# Eurovision 2025 performance sparks debate over alleged broadcast censorship amid Israeli-Palestinian conflict



Eurovision 2025 has once again found itself at the centre of controversy, particularly surrounding the performance of Israeli singer Yuval Raphael during the semi-finals. As her song "New Day Will Rise" reverberated through the auditorium, reports of audience boos emerged, igniting a spirited debate about censorship and the broader sociopolitical context of the contest. Viewers at home, particularly those tuning in via BBC One in the UK, alleged that the broadcast had minimised or even artificially muffled the dissenting sounds from the crowd. Various clips shared on social media appeared to corroborate these claims, showing a significantly louder booing than was captured during the official transmission.

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU), which oversees Eurovision, has firmly refuted these allegations. According to a spokesman, the organisation heard no booing during the performance, maintaining that the atmosphere remained "positive and celebratory." Martin Green CBE, the director of the Eurovision Song Contest, echoed this sentiment, praising the commitment of fans to support all artists in the spirit of unity through music. "Our fans have demonstrated their passion and fairness brilliantly so far," he stated, referring to the vibrant atmosphere throughout the event even amid heightened tensions.

This year's contest has unfolded against the backdrop of intense conflict in Israel and Palestine, leading to calls for Israel's exclusion from Eurovision. Concerns have been heightened following the tragic escalation of violence, which Palestinian health authorities report has resulted in over 52,800 fatalities, a significant number of whom are civilians, including women and children. Many advocacy groups have described the events as genocidal, and the fallout from an attack by Hamas on October 7, which killed approximately 1,200 people at a music festival, has also added layers of complexity to the context surrounding the competition.

Raphael herself, a survivor of the October 7 assault, had anticipated a mixed reception, stating that she "expected" to be booed but was determined to perform heartily regardless. However, the performance was not without disruption. During the rehearsals, Swiss broadcaster SRG SSR confirmed that six spectators were expelled for booing and waving Palestinian flags, highlighting the emotional and political volatility surrounding the event.

Compounding the situation, commentators from Spanish broadcaster RTVE had requested the EBU to review Israel’s participation due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Commentator Tony Aguilar lamented the high civilian toll in the conflict, drawing attention to data from the United Nations. Activist groups in Switzerland criticised the EBU for what they perceive as complicity in legitimising Israel amid allegations of violations of international law, arguing that this directly contradicts Eurovision's values of inclusivity and celebration.

As the Eurovision Grand Final approaches, set to air on Saturday, anticipation mingles with trepidation, prompting many to reflect on the implications of music in a deeply divided world. Amid ongoing protests and rising tensions, the event serves not only as a platform for artistic expression but also as a focal point for broader global discussions on conflict, identity, and the power of collective voice.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: 1, 2
2. Paragraph 2: 2
3. Paragraph 3: 3, 4, 5
4. Paragraph 4: 6
5. Paragraph 5: 7

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/news/eurovision-2025-israel-yuval-raphael-booing-censored-b2752118.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/news/eurovision-2025-israel-yuval-raphael-booing-censored-b2752118.html> - The Independent reports that during the Eurovision 2025 semi-final, Israeli singer Yuval Raphael's performance of 'New Day Will Rise' was met with audience boos. Viewers alleged that the broadcast minimized or drowned out the dissenting sounds. The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and Eurovision director Martin Green CBE denied these claims, stating they heard no booing and that the atmosphere remained positive throughout the event.
3. <https://www.huffingtonpost.es/life/seis-espectadores-expulsados-abuchear-a-israel-ensayo-oficial-eurovision-2025.html> - HuffPost España reports that during an official Eurovision 2025 rehearsal, six spectators were expelled for booing and whistling during Israeli representative Yuval Raphael's performance. The individuals, some from the same family, carried a large Palestinian flag and a whistle, disrupting the event. Swiss broadcaster SRG SSR reaffirmed its commitment to a neutral, safe, and inclusive environment.
4. <https://apnews.com/article/44e0c8fd8d3b4240c5928aaea6bf64c4> - The Associated Press details that the final lineup for the 2025 Eurovision Song Contest was confirmed after Thursday's semifinal in Basel, Switzerland, where six of the 16 competing acts were eliminated. Israel's Yuval Raphael advanced with her song 'New Day Will Rise.' The event faced controversy due to protests over Israel's participation, leading to increased security measures.
5. <https://as.com/tikitakas/musica/polemica-en-el-ensayo-de-israel-la-television-suiza-obligada-a-intervenir-n/> - AS.com reports that during Eurovision 2025 rehearsals, six individuals were expelled by Swiss broadcaster SRG SSR for disrupting Israeli singer Yuval Raphael's performance with whistles and Palestinian flags. This incident adds to the growing political tensions surrounding Israel's participation in the contest, with calls for its exclusion from various groups.
6. <https://www.huffingtonpost.es/life/los-comentaristas-rtve-en-eurovision-hacen-esta-declaracion-antes-de-la-actuacion-de-israel.html> - HuffPost España reports that during Eurovision 2025's second semifinal, RTVE commentators Tony Aguilar and Julia Varela addressed Israel's performance. They mentioned that RTVE had requested the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) to debate Israel's participation due to concerns over the Gaza conflict. Aguilar highlighted the high number of victims in Gaza, including many children, according to United Nations data.
7. <https://elpais.com/television/2025-05-15/israel-llega-este-jueves-a-eurovision-ante-las-protestas-de-agrupaciones-suizas.html> - El País reports that Israel's participation in Eurovision 2025's second semifinal in Basel sparked protests from Swiss citizen groups, particularly concerning the situation in Palestine. Organizations like Basel for Palestine criticized the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) for legitimizing Israel despite alleged violations of international law in Gaza. The protests led to increased security measures and restricted access for artists and press.