

28-May-2025

Response from an ABC spokesperson:

The original content was done as a live-to-air interview as part of broader coverage and was not intended to be published as a stand-alone clip. It was mistakenly uploaded and when that was noticed it was taken down.

01-June-2025

Responses from an ABC spokesperson to further questions

QUESTION: How many complaints have been received about the removal of the interview?

RESPONSE: As of Friday afternoon, the ABC has received 101 complaints about the removal of the interview. These are being assessed by the Ombudsman's Office to determine how they should be responded to.

QUESTION: Was Nasser Mashni's views challenged enough during the interview itself? I note that in other interviews, it appears that Nasser does receive more strident challenge.

RESPONSE: The primary focus and subject of the interview was news of the day reaction to the Prime Minister's comments about Israel's blockade of Gaza. The interview aimed to focus on and progress the central issue, given it was a relatively short, live reaction interview. The interviewer is a highly experienced broadcaster and greatly valued by the ABC.

QUESTION: Given the criticism that has been levelled at the ABC since the interview was posted online, and then removed (and the fact that it is publicly available anyway) has the ABC considered reposting the interview with an editorial note (to address any errors or unchallenged comments)? Would this not go some way to combatting the perception, however erroneous, that the ABC has censored a Palestinian perspective in this case?

RESPONSE: The ABC doesn't make editorial decisions because of external pressure. The interview was not "censored"—it was conducted live on a national free-to-air TV channel. Palestinian perspectives are comprehensively reflected in the ABC's coverage, including on multiple occasions from Mr Mashni.

Not all interviews from the News channel are published online. This interview was never intended to be published as standalone online content and that was done in error.

The decision to remove the clip was correct, especially given the short period of time it had been published, around two hours.

Further, the interview has a factual inaccuracy. The inaccuracy was not material to the live interview and therefore did not require a correction. However, we would not knowingly repost inaccurate content.

QUESTION: We noticed that online at least one person has claimed they have put in a complaint about the interview. Would you mind confirming to us that the ABC has, indeed, received no complaint about the contents of the interview?

RESPONSE: As of Friday afternoon, no complaints have been received about the content of the interview.