# Man Who Wore Hamas Headband at London Rally Escapes Punishment



### Man Who Wore Hamas Headband at London Pro-Palestine Rally Escapes Punishment

Khaled Hajsaad, a 24-year-old resident of Birmingham, was found guilty of wearing a headband supporting Hamas during a pro-Palestine rally at Trafalgar Square, London, on November 25, 2023. The green headband, featuring the “Shahada” in white, a basic Islamic statement of faith, raised suspicion of support for Hamas, which is designated as a terrorist organization in the UK.

Hajsaad, who claimed the headband was an item from Saudi Arabia and a statement of faith, was found guilty in April. At Westminster Magistrates' Court, he received a conditional discharge for three months, avoiding fines due to his limited budget of £49 per week.

Judge Nina Tempia acknowledged the potential harm of the conduct linked to supporting a proscribed organization but did not classify it as serious. Hajsaad, an asylum seeker originally from Palestine, has been in the UK for a year after leaving his home country at the age of five.

Bethan David, head of the CPS Counter Terrorism Division, emphasized the risks of supporting proscribed organizations publicly and reaffirmed the CPS's commitment to prosecuting such cases in collaboration with the police.