



PRESS RELEASE

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Mosques Allegedly Targeted in WA Terror Plot Amid Escalating Islamophobia

Two mosques were allegedly identified as targets in a planned terrorist attack in Western Australia.

According to media reports, a 20-year-old man has been charged with preparing for a terrorist act. Police allege he possessed a manifesto outlining violent intent and was motivated by white supremacist ideology. Authorities intervened before any attack was carried out.

Muslim places of worship were allegedly being prepared as sites of mass violence.

Yet much of the public discussion has minimised that reality. Coverage has focused on the terror charge itself, not on the fact that Australian Muslims were reportedly among the primary intended targets. This is Islamophobia in its most deadly form.

We gratefully acknowledge the swift intervention by Western Australia Police, whom the Islamophobia Register Australia (Register) has been in contact with, and whose actions likely prevented tragedy and saved lives. But intervention at the point of arrest cannot be the only response.

This incident unfolds within a sustained and documented rise in hostility toward Muslims in Australia.

Since 7 October 2023, the Islamophobia Register Australia has recorded a 619 percent increase in reported incidents nationwide. In the fortnight following the Bondi attack, we documented a 740 percent spike. These figures represent reported cases only. They are the tip of the iceberg.

Over the past two years we have documented worshippers assaulted during prayer, mosques vandalised and desecrated, Muslim women physically attacked in public, coordinated harassment campaigns and threats, doxxing, and serious professional consequences for individuals who exercise their right to speak on human rights and humanitarian law.

At the same time, there has been little meaningful accountability for some of the most egregious anti Muslim conduct in public life. The treatment of Muslim worshippers during protests, and repeated inflammatory rhetoric by elected representatives including Senator Pauline Hanson, have not resulted in concrete consequences or meaningful acknowledgment of harm.

When anti Muslim hostility is normalised, minimised, or left without consequence, extremist ideologies are emboldened.

The targeting of mosques echoes international patterns, including the Christchurch massacre of 2019. In the period leading up to that attack, warnings from Muslim communities about escalating rhetoric and online radicalisation were not adequately heeded. The warning signs of dehumanisation were visible. The consequences were catastrophic.

The question is whether Australia will act decisively before terror and tragedy strike

Executive Director, Dr Nora Amath, stated

It is a direct threat to the safety, dignity, and belonging of Australian Muslims.

While we commend law enforcement for intervening swiftly, the broader ecosystem that permits anti Muslim hatred to flourish must also be confronted. Silence, minimisation, and selective outrage create the conditions in which extremist violence is enabled and emboldened.

Australian Muslims deserve equal protection under the law, equal moral concern in public discourse, and equal recognition when they are the targets of hate.



We call for:

- Clear and consistent public acknowledgment that Australian Muslim communities were reportedly targeted
- Proper resourcing of reporting and prevention mechanisms
- Accountability for rhetoric that dehumanises Australian Muslims
- Proactive identification, disruption, and prosecution of white supremacist extremist networks

This moment demands moral clarity. The safety of Australian Muslims cannot be treated as peripheral to the national story.

About the Islamophobia Register Australia

[Islamophobia Register Australia](https://www.islamophobia.com.au) 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.

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 recently 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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