# Man convicted of burning Koran faces death threats and questions police response



A man convicted for burning a copy of the Koran outside the Turkish consulate in London has reported receiving numerous death threats and expressed concern for his safety. Hamit Coskun, 50, was fined £240 following his demonstration on February 13, during which he shouted inflammatory slogans against Islam. The court’s decision labelled his actions as disorderly conduct, a ruling that has ignited significant debate about freedom of expression and the handling of religious sensitivities in the UK.

During the protest, Coskun was reportedly assaulted by an individual wielding a knife who then spat at him. This confrontation led to a heightened security situation for Coskun, as two days later, he faced a violent burglary at his home in which he was threatened with weapons by assailants purportedly of Iraqi descent. Following these events, he temporarily relocated for his safety and was placed under police protection, though he later claimed the response from authorities was inadequate. “What really worries me is the attitude of the police," he told sources, emphasising his sense of abandonment amid rising threats.

Coskun, who fled Turkey two and a half years ago due to his outspoken atheism and criticism of Islamism, has continued to vocalise his fears. He believes that the ruling against him, combined with the debilitating death threats he has received, exemplifies a cultural and legal environment hostile to open dialogue. Concern over the implications of this conviction is not limited to Coskun; prominent politicians, including opposition leader Kemi Badenoch and former Lib Dem leader Tim Farron, have vocally defended his right to protest, labelling the charges as a subtle return to blasphemy laws that had been publicly dismissed by the UK government.

While the court deemed Coskun’s actions offensive, it also raised questions about the nature of protest and its boundaries in multicultural societies. Following the conviction, organisations such as the National Secular Society and the Free Speech Union have pledged their support and assistance, indicating plans to appeal the decision, with potential ramifications that could extend into European legal frameworks.

In a recent statement, Coskun referred to his continued activism as part of a broader struggle against what he views as an “Islamic invasion,” asserting that his actions remain within democratic bounds. “I do not intend to harm or disturb anyone. I am trying to raise awareness,” he stated, positioning his protest as a necessary act of free speech rather than a malicious attack on religious beliefs.

As the debate evolves, the Derbyshire police and relevant authorities are under scrutiny for their handling of both the threats against Coskun and the initial proceedings that led to his conviction. The repercussions of this case may very well shape the discourse surrounding freedom of expression in the UK, revealing deeper societal divides regarding religious expression and the limits of protest.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14776749/Man-convicted-burning-Koran-shouting-f-islam-outside-Turkish-embassy-admits-worried-end-killed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/4663d8c06cb00d37dd295bd4c82698e1)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14776749/Man-convicted-burning-Koran-shouting-f-islam-outside-Turkish-embassy-admits-worried-end-killed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-02-15/man-denies-religious-aggravation-charge-after-burning-of-quran)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/4663d8c06cb00d37dd295bd4c82698e1), [[3]](https://www.thejc.com/news/politics/quran-burner-blasphemy-laws-cnhlk1n7)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14776749/Man-convicted-burning-Koran-shouting-f-islam-outside-Turkish-embassy-admits-worried-end-killed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/two-men-charged-over-quran-burning-clash-outside-turkish-embassy-b1211343.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14776749/Man-convicted-burning-Koran-shouting-f-islam-outside-Turkish-embassy-admits-worried-end-killed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/man-admits-assault-koran-burning-turkish-consulate-london-knightsbridge-b1222348.html)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14776749/Man-convicted-burning-Koran-shouting-f-islam-outside-Turkish-embassy-admits-worried-end-killed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://apnews.com/article/4663d8c06cb00d37dd295bd4c82698e1> - Hamit Coskun, a 50-year-old man, was convicted in London for a religiously aggravated public order offence after he burned a copy of the Quran and shouted anti-Islamic slogans outside the Turkish consulate on February 13. Coskun claimed he was staging a peaceful protest against Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whom he accused of turning Turkey into a base for radical Islamists. District Judge John McGarva stated that while burning a religious book may be offensive, the disorderly conduct stemmed from Coskun's timing, location, and use of abusive language. Coskun was fined £240 ($325). The National Secular Society and the Free Speech Union, which supported Coskun’s legal fees, criticised the conviction as a threat to free speech and vowed to appeal, potentially taking the case to the European Court of Human Rights. Coskun defended his actions as a democratic protest and labelled the ruling an attack on free expression. The UK government affirmed that blasphemy laws had been repealed in 2008 and asserted that no new ones would be introduced. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/4663d8c06cb00d37dd295bd4c82698e1?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.thejc.com/news/politics/quran-burner-blasphemy-laws-cnhlk1n7> - Senior MPs, including former Lib Dem leader Tim Farron, have shared concerns over the decision to charge a man for burning the Quran outside the Turkish consulate in London. The man was viciously attacked with a knife during the stunt but still found himself in police custody in the aftermath. ([thejc.com](https://www.thejc.com/news/politics/quran-burner-blasphemy-laws-cnhlk1n7?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/man-admits-assault-koran-burning-turkish-consulate-london-knightsbridge-b1222348.html> - Moussa Kadri, 59, of Kensington and Chelsea, pleaded guilty at Westminster Magistrates’ Court to attacking Hamit Coskun, 50, in Rutland Gardens, Knightsbridge, on February 13. However, Kadri denied possession of a bladed article in relation to the incident. The case was sent to Southwark Crown Court, where Kadri will stand trial for the weapon charge and be sentenced for the assault on May 12. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/man-admits-assault-koran-burning-turkish-consulate-london-knightsbridge-b1222348.html?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-02-15/man-denies-religious-aggravation-charge-after-burning-of-quran> - A 50-year-old man has denied religiously motivated harassment after a Quran was allegedly burned outside the Turkish consulate in Knightsbridge. Hamit Coskun, 50, from Derby, has been charged with 'intent to cause against religious institution of Islam, harassment, alarm or distress' during an incident near the consulate in Rutland Gardens on Thursday. Footage posted on social media appeared to show a man burning a book outside its barrier. The same man is then seen lying on the ground as someone kicks him and slashes towards him with a knife before walking away. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-02-15/man-denies-religious-aggravation-charge-after-burning-of-quran?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/two-men-charged-over-quran-burning-clash-outside-turkish-embassy-b1211343.html> - Two men have been charged over a conflict outside the Turkish embassy in central London in which a man burning the Quran was attacked by another man wielding a knife. Footage has been circulated online of the incident, which took place outside the embassy building in Rutland Gardens, Knightsbridge on Thursday, February 13. Hamit Coskun, 50, of Derby was charged today (Saturday, February 15) with a religiously aggravated public order offence after he was allegedly filmed burning the Quran. He has been remanded in custody and will next appear at Westminster Magistrates’ Court on Saturday, February 15. Moussa Kadri, 59, who resides in the borough of Kensington and Chelsea, was charged yesterday (Friday, February 14) with causing actual bodily harm and possession of an offensive weapon. He was bailed and will appear at Westminster Magistrates’ Court on Monday, March 17. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/two-men-charged-over-quran-burning-clash-outside-turkish-embassy-b1211343.html?utm_source=openai))