Englisch:

On a purely formal level, „From the river to the sea (palestine will be free)" is a call for the establishment of a Palestinian state that extends from the river Jordan to the Mediterranean sea and thus includes Israeli territory. It is therefore a call to end the existence of the Israeli state. It is thus ultimately a call for the violent annihilation or expulsion of large parts of the Israeli population, who will not voluntarily renounce their state and sovereignty. This is not only anti-Semitic because it affects Jews in the absolute majority, but also because it seeks to destroy the only Jewish state in the world and denies Jews alone the right to state self-determination. Israel is the Jewish state and as such fulfills the function of a protective space against anti-Semitism and as a means of Jewish self-determination.

It is important to understand at this point that anti-Semitism has undergone a major change in its forms of expression since 1945. Until then, it was not generally recognized that hatred of Jews was an unacceptable attitude, and the self-designation as an "anti-Semite" was widespread. But since the Holocaust, positive references to the term have been discredited. However, anti-Semitism has not disappeared as a result, but has been forced to find new, socially acceptable forms of expression. This includes using the state of Israel as a substitute for "the Jews", as expressed, for example, in the use of the slogan "Israel is our misfortune" by German right-wing extremists (imago91298526h-jpg-100-1920x1080.jpg (1920×1080) (deutschlandfunk.de)). This slogan directed against Israel is obviously similar to the well-known Nazi slogan "Jews are our misfortune". Even if not everyone who uses the slogan „From the river tot he sea...", may be aware of this, they make use of age-old anti-Semitic prejudices and an implicit anti-Semitic desire for extermination.

Last but not least, the slogan is also used by Hamas in its 2017 charter ("full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea") (Hamas Islamic Resistance - A Document of General Principles and Policies (archive.org)). Hamas is a radical Islamic terrorist organization that has consistently expressed radical anti-Semitism since its founding and has murdered Jews and injured them in numerous terrorist attacks. Even though Hamas' updated charter no longer contains any explicitly religiously based hatred of Jews and instead, in line with the shift in meaning towards Israel-related anti-Semitism described above, is now directed against "Zionists", the old charter has still not been revoked. "Zionists" has become a code word for "Jews" in the language of Hamas, as in many other anti-Semitic statements.

But even if one disregards the use of the slogan "From the river to the sea" by terrorist organizations such as Hamas, the context of the use of the slogan since 7 October must still be taken into account. It is repeatedly uttered in the course of demonstrations and protests that are close to Hamas and its allies and/or trivialize them as legitimate resistance.

Even if one assumes that the slogan used to have a different meaning and was not meant exclusively as a wish for the annihilation of Israel, it must be taken into account that since October 7 at the latest it can only be interpreted as a violent call for annihilation. October 7 was

an event that gives an impression of what ending the existence of the Jewish state, as desired by Hamas, would mean if it were not prevented. In this case, a comparison with the change in meaning of the swastika, colloquially known as the „Hakenkreuz", is obvious. In Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism, the swastika is still used today as a religious symbol of good luck. Since the symbol was used by the National Socialists, its meaning has changed. Today, the depiction of the symbol on platforms operated by Meta is therefore quite rightly prohibited. The same must apply to the slogan "From the river to the sea, palestine will be free", at the latest since October 7 and the use of the slogan in clearly anti-Semitic contexts.