

By Sam Lister  
Political Editor

# Suella orders review of law to clamp down on extremists as police demand sharper rules

Pictures: GETTY, PA

SUELLA Braverman has ordered officials to assess possible changes to terror legislation to crack down on anti-Jewish hate.

The Home Office is understood to be looking at expanding some definitions in existing laws after anger at the way pro-Palestinian demonstrations have been policed.

Ministers insist officers have the "robust" powers they need to tackle jihadi-chanting protesters.

But the Express understands tweaks to laws are being mulled because the Crown Prosecution Service has repeatedly advised police cases cannot be pursued.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley said about 100 people have been arrested at protests since the Hamas attack on Israel three weeks ago, but officers have been hampered by legal definitions.

He said: "There is scope to be much sharper. The law was never designed to deal with extremism."

"There's a lot to do with terrorism and hate crime but we don't have a body of law that deals with

**'We don't have a body of law to deal with extremism'**

extremism and that creates a gap."

Nine were arrested in central London during a mainly peaceful pro-Palestine demonstration on Saturday, attended by at least 100,000 people calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

Seven of those were alleged public order offences, a number of which were being treated as hate crimes, while two were for suspected assaults on officers.

An unnamed officer required hospital treatment after suffering a gashed head during the protest. The Met Police later shared a photo of the police officer giving a thumbs up from his hospital bed.

Sir Mark said: "There's no point arresting hundreds of people if it's not prosecutable, that's just inflaming things. We will robustly enforce up to the line of the law."

"We're going to be absolutely ruthless and have been and you'll see many more arrests in the next week or so." Science Secretary Michelle Donelan said current laws are "robust enough" but the government will take more action if



Flashpoint... police at the protest, officer gives thumbs up. Left, Ms Braverman



Crowd... Saturday's march near Parliament



needed. She said: "We believe the law is fit for purpose. We have the Terrorism Act, the Public Order Act – these can be deployed where people are actively promoting a terrorist organisation or inciting hatred and promoting violence."

"And we've seen some arrests. The Home Secretary has been working with police because we want to see a stricter clampdown." Ms Donelan said judgments about whether Tel Aviv has obeyed international law in its retaliation

"will be made in due course, based on all of the evidence". She added: "It is a fast-paced environment, things are happening that we aren't even aware of on the ground."

be held today following the expansion of Israel's military operation. PM Rishi Sunak spoke to French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday. A Downing Street spokesman said: "The leaders stressed the importance of getting urgent humanitarian support into Gaza."

"They agreed to work together on efforts both to get crucial food, fuel, water and medicine to those who need it, and to get foreign nationals out. They expressed their shared concern at the risk of esca-

lation in the wider region, in particular in the West Bank." Liberal Democrat MP Layla Moran told of the "torturous" worry her family felt not knowing whether their relatives were "dead or alive" during the communications blackout.

She has since learned they are safe "for now", but the attitude of Gazans has changed from thinking about where to locate for security from shelling to considering "where do we want to be when we

die?" Five people arrested during protests in central London on Saturday have been charged, the Met said. Kadirul Islam, 33, of no fixed address, has been charged with a racially aggravated public order offence and will appear at Croydon Magistrates' Court on December 1.

The charge relates to an incident in Waterloo Road where racist abuse was shouted. Laura Davis, 22, of Barnet, has been charged with a racially aggravated public order offence and will appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on November 29.

The charge relates to an incident near Piccadilly Circus where a placard which was threatening and racist in nature was displayed.

Atif Sharif, 41, of Walthamstow, has been charged with causing actual bodily harm and will appear at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court today. The charge relates to

an incident in Whitehall where a police officer was assaulted and suffered a head injury.

A 16-year-old youth, who cannot be named for legal reasons, has been charged with a public order offence and will appear at Bromley Magistrates' Court on November 15.

The offence relates to an incident in Grosvenor Gardens where verbal abuse was directed at police escorting protesters.

Emma Turvey, 51, of Grays, Essex, has been charged with a public order offence and is due to appear at Thames Magistrates' Court on November 13. The offence relates to an incident in Whitehall when a can of beer was thrown at a

protester.

Sir Mark...officers were 'hampered'

protester.

protester.

WHEN a Jewish person passes away, close family go through seven days of ritual mourning.

Prayers are held in the home, not in Synagogue. Most interesting of all, when visitors approach the mourner, they wait for the mourner to initiate conversation rather than begin themselves.

At the moment, the Jewish people are in mourning. So just as the private mourner initiates, so we as a people initiate and express our sense of horror.

We have initiated by declaring that this attack is the worst massacre of Jewish people since the end of the Holocaust.

We are struggling to come to terms with the countless cruel ways people were maimed and murdered. Each day, we learn of a new horror-filled story that we hadn't yet heard.

It is simply impossible to imagine the

## COMMENT

DAVID MASON  
London Rabbi



death of up to 1,500 people in this way. It is too much. But at the Jewish house of mourning, once the mourner has initiated and expressed how they feel, silence in return is not an option. Of course, it is never easy talking to someone who has lost a loved one. But silence can be very difficult to accept.

Silence may be understood as a lack of ability to recognise my pain and loss. It may be mistaken for a lack of care when that may not actually be the case.

And so today, many Jewish people are wondering whether their friends and partners are able to reach out, whether

they will recognise the pain we are in and be willing to stand alongside us to unambiguously call out the depravity of Hamas attack on southern Israel.

Of course, the age-old conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people is complicated and multi-layered.

It will take massive political and diplomatic creative efforts to solve. But the mass killing that Hamas undertook on October 7 goes well beyond anything we have seen before in scope and motive. It stood to achieve nothing more than unspeakable cruelty.

It cannot be allowed to stand, and Jewish people need to hear it called out for what it was – terrorism.

Many political leaders have understood this and spoken out clearly.

Some faith leaders have also, but many have opted for something equivocal or

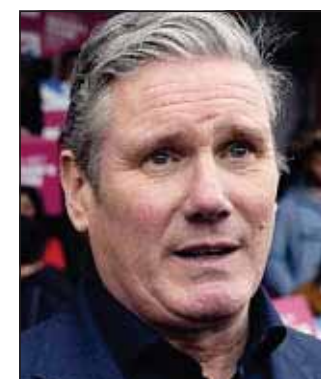
which tries to portray the atrocity as just another sad development in an ongoing cycle of violence. This has the potential to be understood as worse than silence or indifference.

It is certainly legitimate to call upon Israel to ensure that humanitarian support for Palestinian civilians of Gaza is made available and that its military response should be in accordance with international law. Indeed, my heart breaks for the situation they have been placed in.

But advocacy for the welfare of Palestinians and condemnation of Hamas terror should never be mutually exclusive.

In fact, they should go hand in hand. I call upon leaders of all faiths not to stand silent at this moment of pain. I have dedicated so much of my professional life to interfaith work over the last 20 years but rarely felt as isolated as I do today.

## Starmer 'won't sack' rebel frontbenchers



Facing challenges... Sir Keir

REBEL frontbenchers publicly clashing with Sir Keir Starmer over the Israel-Hamas war will not be sacked, a shadow minister indicated.

A raft of senior figures have called for the Labour leader to back a ceasefire instead of time-limited "pauses" to allow aid into Gaza.

But shadow science secretary Peter Kyle suggested Sir Keir would "continue engaging" with MPs and keep them in his team.

Claiming Labour is "united as a party", he said: "People are calling for a ceasefire. We are calling for a pause. We can dance on the head of a pin about the nature of a ceasefire."

By Sam Lister

Shadow equalities minister Yasmin Qureshi, shadow minister Imran Hussain and shadow Home Office minister Jess Phillips are among those at odds with the leadership.

Other Labour heavyweights who have backed a ceasefire include Manchester metro mayor Andy Burnham, London mayor Sadiq Khan, and Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar.

Local councillors across England have resigned from Labour to sit as independents over the rift. Mr Kyle added: "The fact we have a vigorous

debate within our party, as we are doing as a country, reflects a strength, because we have a leader that has channelled that and turned it into a policy that is in step with all of our international partners."

Shadow foreign secretary David Lammy was due in Jordan today to start a three-day visit to the region.

He is expected to restate Labour's support for humanitarian pauses and immediate, unimpeded access for food, water, fuel, medicine and electricity into Gaza.

He will also stress the need for a longer-term political process in support of a two-state solution.



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By Chris Riches

(AP)

By News Reporter HUNDREDS of people yesterday (on Sunday) stormed into the main airport in Russia's Dagestan region and on to the landing field in protest at the arrival of a plane from Tel Aviv, Israel, Russian news agencies and social media reported.

Authorities closed the airport in Makhachkala, the capital of the predominantly Muslim region, and police converged on the facility.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or arrests. Russian news reports said people in the crowd were shouting antisemitic slogans and tried to storm the plane belonging to Russian carrier Red Wings.

Video on social media showed some in the crowd on the landing field waving Palestinian flags, protesters attempting to overturn a

## Tensions

police car and others checking the passports of passengers who had arrived in Makhachkala.

In a statement on Sunday night, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel "expects the Russian law enforcement authorities to protect the safety of all Israeli citizens and Jews wherever they may be and to act resolutely against the rioters and against the wild incitement directed against Jews and Israelis".

Mr Netanyahu's office added that the Israeli ambassador to Russia was working with Russia to keep Israelis and Jews safe.

The ministry of internal affairs for Russia's North Caucasian Federal District, where Dagestan is located, said CCTV footage would be used to establish the identities of those who stormed the airport, and that those involved would be brought to justice.

While voicing support for Gaza, the regional Dagestani government appealed to people to remain calm and