


'He should resign': Michaelia Cash calls for Tony Burke to step down following outcry over Hamas supporter's visa approval

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Shadow Foreign Affairs Minister Michaelia Cash calls for the Minister for Home Affairs Tony Burke to resign for approving a visa to a Hamas supporter.

Shadow Foreign Affairs Minister Michaelia Cash has called for Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke to resign following reports from the Herald Sun that a Palestinian woman who praised the October 7 attacks was granted a visa to come to Australia.

"Tony Burke quite frankly, if the visa is not cancelled today, should step aside, he should resign," she said in an interview with Sky News host Kieran Gilbert on Friday.

"If Mr Albanese doesn't insist on Tony Burke cancelling that visa today, well that says a lot about Albanese's priorities."

"That woman should come nowhere near this country."

Palestinian woman Mona Zahed shared a series of disturbing posts in the immediate aftermath of the surprise attack on October 7, 2023.

One showed panicked festivalgoers fleeing for their lives, overlaid with her message: "Praise be to Allah who has kept us alive to see this day".

In another, she declared: "We woke up and got God's kingdom".

Ms Zahed's supporters say that she has now been granted a visa to enter Australia, The Herald Sun reported.

Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke has since issued a statement in response to uproar over reports that she had been granted entry into Australia, saying she remains outside of the country.



Mona Zahed has received an Australian visa, according to her supporters. Picture: Instagram

"This is a serious issue, the Government is taking it seriously - questions were put to the department as soon as the Ministers office became aware," Mr Burke said in a statement.

"The Government is serious in its view about not importing hatred and we set a higher bar when the purpose of someone's visit is a speaking tour."

Sky News understands the woman is not yet in Australia.

Ms Zahed, along with her husband and four children, is reportedly being backed by Melbourne-based artist Matt Chun.

Chun has described Hamas militants as "courageous Indigenous resistance fighters".

Chun and his partner, Tess Cullity, have boasted of having raised tens of thousands of dollars to help the family get out of Gaza to what they refer to as "Wurundjeri Land".

Oh Allah, we entrust everything to you in your trust that are never lost.

We always see you well ❤️

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Palestinian woman Mona Zahed thanked Allah after Hamas' October 7 attack in southern Israel. She has now been granted a visa to come to Australia. Picture: Facebook

On July 20, Chun took to social media to write: “Finally, against all odds, Tess has visas approved”.

The claims come just weeks after Prime Minister Anthony Albanese embraced a review urging tighter visa scrutiny, particularly for those holding extremist or anti-Semitic views.

The Opposition has blasted the reported approval of Zahed’s visa as a serious lapse in judgement by Labor and is demanding urgent clarification from the government on the vetting processes applied in these high-risk cases.



Artist, writer and picture book creator Matt Chun. Picture: Supplied

“I mean on what planet do we think it’s OK to be importing self-declared Jew haters, self-declared terrorist sympathisers into a country,” Nationals Senate Leader Bridget McKenzie told Sky News.

“That is not the way to build social cohesion. And Tony Burke, Anthony Albanese and the rest of them need to answer how this woman got granted a visa. What are the processes inside the department that allow somebody holding these views to be welcomed into our country?”

“We should be choosing people that share our values, not the type of people who are going to bring their hate, their division, and their terrorist support to this country, because it’s not just her, she has four kids, a husband, and she won’t be alone on holding those views. This is an indictment on the government.”



Senator Bridget McKenzie. Picture: Pema Tamang Pakhrin

Australian intelligence officials have warned of the threat posed by individuals who endorse terrorism.

In September, ASIO chief Mike Burgess was explicit: “If you think Hamas and what they did on the 7th of October is OK, I can tell you that is not OK, and from an ASIO security assessment point of view, you will not pass muster”.

Despite these warnings, the Zahed visa claims have raised fresh questions for Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke, who only days ago claimed he was actively using ministerial powers to block visa applicants “on character grounds”, including former Israeli justice minister Ayelet Shaked.

SkyNews.com.au has contacted the Department of Home Affairs for comment.

