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**After Jewish groups condemn Starmer for
standing by candidate who blamed Israel
for Hamas atrocity, critics demand to know:**

SO, HAS LABOUR REALLY CHANGED?

**LABOUR was con-
demned by Jewish
groups last night for
standing by a candidate
who claimed Israel
'deliberately allowed'
the October 7 massacre.**

Azhar Ali was secretly recorded
saying Israel effectively sanc-
tioned the Hamas atrocity

By **Jason Groves**
Political Editor

against its own people to get the
'green light' to invade Gaza.

Mr Ali yesterday admitted his
comments were 'inexcusable' and
apologised after being confronted
by The Mail on Sunday.

But Labour sources said he would
remain as the party's candidate in
the February 29 Rochdale by-
election. Despite the controversy, it

is understood Labour's levelling up
spokesman Lisa Nandy went ahead
with a campaign event with Mr Ali
just hours after he was forced to
apologise. A Labour source said Ms
Nandy had taken part in a 'sched-
uled event'.

The Campaign Against Anti-
Semitism last night branded
Labour's stance 'obscene' and said
the failure to boot out Mr Ali made
a mockery of Sir Keir Starmer's

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**Secret of
Emilia's
Silent
Witness
style**

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