# Met Police face backlash over alleged glorification of Hamas at London protests and £53m policing cost



The recent pro-Palestine protests in London have ignited significant controversy, particularly following reports of demonstrators allegedly glorifying the October 7 terror attacks by Hamas. This is a sensitive issue, especially as reports emerge of a Metropolitan Police officer dismissing complaints regarding such displays as “almost petty tit for tat.” The officer’s response to a British-Israeli man who reported pro-Palestinian demonstrators singing about the October attacks reflects a troubling perception of the seriousness of public expressions of extremist support during these times.

Footage from the protests reveals alarming statements made by some supporters, including one individual reportedly claiming, “I love October 7” and expressing affection for groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. Such comments raise questions about the boundaries of free speech in relation to endorsing violence and terrorism. Under UK law, support for Hamas, recognised as a terrorist organisation, is illegal, which further complicates the matter when considering the police’s role in enforcing these laws.

Jonathan Hall KC, the UK's independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, has highlighted that speeches at these rallies could glorify terrorism, thereby raising the stakes significantly. Hall underscored that such acts could lead to serious criminal charges and emphasised that law enforcement should have been more proactive in addressing these concerns. Home Secretary Suella Braverman echoed this sentiment, warning that anyone mocking the murder of Jewish individuals risked police action against them, further indicating a heightened sensitivity to these issues in the current climate.

The Metropolitan Police have faced scrutiny not only for their handling of protests but also for the significant financial burden associated with policing these demonstrations. Reports indicate that the cost of managing pro-Palestinian protests has surpassed £53 million, sparking debate over efficient resource allocation. Critics argue that these funds could potentially address other pressing issues in London, such as rising crime rates.

Additionally, the police’s tactics during these protests have drawn criticism from trade unions and human rights organisations. Claims of heavy-handed approaches, including mass detentions known as kettling, have raised concerns regarding the fundamental right to protest and the potential for human rights violations to occur during law enforcement operations.

In light of the complexities surrounding the Israel-Palestine conflict, the Metropolitan Police have had to navigate a challenging landscape of public sentiment and legal expectations. Following incidents where individuals appeared to celebrate Hamas’s actions, police presence has been ramped up across London, signalling a determined stance to maintain order while dealing with the realities of public demonstrations that intersect with deep-seated political and social issues.

As the situation evolves, the debate surrounding freedom of expression, the legal ramifications of glorifying terrorism, and the police's role in managing protests will undoubtedly continue. Many citizens and officials alike are calling for clarity and accountability from both the government and law enforcement to ensure that public safety does not come at the cost of civil liberties.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059921/complaints-pro-gaza-protests-glorifying-hamas), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/15/police-israel-gaza-hamas-london-protesters-braverman/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67100274), [[6]](https://news.sky.com/story/met-police-steps-up-patrols-after-number-of-incidents-in-relation-to-israel-and-gaza-conflict-12979772)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-pro-palestine-protests-cost-london-sadiq-khan-b1209261.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jan/31/pro-gaza-protest-london-met-police-tactics-trade-unions-complaint)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://news.sky.com/story/met-police-steps-up-patrols-after-number-of-incidents-in-relation-to-israel-and-gaza-conflict-12979772), [[7]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/oct/12/met-police-distances-muslim-festival-accused-hamas-defender/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059921/complaints-pro-gaza-protests-glorifying-hamas> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67100274> - The UK's independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, Jonathan Hall KC, stated that speeches at pro-Palestinian rallies might have glorified terrorism, particularly referencing the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel. He emphasized that such glorification could lead to serious terrorism offenses and that police should have acted against it. Home Secretary Suella Braverman also warned protesters who mock the murder of Jewish people that 'the police are coming for you.'
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/15/police-israel-gaza-hamas-london-protesters-braverman/> - Following pro-Palestinian demonstrations in London, the Metropolitan Police faced criticism for not immediately arresting protesters chanting 'from the river to the sea,' a slogan associated with Hamas. Senior MPs argued that any connection with Hamas should trigger an immediate response. Home Secretary Suella Braverman stated that those promoting genocide and glorifying terrorism would face legal consequences, urging the police to use the 'full force of the law' against such actions.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-pro-palestine-protests-cost-london-sadiq-khan-b1209261.html> - The Metropolitan Police's expenditure on policing pro-Palestinian protests in London has exceeded £53 million. This significant spending has raised concerns about resource allocation, with critics suggesting that funds could be better utilized to combat other crimes in the city. The high costs highlight the extensive resources required to manage these large-scale demonstrations.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jan/31/pro-gaza-protest-london-met-police-tactics-trade-unions-complaint> - Trade unions and human rights organizations have criticized the Metropolitan Police's handling of pro-Gaza protests in London, alleging heavy-handed tactics and unlawful arrests. Incidents include kettling and the arrest of peaceful protesters, including children and elderly individuals. The police's approach has been described as disproportionate, raising concerns about the right to protest and potential human rights violations.
6. <https://news.sky.com/story/met-police-steps-up-patrols-after-number-of-incidents-in-relation-to-israel-and-gaza-conflict-12979772> - In response to reports of individuals appearing to celebrate Hamas's attack on Israel, the Metropolitan Police increased patrols across London. Home Secretary Suella Braverman emphasized the use of the 'full force of the law' against displays of support for Hamas, a proscribed terrorist organization. The police are investigating incidents related to the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/oct/12/met-police-distances-muslim-festival-accused-hamas-defender/> - The Metropolitan Police distanced itself from the Global Peace and Unity (GPU) Festival after it was accused of providing a platform to speakers defending the October 7 Hamas attacks on Israel. The Met instructed organizers to remove its name as a 'supporting partner' to maintain impartiality. This decision followed concerns that the festival's association could compromise the police's neutrality.