



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Sydney, 9 September 2025

Spike in Islamophobic Violence: Australian Muslims Targeted in Brutal Attacks

The Islamophobia Register Australia (the Register) is gravely concerned by the sharp rise in alleged violent attacks targeting Australian Muslims and those expressing solidarity with Palestinians over the past week.

A 55-year-old Arab Muslim man was allegedly assaulted while waiting at a bus stop on a busy street in the western suburbs of Sydney. The assailant allegedly first targeted another Muslim passenger with Islamophobic slurs, spitting on him before launching a brutal physical assault. The alleged attacker then turned on the victim, repeatedly punching him in the face while holding a blunt object. The victim sustained a fractured nose, deviated septum, blurred vision, and facial numbness, requiring hospitalisation and referral for surgery. The Register has been advised that the alleged offender has been arrested and charged. This individual is continuing to be supported by the Register and the Register is also making attempts to reach out to the initial alleged victim to offer support.

Just days later, on Sunday, 31 August, the same day as the anti-immigration marches, two Palestinian Australian brothers, Shamikh and Majed Badra, were allegedly attacked on a Sydney train because Majed was wearing the keffiyeh. The group of men allegedly subjected the brothers to sustained horrific abuse and threats. The Register has offered the brothers support.

These reported attacks are not isolated. The recent anti-immigration rallies may have emboldened perpetrators, creating conditions for violence.

Our most recent *Islamophobia in Australia* Report (V) highlights that public transport is one of the most common sites of Islamophobic incidents accounting for 7.4% of all verified in-person incidents, underscoring the urgent need for increased safety and accountability in everyday spaces.



Co-Executive Director, Dr Nora Amath, stated,

These appalling attacks demonstrate the urgent need for stronger protections for Muslim and Palestinian communities in Australia. No one should fear being assaulted on public transport or on the street simply because of their appearance, religion, or race.

The Register is calling for:

- Strong and public condemnation of Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism from political leaders across the spectrum as they do for other forms of racism.
- Full investigation into these alleged incidents and any perpetrators to face the full force of the law
- Increased security on public transport

Greater resourcing for victim support, counselling, and community safety initiatives for victims of Islamophobia.

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About the Islamophobia Register Australia

The Register is a not-for-profit organisation that has been leading the tracking and tackling of Islamophobia across Australia since its launch in 2014. It provides a secure and reliable online reporting platform that captures nation-wide data and offers first-hand support to victims of Islamophobia. The Register has published five academic reports on Islamophobia in Australia and as well as a media report examining post-7 October 2023 media coverage of Israel-Gaza. In addition to its reporting platform, victim support services and academic research, the Register also provides education and training on Islamophobia and engages in policy and law reform. Having expanded its board and appointed an inaugural Executive Director in December 2022, the Register has since grown its operations to take its work and influence to the next level.

Its operating model has been commended and replicated by multiple other marginalised groups who have approached the Register to support them in the establishment of their own reporting models. This includes the First Nations Racism Register, 'Call it Out' founded by the National Justice Project and the Jumbunna Institute. The Register was also invited to provide evidence at the Disability Royal Commission who are looking to make formal recommendations to create a similar organisation to track and tackle disability hate.

Media Enquiries

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