



EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

RESEARCH
BRIEFING



THE MONTH OF HATE

Antisemitism & extremism
during the Israel-Gaza conflict

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

CONTENTS

| | | | |
|--|----|---|----|
| Introduction | 2 | <i>"From the river to the sea"</i> | 30 |
| Executive summary | 4 | UK Islamist extremism and anti-Israel hate | 34 |
| Antisemitic, anti-Zionist or anti-Israel? | 8 | • Hizb ut-Tahrir: antisemitic and violent extremist agitation | 34 |
| Antisemitic incidents | 10 | • Islamist YouTube influencers provoke Jews in Golders Green | 36 |
| • Data and trends | 10 | • Islam21c and 5Pillars | 38 |
| • Antisemitic incidents in the education sector | 13 | • Moazzam Begg: dreaming of jihad | 40 |
| • Primary and secondary schools | 13 | • Support for jihad: other examples | 42 |
| • Antisemitic incidents at UK universities | 14 | Global jihadist incitement towards Jews | 44 |
| • Hostile social media mentions of UK Jewish communities | 15 | • Al-Qaeda statement – 3 June 2021 | 44 |
| • Political responses to the wave of antisemitism | 16 | • ISIS statement – 20 May 2021 | 45 |
| Antisemitism and extremism at UK demonstrations | 18 | • Al-Shabaab statement – 18 May 2021 | 45 |
| • Antisemitism, provocations and pro-Palestinian convoys | 18 | • Al-Qaeda statement – 17 May 2021 | 45 |
| • <i>"Khaybar Khaybar Ya Yahud"</i> | 19 | • Hurras al-Din statement – 16 May 2021 ... | 46 |
| • <i>"We love death" and "We want the Zionists. We want their blood"</i> | 21 | • Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb statement – 12 May 2021 | 46 |
| • <i>"Lift the curse of the Jews"</i> | 22 | • Al-Qaeda statement – 11 May 2021 | 46 |
| • <i>"Accept every single shahid"</i> | 22 | • Al-Battar (ISIS affiliate) statement – 10 May 2021 | 46 |
| • BBC's Jewish executives bias the media ... | 23 | • Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula statement – 7 May 2021 | 47 |
| • Arrests at demonstrations | 25 | • Pro-ISIS supporter online posts – 7 May 2021 | 47 |
| Nazi-Israel comparisons | 26 | UK far right antisemitism, extremism and anti-Israel hate | 48 |
| | | CST's educational resources | 51 |

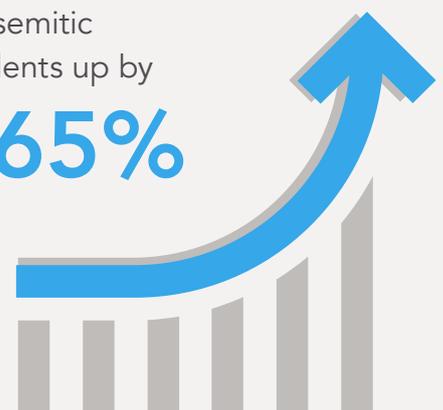
INTRODUCTION

The month of 8 May-7 June 2021 was the most intense period of anti-Jewish hatred seen in the UK in recent years.

It saw **record levels of antisemitic hate incidents**, anti-Jewish chants and placards on public demonstrations, incitement from radical Islamist extremists in the UK and calls from

Antisemitic incidents up by

365%



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jihadist terrorist groups for Jews to be killed. All this was fuelled by, or tried to take advantage of, antisemitic reactions to the conflict between Israel and Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other militant groups in Gaza.

CST distinguishes between legitimate pro-Palestinian campaigning and antisemitic or extremist activity. This Research Briefing, therefore, is not a comprehensive overview of all pro-Palestinian campaigning that was seen in the UK during the month-long period between 8 May-7 June 2021. Instead, it is limited to only those aspects that involved **anti-Jewish language, targeting or motivation, or that expressed support for violence or for terrorist organisations and actors.**

The level of anger and hate that is directed at Israel always spills over into antisemitism at times of conflict. Such crises see a recurring and disturbing pattern: reactions to ‘trigger events’, often from overseas, cause significant spikes in anti-Jewish hate crimes and hate incidents in the UK. In practice, this means that the **perpetrators of these incidents deliberately target Jews and Jewish institutions to express their hatred of, or anger towards, Israel; or they use Israel as an excuse to attack Jews.** This is a pattern British society in general and British Jews have seen too many times before. Antisemitic reactions to Middle Eastern conflicts contributed to record-high yearly antisemitic incidents in the UK in 2014, 2009, 2006, 2003, 2001 and 2000. **This is racism at its most basic: British Jews are held responsible for events thousands of miles away, over which they have no control, simply because they are Jewish.**

This dynamic is encouraged by rhetoric that fails to distinguish between Jews and Israelis, or simply swaps the words ‘Zionist’ and ‘Zionism’ for ‘Jew’ and ‘Judaism’. It also feeds off **extreme anti-Israel propaganda that does not mention Jews, but which demonises**

Israel to such an extent that it generates a violent anger that finds an outlet in anti-Jewish hate; or that simply provides a supposedly legitimising cover for the expression of antisemitism via hatred of Israel. This is not about people criticising the Israeli government, but about hatred of Israel as an entire nation; it is not an expression of support for the Palestinian cause but rather the treatment of Israel as a uniquely evil entity, a modern embodiment of Nazism and racism that must be erased from the world. It is plausible, to say the least, that this unique hatred towards Israel would lead some people to treat those who support its mere existence as deserving of social and political isolation, or even verbal abuse and physical violence.

In addition to reported incidents, **the social and political atmosphere in the UK during the recent conflict was toxic:** the immense deluge of hate on social media; the intimidation of Jewish schoolchildren and students who are singled out and pressured to declare their position on the conflict or are effectively treated by their classmates as proxies for the Israeli government; large, angry anti-Israel protests that treat Israel’s very existence as an affront to humanity; and widespread calls among Islamist influencers for Muslim armies to invade Israel and wage violent jihad.

Surges in racist violence and abuse occur when the perpetrators of racist attacks feel that there is a broader permissive environment that encourages or legitimises their actions.

They may derive this sense of legitimisation from politics, media (including social media), high-profile campaigns or other sources. In this particular case, it is necessary to ask whether the portrayal of Israel as a Nazi-like state that ought not to exist, combined with the unique hatred directed towards it that is not generated by any other foreign policy issue, generates such a permissive environment for anti-Jewish hatred in this country.

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- CST recorded an unprecedented number of antisemitic incidents in the month from 8 May to 7 June, during and after the conflict between Israel and Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other militant groups in Gaza. This record wave of anti-Jewish hate was accompanied by violent rhetoric and extremist incitement, online and at anti-Israel demonstrations and rallies around the country.**
- Most pro-Palestinian campaigning in the UK falls within legitimate political activism and is not the subject of this Research Briefing, which focuses on anti-Jewish hate incidents and case studies of violent and extremist sentiment expressed in reaction to the conflict in Israel and Gaza.
- CST recorded 628 antisemitic hate incidents from 8 May to 7 June 2021, the highest number CST has ever recorded in a month-long period.**

For comparison, CST recorded 146 antisemitic incidents during the same period in 2020, and 135 antisemitic incidents in the month prior to 8 May 2021. This means that CST recorded more than four times the total of antisemitic incidents that would normally be expected during the period in question. The previous record incident total for any month-long period was 403 antisemitic incidents reported to CST from 12 July to 11 August 2014, during the last major conflict in Israel and Gaza.
- Some of the reported antisemitic incidents in May and June attracted widespread publicity due to their truly appalling nature and had a deep impact upon Jewish communal morale. **The leading examples of this included the outrageous antisemitic and misogynistic abuse shouted from a pro-Palestinian car convoy in St John's Wood, north west London, as**



Antisemitic and misogynistic abuse was shouted from a pro-Palestinian car convoy in London, May 2021

well as the dreadful physical assault of a rabbi in Chigwell, Essex. Arrests were made in connection with both incidents, but most incidents have not yet resulted in arrests or prosecutions.

- A total of 585 out of the 628 antisemitic incidents recorded during this period involved language, imagery or behaviour linked to the conflict in Israel and Gaza.** There were 112 examples of individuals targeting random Jewish people or Jewish neighbourhoods with shouts of *"Free Palestine"*, Palestinian flags or both. Sometimes this involved explicitly abusive or threatening language or gestures in a manner intended to offend and intimidate. Of these 112 incidents, 54 included this type of targeting from individuals in vehicles. Shouting *"Free Palestine"* or *"Free Gaza"* on a pro-Palestinian demonstration is not antisemitic, even if it upsets or offends others. **When *"Free Palestine"* is shouted at someone because they are Jewish, or if it is daubed on a synagogue wall, this is a racist act in which the phrase *"Free Palestine"* is weaponised to attack Jews.**

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- CST received a description of the ethnic appearance of the offender or offenders in 241 of the 628 antisemitic incidents reported during this period.¹ Of these, 112 (46%) were described as Arab or North African; 52 (22%) as South Asian; 47 (20%) were described as white – North European; 19 (8%) as black; ten (4%) as white – South European; and just one (less than 1%) as Southeast Asian. This is significantly different from the comparable data for the full year 2020, in which 63% of antisemitic incident offenders were described to CST as white – North European; 17% as black; 11% were described as Arab or North African; 6% as South Asian; 3% as white – South European; and less than 1% as Southeast Asian. A similar change in the relative proportions of described incident offenders was seen during the previous conflict in Israel and Gaza, in July and August 2014.²
- A description of the gender of the offender or offenders was obtained by CST in 333 of the 628 antisemitic incidents recorded from 8 May to 7 June 2021. Of these, the offender was described as male in 261 incidents (78% of incidents where the offender's gender was obtained), female in 63 incidents (19%), and mixed groups of males and females in nine incidents (3%). In 340 of the 628 reports of antisemitism over this period, the approximate age of the offender or offenders was provided. Among these, 247 (73%) involved adult offenders; in 92 cases (27%) the perpetrators were minors; there was only one incident (less than 1%) in which the offenders were a mix of adults and minors. This represents a slightly less uneven spread between male and female offenders than usual, as well as between adults and minors. This latter point reflects the escalation in antisemitic incidents in UK schools during the time frame of the recent conflict.
- **Perhaps most worryingly, the antisemitic incidents reported to CST during the month from 8 May to 7 June 2021 had a disproportionate impact on Jewish students and staff at schools and universities.** CST recorded 93 antisemitic incidents that were related to schools and 61 incidents that were related to universities, making 154 antisemitic incidents that were related to the education sector. This is almost as many as the 162 school and university-related antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2019 (the last year in which schools and universities were fully open as normal). However, in 2019 the antisemitic incidents reported to CST that were related to schools and universities only amounted to 9% of the overall total, whereas the 154 education-related incidents recorded during the month from 8 May 2021 made up 25% of all antisemitic incidents recorded by CST during this period. **This phenomenon poses a challenge to schools, local authorities and teaching unions, as well as universities. They need to balance the right to free expression and pressure to address the conflict within schools, with the discriminatory and intimidatory impact that anti-Israel campaigning can sometimes have on Jewish students and teaching staff.**
- **Sixty-one of the 93 antisemitic incidents involving schools, school students and staff took place at school premises and 19 involved Jewish school students (identifiable by their uniform) being targeted for antisemitic abuse on the way to or from school.** Only nine of the school-related incidents occurred online; 56 occurred at mainstream (i.e. non-faith) schools, most of which involved Jewish school students or Jewish teachers being singled out

¹ CST uses the 'IC1-6' system, used by the UK Police services, for categorising the ethnic appearance of offenders. This uses the codes IC1, IC2, IC3, etc for 'White – North European'; 'White – South European'; 'Black'; 'South Asian'; 'Far East or South East Asian'; and 'Arab or North African'. This is not a fool proof system and can only be used as a rough guide.

² CST [Antisemitic Incidents Report 2014](#)

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

and targeted for abuse by students shouting “Free Palestine” or using other pro-Palestinian language or imagery as tools of abuse.

- **CST recorded 61 university-related antisemitic incidents during the month from 8 May.**³ For comparison, CST recorded a total of 58 university incidents in the whole of the 2018/2019 academic year and 65 university incidents in the 2019/2020 academic year,⁴ meaning that Jewish students and lecturers suffered a year’s worth of antisemitic incidents in a single month from 8 May to 7 June. Unlike in schools, the majority of university-related incidents were online, with 45 incidents occurring on social media or messaging apps. The other 16 university-related incidents were committed offline. The total of 61 university-related incidents included eight threats, two of which were death threats sent to Jewish students.
- Several pro-Palestinian demonstrations across Britain included antisemitic placards, chants and speeches from a minority of participants. Some of these appeared to be illegal while others reflected extreme political or religious language. **At several protests, demonstrators recited the violent anti-Jewish chant “Khaybar Khaybar Ya Yahud, Jaish Muhammad Sauf Ya’ud”, which translates as “Khaybar Khaybar oh Jews, the army of Mohammed is returning” and is effectively a call for Jews to be killed.** CST has reported two examples of this, from demonstrations in London and Swansea, to police.

³ CST defines a university-related incident as any antisemitic incident that involves students, staff, student bodies or academics at a UK university. These include incidents that take place on-campus, and incidents that take place off-campus but where the incident relates to the victim’s student, academic or staff status; or antisemitism directed at organisations whose work is focused on universities, such as the Union of Jewish Students (UJS) or University Jewish Chaplaincy.

⁴ [Campus Antisemitism in Britain 2018-2020](#), CST Research Briefing, 2020

- Placards comparing Israel with Nazi Germany were commonplace on pro-Palestinian demonstrations around the country, and in particular on the largest demonstrations in central London. Several of these placards featured the image of a swastika. **Comparing or equating Israel with Nazi Germany or Zionism with Nazism is a gross libel with no basis in historical fact. It uses the pain and trauma of the Holocaust as a propaganda tool against Israel, by playing on the fact that Israel is a Jewish state.** As such it is often deliberately used to provoke the most painful Jewish sensitivities and is perhaps the most visible and obvious expression of antisemitism found on pro-Palestinian protests.
- One speaker at a demonstration in Manchester invoked the antisemitic conspiracy theory about Jewish control of the media, by saying: *“the main 13 executives that approve the content released by the BBC are actually in fact Jewish. So this means the information released by the mainstream media will be biased.”*
- A speaker at a demonstration in Bradford recited an explicitly anti-Jewish prayer in Arabic that depicted Jews and Muslims as enemies, saying: *“God, purify al-Aqsa from impure people! God, make the earth quake under their feet! God, lift the curse of the Jews off the Muslims in Palestine! God, support Muslim youth to protect al-Aqsa! God, support them with your soldiers! God, we ask you to make the Jews lose! God, make Islam win!”* Each line was repeated back to her in Arabic by multiple people in the crowd. She then led them in the Arabic chant that is translated as *“With our soul, with our blood, we will redeem you, al-Aqsa!”*⁵
- The month from 8 May to 7 June saw several examples of incitement by Islamist extremists in the UK who used violent

⁵ “Al-Aqsa” is a reference to the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem

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language to call for Israel to be attacked by military force, either by the armies of Muslim-majority countries or by jihadist fighters from Afghanistan and elsewhere.

This violent, aggressive language was seen online and at demonstrations. **The global leadership of the Islamist group Hizb ut-Tahrir issued an openly anti-Jewish statement that began, “The monstrous Jews are spreading their brutal aggression on all parts of Palestine” and spoke about “Jewish aggression” and “the crimes of the Jews.”** This was perhaps the most antisemitic statement published in English by any organisation with a formal UK branch.

- Moazzam Begg, the outreach director for the British Islamist advocacy group CAGE UK and a prominent Islamist activist in this country, posted repeatedly on social media about his apparent wish for military jihad against Israel. In one Facebook post, he recounted a dream he claimed to have had in which he was joined in Gaza by Afghan Mujahideen or the Taliban who shot down Israeli aircraft while Begg chanted “O Allah! Bring down their planes.”
- **A prominent Islamist YouTube influencer with hundreds of thousands of online followers helped lead a counter-demonstration against a pro-Israel rally in London at which he gave an aggressive speech, stating “for us we believe that death begins. We believe that life begins at death, we don’t care about death, we love death.”** The previous day, he and two other Islamist YouTube influencers had performed a provocative stunt in Golders Green, in which they stopped Jewish people in the street and challenged them to answer questions about the conflict in Israel and Gaza, to the backdrop of a van with large screens showing images from Gaza and the Holocaust. They filmed themselves doing this and uploaded the edited results to YouTube under the

heading: “*Muslims Confront Radical Israelis – Police Called.*” The Jewish people in their video all appeared to be British, not Israeli.

- **Global jihadist groups including Al-Qaeda and ISIS released numerous statements urging violent jihad and attacks against Israelis and Jews worldwide.** Such declarations risk inspiring terrorist attacks against Jewish communities worldwide, including in Britain.
- **Sections of the British far right exploited the Israel-Gaza conflict to express violent anti-Jewish sentiments and/or anti-Muslim hatred, and to spread antisemitic conspiracy theories.** One theme included the notion that the far right and Palestinians are engaging in a single battle against Jews/Zionists. Others expressed their excitement that Jews and Muslims were fighting each other in Israel and Gaza.
- One ubiquitous slogan in the pro-Palestinian protests, online and on the streets, was “*From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be Free.*” There are several different interpretations of this slogan’s origin, intent and meaning, some of which are more violent and eliminationist than others. **As well as being a popular refrain on British streets, “From the River to the Sea” is also a phrase and slogan commonly used by violent terrorist organisations and leaders who are dedicated to Israel’s destruction, some of whom also have a record of murdering Jews outside Israel.** This Briefing provides examples of the use of this phrase by former al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, Hizbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and others.

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

ANTISEMITIC, ANTI-ZIONIST OR ANTI-ISRAEL?

CST is often asked about the difference between antisemitic incidents and anti-Israel activity, as well as between antisemitism and anti-Zionism. The distinction between the two can be subtle and the subject of much debate. Clearly, it would not be acceptable to define all anti-Israel activity as antisemitic, and historically anti-Zionism has come in many different forms, not all of which are necessarily antisemitic.

Nevertheless, it cannot be ignored that contemporary antisemitism can occur in the context of, or be accompanied by, extreme feelings over the Israel/Palestine conflict, and that hostility towards Israel may be expressed through, or motivated by, antisemitic rhetoric and conspiracy theories.

Much anti-Zionism today is expressed in ways that are actively hostile towards Jews and towards the Jewish people as a group, and that bear similarities to older antisemitic language and imagery. The malicious denial or misrepresentation of Jewish peoplehood is fundamentally antisemitic, as is politically motivated denial of the Jewish people's historical and religious links with the land of Israel. Extremist groups and actors often use 'Zionism' and 'Zionist' in conspiratorial or bloodthirsty terms that mimic the way that antisemites have historically referred to Jews and Judaism.

Discourse relating to the conflict is used by antisemitic incident offenders to abuse Jews, and anti-Israel discourse can sometimes repeat, or echo, antisemitic language and imagery. For example, the terms 'Zionist' and 'Zionism' will often be used in arguments about Israel and the Middle East; sometimes they are used accurately and legitimately, and at other times they are deployed in an antisemitic way.

CST must distinguish between the occasions

when these terms are used in a purely political sense, and the times when they are abused as euphemisms for 'Jewishness' and 'Jews'. Drawing out these distinctions, and deciding on where the dividing lines lie, is one of the most difficult areas of CST's work in recording and analysing hate crime.

Sometimes the targeting of a particular incident can suggest an intention to intimidate or harass Jews on the part of the offender. For example, if anti-Israel posters or graffiti appear to have been deliberately placed close to a synagogue or other Jewish facility, or in an area with a large Jewish population, then they are more likely to be classified as an antisemitic incident.

Shouting "*Free Palestine*" and "*Free Gaza*" on a pro-Palestinian demonstration is not antisemitic, even if it upsets or offends pro-Israel supporters. But when "*Free Palestine*" is shouted indiscriminately at a Jew in the street, or daubed on a synagogue wall, this is an expression of antisemitism.⁶ It protests Israel by targeting local Jews at random.

Anti-Israel material that is sent unsolicited to a synagogue or other clearly Jewish venue at random may well be recorded by CST as an antisemitic incident. The reason is that the synagogue was targeted on the basis of it being Jewish, and the offender failed to distinguish between a place of worship and pro-Israel political activity.

If, however, anti-Israel material (containing no antisemitic language) is sent unsolicited to specifically pro-Israel organisations, then this incident would not be classified as antisemitic. Similarly, if a Jewish individual or group is engaging in public pro-Israel advocacy and

⁶ [July 2014: UK Antisemitism Reflections](#), CST Blog, 6 August 2014

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subsequently receives anti-Israel material, this would most likely not be classified as antisemitic (unless, again, it contains antisemitic language).

The political discourse used in an incident may also be the reason why the incident is accepted or rejected as antisemitic. In particular, incidents that equate Israel to Nazi Germany would normally be recorded by CST as antisemitic because the comparison is so deeply hurtful and abusive and uses Israel's self-definition as a Jewish state as the basis for the insult.

However, incidents that compare Israel to, for example, apartheid South Africa would not necessarily be treated in the same way. While the charge that Israel practises apartheid upsets many Jews, it does not contain the same visceral capacity to offend Jews as the comparison with Nazism, which carries particular meaning for Jews because of the Holocaust; nor does it play on Israel's Jewishness as a way of causing hurt.

In all cases, CST follows the guidance of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism to examine the context of an alleged antisemitic incident, before assessing whether it is antisemitic or not. The IHRA working definition is also clear in directing that *"criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic."*⁷

Regardless of whether or not anti-Israel incidents are classified as antisemitic by CST, they are still relevant to CST's security work as they may involve threats and abuse directed at Jewish people or organisations who work with – or in support of – Israel, and therefore have an impact on the security of the UK Jewish community.



⁷ [Working Definition of Antisemitism](#), International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

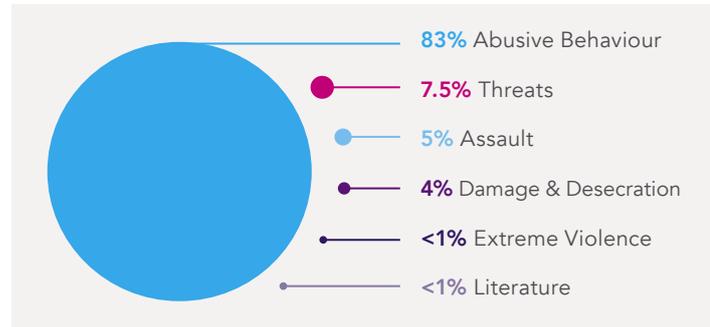
Data and trends

CST recorded 628 antisemitic incidents between 8 May-7 June 2021, the highest number CST has ever recorded in a month-long period.⁸ The previous record incident total for any month-long period was 403 antisemitic incidents reported to CST between 12 July-11 August 2014, during the last major conflict in Israel and Gaza.

The 628 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST were in the following categories:

| Incident category | No. incidents |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Extreme Violence | 1 |
| Assault | 33 |
| Damage & Desecration | 26 |
| Threats | 47 |
| Abusive Behaviour | 520 |
| Literature | 1 |
| TOTAL | 628 |

⁸ All these figures are subject to change due to the late reporting of incidents.

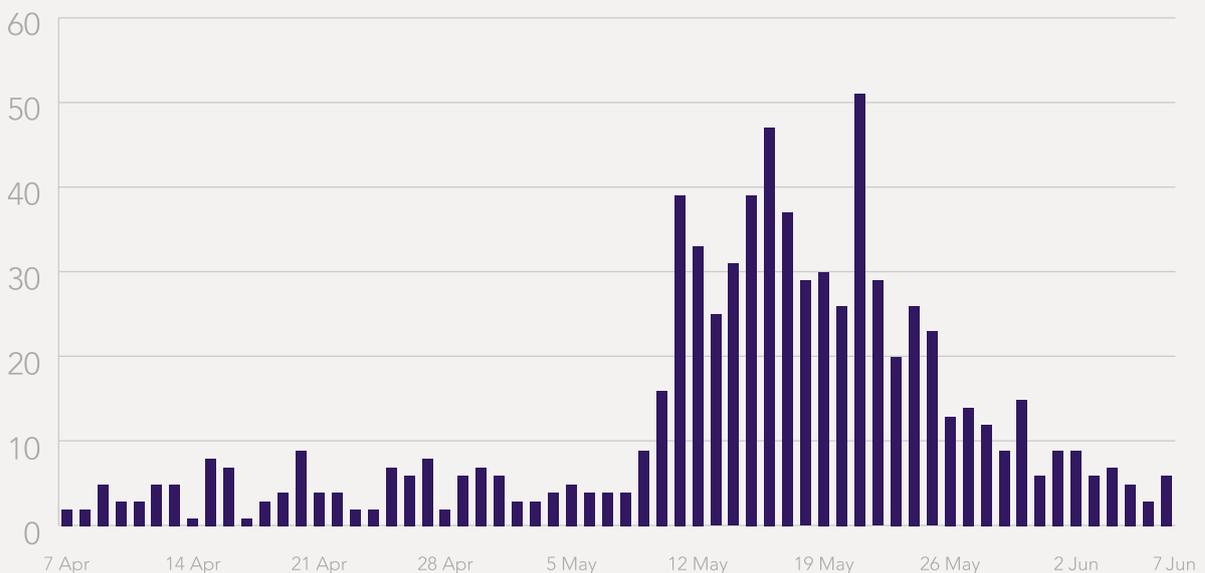


Five hundred and eight-five of the 628 incidents recorded during the period appeared to be motivated by, or related to, the conflict in Israel and Gaza.

During this time, CST received a further 187 reports that it did not deem to be antisemitic as they did not show evidence of anti-Jewish language, motivation or targeting. These reports are not included in this CST Research Briefing or in these antisemitic incident statistics.

For comparison, CST recorded 146 antisemitic incidents during the same period of 8 May to 7 June in 2020, and 135 antisemitic incidents in the month prior to 8 May 2021. This means that CST recorded more than four times the total of antisemitic incidents that would normally

DAILY NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, 7 APRIL-7 JUNE



EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

be expected during the month-long period covered by this Briefing. In total, there has been an increase of 365% in reported antisemitic incidents, from the 135 recorded in the thirty-one days inclusive prior to the escalation of violence in Israel/Palestine, to the 628 incidents recorded in the thirty-one days inclusive after.

Geographical breakdown

The ten UK police regions with the highest number of reported antisemitic incidents from 8 May to 7 June are as follows:

| Location | No. incidents |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Greater London | 360 |
| Greater Manchester | 95 |
| Hertfordshire | 24 |
| West Yorkshire | 20 |
| Northumbria | 15 |
| West Midlands | 14 |
| Merseyside | 13 |
| Thames Valley | 13 |
| Scotland | 11 |
| Sussex | 8 |

Offender breakdown

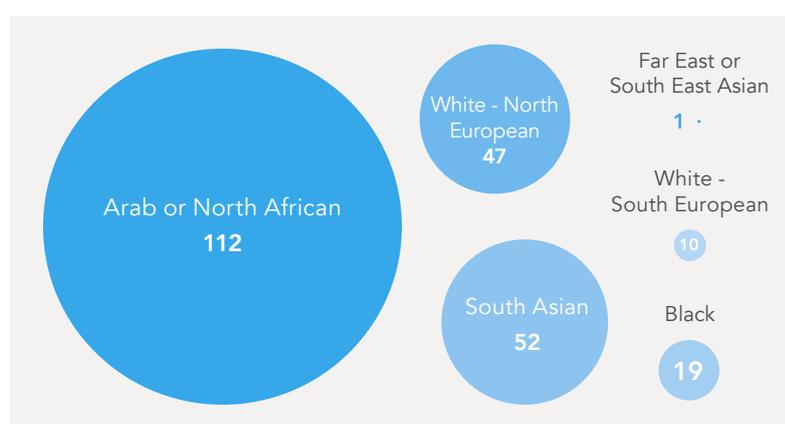
CST received a description of the ethnic appearance of the offender or offenders in 241 of the 628 antisemitic incidents reported during this period. Of these, 112 (46%) were described as Arab or North African; 52 (22%) as South Asian; 47 (20%) were described as white – North European; 19 (8%) as black; ten (4%) as white – South European; and just one (less than 1%) as Southeast Asian.

A description of the gender of the offender or offenders was obtained by CST in 333 of the 628 antisemitic incidents recorded from 8 May to 7 June 2021. Of these, the offender was described as male in 261 incidents (78% of incidents where

the offender's gender was obtained), female in 63 incidents (19%), and mixed groups of males and females in nine incidents (3%).

In 340 of the 628 reports of antisemitism over this period, the approximate age of the offender or offenders was provided. Among these, 247 (73%) involved adult offenders; in 92 cases (27%) the perpetrators were minors; there was only one incident (less than 1%) in which the offenders were a mix of adults and minors.

The key differences in the offenders described to CST during this period, when compared to periods when there is no conflict involving Israel, arise in the reported ethnicity of offenders, where a far higher proportion of offenders are of North African, Arab or South Asian origin. For example, in the full year 2020, 63% of antisemitic incident offenders were described to CST as white – North European; 17% as black; 11% were described as Arab or North African; 6% as South Asian; 3% as white – South European; and less than 1% as Southeast Asian. A similar change in the relative proportions of described incident offenders was seen during the previous conflict in Israel and Gaza, in July and August 2014.⁹ Meanwhile, there is a slightly less uneven spread between male and female offenders than usual, as well as between adults and minors. This latter point reflects the escalation in antisemitic incidents in UK schools during the time frame of the recent conflict.



⁹ [Antisemitic Incidents Report 2014](#), CST, 2015

• • **EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01** • •

CASE STUDY

Rabbi violently assaulted in Chigwell, Essex

Essex Police have charged two men in connection with the assault of Rabbi Rafi Goodwin in Chigwell on 16 May.¹⁰ Abderrahman Brahim, 25, and Souraka Djabouri, 18, have been charged with wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, robbery and religiously aggravated criminal damage. The rabbi was treated in hospital for head wounds after the incident and has received support from CST's specialist victim support staff. The trial of the defendants had not started at the time of writing.

¹⁰ [Chigwell: Appeal after assault](#), Essex Police, 19 May 2021

CASE STUDY

Convoy participants shout violent verbal abuse in Manchester and London

In the evening of 16 May, four men were arrested on suspicion of racially aggravated public order offences.¹¹ This was in connection with an investigation into antisemitic abuse shouted from a car on Finchley Road in St John's Wood, north London, on the afternoon of 16 May. Travelling as part of a convoy of cars with Palestinian flags protesting the conflict, one person shouted through a loudspeaker: "F**k the Jews", "F**k their daughters", "F**k their mothers", "Rape their daughters."¹² The four men were also arrested in connection with a similar incident that took place at around 1.35am on 16 May in the Broughton Park area of Salford, Manchester. They have since been released on bail pending further enquiries in relation to both incidents but at the time of

¹¹ [Men arrested in connection with anti-Semitic incident in St John's Wood bailed](#), Metropolitan Police Service, 18 May 2021

¹² <https://twitter.com/SussexFriends/status/1393925736851984385>

writing have not been charged. CST identified the cars in question and gathered evidence showing their journey from Bradford to London, which has been shared with police. The Palestinian Forum in Britain issued a press release condemning this antisemitic incident and stated that the "Palestinian Forum in Britain is horrified to learn of a hate anti Semitic crime against the Jewish community in London in the name of protesting for the freedom of Palestine."¹³



In a post on Telegram on 16 May, the organisers of the 'Convoy 4 Palestine' condemned the antisemitic slurs.¹⁴



¹³ [Press Release, Palestinian Forum in Britain](#)

¹⁴ <https://t.me/Convoy4Palestine/48>

• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

CASE STUDY

Jewish woman's car assaulted by pro-Palestinian convoy vehicle

In May, a Jewish woman was driving away from her home in Hendon, north west London, when two cars with large Palestinian flags chased her down the road and rammed into the back of her car. She was playing Jewish music in the car and her four-year-old son was wearing a blue kippah (skull cap). According to media reports, the victim described the incident as follows:

"As I came to the top of the road I noticed two cars with huge Palestinian flags on their bonnet. I turned right and both cars started to chase me down the road and rammed into the back of my car.

*"As I approached the light I put my foot on the accelerator and sped through a red light, trying to make my way through the traffic. I turned into my friend's road, but the cars continued to chase me. Once again I found myself with my foot flat on the accelerator racing down the road to try and find somewhere safe. Thankfully I found a small alley where I parked my car behind a large truck. I called my friend to check the cars had gone and made my way to his home to calm down."*¹⁵

¹⁵ Justin Cohen, [Cars draped in Palestinian flags 'chased me down and rammed into me'](#), *Jewish News*, 18 May 2021

Antisemitic incidents in the education sector

The antisemitic incidents reported to CST during the month from 8 May to 7 June 2021 had a disproportionate impact on Jewish students and staff at schools and universities. CST recorded 93 antisemitic incidents that were related to schools and 61 incidents that were related to universities, making 154 antisemitic incidents that were related to the education sector. This is almost as many as the 162 school and university-

related antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2019 (the last year in which schools and universities were fully open as normal). However, in 2019 the antisemitic incidents reported to CST that were related to schools and universities only amounted to 9% of the overall total, whereas the 154 education-related incidents recorded during the month from 8 May 2021 made up 25% of all antisemitic incidents recorded by CST during this period.

Primary and secondary schools

The impact of antisemitism relating to the Middle East conflict on Jewish teachers and Jewish students has been significant. CST recorded 93 antisemitic incidents in schools across the UK from 8 May to 7 June 2021. Sixty-one of these incidents took place at school premises and 19 involved Jewish school students (identifiable by their uniform) being targeted for antisemitic abuse on the way to or from school. Nine of the school-related incidents were online.

Fifty-six antisemitic incidents occurred at mainstream (i.e. non-faith) schools, most of which involved Jewish school students or Jewish teachers being singled out and targeted for abuse by students shouting "Free Palestine" or using other pro-Palestinian language or imagery as tools of abuse. In some cases this antisemitism grew quickly and on such a scale that senior leaderships in mainstream schools struggled to handle the situation.

Jewish schoolchildren and students were singled out and pressured to declare their position on the conflict or justify Israel's existence, either by classmates at non-Jewish schools or by passers-by outside of school as children returned home. In May, for example, a pupil at a mainstream school in north west England circulated a petition about Israel and Palestine and told other students "the Jews are killing Muslims" and "the Jews are bad." The same month, Jewish secondary school students in north London were stopped by a man who threatened to punch them if they did not say they supported

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

Palestine; he then said, *“Tell your f*cking mum and dad they are murderers and killing babies.”*

On 28 May, Education Secretary Gavin Williamson MP sent a letter to headteachers and school leaders across the country specifically addressing the increase of antisemitic hate crime incidents in some schools in response to the recent conflict.¹⁶ Mr Williamson acknowledged the sensitivity of the issues relating to the Middle East conflict but reminded schools of their legal duties of political impartiality. Mr Williamson unreservedly condemned the rise in antisemitic incidents, *“including the expression of antisemitic views and bullying towards Jewish students and teachers.”* He also emphasised that it is *“unacceptable to allow some pupils to create an atmosphere of intimidation or fear for other students and teachers”* and urged *“schools to deal with these incidents with all due seriousness.”*

The following is a small selection of the school-related incidents reported to CST:

Jewish teachers verbally abused and intimidated in London secondary school

In May and June 2021, a group of students at a non-Jewish school in north west London repeatedly targeted Jewish teachers for verbal abuse during the conflict, shouting *“Free Palestine”* at them numerous times, forcing them to answer antagonistic questions about Israel and throwing a Palestinian flag at the window of one teacher. On one occasion, students left drawing pins on one of the teacher’s chairs.

Jewish student assaulted in north London secondary school

A Jewish student at a non-Jewish school in north London was physically and verbally assaulted in relation to the Middle East

conflict. The male student was called a *“c*nt”* and was told *“go back to the concentration camps”* and *“why didn’t Germany gas the lot of you?”*

Jewish school children abused on TfL bus after school hours

A group of Jewish schoolgirls were heading home on a Transport for London bus in north west London, when a non-Jewish schoolgirl from a different school got onto the bus and started shouting towards the group *“Free Palestine and f*** Israel”* and *“stupid Jews”*. The girl said that, *“if you stare at me I will slap you”*. The Jewish pupils decided to exit the bus early and, as they disembarked, the girl again shouted, *“Free Palestine”*.

Antisemitic incidents at UK universities

Jewish university students from across the country have reported antisemitic incidents to CST at a level much higher than previously seen. CST recorded 61 antisemitic incidents related to universities in the UK from 8 May to 7 June 2021.¹⁷ For comparison, CST recorded a total of 58 university incidents in the whole of the 2018/2019 academic year and 65 university incidents in the 2019/2020 academic year,¹⁸ meaning that Jewish students and lecturers suffered a year’s worth of antisemitic incidents in a single month. Unlike in schools, the majority of university-related incidents were online, with 45 incidents occurring on social media or messaging apps. The other 16 university-related incidents were committed offline.

¹⁷ CST defines a university-related incident as any antisemitic incident that involves students, staff, student bodies or academics at a UK university. These include incidents that take place on-campus, and incidents that take place off-campus but where the incident relates to the victim’s student, academic or staff status; or antisemitism directed at organisations whose work is focused on universities, such as the Union of Jewish Students (UJS) or University Jewish Chaplaincy.

¹⁸ [Campus Antisemitism in Britain 2018-2020](#), CST Research Briefing, 2020

¹⁶ [Antisemitism: Williamson warns headteachers amid tension in schools](#), *Guardian*, 29 May 2021

• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

The total of 61 university-related incidents also included eight threats, two of which were death threats sent to Jewish students. Students have received antisemitic abuse from people they have never met before, as well as from close friends.

After reporting the abuse to their universities, several students told CST that they felt they received insufficient support from their institutions. Many victims said the incidents have made them feel unsafe on campus, and Jewish societies have commented that their members are worried by the increase in anti-Jewish hate they see and hear from fellow students.

While most of the reports have come from campuses with large Jewish student populations, students from campuses across the country have seen an increase in antisemitism due to the recent conflict in the Middle East.

The following is a small selection of the university-related incidents reported to CST:

| University | No. incidents |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| University of Oxford | 9 |
| University of Birmingham | 7 |
| University College London | 6 |
| Lancaster University | 4 |
| University of Leeds | 3 |
| Royal Holloway | 3 |
| Middlesex University | 3 |
| University of Liverpool | 3 |

Leeds University student receives threatening calls

A first-year student at Leeds woke up to see they had three missed calls overnight from a blocked number. After picking up a fourth blocked number call, they heard a pre-recorded message threatening them and their family: *"I want to shoot all your family. I know*

your father. I want to put a bullet in your head. I hate you, I hate the Jews." The student was scared for their safety and a parent reported the incident to CST's 24-hour control room.

Instagram user harasses university students

An anonymous Instagram user posted hostile messages about Israel on the Instagram accounts of at least five university Jewish Societies and a campus chaplain. These posts included messages like *"I hope you guys are praying for what's happening in Palestine. I know your God doesn't want that!!! Talk to ur family about the brutal torture and killing of the Palestinians [sic] people by the Israelis!"* By posting these messages on the pages of random Jewish students, under posts that had nothing to do with Israel, the user was holding Jewish students in the UK responsible for a foreign conflict despite them not engaging in the issue at all.

Hostile social media mentions of UK Jewish communities

During the conflict, several Twitter users tweeted about wanting to attack or abuse British Jews. On 23 May, one Twitter user tweeted a threat to attack in Manchester: *"any Zionist I see in Manchester is getting curls cut off and jaws snapped."* The *"curls"* is likely a reference to the side curls (*payot*) that many Orthodox Jewish men have in accordance with Jewish religious tradition.



Others tweeted about wanting to abuse Jews in Golders Green and Stamford Hill – two north London neighbourhoods with substantial Jewish populations – in reaction to the conflict in Israel. Another account tweeted the following (since

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

removed by Twitter): “Bloody Jews i wanna get in a car n run over them over in stamford hill.”¹⁹



¹⁹ <https://twitter.com/farhanmiad088/status/1392191094583173123> (Twitter has since removed the tweet)

Political responses to the wave of antisemitism

In response to the spike in antisemitism and recognition of the gravity of the situation, Members of Parliament denounced the rise of antisemitism during a House of Commons debate on 17 May.²⁰

In a separate session in Parliament on the same day, Home Secretary Priti Patel dedicated time to address and forthrightly condemn the expressions of antisemitism in response to the conflict:

“There is never an excuse or justification for inciting antisemitism or hatred against any community or faith. Some of the language—the chants and slogans—used by protestors and activists this weekend was unacceptable. In fact, it was racist. The streets of London, our great capital city, saw people waving antisemitic placards comparing Israel with Nazi Germany. There were violent chants of “Kill the Jews”, along with many other abhorrent chants and rhetoric that I will not repeat. All this was shamefully supported on social media—Snapchat, Instagram and Twitter were awash with antisemitic and abusive content.

“All right hon. and hon. Members will have seen the footage of the convoy of cars driving down the Finchley Road. That was nothing to do with Palestine or Israel; it was pure and simple antisemitism that sought to intimidate, harass and frighten members of the Jewish community. I am sickened by the behaviours that were witnessed over the weekend. In an open and free society, we of course all have the right to express our views openly, but any free and open society must never turn a blind eye to appalling hatred, racism and antisemitism of the type witnessed over the weekend.”²¹

²⁰ [Antisemitic Attacks](#), Hansard, UK Parliament, House of Commons, 17 May 2021

²¹ [Safe Streets for All](#), Hansard, UK Parliament, House of Commons, 17 May 2021

• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

Following the aggressive demonstration in London on 15 May, London Mayor Sadiq Khan said:

"I am deeply concerned about reports of hateful, intimidating and racist language being used on marches and social media this weekend. It is unacceptable to incite anti-Jewish or anti-Muslim hatred. This must stop now."

"Let me be clear—racial hatred and persecution in all its forms are abhorrent and have no place in our city. The police have my full backing for a zero-tolerance approach to tackling it. We must stop these vile attacks."²²

In an open letter to the UK Jewish community on 19 May, the Home Secretary and the Communities Secretary, Robert Jenrick MP, also explicitly condemned the spike in antisemitism as *"a stain on the UK."*²³ They emphasised that, *"Whatever one's views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there can be no justification for the racist behaviour we have seen on our streets and on social media."*

In Parliament on 19 May, the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister both condemned the rise in antisemitism in reaction to the conflict:²⁴

Leader of the Opposition Sir Keir Starmer MP: *"Finally, I want to raise the appalling rise in antisemitism in the last week, and the attacks and violence that we have seen. On Saturday, a rabbi in Chigwell was hospitalised after being attacked outside his synagogue. Many of us will have seen the appalling incident in Golders Green. The Community Security Trust reports a 500% rise in antisemitic incidents since the outbreak of violence in Gaza and Israel. I know*

²² [Nine police officers injured as police disperse crowds outside Israeli embassy](#), *Jewish Chronicle*, 16 May 2021

²³ Priti Patel and Robert Jenrick, [An open letter to the Jewish community](#), *Jewish Chronicle*, 19 May 2021

²⁴ [Prime Minister's Questions](#), Hansard, UK Parliament, 19 May 2021

that the Government are working on this, and both the Prime Minister and I have condemned these antisemitic attacks and violence, but across this House we all know that Jewish communities remain very anxious. What more does the Prime Minister think can be done to provide the extra support and protection needed to reassure Jewish communities at this really very difficult time?"

Prime Minister Boris Johnson MP:

"I share the right hon. and learned Gentleman's horror at the outbreak of antisemitic incidents. The Government have conveyed that message loud and clear to those who are responsible for enforcing the law against hate crime of that kind. Obviously, we will continue to work and support the Jewish community in any way that we can, particularly by working with the Community Safety [sic] Trust, which does an absolutely outstanding job, but also by showing, as a country and as a society, that we will call this out at every stage. We will not let it take root; we will not allow it to grow and fester."

Additionally, on 7 June, the Home Secretary reiterated these sentiments when asked in Parliament about tackling antisemitism at public demonstrations:

"The grotesque antisemitic scenes to which my Rt Hon Friend refers were utterly chilling and disgraceful. And this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated. The police must take the toughest possible action against any form of antisemitism. Jewish people must feel safe."

"Everyone has freedom of speech and the right to protest peacefully. That does not include the right to be racist, to harass anyone, or to incite hatred or violence. Moreover, holding Jewish people collectively responsible for the actions – real or imagined – of the Israeli state is antisemitic. Anyone who engages in antisemitic behaviour must feel the full force of the law."²⁵

²⁵ [Antisemitism: Demonstrations](#), Hansard, UK Parliament, Question for Home Office, 7 June 2021

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

ANTISEMITISM AND EXTREMISM AT UK DEMONSTRATIONS

Numerous peaceful pro-Palestinian demonstrations took place across the UK in May and June 2021. Legitimate protests against Israel are not the subject of this briefing, but several protests included antisemitic chanting, speeches and placards among a minority of protestors. Some protestors also burnt Israeli flags and engaged in physical confrontations with police.

In particular, the presence of antisemitism at the large protest in central London and Manchester on 22 May even attracted the attention of national media, leading *The Times* to report: “placards with anti-Jewish hatred mar protests by tens of thousands.”²⁶

In London, for example, a demonstrator displayed a placard comparing Palestinians to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, with the words “DO NOT LET THEM DO THE SAME THING AGAIN TODAY.”²⁷ This invokes a classic antisemitic trope accusing Jews of responsibility for the death of Jesus; and implying that Israel’s alleged wrongdoings today are due to an immutable, evil Jewish characteristic that is represented today through Israel.



Credit: Lee Harpin

²⁶ Emily Kent Smith, Caroline Wheeler and Dipesh Gadher, [Placards with anti-Jewish hatred mar protests by tens of thousand](#), *The Times*, 23 May 2021

²⁷ Lee Harpin, [‘Jews are Christ killers’ banner at anti-Israel protest](#), *Jewish News*, 22 May 2021

In a speech at the pro-Palestinian rally on 22 May, the writer and left-wing activist Tariq Ali blamed the existence of antisemitism on Israel:

“They talk a lot about saying all those marching for Palestine are antisemites. This of course isn’t true. But I tell you something, and they don’t like hearing it. Every time they bomb Gaza, every time they attack Jerusalem – that is what creates antisemitism. Stop it. Stop the occupation, stop the bombing and the casual antisemitism will soon disappear.”²⁸

Antisemitism, provocations and pro-Palestinian convoys

A distressing feature of pro-Palestinian demonstrations during the May-June 2021 conflict was the use of vehicles, either individually or in convoys, driving through British neighbourhoods with visible and sizable Jewish populations waving Palestinian flags and shouting slogans in a way that was likely intended to intimidate local Jewish communities. These convoys came to national attention on the afternoon of 16 May due to the appalling abuse shouted by some convoy participants on Finchley Road in London, but it was a much more common phenomenon than that single incident indicated.

CST recorded 112 incidents of individuals targeting random Jewish people or Jewish neighbourhoods with shouts of “Free Palestine”, Palestinian flags or both. Sometimes this involved explicitly abusive or threatening language or gestures in a manner intended to offend and intimidate. Of these 112 incidents, 54 included this type of targeting from individuals in vehicles. Shouting “Free Palestine” or “Free Gaza” on

²⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/BStWC/videos/138450761662461>

• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

a pro-Palestinian demonstration is not antisemitic, even if it upsets or offends others. When “Free Palestine” is shouted at someone because they are Jewish, or if it is daubed on a synagogue wall, this is a racist act in which the phrase “Free Palestine” is weaponised to attack Jews.

Several vehicle convoys in support of Palestinians have taken place across the UK in recent weeks. Some have apparently attempted to be deliberately provocative by driving through areas with large Jewish communities.

On 14 May, a convoy of cars in Birmingham brought traffic to a standstill. *Birmingham Live* provided a live feed of the protest, and the reporter approached two men in one of the many cars to ask about the reasons for their participation.²⁹ Although the driver denied he opposed all Jews, he expressed an antisemitic conspiracy by saying that, “the Zionists out there trying to get world domination, they control the media, they control everything and it’s wrong.” He also said that, “the world needs to understand, what Winston Churchill did back in World War II by giving Jews Palestine was wrong.”

On 23 May, a car protest for Palestine set off from the West Midlands and made its way to central London. The vehicles were draped with Palestinian flags and stickers. When they arrived in central London, they held a small protest outside the Israeli Embassy. Then, in an apparent act of provocation, they made their way to Stamford Hill, a north London neighbourhood with one of London’s largest communities of orthodox Jews, where they argued with Jewish passers-by.

Also on 23 May, Shabs Ahmad, the organiser of a separate convoy called “Gaza Cruise for Justice 2”, wore a black hat, side curls and beard



in an impersonation of a Hasidic Jew. While his Instagram post stated that he supports Jews who oppose Zionism, his portrayal of Jews could be seen as provocative or insulting.³⁰

“Khaybar Khaybar Ya Yahud”

At some of the larger protests in central London in May, clusters of demonstrators chanted the violent antisemitic battle cry in Arabic of “Khaybar Khaybar Ya Yahud, Jaish Muhammad Sauf Ya’ud.” This means “Khaybar Khaybar oh Jews, the army of Mohammed is returning.” Khaybar refers to a 7th century battle in the Arabian Peninsula in which early Muslim armies defeated a Jewish tribe. CST has identified two of the protestors involved in this chanting at one of the demonstrations in London and passed their identities to the police, who have confirmed to CST that they are investigating the “Khaybar Khaybar” chant as an offence of stirring up racial hatred. CST has also reported to the police the use of the same chant at a demonstration in Swansea.

The battle cry has a forceful rhythmic refrain and implies that history will repeat itself. By warning Jews that “the army of Muhammad will return”, just like at the Battle of Khaybar, it constitutes a threat that Muslims will once again kill Jews in the present day or near future and is a call for them to do so. Chanting this slogan at anti-Israel demonstrations indicates its anti-

²⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/birmingham.live/videos/465496318060963>

³⁰ <https://www.instagram.com/p/CPQ7S34HAp6/>

• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

Jewish tone, given that the historical battle long predated Zionism and the existence of the State of Israel and the chant is specifically directed at “Yahud”, the Arabic word for “Jews”.

This chant has also been used by violent jihadist terrorists to express their antisemitism. In May 2021, one of al-Qaeda’s statements on the conflict specifically praised the chanting of “Khaybar Khaybar”,³¹ while al-Shabaab released content of an anti-Israel protest in Somalia that included demonstrators chanting this slogan.³² Additionally, in August 2003, a convicted jihadist terrorist, Amrozi bin Nurhasin, shouted “Khaybar Khaybar Ya Yahud” in front of judges and media as he appeared for the sentencing for his role in the 2002 al-Qaeda linked bombing attack in Bali, Indonesia that killed 202 people.³³

“Khaybar Khaybar” has been chanted numerous times in demonstrations in the UK and abroad for many decades. For example, in December 2017, then US President Donald Trump’s announcement that the US Embassy in Israel would be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem provoked intense opposition among Palestinians in the region, and from their supporters in the UK. At a demonstration outside the US Embassy in London that year, some protestors chanted in Arabic for Jews to be killed by shouting the “Khaybar Khaybar” slogan.³⁴

A few days after this 2017 demonstration, a joint statement was issued by the Palestine

Solidarity Campaign, Friends of Al Aqsa, Muslim Association of Britain, Stop the War Coalition and the Palestinian Forum in Britain – the joint organisers of the demonstration – condemning the use of “slogans which demonstrated hatred and advocated violence...As organisations we stand against racism and discrimination of all forms including antisemitism.”³⁵

Nonetheless, footage from London demonstrations in May 2021 – specifically on 9 May³⁶, 11 May³⁷ and 15 May³⁸ – still showed certain groups of demonstrators chanting “Khaybar Khaybar.” The organisers of the 15 May London protest, for example, estimated that 150,000 demonstrators attended the event, and the Khaybar chants were heard especially frequently throughout the demonstration among a smaller cluster of demonstrators. After the end of the official demonstration, some of the younger, more aggressive protestors burned more Israeli flags and let off more flares, congregating down the road from the Israeli Embassy.

Those chanting included two protestors wearing tops with the image of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.³⁹



31 [AQ Central Heaps Praise on Palestinians Engaged in Conflict, Calls Muslims to Support and Branches to Wage Military Campaign](#), SITE Intelligence Group, 17 May 2021

32 [Shabaab Convenes Protests Against Israel in Controlled Areas, Documents Demonstrations and Burning of Israeli Flag](#), SITE Intelligence Group, 17 May 2021

33 Martin Gilbert, *In Ishmael’s House: A History of Jews in Muslim Lands*, Yale University Press, 2010: pp.4-5

34 [Antisemitic Discourse in Britain 2017](#), CST, 2018: pg.39

35 <https://www.facebook.com/palestinesolidarityuk/posts/1595946207115302>

36 [Free Palestine Protest, Save Sheikh Jarrah ps - London May 2021](#), YouTube, 9 May 2021

37 [Pro-Palestine protesters hold rally in London](#), YouTube (Ruptly), 11 May 2021

38 <https://twitter.com/SCrabbPembs/status/139385244055072738>

39 https://twitter.com/The_Zionist1/status/1393559694023725056

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

In February 2018, one of these activists posted on his Facebook page⁴⁰ an image glamorising Ahmad Nasr Jarrar, the leader of a Hamas Qassam Brigades cell responsible for the fatal drive-by shooting of a rabbi in the West Bank in January 2018.⁴¹



Image posted on Facebook by activist of Ahmad Nasr Jarrar

“We love death” and “We want the Zionists. We want their blood”

On 23 May, an Israel solidarity rally in central London attracted a counter-demonstration of around 50-60 Islamist and pro-Palestinian activists.



⁴⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1892878064376088&set=a.1493347527662479>

⁴¹ Yoav Zitun and Elior Levy, [Terrorist behind murder of Rabbi Razeel Shevah killed](#), Ynetnews, 2 June 2018

Mohammed Hijab, an influential Islamist YouTuber with 449,000 subscribers, delivered an aggressive seven-minute speech comparing the pro-Israel rally to an event in support of ISIS, al-Qaeda or Hamas, and saying “we don’t care about death, we love death.” The full recording showed that Hijab said the following:

“And the difference between us and them is this, the difference between us and them is that for them they think life begins, for us we believe that death begins. We believe that life begins at death, we don’t care about death, we love death. And if you think that our people in Palestine or across the Arab and Muslim world will let go of the struggle and our sacred places like al Aqsa you are grossly mistaken! You will never ever and I say this to Netanyahu. I say this to all the powers, we will never allow you to put your gross hands on masjid al-Aqsa. It will never happen!”⁴²

The words “we don’t care about death, we love death” are evocative of the jihadist slogan “we love death as you love life.” Jihadist figures have often used this phrase to emphasise their commitment to fighting and martyrdom in comparison to the perceived weakness of unbelievers. Notably, the version of the speech uploaded to Hijab’s YouTube channel was edited and did not include the section relating to loving death.⁴³

The day before this rally, Mohammed Hijab had been involved in a provocative stunt that targeted the Jewish community in Golders Green (see *Islamist YouTube influencers provoke Jews in Golders Green*, p.36).

According to one of the participants of the pro-Israel rally, a few fellow pro-Israel demonstrators – one of whom had brought his dog – were threatened after taking a wrong turn and

⁴² [Solidarity With Israel Protest, Israeli Embassy – London](#), YouTube, 23 May 2021

⁴³ Mohammed Hijab, [Muslim Speech on Pro-Israeli Rally](#), YouTube, 23 May 2021

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

entering the pro-Palestinian Islamist counter-demonstration.⁴⁴ Mohammed Hijab then told a police officer as follows:

"I'm making it very clear, so everyone understands. If those dogs come close to us again, we will see it as an act of aggression and we will kill those dogs! We'll put them down!"

After the rally and counter-demonstration concluded, Metropolitan Police officers escorted a splinter group of counter-demonstrators away from the area. As they walked a circuit around Kensington High Street, one counter-demonstrator, standing next to a police officer, shouted, "We'll find some Jews there. We want the Zionists. We want their blood."⁴⁵ The individual was not arrested but the Metropolitan Police have confirmed to CST that they are investigating it as a possible offence of stirring up racial hatred.

Another person marching with the counter-demonstrators is claimed to have placed two small Israeli flags on his shoes, saying this is "the Nike anti-Jewish edition."⁴⁶



⁴⁴ https://twitter.com/israel_advocacy/status/1397248797621751810

⁴⁵ <https://twitter.com/SimonClarkeMP/status/1396751055854227457>

⁴⁶ <https://twitter.com/JakeWSimons/status/1397153288395579392>

"Lift the curse of the Jews"

At an anti-Israel demonstration in Bradford on 9 May, an unidentified woman addressed the crowd in a series of anti-Jewish Arabic chants, which were repeated back to her in Arabic by multiple people in the crowd:

"God, purify al-Aqsa from impure people! God, make the earth quake under their feet!"

"God, lift the curse of the Jews off the Muslims in Palestine!"

"God, support Muslim youth to protect al-Aqsa! God, support them with your soldiers! God, we ask you to make the Jews lose!"

"God, make Islam win!"⁴⁷

She then concluded by leading the crowd in Arabic chants of "with our soul, with our blood, we will redeem you, al-Aqsa!"

Labour MP Naz Shah (Bradford West), who spoke at the same demonstration, issued a statement on 4 June condemning the remarks and saying that, "a small minority of individuals have been trying to infiltrate demonstrations about the situation in Palestine to spew hatred" (her statement did not directly address the audience participation).⁴⁸ Shah also stated that, "I will never tolerate antisemitism and I totally condemn anyone perpetrating it."

"Accept every single shahid"

At a demonstration in Rochdale on 15 May, Imam Irfan Chishti CBE, who works with the UK Government's Prevent programme, delivered an inflammatory speech, prompting a Home Office investigation. Chishti referred to "the holy al-Aqsa that is being desecrated by those vile human beings who dare to insult out blessed masjid."

⁴⁷ [Protest in Bradford City Centre, Palestine PSPS](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...), YouTube, 10 May 2021

⁴⁸ <https://twitter.com/NazShahBfd/status/1400854202197364740>

• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

Chishti later asked, “Where is Saladin?”, referring to the historical figure who defeated the Crusaders in 1187. Chishti said to the audience: “When you are crying ‘Saladin’, you wanna be warriors? You wanna be mujahids? You know, you wanna be the men? Then be the man that Saladin was and go into [inaudible] before going out into the battle. Because he turned to Allah and that’s who we turn to.”

Chishti also said that “our Jewish brethren” are fewer in number than Muslims in the UK and that, “they are our cousins; they just happen to be a lot smarter than us.” He later stated that earlier speakers “know exactly the strategy that those Jewish, Zionist politicians are doing. They know that and we also know how to respond. It’s got to be long term, it’s got to be economic and it’s got to be with strategy.”

Towards the end of his speech, Chishti also praised martyrs in Palestine, saying that, “We ask Allah, we beg of you Allah that you accept every single shahid that has given their life for the sake of Falastin.”⁴⁹

In response to the speech, a Home Office spokesman said:

“These comments are completely unacceptable and risk damaging community relations and undermining Prevent’s important work. We have launched an urgent internal investigation and will take appropriate action. There is no place for hatred in our communities and anti-Semitism will not be tolerated.”

Chishti also released a statement of regret for the content of his speech:

“Reading my speech from the protest back in print really jolted me and whilst my objective was to encourage the expression of opinions within democratic and lawful norms, upon reflection I

recognise that I could have chosen better and less equivocal words for communicating that message.

“Some of my words reflect a clear error of judgement, in the heat of the moment and do not reflect my sentiments or the sentiments of the audience.

“I now appreciate that my ill-chosen words will have caused offence and hurt to the Jewish community and I tender my most profound apologies.”⁵⁰

BBC’s Jewish executives bias the media

At a pro-Palestinian demonstration in Manchester on 22 May, one of the speakers was a 19-year-old activist, identified only as Ahmad, who told the crowd that 13 Jewish executives control the BBC in favour of Zionism:

“I would like to talk a little bit about the media, so the media that are which are operating the country is literally the mainstream media is the BBC, the British Broadcasting Corporation. Okay. So the BBC, the main 13 executives that approve the content released by the BBC are actually in fact Jewish. So this means that the information released by the mainstream media will be biased. It will be biased. It’ll be misleading, and it will also be in favour of Zionists to make them look like the victim.”⁵¹

The myth of Jewish control and manipulation of the media in the service of Jewish (or Zionist) interests is a recurring antisemitic trope that is found in the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and other antisemitic conspiracy tracts. In 1997, for example, prominent far right activist Nick Griffin (who later became leader of the British National Party) published an antisemitic document titled *Who are the MIND-BENDERS? The People Who*

⁴⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/afzalNaqsh/videos/1339297503133456>

⁵⁰ David Rose, [Top imam who helps police to spot extremists labelled Israel a 'terrorist state': Priti Patel orders inquiry into speech by prominent Muslim cleric](#), Daily Mail, 24 May 2021

⁵¹ https://twitter.com/habibi_uk/status/1402578293447135236

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

Rule Britain Through Control of the Mass Media. It listed hundreds of Jews and others wrongly believed to be Jewish and stated that:

“...very few people in Britain are aware of the huge influence over the mass media exercised by a certain ethnic minority, namely the Jews... It is not our claim in this booklet that Jews necessarily outnumber non-Jews in all sections of the media...but only that the former’s solidarity and oneness of loyalty, interest and purpose gives them an immense advantage over others in any bid for power and influence.”⁵²

Such statements demonstrate the often-narrow dividing line between antisemitism, anti-Zionism and anti-Israel conspiracy theories. In the BNP’s publication, the charge that Jews run the media is explicit, and most observers would readily condemn it as antisemitic by most observers.



⁵² [Antisemitic Discourse in Britain in 2009](#), CST, 2010: pg.41

Nevertheless, when the charge is made that British and/or American media is somehow subservient to Israeli or Zionist demands, this is seen by some as legitimate comment.

In Manchester, on 22 May, a speaker urged demonstrators to picket and boycott Marks & Spencer branches across the UK due to its business dealings with Israel. The speaker stated that Marks & Spencer stores “are like the Israeli Embassy on the high street.”⁵³ Other demonstrators held placards with aggressive, militant tones such “*Intifada Forever*” and “*With our soul, with our blood, we will liberate Filasteen.*”

Some protestors in London on 22 May carried flags of the Iranian-backed militia known as the Popular Mobilisation Forces (Hashd Al-Sha’abi) and a large flag of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)⁵⁴, an entity subject to HM Treasury terrorism financial sanctions.⁵⁵



⁵³ <https://twitter.com/hurryupharry/status/1396114018583056384>

⁵⁴ [VIDEO: Pro-Palestine protestors wave IRGC flag in London](#), Mehr News Agency, 23 May 2021

⁵⁵ [Financial sanctions targets: list of all asset freeze targets](#), HM Treasury, 21 June 2021

• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

In response, MP Tom Tugendhat, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said:

“It is disturbing to see the flag of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps being so brazenly displayed on the streets of London. This is a terrorist organisation that is responsible for sowing instability across the Middle East and promotes Islamist extremism all over the world. The US has proscribed this vile organisation; the UK Government should do the same, as recommended by the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. We should never have to see its flags on British streets again.”⁵⁶

Arrests at demonstrations

Seven men were arrested in London at the 22 May demonstration for a racially aggravated public order offence; a homophobic public order offence; two for going equipped to steal; and three for violent disorder.⁵⁷

Similarly, nine protestors were arrested in London at the 15 May demonstration on suspicion of violent disorder, while four others were arrested on suspicion of breaching the Health Protection Regulations.⁵⁸ Although the protest was largely peaceful, nine officers were injured as they tried to disperse the crowds outside the Israeli Embassy. Some protestors threw missiles towards police.

⁵⁶ Charles Hymas, [Ban Iranian Revolutionary Guard as terrorist group after 'brazen' flag incident, says senior MP](#), The Telegraph, 26 May 2021

⁵⁷ [Day of protest activity concludes with seven arrests but no significant incidents](#), Metropolitan Police Service, 22 May 2021

⁵⁸ [Nine officers injured during demonstration in central London](#), Metropolitan Police Service, 15 May 2021

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

NAZI-ISRAEL COMPARISONS

Placards comparing Israel with Nazi Germany, or equating Zionism with Nazism, were commonplace at many anti-Israel demonstrations during the month from 8 May to 7 June. They were particularly visible at the large demonstrations in central London on 11 May, 15 May and 22 May. The comparison of Israel with Nazi Germany, or of Zionism with Nazism, is a complete distortion of the historical record and a grotesque antisemitic libel that seeks to manipulate the trauma of the Holocaust and use it as a propaganda tool against Israel as a Jewish state. It abuses the memory of Holocaust victims and offends most contemporary Jews. It attacks Israel on the basis of its Jewishness, but should have no part in pro-Palestinian campaigning. Israel-Nazi comparisons also legitimise hatred for, and attacks on, Israel and anybody who would support it – in reality, most mainstream Jews in Britain and elsewhere – as Nazi Germany is rightly seen as the ultimate example of evil and barbarity.

Israel-Nazi slanders have been a regular feature of anti-Israel protests for decades. During the Israel-Gaza conflict in 2009, the British Muslim Initiative, one of the main organisers of the demonstrations, produced placards with the slogan “*Stop the Holocaust in Gaza*”, while the Palestinian Forum in Britain (PFB) provided placards with a Star of David intertwined with a swastika and the slogan: “*HISTORY SEEMS TO BE REPEATING ITSELF*.” Note that the same PFB placard was used in 2009 and 2021.



London, 15 May 2021



London, 10 January 2009

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

During the 2014 conflict, the hashtags “Hitler was right” and “Hitler did nothing wrong” trended on Twitter.⁵⁹ On 11 July 2014, a protestor at an anti-Israel demonstration in central London held a homemade sign with the words “HITLER you were right.”

In a textbook case study in how antisemitic attitudes may indicate further extremist and terrorist inclinations, this protestor, Hussain Yusuf, was arrested in July 2016 following an investigation into extremist Islamic State material on Yusuf’s Facebook accounts.⁶⁰ In September 2017, he was found guilty on three terrorism charges and sentenced to six and a half years imprisonment.



Hussain Yusuf, central London, July 2014

Examples of Nazi-Israel comparisons on 2021 protests



Central London protest, 11 May 2021

⁵⁹ [Disturbing Online Messages Say #HitlerWasRight](#), ADL, 14 July 2014

⁶⁰ [Terrorism Conviction For “Hitler You Were Right!” Demonstrator](#), CST Blog, 26 September 2017

• • **EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01** • •



Central London protest, 15 May 2021



Central London protest, 22 May 2021

• • **EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01** • •



Central London protest, 22 May 2021



Central London protest, 22 May 2021

• • **EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01** • •

“FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA”

Among the most ubiquitous and popular chants and slogans in pro-Palestinian demonstrations in the UK and worldwide is “From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free.” There are different interpretations of its origins, intent and meaning, some of which are more violent and eliminationist than others. Protestors themselves may disagree on whether they use the slogan an expression of yearning for an imagined state where Arabs and Jews are treated equally and live peacefully, or whether they are pining for a world in which Israel does not exist.

In certain contexts, however, “from the river to the sea” should be seen as an expression of a violent desire to see Israel erased from the world. There are many examples of terrorist organisations and leaders or other extremists using this slogan, including groups that have actively targeted and murdered Jews around the world. The following are numerous examples of its use in this context.⁶¹

Former Hamas founder and leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, May 2003:
*“Hamas is an Islamic movement of jihad that has stemmed from the Muslim Brotherhood. It seeks to liberate Palestine, all of Palestine **from the river to the sea** and from Al-Naqurah to Rafah, in order to raise the banner of God on earth and establish God’s rule among mankind.”⁶²*

Hamas Document of Principles and General Policies, May 2017:
“The Islamic Resistance Movement “Hamas” is a Palestinian Islamic national liberation and resistance movement. Its goal is to liberate Palestine and confront the Zionist project. Its frame of reference is Islam, which determines its

principles, objectives and means...Palestine is an Arab Islamic land. It is a blessed sacred land that has a special place in the heart of every Arab and every Muslim.”

*“Hamas believes that no part of the land of Palestine shall be compromised or conceded, irrespective of the causes, the circumstances and the pressures and no matter how long the occupation lasts. **Hamas rejects any alternative to the full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea.** However, without compromising its rejection of the Zionist entity and without relinquishing any Palestinian rights, Hamas considers the establishment of a fully sovereign and independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital along the lines of the 4th of June 1967, with the return of the refugees and the displaced to their homes from which they were expelled, to be a formula of national consensus.”⁶³*

Former Hamas leader Abd-al-Aziz al-Rantisi, March 2002:
*“Having exhausted all his means and terrorist plans, Sharon has come to realize that he is before a nation that is not deterred by Zionist terrorism and that **will not veer from its goal of purging Palestine from the river to the sea of corrupt Jews.**”⁶⁴*

Statement by Al-Quds Brigade, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, August 2006:
*“The Al-Quds Brigades confirm the following: First, **any Zionist on the land of Palestine - all of Palestine, from the river to the sea - will be the target of our weapons, our exploding bodies and our developed Quds rockets.** We will continue our resistance as long as even one Zionist soldier remains on Palestine’s soil.*

61 Emphasis added by CST in each quotation

62 [Hamas founder views cease-fire, Bin-Ladin, ties with Hezbollah, PNA](#), Al-Bayan, BBC Monitoring, 29 May 2013

63 [Hamas: General Principles and Policies](#), 2017

64 [Mideast: Hamas spokesman says removal of Israel ‘just and viable’](#), Palestinian Information Centre, BBC Monitoring, 5 March 2002

• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

Second, we will continue to shell the Zionist settlements as long as the enemy carries out its foolish actions against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza. We will not yield to any Zionist pressure, such as its incursions, killings and destruction of infrastructure. Moreover, we will continue to fight until God grants us the victory of martyrdom."⁶⁵

"Our Programme Is to Liberate Palestine From the River to the Sea", Statement by Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, December 2003:

*"The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine affirms that there have been no amendments or changes to its political programme. The programme is based on its absolute conviction in the necessity of the liberation of all of Palestine, **from the river to the sea**, and from Rafah to Ra's al-Naqurah; **the Israeli entity, established on its territory, is an illegitimate entity that should be wiped out from existence.**"⁶⁶*

Hizbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, Quds Day speech, September 2009:

"Today, you and I, who responded to the immortal call of Imam Khomeyni, declare from here - from the complex of the master of martyrs, peace be upon him, the complex which embraced and continues to embrace the bodies of our resistance martyrs - our firm abidance by the following unchangeable principles:

*"First, **historical Palestine from the river to the sea belongs to the Palestinian people and all the Ummah.***

"Second, no one whosoever, be he a Palestinian, an Arab, a Muslim, a Christian - regardless of the

legitimacy of historical, revolutionary, popular, legal, or constitutional representation they claim - no one in this world has the right to relinquish any inch of the land of Palestine, any drop of water of its waters, or any letter of the name of Palestine [Applause].

"Third, the Israeli entity established on the Palestinian territories is a usurper entity, an occupation, and an aggressive, cancerous, illegitimate, and illegal entity. Fourth, no one has the right to recognize this entity and acknowledge its legitimacy or existence. Fifth, dealing with Israel is banned. Normalization of relations with Israel is banned. This is what the Muslim scholars, jurists, and religious authorities have all agreed on."⁶⁷

Hizbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, Quds Day speech, September 2008:

*"**Jerusalem and Palestine, from the river to the sea, are for the Palestinian people, for the Arabs, and the Muslims.** No one has an authority to relinquish a grain of sand, a wall, or a stone in this holy land, because its sand, neighbourhoods, olive, and figs are holy. Everything in it is holy. No one at all has the right to relinquish what is holy. This land and the holy places should return to their owners intact. God willing, it will return."⁶⁸*

Former leader of Al-Qaeda Osama Bin Laden, March 2009:

"They [advisory commissions] should prepare lists of our hypocritical enemies and their means of action, particularly media outlets, such as newspapers, books, magazines, radio stations and satellite [TV] channels. In addition, they should prepare lists of Muslim defeatists and cowards whose efforts unconsciously serve the

65 [Islamic Jihad vows to target 'any Zionist on the land of Palestine'](#), Islamic Jihad Movement, BBC Monitoring, 16 August 2003

66 [Our Programme Is to Liberate Palestine From The River To The Sea](#), Islamic Jihad Movement Web Site, BBC Monitoring, 10 December 2003

67 [Lebanese Hezbollah leader's speech on Jerusalem Day](#), Al-Manar Television, BBC Monitoring, 18 September 2009

68 [Lebanese Hezbollah's leader Nasrallah addresses Jerusalem day rally](#), Al-Manar Television, BBC Monitoring, 26 September 2008

• • **EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01** • •

interests of our enemies. There is a need to look for countries outside the ring countries through which the mujahidin can move so as to open borders by force and so that we can reach our people in the land of the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque. Those with true intentions to liberate Al-Aqsa Mosque have a precious and rare opportunity to do so by supporting the mujahidin in Iraq by all means to liberate the land of two rivers. By doing so, they carry out two duties: They defeat the biggest ally of Zionists and after that they move to Jordan, which is the best and largest front. From Jordan, they can move to the West Bank and the surrounding areas. **Borders must be opened by force so as to obtain all the necessary requirements to liberate the entire Palestine from the river to the sea, God willing.**⁶⁹

Former Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden, reprinted in Al-Qaeda in the Arabia Peninsula magazine *Palestine: Betrayal of the Guilty Conscience*, August 2014:

"I also reassure our people in Palestine in particular that we will expand our Jihad - Allah permitting. We will neither recognize the borders of Sykes-Picot nor the rulers whom colonialism put in place. By Allah - We haven't forgotten you after the events of 9/11, for can a noble man forget his family? But following those blessed raids which struck the head and heart of global unbelief and the biggest ally of the Zionist entity, America, we are today occupied with attacking and fighting it and its agents, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Islamic Maghreb and Somalia...

"And we won't recognize any state for the Jews, even if on one hand span of the land of Palestine, the way all the Arab rulers did when they adopted the governor of Riyadh's initiative a few years ago... Sell Jerusalem, Masjid Al-

69 [Usamah Bin-Ladin says moderate Arab states colluded against Gaza](#), Al-Jazeera Television, BBC Monitoring, 14 March 2009

Al-Aqsa and the blood of the martyrs, and there is neither power nor strength except with Allah...

"In addition, we shall not respect the international charters which recognize the Zionist entity on the soil of Palestine, the way the leadership of HAMAS respect them, or the way some of the leaders of the Muslim Brothers stated. **Rather, it is Jihad to liberate all of Palestine from the river to the sea, Allah permitting, placing our hands in the hands of the truthful Mujahideen** there from the foundations of HAMAS and the other factions who condemned their leaders for their deviation from the truth. So blood for blood and destruction for destruction..."⁷⁰

Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, speech to Algerian delegation, May 2001:

Your people in Iraq are still holding fast to the slogan of "Palestine is an Arab territory that must be fully liberated from the river to the sea." All the Zionists who immigrated to the land of Palestine must leave. Every immigrant in the land of Palestine must leave. The Jews who were in Palestine, as Palestinians, are just like the Palestinian Christians or Muslims. They have rights and duties according to a constitution promulgated by the majority in that country or in accordance with what the people of that country believe. But the French, Moroccan, Iraqi, Russian, American or British Jews must leave. They have no place among the Arabs except as peaceful people. But, as colonialists and invaders, they have no place among us in the Arab world."⁷¹

70 [AQAP Exploits Gaza Conflict to Call for Lone-Wolf Attacks Against U.S.](#), ADL, 19 August 2014

71 [Saddam meets Algerian delegation, criticizes Britain, France, USA](#), BBC Monitoring, Iraqi TV, 30 May 2001

• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, August 2001:

“Long live our glorious Arab nation. Long live beloved and militant Palestine. **Long live Palestine, free from the river to the sea and from the sea to the river.** Shame on the filthy Zionists, wherever they may be. Shame on the Jews, who occupy the land of the Arabs and Palestine. Glory to the heroes, who carried out and continue to carry out valiant martyrdom operations. God is great, God is great, and let the lowly, weak and cowards be accursed.”⁷²

Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, message to Islamic summit in Qatar, November 2000:

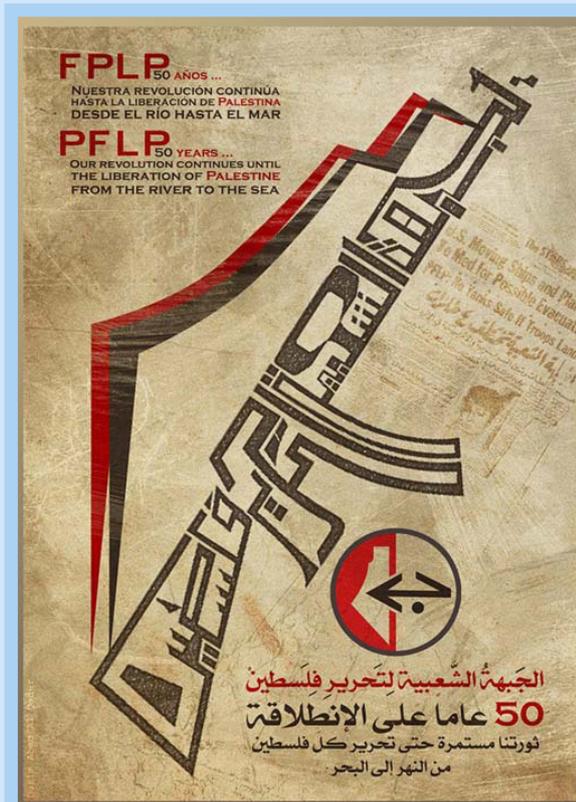
“Therefore, **we see that jihad is an “individual duty” prescribed to us as it is prescribed to every faithful and ardent Muslim to liberate, from the accursed and defiled Jews, usurped Palestine from the river to the sea, together with its crown, al-Quds, the third of the central sanctuaries of Muslims, besides Mecca and the shrine of Allah’s messenger, Muhammad b. Abdullah (Allah’s blessing and peace be upon him).**

“As ruler of my country, I deeply meditated the question put by my conscience and answered by my reason: What do the people of Iraq want? Even before this and together with this, I asked myself: Which measure will respond to the principles I have always believed in and have a natural disposition for? My answer was and still is and will remain as long as I live: **the liberation of Palestine through sacred jihad, from the river to the sea, together with the crown on its head, the sacred Quds.**”⁷³

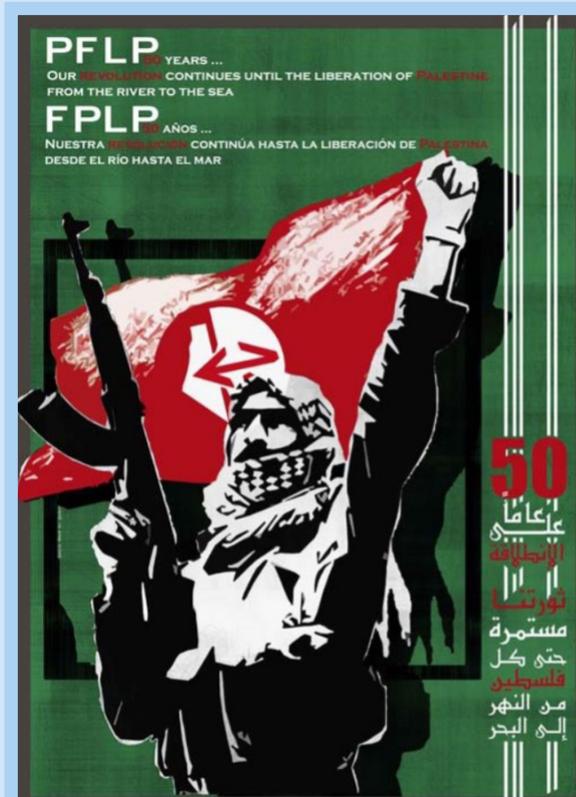
The posters shown on the right were independently designed in 2017 in tribute to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

⁷² [Iraqi leader Saddam urges demonstrations in support of intifadah](#), Iraqi TV, BBC Monitoring, 14 August 2001

⁷³ [Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn sends message to Islamic summit in Qatar](#), BBC Monitoring, INA News Agency, 12 November 2000



<https://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/nuestra-revoluci%C3%B3n>



<https://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/desde-el-r%C3%ADo>

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

UK ISLAMIST EXTREMISM & ANTI-ISRAEL HATE

British Islamist individuals and groups often used aggressive, and sometimes violent, religious language to express their solidarity with Palestinians and hatred of Israel. Such language, although directed at Israel, risks inflaming community tensions between British Muslims and British Jews and even encouraging violence through repeated references to 'jihad' and 'resistance' in contexts that imply the use of force. This is due in part to the strong feelings that many hold regarding Jewish, Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, particularly on the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif that includes the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock.

Hizb ut-Tahrir: antisemitic and violent extremist agitation

Hizb ut-Tahrir (HT) responded to the May-June conflict with possibly the most antisemitic statement published in English by any organisation with a presence in the UK. As hostilities intensified between Israel and Gaza, Hizb ut-Tahrir's global leadership issued a statement about the conflict, on 11 May, that began with the words "The monstrous Jews are spreading their brutal aggression on all parts of Palestine" and went on to talk of "Jewish aggression" and "the crimes of the Jews." It encouraged "Muslim armies" to use force to settle the conflict.

This explicitly antisemitic language risks stirring up hatred of Jews and encouraging people to attack Jews. The image below accompanied this statement on the Facebook page of Hizb ut-Tahrir's Central Media Office.⁷⁴

Several statements by Hizb ut-Tahrir Britain and its activists urged the waging of military jihad against Israel and the establishment of an Islamic state (khilafah). On 9 May, HT Britain posted an "Emergency Address: Bayt al-Maqdis is Under Attack" by activist Mazhar Khan. His speech emphasised that the primary options for change are khilafah and jihad:

"The prescription from Islam to protect the land of Palestine is the khilafah and the jihad, and these are the two things we have not tried. We have tried everything else, but we have not tried khilafah and we have not tried jihad. And why have we not tried this?"

"Because the West has demonised khilafah and the West has demonised jihad. Because these are the two things that will solve your problems, but the West has not allowed you to use these two options. They have demonised it, and they fearmonger it, 'Oh jihad is violence, oh jihad is

⁷⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/tahrir.mediaoffice/posts/132454245602927>



• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

violence, jihad is endless war'. No, my friends, what is violence and what is endless war is what we have had in Palestine for the last 70 plus years...No, jihad is what creates peace and jihad is what maintains peace."

"So the solution, my friends, is simple. It is khilafah and jihad...And finally, I'm appealing to you Muslims all across the world work, work and help the cause and call for the re-establishment of the promised Khalifah Rashida...There is no other option...There is only khilafah and jihad... The way to establish peace is by establishing the Islamic world order by establishing the khilafah and using the threat of jihad to make the peace in the Muslim world."⁷⁵

Throughout the May-June 2021 conflict, HT Britain activists addressed small groups in London, calling for Muslim armies to invade Israel and rejecting any ceasefire.⁷⁶ HT Britain also used the same hashtag (#AqsaCallsArmies) promoted by the Hizb ut-Tahrir Official Website and the website of Hizb ut-Tahrir Central Media Office.

On 16 May, HT Britain organised two simultaneous demonstrations in London and Birmingham. Numerous speakers in both cities reiterated the group's core message calling for Muslim armies to "liberate" Jerusalem and al-Aqsa.⁷⁷ In London, for example, longstanding senior activist Taji Mustafa called on demonstrators to affirm that "the Zionist entity will be destroyed."

⁷⁵ [Emergency Address: Bayt Al-Maqdis Under Attack](#), Hizb ut-Tahrir Britain, YouTube, 9 May 2021

⁷⁶ https://twitter.com/asif_salhddin/status/1396090113520701442 and https://twitter.com/Abu_Yusuf1924/media

⁷⁷ [Emergency Protests: Act for al-Aqsa](#), Hizb ut-Tahrir Britain, YouTube, 16 May 2021



In Birmingham, which saw around 500 demonstrators, speakers and demonstrators chanted some of the following slogans in English:

- "Oh Allah to you we pray. Khilafah is on its way!"
- "Palestine is Muslim land. As one Ummah we will stand!"
- "Muslim armies where are you? Al-Aqsa is calling you!"
- "We are the sons of Salahuddin. Move now to liberate Filastin!"

One of the speakers recited a prayer in Arabic that included the words, "Israel came with its army, Allah take the unjust Jews, make the Muslims win everywhere."⁷⁸

Also at the Birmingham protest, Hizb ut-Tahrir activist Belal Mohammed was filmed stating the solution to the conflict is "jihad fisabilillah" (jihad for the sake of Allah) and to "wipe out the Zionist entity":

"The reason, the reason why we're here because we are Muslim. [Speaks in Arabic.] Those brothers in Filastin they're our brothers; that's our blood. Our war is one. Our deen is one. Our Rasool is one. The solution. Very simple: jihad

⁷⁸ https://twitter.com/habibi_uk/status/1403389808970551299

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

fisabilillah. We have armies. We have tanks. We have soldiers. What are they waiting for? Oh yeah, if this goes out to the Muslim armies, what are you waiting for? Jihad is responsibility on you. Wipe out that Zionist entity. How dare they occupy Masjid Al-Aqsa. How dare they [inaudible]. How dare they. Have you got no honour in you?

The Muslim youth here, we the Muslims in the West we are with you, we make dua for you. Make jihad fisabilillah. Remove the Zionist. You have these armies and tanks. What for? Remove them and we will make dua for you inshallah. Very soon. Very soon.

Very soon you will see this Ummah. You will see this Ummah's response very soon. When we remove these dictators, these tyrants and we replace another [inaudible] and we will send you another Salahuddin. And you Zionist entity will be no more. We don't. We don't fear anyone but Allah. We don't fear the United Nations, British government. We don't give a damn. We only fear Allah. Jihad fisabilillah via the armies."⁷⁹

This speech and the alleged identity of the person making it were reported by CST to West Midlands Police, who confirmed that they are investigating it as an alleged offence of stirring up racial hatred.

Islamist YouTube influencers provoke Jews in Golders Green

On the evening of 22 May, during the Jewish Sabbath, three prominent 'YouTubers' – Mohammed Hijab, Ali Dawah and Zeeshan Ali – organised a van fitted with two large mobile LED screens to drive through Golders Green Road, a high street in a north west London suburb with a substantial Jewish population. Hijab, Dawah and Ali have separate YouTube channels aimed at Muslim-related content for a younger audience, with a combined reach of over 1.4 million subscribers. This occurred the day before

⁷⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/tayyib.muqem.5/videos/10159220668031217>

Mohammed Hijab gave a highly aggressive speech at a counter-demonstration outside the Israeli embassy (see "Anti-Israel counter-demonstration: "We love death" and "We want the Zionists. We want their blood."" p.21)

The van parked outside a Jewish nursing home, and the organisers engaged in discussions with random visibly Orthodox Jewish passers-by. They remained in the area for about an hour. The screens displayed images seeking to demonstrate alleged Israeli barbarity during the conflict, including graphic images of dead Palestinian children. One image showed Jewish concentration camp victims with the headline, "DID WE NOT LEARN FROM THE HOLOCAUST."

Images of Hijab, Dawah and Ali speaking with a police officer:



On 25 May, a heavily edited, fifteen-minute video of their stunt, titled "Muslims Confront Radical Israelis - Police Called," was uploaded

• • **EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01** • •



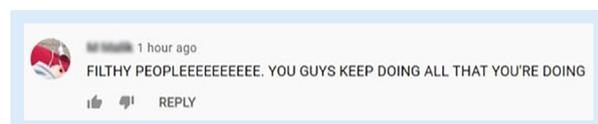
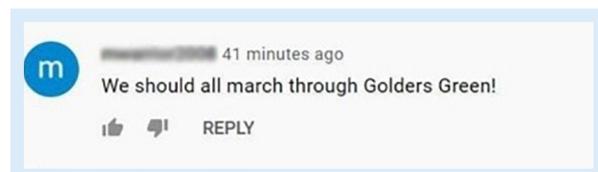
An image with Jewish concentration camp victims the words, *"Did we learn nothing from the Holocaust"*

to Ali Dawah's YouTube channel.⁸⁰ At the time of writing it has received over 268,820 views. In the video, Hijab and Dawah portray themselves as seeking an open conversation in contrast to the Jewish passers-by, who they depict as reacting in a hostile and dismissive manner. Hijab asked the Jews walking by whether they condemn the killing of children and expressed anger at the responses.

This highly provocative stunt demonstrates aspects of antisemitism by comparing Israel to Nazism and accusing contemporary Jews of not 'learning' from the genocide of European Jewry during the Holocaust. The YouTube influencers also tried to import the Israel-Gaza conflict into Golders Green, confronting Jews on the Sabbath and pressuring them to comment on Israeli government policies.

In fact, Hijab and Dawah's stunt resembles the provocative invasions of mosques organised by activists from the far-right Britain First group since 2013.⁸¹ This included Britain First activists protesting outside of or entering mosques in the UK to bully imams and distribute Bibles and Britain First literature, especially concerning "Muslim grooming gangs."

Equally worrying were some of the comments posted under Ali Dawah's videos. The one-minute trailer for the video attracted comments from YouTube users calling for Palestinian supporters to go to Golders Green, Mill Hill, Stanmore and Edgware, all north London areas with recognisable Jewish communities.



⁸⁰ Ali Dawah, [Muslims Confront Radical Israelis - Police Called](#), YouTube, 25 May 2021

⁸¹ [Britain First Army of the Right](#), Hope not Hate, 2014

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

The day after their visit to Golders Green, the three YouTubers organised a similar stunt outside BBC studios in London. A nine-minute video, uploaded to Ali Dawah's YouTube channel, attracted over 173,300 views.⁸² The following are screenshots of the images displayed:



Islam21c and 5Pillars

Two influential UK Islamist media outlets, 5Pillars and Islam21C, broadcast a three-hour Facebook livestream on 10 May about the conflict.⁸³ Over 3,000 users watched the broadcast live. Some presentations included antisemitic or jihadist narratives.

One of the speakers, Birmingham based Sheikh Asrar Rashid, stated that *"the only solution is*

⁸² Ali Dawah, [Muslims Challenge BBC Studios](#), YouTube, 23 May 2021

⁸³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=SSD9Zt16OVg&t=8154s>

jihad" and called for Muslim armies to launch missiles into Israel and invade the country:

"I personally I believe the only solution is jihad and a call for jihad and announcement for jihad by Muslim majority states that we have. Even surgical strikes or wallpaper strikes the type that Saddam Hussein did in in the early in the early 90s, I believe, 39 rockets he fired on to Tel Aviv. And every Jew was running into his shelter. Those with the European passport would be running back to Europe. Surgical wallpaper strikes. You see, the way they react to Katyusha missiles or Qassam missiles that do not even kill anyone. They run into their shelters, so the Jews, Yahud are known as [inaudible Arabic words], a cowardly nation."

Rashid also insisted on referring to Israel as 'Jews' because, he said:

"The Israelites are Jewish. Israel is a Jewish state... So I refer to them as Jews because when Muslims carry out acts which are referred to as acts of terrorism, Arabs carry out acts of terrorism, they are referred to as Arabs. When Muslims carry out attacks which are considered terrorism, deemed as terrorism, they are referred to as Muslims. So when Jews carry out acts of terrorism, I will refer to them as Jews because they are Jews not because this is indicative of antisemitism because we cannot be antisemitic by definition."

After the *Jewish Chronicle* exposed Rashid's statements, he issued a statement referring to the JC as *"the Zionist paper"*, defending his comments and insisting that jihad is the only solution:

"I maintain that a call for Jihad – a just war – in the form of military intervention by Muslim majority states to avert the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Occupied Palestine, is the only solution."⁸⁴

⁸⁴ [Shaykh Asrar Rashid: Muslims can never be racist to Jews](#), 5Pillars, May 2021

• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

On 20 May, West Midlands Police acknowledged they were investigating Rashid's comments.⁸⁵

Another speaker, Abdul Wahid, the chairman of Hizb ut-Tahrir Britain, reiterated comments about armies "liberating" Palestine:

"I tend to agree with Sheikh Asrar. When the liberation happens, it's a when, not an if. When it happens, I don't think there will be much of a fight.... So I don't think in the end when there is a real army of liberation coming there, there will be much of a fight..."

"When we talk about jihad, somebody posted something on my Facebook today saying none of these states are going to do anything, the only solution is jihad. When we talk about the resistance of the sincere Muslims there, they don't even believe that their resistance is going to solve the problem and it's not wrong to lionize these brothers and sisters even as heroes for resisting because they are. But if you if you lionize them in a way that supposes that they're going to solve the problem, which they don't actually have a capability of doing, then I fear you then again draw the spotlight away from the people that have the capability and we need to keep shining that spotlight on where it needs to be."⁸⁶

In a separate video posted on 1 June, Wahid stated similarly and called for "jihad fisabilillah" (jihad for the sake of Allah):

"And by the way, the Zionist entity is a very weak power because fundamentally they're cowards, cowards. Whether they have guns or tanks or planes or missiles, when it comes to a real fight from the armies of the Ummah making jihad fisabilillah under a righteous leader they will run."⁸⁷

⁸⁵ <https://twitter.com/WMPolice/status/1395393668807368707>

⁸⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=SSD9Ztl6OVg&t=8154s>

⁸⁷ [Act for al-Aqsa Protest, London - Interview with Dr Abdul Wahid](#), Hizb ut-Tahrir Britain, YouTube, 1 June 2021

Another speaker on the Islam21c and 5Pillars online event was Dr Ismail Patel, the chair of the Friends of Al-Aqsa (FOA) campaign group. He discussed FOA's boycott of Israeli goods and lobbying MPs, as well as the nature of the regional conflict involving Israel and said that, among many solutions, "military action is required":

"The first thing to remember is when we have a crisis and when we have a problem, you will invariably not find a single solution to resolve that problem. I think what happens is once the problem is solved, we look at the last solution that resolved that problem and forget the rest of the history behind it. So yes, military action is required. Yes, boycott and sanction is required. Yes, dua is required. Yes, lobbying is required."

"But what we have to understand is we need to have a comprehensive approach and take every aspect of this and build the pressure. If we think one single thing will do it, I think we lose the momentum and we will really lose the focus and misguide our population. I think that's very important so we have to put everything into context. The issue of the Palestinians and occupation of Masjid al-Aqsa is extremely complex. The colonial state of Israel is supported by the West, so we have to counter that. It has an economic support from United States of America and the West, we have to counter that. There's an oppression of the Palestinians who suffering humanitarian needs and therefore we have to address those as well. So you can see the multifaceted nature of the problem and therefore it requires a multifaceted approach to that problem."⁸⁸

⁸⁸ [United Muslim Livestream, Al Aqsa & Gaza Under Attack, Solutions & Liberation](#), 5Pillars, YouTube, 10 May 2021

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

Moazzam Begg: dreaming of jihad

Moazzam Begg, the outreach director for the British Islamist advocacy group CAGE UK, posted repeatedly about his apparent wish for military jihad against Israel. On 24 May, Begg posted on his Facebook page about a dream in which he envisioned Afghan Mujahideen or the Taliban fighting alongside Palestinians against Israel and dreamed of an Afghan mujahid shooting down an Israeli aircraft. In Begg's dream, the Afghan leader told one of the Palestinians:

*"You are right my dear brother. This isn't Afghanistan. But you have two things we've never had that are far greater than our mountains. You have al-Masra al-Mubarak (Al Aqsa and its surrounding area) in these lands and you have the sympathy and support of the whole world. That is why we are here too."*⁸⁹

In his dream, Begg and the others chant three times "O Allah! Bring down their planes" as one of the Afghans launched a rocket against an Israeli jet and destroyed it. In conclusion, according to Begg, "Just before the dream ended the Afghan leader said: 'Patience, people of Palestine, for sure the help of Allah is near.'"

On 10 May, Begg posted on Facebook a detailed scenario of Muslim armies joining forces to siege and invade Israel in response to events at the al-Aqsa mosque, with the comment "just imagine..."⁹⁰

He posted several accompanying images, including images of armed fighters of the Hamas Izz al-Din al-Qassem Brigades and of Hakimullah Mehsud, the deceased leader of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan. Both groups are proscribed terrorist organisations under UK law.

⁸⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/moazzam.begg/posts/10159594644277915>

⁹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/moazzam.begg/posts/10159559429082915> (Post no longer online)



Shortly after fajr (sunrise) this morning, after I went back to bed, I saw this incredible dream which I'd like to share (before FB take it down - again).

<<START>>

I was walking in a town in Gaza - near some hills. To my left were houses and buildings while to my right, an open and relatively uninhabited area...

People were already evacuating the town when the sonic boom of low-flying Israeli jets pierced the skies followed by ear-splitting explosions. (I'd heard these sounds before in Bosnia, Syria and Afghanistan but they were just as terrifying)...

Men, women and children - many children - ran towards the open area. As we got further away I could see silhouettes of men in the distance, slowly closing in...

We all stopped. Was this a ground invasion, Israeli special forces perhaps?

As the silhouettes turned into recognisable forms, the fear turned to curiosity..

The men were dressed in shalwar qameez and had folded shawls thrown over their shoulders. Some wore black turbans on their heads while others donned Afghani pakol (caps). All of them wore sandals on their feet. Some had walking sticks but all carried AK47 assault rifles or RPG launchers.

Some Palestinians shouted that the Afghan Mujahideen had arrived while others said it was the Taliban.

By the time the Afghan-looking men reached us everyone had stopped running. The Israeli jets seemed to have gone too..

The people appeared relieved until one man said, "What are they going to do with their rifles against jets? And, this isn't Afghanistan where we can hide and fight from the mountains. This is Gaza, the world's biggest prison where we're besieged by our enemy from land and sea."

A man who appeared to lead the Afghans replied:

"You are right my dear brother. This isn't Afghanistan. But you have two things we've never had that are far greater than our mountains. You have al-Masra al-Mubarak (Al Aqsa and its surrounding area) in these lands and you have the sympathy and support of the whole world. That is why we are here too."

Just at that moment, a pair of jets returned and flew towards us. This time, however, no one ran. I raised my hands towards the skies - skies polluted with Israeli jets - and, along with everyone else, called upon Allah three times with these words:

اللهم اسقط طائراتهم
اللهم اسقط طائراتهم
اللهم اسقط طائراتهم

(O Allah! Bring down their planes)

While we were praying, one Afghan mounted a rocket launcher on his shoulder and took aim at one of the jets...

He said, "Bismillah", just before he fired...

Prayers stopped and all eyes were fixated on the missile as it flew towards the jet...

The explosion wasn't as big as expected but we watched in awe as the plane fell apart in the air and hurtled down in a fireball and crashed on the very ground it tried to destroy.

The people's shouts of "Allahu Akbar" seemed louder than the sound of the crash.

"This Stinger anti-aircraft system is a gift we've kept just for you" the man who fired it said with a smile.

Just before the dream ended the Afghan leader said:

صبروا يا أهل فلسطين فإن نصر الله قريب

"Patience, people of Palestine, for sure the help of Allah is near."

<<END>>



EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

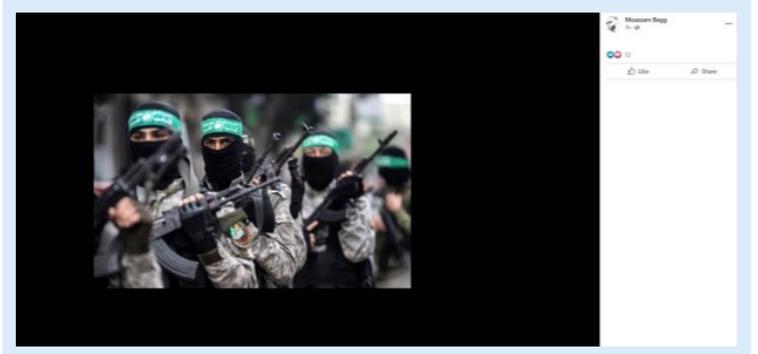
Moazzam Begg
5h · 🌐

Breaking: #AlAqsa has been invaded and desecrated by Israeli settlers and occupation forces. Senior ulema councils in Madina and Al Azhar have issued religious edicts calling on Muslim world leaders to mobilise their military forces for intervention and peace keeping.

In response:

- *Turkish battleships, frigates, aircraft carriers and submarines stationed in the Mediterranean have been despatched and are nearing Israeli waters.
- *Egyptian infantry and artillery divisions have amassed near the border with Gaza in anticipation of Israeli incursions into Palestinian territory.
- *Pakistani airforce jets stationed in the Persian Gulf have scrambled and begun reconnaissance sorties into Israeli airspace, mapping potential military targets, while infantry regiments have gathered for joint exercises with the Jordanian army.
- *Gulf states have pledged to finance arms and logistics and vow to spare no expense in assisting in the protection of Islam's third holiest site.
- *Iran and Iraq have vowed to put aside sectarian differences and unite in preparing and sending regular and irregular troops experienced in urban warfare to aid the Palestinians and protect Al Aqsa.
- *Afghan national forces have agreed ceasefires with the Taliban and pledged to unite with them in sending battle hardened warriors to fight alongside and train Palestinians.
- *Chechens, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Turkomams, Kurds, Azeris and other central Asian soldiers have created and organised their own fighting battalions and head to bolster Palestinian resistance.
- *Military forces from Morocco to Indonesia have seen a massive upsurge of young men seeking to join the military in the hope that they are sent on joint expeditionary missions to defend Al Aqsa.
- *Muslims from East and West Africa have begun sending volunteer forces that start in Tanzania and Nigeria and end on the borders of the Occupied territories.
- *Saudi Arabia has instructed imams across the nation to make qunoot for the Palestinians in every one of the five prayers until Al Aqsa is liberated.
- *Uighurs, Rohingyas, Kashmiris, Indians and other oppressed Muslims elsewhere pray for success and wait eagerly for their own liberation.
- *Palestinian youth and fighters have vowed never to give up - even if they have to fight with stones and rocks.

Well, at least the last one is true but, just imagine...



In a tweet on 10 May (right), Begg condemned what he called “Zionist child-murderers” while praising the “mujahideen of #AlQuds.”⁹¹

⁹¹ https://twitter.com/Moazzam_Begg/status/1391856030968160258

Moazzam Begg @Moazzam_Begg

Zionist child-murderers continue to receive support of western leaders while Arab leaders give lip-service at best and succour to Zionist state at worst.

Meanwhile, mujahideen of #AlQuds defend the land with their lives using little but rocks and iman. #IsraeliAttackonAlAqsa

Jerusalem violence: Deadly air strikes hit Gaza after rocket attacks

36 mins ago | Middle East

Israel has launched air strikes against militant targets in the Gaza Strip, after rockets were fired from the territory towards Jerusalem.

The Hamas-run Palestinian health ministry in Gaza said 20 people, including children, had died in the strikes.

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

In this context, it is also worth noting that, in March 2021, Begg participated in an online Hizb ut-Tahrir Britain event with Abdul Wahid and Sheikh Asrar Rashid, about three months before the May conflict escalated. During that conversation, Begg echoed Hizb ut-Tahrir's position that al-Aqsa and Palestine are under occupation due to "so-called Muslim nations" supporting and legitimising Israel and that, "nobody can or will be able to do anything about it other than a united Muslim Ummah, a united Muslim Khilafah."⁹²

Support for jihad: other examples

The Jamia Tabligh-ul-Islam (JTI) Haworth Road Masjid in Bradford posted on 18 May on its Facebook page the Arabic text of a fatwa, which was issued by an Iraqi Sunni scholar and which stated that it is necessary to declare "physical jihad against the Zionist occupiers."⁹³ The JTI Haworth Road Masjid's page also posted the image of a Pakistani scholar calling on the Pakistani government to declare jihad against Israel.⁹⁴ The mosque's imam, Mawlana Shahid Ali, has also posted these images on his personal Facebook and Instagram accounts.⁹⁵

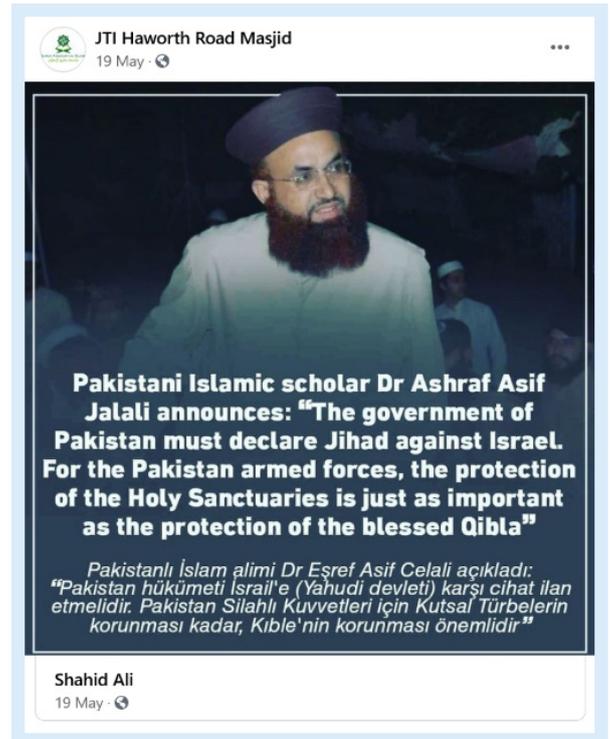
One of the more extreme examples of antisemitic Islamist discourse during the May-June 2021 conflict was a UK-based Facebook user posting a violent image set to the text of a controversial *Hadith* – often used by many radical Islamist groups to incite conflict between Muslims and Jews – calling for violence against

92 [100 Years Without Khilafah: A Century Of Struggle](#), Hizb ut-Tahrir, YouTube, 7 March 2021

93 <https://www.facebook.com/JTIHaworthRoadMasjid/posts/2937961449806543>

94 <https://www.facebook.com/JTIHaworthRoadMasjid/posts/2938668386402516>

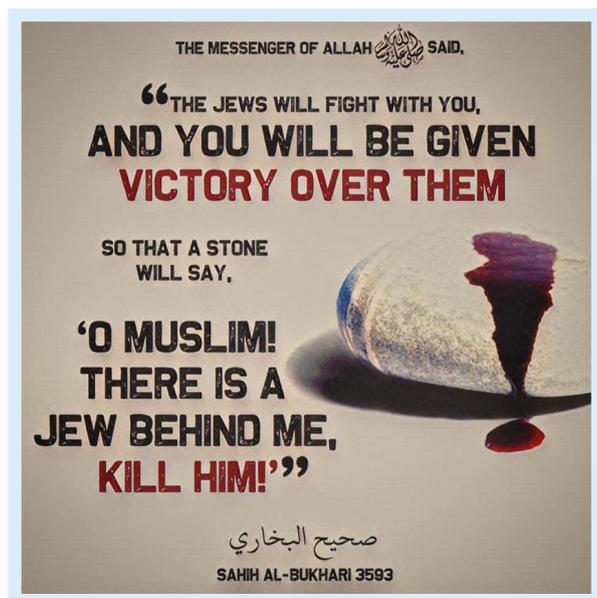
95 <https://www.facebook.com/114646973309590/posts/507333184040965/?d=n>
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CPBcRAUBi2H/>
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CPDamSMB0w6/>



• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

Jews.⁹⁶ This *Hadith* is quoted, for example, in article seven of the Hamas Covenant and was used in Hizb ut-Tahrir literature.

Although this image was not posted by a well-known activist, it illustrates the nature of the violent anti-Jewish incitement that circulated amongst UK Islamist extremist social media networks during the conflict.



⁹⁶ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2823550314625963&id=100009130667675

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

GLOBAL JIHADIST INCITEMENT TOWARDS JEWS

In May-June 2021, global jihadist groups and their supporters issued numerous messages encouraging jihadist attacks against Jews and Israelis worldwide, as well as in Israel, in reaction to the conflict. As tension escalated in the region, al-Qaeda quickly coordinated a messaging offensive inciting violence against Jews globally. Unofficial ISIS supporters independently posted violent messages online from the outset of hostilities; however, ISIS (so-called Islamic State) itself did not comment until shortly before the ceasefire on 21 May, publishing a late statement encouraging those unable to fight in the region to attack Jews and “the allies of the Jews” worldwide.

In most cases, global jihadist groups were disappointed with the ceasefire and, according to an analysis by BBC Monitoring’s jihadist media specialist Mina al-Lami, were “rooting for a third ‘Intifada’ (popular, large-scale uprising), which they presumably hoped could be influenced, infiltrated and exploited in broader calls for global jihad.”⁹⁷

Targeting Jews worldwide has remained on the agenda of global jihadists – both in words and deeds – for many decades. Jihadist terrorist groups and individuals have plotted and perpetrated numerous anti-Jewish terrorist attacks worldwide, including in the UK and Europe. Between 2010 and 2021, at least four potential terrorist plots considered targeting Jewish communities in the UK. In 2017, UK police foiled two ISIS-inspired plots that considered targeting Jewish communities in Birmingham and London. Therefore, renewed calls to attacks Jews, Zionists or “Israeli interests” risk inspiring anti-Jewish terrorist attacks worldwide.

⁹⁷ Mina al-Lami, [Analysis: How jihadists responded to Israeli-Palestinian conflict](#), BBC Monitoring, 4 June 2021

The following are key excerpts from the violent jihadist incitement against Jews worldwide in May and June 2021.⁹⁸ Most of these groups are proscribed terrorist organisations under UK law:

Al-Qaeda statement – 3 June 2021

The 35th issue of al-Qaeda’s *al-Nafir* newsletter is titled “From the battle of the sword of Jerusalem to the battle of the mosques.” (“Sword of Jerusalem”, or Saif al-Quds, is the name Hamas used for the conflict.) Al-Qaeda pledged that the ceasefire did not end “our war with the Zionist enemy and its allies and agents.” It also reiterated that Jews and Americans around the world are legitimate targets and that it is a religious duty to attack them:

“Congratulations to our people and our mujahideen in beloved Palestine for these victories which Allah has bestowed upon them in these blessed days. Congratulations to you for the martyrdom of those whom Allah the Almighty has chosen from among His creation, so that their souls would ascend to the highest ranks in the bellies of green birds that are roaming from Paradise as they wish. Congratulations to you for the conquests and healing of the hearts against the sons of Zion.

“The interests of the Jews and the Americans are spread everywhere, and they are legitimate targets not just for every mujahid, but for every Muslim. We, by Allah, will become sinners, if we do not join our people in Palestine in their jihad. Blood for blood, and destruction for destruction. We call on all the mujahideen to join the campaign of “Jerusalem Will Never be Judaized” with everything they can, until it is either victory or martyrdom.”⁹⁹

⁹⁸ In each example, emphasis was added by CST

⁹⁹ [AQ Urges Muslims Invest in Jihadi Spirit Rekindled During Israel-Gaza Conflict](#), SITE Intelligence Group, 3 June 2021

• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

ISIS statement – 20 May 2021

In the 287th issue of Islamic State's *al-Naba* weekly newspaper, ISIS called for "mujahideen everywhere" to support Palestine, urging those "unable to fight the Jews inside Palestine" to fight them and "the allies of the Jews" elsewhere.¹⁰⁰ The editorial quoted a controversial *Hadith* calling for violence against Jews:

"The Prophet, Allah's peace and blessings be upon him, said: "The Hour will not be established until you fight with the Jews, and the stone behind which a Jew will be hiding will say, 'O Muslim! There is a Jew hiding behind me, so kill him'." (Al-Bukhari)"

*"The mujahideen everywhere must spare no effort in supporting their brothers in Palestine, and to defend them with everything they possess, for it is a Shariah duty. They must support it as much as they can... **Who is unable to fight the Jews inside Palestine, let him fight them outside it, and fight with them the allies of the Jews and their guardians from among the tyrants of the Arabs and non-Arabs, and they are many.**"¹⁰¹*

Importantly, ISIS released an audio statement in January 2020 specifically calling for attacks against Jews worldwide, amplifying its previous incitement to attack Jews.¹⁰²

Al-Shabaab statement – 18 May 2021

The Somali-based jihadist group Al-Shabaab issued statements in Arabic and English referring to "the accursed Jews and all the enemies of Islam" and declaring that the current conflict "once again illustrated the fact that all disbelievers are united in the war against Islam."

¹⁰⁰ [IS belatedly comments on Israeli-Palestinian conflict](#), BBC Monitoring, 21 May 2021

¹⁰¹ [IS Proclaims Any Road to Jerusalem Other than True Jihad is Path to Failure](#), SITE Intelligence Group, 20 May 2021

¹⁰² [ISIS Speech Threatens Jews and Israel](#), CST Intel Insight, 31 January 2020

Al-Shabaab urged violent jihad and to target Jews, Zionists and Westerners worldwide:

*"...we emphasise the importance of continuing the Jihad in order to regain the usurped rights and dignity of this Ummah, particularly the rights of our beloved families in Palestine. **We also urge all the sons of the Ummah to target the interests of the Zionists and Crusaders worldwide, support their oppressed Muslim brothers in Gaza and the rest of occupied Palestine with their lives, their wealth and their supplications.**"¹⁰³*

Al-Qaeda statement – 17 May 2021

Al-Qaeda Central issued a second statement on the conflict, giving explicit permission to wage violent jihad in support of Palestine.¹⁰⁴ Al-Qaeda also called on its global affiliates to launch attacks under the slogan "Jerusalem will never be Judaized," a global jihadist campaign initiated in 2019. The four-page statement urged followers to attack Jews, Zionists and Crusaders and used violent antisemitic language, including praise of Palestinians for chanting "Khaybar Khaybar Ya Yahud":

*"Every enemy of Allah, including the Jews, is an enemy to us...O Muslims everywhere, this is a permission from your brothers in Qaedat al-Jihad Organization to wage the greater jihad to support the cause of Islam in Palestine, and to support the causes of the whole Ummah...O people of jihad and war for the sake of Allah in all regions! The path has become clear. Be forceful, fight and steady yourself, and **immerse in the fortresses of the Jews with iron and fire**, and preemptively plunge with strikes in their homeland, and destroy with utter destruction their military bases. Bring down the Crusaders from their fortresses and plant horror into their hearts. Wait for the Zionist in each and every*

¹⁰³ [Echoing Fellow AQ Branches, Shabaab Condemns Israel and Urges Support to Palestinians](#), SITE Intelligence Group, 18 May 2021

¹⁰⁴ [Al-Qaeda urges Muslims and jihadists to defend Palestinians](#), BBC Monitoring, 18 May 2021

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

ambush, attack them with steeds, riders, and commandos, to frighten them, so that you might kill a group of them, and capture another.”¹⁰⁵

Hurras al-Din statement – 16 May 2021

Hurras al-Din, a Syria-based al-Qaeda affiliate, incited followers to use violence and declared that, “there is no way to liberate al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy sites and countries of the Muslims except through advocacy, preparation, and jihad.” The statement was couched in anti-Jewish and conspiracist language:

“These events demonstrated the extent of the Zio-Crusader hatred for Islam and its sanctities and people...The people of our Ummah everywhere must stand up to the traitorous rulers who are the protective fence for the Jews, preventing the Muslims from supporting their brothers on the blessed land. Exposing this state of affairs and confronting them represents the demolition of the protective fence and shield with which the Jews are shielded from the strikes of the mujahideen. **These events have proven the truth and the extent of the enmity that the Jews harbor for Islam and its people.**”¹⁰⁶

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb statement – 12 May 2021

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) used antisemitic language to incite jihadist attacks in the West Bank and broaden violence in the region:

“Your patience in conflicting with the Jews will bring down the thrones of the agents of the Jews before their masters. The liberation of Jerusalem passes through Cairo, Riyadh, Dubai, Amman, Damascus, Baghdad, and Tehran...O Allah! Take revenge on those and the Jews and those who normalize and coordination with

¹⁰⁵ [AQ Central Heaps Praise on Palestinians Engaged in Conflict, Calls Muslims to Support and Branches to Wage Military Campaign](#), SITE Intelligence Group, 18 May 2021

¹⁰⁶ [AQ-aligned Hurras al-Deen Incites to Support Palestinians, Attack Israeli Interests](#), SITE Intelligence Group, 16 May 2021

them...O Allah! Hasten the breaking of the borders and dams. **Smash the fortresses of the Jews and destroy with utter destruction all that fell in their hands.**”¹⁰⁷

Al-Qaeda statement – 11 May 2021

Al-Qaeda Central issued a statement urging violent jihad, praising “mujahid heroes in Jerusalem” and quoting Osama Bin Laden’s calls to kill “**the Americans and Jews with a bullet, a stab with a knife, or by throwing a stone.**”¹⁰⁸ Al-Qaeda also invoked an antisemitic conspiracy theory that the “world is complicit with the sons of Zion in financing them with money, weapons, men, and even medicine.”

Al-Battar (ISIS affiliate) statement – 10 May 2021

On 10 May, the ISIS-aligned al-Battar media group invoked antisemitic language to incite Palestinians to perpetrate jihad against “filthy Jews” and stated that “**the only thing that can stop the Jews is jihad.**”¹⁰⁹ It published a poster encouraging a range of attack methods, such as vehicle ramming, stabbing, bombings, suicide bombings and firebombs.



¹⁰⁷ [AQIM Urges Palestinians Prioritize Attacks in West Bank, Ignite Battles Throughout Region](#), SITE Intelligence Group, 12 May 2021

¹⁰⁸ [Al-Qaeda Incites Retribution for Israeli Violation of al-Aqsa, Suggests Means of Attack](#), SITE Intelligence Group, 11 May 2021

¹⁰⁹ [Jihadists incite attacks over Jerusalem unrest](#), BBC Monitoring, 10 May 2021

• • EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01 • •

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula statement – 7 May 2021

A-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), an AQ affiliate in Yemen, released a statement calling for attacks against Jews inside Israel and worldwide. AQAP urged activists to attack Jews in Israel with *“explosives, rockets, weapons of fire, knives, and slingshots and rockets.”* Globally, AQAP called for **“targeting Jewish embassies and interests throughout the world, in Asia, America, Europe, and Africa.”**¹¹⁰

Pro-ISIS supporter online posts – 7 May 2021

A pro-ISIS account incited followers in Jerusalem to attack in Israel using knives, vehicles or any other means. In an Arabic message, using the hashtag in Arabic *“Slaughter the Jews,”* the pro-ISIS jihadist called for the following:

*“O Muslims in Jerusalem, you must wage jihad against the descends of monkeys and monkeys. **Kill them anyway you can and slaughter them.** Rise up and go fight...O Muslim youth in Jerusalem, O Muslims, you must stab with knives and run over, and make your intentions sincere, and put your trust in the Almighty.*

*“Those who will liberate Jerusalem and avenge the Muslims are the righteous soldiers of monotheism, the soldiers of the State who fight in all parts of the world while they keep their eyes on Jerusalem, and where their magnificent jihad against global disbelief has never distracted them from Jerusalem and al-Aqsa Mosque.”*¹¹¹

110 [AQAP Expresses Solidarity with Palestinians Amid Clashes in Jerusalem, Advocates Renewed Intifada and Attacks on Israeli Interests](#), SITE Intelligence Group, 7 May 2021

111 [IS Supporter Slams Hamas Over Inaction, Urges Palestinian Muslims Carry Out Lone-Wolf Jihad](#), SITE Intelligence Group, 7 May 2021

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

UK FAR-RIGHT ANTISEMITISM, EXTREMISM AND ANTI-ISRAEL HATE

The May-June conflict was a theme of discussion for UK-based right-wing extremists but did not remain a prominent theme during the full duration of the conflict. Some online activists exploited the situation to express violent antisemitism and to spread antisemitic conspiracy theories, while others saw an opportunity to combine their antisemitism and their anti-Muslim hatred. Many UK far right activists were simply indifferent to the conflict.

This Research Briefing is focused on antisemitic and extremist sentiments relating to the conflict in Israel and Gaza, but it is worth noting that some of the most Islamophobic elements of the far right expressed pro-Israel and anti-Muslim sentiments during the conflict. For example, on 23 May, Stephen Lennon (aka Tommy Robinson), far right activist and former leader of the English Defence League (EDL), appeared at the Israel solidarity rally in central London. Although he claimed to be there to show support for Israel, the organisers of the rally and several other Jewish and pro-Israel organisations condemned his appearance and the harm it caused to community cohesion.

The Jewish Leadership Council stated: *“Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, or Tommy Robinson as he likes to be called was not invited today. Nor was he in any way welcome. We do not want his ‘support’ and we ask him to stay away from future events. Today is about supporting Israel, not spreading hate.”*¹¹²

CST and other Jewish communal groups have repeatedly warned against Lennon and his causes, dating to his leadership of the English Defence League and its anti-Muslim

provocations. He has consistently struggled to attract support from anything more than a small fringe of the Jewish community.

One prominent theme of far-right discourse during the conflict related to the Great Replacement conspiracy theory, which alleges that Jewish organisations and synagogues are using mass immigration to undermine white Western nations. In the initial weeks of the conflict, several UK-based users emphasised the narrative that, due to Israel’s actions, Muslims cannot live peacefully in their homelands and are therefore forced to immigrate to the West. This effectively places the blame for immigration to the UK on Israel and the Jewish community, and the far right perceive such immigration as an existential threat to white British populations.

Smash Cultural Marxism

Forwarded from Mike Peinovich

The best way to stop muslim immigration into Europe and White countries is to support Arab security in their own lands and fully oppose Zionism.

194 18:43

Another narrative related to this theme is that of double standards, whereby far-right activists claim that Israel does not want Muslims to live in their land, but simultaneously diaspora Jews advocate for Muslim immigration into the West. Both narratives contribute towards the portrayal of the Jewish community as evil or ill-intentioned, and as posing a direct threat to the survival of white British populations. Such conspiracies are core to the vast amounts of antisemitic discourse and antisemitic incitement present in far-right online forums, and which on many occasions has resulted in violence against Jewish communities around the world.

¹¹² https://twitter.com/JLC_uk/status/1396472049225322502

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

Mark Collett

The Israel conundrum:

The same people who on one hand want a walled ethnostate in the Middle East and who force Muslims off their land and bomb civilian settlements with military grade weaponry, on the other hand campaign for open borders in Europe, welcome Muslim migrants into European nations and create 'hate speech' legislation to prevent indigenous Europeans from speaking out against demographic change.

What a curious double standard!

9647 10:09

Another theme, which featured in a Patriotic Alternative blog post among other places, is the notion that the far right and Palestinians are engaging in a single battle against Jews/Zionists. As stated in this blog post, *"those who support the Palestinian cause do so on the basis of ideological consistency: opposition to the aggressor in the name of the natives defending their blood and soil. Put simply, it is a common struggle."*

Horus

Forwarded from Mike Peinovich

It is vitally important to understand the entirety of the Zionist strategy.

On one side it is to use violence against Arab civilians and start wars and terrorism in Arab countries through proxies like ISIS, Al Qaeda and the United States.

On the other hand it is to open refugee centers in Europe and the US and to use media and lobbying to pressure Europe and the US to permanently accept the people displaced by these conflicts.

Stirring up White conservatives and right-wingers to resent muslims and support Israel because of all the racial problems created by Zionism, while simultaneously marginalizing and stigmatizing nationalistic Whites through hate speech laws and legal entrapment, thus making sure the problems never end, is the final stroke.

Saying that it has nothing to do with you if you are American or European is at best naive and myopic and at worst actively deceptive.

308 16:40

This idea is depicted, for example, in this image showing a jihadist fighter and Nazi soldier under the title "One Struggle" shared by some British far right users.



Mark Collett, the founder of the white nationalist Patriotic Alternative, drew attention to the conflict by posting about "Israeli war crimes", opposition to UK aid to Israel, and comparing Israel to ISIS.

Mark Collett

Why Israel is the Jewish ISIS

This video by Syrian Girl compares the Islamic State In the Levant to the Jewish State in the levant, in context of the recent attack on Palestine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsxO-z1ZEC4>

YouTube

WHY ISRAEL IS THE JEWISH ISIS

In this video I will compare the Islamic State In the Levant to the Jewish State in the levant, in context of the recent attack on Palestine. I will list the transcript and sources below....



Anonymous (ID: [w3qEUV6](#)) 05/11/21(Tue)22:46:31 No.321058363 >>321058707

>>321035572 (OP)

Palestine always, one struggle. They're doing the same thing to us.

• • **EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01** • •

This notion of the far right and Palestinians sharing a common struggle against the Jews is also central to the messaging and propaganda of a more recent right-wing extremist group called Cult 88. The group is an international network with members in the UK, as shown by the images on this page, has been very active in promoting this narrative.



Image showing Hamas fighters with Swastikas edited onto the picture

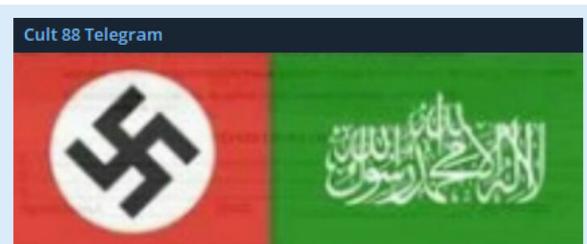


Image showing the Nazi Party flag alongside the green Shahada flag

EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021 AT 00.01

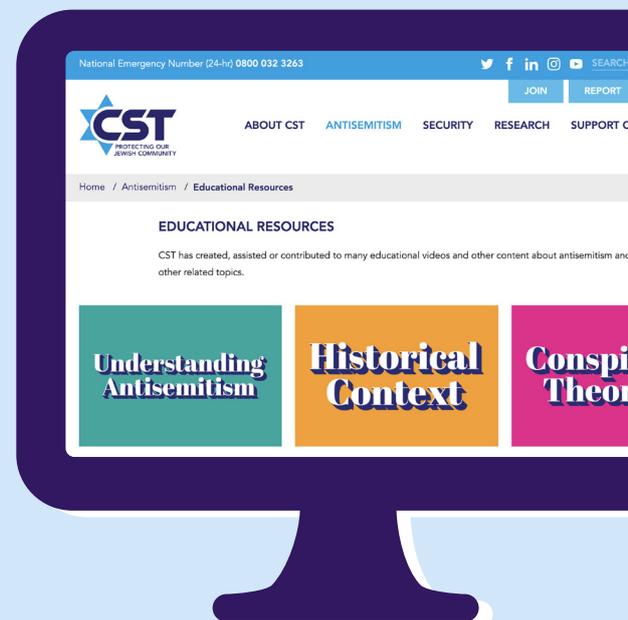
Another prominent theme among the British far right included expressions of excitement at the prospect of Jews and Muslims attacking and harming each other. This relates to a feeling of indifference towards the situation in the Middle East, as well as strong antisemitic and anti-Muslim sentiments. The British National Socialist Movement, for example, an antisemitic national socialist group, pushed out this narrative to its supporters.



CST'S EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

CST's website is home to an educational resources section filled with videos and other useful content about antisemitism and related topics. From the historical context behind antisemitism, to conspiracy theories and Holocaust denial.

cst.org.uk/antisemitism/educational-resources



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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