



City Hall Greens

**Zack Polanski AM
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
LONDON E16 1ZE**

Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP

Secretary of State for the Home Department
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
(By email)

20 January 2025

Dear Home Secretary,

I am a London Assembly member who attended and spoke at the peaceful Palestine Solidarity rally this weekend.

The police were informed of our intention to protest against the decision to ban the march to the BBC. It was announced that a small delegation would walk silently and peacefully towards the BBC and lay flowers to commemorate the deceased if and when we were stopped by the police. Among our group were parliamentarians Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell, along with many community organisations.

As shown in many videos, police had agreed through negotiation that the delegation could pass through and lay flowers. However, they subsequently allowed a much larger group into Trafalgar Square. It is concerning to see Metropolitan Police tweets falsely stating that people were “forcing through.”

Such language feeds false and often racist narratives about the Palestine Solidarity Campaign's protests that have been peaceful.

I'm also disturbed by your own communications suggesting there was an intention to disrupt a synagogue. Many Jewish participants, including myself, find this accusation offensive. The goal was to protest the BBC's failure to report the genocide accurately, and this was planned quite some distance from the synagogue and way after services had ended.

Public trust in our institutions is already fragile. Politicising the police and smearing innocent people only worsens this. I urge you to review the evidence including footage from body worn cameras from the event, retract your comments and clarify the situation with the Metropolitan Police.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zack Polanski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Zack Polanski
Green Party Member of the London Assembly