

Dear Council members,

On 8 November, horrifying images shocked the world after the night that Amsterdam had endured. Four days later, anger, fear, and disbelief still prevail. We have seen footage of Israeli football supporters being pursued, attacked, and brutalized; screenshots of antisemitic messages calling for a 'hunt on Jews', and videos filled with hate-fueled, racist chants against 'Arabs'. From the tearing down and burning of a Palestinian flag to targeted assaults on Jewish and Israeli supporters, numerous antisemitic expressions were made. The local authorities (consisting of the mayor, police chief, and chief public prosecutor) explicitly emphasize that violence by one party is never an excuse for violence by another. These events have targeted our city, and citizens

That afternoon, there was a meeting at a hotel with Jewish and Israeli Amsterdam residents who shared their anger and fear,. Next week, a follow up meeting is planned. Last Sunday, the Mayor visited the Central Jewish Consultation, the Liberal Jewish Community, and the local indoor football club Maccabi Amsterdam. Monday night there was a gathering with representatives from Amsterdam's mosques and Islamic communities, where emotions also run high. Groups and communities in our city, uninvolved in these events, now find themselves collectively blamed.

Over the past few days, we, as local authorities, spared no effort to clarify the facts, separating fact from perception. This letter provides an account based on information currently available.

Preparation

- On Friday, 30 August, the UEFA draw determined that Ajax would play Maccabi Tel Aviv on 7 November.
- As usual, we began a careful preparation for the match. Starting 9 October, the police launched an SGB0 (structured approach for major events) and initiated operational preparation. The match was discussed with Ajax on October 14, followed by a meeting of a local authority subcommittee on October 22, along with various other meetings. The preparation was reviewed on several occasions within the meetings of the local authority.
- Preparation was based on the police's intelligence picture, compiled from several sources, including the Central Information Point for Football Vandalism (CIV), which has contacts with local football associations and UEFA as the organizing football committee. The police liaised with the Israeli Foreign Liaison Officer (FLO) through the International Legal Assistance Centre, based at the Israeli embassy in The Hague, leading to contact with security officials of Maccabi Tel Aviv. Police also contacted Tel Aviv police, who are familiar with the club, confirming that Maccabi Tel Aviv's following does not have a violent reputation but includes a fanatical segment known as the Fanatics, who are known for lighting flares. From a footballing perspective, UEFA, the clubs, and our police all assessed Ajax-Maccabi Tel Aviv as a low-risk match with no animosity between Ajax supporters and Maccabi fans, who maintain friendly ties.
- However, we were very aware of the unique context: the match took place during the Middle Eastern conflict and its resulting tensions within the city, alongside Amsterdam's National Kristallnacht commemoration at the Portuguese Synagogue on 7 November. Additionally, a daily pro-Palestinian demonstration was scheduled at the Stationsplein.
- We rigorously prepared to ensure that both the eve and the match day would pass safely and undisturbed. The police continuously monitored the intelligence and risk picture with sources including NCTV, UEFA, the clubs, and our own police organization. No additional threat information emerged from this at any time.
- As with every football match, we assessed whether any potential risks were manageable and what police measures would be necessary to ensure a safe evening for the many football fans from both clubs. Various scenarios were developed and adjusted based on current circumstances. The

possibility of establishing a fan zone and various routes for the fan walk were examined. There was no reason, from a public order, threat or legal perspective, to bar Maccabi supporters or cancel the match.

- Because of concerns about the special circumstances and the matches' context, the Mayor contacted the NCTV's director on 29 October, requesting an additional threat assessment for the match, considering the political situation, also in relation to the Kristallnacht commemoration.
- We also prepared to ensure an orderly and dignified Kristallnacht commemoration, with security measures, partial cordoning of the Jonas Daniël Meijerplein, and extra uniformed officers around the Portuguese Synagogue before, during and after the commemoration. Measures were also taken to prevent mixing of commemorative attendees and supporter groups. The municipality was in contact with the Central Jewish Consultation (CJO), the commemoration's organizer.
- Regarding the Kristallnacht commemoration, the Mayor received an operational briefing from the NCTV, which endorsed the local security measures. In response to the Mayor's request for an additional threat assessment, the NCTV stated that there was no concrete threat to the supporters group, players, or match. As such, the NCTV did not issue further advice for taking measures, and the police received no threat information from the NCTV for this match.
- Nevertheless, we decided, given the combination of the match, the Kristallnacht commemoration, and announced pro-Palestinian demonstrations in the city, and based on the available information and potential risks, to take all possible measures. Security risk areas were designated in the city center, along the metro route to the JC Arena, and around the JC Arena itself, permitting preventive searches. Reserved metro trains were arranged and ready at Central Station for fans making their way from Dam Square to the stadium.
- Designated locations were set for protests, with protests near the JC Arena relocated to over 800 meters away for supporter and demonstrator safety. The Mayor personally explained this decision to the organizers. Protests around Dam Square, the gathering point for Maccabi fans before going to the JC Arena, were redirected to the Spui for the same reason. The daily pro-Palestinian demonstration organizer was contacted and informed, and voluntarily chose not to hold a protest at Central Station that evening.
- Extra resources were deployed to enable early detection of supporter groups and potential pro-Palestinian activists, as well as the identification of rioters and those intent on provocation. Additionally, precautionary monitoring and security measures were put in place around the hotels housing players and supporters.
- On Wednesday evening and on Thursday, the police deployed over 1,200 officers to manage potential risks. This included specialized units such as mobile units, arrest teams, mounted officers, canine units, reconnaissance units, football units, and the peacekeeping unit. From midnight onwards, at least 500 personnel were actively assigned to the operation, excluding the additional officers who worked overtime during the night. These numbers will be finalized as soon as registration is completed.

Progress of Wednesday evening and night and police actions

- On Wednesday evening, we anticipated the presence of several hundred Maccabi fans in the city. The early evening passed calmly, but various incidents involving different groups occurred during the night from Wednesday to Thursday. The police acted swiftly to address these incidents.
- Aggressive and threatening messages toward Maccabi supporters appeared on several social media platforms. The police monitored information from both open and closed Telegram and WhatsApp groups, observing an increase in message traffic. The police noted a significant level of aggression and willingness to act, and, in some cases, mobilization at specific locations. The police responded to particular signals. Maccabi supporters, Fenerbahçe supporters, and Ajax fans were present in the city, with minor altercations occurring between them.

- Around 23:00, pro-Palestinian graffiti was sprayed near the Johan Cruijff Arena. The police made four arrests. Shortly after, a report was received of ten pro-Palestinian activists using a slide projector to display messages on the Arena, including the phrase "Fuck F-side," which was reportedly filmed and shared online immediately. By 00:30, all ten individuals had left, and two were issued a 24-hour ban.
- Around midnight, disturbances arose at the Rokin. A group of approximately 50 Maccabi supporters pulled down a Palestinian flag hanging from a building. Some individuals wore face coverings. The group appeared to split, with some heading towards Central Station and Spui, and others toward the Red Light District, shouting slogans. Some individuals walking on the Rokin removed their belts and used them to attack a taxi. Elsewhere on the Rokin, other taxis were vandalized. A police vehicle observed this, prompting multiple units, including KMAR and units from outside the region, to respond. By the time they arrived, the hooligans had left the area.
- The police observed online calls for taxi drivers to mobilize. The taxi drivers headed towards Holland Casino at Max Euweplein, where around 400 Israeli supporters were present, having been there for several hours. The police escorted the supporters out of the casino, and with the aid of police buses, a major confrontation between groups was prevented. Minor skirmishes continued around the casino between various groups.

Progress of Thursday (match day) and police actions

- At 11:00, 'we convened an additional meeting in response to the previous evening's incidents. Concerns centered particularly on the aggression shown by Maccabi supporters and the reaction of taxi drivers. We reviewed the current operational intelligence picture, assessed the necessity of additional measures, and re-evaluated prepared scenarios. we also examined police deployment and whether it was adequate to ensure a safe and undisturbed day. The police judged the heightened security measures and extensive deployment as sufficient. We considered the possibility of cancelling the match but found no legal grounds to do so. They concluded that cancelling the match would make the city's situation unmanageable, given the large number of supporters already present. We requested Ajax to open the stadium earlier, allowing Maccabi supporters to enter sooner and leave the city center. Ajax agreed to this request.
- The Mayor contacted Ajax and the KNVB, who agreed to liaise with UEFA. We appealed to them to emphasize to their supporters that this is about sport, not politics, urging them to stay safe and avoid provocation from any quarter. The Mayor also called the Israeli ambassador, requesting that the Israeli government clarify that the match is a sporting event and should not be politicized. A formal appeal was also made to the coalition of Approved Taxi Organizations and other taxi platforms, such as Uber and Bolt, to urge their members to keep calm, avoid confrontation, and resist provocation.
- The Mayor also called the Minister of Justice and Security to inform him about the events of the previous evening and to provide an overview of the measures in place for the evening and night. She then contacted the NCTV, sharing concerns about the aggression from both Maccabi supporters and taxi drivers. Official contact was made with the municipality of Alkmaar to explore ways to prevent Fenerbahçe supporters from coming to Amsterdam. The Triangle also considered requesting NS to suspend train services between Alkmaar and Amsterdam, but this proved unfeasible. Also, Alkmaar pledged to take all possible measures to prevent Fenerbahçe supporters from traveling to Amsterdam.
- At 13:00, a large group of Maccabi supporters gathered at Dam Square. This was announced, and the police were prepared. Opponents approached the gathering, leading to incidents near Dam Square. Skirmishes ensued, with searching and confrontational behaviour from both sides, and heavy fireworks were set off at Dam Square. The police managed to keep the larger groups apart.

- Throughout the afternoon, social media saw an increase in messages indicating an intent to take action against Maccabi supporters. The tone of these messages grew harsher, with antisemitic terms appearing. The police received reports that taxi drivers were being called to assemble at Strandvliet metro station, where the Maccabi supporters would be disembarking.

Dutch Original:

- At approximately 17:30, around 1,000 Maccabi supporters marched from Dam Square to Central Station. The riot police cordoned off the fan walk and escorted the supporters to reserved metro trains that took them directly to the stadium. The fan walk proceeded in a manageable way, with one arrest for public order disturbance. Police were present in force at Strandvliet metro station, guiding the supporters to the stadium section designated for away fans. Ajax had deployed extra security personnel, opened the stadium earlier, and implemented a stricter screening and search process.

- In the early evening, the police escorted the pro-Palestinian demonstrators to their designated protest location at Anton de Komplein. Upon arrival, this group split into smaller groups, some seeking confrontation near the Arena. The police were kept busy separating various opposing groups, managing to prevent confrontations through riot police interventions and mounted police deployments. Ajax fans attempting to move from the Arena area to Anton de Komplein were also stopped.

- After the match, the crowd dispersal went smoothly, and by 23:00 the situation around the stadium was calm.

- Police resources were then shifted to the city center, where problems were anticipated, partly based on social media posts indicating that groups were intent on confronting Maccabi supporters. Police were stationed at public transport hubs between the Arena and Central Station to prevent clashes, with particular focus on Central Station. Police were also stationed outside hotels known to be housing Maccabi supporters.

- Groups of Maccabi supporters returned from the Arena to the city center. Until midnight, efforts focused on keeping large groups separate and preventing confrontations. Around midnight, a large group of Maccabi supporters was walking around near Dam Square, some carrying sticks and committing acts of vandalism.

- After midnight, issues arose by small groups of rioters spread throughout the city center and nearby neighborhoods. These groups engaged in violent hit-and-run actions targeting Israeli supporters and nightlife crowd. These incidents occurred in various locations across the city center, including Damrak, Damstraat, Vondelstraat, Overtoom, Stadhouderskade, PC Hooftstraat, Kerkstraat, Elandsgracht, Nes, Keizersgracht, Dirk van Hasseltsteeg, Bosboom Toussaintstraat, Herengracht, and Leidsegracht.

- In response to these incidents, we decided at 00:15 to extend the security risk areas where preventive searches were permitted to 06:00. At 1:30, additional security risk areas were designated around two hotels housing Maccabi players and supporters.

- The police responded to all reports received through emergency calls. They patrolled, intervened where visible threats emerged, and managed to keep rioters away from Israelis, preventing numerous incidents. Nevertheless, rioters succeeded in committing severe assaults, resulting in injuries among Maccabi supporters. It proved extremely challenging for the police to act against these rapid, sporadic attacks. Rioters moved in small groups, on foot, by scooter, or car, briefly attacking Maccabi supporters before quickly disappearing.

- In response, the police adjusted their approach. Separate groups of Maccabi supporters were gathered at Dam Square and Rokin and were protected by police. GVB buses were arranged to transport the supporters safely back to their hotels, and smaller groups were escorted by police on foot. From 01:30 onward, reports of street violence rapidly declined.

- Around this time, it became apparent that there was considerable fear among Israeli supporters staying in hotels. The police received reports from hotels hosting Israeli supporters, where large groups had gathered outside, seemingly waiting for them, and that some guests were locking themselves in their rooms out of fear. The police responded to these reports but found few, if any, individuals posing an immediate threat outside. The Israeli ambassador contacted the Mayor, expressing concerns about the safety of guests at various hotels. The Mayor informed the ambassador about the measures that had been implemented.
- Throughout the night, the Mayor maintained contact with the ambassador regarding the unrest around the hotels. At 2:45, the ambassador called the Mayor again, describing significant anger in Israel over the events in Amsterdam. He also mentioned that members of the Israeli government were planning to come to the Netherlands. Recognizing the potential international implications, the Mayor attempted to contact the Prime Minister at 03:00. Unable to reach him, she called the Minister of Justice and Security, briefing him on developments. They agreed that the Minister would inform the Prime Minister.
- Immediately afterward, we als local authorities convened again. and reviewed the operational situation, with the general commander reporting that the incidents of the previous hours had taken on an antisemitic character, describing a 'hunt on Jews' with individuals being asked about their nationality. we agreed that the Mayor would maintain contact with the government. Additionally, the Mayor, together with the director of Public Order and Safety (OOV), would stay in touch with the Jewish community.
- The situation on the streets was now relatively calm. we agreed to partially scale down the police deployment. The Mayor requested that the 'Peace Protocols' should be intensified (the Peace Protocols have been active since October 7, 2023), with a daily city-wide information briefing and, where possible, the organization of gatherings to help channel emotions. we also discussed the preparation of a press release.
- At 05:00, the Mayor reconnected with the Israeli ambassador, who expressed concerns about missing individuals. The police were also receiving these signals and had launched an investigation. The Mayor designated a contact person for the ambassador. The Minister of Justice and Security informed the Mayor about his contact with the Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, during which the incidents were condemned in the strongest terms, with references to the Holocaust. At 06:00, the Mayor and ambassador spoke again, and she offered him and his staff the municipal crisis center to coordinate support efforts.
- Immediately afterwards, we convened once more. At that moment, the situation in the city was calm.
- At 05:30, the Mayor called the director of the NCTV, and they agreed to brief the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice and Security in a call. This call took place at 07:00, during which the Mayor reported on the night's events. They discussed the initial response, and the Mayor expressed Amsterdam's full support for the repatriation of Israeli nationals.
- At 07:30, the Mayor called the Mayor of Haarlemmermeer/Schiphol to inform her about the repatriation of Israeli nationals, though she was already aware.
- At 08:00, We reconvened. They requested an assessment of the legal feasibility of implementing an emergency order that would include a demonstration ban and a security risk area allowing preventive searches.
- At 11:00, another meeting of the local authorities was held, in which it was decided to implement an emergency order and designate a security risk area.

Several people sustained injuries, five of whom were treated in the hospital. They have since been discharged. Twenty to thirty Israeli supporters with minor injuries were cared for by the Jewish

community. No one remains missing; everyone who was initially unaccounted for has now been located.

Developments over the Past Weekend

- Early Friday morning, it was announced that Israel would be sending two planes to the Netherlands to repatriate Israeli nationals, with representatives of the Israeli government and the Speaker of the Knesset on board. The local authorities in Amsterdam worked diligently to ensure that supporters wishing to return to Israel, possibly on these Israeli planes, would be facilitated in doing so safely.
- We decided to hold a press conference to provide an initial account of the events of the night. For this purpose, the Mayor invited faction leaders to a confidential briefing to present an initial information picture of the situation.
- In response to the events, the Mayor organized a meeting with the Jewish and Israeli communities. This gathering, held just before Shabbat, provided the Jewish community with an opportunity to share experiences, express concerns, and learn about the planned measures.
- By the afternoon, nearly 800 supporters were still in hotels. Meanwhile, departing supporters were escorted to Schiphol, some of them by bus.
- On this Friday, three Stolpersteine (stumbling stones) were laid in the morning and afternoon. The organization was proactively contacted, and it emerged that some relatives were concerned. The police were asked to be visibly present. The ceremonies proceeded peacefully and without disruption.
- Also on Friday, there was regular contact with both the Israeli and American representatives in the Netherlands. The U.S. consulate expressed concern about possible kidnappings, though there was no evidence of this. However, a few supporters could not initially be reached; this was resolved later in the day, and the consulate was informed.
- Around 15:30, the police had to request additional assistance again. At that time, signals also emerged regarding a potential threat to the Westermoskee. This signal was investigated, and contact was made with the Westermoskee.
- Later that evening, a bomb threat was reported at a Jewish place of worship, where the Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs was present at the time. The area was cordoned off extensively, and the police conducted an investigation, which determined it was a false alarm.
- The (organisers of) planned demonstrations were contacted by phone and email so they could be informed about the local authorities' decisions. A Kristallnacht commemoration scheduled at Muiderpoort Station was relocated indoors in consultation with the organizers.
- New incidents occurred during the night from Friday to Saturday:
 - Around 23:30, a taxi driver allegedly made antisemitic remarks to a person. The victim will be filing a report.
 - Around 01:20, an attempt was made to burn a Palestinian flag hanging from a balcony at the Kastelenstraat using a long pole. No suspects were found.
 - Around 03:30, a man was reportedly thrown out of a taxi and assaulted because he is Jewish. The taxi could not be located. Another assault occurred on the J.P. Heijestraat. Later that day, a suspect was arrested.
 - On Saturday night, a KMAR unit was spat at while providing security at a Jewish site. The suspect was arrested.
- All these incidents and signals are being carefully investigated by the police.
- The bus transport of supporters on Saturday morning proceeded without issues. They arrived safely and were handed over to the KMAR at Schiphol.

- The Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs indicated that he, along with the ambassador, wanted to visit the Anne Frank House at 15:30 that day. Extensive measures were prepared for this visit. Later in the afternoon, it became clear that the minister would not go through with the visit.
- That afternoon, an Israeli news crew wished to film a report in the city, including locations such as Leidseplein, Damrak, and Plein 40-45. The police escorted the journalists, who were also accompanied by one of the representative of the Jewish communities. The Israeli news crew was able to carry out their work safely.
- Activists known to the police were present at Dam Square. They were informed of the ban that had been in place since Friday 19:00. Most activists left voluntarily, one demonstrator was asked to leave. Elsewhere in the city, a group of students expressing themselves as a demonstration was also addressed, which was sufficient to bring an end to their actions.
- A photo appeared on social media showing a visible demonstration at Dam Square, suggesting that the emergency order was not being enforced. However, the photo was taken prior to the emergency order's enactment.
- The Kristallnacht commemoration organized by Platform Stop Racism and Erev Rav at the Jewish resistance monument was cancelled by the organizers, but they indicated they wished to hold a press moment with two individuals at the monument. During the press moment, it began to resemble a demonstration, which was not permitted under the emergency order at that time. The organization was informed, and the gathering was subsequently disbanded.
- In the evening, the police received further signals of calls to incite riots in the city. Additionally, there were two reports of antisemitic incidents: a scooter rider asked a man for his passport and whether he was Israeli, and a taxi driver asked a customer if he was Israeli, adding that his friends would 'find him'.
- Throughout the weekend, the police monitored numerous online threats, ranging from the doxing of individuals alleged to have attacked Israeli supporters on Thursday night to calls for attacks on mosques.
- In protest against the emergency order and the demonstration ban, a demonstration was announced for Sunday afternoon, 10 November, at Dam Square. The organizer also requested a preliminary injunction from the court against the emergency order and demonstration ban.
- Early Sunday morning, we were alerted to a propaganda video from Hamas claiming responsibility for the events. This video was circulating on social media. Shortly afterward, the Mayor contacted the Minister of Justice and Security and the director of the NCTV. Both confirmed that they would verify this report. The Mayor requested an additional threat assessment, specifically focusing on whether Hamas-affiliated groups were operating in the city. The Prime Minister later announced in a press conference that Hamas' claim was part of a publicity campaign and had no basis in reality.
- On Sunday, the NCTV informed the police of an unverified signal they had received regarding a potential risk of violence that afternoon. As a precaution, the police increased their deployment for the day in light of a possible demonstration.
- At 12:00 on Sunday, a hearing took place at the Amsterdam court regarding the preliminary injunction. The judge denied the injunction, thereby upholding the emergency order and demonstration ban.
- Despite the court's ruling, the organizer proceeded to Dam Square with hundreds of others to demonstrate. The police were already present and immediately informed demonstrators that they needed to leave.
- A group of demonstrators also gathered on Nieuwendijk. Some individuals in this group threw bicycles at the police, prompting a police charge. According to the police, one person was injured in the commotion and was taken to an ambulance with a head injury.

- Despite repeated orders from the police, a large group of demonstrators refused to leave. Eventually, more than 340 individuals were detained, relocated, and subsequently released. An additional 50 individuals were arrested and detained, with three held on more serious charges.

Investigation and Prosecution

The police made 62 arrests in the afternoon and evening before, during, and after the Ajax-Maccabi Tel Aviv match, on charges including public violence, vandalism, and disturbing public order. Of these individuals, 49 reside in the Netherlands and 10 in Israel. The residence of the remaining suspects is still being determined for possible prosecution.

Forty-five individuals received on-the-spot fines from the police for offenses such as disturbing public order, insulting behaviour, resisting arrest, or failing to produce identification. One person received a penal order for resisting arrest. Two cases were dismissed due to lack of evidence. Further investigation is underway in 11 cases.

Currently, four suspects remain in custody on suspicion of committing public violence during last Thursday's unrest in Amsterdam. These include:

- two minors, aged 16 and 17, from Amsterdam, suspected of serious assault and public violence against the riot police.
- a 19-year-old man from Monnickendam, suspected of public violence by throwing stones at a riot police bus.
- a 26-year-old man from Amsterdam, suspected of public violence, who was arrested on Friday based on analyzed CCTV footage.

The top priority now is to quickly identify and apprehend other suspects. For this purpose, a special investigative team has been formed, focusing initially on the hit-and-run actions. This investigation includes the use of numerous videos and images shared with the police by the public. The police are also reviewing footage from public and private cameras throughout the city and have issued a call for relevant footage to be shared with them. The analysis includes verifying the authenticity of the footage. Five additional suspects have now been arrested, suspected of public violence against individuals on the night of Thursday, 7 November, into Friday, 8 November, two of whom were involved before the match. In the coming days, initially blurred images of suspects will be displayed. If they do not come forward, identifiable images may be released. Collaboration with Israel allows victims in Israel to file reports.

Some of the videos/images circulating do not pertain to Amsterdam or the timeframe in which the incidents occurred. The investigation also includes reports and witness statements received. As the investigations progress, more arrests are expected to follow. Whether there was an organized connection or an antisemitic motive is also under investigation. Regarding this investigation the Chief Public Prosecutor is in close contact with the National board of Procurators General

Emergency Order and Security Risk Area

In light of all the incidents of violence in the city over the past days, and the resulting unrest and feelings of insecurity among our Jewish community and other residents, as well as the heightened tensions and sentiments in the city, we considered it necessary on Friday to implement additional measures. They concluded that the available legal instruments were insufficient to ensure an adequate level of safety and to prevent public order disturbances. Consequently, we decided that, as of Friday afternoon, 8 November, an Emergency Ordinance would apply to all of Amsterdam. This order includes a ban on demonstrations, a prohibition on face-covering clothing where it may

lead to public order disturbances, and a ban on carrying objects that could disrupt public order. a high risk security area was designated for the entire city, enabling preventive searches. Additional police deployment will be in place, along with increased attention from the police and KMAR for the protection of vulnerable (Jewish) sites and institutions.

On Sunday evening, we decided to extend these measures. Given that the weekend was not incident-free, new signals of possible threats emerged, and the broader context of high social tension, we deemed it irresponsible to scale down the measures. As such, the emergency order and security risk area were maintained until Thursday 12:00 p.m. The police will continue to operate with an elevated deployment level for the duration.

Investigation

We are preparing an independent investigation into the events of the past days, the preparations, and the actions of the authorities. This investigation will be closely coordinated with the Justice and Security Inspectorate, which will focus on the information position of the NCTV and the police. The investigation's terms of reference and the results will be shared with your Council.

In Conclusion

The events of the past days stem from a toxic combination of antisemitism, hooliganism, and anger about the conflicts in Palestine and Israel, and other countries in the Middle East. In this letter, we have presented all known facts to your Council. We wish to emphasize that anyone suspected of serious criminal offenses must be investigated and prosecuted.

As stated, we are preparing an independent investigation. The terms of reference and results will be sent to your Council. The above reconstruction of the facts is only a first step in restoring the trust that was shattered by rioters, agitators, and hooligans.

Commentators and politicians at home and abroad have said a lot about what has happened, especially in light of the horrific resurgence of antisemitism that has infected our society for some time. This obliges us to provide additional protection for Jewish Amsterdam. Jewish institutions are therefore under close surveillance and security. There is close contact with the Jewish community. Despite all these efforts, distressing incidents regularly occur in Amsterdam. These incidents affect not only Jews but also, increasingly, Muslims, Palestinians, and other minority groups. We abhor all these forms of violence and are doing everything possible to combat them. Unfortunately, it is impossible to prevent them all. That is why we urge everyone to file a report so that investigation and prosecution can take place. Reports of antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred, racism, and other hate crimes are given priority by the Amsterdam police.

It has often been said that all the violence and intimidation could have been prevented if we had restricted the right to demonstrate and freedom of expression over the past year. Some have suggested that Jewish people in Amsterdam would be safer if flags and slogans were banned and if Amsterdam-born residents were deported because of who they are. This is in direct conflict with our laws, our constitution, and European and international treaties.

In (social) media over the past week, it has been concluded that primarily young Moroccan Amsterdammers turned against Jewish Israeli Maccabi supporters and made antisemitic statements. Police investigations must establish the precise identities of the perpetrators. We emphasize that antisemitism cannot be answered with other forms of racism: the safety of one group cannot come at the expense of the safety of another. Jewish Amsterdammers are not safer

if Moroccan and Islamic Amsterdammers are less safe and less free. On the contrary, there is revulsion among Moroccan and Islamic Amsterdammers as well, who now feel that their entire group is being held responsible. Many Jewish Amsterdammers also despise the increased racism and intolerance toward other minorities. Feelings of insecurity and marginalization prevail among all minority groups in Amsterdam. Amsterdam belongs to all of us, and the rule of law is for everyone.

Without our rule of law, no one is safe, and no one is free. But that rule of law can only exist if it is supported in a society where people wish to live together peacefully. There are countless people in our city who work together, bring nuance to public debate, and engage in dialogue with those they fundamentally disagree with. We will not abandon them; it will seek them out and support them in the coming days, weeks, and months. We ask for your help and for the help of everyone who clings, in these difficult times, to the idea that we are all, ultimately, Amsterdammers.

On behalf of Chief Prosecutor René de Beukelaer and Police Chief Peter Holla,

Femke Halsema
Mayor