

Violent protests Erupt over Australian Arms supply to Israel



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Sydney witnessed a tense pro-Palestine protest Friday as demonstrators clashed with police outside SEC Plating, an Australian company accused of aiding Israel's military operations in Gaza.

According to The Greens New South Wales party, SEC Plating is “involved in providing plating services for various parts used in F-35 fighter jets.”

The protest drew around 60 demonstrators, who attempted to block access to the facility. Police issued a move-on order, and five individuals were arrested on various charges, including failure to comply with police directions and attempting to flee. All five were granted conditional bail and are scheduled to appear before Bankstown Local Court on July 15.

The Greens alleged that Israel's F-35 fleet "relies on the global supply chain, including components from Australia, to continue the genocide against the Palestinian people." The incident has intensified criticism of Australia's defense industry's links to Israeli military operations.

A serious injury occurred during the protest when former Greens candidate Hannah Thomas, 35, was arrested. She sustained facial injuries, including potential eye damage, and was hospitalized at Bankstown Hospital. Images circulated online show Thomas with a severely swollen and bloodied eye, sparking public outrage.

Greens MP and NSW Justice spokesperson Sue Higginson condemned the police response, calling it "brutal and excessive." She questioned the legality of the arrests and the force used, stating, "There is a significant question about the lawfulness of what they have done to members of the community exercising their right of assembly."

The protest reflects growing tensions in Australia over the country's role in the global arms trade

and its perceived complicity in the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Activists continue to demand greater transparency and accountability from defense-related companies operating within the country