# Protesters voice discontent over BBC's Gaza documentary investment



Protesters gathered outside the BBC's London headquarters on the evening of Monday, 30 October, to express their discontent with the Corporation's recent decision to invest over £400,000 in a documentary entitled "Gaza: How To Survive A Warzone". The documentary, which aired on BBC 2, has drawn significant scrutiny due to its narrator being the son of a senior member of Hamas, Ayman Alyazouri.

The protest took place at Broadcasting House in Portland Place, where demonstrators voiced accusations of the BBC being "terrorist supporters" and described the programme as evidence of a "deliberate bias". Amidst a heavy police presence, including numerous officers and several police vans, the central plaza was cordoned off to prevent protesters from accessing the main entrance. The atmosphere was charged, with attendees chanting slogans such as "Hamas are terrorists, say the words" while expressing their outrage over the BBC's editorial choices.

One of the notable figures at the demonstration was Gideon Falter, the chief executive of The Campaign Against Antisemitism, which organised the protest. Addressing the crowd, he led calls of "shame, shame, shame" directed at Broadcasting House, articulating a collective frustration over what he termed the BBC’s "impartiality" over recent months. Falter remarked, “We have had enough of the BBC preaching its truth.”

Several attendees voiced intense criticism of the BBC's decisions surrounding the documentary. Cheryl Kaye, a protester from North London, expressed her dismay that the BBC's director general, Tim Davie, had not addressed the crowd directly. “I'm shocked that he hasn't given this community the courtesy of a conversation,” she said. Annie Keen from Shenley in Hertfordshire expressed her outrage, stating that the revelations regarding the connections in the documentary made her "feel sick".

Compounding issues, a cameraman involved in the documentary, Hatem Rawagh, has been accused of posting tweets that glorified the devastating violence stemming from the conflict, including commentary on the October 7 massacre. Specific posts reportedly celebrated events such as a car attack in Tel Aviv that left an Italian tourist dead and injured multiple others. The documentary itself was pulled from the BBC's iPlayer service after the affiliation with Hamas was highlighted by antisemitism researcher David Collier.

Criticism of the documentary's content extended beyond its financial backing and personnel associations. The Campaign Against Antisemitism raised concerns regarding the portrayal of Hamas in the BBC's broader coverage, particularly alleging omissions in reporting Hamas's portrayal of Israeli leadership and the circumstances surrounding the corpses of hostages returned by the group.

While the documentary featured important narratives surrounding the lives of children in Gaza, its production and distribution have ignited significant backlash, both from individuals at the protest and the broader community. A spokesperson for the Campaign Against Antisemitism stated it was "finally time for transparency and accountability" regarding what they called the BBC's "whitewashing of terrorism."

The BBC has not commented directly on the protests but has previously expressed its belief that "Gaza: How To Survive A Warzone" tells critical stories deserving of wider attention, while pledging to conduct further due diligence with the production company involved in the film's creation. As of now, the documentary remains unavailable on the iPlayer platform while the investigation continues.

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

## References

* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news> - This URL could provide general information about BBC documentaries and their coverage, potentially corroborating the BBC's stance on 'Gaza: How To Survive A Warzone'. However, specific details about the documentary might not be available due to the lack of direct coverage.
* <https://www.caa.uk.org/> - The Campaign Against Antisemitism's website may contain statements or press releases regarding their concerns about the BBC's documentary and its alleged bias, supporting the claims of protest organizers.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/uk> - The Guardian often covers protests and media controversies in the UK, potentially providing coverage of the protest outside the BBC headquarters and the controversy surrounding the documentary.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk> - The Independent may have articles discussing the BBC's documentary choices and the backlash from protests, offering insights into public opinion and media scrutiny.
* <https://www.timesofisrael.com/> - The Times of Israel might cover the international reaction to the documentary, especially regarding its portrayal of Hamas and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, providing context to the controversy.