

From 5.1, 2, e <5.1, 2, e@thejc.com>
Subject **Re: RP | Request for comment from Mayor Halsema | UK reaction to Maccabi-Ajax**
To "Luttikhuisen, Margriet" <5.1, 2, e@amsterdam.nl>
Date December 2, 2025 at 2:22:38 PM CET

Absolutely no worries and thank you for getting back to me so promptly.

Should you change your mind or perhaps wish to comment as 'sources close to the Mayor', rather than on the record, then I'd be delighted to hear from you.

All the best,

5.1, 2, e

From: "Luttikhuisen, Margriet" <5.1, 2, e@amsterdam.nl>
Date: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 at 13:12
To: 5.1, 2, e <5.1, 2, e@thejc.com>
Subject: RE: RP | Request for comment from Mayor Halsema | UK reaction to Maccabi-Ajax

Dea 5.1, 2, e,

Thank you, I'm well, hope you too.
And thank you for your mail. I'm afraid I have to decline, I prefer not to comment.
Kind regards,

Margriet Luttikhuisen
Spokesperson Mayor Halsema

5.1, 2, e
5.1, 2, e @amsterdam.nl

Van: 5.1, 2, e <5.1, 2, e@thejc.com>
Verzonden: dinsdag 2 december 2025 11:08
Aan: Luttikhuisen, Margriet <5.1, 2, e@amsterdam.nl>
Onderwerp: Re: RP | Request for comment from Mayor Halsema | UK reaction to Maccabi-Ajax

Hi Margriet,

5.1, 2, e from the Jewish Chronicle here.

Hope you're well.

There has been another development in this.

Referencing Amsterdam, a representative of West Midlands Police told a parliamentary committee in the UK that: "I suspect there was lots of pressure locally on the Dutch police as a result of this match. My very careful conclusion ... is that I think initially the Dutch probably underestimated the level of threat and risk. The day before the match they were extremely stretched. The day of the match they deployed an abundance of riot trained police and I think the whole incident left them in a position whereby they hadn't anticipated the level of disorder".

And another representative said there was "pressure from city hall" on the police.

I'm just getting in touch to see if you'd be willing to comment on this.

(As an aside, the opposition are calling for the resignation of the head of West Midlands Police)
<https://x.com/CPhilpOfficial/status/1995540701468356683>

Best,

5.1, 2, e

From: 5.1, 2, e <5.1, 2, e@thejc.com>
Date: Wednesday, 26 November 2025 at 13:20
To: "Luttikhuisen, Margriet" <5.1, 2, e@amsterdam.nl>
Subject: Re: RP | Request for comment from Mayor Halsema | UK reaction to Maccabi-Ajax

Hi Margriet,

Thank you so much for your rapid reply.

Just to confirm, I can use "I don't recognize these figures" as a quote attributed to "a spokesperson for the Mayor of Amsterdam". (The police have made similar comments already to the Sunday Times.

Secondly, can I say that the Mayor backs the *feitenrelaas* as an authoritative source of information for what happened in Amsterdam? (I have a copy of it and have published extracts from it).

Thank you for the additional resources.

All the best,

5.1, 2, e

From: "Luttikhuisen, Margriet" <5.1, 2, e @amsterdam.nl>
Date: Wednesday, 26 November 2025 at 13:12
To: 5.1, 2, e <5.1, 2, e @thejc.com>
Subject: RE: RP | Request for comment from Mayor Halsema | UK reaction to Maccabi-Ajax

Dea 5.1, 2, e,

Thank you for your email. Regarding your first question: I read the media reports and saw the video online, but the municipality is not the right source for a fact check. The events surrounding the match have been subject of police investigation.

The same applies for your second question; this is a question for the Amsterdam police. (That said: I don't recognize these figures.)

I prefer not to comment on statements by UK politicians. The actions of the police and the local authorities have been subject of two independent reports you can find here:

[Onderzoeksrapport gebeurtenissen rond de wedstrijd Ajax-Maccabi Tel Aviv | Gemeente Amsterdam](#)
[Rapport ongeregelde heden Amsterdam 7 en 8 november 2024 | Inspectie Justitie en Veiligheid](#)

The *feitenrelaas* and these reports are the most extensive sources for the events surrounding the Ajax – Maccabi Tel Aviv match. I'm afraid they're both in Dutch, but perhaps Google translate or Chat GPT can be of service.

Kind regards,
Margriet Luttikhuisen
Spokesperson Mayor Halsema

5.1, 2, e
5.1, 2, e @amsterdam.nl

Van: Bestuursvoorlichting <Bestuursvoorlichting@amsterdam.nl>
Verzonden: woensdag 26 november 2025 12:05
Aan: Luttikhuisen, Margriet <5.1, 2, e @amsterdam.nl>
Onderwerp: FW: RP | Request for comment from Mayor Halsema | UK reaction to Maccabi-Ajax

Van: 5.1, 2, e <5.1, 2, e @thejc.com>
Verzonden: dinsdag 25 november 2025 16:27
Aan: Bestuursvoorlichting <press@amsterdam.nl>
Onderwerp: RP | Request for comment from Mayor Halsema | UK reaction to Maccabi-Ajax

Hi, 5.1, 2, e
My name is 5.1, 2, e and I'm a political journalist with the Jewish Chronicle in the United Kingdom.

I hope you're well.

I'm getting in touch because I've published several stories on the decision by British authorities to ban the supporters of Maccabi Tel Aviv from their game against Aston Villa in Birmingham.

In a letter to the House of Commons, West Midlands Police stated that: "West Midlands Police assessed the fixture between Ajax and Maccabi Tel Aviv in Amsterdam as involving significant public disorder. Approximately 2,800 Israeli supporters travelled to the match. Intelligence indicated that, on the day preceding the fixture, between 500 and 600 Maccabi fans deliberately targeted Muslim communities, committing hate-motivated offences including serious assaults on Muslim taxi drivers, singing hate fuelled songs and tearing down Palestinian flags. Dutch police described the Maccabi Tel Aviv risk group as highly organised and experienced in violent confrontation.

On match day, there were widespread incidents of vandalism, assaults, and running street battles. The Dutch police response saw 5,000 officers deployed over a number of days and mass arrests were made from both sides. Several officers were injured during the sustained confrontation. Due to the situation, special flights were arranged by the Israeli government to return Maccabi fans back to Israel."

In a meeting with the Jewish community in Birmingham, police officials even claimed that "innocent members of the public walking down the road were just thrown into the river"

I want to ask the following questions:

- 1) It was my understanding from news reports from last November that it was an Israeli supporter of Maccabi Tel-Aviv who was thrown into the canal after being targeted by people who, according to the *feitenrelaas*, presented to the mayor at the time were "looking for a confrontation with Maccabi supporters". Was it an Israeli or local innocent?
- 2) Do you recognise the figures cited by West Midlands Police of 500-600 Maccabi fans deliberately targeting Muslim communities in your city? And were 5,000 police officers required to deal with Maccabi fans?
- 3) Shortly after the events in your city, you said: "Antisemitic criminals attacked and assaulted visitors to our city, in hit-and-run actions". Several politicians in the UK (<https://x.com/AyoubKhanMP/status/1981024743428915606/video/1>) have suggested that Maccabi fans were primarily responsible for the disorder and violent scenes in your city. Do you have any comment to make to these suggestions?

Please do get back to me as soon as feasibly possible as this is a lively discussion in the UK and raised in an urgent question to Parliament on

Monday.

Many of us are keen to get to the truth of the matter.

All the best,

5.1, 2, e



5.1, 2, e
Political Correspondent
Main: 5.1, 2, e
Direct: 5.1, 2, e
Twitter: @5.1, 2, e

The world's oldest and most influential Jewish newspaper. Since 1841.



www.thejc.com

De gemeente Amsterdam streeft naar optimale dienstverlening en zorgvuldige afhandeling van e-mailverkeer. Als deze e-mail niet voor u is bestemd, laat dit dan weten aan de afzender en verwijder de e-mail. Voor meer informatie: www.amsterdam.nl/proclaimer.