

**From:** Media  
**To:** Media; s 47E(d) @ag.gov.au; s 47E(d) @ag.gov.au  
**Cc:** s 47E(d) Viellaris, Renee; s 22(1)(a)(iii) s 47E(d) @ag.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(iii) s 47E(d)  
**Subject:** FOR INFO: AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw antisemitism statement [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 21 January 2025 5:40:46 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

## OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

Please see Media Statement we are about to publish: **AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw antisemitism statement**

There is no doubt there is an escalation of antisemitism in Australia.

We know this is changing the movements and behaviour of a community that is in fear.

When a community feels they need to self-segregate or hide to stay safe, this has a greater impact on social cohesion and crime in general.

Antisemitism is a disease in our community, and it needs to be aggressively attacked because history shows what happens when action is not taken against those who fuel fear and terrorise others.

I know many people feel they want more action to go with words. Today, I will outline what the AFP has done and what is being considered.

The AFP has established **Special Operation Avalite** to target high-harm antisemitism. AFP-

led **Operation Ardvarna** is targeting the display of prohibited symbols – **both operations have made arrests** and more are expected soon.

**Special Operation Avalite** has received **166 reports** of crime since it was established in December last year. Of those reports, many are duplicates, some are already investigation by our state counterparts and some don't meet the threshold of a crime.

These are being triaged for the AFP to take high-impact action against offenders, and currently **Special Operation Avalite** is investigating 15 serious allegations.

All lines of inquiry are open to the investigations – including what anonymising technology, such as dedicated encrypted communication devices, have been used to commit these crimes.

We are looking into whether overseas actors or individuals have paid local criminals in Australia to carry out some of these crimes in our suburbs.

We are looking at if – or how - they have been paid, for example in cryptocurrency, which can take longer to identify.

We are looking into whether any young people are involved in carrying out some of these crimes, and if they have been radicalised online and encouraged to commit antisemitic acts.

Regardless, it all points to the same motivation: demonising and intimidating the Jewish community.

Intelligence is not the same as evidence. We are building evidence, and I want to reiterate, more charges are expected soon by the AFP.

We are regularly talking to our Five Eyes and trusted international partners about these issues and the AFP stands ready to provide capability to our state and territory police, who I know are all taking these matters seriously.

Tomorrow, I am meeting with the dedicated State Police Commissioners across the country. I will raise whether there are other tactics or matters we can consider.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

*Writing to you from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country*

AFP NATIONAL MEDIA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Tel: +61 (0) s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Australian Federal Police**



*The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country*

*throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.*

THIS DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY  
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE UNDER THE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** Viellaris, Renee  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 21 January 2025 4:54:37 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.gif  
image002.gif  
image003.gif  
image004.gif  
image005.gif  
image006.gif

Yep thanks - I'll come back to you soon.  
R

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au>  
**Date:** 21 January 2025 at 2:45:35 PM AEST  
**To:** Viellaris, Renee <s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks Renee, s 47E(d) is commencing at 4:30pm – is that right?

I will have the team standing by ready to publish and release far and wide in the statement section of our website once you give us the green light.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Writing to you from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country  
ACTING COORDINATOR  
AFP NATIONAL MEDIA  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
Mob: +61 s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**AFP Media 24/7 hotline: (02) 5126 9297**

Australian Federal Police



*The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.*



---

**From:** Viellaris, Renee s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 January 2025 3:44 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au>, s 22(1)(a)(ii) @afp.gov.au>  
**Subject:** [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(iii) plan to release this after s 47E(d) Can you please template and send it back to me. Please also be ready to send it out far and wide and publish on our website. We can't or may not be able to release this after s 47E(d) but we need to prepare.

### AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw statement

There is no doubt there is an escalation of antisemitism in Australia.

We know this is changing the movements and behaviour of a community that is in fear.

When a community feels they need to self-segregate or hide to stay safe, this has a greater impact on social cohesion and crime in general.

Antisemitism is a disease in our community, and it needs to be aggressively attacked because history shows what happens when action is not taken against those who fuel fear and terrorise others.

I know many people feel they want more action to go with words. Today, I will outline what the AFP has done and what is being considered.

The AFP has established **Special Operation Avalite** to target high-harm antisemitism. AFP-led **Operation Ardvarna** is targeting the display of prohibited symbols – **both operations have made arrests** and more are expected soon.

**Special Operation Avalite** has received **166 reports** of crime since it was established in December last year. Of those reports, many are duplicates, some are already investigation by our state counterparts and some don't meet the threshold of a crime.

These are being triaged for the AFP to take high-impact action against offenders, and currently **Special Operation Avalite** is investigating 15 serious allegations.

All lines of inquiry are open to the investigations – including what anonymising technology, such as dedicated encrypted communication devices, have been used to commit these crimes.

We are looking into whether overseas actors or individuals have paid local criminals in Australia to carry out some of these crimes in our suburbs.

We are looking at if – or how - they have been paid, for example in cryptocurrency, which can take longer to identify.

We are looking into whether any young people are involved in carrying out some of these crimes, and if they have been radicalised online and encouraged to commit antisemitic acts.

Regardless, it all points to the same motivation: demonising and intimidating the Jewish community.

Intelligence is not the same as evidence. We are building evidence, and I want to reiterate, more charges are expected soon by the AFP.

We are regularly talking to our Five Eyes and trusted International partners about these issues and the AFP stands ready to provide capability to our state and territory police, who I know are all taking these matters seriously.

Tomorrow, I am meeting with the dedicated State Police Commissioners across the country. I will raise whether there are other tactics or matters we can consider.

**RENEE VIELLARIS**

MANAGER MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Tel: +61 (0)2 s 47E(d)

**Australian Federal Police**



*The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.*

THIS DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY  
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE UNDER THE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** Media  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Media; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** TASKING - AFP Commissioner statement on Antisemitism [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 21 January 2025 5:24:32 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.png  
image002.gif  
image003.gif  
image004.gif  
image005.gif  
image006.gif  
image007.gif

---

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

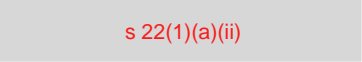
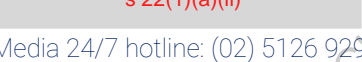
Thank you for being available to publish the statement.

Here it is attached -  [250121 AFP statement - Antisemitism.docx](#)

Can you please let Renee know via Signal when the statement is live on our website. Let me know if I can assist further.

Best regards,

  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

MEDIA OFFICER  
AFP NATIONAL MEDIA  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
Tel: +   
Mob:   
AFP Media 24/7 hotline: (02) 5126 9297

[Australian Federal Police](#)



*The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.*



THIS DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY  
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE UNDER THE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982



# AFP



## Media enquiries:

AFP Media: (02) 5126 9297

## Connect with us:

Follow our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) pages to learn more about what the AFP does to keep Australia safe.

THIS DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY  
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE UNDER THE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982



**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**To:** Viellaris, Renee  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Commissioner statement - templated [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 21 January 2025 4:07:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.gif](#)  
[image003.gif](#)  
[image004.gif](#)  
[image005.gif](#)  
[image006.gif](#)  
[image007.gif](#)

---

**OFFICIAL**

Hi RV,

Please see the templated antisemitism statement.  
I am late TL tonight. Confirming you will give the all clear to publish via Signal? Are there any approx. timings?

 [250121 AFP statement - Antisemitism.docx](#)

Regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
MEDIA OFFICER  
AFP NATIONAL MEDIA  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
Tel: + s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
AFP Media 24/7 hotline: (02) 5126 9297

**Australian Federal Police**



*The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.*



**From:** Viellaris, Renee  
**To:** s 47E(d)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 21 January 2025 3:43:54 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

---

## OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(i) plan to release this after s 47E(d) Can you please template and send it back to me. Please also be ready to send it out far and wide and publish on our website. We can't or may not be able to release this after s 47E(d) but we need to prepare.

### AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw statement

There is no doubt there is an escalation of antisemitism in Australia.

We know this is changing the movements and behaviour of a community that is in fear.

When a community feels they need to self-segregate or hide to stay safe, this has a greater impact on social cohesion and crime in general.

Antisemitism is a disease in our community, and it needs to be aggressively attacked because history shows what happens when action is not taken against those who fuel fear and terrorise others.

I know many people feel they want more action to go with words. Today, I will outline what the AFP has done and what is being considered.

The AFP has established **Special Operation Avalite** to target high-harm antisemitism. AFP-led **Operation Ardvarna** is targeting the display of prohibited symbols – **both operations have made arrests** and more are expected soon.

**Special Operation Avalite** has received **166 reports** of crime since it was established in December last year. Of those reports, many are duplicates, some are already investigation by our state counterparts and some don't meet the threshold of a crime.

These are being triaged for the AFP to take high-impact action against offenders, and currently **Special Operation Avalite** is investigating 15 serious allegations.

All lines of inquiry are open to the investigations – including what anonymising technology, such as dedicated encrypted communication devices, have been used to commit these crimes.

We are looking into whether overseas actors or individuals have paid local criminals in Australia to carry out some of these crimes in our suburbs.

We are looking at if – or how - they have been paid, for example in cryptocurrency, which can take longer to identify.

We are looking into whether any young people are involved in carrying out some of these crimes, and if they have been radicalised online and encouraged to commit antisemitic acts.

Regardless, it all points to the same motivation: demonising and intimidating the Jewish community.

Intelligence is not the same as evidence. We are building evidence, and I want to reiterate, more charges are expected soon by the AFP.

We are regularly talking to our Five Eyes and trusted International partners about these issues and the AFP stands ready to provide capability to our state and territory police, who I know are all taking these

matters seriously.

Tomorrow, I am meeting with the dedicated State Police Commissioners across the country. I will raise whether there are other tactics or matters we can consider.

**RENEE VIELLARIS**

MANAGER MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
Tel: +61 (0)2 [REDACTED] s 47E(d)

Australian Federal Police



*The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.*

THIS DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY  
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE UNDER THE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** Viellaris, Renee  
**To:** s 47E(d) @pm.gov.au  
**Subject:** [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 21 January 2025 4:25:53 PM

---

## AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw statement

There is no doubt there is an escalation of antisemitism in Australia.

We know this is changing the movements and behaviour of a community that is in fear.

When a community feels they need to self-segregate or hide to stay safe, this has a greater impact on social cohesion and crime in general.

Antisemitism is a disease in our community, and it needs to be aggressively attacked because history shows what happens when action is not taken against those who fuel fear and terrorise others.

I know many people feel they want more action to go with words. Today, I will outline what the AFP has done and what is being considered.

The AFP has established **Special Operation Avalite** to target high-harm antisemitism. AFP-led **Operation Ardvarna** is targeting the display of prohibited symbols – **both operations have made arrests** and more are expected soon.

**Special Operation Avalite** has received **166 reports** of crime since it was established in December last year. Of those reports, many are duplicates, some are already investigation by our state counterparts and some don't meet the threshold of a crime.

These are being triaged for the AFP to take high-impact action against offenders, and currently **Special Operation Avalite** is investigating 15 serious allegations.

All lines of inquiry are open to the investigations – including what anonymising technology, such as dedicated encrypted communication devices, have been used to commit these crimes.

We are looking into whether overseas actors or individuals have paid local criminals in Australia to carry out some of these crimes in our suburbs.

We are looking at if – or how - they have been paid, for example in cryptocurrency, which can take longer to identify.

We are looking into whether any young people are involved in carrying out some of these crimes, and if they have been radicalised online and encouraged to commit antisemitic acts.

Regardless, it all points to the same motivation: demonising and intimidating the Jewish community.

Intelligence is not the same as evidence. We are building evidence, and I want to reiterate, more charges are expected soon by the AFP.

We are regularly talking to our Five Eyes and trusted International partners about these issues and the AFP stands ready to provide capability to our state and territory police, who I know are all taking these matters seriously.

Tomorrow, I am meeting with the dedicated State Police Commissioners across the country. I will raise

whether there are other tactics or matters we can consider.

THIS DOCUMENT IS RELEASED BY  
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE UNDER THE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

**From:** [Viellaris, Renee](#)  
**To:** [Sirec, Hilda](#); [Walsh, Simon](#)  
**Cc:** [Nutt, Stephen](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 47E(d)  
**Subject:** RE: Commissioner lines [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 21 January 2025 1:06:04 PM

---

**OFFICIAL**

Hilda, this is the update. New lines in yellow.

Good afternoon.

There is no doubt there is an escalation of antisemitism in Australia.

We know this is changing the movements and behaviour of a community that is in fear.

When a community feels they need to self-segregate or hide to stay safe, this has a greater impact on social cohesion and crime in general.

Antisemitism is a cancer in our community, and it needs to be aggressively attacked because history shows what happens when action is not taken against those who fuel fear and terrorise others.

I know many people feel they want more action to go with words. Today I will outline what the AFP has done and what is being considered.

The AFP has established Special Operation Avalite to target high-harm antisemitism. AFP-led Operation Ardvarna is targeting the display of prohibited symbols – both operations have made arrests and more are expected soon.

Special Operation Avalite has received 144 reports of crime since it was established in December last year. Of those reports, many are duplicates, some are already investigation by our state counterparts and some don't meet the threshold of a crime.

These are being triaged for the AFP to take high-impact action against offenders, and currently Special Operation Avalite is investigating 15 serious allegations.

All lines of inquiry are open to the investigations – including what anonymising technology, such as dedicated encrypted communication devices, have been used to commit these crimes.

We are looking into whether overseas actors or individuals have paid local criminals in Australia to carry out some of these crimes in our suburbs.

We are looking at if – or how - they have been paid, for example in cryptocurrency, which can take longer to identify.

We are looking into whether any young people are involved in carrying out some of these crimes, and if they have been radicalised online and encouraged to commit antisemitic acts.

Regardless, it all points to the same motivation: demonising and intimidating the Jewish community.

Intelligence is not the same as evidence. We are building evidence, and I want to reiterate, more charges are expected soon by the AFP.

We are regularly talking to our Five Eyes and trusted International partners about these issues and the AFP stands ready to provide capability to our state and territory police, who I know are all taking these matters seriously.

Tomorrow, I am meeting with the dedicated State Police Commissioners across the country. I will raise whether there are other tactics or matters we can consider.

Thank you.

**RENEE VIELLARIS**

MANAGER MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
Tel: +61 (0)2 [REDACTED] s 47E(d)



**AFP**



*The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.*

**From:** Sirec, Hilda <[REDACTED] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 January 2025 11:27 AM

**To:** Viellaris, Renee [REDACTED] s 47E(d) afp.gov.au>; Walsh, Simon [REDACTED] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>

**Cc:** Nutt, Stephen <[REDACTED] s 47E(d) p.gov.au>; [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii) fp.gov.au>;

[REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)

afp.gov.au>;

[REDACTED] s 47E(d)

[REDACTED] s 47E(d)

@afp.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: Commissioner lines [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi RV,

Thank you – this is great.

I have added a minor suggestion in red below.

[REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We will put the final stat figure in below once we get the most up to date for today.

Kind regards,  
Hilda

**HILDA SIREC APM**

*Writing to you from Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country*  
PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NATIONAL SECURITY  
Tel: +61 (0)2 [REDACTED] s 47E(d)



**AFP**



*The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country*

---

**From:** Viellaris, Renee <[REDACTED]@afp.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 January 2025 12:20 PM  
**To:** Sirec, Hilda [REDACTED]@afp.gov.au>; Walsh, Simon [REDACTED]@afp.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Nutt, Stephe [REDACTED]@afp.gov.au>; [REDACTED]@afp.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Commissioner lines [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Importance:** High

**OFFICIAL**

Hilda as discussed [REDACTED] Are you ok with the language? We will need to get TPs done as well. I don't have access to the [REDACTED] any more. Do you want me to ask [REDACTED] to pull out the relevant parts?

Good afternoon.

There is no doubt there is an escalation of antisemitism in Australia

We know this is changing the movements and behaviour of a community that is in fear.

When a community feels they need to self-segregate or hide to stay safe, this has a greater impact on social cohesion and crime in general.

Antisemitism is a cancer in our community, and it needs to be aggressively attacked because history shows what happens when action is not taken against those who fuel fear and terrorise others.

I know many people feel they want more action to go with words. Today, I will outline what the AFP has done and what is being considered.

The AFP has established Special Operation Avalite to target high-harm antisemitism. AFP-led Operation Advarna is targeting the display of prohibited symbols – both operations have made arrests and more are expected soon.

Special Operation Avalite is investigating **x reports** of crime. These are being triaged for the AFP to take high-impact action against offenders.

All lines of inquiry are open to the investigations – including what anonymising technology, such as dedicated encrypted communication devices, have been used to commit these crimes.

We are looking into whether overseas actors or individuals have paid local criminals in Australia to carry out some of these crimes in our suburbs.

We are looking at if – or how - they have been paid, for example in cryptocurrency, which can take longer to identify.

We are looking into whether any young people are involved in carrying out some of these crimes, and if they have been radicalised online and encouraged to commit antisemitic acts.

Regardless, it all points to the same motivation: demonising and intimidating the Jewish community.

Intelligence is not the same as evidence. We are building evidence, and I want to reiterate, more charges



are expected soon by the AFP.

We are regularly talking to our Five Eyes **and trusted International** partners about these issues and the AFP stands ready to provide capability to our state and territory police, who I know are all taking these matters seriously.

Tomorrow, I am meeting with the dedicated State Police Commissioners across the country. I will raise whether there are other tactics or matters we can consider.

Thank you.

**RENEE VIELLARIS**

MANAGER MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Tel: +61 (0)2 **s 47E(d)**



**AFP**



*The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.*

THIS DOCUMENT IS RELEASED UNDER THE  
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ACT 1982  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982