# Violent Incidents Before Euro 2024 Matches Raise Security Concerns



**Hamburg Police Shoot Armed Man Ahead of Euro 2024 Game**

Hamburg police shot a man armed with an “axe-like object” and a “Molotov cocktail” on June 16, 2024, just hours before the first Euro 2024 match in the city. The incident occurred near the fan park in the St Pauli district around 12:30 pm CET, approximately two and a half hours before the Netherlands played Poland at the Volksparkstadion.

According to Hamburg police, the man emerged from a nearby location and threatened officers who asked him to drop the items. When he continued to advance with the Molotov cocktail, he was shot in the leg. No bystanders or emergency personnel were injured. The man received immediate first aid from police and was subsequently treated in a hospital.

The area was near a gathering of Dutch supporters, but authorities have not confirmed if they were targeted or identified any specific motives.

**England Fans in Violent Scenes in Gelsenkirchen**

In a related event, England fans were involved in violent clashes ahead of their Euro 2024 match against Serbia in Gelsenkirchen, also on June 16, 2024. Social media footage showed altercations involving tables, chairs, and bottles being thrown. Riot police intervened, and some individuals were injured during the fracas.

Gelsenkirchen police confirmed the physical altercation but could not specify if it was football-related or the nationalities of those involved. Reports also emerged of England fans chanting controversial songs despite prior warnings.

Both incidents highlight the heightened tensions and significant police presence surrounding the Euro 2024 tournament.