

Response from Amsterdam Police to letter from Dame Karen Bradley of 12 December 2025

Whether Amsterdam Police accepts the accuracy of the account of West Midlands Police about statements made in private regarding Maccabi Tel Aviv fans and about political pressure on your force

The Amsterdam police have alerted the West Midlands Police in the 1 October Teams call to the risks posed by the presence of Maccabi supporters and the local reactions to that presence, given the international and political context and the violence surrounding the match in Amsterdam in November 2024. The current position of the Amsterdam police and City Hall is that, given the provoking behaviour and aggression of opposing groups and the public disorder in 2024 it would be unlikely to allow Maccabi supporters back into the city. However, each match in the future will be judged on its own merits and the authorities' position on this point may also change.

On the pressure from City Hall: in a second conversation with the West Midlands Police in December, the Amsterdam police explained that they received many questions following the English media coverage concerning the ban of Maccabi supporters. Legitimate questions from the Dutch press as well as from our counterparts at City Hall, about the significant difference between the claims reported in the UK and the actual facts surrounding the events of November 2024. The Amsterdam police have not experienced pressure from City Hall.

Whether it is the view of Amsterdam Police that Maccabi Tel Aviv Ultras specifically target local communities rather than opposition football fans, and if this is different to other Ultra groups

The Amsterdam police do not recognise the claim that Maccabi supporters attacked Muslim communities. Disturbances took place in the city center, not in neighbourhoods where many Muslims live. The provocations and violence took place between Maccabi supporters and supporters of the pro-Palestinian cause, no Ajax supporters were involved. In that sense, there were no incidents between opposing groups of football hooligans. Nevertheless, the behaviour of the fanatical Maccabi supporters was largely comparable to football hooliganism in the rest of Europe and did not surprise the Amsterdam police. They gathered in groups in the city center, recognizable by their club colours, sang songs, and in some cases sought confrontation with locals.

If Amsterdam Police maintains that the figures, quoted by West Midlands Police, of 5,000 police officers being mobilised over the two days of disorder, and 500-600 Maccabi Ultras being involved in targeted violence against locals, are inaccurate.

The Amsterdam police have deployed around 1200 police officers in different shifts on match day. The Amsterdam police assessed that among Maccabi supporters there were 500-800 ultras. Like other European ultra groups, these were organized and, on some occasions, seemed willing to fight. The Amsterdam police also stated that much of the disorder leading up to the match was the result of different groups provoking each other. Small groups got into fights, rather than crowds of several hundreds. After the

match on Thursday the violence reached a tragic climax when local rioters physically attacked multiple Maccabi fans by surprise, in small groups around the city center. Random Maccabi supporters were targeted, not specifically ultras.