# Man grabbed by throat as family march for hostages is disrupted near Downing Street



Scuffles erupted near Downing Street on Sunday as thousands marching to demand the release of Israelis held hostage by Hamas clashed with a small group of pro‑Palestine activists, turning what organisers described as a family‑led plea into a tense, heavily policed scene. Witnesses described a moment of violence in which a man was grabbed by the throat before police intervened; one onlooker told the Daily Mail the incident was “horrific… so aggressive. It’s disgusting behaviour.” Organisers and relatives at the event urged calm but said the interruptions had disrupted a rally whose central demand was the urgent return of those taken on 7 October. (Daily Mail; AP; The Guardian)

The demonstration, organised by the coalition Stop the Hate alongside multiple Jewish groups, brought family members of hostages and community leaders to central London to press the government for more active diplomacy. The UK’s Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis joined the crowd and used the platform to criticise Labour’s pledge to recognise a Palestinian state while hostages remain, an intervention that underlined how the humanitarian appeal has become entangled with wider political arguments. According to reporting, speeches at Lincoln’s Inn Fields and later near Downing Street included relatives such as Noga Guttman and other family members who framed their appeal as a matter of life and death. (AP; The Guardian; Times of Israel; Daily Mail)

The rally took place against the backdrop of a volatile weekend in Westminster. Police had already carried out large‑scale operations on Saturday at pro‑Palestine demonstrations that followed the government’s proscription of the activist group Palestine Action; media reports said hundreds were arrested across the two days as officers tried to manage rival protests and maintain public order. Organisers of the hostages’ march said their purpose was narrowly focused on securing returns and pressuring international actors to act urgently. (AP; NDTV/Associated Press; Times of Israel; Daily Mail)

Estimates of the turnout varied: organisers told Jewish News the National March for the Hostages attracted as many as 40,000 people, while other coverage described “thousands” taking part — many waving Israeli flags, wearing yellow ribbons and holding photographs of the missing. Marchers repeatedly chanted “bring them home” as they processed towards government buildings, and roads in Westminster were closed as the Metropolitan Police policed the event. (Jewish News; Daily Mail)

Relatives used the podium to directly appeal to the prime minister. Adam Ma’anti, a cousin of the hostage Tsachi Idan, told the Daily Mail he believed the UK had not done enough and called on Prime Minister Keir Starmer to apply greater pressure on states believed to have contact with Hamas; he warned that timing recognition of a Palestinian state while captives remain could embolden the group. Other family members spoke of their grief and urgency, making the march as much a humanitarian plea as a political demonstration. (Daily Mail; Times of Israel)

Tensions flared when a small group of pro‑Palestine activists reportedly interrupted the rally with shouts and chants, prompting counter‑demonstrators to respond. Video and eyewitness accounts circulated of a confrontation that included pushing and the choking incident; police moved quickly to remove some counter‑protesters and made at least one immediate arrest for common assault, the Metropolitan Police said. Several outlets noted officers had warned people they faced arrest if they continued to disrupt the event. (Daily Mail; The Guardian; Jewish News)

The episode highlighted the fraught balance between free expression and public safety that has confronted London’s authorities through a summer of competing demonstrations. Organisers of the hostages’ rally insisted their position was “unequivocal” — that recognition of Palestinian statehood should not proceed until captives were home — while critics warned of the political consequences of such stances. Observers pointed out that family pleas have long intersected with broader policy disputes; similar dynamics were evident at earlier solidarity events in 2023 when leaders and politicians alike used such platforms to press for action and denounce violence. (Daily Mail; The Guardian; The Independent)

For the Metropolitan Police the weekend posed practical and reputational challenges: officers had to police multiple large gatherings, manage road closures and make arrests while attempting to protect speakers and participants. Organisers said the march had been intended as a peaceful, urgent humanitarian appeal; for many relatives, the immediate concern remained the same — securing the safe return of the remaining hostages — even as the events underlined how divided public sentiment and political manoeuvring in Britain complicate efforts to build a common approach. (AP; Jewish News; Daily Mail)

### 📌 Reference Map:

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14987511/Scuffle-march-release-Israeli-hostages-counter-protesters.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/cad78ce82f9e8e7627f2c842cc5157a8), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/aug/10/uks-chief-rabbi-criticises-labours-palestine-pledge-at-march-for-hostages)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/cad78ce82f9e8e7627f2c842cc5157a8), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/aug/10/uks-chief-rabbi-criticises-labours-palestine-pledge-at-march-for-hostages), [[6]](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/protesters-demanding-release-of-hostages-set-to-march-in-london-this-afternoon/), [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14987511/Scuffle-march-release-Israeli-hostages-counter-protesters.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/cad78ce82f9e8e7627f2c842cc5157a8), [[5]](https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/demonstrators-seeking-release-of-gaza-hostages-to-march-in-london-9056932), [[6]](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/protesters-demanding-release-of-hostages-set-to-march-in-london-this-afternoon/), [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14987511/Scuffle-march-release-Israeli-hostages-counter-protesters.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.jewishnews.co.uk/enormous-turnout-for-hostages-rally/), [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14987511/Scuffle-march-release-Israeli-hostages-counter-protesters.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14987511/Scuffle-march-release-Israeli-hostages-counter-protesters.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/protesters-demanding-release-of-hostages-set-to-march-in-london-this-afternoon/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14987511/Scuffle-march-release-Israeli-hostages-counter-protesters.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/aug/10/uks-chief-rabbi-criticises-labours-palestine-pledge-at-march-for-hostages), [[4]](https://www.jewishnews.co.uk/enormous-turnout-for-hostages-rally/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14987511/Scuffle-march-release-Israeli-hostages-counter-protesters.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/aug/10/uks-chief-rabbi-criticises-labours-palestine-pledge-at-march-for-hostages), [[7]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/michael-gove-hamas-ephraim-mirvis-jewish-london-b2434067.html)
* Paragraph 8 – [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/cad78ce82f9e8e7627f2c842cc5157a8), [[4]](https://www.jewishnews.co.uk/enormous-turnout-for-hostages-rally/), [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14987511/Scuffle-march-release-Israeli-hostages-counter-protesters.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14987511/Scuffle-march-release-Israeli-hostages-counter-protesters.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://apnews.com/article/cad78ce82f9e8e7627f2c842cc5157a8> - AP reported on 10 August 2025 that demonstrators marched through central London demanding the immediate release of Israeli hostages held by Hamas. The rally, organised by the coalition Stop the Hate, included family members of hostages and proceeded towards Downing Street amid heightened tensions following mass arrests at a pro‑Palestine protest the previous day. The story noted estimates of remaining hostages, called for urgent humanitarian action, and referenced the government’s proscription of Palestine Action after activists damaged RAF property. Metropolitan Police made multiple arrests across the weekend as officers sought to manage competing demonstrations in Westminster and maintain public order.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/aug/10/uks-chief-rabbi-criticises-labours-palestine-pledge-at-march-for-hostages> - The Guardian coverage on 10 August 2025 described a London march demanding the release of Israeli hostages where the UK’s Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis criticised Labour’s pledge to recognise a Palestinian state while hostages remain. The article reported speeches by relatives, Israeli flags and yellow ribbons among demonstrators, and described disruptions from a small group chanting pro‑Palestine slogans leading to at least one arrest. It quoted relatives urging Prime Minister Keir Starmer to apply greater pressure internationally and criticised recognition timing. The piece linked the march to the context of protests and the policing response to Palestine Action demonstrations.
4. <https://www.jewishnews.co.uk/enormous-turnout-for-hostages-rally/> - Jewish News reported tens of thousands attended a National March for Hostages in central London, with organisers estimating up to 40,000 participants calling for the return of people taken on 7 October. The rally, starting at Lincoln’s Inn Fields and ending near Downing Street, featured families of hostages, Israeli flags, yellow ribbons and speeches from relatives demanding urgent action. The Metropolitan Police said there had been one arrest for a common assault after an altercation, and roads were closed as officers policed the event. Organisers included Hostages and Missing Families Forum UK and other Jewish groups taking part in solidarity.
5. <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/demonstrators-seeking-release-of-gaza-hostages-to-march-in-london-9056932> - NDTV republished an Associated Press report on demonstrators planning to march to Downing Street on 10 August 2025 demanding the immediate release of Gaza hostages. The article said the rally, organised by Stop the Hate, would include family members of captives and follow mass arrests at a pro‑Palestine protest the previous day linked to Palestine Action’s proscription. It detailed concerns about remaining hostages, mentioned Israel’s plans regarding Gaza City, and quoted relatives urging the UK government to press for their return. The piece placed the march in the wider context of mounting protests and legal battles over protest bans nationally.
6. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/protesters-demanding-release-of-hostages-set-to-march-in-london-this-afternoon/> - Times of Israel’s liveblog noted that demonstrators demanding the return of hostages planned to march to No.10 Downing Street on 10 August 2025, following a day of pro‑Palestine protests that resulted in hundreds of arrests. The entry named expected speakers such as Noga Guttman, a cousin of hostage Evyatar David, and referenced families attending to demand urgent action. It reported police preparations and road closures in Westminster, cited estimates of remaining captives, and placed the London rally within international solidarity events and pressure on the British government over recognition and negotiation strategies. It highlighted concerns about policing and free speech.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/michael-gove-hamas-ephraim-mirvis-jewish-london-b2434067.html> - The Independent reported on a solidarity rally in central London on 22 October 2023 where thousands gathered to call for the safe return of hostages seized by Hamas. The piece described speeches by relatives, attendance by Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis and remarks from Communities Secretary Michael Gove condemning Hamas. Demonstrators carried Israeli flags and placards demanding 'bring them home', while the Metropolitan Police made two arrests related to racially aggravated public order offences. Families described the event as a humanitarian plea above politics, urging international action to secure releases and emphasising the need to protect Jewish communities from abuse.