



Freedom of Information Request – FA 25/07/02091

The Department of Home Affairs (the Department) and Australian Border Force (ABF) do not track individuals travelling overseas intending to serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

Information pertaining to whether Australian citizens are serving with foreign military forces may be received by the Department or ABF in the course of normal business and may be recorded in departmental systems as required.

The number of Australians who have been questioned at the border who were suspected to have departed Australia to serve or attempt to serve with the IDF

The ABF have conducted border interventions with four (4) Australian citizens or dual nationals who have travelled outside of Australia since 7 October 2023 and who were suspected to have departed Australia to serve or attempt to serve with the IDF.

Specific questions asked during those interviews, which would follow an internal protocol

- When the ABF becomes aware that an individual is departing Australia with the intention of travelling to a potential conflict zone, the ABF provides the traveller with information on their obligations under Australian law. The border intervention may include the provision of information that:
 - Although it is not a criminal offence for an Australian to serve with the IDF, Australian law provides for extended geographical jurisdiction for offences occurring in overseas conflict zones.
 - Australians, including dual-nationals, serving in or with the armed forces of a foreign country who have returned to Australia and who are suspected of committing a criminal offence in an overseas conflict region may be investigated by law enforcement.
 - The Australian government remains aware of suspected war crimes committed in conflict regions, and that activities undertaken within a conflict zone may result in prosecution of offences relating to war crimes or crimes against humanity.
 - Violations of international humanitarian law committed in overseas conflicts may also be prosecuted by foreign nations, which may affect the capacity of Australians or dual nationals to return to Australia from a conflict zone, and
 - The Australian government is limited with consular assistance it can provide to citizens in certain locations around the world.

Notes:

1. Source: Department of Home Affairs (internal documents)

Caveats:

- *This information is provided for the specific purpose of this request.*