



RESEARCH BRIEFING



PATHWAY TO TERROR:

From antisemitism to terrorism,
the case study of Shehroz Iqbal

INTRODUCTION

At the Old Bailey on 20 November 2020, **Shehroz Iqbal was sentenced to six years in prison for two terrorism offences:** posting an Islamic State propaganda video on his Facebook page, and making and sharing a video of himself outside the Hayward Gallery in central London, recording the iconic locations around him, while saying “attack, attack”. He was also sentenced to 30 months in prison for unrelated drug offences. In the wider picture of British jihadi terrorism, Iqbal may seem like a relatively minor case, but for the UK Jewish community and for CST he is emblematic of the connection between antisemitism, hate crime and terrorism. **Iqbal had a record of antisemitic hate crimes and other anti-Jewish activity both in London and online,** which began in 2016 and continued throughout the years leading up to his arrest for terrorism. His case shows how **antisemitism can be a warning sign of extremism** that threatens not only Jews, but the whole of society.

As well as his repeated involvement in anti-Jewish hate crime, Iqbal’s online activity showed that he was descending deeper into a world of Islamist extremism. He showed a **growing interest in posts about attacks on Jews** and other antisemitic and extremist content. He also developed an online connection to senior figures associated with Al-Muhajiroun, the proscribed UK terrorist organisation, and its various successor groups. It was this online activity, specifically the posting of an ISIS propaganda video, which ultimately led to his arrest and conviction. After Iqbal’s conviction, Commander Richard Smith, Head of the Metropolitan Police’s Counter Terrorism Command, described Iqbal as **“a volatile man with an extremist mind-set”** and **claimed that his arrest “prevent[ed] him from carrying out something far more harmful”**. The Police clearly believed that, had he not been stopped, **Iqbal was on**

a path that could have led to violence.

He is an example of why, in the words of former Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve, *“hate crimes are the foothills of terrorism”*; and why **reporting anti-Jewish hate,** whether it occurs on the streets or online, **plays such a vital role in keeping our communities safe.**

Throughout this period, **CST tracked Iqbal’s increasingly threatening behaviour towards the Jewish community,** liaised repeatedly with counter terrorism police and provided security advice and reassurance to the individuals and organisations in the Jewish community whom Iqbal targeted. **This Research Briefing will, for the first time, reveal the full extent of Iqbal’s anti-Jewish activity, the details of his radicalisation from hate crimes to terrorism, and CST’s work to protect the Jewish community from any potential threat he may have posed.**



Source: Metropolitan Police

SHEHROZ IQBAL'S ANTISEMITIC ACTIVITY

September 2016

CST first became aware of Shehroz Iqbal in 2016 when, on 11 September, he made threatening and antisemitic comments to a visibly Jewish motorist in Stamford Hill, North London. Iqbal is alleged to have shouted, *"I'm going to kill you, I'm going to kill all of you Jews, you killed my brothers"*. Volunteers from the local Jewish organisation Shomrim followed Iqbal's car until officers from the Metropolitan Police intervened and arrested him. Following his arrest, in October 2016 Iqbal pleaded guilty of having made antisemitic death threats. He received a suspended 16-week jail sentence and 80 hours of unpaid work.

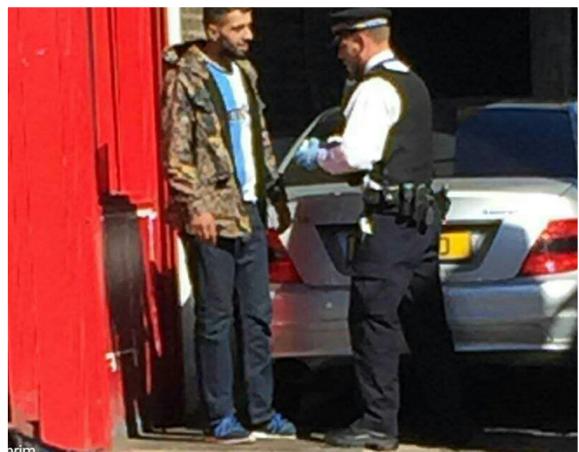
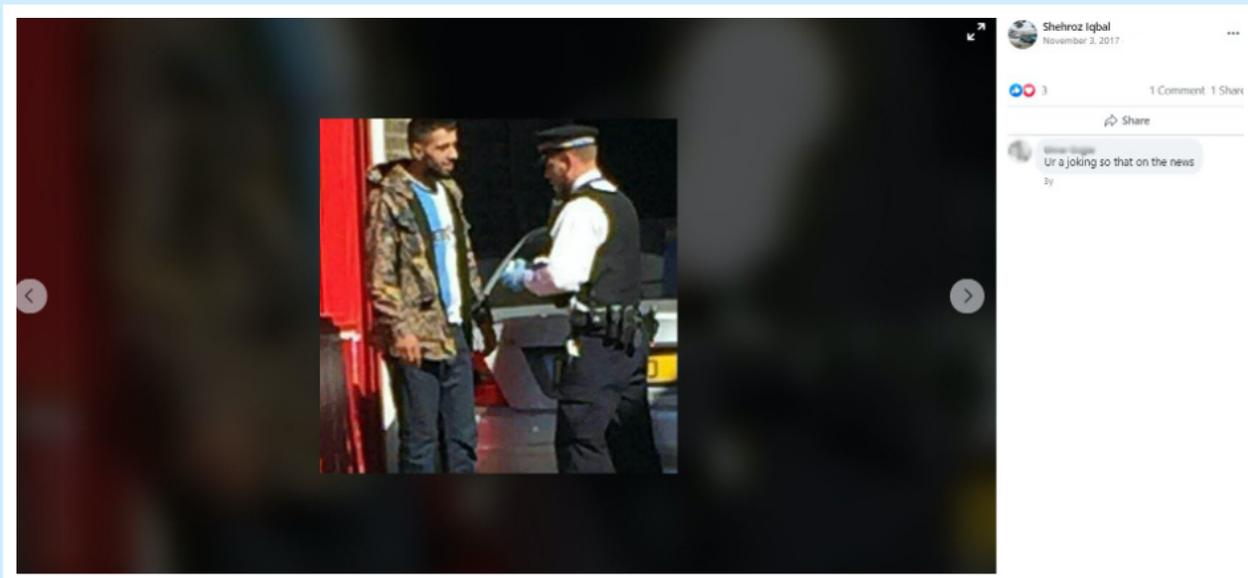


Image from Stamford Hill Shomrim of Shehroz Iqbal being questioned by police in September 2016

Iqbal would later make light of this situation by setting his Facebook profile picture in November 2017 to a photo of him being arrested by police:



March 2017

About six months after this offence, CST received a report from a member of the public who had seen a man putting up antisemitic posters on the wall of the Chabad-Lubavitch Centre (a Jewish religious outreach organisation) in Gants Hill, Redbridge. The poster read, "Jews are scum, you die". Iqbal was later arrested for this offence and for putting up similar posters in the underpass of the Gants Hill Underground Station. In September 2019, he pleaded guilty to these offences at Snaresbrook Crown Court and was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment suspended for 24 months, 30 days' rehabilitation activity, 60 hours' unpaid work and a £100 fine.

In fact, this was just one of several reports of antisemitic hate crimes in the Gants Hill area that CST received during 2016 and the first half of 2017. These reports also involved a male matching Iqbal's appearance shouting antisemitic abuse at people outside Jewish community buildings. It is not known whether Iqbal was responsible for any of these other incidents, but the similar descriptions of the offenders appeared to show a pattern of repeat offences by the same individual or individuals, targeting the same Jewish buildings in that area.

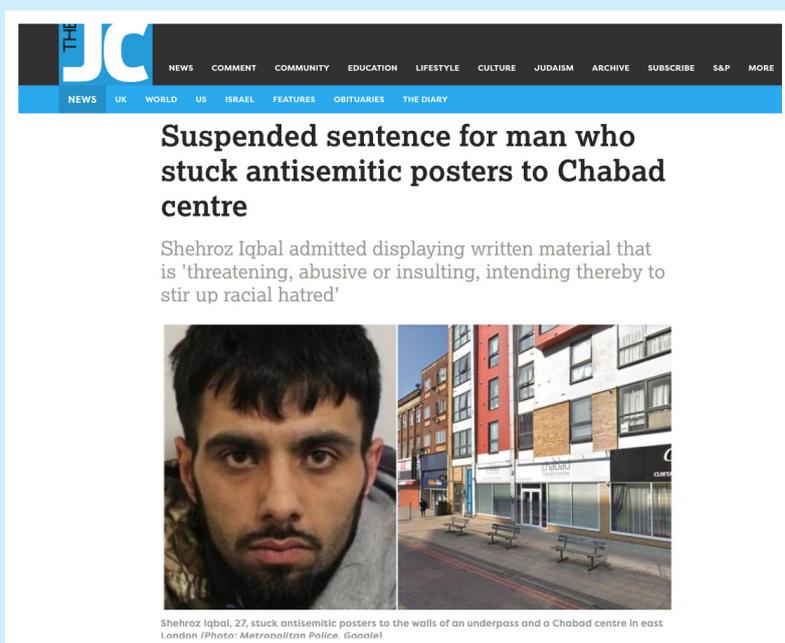
October 2017

Around the same time that Iqbal changed his Facebook profile picture in November 2017, he also sent an email to the Shomrim organisation in which he made a series of threats. Iqbal wrote in two separate emails:

"Please remove my picture from my [sic] website or I will personally come and see you...please do it as soon as possible. I am a mad man. I don't like my picture coming up on a Google shirt [sic]. I am very angry."

"Hahaha ah so many people have taking [sic] the piss out of your Zionist murdering community. I have no remorse for what I done [sic] hahaha. I see many other people have committed offences like me. Allah O Akbar! Keep my picture up for I am smiling at the officer haha. My day will come where [sic] I will come and see you in your office regarding my picture. Your Zionist murdering community."

Iqbal was reported to the police for these emails, and in July 2018 he was sentenced to 11 weeks' imprisonment suspended for 18 months, 60 hours' unpaid community work, fined £115 and required to pay £85 court costs. Iqbal was also compelled to participate in an accredited thinking skills and rehabilitation programme for 19 days.



The Jewish Chronicle
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Suspended sentence for man who stuck antisemitic posters to Chabad centre

Shehroz Iqbal admitted displaying written material that is 'threatening, abusive or insulting, intending thereby to stir up racial hatred'

Shehroz Iqbal, 27, stuck antisemitic posters to the walls of an underpass and a Chabad centre in east London (Photos: Metropolitan Police, Goalee)

September 2019

As described above, in September 2019 Iqbal received his third conviction for hate crime offences against the Jewish community when he was given a suspended sentence for putting antisemitic posters on the Chabad-Lubavitch Centre in Gants Hill. Three days later, Iqbal brazenly returned to the Chabad-Lubavitch Centre to make further threatening comments via the front door intercom system, including comments such as “I’m back” and “They couldn’t keep me in”. CST reported this incident to the police that same day.

CST’s security response

The fact that Iqbal returned so quickly to the Chabad-Lubavitch Centre, having been convicted of committing a hate crime against that same building, suggested that he posed an ongoing threat to the Centre. In response, CST implemented a security plan to ensure the Centre’s protection. This included the following measures:

- Increased security measures at the Chabad-Lubavitch Centre itself
- Regular reporting to local and counter-terrorist police
- Victim support and guidance to Rabbi Sufrin, who runs the Chabad-Lubavitch Centre, and other staff
- Specialist briefings for CST’s volunteer security network in Gants Hill and surrounding areas
- Continuous monitoring of the Chabad centre by CST’s National Security Control Centre



Images taken from the Chabad Lubavitch intercom system in Gants Hill on 23-09-20

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PERSONNEL**

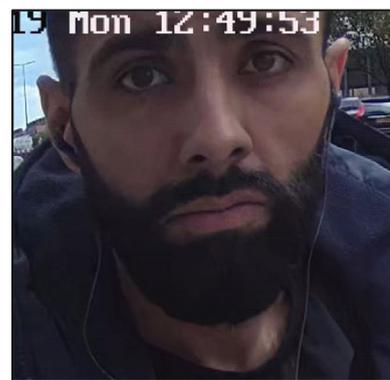
SECURITY ALERT

**September 2019****Hostile Male – SHEHROZ IQBAL**

On 23rd September Shehroz Iqbal approached a Synagogue in Redbridge and spoke through the intercom system. He made comments to the administrator along the lines of "I'm back" "They couldn't keep me in".

This came three days after Iqbal had received a suspended sentence on 20th September for displaying antisemitic posters in Gants Hill, including directly on a Synagogue door, in 2017.

Iqbal has been convicted twice before for similar offences against the Jewish community in London including making death threats to a Jewish motorist and sending antisemitic emails.

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN**

If he tries to gain entry or is seen paying attention to your location 999 should be called immediately and Crime Reference Number [REDACTED] can be quoted

CST should be contacted immediately

CST remains at its second highest level of alert and urges the community to report all antisemitic incidents and any suspicious activities immediately. This information will help CST and the Police to ensure that the community is able to conduct its activities in peace and comfort.

For security advice and guidance, or to report an incident, please contact CST on the following numbers
National Emergency Number (24-hour) 0800 032 3263

London & Southern Regions 020 8457 9999
Manchester & Northern Regions 0161 792 6666

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL THE POLICE ON 999, THEN CALL CST
General information is available on our website www.cst.org.uk

Please note that the information contained in this bulletin is correct at the time of production.
Community Security Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (1042391) and Scotland (SC043612).

Security notice issued by CST to communal facilities and security personnel in September 2019

PATHWAY TO RADICALISATION: FROM OFFLINE TO ONLINE

While Iqbal's offline harassment of the Jewish community was becoming increasingly concerning, his online activity indicated a growing ideological radicalisation. Iqbal's open Facebook account provided an insight into his mindset and indicated that his crimes were not simply a case of casual street-based antisemitism; rather, they reflected a wider, more extreme Islamist mindset. This is evident from his posts about anti-Jewish terrorist attacks, the UK general election and the coronavirus pandemic, which also showcased his connections to other extremists. It was on this Facebook account that Iqbal eventually shared the ISIS video that led to his arrest.

Notably, during Iqbal's trial it emerged that he was partaking in the Home Office's Desistance and Disengagement programme at the time of his arrest. In fact, he had been on the course for over a year. The programme *"focuses on rehabilitating individuals who have been involved in terrorism or terrorism-related activity and reducing the risk they pose to the UK."* Iqbal had voluntarily chosen to participate in the programme and had even asked for more help in the time between his two terror offences from 11 March to 26 March. However, Judge Katz stated - *"When I consider what you were actually doing and saying on social media I do not accept that you had a genuine change of attitude"*.

This is corroborated by the material set out in this following section. In fact, the time period between Iqbal's two terror offences in March 2020 seemed to correspond to a period of increased extremist activity online, including the commemoration of the fall of Islamic State's last stronghold in Syria. As Judge Katz said, *"When dealing with the authorities you will say whatever suits you at the time"*, a point echoed by prosecutor Kate Wilkinson who said that Iqbal had been *"covering up his true beliefs"* while engaging in the Desistance and Disengagement programme.

Iqbal's inadequate participation in the programme, along with evidence that he was still conducting extremist activities online during his participation, shows why more consideration should be given to participants' online behaviour. Posts from Shehroz Iqbal's Facebook page would have shown that at best, he was an uncommitted participant, and at worst, the programme was having no discernible effect on his ideological extremism.

This section offers examples of Iqbal's online activity and explains why the post for which he was arrested only marked the tip of a much larger iceberg of extremism.

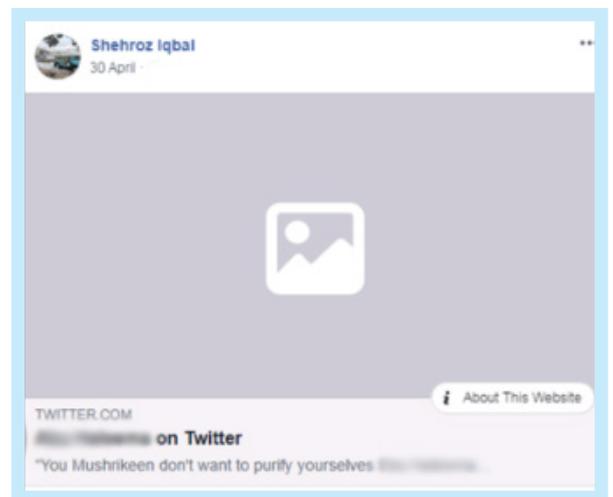


The link to Al-Muhajiroun

During Iqbal's trial it emerged that he was in direct online contact with a prominent extremist linked to Al-Muhajiroun, who cannot be named for legal reasons. Iqbal's connection to this individual can also be seen via Facebook posts in which Iqbal shared content from their social media accounts.

In recent years, this individual has remained one of the leading extreme voices within pro-jihadi networks in the UK. In many respects, he is one of the last remnants from the now dismantled Al-Muhajiroun network formerly led by Anjem Choudary. This has afforded him a certain level of status among those sympathetic to the extreme causes and ideals of Al-Muhajiroun and its successor organisations, which are proscribed terrorist organisations under UK law.

Iqbal's online connection to this individual placed him firmly within the dismantled al-Muhajiroun nexus. This is a serious reflection of his extremism, given the significant number of people associated with this network who committed acts of terrorism over the last 24 years. It further emerged during Iqbal's trial that he was in direct contact with this prominent extremist via WhatsApp and Telegram. This reaffirms the danger posed by such individuals, as well as the continuing importance that individuals associated with the Al-Muhajiroun network still have for UK jihadists.



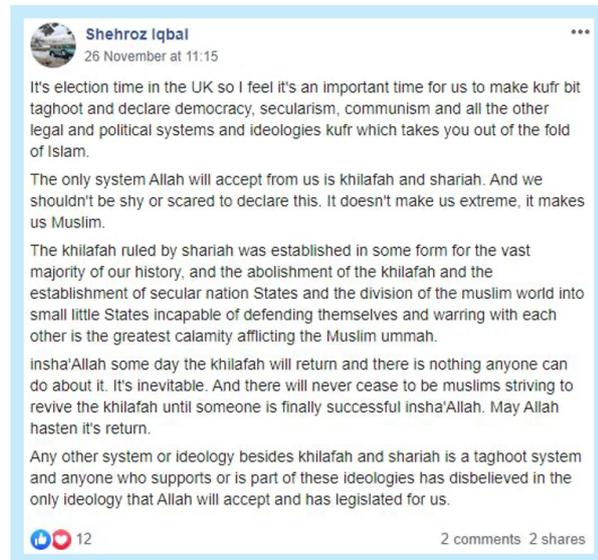
Anti-election messaging

As the UK approached the general election in December 2019, extremists of all persuasions tried to capitalise on the event to spread and promote their messaging. The same was true of Islamists, and Shehroz Iqbal began posting messages opposed to voting. For example, on 28 November 2019, Iqbal stated that any Facebook friend who was planning on voting in the election should remove him as a friend.



This opposition to democracy and democratic systems is another indicator of Iqbal's extreme Islamist ideology. This is consistent with Salafi-Jihadi opposition to involvement in Western political activities, and the rejection of democracy as an illicit man-made innovation (*bida*) that is in direct opposition to the laws of Islam.

Iqbal made this clear in a Facebook post on 26 November 2019 when he declared "*democracy, secularism, communism and all the other legal and political systems and ideologies*" to be "*kufr bit taghoot*", a phrase that suggests these political systems are a form of idolatry, should be considered illegitimate and that the only system worthy of worship or adherence is an Islamic one.

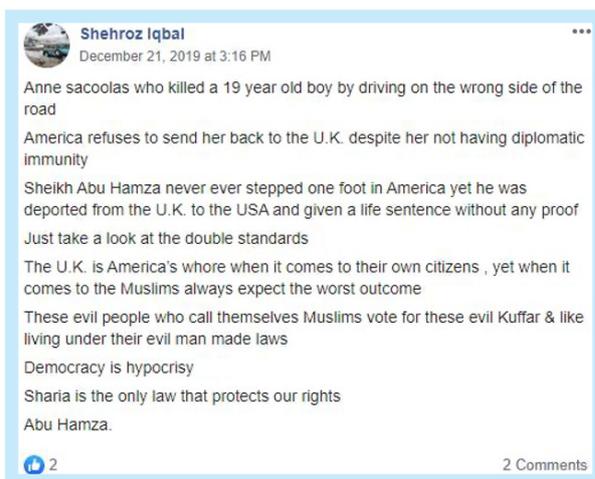


Iqbal went further by stating his support for both a "*khilafah*" (caliphate) and "*sharia*" (Islamic law). He noted that these concepts may be considered "*extreme*", but that Muslims "*shouldn't be shy or scared to declare this.*"

This extremist narrative advocating a caliphate and rejecting democracy is one that Al-Muhajiroun promoted among British Muslims for many years, and has been associated for much longer with the Islamist group from which al-Muhajiroun emerged, Hizb ut-Tahrir.

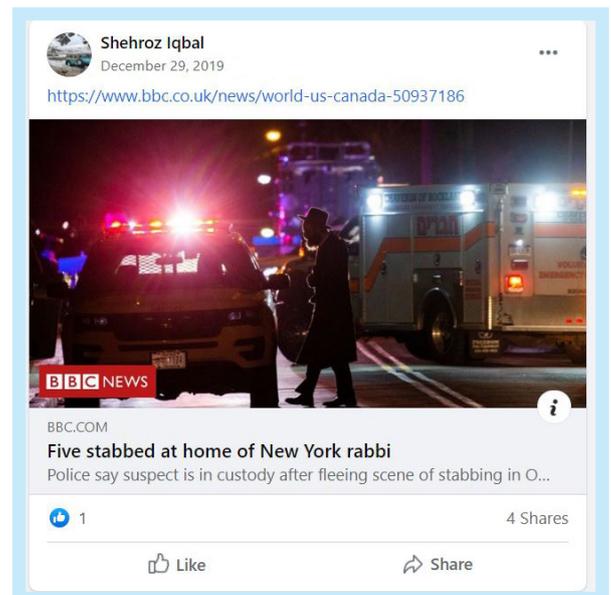
Abu Hamza

In December 2019, Iqbal shared a Facebook status that indicated support for the extremist cleric and former Imam of Finsbury Park Mosque, Abu Hamza al-Masri. Iqbal's Facebook post drew on the case of Anne Sacoolas, the wife of a US intelligence officer, who was involved in a fatal traffic incident in August 2019 that resulted in the death of a British citizen. Sacoolas, now back in the US, has since avoided prosecution, citing diplomatic immunity. The case has attracted widespread controversy and international media attention. Iqbal's Facebook post compared this to the case of Abu Hamza, who was extradited to the United States for terrorism offences and is now serving a life sentence in a US prison. Iqbal concluded the post by warning once more against democracy and "their evil man-made laws". Crucially, Iqbal's status illustrates how extremists will use any event or news story to promote their worldview and ideology. Here, Iqbal has taken a seemingly unrelated incident and exploited it to write a sympathetic post about a notorious extremist convicted of multiple terrorism charges.



Antisemitic stabbing posts

One of the most alarming examples of Iqbal's online behaviour was his repeated sharing of a BBC news article about the stabbing of five religious Jews at the home of a rabbi in Monsey, New York, during the Chanukah festival in December 2019. Iqbal first shared this article on December 29, the day after the attack. Though Iqbal shared the article without adding any comment of his own, his history of antisemitic activity, coupled with his online extremism, made his sharing of the piece especially worrying. His apparent fascination with this antisemitic attack was illustrated by the fact he shared the exact same article a further three times in 2020 on Facebook: twice in January and once in March. None of these posts were shared with any qualifying comment from Iqbal himself.



A lonely path

On 13 January 2020, Iqbal shared a long Facebook status from another user entitled “THE PATH IS A LONELY PATH”. Online activity can provide an insight into the mindset of individuals, and Iqbal’s decision to share this particular post may suggest that he had a similar sense of isolation to that described in the post. With this in mind, it is worth highlighting a number of quotes from the post, including:

- “You will never be understood”
- “Considered a foreigner in your own homeland”
- “This path is paved with torn-off limbs, irrigated with blood”

These quotes are particularly stark and the wider description of isolation and loneliness the post describes may be seen in a negative light. However, the post contextualises these feelings of isolation from an Islamic perspective by comparing them with the historic situation of the Prophet Muhammad (“Rasullalah”) and his companions (“Sahaba”). This suggests that the “lonely path” described in the post should not be seen as problematic or something to avoid, but rather as something to embrace. The violent imagery of “torn off limbs” and “blood” suggests that any struggle of walking “a lonely path” may necessitate or include some form of violence.



THIS PATH IS A LONELY PATH

So don't be surprised when a time comes when you become a stranger among people you thought were strangers like yourself.

The longer you remain on this blessed path, the more the people will see you as someone who baffles them because a person who chases this dunya will always find ambitions for the akhirah strange.

This path is a lonely path.

You will never be understood. Not by your family nor by your friends. But you must remain firm, because this is the era of those who remain firm.

This path is a lonely path.

Because the lovers of the dunya have nothing to do with it. It is shunned by most, out of fear of losing the temporary while they don't realise how they're ruining their eternal life. It is not sought after except by those rare, few, blessed ones who seek the Face of Allāh ﷻ more than anything this worthless world has to offer. You will be mocked, misunderstood, considered a foreigner in your own homeland, considered a stranger amongst your own friends and family.

But know, O beloved, that you aren't the only one who feels this staggering bite of loneliness, and you certainly aren't the first.

This is the path, where Rasullallah ﷺ was rejected by his own family and tribe, the path where Yusuf عليه السلام was thrown into prison for a crime he never committed. And the examples are many.

But know, O beloved, that you have chosen this path knowing all the hardships, and so you must bear them with patience and walk upon this path with a smile on your faces. Because this is the path for which the Sahabah رضي الله عنهم gave their lives. This is the path of the few, blessed, chosen servants of Allāh. So strive to be from amongst them.

The path of truth is solitary. Those who traverse it are lonely; they are not wanted, nor their aspiration. Leisurely do they travel, with resolution. Of what they seek, people are heedless, for, about the truth, most are careless.

This path is paved with torn-off limbs, irrigated with blood, surrounded by trials. Its tribulations and fitnah waylay you on this path. But as long as you know your goal, and the way is clear to your sight, pursue your journey whatever the case is.

Facebook post shared by Iqbal “THE PATH IS A LONELY PATH”

Ayman Al-Zawahiri

Iqbal would eventually be arrested for sharing a video from ISIS, but over a month earlier, on 6 February 2020, he had already shared a Facebook post that included a written extract from a speech by al-Qaeda leader Shaykh Ayman al-Zawahiri. This was another indication that Iqbal's Islamist extremism encompassed support for terrorists. The fact that he shared content online from both Islamic State and al-Qaeda, who are often seen in direct competition, demonstrates the fluidity of extremism. For many jihadists, and in this case Iqbal, the distinctions between groups are less important than the jihadist ideology itself. The speech by Zawahiri that Iqbal quotes in this post is from July 2019 and is titled *"Don't forget Kashmir"*.

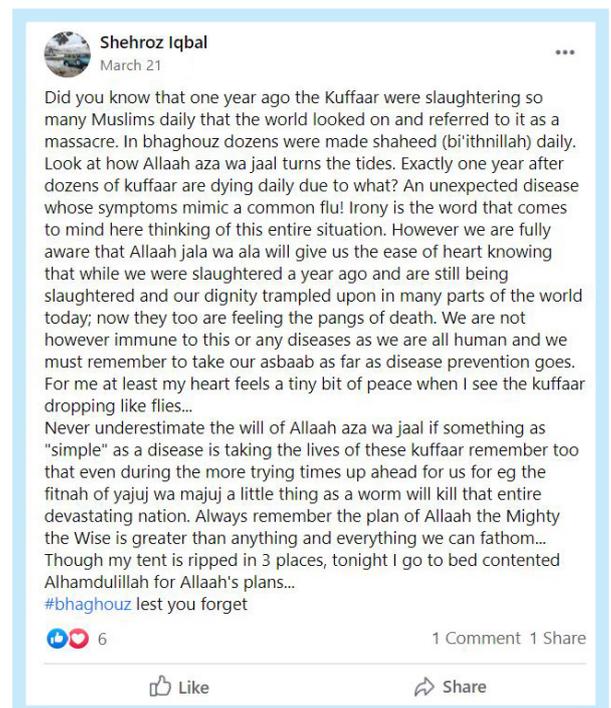


Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri

An escalation

A series of posts on Iqbal's Facebook page in March 2020 suggested that his extremism was escalating further. These posts seemed more aggressive in tone and language, as well as more explicitly pro-jihadist. For example, on 21 March 2020, Iqbal posted a Facebook status commemorating the one-year anniversary of the fall of Baghuz. A small city in eastern Syria, Baghuz marked the location of Islamic State's last stronghold that it lost in March 2019 to the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) with the support of the US-led international coalition.

At the time Iqbal posted this status in March 2020, pro-ISIS groups in general were also marking this anniversary. In his status, Iqbal referred to those who lost their lives in Baghuz – presumably ISIS fighters – as *"shaheed"* (martyrs). Iqbal then suggested that the coronavirus pandemic was a divine punishment for the capture of Baghuz. He even went as far as stating that, *"my heart feels a tiny bit of peace when I see the kuffaar [disbelievers] dropping like flies"*. It appears, therefore, that Iqbal was expressing joy at the non-Muslim loss of life in the pandemic.



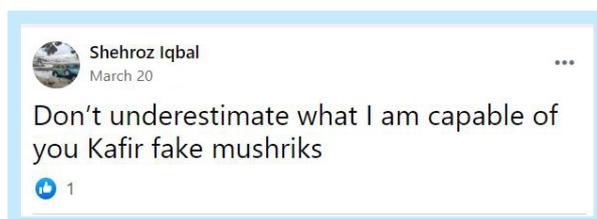


A day before this post, on 20 March, Iqbal had posted a threatening status in which he wrote: *“Don’t underestimate what I am capable of you Kafir fake mushriks”*. The post appears confrontational in nature and raises the question of what Iqbal is suggesting he is capable of doing. His reference to *“Kafir fake mushriks”* is hard to decipher in accurate Islamic terms, but may refer to Jews, Christians and/or disbelievers more widely. Extremists often deploy terms such as *“kafir”* (unbeliever) and *“mushrik”* (polytheist) loosely, separated from their classical Islamic meanings, to refer more generally to perceived enemies of Islam (or of the person using the phrase).

On 26 March 2020, Iqbal moved away from a more general, loose association with extreme jihadist ideology to an explicitly illegal act by sharing an ISIS video from 2015. The footage showed ISIS fighters engaged in a military battle to liberate comrades from a prison. Towards the

end, the video includes graphic images of dead bodies of opposition fighters. This video is what ultimately led to Iqbal’s arrest and charge of one count of dissemination of terrorist material, on the grounds that ISIS is a proscribed terrorist organisation under UK law.

Following his arrest for this video, police investigations discovered a video Iqbal made of himself outside the Royal Festival Hall, in which he recorded himself calling for various central London locations to be attacked. This second video, distributed by Iqbal to a WhatsApp group of which he was a member, was the basis for the further charge of encouraging terrorism.



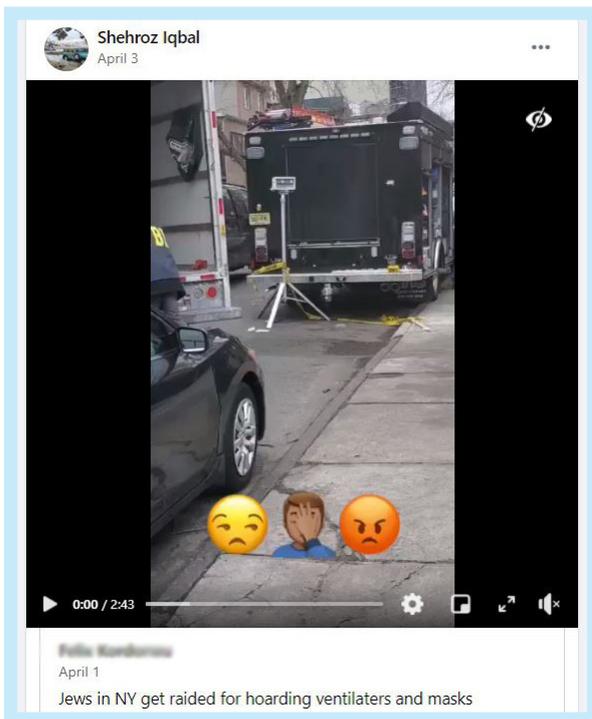
COVID, conspiracies, antisemitism and divine punishment

In early 2020, the coronavirus pandemic radically altered every part of life across the globe. It also provided a new topic for extremists to exploit to encourage division, anger and hate. The far right and jihadists both engaged in conspiracy theories about the virus, as well as celebrating the pandemic as a means by which the western system of democracy may fall. As described above, Iqbal promoted jihadist narratives around coronavirus by claiming that it was a divine punishment on western nations.

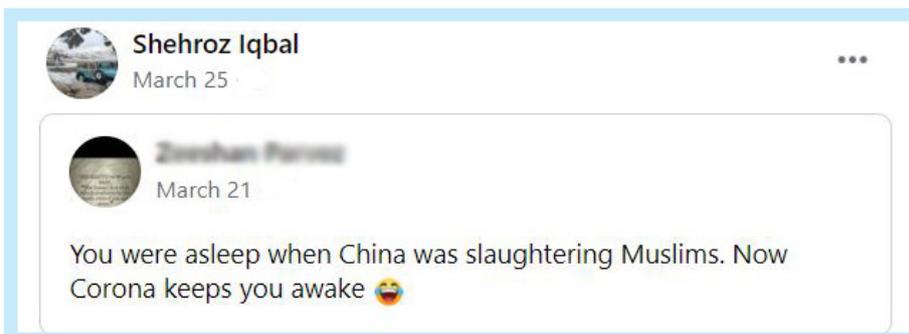
There were several other examples of Iqbal promoting extremist narratives in relation to the pandemic. This included sharing antisemitic posts, including an article about white supremacists targeting Jews. Iqbal also shared

a post from the conspiracy theorist David Icke about 5G broadband, suggesting that the new cellular network is intended to damage people's mental and emotional health. Though there is no suggestion of support from Iqbal for white supremacists targeting Jews, it should again be viewed in the context of his general extremism and record of antisemitism. Both these posts illustrate how extremists and the movements they occupy are fluid, as well as the role that conspiracy theories play in connecting different extremist ideologies.

Iqbal shared other posts that suggested the virus is some sort of divine punishment: firstly against China for its treatment of Uighur Muslims, and secondly more generally against the West and specifically the United States.



Country	3/16/20	3/17/20	3/18/20	3/19/20	% Growth	# Growth
United States	4,632	6,421	7,783	13,677	76%	5,894
Italy	27,980	31,506	35,713	41,035	15%	5,322
Spain	9,942	11,748	13,910	17,963	29%	4,053
Germany	7,272	9,257	12,327	15,320	24%	2,993
France	6,633	7,652	9,043	10,871	20%	1,828
Switzerland	2,200	2,700	3,028	4,075	35%	1,047
Iran	14,991	16,169	17,361	18,407	6%	1,046
Netherlands	1,413	1,705	2,051	2,460	20%	409
Austria	1,018	1,332	1,646	2,013	22%	367



Shehroz Iqbal April 6

YOUTUBE.COM

NURSE TELLS THE TRUTH ABOUT CORONAVIRUS
Wake up call, wake up, truth, news, world news, politic, health, eco...

Like Share

Shehroz Iqbal April 2

DAVIDICKE.COM

April 2

Shehroz Iqbal January 26

China has imprisoned more than one million Muslims in detention, so Allah Sheds a virus that has not been discovered yet. It has isolated 4 cities with a population of more than 20 million Chinese. "And you are unaware of what they going to do." Allahu Akbar

@islam_is_my_life

7 1 Comment 14 Shares

Shehroz Iqbal March 27

3 years ago, daily news was:
 *45 killed and dozens injured in bombing of the International coalition in Fallujah.
 * 30 people were killed and dozens wounded, mostly women and children in coalition bombing targeting a market in Mosul.
 * Hundreds of people were killed and wounded by bombing with barrel bombs targeting residential areas in Aleppo ...And so on ...
 As for TODAY's news, they are as follows according to the latest update:
 *349 killed and 3323 infected with Corona virus in Italy.
 *149 deaths and 1,236 new cases of corona in Spain.
 *135 killed and 1178 new infections of Corona in Iran.
 *21 killed and 1210 infected with Corona in France.
 *18 killed and 171 infected with Corona in Britain. And so on..
 "Do then those who devise evil plots feel secure that Allah will not seize them into the earth, or that the torment will not seize them from directions they perceive not? Or that He may catch them in the midst of their going to and fro , so that there be no escape for them (from Allah's punishment)?
 The real figures is even more than what the kuffars media reports
 Allahu Akbar
 Copied.

Like Share

Shehroz Iqbal April 2

MORNINGSTARONLINE.CO.UK

US white supremacist groups target Jews over coronavirus
Monday, March 23, 2020 US white supremacist groups target Jews ...

Like Share

SENTENCING

On Friday 20 November 2020, at the Old Bailey, Shehroz Iqbal was sentenced to serve eight and a half years in prison, of which six years are for the two terrorism charges described above (the other two and a half years of his sentence are for unrelated drugs charges). Once he is released from prison, he will have to spend another three years on licence and will be subject to a terrorism notification order for 15 years.

Judge Philip Katz QC remarked on sentencing that, *“You had joined the ranks of radicalised extremists who support Isis in the UK, some of whom are notorious... I am sure that when you made and posted that short film, you intended members of the WhatsApp group to be encouraged to commission acts of terrorism”*.

Iqbal had previously told police that he filmed the video outside the Hayward Gallery to show off his bike, but this defence was rejected.

Prosecutor Kate Wilkinson stated: *“That was a video not showing off his bike but rather saying to his friends ‘look what I might do’ - carry out an attack in central London in a public spot just like the Royal Festival Hall or Waterloo Bridge, just as others who shared his extremist Islamic*

views had done before on 9/11, in Manchester and on London Bridge”.

Other details regarding Iqbal’s criminal history also emerged at sentencing, including prior drug offences and shoplifting, as well as the antisemitic crimes described in sections above. In fact, two days after posting the video outside the Hayward Gallery, police stopped Iqbal in his car where he was found to possess cocaine and cannabis resin with a combined street value of around £260, as well as £420 in cash.

Iqbal’s criminality is another example of the connection between terrorism and crime. According to the Crime Terror Nexus project, about *“half of Europe’s jihadists are former criminals”*. This connection can be directly beneficial to terrorists who may use their criminal connections to obtain weapons and/or finance their terrorist activities. In Iqbal’s case, his history of antisemitic crimes formed a core part of his ideology. It also showed his volatility and general disregard for the rule of law.

The image shows a screenshot of the BBC News website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BBC logo, a 'BBC Account' link, a notification bell, and menu items for 'Home', 'News', 'Sport', 'Weather', 'iPlayer', and 'Sounds'. Below this is a red banner with the word 'NEWS' in white. Underneath the banner is a secondary navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Coronavirus', 'UK', 'World', 'Business', 'Politics', 'Tech', 'Science', 'Health', 'Family & Education', and 'Entertainment'. A third navigation bar shows 'England', 'Local News', 'Regions', and 'London' (which is underlined). The main headline of the article is 'Royal Festival Hall: Shehroz Iqbal jailed for inciting attack' in a large, bold, black font.

CONCLUSION

Shehroz Iqbal's arrest and conviction for terrorism offences was **the culmination of a process of radicalisation and extremism that began with antisemitic verbal abuse on the streets of London**. It is very possible that his arrest and successful prosecution have prevented Iqbal from taking further steps towards violence.

Antisemitic hate crimes are an unfortunate reality for Jewish communities, and it is easy to treat verbal abuse or antisemitic posters in local communities as somehow less important than racist violence or other forms of hate crime. The case of Shehroz Iqbal, however, should be a sharp reminder of **the importance of reporting these incidents, which can be a precursor of much more dangerous activities**. This case illustrates the nexus between online and offline actions, and how views expressed in public may only scratch the surface of wider forms of extremism expressed online. This is a symbiotic

relationship, in which **online content can influence real world actions**, and vice versa. It is why any approach to extremism and hate crime must take a holistic approach and consider all aspects of a person's behaviour.

Throughout this case, CST worked to ensure the safety and protection of the Jewish community. CST's security teams worked with those facilities and individuals under threat, liaising with police on CST's security operations and victim support work. CST's research teams tracked Iqbal's growing extremism. Tragically, terrorists and violent extremists have targeted and attacked Jewish communities in Europe and the United States numerous times in recent years, continuing a pattern of anti-Jewish terrorism going back decades. **Preventing similar attacks in the United Kingdom is central to CST's work**, and it is likely to remain so for many years to come.

Metropolitan Police  @metpoliceuk

#SENTENCED |

Cmdr Richard Smith, head of the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, said: "Thanks to the vigilance of Counter Terrorism officers we identified Iqbal's illegal activity and were able to prevent him from carrying out something far more harmful."

Man jailed for terrorism offences
A man who acted on his extremist views and promoted Daesh on social media has been sentenced
news.met.police.uk

Counter Terrorism Policing UK  @TerrorismPolice

JAILED | A man who acted on his extremist views was jailed on Friday for over eight years.

You can report any suspicious behaviour or activity that you think could be terrorist-related to gov.uk/ACT

Read more 

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CST'S MISSION

- To work at all times for the physical protection and defence of British Jews.
- To represent British Jews on issues of racism, antisemitism, extremism, policing and security.
- To promote good relations between British Jews and the rest of British society by working towards the elimination of racism, and antisemitism in particular.
- To facilitate Jewish life by protecting Jews from the dangers of antisemitism, and antisemitic terrorism in particular.
- To help those who are victims of antisemitic hatred, harassment or bias.
- To promote research into racism, antisemitism and extremism; and to use this research for the benefit of both the Jewish community and society in general.
- To speak responsibly at all times, without exaggeration or political favour, on antisemitism and associated issues.



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