# Kneecap rapper charged under Terrorism Act over Hezbollah flag display at London concert



Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh, known as Mo Chara, a member of the Belfast-based hip-hop group Kneecap, has been charged under the UK Terrorism Act for allegedly displaying a Hezbollah flag during a concert in London in November 2024. The Metropolitan Police confirmed that he is due to appear at Westminster Magistrates’ Court on June 18. This charge follows a significant investigation initiated after the police were alerted to an online video of the performance on April 22. The Crown Prosecution Service later authorised the charge, which could result in a penalty of up to six months in prison and/or a fine.

Kneecap has faced criticism for its provocative stance during recent performances, particularly in light of ongoing tensions in the Gaza Strip. The trio has used its platform to voice opposition to Israel's military actions, yet they vehemently deny any affiliations with Hamas or Hezbollah, insisting that they do not condone violence against civilians. The fractious political terrain surrounding these issues has brought calls for the band’s removal from upcoming festivals, including TRNSMT 2025 and Glastonbury.

Public backlash has been substantial, with politicians such as Labour MP David Taylor and Scotland’s First Minister John Swinney vocalising concerns over Kneecap's lyrical content and public statements. Allegations have surfaced related to a member of the band purportedly calling for violence against Members of Parliament, along with statements glorifying militant groups. Amid these controversies, performances in Germany and Portsmouth have been cancelled as further investigations unfold.

In a show of solidarity, over 100 artists—among them Massive Attack, Paul Weller, and Idles—have signed an open letter supporting Kneecap. The letter defends the band's right to free artistic expression amid accusations of political repression. This burgeoning support highlights a broader conversation about the role of artists in political discourse and the potential repercussions of their statements on public platforms.

As Kneecap prepares for a scheduled performance at Glasgow Green on July 11, it remains engulfed in a swirling mix of artistic dialogue and legal scrutiny. The controversy surrounding the band's actions raises essential questions about the limits of artistic expression, particularly within politically charged climates, and the societal responsibility artists have in their messaging. Amidst calls for their removal from festival line-ups, it seems the future of Kneecap’s musical journey hinges precariously between controversy and support.

As the court date approaches, it will be crucial to observe how this complex interplay between music, politics, and legal accountability unfolds.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25182476.kneecap-star-liam-ohanna-charged-terrorism-offence/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://apnews.com/article/951643fa3345a152f86b59bbdcbd0a49> - Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh, known as Mo Chara, a member of the Irish hip-hop group Kneecap, has been charged under the UK Terrorism Act for allegedly displaying a Hezbollah flag during a November 2024 concert in London. The charge carries a potential penalty of up to six months in prison and/or a fine. The incident follows weeks of controversy surrounding Kneecap, which has used recent performances to criticize Israel’s actions in Gaza. The band denies supporting Hamas or Hezbollah and condemns all attacks on civilians. Ó hAnnaidh is scheduled to appear in court on June 18. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/951643fa3345a152f86b59bbdcbd0a49?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/b88745d2-d29b-4613-8632-fa763eb4f924> - Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh, also known as Mo Chara, a member of the Belfast-based Irish-language rap trio Kneecap, has been charged under the UK Terrorism Act 2000 for allegedly displaying a Hezbollah flag during a November 2024 concert in London. The charge carries a potential penalty of up to six months in prison and/or a fine. The incident follows weeks of controversy surrounding Kneecap, which has used recent performances to criticize Israel’s actions in Gaza. The band denies supporting Hamas or Hezbollah and condemns all attacks on civilians. Ó hAnnaidh is scheduled to appear in court on June 18. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/b88745d2-d29b-4613-8632-fa763eb4f924?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.iq-mag.net/2025/05/100-acts-sign-open-letter-in-support-of-kneecap/> - Over 100 artists, including Massive Attack, Paul Weller, and Idles, have signed a joint statement in support of Kneecap after concert footage of the Belfast rap trio was assessed by counter-terror police. The videos, one from a November 2023 show and another from a 2024 gig in London, led to calls for the band to be removed from festival line-ups. Kneecap has denied supporting Hamas or Hezbollah and condemned all attacks on civilians. The open letter defends the right to artistic freedom of expression and opposes political repression of artists. ([iq-mag.net](https://www.iq-mag.net/2025/05/100-acts-sign-open-letter-in-support-of-kneecap/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.nme.com/news/music/politicians-call-for-kneecap-to-be-removed-from-glastonbury-and-trnsmt-line-ups-following-counter-terrorism-investigation-3858944> - Politicians have called for Kneecap to be removed from the line-ups of Glastonbury and TRNSMT festivals following a counter-terrorism investigation into the band. The investigation was prompted by videos showing a band member allegedly calling for the deaths of MPs and another shouting 'up Hamas, up Hezbollah.' Labour MP David Taylor and Scotland’s First Minister John Swinney have expressed concerns over the band's performances. Kneecap has denied supporting Hamas or Hezbollah and condemned all attacks on civilians. ([nme.com](https://www.nme.com/news/music/politicians-call-for-kneecap-to-be-removed-from-glastonbury-and-trnsmt-line-ups-following-counter-terrorism-investigation-3858944?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.nme.com/news/music/kneecaps-germany-and-portsmouth-shows-cancelled-as-metropolitan-police-say-there-is-grounds-for-further-investigation-3860041> - Kneecap's scheduled performances in Germany and Portsmouth have been canceled amid a counter-terrorism investigation by the Metropolitan Police. The investigation is based on videos showing a band member allegedly calling for the deaths of MPs and another shouting 'up Hamas, up Hezbollah.' The band has denied supporting Hamas or Hezbollah and condemned all attacks on civilians. The cancellations follow previous shows being pulled, including those at the Eden Project and Plymouth Pavilions. ([nme.com](https://www.nme.com/news/music/kneecaps-germany-and-portsmouth-shows-cancelled-as-metropolitan-police-say-there-is-grounds-for-further-investigation-3860041?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.independent.ie/entertainment/music/music-news/all-of-the-kneecap-gigs-that-have-been-cancelled-amid-uk-counter-terrorism-police-probe/a988106845.html> - Several Kneecap gigs have been canceled amid a UK counter-terrorism police probe into footage allegedly showing the band calling for the deaths of MPs and shouting 'up Hamas, up Hezbollah.' The cancellations include performances at the Eden Project, Plymouth Pavilions, and German festivals. The band has denied supporting Hamas or Hezbollah and condemned all attacks on civilians. The cancellations follow calls from politicians for the band to be removed from festival line-ups. ([independent.ie](https://www.independent.ie/entertainment/music/music-news/all-of-the-kneecap-gigs-that-have-been-cancelled-amid-uk-counter-terrorism-police-probe/a988106845.html?utm_source=openai))