



NORTH TYNESIDE  
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To:

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**Chronicle Live**

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## **Violent attacks in Amsterdam by Maccabi Fans**

As the saying goes, a lie can travel halfway around the world by the time the truth gets its boots on. This has certainly proved true recently. The violent attacks in Amsterdam were portrayed as similar to that of Kristallnacht by some media organisations. The Kristallnacht happened between 9th and 10th of November 1938 when Jewish people in Germany were subject to violence and vandalism. Many were killed and over 30,000 Jewish men were rounded up and sent to concentration camps. It was a terrible act of racism and hatred directed at the defenceless Jewish population.

However, this is not what happened in Amsterdam a few days ago. To suggest it was is an insult to the victims and descendants of those who suffered at the hands of the Nazis. Footage and eye witnesses have corroborated that the Israeli Maccabi fans went around Amsterdam's centre causing havoc and destruction prior to the retaliatory attack, they targeted anyone who looked Palestinian. Palestinian flags were pulled down and burnt. A taxi was destroyed as the Israeli's went around chanting racist obscenities and with threats to kill all Arabs. They even chanted that there are no kids in Gaza as we've bombed all the schools. This was during a minute's silence for the victims of the Valencia floods last week.

A report by Sky News was pulled after it was broadcast for showing that violence also came from the Maccabi fans. It was changed later to say the attacks were antisemitic. The Dutch Prime minister has banned protests but hundreds have taken to the streets to defy the ban and dozens have been arrested. 4000 police have been deployed to police the upcoming France vs Israel game.



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Those who partake in violence should be held responsible and face the full force of the law. However, the media should be giving factual accounts of these events and the full context including interviews with those who were actually there and photographic evidence. This was racist football hooliganism and it is disgraceful to compare it to the horror of the Kristallnacht. The memory of those Jewish people who suffered deserve no less. We need truth in journalism as misreporting and not giving the full facts only allows atrocities such as Kristallnacht to happen.

**Sincerely,**

**Cathy Davis**

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