# England football fan bailed after Euro 2024 tournament disturbances in Germany



Gordon Thomas, a 39-year-old England football fan from Bolton, has been bailed following disturbances at the Euro 2024 tournament in Germany. Thomas was detained under the Football Spectators Act 1989 at Manchester Airport upon his return from Germany on Monday evening. The charges stem from his involvement in a violent altercation in Gelsenkirchen before England’s match against Serbia, categorized as high-risk by local authorities.

At Manchester Magistrates' Court, the prosecution sought a football banning order against Thomas, potentially barring him from attending matches for three years. Thomas, representing himself, indicated he was unaware of the specific evidence against him. The hearing was adjourned to allow him to seek legal advice.

During the incident in Gelsenkirchen, which involved around 150 fans, riot police intervened after tables, chairs, and bottles were thrown. Eight arrests were made, and one person was hospitalized with a head injury. The UK Football Policing Unit (UKFPU) is coordinating with German authorities and reviewing footage to determine further actions.

District Judge Joanne Hirst issued conditional bail to Thomas, restricting his travel outside England and Wales until his next court appearance on August 23. Thomas’ passport was seized, and he was advised to consult a solicitor due to the serious nature of the accusations. The ongoing investigation signals coordinated efforts between UK and German police to manage football-related disorder.