

STATEMENT BY THE AMSTERDAM POLICE – NOVEMBER 27, 2025

The Amsterdam police and the West Midland police spoke during a video meeting in the first week of October. The subject of the conversation was the risk of having Maccabi supporters visiting the city of Birmingham for a European football match. The Amsterdam police made clear that among Maccabi supporters there were 500-800 ultras visiting the city in November 2024. Like other European ultra groups, these fans were organized and, on some occasions, seemed willing to fight. The Amsterdam police also stated that a lot of disorder in those days were the result of different groups provoking each other.

Timeline of the incidents that involved Maccabi supporters:

Around 2,500 Maccabi supporters were present in the city on Wednesday November 6 and Thursday 7. Among them was a group of 500–800 high-risk Maccabi supporters (also known as ultras) During these days police prevented confrontations between pro-Palestine activists and Maccabi supporters in the city center of Amsterdam. On several occasions pro-Palestine activists and Maccabi supporters shouted insults and provoked each other. The police are strongly present to keep the situation under control and to prevent further escalation but cannot prevent groups of rioters—both Maccabi supporters and pro-Palestine sympathizers—from clashing. Compared to other European high-risk football supporters, the Amsterdam police made the assessment that the Maccabi supporters were quite self-confident and were not afraid—neither of opponents nor of the police.

In the early morning of 7 November, at approximately 00:20, the control room receives reports that a group of about 50 Maccabi Tel Aviv supporters are pulling a Palestinian flag off a building façade and obstructing traffic. Some of the supporters are wearing face coverings, shouting anti-Palestinian slogans, and harassing people. The group then splits up. One part moves towards Central Station and Spui, another part towards the Red-Light District. The control-room report from 00:32 states: Of the group walking along the Rokin, several individuals remove their belts and use them to attack taxis. Scooter riders are also attacked with padlocks. Police, including additional support units and the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, arrive in large numbers to restore order. In the following hours, unrest continues in various parts of the city. Reports come in of groups fighting each other. The police are fully occupied keeping different groups apart.

The next day, Dam Square serves as a gathering point for Maccabi supporters before they depart for the ArenA. Around 12:15, the first supporters arrive, and the group quickly grows. They chant anti-Palestinian slogans. Around them, young people from Amsterdam on scooters circle, monitoring the Maccabi supporters and making frequent phone calls, according to the police. The fan walk begins around 17:30 at Dam Square. Supporters gather here in the run-up to the match. The police escort the group towards Central Station, where metro trains reserved specifically for the supporters are ready to take them to the ArenA.

During the fan walk, supporters shout slogans in Hebrew. Afterwards, it appears that these include highly offensive, racist expressions. At the front walks a group wearing face coverings.

Near the stadium, in the hours leading up to the game, the police again are fully occupied keeping the two groups apart. No big clashes occur. Around midnight, Maccabi Tel Aviv rioters gather at Central Station and move towards the city center. Along the way, they equip themselves with materials such as metal rods and stones. Stones are also thrown at taxis. At the same time, another development takes place: small groups of pro-Palestinian rioters actively search for individuals they perceive as Israeli, Jewish or Maccabi supporters. At 23:55, the first 'flash' attacks on Maccabi supporters begin at Dam Square.

Several dozen violent incidents in the city center follow. The pro-Palestinian rioters use various methods to reach their victims: some move on foot; others use scooters or taxis to move quickly through the city. This makes it difficult for the police to intervene quickly and effectively. This proves to be a fundamentally different form of violence compared to earlier situations, which involved clashes between groups facing each other. From 01:24 onward, reports of attacks decrease, but fear among Jewish residents of Amsterdam and Israeli tourists remains high. Multiple reports come in of people feeling unsafe and not daring to leave their hotels.