

ONE DAY IN EDGWARE

The policing of the protest against the 'Great Israeli Real Estate Event' on 14th June 2026



A SNAPSHOT ON THE
STATE OF REPRESSION IN 2026

The policing of the protest against the 'Great Israeli Real Estate Event' on 14th June 2026

A report by the Network for Police Monitoring (Netpol)



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Executive Summary

- Supporters of the ‘Great Israeli Real Estate Event’, such as the Board of Deputies of British Jews, showed a lack of curiosity (at best) about the erroneous promises made by its organisers. This led to an instinctual but nevertheless unfounded vilification of the motives of those exercising their rights to protest against it. They sought to delegitimise the concerns raised by politicians in advance of the event, as well as the protest itself. The Board of Deputies unfairly and recklessly characterising any criticism as an attack on the Jewish community and intimidation of Jews. They did so even though a significant proportion of the protesters were Jewish and the claims they made about the event were true.
- Other than in a greater level of respectability, this is arguably the same reasoning that motivated the hostile and intimidating counter-demonstrators who planned and publicised their intention to ambush and attack Palestine solidarity campaigners and anti-Zionist Jewish activists on 14 June.
- A majority of those who gave statements to Netpol talked about the violent anti-Arab and racist invective and sexist abuse from Zionist counter-protesters. These are hate crimes that Metropolitan Police officers chose to ignore.
- Testimony also points to verbal intimidation, death threats and physical violence against protesters opposed to the property fair – crimes that Metropolitan Police officers witnessed but failed to intervene against. Their inaction was a failure in their legal duty to provide a heightened level of protection for the right to protest.
- Despite numerous recent pledges to counter false and misleading claims likely to fuel further public disorder, the Metropolitan Police also failed to publicly correct disinformation that its escorting of pro-Palestine and anti-Zionist protesters, safely away from the harassment and violence they had experienced, was a deliberate and intimidatory march through a ‘Jewish neighbourhood’.
- Netpol has grave concerns that further pressure from pro-Israel groups, as well as the Metropolitan Police’s own false assumptions about Palestine protests and about the ‘wrong kind of Jews’ protesting attitudes towards Palestinians within Jewish communal life, risks shutting down the right to protest anywhere near a synagogue. Now that new powers have come into force, we fear this is likely even when – as in this instance – a synagogue is used for politically controversial and potentially illegal activities that are wholly unconnected to acts of worship the government insisted the legislation was intended to protect.

Why did protesters gather close to Edgware United Synagogue?



Anti-Zionist campaigners protesting in Edgware on 14 June 2026

Palestine solidarity campaigners and anti-Zionist Jewish activists mobilised to oppose the ‘Great Israeli Real Estate Event’, which is organised every year in London by an Israeli property firm, ‘My Home in Israel’, to market property sales in Israel and the West Bank to Jewish communities in England. Similar events have been held in synagogues in Canada and the US. The London event took place on 14 June 2026.

‘My Home in Israel’ is accused of openly promoting the sale of land in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory and Amnesty International has described the event as “apartheid and annexation with a sales pitch”¹.

In advance, the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians (ICJP) had written to the Home Secretary² and called on the Metropolitan Police to investigate the event³. Over 100 MPs and peers signed a letter saying it “firmly embedded in Israel’s project of colonial expansion by facilitating the sale of land that has been stolen from Palestinians” and calling on the government to take “all necessary steps” to stop the event from going ahead⁴.

1 <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/latest/uk-amnesty-condemns-great-israeli-real-estate-event-promoting-illegal-settlement-property-sales-in-london/>

2 <https://www.icjpalestine.com/2026/06/09/home-secretary-must-urgently-block-illegal-israeli-settlement-real-estate-event-taking-place-in-london/>

3 <https://www.icjpalestine.com/2026/06/12/icjp-issues-serious-crime-prevention-order-letter-to-met-police-over-great-israeli-real-estate-event-in-london/>

4 <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2026/jun/13/uk-london-real-estate-west-bank-israel-settlements>

On 9 June, Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper in a statement in Parliament warned that “organisations, including businesses—and particularly charities, in respect of which we have additional enforcement powers—have a moral responsibility not to support the illegal settlements that are not only in breach of international law but are undermining regional security and peace.”⁵

The event’s initial venue, The Avenue in Hampstead Garden Suburb, pulled out following condemnation by London Mayor Sadiq Khan⁶. ‘My Home in Israel’ then moved it to Edgware United Synagogue in north London.

It vehemently denied that any exhibitor would offer properties in illegal settlements and insisted that “*without exception, [all] will provide information about properties and projects within the Green Line*” (the demarcation line created in 1949, which does not include the West Bank or Gaza) It also claimed that “*these ridiculous allegations are motivated by anti-Israeli and terrorist supporters, seeking only excuses to attack Jews in general and the State of Israel in particular*”⁷.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews also insisted that allegations against the Great Israeli Real Estate Event had been “*publicly refuted*” and accused MPs and other public figures of “*partial and misleading commentary*”⁸.

The ICJP had provided evidence that an exhibitor, Tivuch Shelly Real Estate Agency, had marketed properties located within Ma’ale Adumim, one of the largest Israeli settlements, east of Jerusalem in the occupied West Bank. The ongoing enlargement of Ma’ale Adumim would permanently sever the West Bank into two disconnected enclaves. Another property firm participating in the event, ILAN Estates and Investment, advertises properties in the illegal settlement of Efrat, located in the area known as the Hebron Hills in the occupied West Bank⁹.

Undermining the denials, campaigners from Jewish Anti-Zionist Action (JAZA), who went undercover inside the event, found evidence that properties from seven illegal settlements were advertised by exhibitors.

In testimony provided to Netpol, one JAZA campaigner told us:

“after passing through security, I was given a free tote bag and a booklet advertising the different real estate companies present at the fair that day. These companies included Yigal Reality, selling homes in the illegal

5 <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2026-06-09/debates/17B7E328-FC55-496D-839C-1AD698698BE6/MiddleEast#contribution-F42B04E7-E918-4A63-B7DF-6D800CBF14F4>

6 <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/sadiq-khan-great-israeli-real-estate-event-london-palestine-b1285897.html>

7 <https://www.jewishnews.co.uk/foreign-secretary-warns-businesses-and-charities-ahead-of-israeli-real-estate-event-advertising-settlement-land/>

8 <https://bod.org.uk/bod-news/board-condemns-protest-outside-london-synagogue/>

9 <https://www.icjpalestine.com/2026/06/15/icjp-raises-further-evidence-of-illegal-israeli-settlement-property-promotion-at-great-israeli-real-estate-event-with-met-police-and-ministers/>

settlement of Givat Zeev and Tivuch Shelly, selling homes in Givat Hamatos and Ramat Eshkol which are both settlements in East Jerusalem. I then visited the stall of Harey Zahav¹⁰ where they told me they had properties they were selling in 'Judea and Samaria' that he thought would be perfect for me, and that he had all the booklets and papers for it but couldn't get them out because the police had said in order for the event to go ahead they couldn't advertise properties illegal under international law. He said these are 'crazy times we live in'¹¹.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews, having accepted the assurances made by 'My Home in Israel' without undertaken any apparent checks, claimed that the presence of protesters at Edgware United Synagogue was *"little more than an excuse to harass and intimidate members of the Jewish community"*¹².

Similarly a columnist for the staunchly pro-Israel *Jewish News* also suggested that her neighbours were *"unable to leave their homes while a demonstration passes through the streets where they live, worship and raise their children"* because of *"masked protesters taking photographs of our homes"*¹³.

Yet the testimony we have received suggests any harassment and intimidation was directed entirely towards opponents of the 'Great Israeli Real Estate Event' – many of whom were Jewish.

Moreover, the Metropolitan Police has been accused of repeatedly taking no action to stop verbal intimidation and physical violence against them by very aggressive pro-Israel counter-demonstrators.

10 <https://www.hzahav.co.il/en/>

11 Anonymised testimony provided to Netpol, June 2026

12 <https://bod.org.uk/bod-news/board-condemns-protest-outside-london-synagogue/>

13 <https://www.jewishnews.co.uk/peaceful-protest-or-intimidation-edgware-june-2026/>

Events on Sunday 14 June 2026



The protest against the 'Great Israeli Real Estate Event'

The demonstration opposing the property fair was called by the International Jewish Antizionist Network (IJAN), Jewish Anti-Zionist Action (JAZA) and the Palestine Youth Movement (PYM). Demonstrators gathered on Sunday morning on Edgware Way, the busy A41 dual carriageway, with a pedestrian bridge nearby, that runs behind the synagogue. Heading north from Edgware station, they had to cross to the far side of the A41 but described running into Zionist opponents on the way. The protest against the event was relocated by police further away from the synagogue, to a row of shops at Mowbray Parade. It was here that counter-protesters with Israel flags crossed the dual carriage way, blocking traffic, to confront them.

Acts of violence against protesters by counter-protesters

Repeatedly, in testimony given to Netpol, protesters described what amounted to an ambush, from the moment they arrived, by Zionist (and some far-right) opponents. As one anti-Zionist protester said in a statement, this had been planned in advance:

“The far-right group Stop the Hate, which helped organise the counter-protest, all but explicitly announced its intention to stoke violence in Edgware by sharing [a] call to arms¹⁴ in advance. which described the upcoming protest as a “Battle of Edgware” and compared it to Cable Street. It’s hard to view this as anything other than explicit intention to violently confront the protestors.

It’s highly unlikely that the Board of Deputies wasn’t aware of the presence of Stop the Hate at the counter-protest, given that the BoD and StH are in touch with one another and co-organise events together (most recently the so-called March Against Antisemitism in May). Given this, police should arguably have been much more sensitive to the risk of far-right violence at the protest, and the BoD’s statement is in my view even more irresponsible¹⁵



Stop The Hate Instagram post for the counter-demonstration

A protester described harassment and intimidation as counter-demonstrators crossed two lanes of traffic:

We arrived about 400m from the site of the PYM protest that had already been established. Between us and them were many “counter-protestors” on the other side of the road. As we walked towards our comrades, they... started crossing the A-road to confront us, shouting abuse.

We were approached by an Israeli man in his 20s who started shouting in the face of a young Palestinian woman next to me. He was gloating that his people had taken her land and that Palestine was gone. I stood in between the two and pushed our group to keep moving away from the group now stalking us.

As I turned away, trying to show that we were not here to fight, I was tackled by one or two of these Zionists. I then felt a sharp blow to my head as I was on the ground. I assume it was a kick. I managed to get to my feet and we kept walking.¹⁶

¹⁴ See <https://www.instagram.com/p/DZjhmFgoZu5/>

¹⁵ Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

¹⁶ Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

Another Palestine solidarity demonstrator told us:

Several people were gathered at the crossing... I had seen the Palestinian flags across the road and I assumed it was safe to bring out my flag. As I waited to cross I took out my Palestinian flag and as I was unfolding and pulling the pole up, a man approached me shouting expletives, viciously grabbed my flag and (with force) broke the pole it in half.

I crossed the road quite quickly, only to be confronted by a larger group of Zionists at the opposite crossing. I had not known the Zionists would be at both side of the traffic lights waiting to pounce on pro-Palestinian supporters, but as I was crossing I realised I was falling into a trap, but couldn't go back.

I was shouted at in my face... by adult men, women and young boys who occasionally pushed me. I recognised the same man who grabbed and destroyed my flag and pole pushing me and threatening to slit my throat. I told him he was a cowardly man for targeting an elderly woman and ought to be ashamed of himself, he stopped pushing me, but others jeered at me, as I crossed the side of the road to join the Palestinian group.¹⁷



A Zionist counter-protester taunts protesters with the emblem on his Beitar Jerusalem FC shirt. The club is notorious for its anti-Arab racism and anti-Muslim religious bigotry

¹⁷ Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

Another told Netpol:

I was shoved and pushed to the floor as were some others around me. My handbag came open and all my belongings fell onto the road ... One of my friends had her banner pulled from her and thrown causing her damage to her hand and our other friend had a phone charging wire pulled and taken from him.

In my attack I sustained bruises to my thigh, arms and pain to my shoulder. I am a breast cancer survivor and had an operation in September 2025 and radiotherapy in November 2025, which I am still recovering from.

I am so so upset that going to peacefully demonstrate with Jewish people who organised the demo should lead to such violence from aggressive thugs.¹⁸

Several testimonies mentioned Zionist counter-protesters throwing eggs and golf balls at them while others tried to snatch mobile phones, in what appeared an effort to prevent filming.

I was slightly ahead of the group to film, at 11:32 my phone was knocked out of my hand by a Zionist in black block [masked], whom then shoved me very hard almost pushing me over.¹⁹

They punched people, grabbed and threw people's phones, and tried to steal our banners.²⁰

Another told us:

"we were held back on a small hill against a large wooden fence at the junction. Quickly we were surrounded by an angry mob that was growing in size.... At one point I told a policeman in front of me that a man had threatened to behead me. Finally he stepped forward but the man disappeared into the crowd. The Zionists were coming right up to us, as we stood against the railing. One man leant over and punched one of our protesters".²¹

18 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

19 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

20 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

21 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026



Zionist counter-demonstrators cross the A41 to confront anti-Zionist protesters

Another protester commented:

"We arrived late and the group we were trying to join, JAZA, had been moved down the road. When we entered the area we were immediately shouted at and harassed by a number of people as my friend was wearing a keffiyeh and they spotted us. They shouted to tell us we were on the wrong side, and that we were "too late". They started following us and we tried to move away from them but about 6 of them surrounded and got very close to my friend, and were threatening to hurt him and me. Police intervened and escorted us across the main road where we were completely circled by Zionists who were collectively booing and hissing at us, shouting and laughing. The policeman grabbed my friend by the scruff of his neck and was pushing us across the road.

When we got to the other side I began to have a panic attack and was hysterically crying. There were a few Zionists who followed us down the road where I had to sit down to calm down, they were watching us and we both felt unsafe. A person saw me crying and came over to see if I was okay. He said he was also being targeted by Zionists and that one of them drove past him and told him to "watch out" and that he "knows who he is".²²

22 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

Racist and sexist abuse

A majority of those who gave statements to Netpol talked about the violent anti-Arab and racist invective and sexist abuse from Zionist counter-protesters. One described the hatred they faced:

*They threatened sexual violence, beheading us, asking us what we've ever done for England... They proudly said there was no Palestine, [that] they had flattened it. They danced around pictures of rubble that they carried. They tried to provoke us.*²³

A British Asian woman in her sixties told Netpol:

I was with two friends and as we were walking after parking our car in a side road, a group of men followed us from near the synagogue shouting obscenities, cursing calling me a "bitch", a "whore" and a "cunt" and to "fuck off away from their streets".

*There were no police anywhere near us. They were a few on the other side of the dual carriageway. I have never been more scared for my life and safety.*²⁴

Another told us:

*[A Zionist counter-protester] then told me to "F...off before I kill you – you fucking Hamas bitch" and pushed me. The entire group hailed a tirade of hate speech at me; branding me a jihadi, Hamas and a fucking bitch.*²⁵

The statement given by another protester also described the verbal abuse she received:

*Many of the Zionists of all ages showed signs of hateful aggression I have never before witnessed... We were not the ones with provocative language! Several things that were said in ear shot of police officers were... "F...k Palestine and F...k you ", "We have killed thousands and will kill every Palestinians" and "Palestine doesn't exist, we have killed them all". Many Zionist looked directly at us pointed their finger to individuals (I was included) to draw their attention. They then moved their fore fingers across their throats in a quick swipe to intimidate us. They then pointed mouthed and gestured, "I will get you".*²⁶

23 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

24 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

25 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

26 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026



Zionist counter-demonstrators on Mowbray Parade

A Jewish pro-Palestine demonstrator said:

My partner and I arrived early and could see a police and Zionist presence, so we took a side road and ended up further down Edgware Way. We could see people with keffiyehs on the other side of the road so went to the pedestrian bridge. As we were walking along, a couple walking in the opposite direction advised us to turn around because of trouble. We told them that we wanted to go that way, however, and carried on.

*We were then stopped by a small group of Zionists who started to shout at us and abuse us. I was asked if I was Jewish so I told them of my Jewish ancestry and that my grandfather was a founder member of [a north London] Synagogue. They proceeded to call me c**t, capo and traitor and pushed and shoved me, shouting in my face – I should add here that I am in my 60s and they were in their 20s.*

My partner tried to stop them, but they weren't having it. Their faces were in mine and continued to shout in an extremely aggressive fashion to me. I was waiting for one of them to stop pushing me but to hit me, when an older Zionist couple went by and advised them to stop, or the police would have to be called.²⁷

²⁷ Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

Another told us:

During the protest itself, I was amazed that the police allowed the far-right Zionists to completely block the roads and get as close to us as they liked. They were screaming disgusting racist and sexist things towards us, including celebrating the deaths of Palestinians and sexually harassing women. I was called a Kapo and a Nazi for being a visibly Jewish anti-Zionist as I was holding our IJAN banner. When this was pointed out to police, [an officer] told me to turn around as if I was bothering him.²⁸

One protester pointed to the explicit religious-motivated hatred displayed by some of the Zionist counter-protestors towards the Jewish anti-Zionists:

"multiple times during the protest, Zionist counter-protestors pointed to the kippah I was wearing and then drew their forefingers across their throats; one counter-protestor told me "Take your kippah off. After this, I'm going to find you, then I'm going to f--king kill you."²⁹

A freelance photographer, who was covering the protest, told Netpol:

I can honestly say I was shocked at the behaviour of the counter protestors. I can only describe them as a pack of feral animals with zero care about other humans. It's the kind of behaviour that's been normalised towards Palestinians in the West Bank... and the youngsters there on Sunday were shocking.... I was followed, filmed and intimidated by a succession of masked women who kept screaming at me that I was 'one of them' and asking the police to put me in the pen with the Palestine protesters.³⁰

Another said:

"the police were not in control of the situation, they assumed that everyone outside the group of pro-Palestine protestors they had kettled were Zionists and therefore they were free to take up all of the neighbourhood and physically and verbally intimidate people like us".³¹

28 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

29 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

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31 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026



Lines of police officers – Territorial Support Group officers in dark blue overalls on the right – on Edgware Way

The police response

“It is the most unsafe I have ever felt at a demonstration, and I have attended many, and the police enabled the Zionists to do this”³²

Protesters opposed to the property event were highly critical of the police reaction to these acts of harassment and intimidation, which appeared to have assumed in advance that anyone critical of Israel posed a threat but was slow to respond – and much quicker to arrest – pro-Palestinian campaigners once the attacks on them had begun. One protester told us:

The police were woefully unprepared for the violence and threat from the Zionists. We could have been rushed by them and the police would not have been able to protect us. We were backed up against the fence with nowhere to go. The police adopted a very hands off approach – they seemed reluctant to antagonise the Zionists.³³

The photographer who gave us a statement added:

“The police were overwhelmed and I think that heightened the tension and their reactions. The counter protestors could easily have over run them. There were also some aggressive arrests of pro Palestine protesters that

³² Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

³³ Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

seemed disproportionate when they were the ones being violently attacked that I photographed.”³⁴

Another testimony recounted:

“Insufficient officers meant that the thugs still got to us and as I moved my head to avoid a punch coming between two officers into the crowd I saw the man’s fist hit the lady to my right on the side of her face. They were also kicking us between the sparse line of police. There was no attempt to arrest any of them”³⁵

Another protester told us:

“The police responded by cracking down on the protesters; I witnessed them steal a protester’s megaphone saying they’d “banned loud noises” and they stopped us on the pavement some distance from the protest and didn’t allow us to move for some time, 30-60 minutes, while counter protesters stood on the other side of the road venomously shouting at us.”³⁶

Another told us:

We tried to walk along the same road-side of the protest to avoid [the Zionists]. But the police blocked our passage there, so we had to walk on the other side. As the police could see, [the Zionists] there in large groups were trying to block our passage through a physical phalanx. Some had enormous flagpoles, so we had to dodge them – go around or dip underneath, partly by running along the highway. So police forced us together and so facilitated the [the Zionists] aggression against us.³⁷

Others said:

“Police allowed them to surround us completely with our backs to a solid high brick wall. The abuse, obscene gestures and words continued as they blocked the whole road. I witnessed physical assault, religious hatred, racial hatred, verbal abuse and absolutely disgusting violent disorder. There were even eggs and snooker balls thrown at us. Police did not take reports of assault and theft. I even heard a “what do you want me to do” from police when someone pointed out that death threats were being made”.

My observation throughout the protest was that the police were overwhelmed [by] the Zionists and some far right Farage supporters with British flags... The Zionists on the day exercised power and control on the road. One police officer (in a red cap) played nice with them and one or

34 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

35 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

36 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

37 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

*two officers seemed to be there to placate the Zionist group. We saw a lot of whispering into police ears whilst pointing towards us*³⁸

One protester who tried to complain recounted this apparent indifference;

*I realised there were police who would have witness the assault on me and did nothing. I reported the matter to three police officers and all said the same thing. "we are too busy to take a statement ". After stating to one: 'if I was a Jewish person reporting that I was assaulted, every effort would have been made for a statement and identification of the assailant (who was still on the scene) to be apprehended"! That officer then took my details. I now have... a crime number which was texted to me with standard info, if I need to make a complaint.*³⁹

One of the JAZA campaigners who had gathered evidence of the marketing of illegal settlement properties, told us about arrests after they were ejected from the event and joined the protest:

*I found out that my good friend had been attacked by a counter protester from Stop The Hate and he had then been arrested, not the man who had attacked him. Many of my comrades were threatened or physically attacked by the counter protesters without police intervention.*⁴⁰

The details of one of the arrests is corroborated by publicly available video seen by Netpol⁴¹. The individual who was detained told us:

I was told I was arrested for violent disorder. You can see me [in the video] getting held down by 3 or 4 cops with one elbowing the side of my head (which led to a cut behind my ear) and another leaning on my neck... At this point the JAZA group had started singing Jewish prayers, both to show their faith and to de-escalate the situation. Zionists were hurling insults at this group of twenty from all sides now. Then just ahead of me I saw one comrade fall to the floor holding one of our banners. I assume he was trying to keep the banner from a Zionist trying to steal it. I rushed over to see if I could help, the banner landed in front of me so I picked it up and held tight.

At this moment I felt the weight and strength of a couple of people on me. My first thought was that it was Zionists attacking me again. Then my arms were being pulled behind my back and my head was pushed towards the ground. At this point I realised that it was the cops who were on top of me. Knowing that I had done nothing illegal and had been working actively to de-escalate the situation I was totally confused to why I was being arrested. They cuffed me and stood me up and immediately I could feel the cuff digging hard into my right wrist. I was in a lot of pain from it and started pleading with the officers to loosen the grip... I was

38 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

39 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

40 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

41 <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DZkHecpiOlk/>

taken with my comrade, also arrested for protecting the banner, into a Territorial Support Group van where my cuffs were loosened finally.

We were then taken to Walworth station, [where] we then spent 22 hours... until our release. We both got interviewed 12 hours into our detention by constables who had very little information (conveniently) about our arrest. I was told by my solicitor that they had said I had punched someone... [but] I was the one who'd been attacked, both by Zionists and then by the police themselves.⁴²

Another gave a detailed account of the circumstances of their detention, which is partly corroborated by video we have seen and ultimately did not lead to their arrest away from the protest:

There were loads of police officers and vans on the other side of the road who witnessed them jumping over the barriers and running towards us – they allowed the initial attack to happen and then ran in to break up the fights that were happening.

I saw two of our comrades being arrested for defending themselves against their assailants. I then saw another member of our bloc, an elderly Jewish woman called [C], trying to defend the Jewish Bloc For Palestine banner as a masked individual (in a green face covering) was trying to tear it away from her. He was standing over her screaming abuse and dragging her along with the banner. This was on the traffic island between the two A roads. I ran over to support her. I managed to get him away from [C] and take the banner back but... then the police ran over to me and tried to grab the banner from me again, before forcefully tackling me to the ground and threatening to arrest me for assault of an emergency worker.

The masked thug who had initially attacked [C] was stood over me while I was on the floor, demanding the police arrest me for 'assaulting Jews', despite the fact I am Jewish and was currently being assaulted. I asserted that I hadn't done anything except retrieve our banner. The police eventually told me to get up and then escorted me to the area where our protest was happening.

I have since seen a clip of the same man with the green face covering attacking the first group who arrived and then seemingly being handcuffed on a police van, before our arrival. So I am very confused as to how he was able, within 15 minutes, to be attacking us and shouting orders at the police.⁴³

42 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

43 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

Leaving the protest

Leaving the demonstration was equally fraught. In what was evidently a violent and frightening atmosphere, one protester noted the indifference of police officers to his safety:

"My car was parked on the road right behind the Zionist counter-protestors. When it was time for me to leave I told the police that I wanted to leave the demonstration and then I asked them how can I safely get to my car because the Zionists were now occupying the main road...? I was told I would have to walk right through the Zionist counter-protestors, not to agitate the Zionists and that the police would be watching from afar.

*As I started walking someone barged into me, to try to instigate an attack, but I just kept on walking. A group of Zionists started following me calling me "terrorist", "H*mas supporter", that I should "go back to where I came from"...to which I immediately retorted: "I was born here" before continuing my walk. I had a group of Zionists following me to my car telling me "not to come back" and then started to take pictures of me for, presumably, doxxing purposes. The police deliberately put me in harms way!"⁴⁴*

Another protester was, however, more fortunate and told us:

"initially one police officer told me I could leave if I wanted but they couldn't guarantee my safety which was when I insisted and a senior officer said an officer could accompany us to our car"⁴⁵

Another testimony described an alarming attitude about their safety from Metropolitan Police officers:

We approached two police officers and said we want to get back to the car and I'm a bit worried as I'm wearing a scarf and don't want to remove it... The police officer responded "Well this is a predominantly Jewish neighbourhood. I can't force you to remove your (head) scarf but if you wanted to you could." She repeated this two or three times. My friend told them that she is Jewish and didn't understand the insinuation. The police officer's partner was visibly uncomfortable and told us "just walk up the road, you will be fine."

We spoke to multiple police officers and they all used the language of 'this is a predominantly Jewish neighbourhood'. It is obviously something they had been told by way of justifying their policing tactics e.g., that we were out of line for being there and protesting."⁴⁶

44 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

45 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

46 Anonymised statement supplied to Netpol, June 2026

Others had to walk back to Edgware station. One said:

The police eventually walked alongside us all the way to the tube station, while the counter protesters (including those who'd been making threats against protesters' lives) followed us in cars and on bikes, threatening us the entire way. Some also amassed on the sides of the road we passed to chant Tommy Robinson chants.⁴⁷

Another told us that the police escort to the station was what subsequently became the basis for media reports that protesters had marched through an area with a large Jewish population. They said:

We were escorted to Edgware station, despite the fact that none of us had been violent nor threatened violence. The only reason we marched as a group down the suburban roads in the 'heart of the community' as people have been reporting, is because we were forced to by the police who were leading us.⁴⁸

Another protester we spoke to made the same point:

At the end, the police forced us to walk back to the station via residential streets, which was scary and humiliating. Some residents seemed very angry, and obviously didn't know that the organisers of the protest had no control over the route⁴⁹.

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Conclusions

Palestine solidarity demonstrations are routinely, deliberately and unfairly portrayed, with the encouragement of pro-Israel organisations, as a danger to Jewish communities. Our report in 2024, *In Our Millions*, sets out this framing over the six months after October 2023 in more depth⁵⁰.

The protest on 14 June 2026 seemed destined, initially, to follow the same narrative. It was reported in a *BBC News* headline as “Police arrest 14 after protest outside synagogue”, implying that a place of worship was a target for protesters – rather than a belated replacement venue, challenged largely by Jews who objected to a synagogue collaborating in a widely-condemned and potentially illegal event⁵¹.

This narrative began to unravel because it became evident that the organisers of the ‘Great Israeli Real Estate Event’ had lied about ensuring no property in illegal settlements was marketed. It was also clear that what the Board of Deputies had tried to dismiss as “a wholly unjustified protest” was, in fact, the exact opposite of “based on false pretences” and entirely valid and defensible.

If one claim was false, then the other – that protesters set out to harass and intimate a beleaguered Jewish community – needed examining too. The testimony presented in this report makes the strongest of cases that the only evidence of harassment and intimidation of Jewish people was by Zionist and far-right counter-demonstrators.

The Metropolitan Police insists (quite rightly) that it takes antisemitism seriously, but this has largely manifested as repressively and microscopically policing Palestine-related marches and rallies for signs of potential ‘hate crimes’.

Yet on 14 June, its officers repeatedly turned a blind eye to hate crimes against Palestinian, Jewish and other people, and wilfully ignored many other crimes, including theft and assault.

The evidence in this report suggests there was little effort by police officers, including members of the normally aggressive Territorial Support Group, to stop pro-Israel counter-demonstrators from physically assaulting pro-Palestine protesters with impunity. This is in sharp contrast to the regular police efforts to actively protect far-right protesters facing much larger opposition or, indeed, the small numbers from the Zionist ‘Stop the Hate’ group who taunt mass central London Palestine protests.

Even the one positive decision that police made to protect protesters on 14 June – escorting them safely to Edgware underground station – has been twisted into claims that they were holding an intimidatory march.

50 <https://netpol.org/2024/05/30/in-our-millions-report-launch/>

51 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn0vj5zrr0ko>

The Metropolitan Police should have taken immediate steps to publicly correct this disinformation.

The allegation that demonstrations critical of Israel or supportive of Palestinians are inherently seeking to attack Jews has long driven demands to ban protests and ultimately led to new legislation that will severely curtail them near places of worship.

The government's attempts to link the threat of antisemitism to anti-genocide demonstrations was the main thrust of its announcement last year of this new provision, which became law with the passing of Crime and Policing Act 2026⁵².

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley has since been accused of dishonestly and recklessly claiming that march organisers deliberately "set out with an intent to march near synagogues"⁵³.

New police powers will come into force from the end of June 2026 and the Board of Deputies, in its press statement, has already demanded that the police "ensure such protests are kept a significant distance from places of worship", once again to "prevent intimidation to members of the Jewish community."⁵⁴

Whatever one's position on the need for this legislation – and Netpol opposed it as unnecessary and little more than another attempt to demonise Palestine solidarity campaigners with accusations of anti-Jewish bigotry – what is telling about this demand to crack down on protesters is that the new law only allows the police, at least on paper, to lawfully impose restrictions on protests that deter people from "accessing [a] place of worship for the purpose of carrying out religious activities", or from "carrying out religious activities at that place of worship"⁵⁵.

Yet an illegal settlements property fair is quite obviously not, as the Board of Deputies must know, a religious activity.

Coupled with real concerns that the vagueness of the term "vicinity of a place of worship" is too broad and will cover large areas or entire neighbourhoods, the implication is that the Board of Deputies wants to deny the right to protest that it disagrees with in any area it perceives as "Jewish". A statement provided to Netpol from one protester (see footnote 46, page 17) seems to indicate this kind of thinking has already been absorbed by the Metropolitan Police.

Arguable, that is not so different, other than in a degree of respectability, from the motivation of the hostile and intimidating counter-demonstrators who ambushed and attacked Palestine solidarity campaigners and anti-Zionist Jewish activists on 14 June.

52 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/places-of-worship-to-be-protected-from-intimidating-protests>

53 <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/met-police-chief-accused-misinformation-palestine-marches-synagogues-claim>

54 <https://bod.org.uk/bod-news/board-condemns-protest-outside-london-synagogue/>

55 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2026/20/section/164/enacted>