewish people. I have to say to those people clearly and robustly: What on earth do you think globalise the intifada means? And can't people see the link between that kind of rhetoric and attacks on Jewish people as Jewish people? Because

that's what's really struck at the heart of Jewish people in our country today. An attack on Jewish people organising around Hanukkah, coming together as Jewish people. It's an attack on their faith, their culture, their family, their community. And those of us who are not Jewish have a responsibility to stand with the Jewish community.

BBC reporter: But it's more than it's more than standing with them, isn't it? I mean people are saying you now need to do something. Do you think protesters who use that phrase should be prosecuted?

WS: In terms of changes to the law, those are decisions for the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary. I'm not aware of plans at this time to change the law to change the law in that way.

BBC reporter: But what is your own opinion? Do you think it should be?

WS: And I'm not going to step outside my lane now and to start making decisions for the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister.

BBC reporter: Honestly, I'm not asking to make decisions.

WS: But look, put it this way, I think that's a very important thing to...

BBC reporter: You just give a very strong answer about standing with the Jewish people.

WS: ...globalise the intifada is not an expression simply of solidarity with the Palestinian people and their just cause. Globalise the intifada is received by and seen as support for terrorist action against Jewish people.

GG: I continue to find it bizarre how normalised and customary it is now for Western governments that have long supposedly stood for Western values of civil liberties. And we're talking about here the country that gave birth to the Magna Carta that was part of the enlightenment, that became the foundation for the US Constitution and civil liberties to just so openly discuss now and even be pressured by journalists. She was pressuring him to go further than he wanted, say: Don't we have to criminalise these terms? They just have explicit discussions now about which political terms, which political ideas ought to be criminalised to the point where police come to your home and arrest you. And of course, that happens in the UK. It happens throughout Western Europe. And yes, right-wing speech is often targeted, but in the UK in particular, they have spent months now arresting anybody who wears any kind of clothing or carries any kind of signage in support of a pro-Palestinian group called Palestine Action, because the UK government at the behest of the Israeli government, characterised it as a terrorist group, which means it's not just illegal to join that group, but it's illegal to express any support for them. In fact, it's illegal to even protest the government's designation of them as a terrorist group. They never killed anybody, they never tried to kill anybody. The worst they ever did was they spray painted two planes at a military base that the UK government was using to help the Israelis destroy Gaza. And for that they got called a terrorist organisation. And so you have 70 and 80-year-old women going to protest every Saturday against the Israeli war in Gaza. And if they have a sign that says Palestine Action,

they get arrested. And now this journalist is saying: Don't we have to do more? Don't we have to even ban more of these phrases? I just want you to realise, think about what Israel has done here so successfully in the West, with the help of Western governments. Every form of protest against the Israeli government is deemed illegitimate. If you want to support a boycott of Israel – again, used in boycotts are unbelievably common, political tactic is used by civil rights leaders. It was used to stop the apartheid regime in South Africa. And boycotting Israel is a way of saying we're gonna boycott Israel until they withdraw their illegal occupation from the West Bank and their blockade of Gaza, it's by definition a peaceful means of protesting. But that got criminalised in Europe. Advocacy of boycotting Israel is considered a crime. It's hate speech in Europe. And in the United States, the Trump administration has succeeded in basically making it illegal despite the First Amendment. Huge numbers of red states and even some democratic states have said that if you support a boycott of Israel, you're not eligible for contracts for states. They've even made hurricane relief, if your area is hit by a hurricane, you have to sign a form saying you don't support a boycott of Israel as a condition to receiving aid from the US government. So boycotting Israel is out. Obviously, using violence to drive out Israeli occupiers is considered terrorism. Even though the Israelis themselves use that kind of violence to drive the British out and drive the Palestinians out, and generally violence against occupiers is considered justified, not for the Palestinians. So no boycott, no violence as resistance, and now no chanting. Can't chant: From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free. Can't chant: Globalise the intifada. These are now also going to become criminal. Every form of protest against Israel, and maybe you're allowed still at some point for the moment to write like a very polite editor letter to the editor saying how much you love Israel but think they've gone a little too far, maybe that'll be left legal just to create the appearance that it's not completely totalitarian. Globalising intifada, the intifada just means resistance, just means struggle. And globalising the intifada means don't force Palestinians to fight for their sovereignty and their right to autonomy alone, globalise it. It doesn't mean join ISIS and going murdering Jews. But the Israelis are now telling Western governments, you're gonna regret it, you're gonna pay a price if you allow this free speech against us to continue, and you have little worms like Wes Streeting and a lot of other politicians going on air saying this language is no longer acceptable. We're losing our free speech rights in the West, in the United States, not because our own country is defending its interests, but to defend the interests of this other country. And you can see it all here taking place in real time in the most explicit ways possible.

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