

Media Watch asked journalists Ray Martin, Kerry O'Brien, and Michael Gawenda what questions they would have asked Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu if they had secured an interview.

This is what they said:

Ray Martin

1/ how do you respond to the criticisms of prominent Jewish groups in Australia who have described your actions as clumsy, inflammatory and provocative and which they say have played into the hands of antisemites in Australia?

2/ how do you respond to the criticisms made by frontbencher Tony Burke that true strength is not measured by 'the number of people you blow up'?

3/ your criticisms must equally apply to the leaders of the UK, France, Canada and scores of other nations who are moving to recognise a Palestinian state. Do you say Keir Starmer, Emmanuel Macron and Mark Carney are also 'weak'?

4/ and your military has killed tens of thousands of people in Gaza and destroyed much of the society with credible reports of starvation in the strip under Israeli occupation. Your military campaign to eliminate Hamas is intensifying. Do you say the ends justify the means?

Kerry O'Brien

1/ Why do you refuse to accept any responsibility for the massive loss of public sympathy for Israel around the world since you began prosecuting the war on Gaza, despite the massively disproportionate death toll of innocent Palestinian civilians compared to Israeli civilians killed or taken hostage by Hamas on October 7, 2023.

2/ What did Israel have to fear from the scrutiny of international media that you felt it necessary to exclude international journalists from Gaza to report on the war close up, apart from a scattering of cases where access has been controlled by the Israeli Defence Force, and is it coincidence that nearly 200 journalists and media workers, most of them Palestinian, have been killed trying to report the war from within Gaza?

3/ Do you acknowledge the awful irony that the International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for you to face charges of war crimes, including starvation as a method of warfare, and crimes against humanity, based on international law essentially written by two eminent Jewish academics in Europe, and first enforced in the Nuremberg Trials immediately after World War Two against Nazi war criminals held responsible for participating in the holocaust?

Michael Gawenda

1/ the leadership of the Australian Jewish Community, in a historic move, criticise you for your intervention into Australia domestic politics in a way that would make life harder for Australian Jews. How do you respond to those Jewish communal leaders?

2/ Do you think the Australian government is responsible for the increased antisemitism. In Australia? The Jewish leaders rejected that suggestion in their letter to you.

3/ Will you contact these leaders to hear their views and how they think what you said complicated things for Australian Jews. Has that happened.

These are basic questions a journalist should ask if they have managed to get an interview with the Israeli prime minister. There are more questions that were not asked but these are basic at this time of troubled Israel/ Australia relations