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Repeal S.18(C) which makes it a crime in Australia to offend another because of what you say.

An update: recent attempts to apply Section 18C of Australia's Racial Discrimination Act ...

18C used to sue Mike Carlton for racial vilification



**[Sharri Markson](#), Media Editor, Sydney,
[THE AUSTRALIAN](#), AUGUST 14, 2014 12:00AM**

THE controversial 18C provisions of the Racial Discrimination Act will be used in a complaint against *The Sydney Morning Herald* over its anti-Semitic cartoon and the accompanying article by former columnist, Mike Carlton.

A Sydney engineer, Wayne Karlen, 60, has lodged a complaint with the Australian Human Rights Commission arguing the publication of the cartoon and column caused offence to Australian Jews.

Mr Karlen also referenced the subsequent abuse of readers by Carlton, stating in the complaint that *The Sydney Morning Herald* has committed an unlawful act within the meaning of the Racial Discrimination Act.

"This cartoon racially vilifies Jews and the similarity to Nazi propaganda compounds the distress to those of us

that had relatives fight and die in WWII," he said. "The absence of a strong formal censure for publishing this racist and offensive material conveys an appearance of official acceptance of same."

Mr Karlen, who is not Jewish, said he decided to lodge the complaint on Tuesday after the ABC's *Media Watch* defended the cartoon and Carlton the night before.

"The suggestion by the public broadcaster and others that this cartoon is acceptable must be refuted in the strongest terms and those responsible for its dissemination must be held responsible," he said. "The publication of this cartoon has caused offence to and racially vilifies Jews and was done to portray Jews as murderers of men, women and children for entertainment. The publication of this cartoon has caused intimidation and contributed to the Jewish community becoming afraid for their safety living in Australia and has offended their friends and supporters."

In addition to Mr Karlen, *The Australian* understands at least one member of the Jewish community has also lodged a complaint with the commission under section

18C, although Jewish organisations have stated they will not be taking similar action in light of the Herald's apology. Mr Karlen suggests the *Herald* should be publicly censured and receive a "significant fine" that could be donated to an accredited Jewish charity. Carlton resigned after Fairfax moved to suspend him when emails and tweets surfaced showing his repeated abuse of readers using inappropriate language.

Section 18C of the act makes it unlawful anything that is reasonably likely to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate groups of people on the grounds of race, ethnicity or national origin. The *Herald's* editorial position supported the retention of 18C, and many columnists were also sympathetic to its cause.
<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/media/print/c-used-to-sue-mike-carlton-for-racial-vilification/story-fn9ymmvo-1227023569915>

Mike Carlton's column and SMH cartoon: racist complaint lodged

**Racial vilification alleged under section 18C,
but complaint unlikely to succeed as instigator is reportedly not Jewish**
[Amanda Meade, theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com), Thursday 14 August 2014 14.52 AEST

A complaint alleging racial vilification of Jews under 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act has been lodged about the *Sydney Morning Herald's* publication of a cartoon and a column about Israel last month. Under Section 18C it is unlawful "to do an act that is reasonably likely to 'offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate' someone because of their race or ethnicity", the Human Rights Commission says. The cartoon, by Glen Le Lievre, has been retracted and the paper apologised for publishing it after Jewish leaders said it was racist. It has been removed from Fairfax Media websites and the Herald's editor-in-chief, Darren Goodsir, [admitted it was a serious error of judgment](#) to publish it.



Mike Carlton in 2009. The Sydney Morning Herald has stood by his 26 July column.

Photograph: Tracey Nearmy/AAP

The paper has stood by the Mike Carlton column even though its author has since [resigned](#) over comments he made to some readers in emails and on Twitter. However, it is possible that the complaint will be thrown out because it is understood that the complainant – said to be [Wayne Karlen](#), a constant critic of the paper on Twitter – is not Jewish. [According to the act](#): "Only an 'aggrieved person' may lodge a complaint. In the case of the racial hatred provisions, an aggrieved person is someone from the group targeted by the behaviour who is offended, insulted, humiliated or intimidated because of his or her race." The law also allows for fair comment, including by the media which is allowed to present "fair and accurate reporting on any matter of public interest".

This last exception enables the media to report on public issues, such as racial incitement or racially offensive conduct. It also allows editorial opinions and the like, providing they are published without malice. Karlen has been talking on Twitter about using 18C against the Herald since the column and cartoon appeared last month. The Australian reported on Thursday that Karlen "decided to lodge the complaint on Tuesday after the ABC's Media Watch defended the cartoon and Carlton the night before". Karlen told the Australian: "The suggestion by the public broadcaster and others that this cartoon is acceptable must be refuted in the strongest terms and those responsible for its dissemination must be held responsible." "The publication of this cartoon has caused offence to and racially vilifies Jews and was done to portray Jews as murderers of men, women and children for entertainment. The publication of this cartoon has caused intimidation and contributed to the Jewish community becoming afraid for their safety living in Australia and has offended their friends and supporters." However, Media Watch did not defend the cartoon on [Monday night's program](#). "Now we agree that that cartoon went too far," it said. Guardian Australia has asked Karlen for comment. Carlton said he knew nothing about the complaint. Sean Aylmer, Fairfax Media's group director for news and business media, has said the Carlton column of 26 July was "fine" but the way Carlton responded to readers was "totally inappropriate". The government recently did an about-turn on its promise to repeal the 18C provision, angering the News Corp columnist Andrew Bolt who was found guilty of breaching the Racial Discrimination Act over two articles he wrote in 2009 headlined "It's so hip to be black" and "White fellas in the black". Bolt was sued in the federal court by nine Aboriginal people who alleged the Herald Sun articles implied light-skinned people who identified as Aboriginal did so for personal gain.
<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2014/aug/14/mike-carltons-column-and-smh-cartoon-sees-racist-complaint-lodged>

Carlton sued under 18C. Good

Andrew's columns appear in the Herald Sun, Daily Telegraph and Advertiser. He runs Australia's most-read political blog and hosts Ten's The Bolt Report each Sunday at 10am. See more of [Andrew's views and videos](#).



Andrew Bolt, AUGUST 14 2014 - 8:05am, Free speech

I fully support [this suing of Mike Carlton](#). Why should the Racial Discrimination Act be used to silence only conservatives? Let the Left now realise the law menaces even their own and must be scrapped as a crime against free speech:

THE controversial 18C provisions of the Racial Discrimination Act will be used in a complaint against The Sydney Morning Herald over its anti-Semitic cartoon and the accompanying article by former columnist, Mike Carlton.

A Sydney engineer, Wayne Karlen, 60, has lodged a complaint with the Australian Human Rights Commission arguing the publication of the cartoon and column caused offence to Australian Jews.

Mr Karlen also referenced the subsequent abuse of readers by Carlton, stating in the complaint that The Sydney Morning Herald has committed an unlawful act within the meaning of the Racial Discrimination Act...

Mr Karlen, who is not Jewish, said he decided to lodge the complaint on Tuesday after the ABC's Media Watch defended the cartoon and Carlton the night before...

In addition to Mr Karlen, The Australian understands at least one member of the Jewish community has also lodged a complaint with the commission under section 18C, although Jewish organisations have stated they will not be taking similar action in light of the Herald's apology.

Those "Jewish organisations" are two-faced. They know that using these laws against Carlton will discredit them. And so they do not use these wicked laws to defend their community, yet say nothing when those laws are used to muzzle their allies.

But Carlton has little to fear. He is an ideological mate of the Human Rights Commission, whose [Race Discrimination Commissioner, a former Labor staffer, has already rushed to exonerate Carlton](#):

Commentators you would hope would be cantankerous or controversial... Obviously Fairfax decided to take some action against him. Look, I'm agnostic on this.

Mates rates?

http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/carlton_sued_under_18c_good/

Race Commissioner protects Mike Carlton, fellow member of the Left

AUGUST 07 2014 (7:16am)

Mike Carlton in the Sydney Morning Herald [falsely accuses Jews collectively of a genocide](#):

The onslaught is indiscriminate and unrelenting, with but one possible conclusion: Israel is not fighting the terrorists of Hamas. In defiance of the laws of war and the norms of civilised behaviour, it is waging its own war of terror on the entire Gaza population of about 1.7 million people. Call it genocide, call it ethnic cleansing: the aim is to kill Arabs...

It is a breathtaking irony that these atrocities can be committed by a people with a proud liberal tradition of scholarship and culture, who hold the Warsaw Ghetto and the six million dead of the Holocaust at the centre of their race memory.

Mike Carlton abuses one of many Jews writing to protest by peddling an offensive stereotype:

You're the one full of hate and bile, sunshine. The classic example of the Jewish bigot. Now f. k off.

Tim Soutphommasane is our Race Discrimination Commissioner. He's supposed to be red-hot in denouncing racism. But, then again, he's a former Labor staffer and Carlton is a darling of the far Left. And anti-Semitism is the fashionable racism of the Left. Maybe I'm too hard on Tim, but give me a better explanation for his refusal to criticise Carlton on the ABC (from 14:10):

Commentators you would hope would be cantankerous or controversial... Obviously Fairfax decided to take some action against him. Look, I'm agnostic on this.

With so many in the Left it is not the principle that counts but the side.

On the same show, Jonathan Green, a fellow Leftist on the ABC, denounces the real crime - that wicked Murdoch journalists noticed Carlton acting like a barbarian:

We have to salute the really hard work here of News Ltd too in rounding up those emails and drawing them to Fairfax's attention. They've really prosecuted this with a great zeal... They've had a very active role in it.

UPDATE

[Mike Carlton claims he's victim of a Jewish conspiracy](#) - and a Murdoch one. That neatly pairs the two fashionable hate figures of the deranged Left:

Carlton says there's no doubt there was a co-ordinated campaign to oust him by the Jewish lobby in Australia. "That was twinned by a campaign by News Corp?—?because they hate my guts, but also because it destroyed a rival columnist. And now, Fairfax has handed News Corp that present, gift-wrapped."

[Tim Blair punctures another Carlton fancy](#):

Former SMH columnist Mike Carlton [thanks his supportive colleagues](#):

"I'd like to thank my colleagues at the Herald for the massive support they're giving me right now."

Don't be [too sure of that](#), Mike:

It was Mike Carlton's own colleagues who sealed his fate, complaining about his abusive behaviour towards readers at Fairfax Media's news and business publisher, Sean Aylmer.

Despite Carlton claiming he had vast support at The Sydney Morning Herald, and his downfall was a result of the "Israel lobby", The Australian can reveal a number of Fairfax employees went to Aylmer with evidence of Carlton's abusive comments, including one where he told a reader to "f. k off"...

As usual, Carlton is wrong. His misfortunes are entirely self-inflicted.

UPDATE

[Gerard Henderson:](#)

IT'S not surprising that The Sydney Morning Herald finally moved to discipline its Saturday columnist Mike Carlton. What's surprising is that it took so long to do so.

http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/race_commissioner_protects_mike_carlton_fellow_member_of_the_left/

BULLYING, ABUSE AND FREE SPEECH

Did The Sydney Morning Herald lose its nerve in Australia's media war over the Israel-Gaza conflict?

'Jewish bigot', 'pissant', 'Likudnik': Carlton ordered to apologise for torrent of abuse

From: Mike Carlton

To: Yury

You're the one full of hate and bile, sunshine. The classic example of the Jewish bigot. Now f--k off.

— The Australian, 6th August, 2014

Hello, I'm Paul Barry, welcome to Media Watch.

And it's been a tumultuous week for Mike Carlton, one of the marquee columnists at Fairfax Media.

Or should we say EX-columnists. Because by the time [that front-page story in The Australian](#) hit the streets on Wednesday [the veteran journalist's downfall was complete](#).

Mike Carlton resigns from Fairfax Media after tense pressure from anti-semitic backlash — *News.com.au, 6th August, 2014*

So how did one of Australia's most popular—if polarising—left-wing columnists go crashing down in flames?

Well, the trouble began with [Carlton's column three Saturdays ago](#), which launched a passionate attack on Israel's strikes into Gaza.

The images from Gaza are searing, a gallery of death and horror. A dishevelled Palestinian man cries out in agony, his blood-soaked little brother dead in his arms. On a filthy hospital bed a boy of perhaps five or six screams for his father, his head and body lacerated by shrapnel.— *Sydney Morning Herald, 26-27th July, 2014*

In an eloquent, angry and sometimes intemperate column—in which Carlton used the words fascism, and genocide—which in my view was wrong—the Herald's opinion writer told readers:

It is a breathtaking irony that these atrocities can be committed by a people with a proud liberal tradition of scholarship and culture, who hold the Warsaw Ghetto and the six million dead of the Holocaust at the centre of their race memory. — *Sydney Morning Herald, 26-27th July, 2014.*

Call him brave or call him stupid, Carlton knew his fiery words would unleash a barrage of criticism.

Indeed, he warned his readers and perhaps himself:

There will be the customary torrent of abusive emails calling me a Nazi, an anti-Semite, a Holocaust denier, an ignoramus. As usual they will demand my resignation, my sacking. — *Sydney Morning Herald, 26-27th July, 2014*

And indeed there was.

And indeed they did.

MIKE CARLTON: *I got a fortnight of, of abuse, of threats of violence, 'you filthy piece of Jew hating Nazi*

slime, people like you started world war II, Catholic Jew baiter,' and, and so on.

And there was just torrents of this, this filth. And once or twice I snapped and hit back. We do that in this country. Occasionally you, you go and tell people to go and get effed. — *ABC Radio 702, 6th August, 2014*

And THAT was what did for him.

When some of his abusive retorts were handed to the Herald by The Australian's Sharri Markson, Carlton was first ordered to apologise ... and then suspended, whereupon he resigned, as the Herald's editor-in-chief Darren Goodsir, ruefully explained to ABC 702.

DARREN GOODSIR: *I made a decision that Mike's inappropriate behaviour with some of our readers and correspondents, you know, crossed the line and that he should apologise, but a senior executive at this company determined that that was not an appropriate sanction, and I respect that, and that was the, the message that was sent to Mike late last night.*

— *ABC Radio 702, 6th August, 2014*

Around 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning, Carlton made his resignation public, tweeting to his 30,000 followers:

Confirming I have quit the SMH, sad that a once great newspaper has buckled to the bullies. Thanks for your support...maintain the rage. — *Twitter, @MikeCarlton01, 6th August, 2014.*

Soon afterwards, [he was telling the Guardian's Amanda Meade](#), who worked for The Australian for many years, that it was not just the Jewish community that had caused the Herald to lose its nerve. ***"The immense pressure from News Limited has got to them, and that is the worst part of it."*** — *The Guardian, 6th August, 2014.*

And sure enough, over on The Australian's website at about this time, the paper's media editor Sharri Markson was indeed claiming the credit for Carlton's scalp.

Yesterday afternoon The Australian sent Goodsir at least 15 examples of inappropriate, abusive and at times anti-Semitic language Carlton has used in his emails and tweets to readers.— *The Australian, 6th August, 2014*

Next day, neither The Australian nor the Daily Telegraph could hide its glee, with News Corp's Sydney tabloid [devoting two whole pages to the Carlton row](#), and inviting two of its most outspoken columnists to condemn him.

Tastelessly, the Telegraph portrayed Carlton as a tattered, shell-shocked Palestinian suggested crudely that he liked a beer.

Carlton Shaft — *The Daily Telegraph*, 7th August, 2014

And called him variously:

Mad Mike, Grouchy Grandpa and Bitter and twisted.

And if you hadn't already got the message that media wars in Australia can almost match the Middle East for ferocity, the Tele then threw a few bombs at Carlton's employer as well:

The Sydney Warring Herald

Imploding. Always.

IN the end, the weight of hate was far too much for Fairfax to bear. — *The Daily Telegraph*, 7th August, 2014

So, was all this good clean fun?

I hardly think so.

And this made it dirtier still...

Because that doctored photo of Mike Carlton wasn't actually from the Gaza conflict, tasteless as that would have been.

The Telegraph had in fact defaced this image of a **victim in the Boston Marathon bombing**.

Its action soon brought a storm of outrage on Twitter which was followed by **an unconvincing apology from the Telegraph's editor**.

But let's get back to Mike Carlton. And let's be clear about a couple of things.

First: he was absolutely wrong to abuse his readers. And he can hardly complain about his fate.

But second: let's admit that the opinions in his column also played a part in his downfall.

And ... that taking sides against Israel in the Australian media—as he did—can be a dangerous business.

Take the furious reaction **to this cartoon for example** which suggests Israelis treat the bombing of Gaza like a video game or TV show.

Drawn by Glen Le Lievre, it illustrated Carlton's column, and also provoked a flood of complaints, with government ministers even adding their voice, **as The Australian faithfully reported**.

Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull rang The Sydney Morning Herald's editor-in-chief, Darren Goodsir, to lambast him for running an anti-Semitic cartoon.

And Attorney-General George Brandis likened the cartoon to images from Germany in the 1930s. — *The Australian*, 4th August, 2014.

Shortly after these attacks, the Sydney Morning Herald **issued a grovelling public apology** ...

With editor-in-chief Darren Goodsir admitting the paper had made a serious error of judgment and adding:

It was wrong to publish the cartoon in its original form. We apologise unreservedly for this lapse, and the anguish and distress that has been caused. — *The Australian*, 4th August, 2014.

Now we agree that that cartoon went too far. And we'll come back to why in a moment.

But we couldn't help noting that **an equally contentious cartoon by Bill Leak in The Australian**—which was so righteously ripping into its rival—did not create anything like such a fuss.

THERE! NOW YOU GO OUT TO PLAY AND WIN THE PR WAR FOR DADDY - HOW THE WEST WAS WON OVER — *The Australian*, 31st July, 2014.

Bill Leak's cartoon claimed that Hamas fighters push their 5-year old sons into the firing line and want them to be killed.

And, as you may imagine, some of Australia's Palestinian community found that deeply offensive, as

Issa Shaweesh, from the Palestinian Advocacy Network, **told Media Watch**:

For Palestinians, it's bad enough that our children are killed in their homes, while sheltering in UN schools and playing on the beach, but can you imagine how it feels to be portrayed as sending them out in the hope that they'll be killed?

... This is not only racist and offensive but totally untrue. There is absolutely no evidence that Palestinians have ever done this and I'm at a loss to understand why a reputable Australian newspaper would demonise us in this way. — Issa Shaweesh, Vice-President, Australia Palestine Advocacy Network, response to Media Watch questions, 8th August, 2014.

So was The Australian's cartoon any less objectionable than that one in the Herald that caused so much grief?

Especially since Le Lievre based his cartoon on photos of Israelis watching the bombing of Gaza and, reportedly, cheering.

Well, **many in the Jewish community believe it was**.

And it comes down to the symbols or shorthand the cartoon employed—like the kippah, the nose and the Star of David. The cartoon attributed to Jews generally a collective guilt for the deaths and suffering in Gaza.

It was an ugly antisemitic message and a calumny of Jewish people generally — Peter Wertheim, Executive Council of Australian Jewry, response to Media Watch questions, 7th August, 2014.

And in fact this view is shared by some on the other side of the conflict, with Issa Shaweesh from the Palestinian Advocacy Network telling Media Watch:

... the caricature of a hooked-nosed Jew with the Star of David on the back of his armchair was both unwarranted and indefensible. This is not what the Palestinian struggle is about and does not represent the sentiments of Australian Palestinians. — Issa Shaweesh, Vice-President, Australia Palestine Advocacy Network, response to Media Watch questions, 8th August, 2014.

As one cartoonist suggested: put Benjamin Netanyahu on the couch and it's much less of a problem.

But what about that Hamas cartoon from Bill Leak which offended Palestinians but did not create a public outcry?

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry thought it was fine.

As did Bill Leak, who defended it in The Australian as obviously true, **and in an email to Media Watch** as:

... a well established fact that Hamas has been stashing weapons in schools while knowing full well this would turn those buildings, along with their occupants, into targets for Israeli attacks. — Bill Leak, Cartoonist, *The Australian*, response to Media Watch questions, 8th August, 2014.

Leak's colleague at the Daily Tele, Warren Brown, also thought it hit home:

I thought Bill's cartoon was something that made people think ... If you were genuinely worried about kids in hospitals and schools, then don't fire rockets into Israel. — Warren Brown, Cartoonist, *The Daily Telegraph*, statement to Media Watch, 8th August, 2014

But some of Leak's fellow cartoonists felt it was just as offensive.

David Pope from the Canberra Times told Media Watch: ***In treating the deaths as though they were solely the fault of Hamas it, in a way, dehumanised a whole people, as if Palestinians don't care about their children***

and are just using them as pawns. — David Pope, Cartoonist, *The Canberra Times*, statement to Media Watch, 6th August, 2014.

The Guardian's First Dog on the Moon said:

I can see why people would see Bill's cartoon as being utterly repellent. While I don't agree with Bill's view, I think he got away with it. — First Dog on the Moon, Cartoonist, *The Guardian*, statement to Media Watch, 7th August, 2014.

The Courier Mail's Sean Leahy had a similar but stronger reaction:

I would say that Bill's cartoon is on a par in terms of offensiveness. They're both independent opinions which are freely expressed and I think it's just that the Palestinian cause doesn't have that much vocal support. — Sean Leahy, Cartoonist, *The Courier-Mail*, statement to Media Watch, 9th August, 2014.

But whatever you think about either cartoon, there's then the question of whether they should be silenced. And whether the Herald should have backed down or toughed it out, as The Australian did, in the face of much milder criticism.

Fairfax cartoonist Michael Leunig was at the [centre of a huge storm in 2002](#) when he had a controversial cartoon about the West Bank, refused by the Age.

Last week Leunig told Media Watch he believes the Herald should have stayed firm this time.

Every time an editor is forced to back down and make an apology it means the next time a difficult cartoon is put to him he won't take the risk. — Michael Leunig, Cartoonist, *Fairfax Media*, statement to Media Watch, 7th August, 2014.

In a long and considered statement, Leunig also argued:

I think we need to be careful of getting rid of the truth speakers because that's their job. It's the cartoonists who have traditionally stood up for persecuted minorities whether they be Jews in the 1930s or Palestinians today. — Michael Leunig, *Fairfax Media*, statement to Media Watch, 7th August, 2014.

The last thing we asked Australia's cartoonists was how difficult this conflict between Israel and Palestine is to comment upon.

And here the replies were extremely revealing.

Because cartoonists on both sides—and in the middle—spoke with one voice.

... I can't think of any subjects that would exceed it when it comes to sheer level of difficulty. — Bill Leak, Cartoonist, *The Australian*, response to Media Watch questions, 8th August, 2014.

This particular topic is the most inflamed topic you can talk about as a cartoonist. — Cathy Wilcox, Cartoonist, *Fairfax Media*, Statement to Media Watch, 6th August, 2014.

This is the most difficult subject to address and the response is always the most hostile. — Michael Leunig, *Fairfax Media*, statement to Media Watch, 7th August, 2014.

On the scale of what's controversial asylum seekers are about a two, on the scale of one to 10, and Gaza-Israel would be a 10. — Fiona Katauskas, Freelance Cartoonist, statement to Media Watch, 7th August, 2014.

Luckily for us, cartoonists are a brave lot and some are still prepared to go there.

But those more critical of Israel are more wary of doing so. And in the light of what happened to cartoonist Glen Le Lievre and to columnist, Mike Carlton, they may be

less keen to say what they think in the future. Ten years after he first ran into flak over Israel and Palestine, Michael Leunig flew into another firestorm in 2012 [with this allegedly anti-Semitic cartoon](#): **First they came for the Palestinians and I did not speak out because I was not a Palestinian. Then they came for more Palestinians and I did not speak out because I feared hostility and trouble.** — *The Age*, 21st November, 2012.

This week Leunig told Media Watch:

The pressure I copped ... was so significant and despairing. I came under a lot of pressure and toxicity and it becomes relentless. It's an appalling state of affairs. I just think a lot of people now say 'Don't go there'. The pressure is very significant. — Michael Leunig, *Fairfax Media*, statement to Media Watch, 7th August, 2014

It would be terrible in this country if debate were to be shut down because cartoonists or columnists were bullied into silence.

And most of them cop vicious abuse from both sides of the political debate. We should help them stand up to it, rather than cheer when they fall to the mob.

SO ... let's come back to where we started and Mike Carlton, [who told Media Watch today](#):

I deeply regret this whole affair. With hindsight, yes, I should have kept my cool. But I was pushed beyond endurance. I am not the slightest bit anti-Semitic. — Mike Carlton, statement to Media Watch, 11th August, 2014.

Clearly, Carlton could have handled it better. He should not have abused his readers, and should not have stormed out.

But the Herald did not cover itself with glory either.

MIKE CARLTON: I was just fed up, you know, just fed up. I wanted some support from the paper.

RICHARD AEDY: All right, well I was gonna say. How do you think The Herald should have handled all this?

MIKE CARLTON: I think perhaps if they'd invited me in for a talk or something, you know. Not just an abrupt, brusque phone call at 10 o'clock at night saying, 'we're suspending you'.

I think, possibly, it could have been handled with a little kid gloves. I don't know if that's the word, maybe might have been handled a bit more delicately.

Maybe they couldn't. Maybe they were in damage control and panic stricken and away they went. I don't know. — *ABC Radio National, The Media Report*, 7th August, 2014.

The Herald managed it badly. And the upshot is that it has lost one of its most popular columnists and may well lose readers as a result.

More importantly, the Australian media has, for the moment, lost a brave and powerful voice. And whether you liked Carlton's column or not—and most of the time I did—that is not something to be celebrated as his enemies have done.

And you can get a full statement from Mike Carlton and some fantastic contributions from those cartoonists [will be available to read 12 August 2014] and from the Jewish and Palestinian communities on our website, where you can also get a transcript and download the program.

And you can catch up with us on iview.

And contact me or Media Watch on Twitter, preferably without too much abuse. But until next week, that's all from us, Goodbye.

YOUR COMMENTS

Jinjirrie : 14 Aug 2014 1:18:36pm

Why did Paul Barry attribute the 'fascism' word to Carlton, when it was actually used by Haaretz writer Gideon Levy? Paul Barry might also have pointed out that Carlton's conflation of Jews with Israel is precisely what antisemites including zionists do.

AlanC : 14 Aug 2014 10:12:32am

In light of the comments below and all the real Middle-East conflicts I would like to quote Jack Nicholson's character from Mars Attacks. "Why can't we all just get along".

AK : 13 Aug 2014 10:40:39pm

Thank you Media Watch for a thoughtful and balanced report. Pity the same could not be said about the comments on this page.

martin : 13 Aug 2014 4:12:02pm

I'm a tax payer, and as such, I do not think we need anymore misleading right wing biased comments on this blog. There's enough of those crazies on the murdock site if anyone's interested.

spud : 14 Aug 2014 4:48:56pm

Anything right of centre left is seen as extreme right to the modal ABC consumer. And I presume by "murdock" you mean the only publisher in Australia game enough to publish material critical of those things worthy of criticism, irrespective of politics; a person who actually goes by the name of Murdoch?

Mark : 13 Aug 2014 2:46:20pm

Thanks for publishing my last comment - NOT! I guess you have to be a left wing nut job to get your comments published at the ABC - yet another example of the bias of the ABC.

Moderator: Comments are moderated. They don't appear straight away.

spud : 13 Aug 2014 12:08:39pm

And with everything else going on that MW should be addressing, an entire program devoted to one person who chose to resign rather than apologise for what any decent person would have apologised for. That and the left doing its (all too usual) ballistic hissy fit trying to blame shift to an alleged right wing Jewish capitalist conspiracy (now where have I heard that before?) in defence of one of its heroes (some hero, but the best they can come up with!) SNILL (situation normal in leftie land.)

Mark : 13 Aug 2014 11:18:13am

Once again Paul Barry is looking out for his Leftist mates and shows how shamefully bias Media Watch truly is.

To suggest that there is any semblance of moral equivalence between Israel and the terrorist organisation Hamas, as he does by comparing the 2 cartoons in question, is outright disgraceful. It is a documented fact that Hamas uses human shields and has no regard for Palestinian civilian lives whereas Israel does whatever can be reasonably expected under almost impossible conditions to protect Palestinian civilian lives. Of course mistakes occur in wars, unfortunately it is the nature of war. But to subscribe to or buy into Carlton's version of Israel committing genocide is at the very least biased and shameful, although I fear the motive is much more sinister than that.

Pat Hayne : 13 Aug 2014 7:44:29am

If you think about it, this is all the fault of the idiot who shot Franz Ferdinand. Talk about a snowball effect.

David : 12 Aug 2014 5:11:17pm

I notice that there is one cartoonist missing from the interview list. Larry Pickering, who's Facebook page is regularly shut down because of his depictions of political figures and incidents. If he can be held responsible and taken offline for his offensive images then why not the other cartoonists?

martin : 13 Aug 2014 4:14:33pm

It's called the press freedom, freedom of expression etc. (but only to some)

Sputcorp @: 12 Aug 2014 4:27:38pm

I'd like to thank Mike Carlton for his work and say it is sad it has come to this. Did The Australian really need to point the finger? Dobbing's un-Australian. This country is becoming despicable. Maybe The Australian should be forced to be called The UnAustralian? Seriously considering moving overseas as this country has no morals anymore.

Sheena : 12 Aug 2014 1:42:24pm

I find it a bit ... unusual that when people were offended by Carlton's reactions to being attacked, their first response was to take it to News Ltd. It's enough to make a suspicious person wonder if the whole thing wasn't deliberate provocation of a columnist from the rival stable.

Richard le Sarcophage : 12 Aug 2014 4:03:31pm

I would bet my life on it being a conspiracy between The Australian, which Carleton has often skewered, and whose apparatchiki, like all totalitarians, cannot abide criticism (particularly witty criticism when they are so witless) and the local Israel Lobby, also totalitarians dedicated to removing every pro-Palestinian voice from the MSM. Mission Accomplished I would say.

spud : 12 Aug 2014 7:53:28pm

Sheena

Perhaps they figured out (correctly) that neither Fairfax nor the ABC would do anything to support them against Carlton's bigoted filth; a fact underscored by both Fairfax's and ABC's inaction until after the smelly stuff hit the fan.

SilverTail : 12 Aug 2014 1:19:56pm

Quote: "It would be terrible in this country if debate were to be shut down because cartoonists or columnists were bullied into silence.

And almost of them cop vicious abuse from both sides of the political debate. We should help them stand up to it, rather than cheer when they fall to the mob."

Right so the next time someone points out the inequity in some people taking advantage of being 1/8th of a particular race or even less and receiving grants and support which is actually aimed at those who most need it, I will assume they will get your full support Mr Barry? Or will you cheer the bullies - and shut down the debate?

Adam Rope : 12 Aug 2014 3:38:29pm

My word, what a complete distortion of the Bolt case. Amazing how facts can be re-written to suit a perspective. Bolt got convicted because he was wrong in what he wrote, he misrepresented, and distorted, facts to suit his argument. Not because the litigants were aboriginal. But because he was wrong.

MDG : 13 Aug 2014 10:07:58am

As I recall, Media Watch is in favour of repealing RDA S18C and has also had a lot to say about the stifling effect of defamation law.

Adorno : 12 Aug 2014 12:14:09pm

It strikes me that those cartoonists who claim the conflict is so difficult to address are finding it thus because they are, like Leak, following the intellectually-void path of taking sides.

The minority view - in our sadly biased media at least - is the smart one, namely that the war is a debacle for which all sides are equally responsible and in which all sides act atrociously at different times. Any clear-eyed cartoonist worth their salt would be working on something critical of the war per se, and not courting controversy or following the party line of their newspaper by only criticising one group.

Richard le Sarcophage : 12 Aug 2014 12:37:08pm

When one side is imprisoned in a giant concentration camp, by the other, when one side has spent decades ethnically cleansing the other from its ancestral land, while occupying it with settler colonies, while one side kills ten or more times as many of the others using every fiendish weapon known to man and when one side mysteriously commands the near total loyalty of Western politics and the MSM, and the other is relentlessly vilified and abused, talk of the sides being 'equally responsible' is, in my opinion, moral insanity.

Christine : 12 Aug 2014 11:52:21am

My empathy for the suffering in Gaza does not make me anti-Semitic, nor does it make me pro-Hamas, or anti-Israel... it makes me human. - David Harris-Gershon

Alan : 12 Aug 2014 10:54:10am

Before NewsLimited said it was anti-semitic, I hope they remembered to have Andrew Bolt inspect their skin tone to ensure they were real Jewish people.

Linus Jason : 12 Aug 2014 10:47:28am

I have not heard anyone say what is happening to Gazans is not traumatic and horrible. But it is no different from other asymmetric wars in which civilians are embedded eg Iraq, and yet Israel and Jews draw far greater and more emotional responses - even though the clear and present danger to Israel is far greater than the threat to those who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. I ask the question - what is the reason for the heightened emotion? The Arab Israeli conflict is not about racism, about one life being less valued than another; it is about true threat and war.

Richard le Sarcophage : 12 Aug 2014 12:41:10pm

Utter and complete drivel. It is precisely about Gazan life being judged to be worthless, as thousands are butchered there, yet the victims are presented as the aggressors. Netanyahu deliberately and determinedly picked this fight, to destroy the Hamas/PA reconciliation, and, if you believe Moshe Feiglin the Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, to set the scene for the forced expulsion of the Gazans, no doubt connected to the vast resource of gas discovered off-shore from Gaza.

Lea Kantor : 12 Aug 2014 9:04:46am

In regards to Carlton's emotive article and response- he has something in common with his distressed Jewish interlocutors - trauma - in his case the horrors of the Vietnam war which had been reawakened by the photos of Gazan babies - which affected his analysis and his inability to restrain his rage in his replies to angry readers.

Richard le Sarcophage : 12 Aug 2014 10:24:19am

Speaking of 'trauma' Lea-what of the trauma inflicted on the Gazans with two thousand brutally murdered, tens of thousands injured, whole districts leveled, schools, mosques, hospitals targeted (as usual)and water and sewage treatment plants deliberately targeted (war crimes, dontcha know)? What of that trauma? And the abusive, threatening, belligerent 'Jewish interlocutors'- what 'trauma' had they suffered?

Lea Kantor : 12 Aug 2014 8:57:27am

And so I see from this thread, that we have come to a very sad state - that Israel is condemned for doing what any western state would do in the same position (even though all of us decry the loss of innocent lives) and that if a Jew, only 70 years after the Holocaust, criticizes a journalist strongly for a completely one-sided report, which includes "lessons" that Jews should learn from their own history, he is called a lobbyist, and therefore has already lost half his humanity. I am sad to say, although I feel am no longer permitted to say it by my countrymen, that we have moved into deeply anti-semitic times again.

Richard le Sarcophage : 12 Aug 2014 10:40:12am

Lea, Israel is being condemned for massive crimes against humanity and the slaughter of two thousand human beings including over 400 children. That has nothing to do with 'antisemitism', and is only relevant to the Holocaust in that Israel's barbarity is of the same kind as that of Nazi Germany. And Carleton was not just 'criticised strongly', but viciously abused and threatened and smeared by the Murdoch hate-machine, then silenced by the business end of Fairfax. You can certainly state your case, peddle your hasbara lies and half-truths, but you have no right to vilify, intimidate and silence truth-tellers like Carleton.

Jay : 12 Aug 2014 12:36:22pm

It's unfortunate that you feel that way but I think it's significantly more unfortunate that you are unwilling to accept the fact that Israel now makes the behaviour of Apartheid South Africa seem positively equanimous. We embargoed Apartheid South Africa (an action that Israel refused to take and in fact continued trading in arms with SA directly and via

the foul Romanian dictator Ceaușescu) and we should damn well embargo Israel as well.

Bellyache about perceived antisemitism all you like. Some of us are more concerned about the extreme and sustained violence being wrought upon the inmates of the worlds largest open air prison.

Mick of Doncaster : 12 Aug 2014 7:50:41am

THANK YOU Media Watch for daring to stand up to the bullies who organize to persecute anyone who dares criticize the Israeli government's policies. I'm so sick of anyone who dares to speak up being labelled as anti-semitic, and even if they're Jewish (and there are thousands of Jews who are disgusted by Israel's actions, something the media rarely mentions) then they're called self-hating traitors.

Alfred : 12 Aug 2014 7:29:43am

Mike Carlton: thank you for having the guts to tell the truth. Not many have the intestinal fortitude to stand up the Israeli Lobby. It is a sad day for Australia when a minority group like the Israeli Lobby can control the country with so much power and venom.

It's sad to see politicians like Julia Gillard (when she was Prime Minister), Julie Bishop, Malcolm Turnbull and George Brandis sucking up to them: Malcolm, Julie and George you may get the minority votes, but you have lost the majority of votes.

And for Gutless Goodsir - I can start voting with my feet by cancelling my digital subscription to Fairfax. I am not going to waste my hard earned cash on a newspaper that only prints watered down drivel. Go Mike!

Joe : 12 Aug 2014 12:29:56am

You'd think Carlton was mercilessly sacked judging by the reaction over the past few days. Hey, he *resigned* -- it was his choice. In a quote attributed to him on Media Watch, he excuses himself as being "pushed beyond endurance". Really, Mike??!! As Carlton himself as said ad-infinitum about people whingeing about stuff that upsets them on their screens: if it upsets you, switch it (Mike's Twitter-feed, in this case) off!

Paul Barry: would you have been so kind to Carlton if he wasn't your pal? What would you have said if, instead of Carlton, it was...say...Derryn Hinch or Andrew Bolt in the firing line? Woo-hoo...pass the ammo and stand back!

Hmmm, perhaps he is now taking a leaf out of Derryn (aka "the human headline") Hinch's book? Carlton left radio around the time of Federal Labor's ascension to power back in 2007. With his sworn enemies back in power in Canberra, I suspect Carlton has been itching to get back to the electronic media. Nothing like a bit of juicy (and exaggerated!) controversy to grease the rails back into the airwaves. Oh gawd, he could resume his self-indulgent stoush with Alan Jones. Bizarrely, he was caught "accidentally" ringing radio 2UE's offices the day after the resignation (he claims he accidentally pressed the wrong contacts name on his phone).

If nothing else, it illustrates once again the decline of the print media. In the glory days of huge circulation and "rivers of gold" classified earnings, a paper like the SMH would have toughed it out rather than yield. Now, it literally can't afford to upset any significantly influential and noisy group, particularly if it costs ad revenue or sales. I don't think the SMH has been the same ever since a petulant Neville Wran, in response to SMH criticism of him, gave it a reality check by withdrawing NSW government advertising from Fairfax papers back in the 1980s. As Goodsir no doubt would admit: it's impossible being Independant Always when you're financially DEPENDANT.

Lynette Jason : 11 Aug 2014 11:10:14pm

*Sorry last email sent was wrong. Who indeed is a "truth speaker" depends on what is considered "truth". Some truths left out of your report are bullying - that several peak Islamic bodies threatened to boycott the SMH if Carlton was not reinstated. Regarding the basis for the credibility of the basis for the Palestinian cartoon UN reports of schools being used as stores and launching sites for rockets; UN report that 160 children dying while building tunnels into Israel (who knows how many used for labor in this

manner?); many video recordings of Palestinian children being taught in kindergarten "to kill all Jews." eg here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=entzhLjVUZY>. Although we may wish this were not true, and find the accusation repulsive, it doesn't mean it isn't. As for the truths in nuance, the Southern Israelis photographed watching the bombing of Gaza had been victims of thousands of rockets over the last decade; half of them have PTSD. Not an attractive look, I agree, but highly understandable.

Mulga Mumblebrain: 12 Aug 2014 8:18:55am

Yes the Israelis certainly would get PTSD from having to run to their shelters, except not from November 2012, when Hamas observed the truce (while Israel, typically, in fact as they ALWAYS do, refused to lift the siege as they had 'promised' to do). Of course the vastly greater trauma suffered by Gazans, particularly the children, from regular massacres, incessant overflight by the humming, death-dealing drones, nightly supersonic overflights mimicking bombing raids, slow and deliberate malnutrition etc doesn't worry the Israelis or their Lobby at all. Which is why the Gazan situation is so wicked. The racism, the lack of human compassion, the sheer murderousness of Israeli brutality offends decent human opinion.

HumanityOnTrial : 11 Aug 2014 10:48:20pm

Lets call a spade a spade. Carlton did not have to go because he told a few intemperate bloggers to "eff" off. He had to go because he dared to report an inconvenient truth i.e. the dreadful human cost of the murderous conflict between Israel and Palestine.

The effect of Carlton's column was to challenge our very notions of humanity.

Judging by the response of the pro-Israel lobby and the fearless editor and executives at the SMH/Fairfax their conception and commitment to such basic human values mean little in this age of intolerance and violence.

Well done Mike Carlton. Hope to read more of your work soon.

iKnewed : 11 Aug 2014 10:35:58pm

They came for Mike Carlton, but I could not give a toss, because he's Sydney toss-pot.

Then they came for the cartoons, I could not care less, because they aren't funny anymore.

Then they came for my neighbour Habib's beer in the fridge, and he said "fine, I'm a Jihadist, Go right ahead." Habib's always talking the piss with authority.

Then they came for the newspapers, but they had stopped printing them ages ago. (N.B., not an Age joke.)

Then they came for me, because I was too poor to pay attention, to the finer points of supporting a free press.

Linus Jason : 11 Aug 2014 10:29:55pm

It is always interesting to see what is left out of a report. In terms of bullying - several peak Islamic groups' threat to boycott the SMH unless Carlton be reinstated. In terms of a credible factual basis for the abuse of children in Gaza - the UN finding that schools were used to store rockets and provide launching sites for rockets; that 160 children died building guerrilla tunnels (and who knows how many were used for labour and survived) the numerous videos of Palestinian children learning in kindergarten that they should "kill all Jews" seen here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=entzhLjVUZY> .

This may be repulsive to us, even unthinkable - this does not mean it is not sometimes, too often, true.

Ian Sherrey : 11 Aug 2014 10:29:28pm

Yet again another good media watch. Well done team. As for Mike I'll be following him where ever he ends up. And yes, maybe he should have bitten his tongue and just ignored the abusive emails. However, at the end of the day they were private exchanges in response to abuse from people with no respect for the opinions of others who don't subscribe to their world view.

In Rupert's media world however there is no such thing as public vs private (except when it comes to his not so good self). So the minions, no doubt ably assisted by a group also irritated by Carlton's perspective on Gaza, ran a flag up the

pole and SMH management rolled over wimpsthough who knows how many advertising dollars were under threat. I'm sure the end result even surprised those in Castle Murdoch. Be afraid good citizens of the ABC, impartial reporting and comment is under threat. I still have Carlton's original article. I have re read it several times and nothing in it is not supported by fact.

If you continue to provide a similar service you can expect a similar fate. Good luck, I'll still tune in wherever you go! Keep up the great work.

Marilyn : 11 Aug 2014 10:27:55pm

It's easy to pick the Zionist shills even in the cartoon world as they blame Palestinians for the Israel's slaughtering the kids.

It's a particular type of disgusting insanity.

Mulga Mumblebrain : 11 Aug 2014 10:27:52pm

Another successful operation for the non-existent Israel Lobby and its close ally the Murdoch apparatus. One of the very few remaining voices in the local MSM who dared treat Gazans as human beings, and an enemy of the Murdoch hate-machine, terminated with extreme prejudice. It's all too easy for the non-existent Israel Lobby. Any who dares oppose their maximalist demands, and stupid enough to allow their habitual foul abuse and threats get to them and who dares describe a bigot who happens to be Jewish as a 'Jewish bigot', can be lynched most effectively. With the Murdoch sewer in typical foaming mood (its own coverage, as ever a 100% display of ferocious bigotry and hatred aimed at the Gazans) Carleton was as good as dead. That the orders came from the higher levels of Fairfax indicates pressure from more strictly business influences, and there the Gazans command little loyalty.

william shafer : 11 Aug 2014 10:26:13pm

Mike Carlton speaks the truth and even MediaWatch goes for his throat (yes Fed Ministers also hate the truth and hold ABC hostage!). Leunig's 2012 cartoon plays out word for word in treatment of Carlton.

How powerful are the vested interests supporting genocide in the Middle East? Emperor has no clothes!

Get-off-the-fence : 11 Aug 2014 10:19:43pm

Journalists-SHOULD-know-better. Much-as-I-agree-with-free-speech, journalists-have-a-responsibility-to-report-the-news-unbiased-and-with-fairness. Clearly, Carlton-did-not.

The-truth-needs-to-be-said. Hamas-is-confirmed-as-a-terrorist-organisation. Why-don't-the-world-journalists-admit-this? So-blind.

Mulga Mumblebrain : 12 Aug 2014 8:30:11am

I don't regard Hamas as a 'terrorist' organisation. I do regard Israel as a child-murdering terrorist state, just like its puppet the USA. Hamas is a resistance movement against a vicious, racist, utterly brutal oppressor that has kept its people imprisoned, terrorised, tortured, starved, vilified, for generations, while stealing their land, so the Resistance's efforts to liberate themselves from racist terror are protected by International Law.

RPW : 11 Aug 2014 10:16:40pm

Everything about this story is sad and sickening. At the core frustration was defeated by hatred.

Marn Beyd : 11 Aug 2014 10:10:55pm

It's quote right to say that it's brave of anyone that criticises Israel publicly. It's easy for pro Israel groups to frame any criticism of Israel as being anti Semitic. Once they're successful at doing so it's easy to discredit the criticism on the grounds of racism. It's a shame the respectable papers such as the SMH fall into the trap over and over.

As for the cartoon, what is wrong with portraying a Jewish state through a cartoon of a Jew. It's like portraying Australia through a cartoon of a kangaroo.

Pattie Anagnostopoulos : 11 Aug 2014 9:58:49pm

Every time somebody criticises Israel for committing crimes against humanity he/she is called anti-semitic. Telling the truth is not being anti-semitic. For a people that suffered so much during WW II, I cannot understand how, what seems to be, a majority of Israelis supporting the bombing of Gaza. This in the end only contributes to radicalizing the next generation. However I have hope. There are many young Israelis that are

peace activists and they themselves believe in a two state solution. One day they will be in power and they will change the world.

Mulga Mumblebrain : 11 Aug 2014 10:32:34pm

The 'antisemite' slur is a very effective weapon of intimidation and vilification. It demonises criticism of the Israeli state and its manifest crimes against humanity. It implies that Jews, unique amongst humanity, are incapable of wrong-doing even when committing the most wicked crimes. And it fact provides cover for real 'anti-semites' many of whom are now in an alliance of convenience with Israeli Rightists in promoting a global Islamophobic hate campaign.

Ian Conabere : 11 Aug 2014 9:55:18pm

What needs to be said about all this distaste for reporters telling us about contentious issues is that we need to face the truth. As long as I can remember there has been fighting in the Palestine / Israel area. Neither side is innocent of treating the other with dignity. It is obviously very difficult to solve this issue but the world needs it to be done as people all over the world take sides and this causes conflict where it needn't be. Peace is not going to happen without compromise. It will take more than our life times. Why not just move elsewhere? Because, as we know by our refugee crises, no-one wants this in their own backyard.

Marilyn : 11 Aug 2014 10:29:33pm

Where would you suggest the Palestinians go, should they leave their own country to appease the invaders.

Mulga Mumblebrain : 12 Aug 2014 8:37:07am

That's the idea. As Moshe Feiglin the Deputy Speaker of the Knesset outlined during this massacre the idea is to expel the Gazans into the Sinai, 'exterminate' Hamas and its 'supporters' and steal Gaza. When Gaza was just a giant concentration camp, the Israeli regime saw no advantage in taking it over. Now that vast deposits of gas have been found off-shore the Israelis have determined that God gave it to them (who else?) so the Gazans have to go. The deliberate targeting of water and sewage treatment, power-stations, infrastructure of every kind (all major war crimes, but when did they ever apply to Israel?) is designed to render Gaza uninhabitable. Next disease, cholera or perhaps Ebola??, and the Gaza will be 'redeemed'.

Fiona MacRae : 11 Aug 2014 9:54:55pm

Why is it that George Brandis supports amendments to RDA because people "have a right to be a redneck" BUT an acclaimed and often controversial Journalist loses his job for displaying the facts and the same Brandis can complain? Is Brandis for free speech or censored speech. Where is the logic? Bring back Carlton NOW

Mulga Mumblebrain : 11 Aug 2014 10:36:29pm

Logic, rationality, the facts and basic decency go right out the window when the power of the non-existent Israel Lobby is mobilised. Carleton just got the same treatment as Kevin Rudd did after his expulsion of a Mossad agent in retaliation for the theft, the repeated theft, of Australian passport identities by Israel, used in one of their death-squad murders of a Palestinian leader in Dubai.

a happy little debunker : 12 Aug 2014 3:12:47am

Fiona, Do you realise that this matter was played out without the relevant sections of the RDA coming into play. Free speech always has a cost, the cost is the criticism that follows....

So sad : 11 Aug 2014 9:51:59pm

How very disappointing this whole saga is/was. The Fourth Estate has a duty to the citizens of the country to report the truth and challenge those in power. When the fear of being labelled an "anti-Semite" creates such an environment of fear for employment and thus self censorship we the citizens are the poorer. Shame on you fairfax and shame on the Likudniks for besmirching the death of some many innocents in the holocaust to create this fear. So long to the brave and earnest reporter, so long.

Barry Bones : 11 Aug 2014 9:49:25pm

Mike Carlton is a lunatic. Good riddance.

And as for that Media Watch, never seen so much left wing bile in all my life. whinge whinge whine - poor ole Carlton....and woe betide me cause of the Jewish lobby. What utter nonsense.

Solution: first sell off the ABC. Second, sort out Islam. Problems solved.

Marilyn : 11 Aug 2014 10:32:26pm

I have copped endless crap from the Australian jewish lobby because I did a review of a book about the slaughter of upwards of 6 million German civilians by the west after WW11, apparently only jews died in the war according to the morons who call me an anti-Semite.

Mulga Mumblebrain : 11 Aug 2014 10:37:54pm

'Second, sort out Islam'. Like in Gaza, one child at a time?

Steve Matthews : 12 Aug 2014 5:52:14am

Rupert, I didn't realise you watched the ABC

Cody : 12 Aug 2014 1:26:30pm

Cartoonist Michael Leunig wrote:

â€œI think we need to be careful of getting rid of the truth-speakers because thatâ€™s their job. Itâ€™s the cartoonists who have traditionally stood up for persecuted minorities whether they be Jews in the 1930s or Palestinians today.â€•

..... This ^ of course is utter nonsense, more like a blatant lie. They did the exact opposite. German cartoonists caricatured, stereotyped and pilloried Jews cruelly, sadistically and mercilessly in the 1930s, as Arab cartoonists do today.

cicero : 12 Aug 2014 3:56:30pm

Hamas,,, are they Idiots or Heroes? even a dog know when to run when a stronger dog attacks. I do not sympathise with Israel or Hamas, but hamas sacrifice to prove a point is to big for most Palestinians. Palestinians should realise that the World isn't listening to their sacrifice and find some big brain in their ranks to negotiate a lasting peace. The World is sick and tired to the Palestians or Israely Causes. Make Peace for G.or H sake.!!

Richard le Sarcophage : 12 Aug 2014 4:10:07pm

And as some Jewish cartoonists and Sabbat Goy cartoonists like Leak and the ever reliable Spooner do today with regard to Arabs and Moslems.

Marcel Lenhoff : 12 Aug 2014 5:21:19pm

The ABC is now so arrogant that despite the fact that many people with a centre right perspective are begging them to employ commentators with broader view for more than just the token hour a week, they still refuse to employ anyone to the right of Che Guevara. They all trot out the same nonsense that Australia has a right wing dominated press despite the fact that the ABC, SBS, The Guardian, Crickey and Fairfax dominate the media and compete amongst themselves to see who can be more outrageously leftist.

Richard le Sarcophage : 13 Aug 2014 7:20:05pm

Marcel, where can I get some of what you've been smoking? The ABC has been, for fifteen years or more, indistinguishable from 'The Australian', yet deranged Rightwing totalitarians, who refuse to countenance the ventilation of other opinions but their own misanthropic hatreds, still keep inventing enemies to despise, even where they no longer exist.

Peter : 13 Aug 2014 3:15:05pm

You are as bigoted and as one-eyed as the cartoonists you wish to pillory. It's not about the Germans of the 1930s; it's about rational thinking folks on the other side of the fence expressing the ridiculousness of the situation. If you cannot see that Gaza/Palestine must one day be free, then there is no hope for you.

The land was taken in 1948 - and Hamas is the result 60 years later. If Israel had been kinder and not so rapacious, there would not have been a political vacuum for Hamas to fill.

Israel won't fix their errors, so the world must. The so-called terrorists in Gaza are in my eyes freedom fighters.



Lost Leunig: 06/05/2002

Getting our attention has never been a problem for Michael Leunig. He drew this cartoon for The Age at the height of the fighting on the West Bank.

The first part shows a Jew confronting the great lie of the concentration camps: Work brings Freedom.

The second shows an Israeli soldier in 2002 confronting what Leunig sees as another great lie: War brings Peace.

This cartoon was never published by The Age. It was rejected by the paper's editor Michael Gawenda – who told Media Watch:

'I think it's just inappropriate. Anyone seeing that cartoon would think it inappropriate.'

Conversation with Michael Gawenda and Media Watch

*

That was not Leunig's view. Still isn't. The horrors of the Middle East is a theme he's explored often in his long career at the Age where it's been rare for him to have his work pulled.

'I think Michael Gawenda just didn't get it. I think the drawing is sympathetic to all Jews who ever suffered but sympathy is not always expressed with sugar.'

Conversation with Media Watch and Michael Leunig

*

When we approached Gawenda about this, he asked Leunig to release the cartoon to Media Watch.

'You put that up for your audience – and if your audience thinks that's appropriate, then I'm in the wrong business.'

Conversation with Michael Gawenda and Media Watch

*

So was The Age's rejection justified? Leunig says he drew this for all people – not only Jews – "who are tearing their hair out about these things".

But Michael Gawenda says he knocked it back because it went "beyond the limits" he sets for discussion of the Middle East. It's a curly one but cartoons are for strong opinions.

We've put it up on our website so we can all take a long, calm look. [abc.net.au/mediawatch](http://www.abc.net.au/mediawatch) - all one word. See what you think.

http://www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/transcripts/060502_s5.htm

First they came for the Palestinians and I did not speak out because I was not a Palestinian.



Then they came for even more Palestinians and I did not speak out because if I did, doors would close to me, hateful mail would arrive, bitterness and spiteful condemnations would follow.



Then they came for more Palestinians and I did not speak out because I feared hostility and trouble.



Then they came for more and more Palestinians and I did not speak out because by then I had fallen into silence to reflect upon the appalling, disgraceful and impossible aspects of human nature.



Leunig



Trevor Poulton

1 min · Melbourne · 🌐 ▼

S18C - The battle to protect free speech in Australia is on. It is noted that the Greens Party and Labor continue to oppose upholding common law principals of free speech in order to secure the so-called interests of minority groups, whilst the media, particularly a cynical ABC, disparage the debate over free speech as a 'political distraction that the public doesn't need'. And of course none of the opponents of upholding free speech are doing anything substantial to defend Privacy. And that is because Rights to Privacy and Free Speech go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/senators-may-defy-tony-abbott-on-hate-laws-20140812-3dl1p.html#ixzz3AFOAyfBU> ✓



Senators may defy Tony Abbott on hate laws ✓

At least three government senators say they could support a push to revive changes to race hate laws abandoned last week by the government in a move that will embarrass Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

SMH.COM.AU

<https://www.facebook.com/trevor.poulton.1> - 13 August 2014

Proposal to remove words 'offend' and 'insult' from Discrimination Act could divide government



**Latika Bourke, National political reporter,
August 14, 2014 - 4:30PM**

A move by a crossbench conservative in the Senate to revive the government's promised amendment to the Racial Discrimination Act is set to strike out the words "offend" and "insult".

The vote, which has the potential to create an embarrassing split in government ranks, is likely to take place later this month following the introduction of the legislation by Family First Senator Bob Day.

At least [three government senators](#) have told Fairfax Media they could vote for the legislation which cabinet last week decided was no longer party policy.



Senator Bob Day wants the Racial Discrimination Act, or "Bolt Laws" to be altered. Photo: Stefan Postles

Senator Day says his model that would simply involve striking out the words "offend" and "insult" from Section 18C of the Act.

Section 18C prevents a person from insulting, humiliating, offending or intimidating another person or group on the basis of their race.

Senator Day said he would be happy for the government to take forward the compromise solution as he was not interested in grandstanding on the issue. "They've dropped the baton, I've picked it up and I want to give it back to them," he told Fairfax Media. "It's a hot potato and I've taken the heat out of the potato".

Liberal Senator Cory Bernardi has said he will vote for the defunct draft legislation if it is revived by Family First and said the new compromise model would be difficult for the government to reject.

"What Senator Day is proposing seems like an elegant solution that should be accepted by most fair minded individuals and I hope it's one the Coalition will adopt," he said.

John Roskam from the free market think tank Institute of Public Affairs said it would be "impossible" for the Coalition to vote against removing the words "offend" and "insult," from the current legislation.

"Many in the community and an overwhelming majority of rank-and-file Liberal Party members would support Senator Bob Day's proposal – which after all was actually a Liberal party promise at the last election".

Tony Abbott vowed to repeal the so-called "Bolt laws" as opposition leader, after News Corp columnist Andrew Bolt was found to have breached section 18C in 2011.

"A hurt feelings test is impossible to comply with while maintaining the fearless pursuit of truth," he told the IPA in 2012.

"If free speech is to mean anything its others right to say what you don't like, not just what you do".

But Mr Abbott last week dropped the idea last because he said it was more important to get Muslim Australians on board with the government's new counter-terror laws.

The IPA has reacted angrily to the broken promise and raised \$40,000 to fund an attack ad against the prime minister.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/proposal-to-remove-words-offend-and-insult-from-discrimination-act-could-divide-government-20140814-3dpad.html>

Thanks to Mike Carlton, horse has far from bolted on reform of 18c



Chris Merritt, Legal Affairs Editor, Sydney, THE AUSTRALIAN, AUGUST 15, 2014 12:00AM

AFTER Tony Abbott's backdown on reform of section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act, all might have seemed to be lost.

Then along came Mike Carlton and his anti-Semitic mates at *The Sydney Morning Herald*. With any luck, the proceedings launched against them this week might turn Carlton into the reluctant vehicle for reform of this odious provision.

Carlton and the *SMH* now find themselves in a very strange position. If they surrender and settle, they will be affirming what their critics have been saying about the nature of their coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But if they fight hard — and let's hope they do — they will be making it possible for the courts to undertake the reform process that has just been squibbed by Abbott.

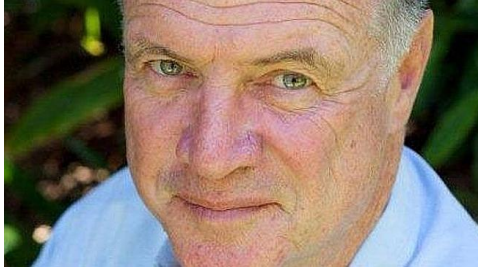
The case against Carlton offers the tantalising possibility of undoing the damage done by Mordecai Bromberg's 2011 judgment against *Herald-Sun* columnist Andrew Bolt.

Carlton and the *SMH* now have a very strong incentive to use exactly the same argument that was run unsuccessfully by Bolt: **judge them by the standards of**

the community, not the standards of those who say they have been offended, insulted, humiliated or intimidated.

If they succeed, Australian legal history will remember Carlton as the man who took up the fight that was started by Bolt. They will be locked together forever as the catalysts for reform — a prospect unlikely to bring either much joy.

Bromberg was the last Federal Court judge called upon to apply section 18C. He did so in a way that he clearly believed was required by the words of the statute. That led to Bolt's articles on light-skinned Aborigines being declared unlawful. There has never been any suggestion Bromberg was anything but sincere in his belief that he was applying the law in the proper way. The only problem is he seems to have used the wrong test for liability. Wrong, but honestly so.



Mike Carlton Source: DailyTelegraph

Before examining how Bromberg botched things, it's important to consider the consequences of his mistake. The first is that the Bolt case was wrongly decided — not on the facts, but on the law. That might be cold comfort for Bolt, who continues to be vilified over articles that, at their core, argued against making public policy on the basis of race.

The second consequence is the one with current impact. If Carlton and the *SMH* mount a determined defence, it increases the likelihood that Bromberg's mistake will be revealed for what it is: **an embarrassing deviation from orthodox concepts of fairness.**

The question of whether Carlton and the *SMH* win in court is almost irrelevant. The real issue is which test for liability is used by the courts to reach their decision. Anyone who cares to read Bromberg's judgment will see that the judge believed section 18C required him to decide whether Bolt's articles were unlawful by considering them from the perspective of a reasonable representative of those before him who were arguing that the articles were, in fact, unlawful.

Most of the debate about the government's now abandoned reform plan for section 18C focused on the fact that this provision is directed at speech on the subject of race that offends, insults, humiliates or intimidates.

Less attention was given to the core of the reform plan — the test for liability, which is the area where Bromberg and the legal mainstream seem to have parted company.

The reform plan would have ensured that any judge applying the replacement provision for section 18C would have had no choice but to decide liability by drawing upon community standards — **not the standards of some notional representative of those complaining.**

It would have required liability to be determined **"by the standards of an ordinary reasonable member of the Australian community, not by the standards of any particular group within the Australian community"**.

The contrast with the Bromberg approach is sharp. But this part of the reform plan seems right in line with a view expressed — before the reform plan was unveiled — by none other than federal Labor's legal affairs spokesman Mark Dreyfus.

On March 16, Dreyfus appeared on the *Australian Agenda* program on the Sky News channel, where he was interviewed about section 18C by Paul Kelly, Peter van Onselen and myself.

Before entering parliament, Dreyfus was a highly regarded Melbourne silk. He still is. When it comes to technical knowledge of the law, his assessments deserve to be taken seriously.

So what are we to make of the fact that the transcript of that program gives rise to a clear impression that Dreyfus believed the main thrust of court decisions on section 18C favoured community standards as the touchstone for liability?

And, remember, Dreyfus was speaking before Attorney-General George Brandis unveiled his reform plan on March 25. **As it turned out, Brandis put forward the very test for liability that Dreyfus believed was already the cornerstone of the judicial application of section 18C.**

If Dreyfus was right on March 16, he must still be right. The reform plan would have put things beyond doubt, but the Dreyfus assessment suggests that the core of the Brandis plan — community standards — will still be applied by the court that deals with Carlton and the *SMH* — just so long as it's not Bromberg's court.

Here's what the transcript from *Australian Agenda* says: **"Merritt:** Let's see what Labor would do. Are you happy with a provision like this that doesn't take account of community standards? In the Bolt case, the judge in that decision explicitly rejected the argument that what you can say on the issue of race should be determined by community standards. Are you happy with that?"

Dreyfus: I don't think that is a correct reading of the judgment at all. I think all your viewers should go and read the multiple judgments of the Federal Court including the Federal Court judgment in the Bolt case ... It's judged by an objective standard from the point of view of the reasonable member of the community.

Merritt: I disagree with you there. I think para 243 of the judgment of Bromberg J actually rejects explicitly community standards and makes it very clear that the test for liability will be from the perspective of those complaining.

Dreyfus: Well, I'm referring to all of the judgments, Chris, that have been given by the Federal Court judges over the years ... When we are considering this kind of legislative provision we have to read all of the judgments of the Federal Court judges who have looked at this and also bear in mind that it is only serious cases which end up in court ..."

For the sake of completeness, it is worth pointing out that Bromberg's reasons for rejecting community standards are contained in a passage that starts at paragraph 243 and concludes at paragraph 253.

This is the same passage in which Bromberg makes the now-notorious observation: **"Further, to import community standards into the test of the reasonable likelihood of offence runs the risk of reinforcing the prevailing level of prejudice."**

If there is any passage of case law that deserves to be torn up and discarded, this is it. It suggests that Australians, on the whole, are racially prejudiced and their standards are flawed.

If the politicians are content to allow this to remain unchallenged, the task of reform now falls to the judiciary.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/opinion/thanks-to-mike-carlton-horse-has-far-from-bolted-on-reform-of-18c/story-e6frq9uf-1227024810050>

The Mordecai Bromberg judgment:

Eatock v Bolt [2011] FCA 1103 28 September 2011

BROMBERG J, 28 SEPTEMBER 2011, MELBOURNE

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgibin/sinodisp/au/cases/c th/FCA/2011/1103.html?stem=0&synonyms=0&query=Andrew%20Bolt>

Liberal dismay over 18C

THE government has undermined the values of Menzies' pro-freedom of speech party



DAVID KEMP, THE AUSTRALIAN,
AUGUST 15, 2014 12:00AM

THE federal government's decision to leave in place unamended section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act is having repercussions through the Liberal Party.

A core tenet of the Liberal Party is that freedom of speech is an essential foundation of democracy. Tony Abbott himself has said that. That the defence of freedom of speech and the press (as 18C has led to the censorship of a journalist's articles) should be abandoned to buy the support of special interests — however strategically positioned in marginal seats they may be — has shocked many Liberals.

No doubt the decision will feed into the narrative of the decline of our political culture, but it is more important that it force us to consider how a political culture is sustained. In the Liberal Party there is a clear story about this. Our liberal political culture — based around fundamental freedoms of speech, press, religion and association — exists because, historically, leaders have defended it.

Liberals have believed the party has a historic role, a special responsibility, to defend these rights, arising from the circumstances of the party's foundation.

Robert Menzies, possibly the most intelligent man in Australian politics in the 20th century, spent the four decades of his political career promoting the importance of liberal values.

The liberal democratic values we take for granted are, to a significant extent, the legacy of Menzies' efforts to reintroduce into a public debate, contorted by class war rhetoric and socialist fantasies, an understanding of our system of parliamentary government, the rule of law, civil political behaviour without personal abuse, and the necessity of defending fundamental freedoms.

As he told the founding conference of the Liberal Party, the "desperate" need in Australia then was to "revive liberal thought". The historic role of the party he led would be to do just that.

Menzies was very aware of the tendency of politics to degenerate into the appeasement of powerful vested interests. The only way for a government to rise above the struggle of vested interests for privilege, he argued, is to persuade people of the principles on which the

public interest is based. A party committed to those principles was essential to provide a strong base for their advocacy.

"If truth is to emerge and in the long run be triumphant, the process of free debate — the untrammelled clash of opinion — must go on," he said.

To describe reforms to restore freedom of speech as a "needless complication" in the effort to appease certain interests is to seriously misunderstand, and to affront, many Liberals, and I suspect a good number in the communities concerned. To suggest that national unity requires a legal prohibition on offending certain select groups is unbelievable and demeaning to all.

Although some see the appeasement of vested interests as the real business of politics, the strong view in the Liberal Party has been that the primary task of the party's leaders is to make policy consistent with liberal values.

Today a journalist's articles are still banned, and the Liberal Party government accepts that. This is unacceptable to many Liberals.

The debate over 18C is not a debate about how hard racism should be fought. The fight against racism should be seen as a moral demand on all of us, and its effectiveness depends on our personal persuasiveness in the cause, and on our passion and determination to confront the evil whenever it emerges from the dark.

But the law is a poor ally in that fight. It invites prejudice to stay underground, subjects our culture to the discretion of tribunals that easily end up sounding like star chambers, and as we have seen is ineffective against passionate hate. And the implicit message of such laws is that democracy, which depends on free debate, does not work.

The great triumph of liberal thought was that it showed the way to an alternative society in which all were governed by the same laws — had equal rights and equal responsibilities — and where the heat of free debate and personal responsibility led to a society based on mutual respect.

Despite claims from some members of the government, it is obvious that there is a very broad base of support for amending 18C that stretches across the political spectrum and the responsible media. The task is to win the debate, not quit the field.

David Kemp was a cabinet minister in the Howard government and president of the Liberal Party in Victoria.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/liberal-dismay-over-18c/story-e6frq6zo-1227024801556>

Cory Bernardi to defy PM by co-sponsoring bill aimed at altering 'Bolt laws'



**Latika Bourke, National political reporter,
August 15, 2014 - 2:37PM**

Liberal Senator Cory Bernardi is set to defy Prime Minister Tony Abbott and co-sponsor a bill aimed at changing the Racial Discrimination Act, which the government abandoned just over a week ago.

Family First Senator Bob Day is planning to introduce a compromise bill, which will simply strike out the words "offend and insult" from the legislation rather than entirely overhaul the section as the government has proposed.

That proposal aims to make it no longer an offence to "offend" or "insult" someone on the grounds of his or her ethnicity. The Coalition pledged to reform the act after News Corp columnist Andrew Bolt was found to have breached the legislation in 2011.



Senator Cory Bernardi plans to defy the Prime Minister on amendments to Racial Discrimination laws. Photo: Alex Ellinghausen

Prime Minister Tony Abbott abandoned the election pledge after a backlash from many of his own MPs and ethnic communities who said it watered down protections against race-hate speech.

Liberal Senator Cory Bernardi had already said he would vote for Senator Day's bill but has now told Fairfax Media he intends to go further and throw his full weight behind the bill by co-sponsoring it.

"We promised to reform Section 18c at the last election and I intend to honour that promise," Senator Bernardi told Fairfax Media, in a clear rebuke of the Prime Minister's decision to break the election promise.

He said it was a "matter of principle" and he wanted to let dismayed "grassroots members of the Liberal party" know that there are "some members of Parliament who are absolutely committed to freedom of speech in this country".

Senator Day said it was a "great initiative of Cory's to get on board" and said the move could help "other Liberals get on board".

But he said he was seeking broad support and wanted to de-politicise the debate and urged a Labor senator and other crossbenchers to also consider co-sponsoring the bill.

"It would be nice if a Labor person would join in, I'm scouting around for anyone else who might want to get on board," he told Fairfax Media.

The bill would have little chance of ever becoming law but Senator Day said "every little bit helps".

"Anything's better than nothing," he said. "If we can just remove the words 'insult' and 'offend', it would solve the Andrew Bolt problem - being hauled off to court because someone said they were offended.

John Roskam from the free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs has said Bob Day's compromise model would be "impossible" for the government to refuse. He raised more than \$40,000 from angry supporters to fund an attack against the prime minister for breaking the government's promise.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federalpolitics/political-news/cory-bernardi-to-defy-pmbycosponsoring-bill-aimed-atalteringboltlaws201408153drh2.html>

Media Watch Dog 237:

Last drinks at the SMH for Mike Carlton

GERARD HENDERSON, [THE AUSTRALIAN](#), AUGUST 08, 2014 4:03PM

STOP PRESS

• LAST DRINKS AT THE SMH FOR MIKE ("I'LL POUR THE GIN") CARLTON — BUT RADIO NATIONAL TO THE RESCUE

Did anyone hear the stunning interview of Mike Carlton by Richard Aedy on ABC Radio National's The Media Report last evening? What a love-in. The leftist ABC employee Richard Aedy gave the leftist former ABC employee Mike Carlton a really soft interview. Aedy gave the impression that Carlton's decision to quit writing his Saturday Sydney Morning Herald column resulted from his refusal to accept a suspension following the (belated) discovery by SMH editors that he had been abusing readers by email and tweets.

Richard Aedy fudged the issue. Aedy implied that all of Carlton's rude responses were in reply to rude comments by Jewish Australians who objected to his column in the Sydney Morning Herald on 26 July 2014.

Complete tosh. As avid MWD readers will be aware, Carlton has been abusing readers for years on all sorts of issues. Moreover, many of Carlton's rude replies

have been responses to considered, albeit forceful, criticism. The problem is that your man Carlton can dish out criticism — but cannot take criticism. And there was reason aplenty to criticise Carlton's emotive column on Gaza on 26 July which was accompanied by an anti-semitic illustration (for which the SMH belatedly apologised).

Mike Carlton went along with Richard Aedy's quite unprofessional line of questioning and sounded aggrieved. Meanwhile, over on ABC 702, the "Journos' Forum" on the Richard Glover Drive program was under way with journalist John Mangos among the guests. John Mangos belled the cat about Carlton. Let's go to the transcript:

John Mangos: I've got absolutely nothing against Carlton. But on this particular issue, he deserves not one scintilla of sympathy. If you're going to enjoy the prestige of having a forum in which you can voice opinion — and he does very stridently, very strongly — then you've got to be prepared to cop it back. If you don't agree with Mike Carlton — you know, he

champions free speech — if your opinion isn't the same as his, he's happy to dump you ... "Poor woe is me, Mike". I'm not buying that at all ...

He gets so personally involved. He tweeted an insult to me just a few weeks ago on a different issue ... and I was quite offended by it. He took a personal cheap shot at Julie Bishop when she did so well at the UN ... I tweeted ...[i.e. that Julie Bishop criticised the expense involved in Australia willing a seat on the United Nations Security Council but still did a good job on the Security Council concerning the MH17 disaster] — and he tweeted "F_F_S [for f-ck's sake] ... pompous twat".

So there you go. John Mangos is not Jewish. And Julie Bishop's involvement in the UN on MH17 had nothing to do with Israel. Yet John Mangos still received a bucketload of foul abuse from Carlton for speaking well of the Foreign Minister on the MH17 disaster. But you would never know that if you had only heard Richard Aedy's oh-so-soft interview with his bestie Mike Carlton.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/media-watch-dog-237-last-drinks-at-the-smh-for-mike-carlton/story-fnkqo7i5-1227018285900>

[During 1994 Dr Gerard Henderson and his *The Sydney Institute* played a role within Adelaide Institute's operations, especially when the trio Brockschmidt, Steele & Toben successfully challenged a *Schindler's List* film function at *The University of Adelaide* and hosted by the Catholic Club.

During a question and answer session any question of evidence were rejected outright, which is what Henderson has done since 1994 – and yet in his above article he demands such evidence from others.

One speaker during the *Schindler's List* meeting, Fred Steiner, a Holocaust survivor, stated about witnessing gassings at Auschwitz: 'I didn't see the gas chambers but I could smell them'.

After this episode, and in view of how *The Sydney Institute* has shied away from serious Holocaust research, it was decided to re-name *Truth Missions* to *Adelaide Institute*. So, thanks to Henderson's ability of running an institute with obvious trepidation about matters Holocaust, the trio decided to upgrade their work by embracing the concept of fearless research in matters Holocaust-Shoah, and other matters.

From then on, whenever Fredrick Toben crossed paths with Gerard Henderson, the latter would visibly freeze and flee. – ed. AI]

Would Dr Gerard Henderson ever look into matters such as the following?

On the Allied Ethnic Cleansing of Croats During WWII

[Joshua Blakeney](#) August 15, 2014

This episode of [The Real Deal](#) features Margaret Seigrist, author of the book [How Far Away is Never?](#) Seigrist and her family were ethnically-cleansed from Croatia as World War II was coming to a close in 1945. At the time Allied forces, in particular those of the Soviet Union and Great Britain, were working with [Marshal Tito's Communist Partisans](#) to terminate the Independent State of Croatia which had been in a strategic alliance with the Third Reich from 1941.

As the five-year-old girl fled Croatia she and her family were bombed by the Royal Air Force whose commanders appeared to view the children and wives of pro-German and anti-Communist soldiers as legitimate targets. British soldiers would in May 1945 assist in the [Bleiburg Massacre](#) of Croat patriots and other anti-Communists.

The young Seigrist would lose both her mother and sister to Typhus and privation in the process of fleeing Marshal Tito's Communist Partisans. This harrowing experience enabled her to form an understanding of the Third Reich's crematoria—which were used to cremate her family member's cadavers—a subject of interest to those historical revisionists who evaluate the role such crematoria played in German-controlled labour camps.

The interview addresses the **ethnicizing of history** and the **political correctness** enveloping and suffocating the historiography of WWII. Although Seigrist has been referred to as the "Anne Frank of Croatia", her story has been far less widely broadcasted due to ethnic and political constraints. In most European countries, writing and disseminating historical interpretations which are sympathetic to those on the Axis side of the War is a criminal offence. Names like Germar Rudolf, Fredrick Töben, Ernst Zundel, Robert Faurisson and Jürgen Graf are reminders of the anti-intellectual and authoritarian state-regulation of history in Europe.



Of particular interest to listeners may be Seigrist's recollection that she witnessed Jews being lined up and shot by Allied forces. No doubt such deaths would be included among the claimed victims of the nebulously defined "Holocaust" which the German tax payer still pays reparations to Israel for. Equally noteworthy is Seigrist's observation that there were many Jews fighting with the Croatian *Ustase* against the Allies.

The interviewee's claims about the identity of Marshal Tito may also peak the interest of members of the listenership. She claims that the Josip Broz Tito who ruled over Yugoslavia from 1953-1980 was not the "authentic" or "original" Josip Broz. She claims a Polish, or perhaps Jewish, double masqueraded as the original Josip Broz, speaking broken Croatian and refusing visits from the family members of the actual Josip Broz.

For further inquiries about the book, film project or to contact Margaret Seigrist email me at:

josh.vivelarevolucion@gmail.com

Part One - [Download here](#)

Part Two - [Download here](#)

Part Three - [Download here](#)

Part Four - [Download here](#)

Testimonies of British Soldiers Involved in the Bleiburg Massacre of 1945

Written by [Joshua Blakeney](#)

Joshua Blakeney is a freelance journalist based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He has acted as Press TV's Canadian correspondent since April 2010. His writings have been published in an array of internationally reputed media venues including Global Research.ca,

Rabble.ca, Pravda, Voltaire.net, Coldtype.net, The Canadian Dimension, The Canadian Charger, Veterans Today, The Sovereign Independent and The Information Clearing House. Blakeney is also a co-host of The Real Deal radio show and co-founder of Non-Aligned Media.

<http://nonalignedmedia.com/2014/08/on-the-allied-ethnic-cleansing-of-croats-during-wwii/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDytoOsRZLc>

Australia:

Anti-war activists raid Israeli drone factory



By [Rowena Dela Rosa Yoon](#)

Aug 15, 2014 1:37PM UTC

Anti-war activists stormed a factory in Port Melbourne this morning to protest against the Australian government's support for Israel's war in Gaza. They raided the manufacturing compound which, they said, supplies arms and drones for Israel.

Named the Melbourne Palestine Action Coalition (MPAC), it consists of activists from [Whistleblowers Australian Citizens Alliance \(WACA\)](#) and renegade activists. The protesters occupied the roof of Elbit Systems and blockaded the front gate.

WACA's Spokesperson Sam Castro said, "We are here today to call on the Australian Government to end military trade deals with Israel and cancel all domestic contracts with Elbit Systems."



The activists blasted Elbit Systems as one of the world's leading manufacturers of unmanned aerial drones used by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in their ongoing offensive in Gaza. It accused the company to have "profited over the month-long attack with their share prices rising by 6.1% in July."

Elbit is Israel's largest military company which sells its drones around the world as 'field tested'. According to the group, they have been tested on the Palestinian population under Israel's illegal military occupation. Elbit provides services and technology to the Israeli army including surveillance equipment and drones.

There is evidence documented by various human rights groups, that drones are used to kill innocent civilians in Gaza. Al Mezan Centre, a Palestinian human rights organization, attributes the killing of more than 1,000 Palestinian in Gaza between 2000-2010 by drones, the group claims.

MPAC also accused the Australian Federal Police of spending \$145 million for a computer policing system

supplied by Elbit Australia after being tried and tested in the Palestinian Occupied Territories in 2010.

With front gate locked up, the activists scaled the wall of the company, then dropped a nine meter banner, reading 'Elbit Drones Kill Kids In Gaza #BDS' - a replication of the Israeli Government's apartheid wall.

They said Israel's ability to launch devastating attacks with impunity largely stems from the vast international military cooperation and trade that it maintains with complicit governments across the world.

STAR

Smart Tactical Advanced Rocket



The group said it is shocking to know the fact that Melbourne is one of the most livable cities in the world, yet there is a company making drones near the city. Drones that kill women and children are manufactured in the leafy suburb of Port Melbourne, they said.

By importing and exporting arms to Israel and facilitating the development of Israeli military technology, governments are effectively sending a clear message of approval for Israel's military aggression, including its war crimes and possible crimes against humanity.

The WACA Spokesperson Sam Castro further said, "This is just the beginning of a global campaign to stop the war profiteering of private corporations off the people of Palestine and others around the world."

Israel's military technology is marketed as "field-tested" and exported across the world. Military trade and joint military-related research relations with Israel embolden Israeli impunity in committing grave violations of international law and facilitate the entrenchment of Israel's system of occupation, colonization and systematic denial of Palestinian rights.

Ms Castro concluded, "We, like many other groups around the world, call on the UN and all governments to take immediate steps to implement a comprehensive and legally binding military embargo on Israel, similar to that imposed on South Africa during apartheid."

<http://asiancorrespondent.com/125801/australi-a-anti-war-activists-raid-israeli-drone-factory/>

Nike Wagner: I was bitter at my Bayreuth ousting

Defeated in the battle to rule Bayreuth, Nike Wagner has moved on to Beethoven, she tells Ivan Hewett



Nike Wagner has turned her attention to the other great German composer, Beethoven. Photo: Monika Nonnenmacher



By [Ivan Hewett](#), 4:00PM BST 15 Aug 2014

 [1 Comment](#)

Meeting the great-granddaughter of Richard Wagner is an intimidating prospect. We don't believe family traits are "in the blood" any more, but even so it's hard to imagine a scion of that domineering "sacred monster" of the 19th century won't turn out to be formidable. Certainly the 131 years since Wagner's death have done little to water down the worldly power of the Wagner gene. The Wagners still maintain a stranglehold on Bayreuth, the opera house that Wagner had built at his admirers' expense, and which has been the centre of the Wagner cult ever since.

As for the relationships within the clan, it's been a saga of, well, Wagnerian proportions. The different sides of the family have fallen out spectacularly, and battled it out for control of the sacred shrine. Those who have won have had an unfortunate tendency to crush the life out of their rivals and would-be successors, in their bid to hang on to power. Those who lose end up roaming the world, never quite able to put their family connections behind them.

On the face of it, Nike Wagner falls into the latter camp. The third daughter of Wieland Wagner, born a month after the end of the war and raised in the family home of Wahnfried, she seemed well placed to take over the family business. "I remember so well growing up in that house," she tells me. "My father was in charge of the productions, and worked so hard to bring a radical new style to Bayreuth. We thought we were born on the right side, compared with other Wagners; we were on the side of revolutionary artists, so to speak. This gave me a world-view that has lasted all my life."

Did she hope that one day she would become part of all this? "Of course it was a childhood dream to be a singer or dancer... or at least an assistant director. But I was 21 when my father died, so this dream came to rather a rushed end. His brother, my uncle, Wolfgang, took over, and pretty soon I and my siblings realised we were no longer welcome."

Is she bitter? "I was, but not now," she says, and then adds, "it was not so hard for us children, but it was very hard for my mother. She was very bitter, and she passed her bitterness on to us." Surely she nurtured dreams of returning at some stage? "Uh-huh," she says with studied coolness. She picked up her Americanisms during the years she spent in the US as a student of cultural history. Even so it's odd to hear it in the mouth of a Wagner, and it emphasises her distance from what one thinks of as the Wagner manner. With her slender, elegant figure and quietly spoken diplomatic ways, she reminds me much more of Christine Lagarde than the fiery composer who manned the barricades in Dresden in 1848. Only in profile does one get a reminder of that Wagner nose.

Unlike her great grandfather, who was always impatient, Nike Wagner bided her time. "I made my own way as an author and critic, and at the beginning of the Nineties I felt I was ready to take another look at Bayreuth." That's putting it mildly. In 2001, she published a book which took exquisite revenge on the family that had rejected her, portraying it as dysfunctional in ways that parallel the dysfunctional families in Wagner's operas. At around the same time she made a bid for the directorship of Bayreuth, in league with Gérard Mortier, the man who had caused radical changes at the Salzburg Festival.

Their plan seems reasonable enough, but in the context of Bayreuth it was a revolution. "We wanted to raise the standards of singing and conducting, bring in new directors, and also perform the youthful works of Wagner we never see there. Also we felt it was time to break the hold of tradition, which says you can only have Wagner morning, noon and night, by bringing in other works with a connection to Wagner. Our overriding principle was to connect Wagner with the modern world."

Nike never expected to win this battle. "We knew behind the scenes Wolfgang was working to make sure his line of the family would take the reins of the festival. It was a done deal, but we had to try." In the event the daughters of Wolfgang were appointed, one older and experienced, the other young and glamorous. Has the partnership worked? Nike Wagner won't be drawn on that. "My rule since then is never to comment, because if you are the loser it just looks like resentment." Instead she's thrown herself into other things. From 2004 to 2013, she directed a festival devoted to her great-great-grandfather Franz Liszt (Liszt was the father of Wagner's second wife Cosima, who was Nike's great-grandmother). Now she's just been appointed director of the Beethovenfest in Bonn.

The idea of a Wagner running a festival devoted to Beethoven is fascinating, as it mirrors the deep connection between the two composers. "You know Wagner felt that Beethoven was really his teacher as a composer," says Nike Wagner. "It's very touching how when he was 14 years old he heard about the death of Beethoven, and was in tears. He copied out the Fifth and the Ninth symphonies, and his first efforts at composing were modelled on Beethoven. He always remained faithful to the Ninth, which was the only work that was permitted in Bayreuth that was not composed by himself. He believed Beethoven's idea of introducing the choir opened the door to his own conception of music-drama."



Wagner vs Beethoven

But however much Wagner insisted that he was Beethoven's heir, Nike Wagner is well aware of the vast gulf between them. "Wagner gets you in a very special way, because he created these fascinating complex characters who reveal the meaning of archetypal situations. Take the situation of Wotan at the end of Die Walküre, where he creates a ring of fire around Brunnhilde. This mirrors the situation of every father who has to relinquish his daughter, so that she can go to another man. I've seen men cry in the theatre at that moment."

So is Beethoven not able to move us in the same way? "Beethoven was someplace else. He's always on a high ethical level whereas Wagner is never on a high ethical level," she laughs. "Beethoven gets you in a different way, which is more pure and also harder to pin down, because he mostly expresses himself through instrumental music, not opera."

It's impossible to meet a Wagner without asking their opinion on the darkest aspect of Wagner: his violent anti-Semitism, and his connection to the Nazi regime. Nike feels that the family associations with Nazism are now well known, and that there are no more skeletons in the cupboard. "Of course some more postcards to Winifrid Wagner from Hitler may come to light, but I don't believe it will change the basic picture."

And the works themselves? Should we admit that they are tainted? "Well we went through a period where anti-Semitic images were everywhere in productions of his operas. All Siegfrieds were blonde, Alberich looked like a caricature of the Jew, and Valhalla looked like Hitler's chancellery. It was artistically not always very interesting, but it was necessary for us to come to terms with that aspect of Wagner."

"I think we can conclude now that it's not explicitly there in the works as an intended effect, so it's perfectly legitimate to ignore that aspect of them and focus on other things. And this is good because each generation sees him in its own way."

The same is true of Beethoven, a fact which Nike Wagner hopes to reveal over the coming years in the Beethovenfest Bonn. "I want to find the choreographers and theatre directors who work with the themes and ideas that were important to Beethoven. Also I want to sharpen the profile of Beethoven by showing how he relates to the big trends of his time. For example, there is a huge body of French revolutionary music which influenced Beethoven and which is not well known. My aim is to make him seem urgent and important for a different generation and a different time."

The Beethovenfest Bonn takes place from September 6 to October 3; beethovenfest.de

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This article offers a brief overview of what the Wagner controversy is all about. Still, it is amazing that the clan has managed to retain control of it into the fourth generation, and I say this because usually artistic enterprises do not hold together for all that long.

That alone is testimony to the inspirational nature of the Wagnerian impulse because it expresses our inner most universal human frailties and yearnings.

Unfortunately there are those who cannot function properly if they are not in charge of that which glitters, and I am thinking here not of Nike but of those, to whom Ivan Hewett alludes, who constantly drag up the "racist" and "antisemitic" factors that are supposed to be found in Wagner's works.

The hubris of such thinkers surprised me when I saw them at work at the Melbourne Wagner Symposium, which accompanied the November-December 2013 Melbourne Ring Cycle. No-one talked about the actual music but leading "experts" tried hard to attach these two concepts to Wagner's works - as if music could be antisemitic or racist!

And it is this fact that, of course, needs to be addressed and which Professor Eva Rieger illustrated in one of her responses: 'I love Wagner's music but his antisemitism distresses me', indicating that it almost made her feel schizophrenic.

If this comment comes from a retired musicologist, then it is clear that having symposiums where Wagner's music is trawled through for any signs of "antisemitism" and "racism", we are entering political warfare, where individuals don't really care about Wagner's expressed genius but rather are intent on developing an ideology that aims to destroy his works.

You can see this in the activities of the great-grandchild of Richard Wagner, Dr Gottfried Wagner, and in his 1997 book: *Twilight of the Wagners*, It is sad that this great-grandchild of Richard Wagner has enslaved himself and his mind by embracing these musically irrelevant concepts when it comes to Richard Wagner's creations. Little wonder that Adolf Hitler said to Gottfried's grandmother, Winifred, that Richard Wagner's creative impulse could be the beginning of a new religion.