# Seven charged after high-tension Palestine Action protest in Trafalgar Square



Seven individuals have been formally charged following a sizeable Palestine Action protest in central London, where a total of 13 arrests were made. The charges range from racially aggravated public order offences to assaulting emergency workers, alongside breaches of the Public Order Act. One additional person involved in the protest received a caution for assaulting an emergency worker. The protest itself attracted hundreds of people to Trafalgar Square, a location chosen after police imposed a ban on demonstrations outside the Houses of Parliament.

This protest shift came amid heightened tensions surrounding Palestine Action, an activist group at the centre of escalating controversy. The UK government is actively pursuing the designation of Palestine Action as a terrorist organisation under anti-terror legislation. If Parliament approves this move, the group would be criminalised in terms of membership, support, and participation in its activities. The designation would place Palestine Action alongside proscribed organisations such as Hamas, al-Qaeda, and ISIS, effectively outlawing its operations and associational activities within the UK.

The increased scrutiny follows a series of high-profile incidents involving Palestine Action. Recently, two activists from the group managed to infiltrate the RAF Brize Norton base, the largest Royal Air Force installation in the nation, where they vandalised two military aircraft with red paint. This act has raised significant concerns over military security and prompted vigorous government and law enforcement responses. Beyond this incident, the group has a history of targeting sites linked to defence contractors, especially those connected to Israeli military interests, as part of their activism related to the Gaza conflict that began in 2023.

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper cited Palestine Action’s "history of unacceptable criminal damage" and their growing aggressiveness as essential reasons for the proposed ban. She underscored incidents including damage at a Thales defence factory and other acts of vandalism as indicative of the group's shift from protest to criminality. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner echoed these concerns, justifying the police’s proactive ban on protests near Parliament on grounds of preventing criminal damage and violence, including assaults on officers.

However, the government's efforts to proscribe Palestine Action have not gone without criticism. Various voices, such as Amnesty International UK and prominent political figures including Baroness Shami Chakrabarti, have condemned the move as disproportionate. They argue the designation risks conflating disruptive protest tactics with terrorism, potentially infringing on civil liberties and the right to protest. This backlash frames the ban as an overreach that may suppress legitimate dissent under the guise of national security.

Amid these developments, clashes broke out during the Trafalgar Square protest when demonstrators confronted police officers. The protests also followed a larger Palestine Solidarity Campaign rally earlier in the week, which saw significant police activity and multiple arrests for breaches of protest conditions and public order offences.

Palestine Action itself rejects the terrorism label, stating their actions are designed to oppose what they see as UK complicity in alleged genocidal actions in Gaza. Despite the contentious nature of their campaign, government officials are pressing ahead, citing the need to safeguard critical military infrastructure and public order, as the UK navigates a complex geopolitical balance regarding Israel and the broader Middle East conflict.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj0m2g0ylrmo), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/seven-charged-london-after-protest-support-palestine-action-group-2025-06-24/), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/uk-police-ban-palestine-action-protest-outside-parliament-2025-06-23/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj0m2g0ylrmo), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/4db657d1-7e74-4bc5-971c-7cb301fe19f6), [[5]](https://apnews.com/article/967a0080ffa855465cc7049e8fa17aac)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/seven-charged-london-after-protest-support-palestine-action-group-2025-06-24/), [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/bba1d934-cdb8-4dd0-929f-b0dd79d59abc), [[5]](https://apnews.com/article/967a0080ffa855465cc7049e8fa17aac)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/4db657d1-7e74-4bc5-971c-7cb301fe19f6), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/uk-police-ban-palestine-action-protest-outside-parliament-2025-06-23/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/seven-charged-london-after-protest-support-palestine-action-group-2025-06-24/), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/4db657d1-7e74-4bc5-971c-7cb301fe19f6), [[5]](https://apnews.com/article/967a0080ffa855465cc7049e8fa17aac)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj0m2g0ylrmo), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/john-mcdonnell-whitehall-trafalgar-square-jeremy-corbyn-met-b1205711.html)
* Paragraph 7 – [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/4db657d1-7e74-4bc5-971c-7cb301fe19f6), [[5]](https://apnews.com/article/967a0080ffa855465cc7049e8fa17aac), [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/bba1d934-cdb8-4dd0-929f-b0dd79d59abc)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj0m2g0ylrmo> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/seven-charged-london-after-protest-support-palestine-action-group-2025-06-24/> - Seven individuals have been charged following a protest in London supporting Palestine Action, a group the UK government plans to ban under anti-terrorism laws. The proposed ban would criminalize association with the group, which recently damaged UK military planes to protest British support for Israel. Forced to relocate their protest from parliament to Trafalgar Square by police, demonstrators clashed with officers, resulting in 13 arrests. Of those arrested, seven were charged with offenses including assaulting emergency workers and a racially aggravated offense. Palestine Action has previously targeted sites linked to Israeli defense firm Elbit Systems and British companies associated with Israel since the Gaza conflict began in 2023. Most recently, two members infiltrated a Royal Air Force base. Amnesty International UK condemned the proposed ban, criticizing it as a government overreach in response to security lapses and an infringement on human rights. The designation would equate Palestine Action with proscribed groups like Hamas, al-Qaeda, and ISIS under UK law.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/4db657d1-7e74-4bc5-971c-7cb301fe19f6> - The UK government is taking steps to officially designate Palestine Action, a pro-Palestinian activist group, as a terrorist organization. This move follows a recent incident in which two activists from the group infiltrated an RAF base and vandalized a Voyager aircraft, raising concerns about military security. If the proscription is approved by Parliament under the Terrorism Act 2000, it will criminalize membership, meeting attendance, and participation in the group’s activities. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper cited “a history of unacceptable criminal damage” and increasing aggression in the group's actions, highlighting damage to a Thales defense factory and expanded targeting of institutions beyond the defense sector. The decision has stirred controversy, with critics, including Baroness Shami Chakrabarti and some Labour MPs, arguing that labeling the group as terrorists is disproportionate, as the group primarily uses disruptive protest tactics. The Metropolitan Police also preemptively banned the group from protesting near Parliament, prompting demonstrations in Trafalgar Square. Palestine Action rejected the terrorism label, asserting that their direct actions aim to oppose alleged complicity in genocide.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/uk-police-ban-palestine-action-protest-outside-parliament-2025-06-23/> - British police have prohibited the activist group Palestine Action from protesting outside the Houses of Parliament on Monday, following a recent incident in which two of its members allegedly infiltrated a military base and damaged two military aircraft. The group has relocated its protest to Trafalgar Square, just outside the newly established police exclusion zone. Palestine Action has been actively targeting British defense contractors with ties to Israel, especially since the onset of the Gaza conflict. The UK government is reportedly considering officially designating the organization as a terrorist group, aligning it with entities such as al-Qaeda and ISIS. Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mark Rowley justified the ban, citing concerns that the group's activities surpass acceptable forms of protest and involve significant criminal damage and violence, including the assault of a police officer. The Interior Minister is expected to address Parliament regarding the group later today.
5. <https://apnews.com/article/967a0080ffa855465cc7049e8fa17aac> - The UK government announced plans to ban the pro-Palestinian activist group Palestine Action under anti-terrorism laws following a break-in at a Royal Air Force base in Brize Norton, where two planes were vandalized with red paint. The group is accused of engaging in extremist criminal activity, including damaging military property and disrupting operations. Officials said the move would make it a criminal offense to belong to or support the group, carrying a maximum prison sentence of 14 years. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper cited the group's long history of criminal damage, including an attack on a defense factory in Glasgow in 2022 and political graffiti at a Trump resort in Scotland earlier this year. The attack is under investigation by counter-terrorism police. Palestine Action accuses the UK of complicity in Israeli military actions in Gaza. The ban is subject to Parliamentary approval and aligns with measures previously enacted against groups like Hamas, al-Qaida, and far-right organizations. The announcement sparked clashes between pro-Palestinian demonstrators and police in London.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/bba1d934-cdb8-4dd0-929f-b0dd79d59abc> - The UK government plans to designate Palestine Action as a terrorist organisation following the group's unauthorized break-in at RAF Brize Norton, the nation's largest Royal Air Force base. Activists entered the base, sprayed red paint into the engines of two Airbus Voyager military aircraft, and inflicted additional damage with crowbars. The Home Secretary Yvette Cooper is expected to submit a written statement and initiate legislation for the ban, which requires approval from both Houses of Parliament. The incident, branded 'disgraceful' by Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, raised safety concerns about security at military installations. Palestine Action claims the act protests the UK's military support for Israel in its operations in Gaza. The Ministry of Defence and Thames Valley Police are investigating the security breach. The UK has recently enhanced military readiness in the Middle East, potentially in support of Israel, despite announcing a suspension of direct arms sales to Tel Aviv last year. The government faces growing public pressure to adopt a firmer stance on Israel, particularly concerning the use of British components in military equipment like the F-35 fighter jets. Palestine Action countered the proposed ban by asserting solidarity with the broader pro-Palestinian community.
7. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/john-mcdonnell-whitehall-trafalgar-square-jeremy-corbyn-met-b1205711.html> - Ten people have been charged with public order offences after pro-Palestinian protesters allegedly breached protest conditions as they marched from a rally in Whitehall to Trafalgar Square, breaking through a police line in the process. Saturday’s Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) protest was adjusted to be a static rally after police curtailed organisers’ plans for a march past the BBC and near a synagogue, and conditions were put in place that prevented people involved from entering specific areas. Thousands of demonstrators, including former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and the party’s former shadow chancellor John McDonnell, marched towards Trafalgar Square from Whitehall after speeches were made at the rally. The Metropolitan Police announced on Saturday that 77 people had been arrested – the highest number across more than 20 national PSC protests since October 2023. Some 65 people had been detained for a breach of conditions, five for public order offences, two for obstructing police, one for supporting a proscribed organisation, one for inciting racial hatred, one for common assault, one for assault on an emergency worker and one for sexual assault.