

## **Antisemitic incidents and threats to Jews arising from Gaza crisis**

### **Introduction**

Since the start of the Israeli “Operation Cast Lead” in Gaza, a number of events in the UK have given rise to fears for the safety of British Jews. Antisemitic graffiti has been found at various locations, including on two synagogues. The Israeli flag has been burned in front of the police. This follows the pattern established in previous crises.

### **Antisemitic and Anti-Israel incitement**

Concerned members of the public have complained to CST over antisemitic rhetoric such as “kill the Jews” that they heard in Birmingham at the demonstration held there on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2008. At the demonstration in Manchester on 28<sup>th</sup> December, the crowd called for the destruction of Israel by chanting “Hey Ho Israel has got to go” and “From the river to sea, Palestine will be free.”<sup>1</sup> In London, Hizballah flags have been waved at some of the demonstrations.

### **Synagogue Daubings**

As of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2008, antisemitic graffiti has been daubed on two synagogues in London, as well as several sites in areas as far apart as Clapham Common, Temple Fortune and Stamford Hill. Pro-Hamas graffiti has also been sprayed on a Jewish community location in Manchester.



<sup>1</sup><http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=HDA5dr33CAA>



The graffiti above was daubed on the wall of a synagogue in North London. It says “Jihad for Israel”, and “Jihad the only solution for Palestine” is written alongside it in smaller lettering.

### **Iranian Call for Anti-Jewish Attacks**

Internationally, thinly disguised calls have been issued for attacks against Jewish targets worldwide, most notably by Ayatollah Khamenei of Iran who said on state television that:

“All of the Palestinian mujahid and other faithful of the world are supposed to defend the defenceless people of Gaza. Anyone who is killed in the legitimate and holy defence is a martyr and is hoped to be amongst the ranks of the martyrs of Badr and Ohud battles in the presence of the Messenger of Allah”.<sup>2</sup>

Millions of Muslims worldwide regard Khamenei as a religious figure of great importance and therefore give immense significance to his speeches. They may regard this as nothing less than a call to action from an exulted spiritual leader.

### **Reaction by anti-Israel UK Groups**

British anti-Zionist, pro-Palestinian and Islamist groups who are organising protests and publishing statements have condemned against Israel’s invasion of Gaza as “brutal”, “barbaric” and “a flagrant violation of international law”. Another common theme is condemning the United States and Britain (in particular) for failing to call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire.

Comparisons are being made between this conflict and the 2006 Israel-Hizballah confrontation. So far, local groups have made fairly standard (if untruthful) condemnations of Israel acting barbarically and with disregard for human life. Islam4UK, the Al-Muhajiroun successor group, has published its own statement with

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.leader.ir/langs/EN/index.php?p=contentShow&id=4603>



a jihadist-Islamist message in keeping with its ideology. Below are some examples of these statements.

### **Muslim Public Affair Committee (MPAC)**

MPAC has criticized Muslim leaders and “moderate Jews” for a failure to raise their voices against the Israel invasion. It led one of its articles with a picture of a Swastika, suggesting that the Israelis are Nazis.<sup>[1]</sup> Choice quotes include:

- “Amid this turmoil, we ask where the voices of moderate Jews are. Where is the condemnation? ... It is time for moderate Jews to speak out against these continued violations perpetrated by the Zionist State. It is time to tell the Zionist State, ‘Not in My Name’.”<sup>[2]</sup>
- “These Muslims who are being killed are your brothers and sisters and it is each and every Muslims responsibility to defend them. Praying alone will not do. There are many steps you can take to stop the dangerous and ruthless Zionist machine taking more Muslim lives.”<sup>[3]</sup>

### **Hizb ut-Tahrir (HUT)**

HUT called for a protest at the Egyptian Embassy in London and has not advertised the other protests in London and across the UK. Taji Mustafa, the HUT media representative in Britain, stated the following:<sup>[7]</sup>

- “As the Israeli entity continues shedding the blood of our brothers and sisters in Gaza, Arab regimes remain silent. Instead of releasing their armies, the Saudi king phoned George Bush (the butcher of Baghdad) and the Egyptian regime blamed the Palestinians, highlighting their complicity in Israel's aggression.”
- “Arab countries surrounding Palestine have over 2 million soldiers, spend over \$100 billion on arms annually and dwarf Israel's forces. Egypt alone has 220 F-16 fighter planes and 450,000 soldiers. It is time these armies move to defend Gaza and remove these rulers, re-establishing the Khilafah which will unify the Muslim lands and answer the cries of the Palestinian, Iraqi, Somali and Kashmiri mothers.”

### **Islam For The UK (successor group to Al-Muhajiroun)**

Al-Muhajiroun successor group, Islam4UK, has not organized (or advertised) protests against Israel's invasion, as of 29/12/08. This group, however, has posted a

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<sup>[1]</sup> <http://www.mpacuk.org/content/view/5190/102/>

<sup>[2]</sup> <http://www.mpacuk.org/content/view/5193/102/>

<sup>[3]</sup> <http://www.mpacuk.org/content/view/5195/>

<sup>[7]</sup> <http://www.hizb.org.uk/hizb/press-centre/press-release/london-demonstration-at-egyptian-embassy-call-on-arab-armies-to-defend-gaza.html>

condemnation under the title, **"O Allah give Victory to the Muslims of Gaza!"**  
Statements from this posting include:

- "Once again Ehud Olmert and his nation of thieves have demonstrated to the world the true face of democracy and freedom in the Middle East. Recent events in occupied Palestine where over 280 Palestinians have been brutally murdered highlight the Nazi undertones of an (evil) Israeli administration vehement in spilling the blood of innocent Muslims."
- "Furthermore, the anticipated silence of the apostate rulers (currently presiding over the Muslim lands) should act as a powerful reminder to Muslims worldwide that there can be no form of dialogue with these tyrannical regimes except strong condemnation coupled with *jihad feesabeelillah*."
- "Ironically, it is typically at times like these where those close to the gates of the rulers also become hidden from the public eye, only to reappear (later on) to attack sincere Muslim activists as well as our brothers from among the mujahideen."
- "Indeed, the liberation of Palestine is more than a struggle for an independent country but rather just another path to sow the seed for the domination of Islam worldwide - and certainly this victory has been promised - even though the disbelievers hate it."

*[EMQ 5: 82] "Verily, you will find the strongest among men in enmity to the believers (Muslims) the Jews and those who are al-Mushrikoon."*

#### **List of groups calling for action, advertising protests or organising demos**

1. Action Palestine
2. Respect Renewal (George Galloway's faction)
3. Stop the War Coalition (STWC)
4. British Muslim Initiative (BMI)
5. Muslim Association of Britain (MAB)
6. Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC)
7. Palestinian Forum of Britain (PFB)
8. Friends of Al-Aqsa (FOAA)
9. Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC)
10. Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign (SPSC)
11. Friends of Lebanon
12. Muslim Public Affairs Committee (MPAC)
13. Association of the Palestinian Community in Britain (APC)
14. Jews for Justice for Palestinians (JFJFP)
15. Jews for Boycotting Israeli Goods (JBIG)
16. Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD)
17. International Anti-Zionist Network (IJAN)



18. Haldane Society
19. Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS)
20. Palestinian Return Centre (PRC)
21. International Solidarity Movement (ISM)
22. Socialist Workers Party (SWP)
23. Neturei Karta UK
24. Islamic Forum Europe
25. iEngage
26. Scottish-Islamic Foundation (SIF)
27. Revolutionary Communist Group (RCG)/Victory to the Intifada
28. Hizb ut-Tahrir (HUT)
29. Interpal
30. Camden Friends of Abu Dis

The bulk of protests/demos against Israel's invasion of Gaza have come from anti-Zionist groups, radical leftists, pro-Palestinian organisations and Islamist groups; i.e., those groups that are pro-Hamas and collaborate with the radical left. Not every group has advertised every demonstration. However, these groups are part of the loose coalition that is organising these events.

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**Emergency Pager**                                      **07659 101 668**

**Manchester & Northern Regions**              **0161 792 6666**  
**Emergency Pager**                                      **0800 980 0668**

**e-mail address: [enquiries@thecst.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thecst.org.uk)**

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