

From: 5.1, 2, e <5.1, 2, e@amsterdam.nl>
Subject: **FW: Request for comment from Mayor Halsema | UK reaction to Maccabi-Ajax**
To: 5.1, 2, e 5.1, 2, e <5.1, 2, e@amsterdam.nl>, 5.1, 2, e 5.1, 2, e <5.1, 2, e@amsterdam.nl>
Date: November 26, 2025 at 10:37:33 AM CET

Vragen nav Maccabi in Birmingham. Vraag 1 moeten we even uitzetten, 2/3 weet ik niet of we echt op in moeten gaan.

Vraag 1 vraagt een opheldering over het feitenrelaas.
Vraag 2 vraagt een duiding op het gedrag van Maccabi-supporters.
Vraag 3 vraagt een reactie op de schuldvraag.

Van: 5.1, 2, e 5.1, 2, e@thejc.com>
Verzonden: dinsdag 25 november 2025 16:27
Aan: Bestuursvoorlichting <press@amsterdam.nl>
Onderwerp: 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,

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