

Israeli Tourist Violence

November 2024



London | Washington

Contents

01

**An Overview of Israeli
Tourist Violence**

4

02

**Israeli Football
Hooliganism**

8

03

**Post-IOF Service Drug
Abuse and Organised
Crime Abroad**

11

04

**Aggression, Violence
and Sexual Assault**

16

05

**Attacks On Pro
Palestinian Symbols
and Demonstrations**

19

06

**Failure To Observe Local
Regulations and Customs**

22

07

**The Israeli
Government's Culture
of Impunity Abroad**

25

08

Western Media Bias

28

Footnotes

33

“The last few days Amsterdam was terrorised by genocidal glorifiers, who thought that they, as some sort of colonists, could make Amsterdam unsafe. And these Maccabi thugs on genocide leave were able to riot nearly undisturbed.

While the majority of Amsterdam feels the pain of the total destruction of Gaza, and of the Dutch government’s support for genocide, gangs of Maccabi thugs walked through the city and shouted “Fuck the Arabs” and “There are no schools in Gaza because there are no children left”.

Racism and glorification of genocide, the laughing about the murder of children, while the police just watched.”

Stephan van Baarle

Dutch politician for the DENK party.¹



01

[← BACK TO CONTENTS](#)

An Overview of Israeli Tourist Violence



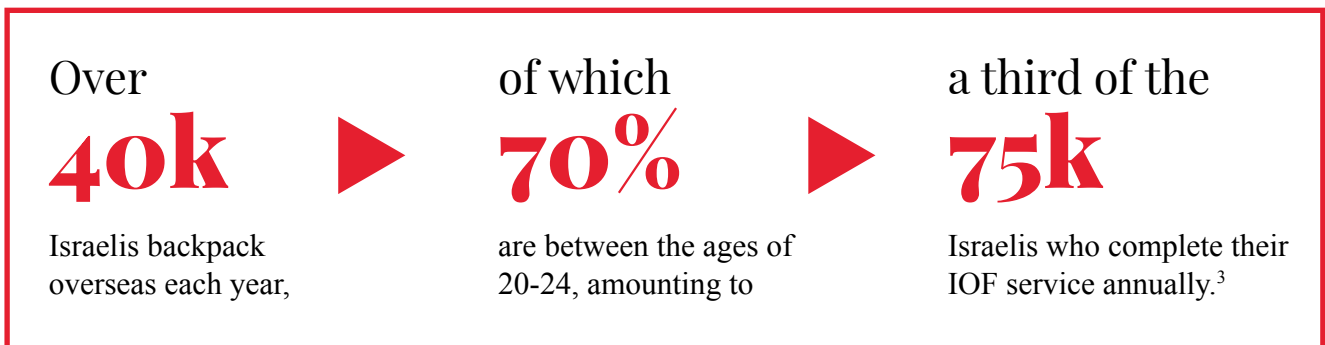
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01

An Overview of Israeli Tourist Violence

Israeli tourists have inflicted violence around the world in recent years, but it is only now that the violence is taking place in European cities that it is starting to gain more mainstream media coverage.²

Israeli tourists are usually off-duty Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) soldiers, with it being a cultural rite of passage for Israelis to travel abroad - usually to India, southeast Asia, or South America - directly after finishing their two-year national military service, shamelessly called the 'Hummus trail'.³



During their post-service trips abroad, off-duty IOF soldiers are known for their violence, (sexual) harassment, vandalism, drug abuse, and disrespect of local regulations and customs.⁴

Israeli tourists who commit crimes or antisocial behaviour abroad are often protected by the Israeli government, who will repatriate citizens to avoid their prosecution, or to 'rehabilitate' them domestically.⁵

Israeli tourists are also known for bribing officials to evade justice, and there are several Israeli charities based along the 'Hummus trail' that take care of Israeli drug addict tourists.⁶

An Overview of Israeli Tourist Violence continued...

The 'Hummus Trail'

Of the 40,000 Israelis that backpack overseas each year:⁷

18,000

Israeli backpackers travel to Colombia every year.⁸

Israelis began travelling to India as part of the 'Hummus trail' during the 1980s, in a drug-fuelled escape from their crimes during Israel's invasion of Lebanon and the First Intifada.⁹

Israelis stay in exclusive areas that resemble Israeli colonies, where hostels and restaurants advertise in Hebrew and stolen Palestinian cuisine accounts for 80% of the menus.¹⁰

60%

travel to Asia

30%

travel to South and Central America.

10%

travel to Australia, New Zealand, and Africa



“They [Israeli tourists] began attacking houses of people in Amsterdam with Palestinian flags, so that’s actually where the violence started [...] As a reaction, Amsterdammers mobilised themselves and countered the attacks that started on Wednesday by the Maccabi hooligans.”

Jazie Veldhuyzen
Dutch Councilman.¹¹



02

[← BACK TO CONTENTS](#)

Israeli Football Hooliganism



02

Israeli Football Hooliganism

There is a longstanding pattern of violent behaviour and racist and Islamophobic rhetoric by Israeli football hooligans both abroad and in occupied Palestine.¹²

Maccabi FC Hooligans' Violence in Athens

On 7 March 2024, a large group of supporters of the Israeli team Maccabi Tel Aviv Football Club (Maccabi FC), who were attending a match against Olympiacos, collectively attacked a Greek man carrying a Palestine flag in Athens' central square.¹³

The man was violently kicked and punched by a group of Israeli football thugs and hospitalised as a result of his injuries.¹⁴

Maccabi FC Hooligans' Violence in Amsterdam

On 6 November 2024, Maccabi FC fans who were attending the team's match against Ajax, racially abused Dutch-Arab locals with racist anti-Arab chants, tore down and burnt Palestinian flags in the city, vandalised property, and physically assaulted taxi drivers in the city.¹⁵

This violence, perpetrated by former and current IOF soldiers, was supported and facilitated by Mossad agents who accompanied the fans to the Netherlands.¹⁶

Due to Amsterdam police force's failure to protect the city's residents, locals - especially Dutch-Arabs and pro-Palestinian protestors - were forced to defend their city and their communities from Israeli attacks and threats to Arabs, resulting in dozens of injuries.¹⁷ Instead of protecting their citizens from foreign attackers, Amsterdam's police force only arrested locals for their acts of self-defence.¹⁸

Dutch police and politicians failed to speak out against Israeli violence, instead branding community defenders as antisemites.¹⁹ In response to the attacks, Amsterdam's Mayor Femke Halsema imposed a three-day ban on demonstrations, including pro-Palestine protests,

describing them as 'antisemitic hit-and-run-squads'.²⁰ Maccabi fans were offered guidance for remaining safe, including advice to remain in hotels and avoid wearing Jewish symbols until departure.²¹ Security measures were tightened, predominantly around Jewish monuments and buildings.²²

The Dutch government's racist and apologetic stance provided a culture of impunity for Israeli tourist violence, as its offer of protection rather than punishment has emboldened violent behaviours, allowing them to continue unchecked.²³

Similarly, Western media changed their headlines post-publication and intentionally misrepresented footage of the incidents in order to blame 'antisemitic' Dutch-Arabs and pro-Palestine protesters despite the footage clearly showing Israelis attacking Dutch locals.²⁴

Israeli Football Hooliganism in Paris

On 14 November 2024, Israeli football hooligans attending a match between Israel and France in Paris violently attacked French national team supporters in the stadium, despite a heavy security presence by French police following Israeli football hooligans' violence in Amsterdam.²⁵

Israeli men wearing masks and balaclavas with Israel flags rampaged across the seats separating the different teams' fans, and kicked and punched victims, badly injuring at least one French fan. Scores of French fans fled from their seats as a result.²⁶

The stadium was less than a quarter full due to French fans boycotting the match.²⁷ With only 13,000 tickets of the Stade de France's 80,000 capacity sold, the match broke records for the lowest attendance for any home match in the history of the French national team.²⁸

“One can also notice [among Israeli tourists to Goa] many unbecoming activities like flesh trade, drug abuse, rave parties and crimes like rapes, murder, etc., making hay as the sun of tourism refuses to set on our land.”

Dr. Victor Ferrao

in *Claiming the Right to Say No A study on Israeli Tourist Behaviour & Patterns in Goa.*²⁹



03

[← BACK TO CONTENTS](#)

Post-IOF Service Drug Abuse and Organised Crime Abroad



03

Post-IOF Service Drug Abuse and Organised Crime Abroad

Drug and alcohol abuse is epidemic among Israeli tourists, especially in India and South America.

India

Every year, around 20,000 off-duty IOF soldiers travel to India with their post-service bonus of around 15,000 shekels (~£3,180). Ninety percent of these tourists take drugs.³⁰



Israelis mostly travel to places like Goa and Kasol - a village that has become so overrun with Israeli tourists that it is known as 'mini Israel' - where drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, LSD and ecstasy are accessible and affordable.³¹

Due to the high drug consumption and psychological impact of their IOF service, over 2000 Israeli tourists in India have mental breakdowns in India every year, a condition known by Israelis as 'flipping out' or 'the post-army India meltdown'.³²

Israeli society sympathetically frames these breakdowns as 'PTSD' and flies these Israelis back to Israel for 'rehabilitation', ignoring how these breakdowns are related to the violence Israelis inflict on Palestinians during their IOF service, and excusing Israeli tourists of their destructiveness to Indian communities.³³

Peru

In Peru, Israeli tourists are known for taking psychedelics such as ayahuasca and San Pedro, with some staying permanently in Peru to permanently continue their psychedelic lifestyle.⁵¹



In 2014, Peruvian police arrested 60 tourists, mostly Israeli, for vandalism, possession of cocaine and marijuana, theft of archaeological artifacts, and possession of alcohol on an ancient archaeological site.⁵²

Post-IOF Service Drug Abuse and Organised Crime Abroad continued...

Colombia



Israeli backpackers are known for their disorderly behaviour and drug use in Colombia, resulting in many being barred or delayed from entering the country by Colombian authorities.³⁴

In 2018, Colombia announced that it was escalating enforcement efforts against Israeli tourists' drug and prostitution parties in the country, "including raids on parties, the arrest of those attending the parties, confiscation of equipment and expulsion from the country, with all of its implications."³⁵

In 2023, leaked correspondence between Colombian and Israeli authorities revealed four major Israeli criminal networks operating in Colombia.³⁶ Three of these networks were involved in retail drug trafficking, and two of these were also engaged in the sexual exploitation of minors and related money laundering activities in tourist centres.³⁷

The Israeli Sex and Drug Cartel in Taganga

Ex-IOF soldiers have turned the coastal Colombian village of Taganga into a sex and drug retreat.³⁸ A local stated that the Israeli tourist businesses "take part in the town's drug trafficking network and prostitution business".³⁹

Israeli backpackers pay around \$800 to stay in the village hostel, 'Hotel Benjamin', which includes unlimited alcohol, marijuana, cocaine and prostitutes.⁴⁰

The resort's security is coordinated by a former member of a Colombian paramilitary death squad.⁴¹

Locals from Taganga have made multiple complaints about Israelis' loud 24-hour parties, their use of drugs and prostitution, aggressiveness, and damage to the area's reputation.⁴²

Police have reported several incidents involving the Israeli tourists and business owners, including one incident of an Israeli unlawfully carrying a gun in public.⁴³

In 2010, Colombian police seized 715 pounds of cocaine, worth £6 million, hidden in a cove near Taganga.⁴⁴ The drugs were believed to have been the property of the Israeli gang.⁴⁵

In 2017, the Israeli running Hotel Benjamin, Assi Ben-Mosh, was deported from Colombia and banned from returning for 10 years.⁴⁶ He had been known locally as "the Devil of Taganga" and was accused of leading an Israeli cartel involved in drug dealing, forcing minors into prostitution, and tax evasion.⁴⁷

Ben-Mosh's cartel had extensive human and drug trafficking networks in the Colombian cities of Santa Marta, Medellín, Cartagena, and Bogotá, catering towards tourist drug use, especially by off-duty Israeli soldiers.⁴⁸

Ben-Mosh has also been arrested in The Netherlands for international drug smuggling and previously started an illegal enterprise in Tokyo, where he sold jewellery and other goods stolen from tourists.⁴⁹

In 2021, Colombia arrested and deported Israeli Sami Bami, the successor to Ben-Mosh in Taganga, for drug dealing and illegally staying in the country for three years after the expiration of his visa.⁵⁰

Post-IOF Service Drug Abuse and Organised Crime Abroad continued...

Thailand



Several Israeli tourists have been arrested in Thailand in recent years for being in possession of drugs or for drug-induced public disorder offences.⁵³

In 2006, an Israeli tourist was arrested for possession of half a kilogram of cocaine.⁵⁴

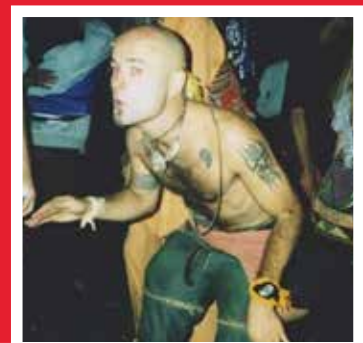
In 2016, eight Israeli backpackers were arrested by Thai police on suspicion of drug use, and the Israeli manager of the guesthouse where they were staying was also arrested for possession and intent to supply marijuana.⁵⁵

On 10 October 2023, an Israeli tourist, high on cannabis, was arrested for causing damage to property and theft.⁵⁶ The man struck several cars and stole from a convenience store, and prior to this had intentionally turned off the elevator in his hotel.⁵⁷

In August 2024, an Israeli tourist was arrested by Thai police for selling ecstasy.⁵⁸

“The Israelis who sell drugs have control over the ministers from Goa to Delhi [...] They pay them a large amount of money. They also bribe the police. They think of themselves as the chosen people of God and they have the power or freedom to do anything, even to kill.”

Account from a tourist in India.⁵⁹



04

[← BACK TO CONTENTS](#)

Aggression, Violence and Sexual Assault



04

Aggression, Violence and Sexual Assault

Israeli tourists are also known for their violence abroad, including physical and sexual assault and harassment.

The Maldives

In the Maldives, Israeli tourists' physical and verbal assault has become so prevalent that the Maldivian surfing community drafted a petition to the government calling for a ban on Israeli citizens from entering the country for tourism or business purposes in 2023.⁶⁰



Their petition detailed multiple incidents of harassment, including instances of Islamophobia during a surfing tournament in Thulusdu.⁶¹

Cyprus

Cyprus is another popular destination for Israeli tourists, with more than 46,400 Israelis visiting the country in July 2023 alone.⁶² Here, an alarming number of Israeli tourists have committed sexual assault.⁶³



In 2019, 12 Israeli tourists gang raped a 19-year-old British woman at a Cyprus resort.⁶⁴ The case was wrongfully thrown out of court after the victim was forced to sign a retraction under duress, and was accused of filing a false complaint which would lead to the victim being convicted of public mischief.⁶⁵

The Cypriot Supreme Court has since overturned her conviction, maintaining that there had been a miscarriage of justice.⁶⁶ The 12 Israelis returned to Israel and have never been charged.⁶⁷

In an eerily similar case to 2019, five Israeli men were arrested facing charges of abduction, assault, and rape after forcing a woman into a hotel room and raping her at a resort in Ayia Napa in 2023.⁶⁸ The court case was once again mishandled and the men were able to return to Israel without charge.⁶⁹

In both cases, the Israeli government's political and economic influence over the Cypriot government is highly likely to have influenced the Cypriot court's mishandling of cases and prevented victims from achieving justice.⁷⁰

Israeli tourists' sexual assault bears parallels with numerous instances of IOF soldiers sexually assaulting Palestinians in occupied Palestine.⁷¹ For example, in 2017 an IOF officer raped a Palestinian woman, sexually assaulted others, and extorted them for sexual favours among other crimes.⁷²

“Maccabi fans already have a reputation even by Israeli fans. We know many of them are soldiers or ex-soldiers in Gaza right now. I also tried to explain this to the police, I said: “Look if somebody just came back from Gaza, just came back from killing a lot of people, we can’t expect them to behave normally in our city”. [...] Many of them came here as a kind of demonstration for Israel. Many of them did not actually come for the football, the football was a side thing for them, but many of them came to kind of make a pro- Israel, pro-genocide demonstration in Amsterdam for three or four days.”

Yuval Gal

Anti-Zionist Jewish politician
in the Netherlands.⁷³



05

[← BACK TO CONTENTS](#)

Attacks On Pro Palestinian Symbols and Demonstrations



© Sky News

05

Attacks On Pro Palestinian Symbols and Demonstrations

Before recent attacks in Athens and Amsterdam against Palestinian flags, pro-Palestine demonstrations have been a central target for Israeli tourist violence.

Japan

In August 2024, a group of Israeli tourists in Tokyo verbally abused a Japanese woman for waving a Palestinian flag, saying “Palestine doesn’t exist. It never will and it never has.”⁷⁴



Peru

In October 2024, Israeli tourists attacked a vigil for Palestine in Cusco, verbally assaulting the demonstrators, and spitting on them and the Palestinian flag.⁷⁵



Greece

In October 2024, Israeli tourists attacked a pro-Palestinian rally in Rhodes, verbally and physically attacking the demonstrators.⁷⁶ The Israeli tourists shouted, “We will cut your throats!” and “We will kill you!” during the attacks.⁷⁷



“Palestinian flags were destroyed and set on fire. Windows where Palestinian symbols were hanging were shattered. The [Maccabi] thugs terrorised the cities with planks, belts, and metal pipes. Taxi drivers were threatened and attacked. Ladies with headscarves were told: “We know where to find you Arabs - we will cut you down and we will kill you”.

And in an Israeli newspaper we could read that Maccabi thugs told each other and coordinated with each other: “We will search for Palestinians so we can beat them up in Amsterdam.”

Stephan van Baarle

Dutch politician for the DENK party.⁷⁸



06

[← BACK TO CONTENTS](#)

Failure To Observe Local Regulations and Customs



06

Failure To Observe Local Regulations and Customs

Israeli tourists repeatedly transgress cultural boundaries and break local regulations without hesitation, often resulting in their expulsion from tourist sites.

Peru

Israelis visiting Peru on the ‘Hummus trail’ have caused many disturbances due to blatant disregard for cultural norms.⁷⁹

In 2014, Peruvian officials arrested Israeli backpackers for disturbances on protected heritage sites, after receiving calls about disturbances near ancient Incan ruins in Sacsayhuaman, Cuzco.⁸⁰ Following the incident, a large amount of trash was left in unauthorised areas, and ancient artefacts had been stolen.⁸⁹



Chile

Israeli tourists have also broken local regulations in Chile, where between 2012 and 2016, 23 out of the 36 tourists expelled from Chile’s tourist attractions were Israelis.⁹⁰

In 2017, a further three Israeli tourists were expelled from Chile after switching on a portable mini stove in an unauthorised area of the Torres Del Paine National Park.⁹¹



“It seems [the Israelis] have a culture of not obeying and going against the rules.”

Elizabeth Munoz
Director of Chile’s National
Forestry Cooperation.⁹²



07

[← BACK TO CONTENTS](#)

The Israeli Government's Culture of Impunity Abroad



07

The Israeli Government's Culture of Impunity Abroad

Israeli tourists who commit acts of violence abroad escape accountability through the Israeli government's support.

The Netherlands

In November 2024, the Israeli government chartered two planes to fly Maccabi Tel Aviv supporters back to Israel after their violent attacks in Amsterdam, preventing their possible arrest and trial in The Netherlands.⁹³



India

In India, the Israeli government has set up outposts along popular destinations on the 'Hummus trail' to return Israelis after extensive drug use, preventing their prosecution in India.⁹⁴

Hilik Magnus, a former Mossad agent, runs a service that tracks down young Israelis 'flipping out' on drugs during their time in India.⁹⁵



Cyprus

When Israeli tourists were accused of gang raping a British girl in Cyprus, the government of Cyprus signed an agreement with Israel to construct a gas pipeline in the Mediterranean.⁹⁶ It is believed that the Israeli government used this energy deal to squash the rape convictions and ensure the alleged perpetrators were swiftly returned to Israel, preventing any legal justice or accountability being served.⁹⁷



“The young Israeli men [who gangraped the British girl in Cyprus] were sent home as fast as possible, so as not to make their detention in Cyprus while the rape allegations were properly investigated into a public issue between Nicosia and Jerusalem. Israel never surrenders its citizens, and Israeli public opinion is passionate to the point of fanaticism in defending Israelis under any sort of attack abroad. Once home, the young men were safe from Cypriot or any legal investigation.”

Denis MacShane

formerly the UK’s Minister of Europe at the Foreign Office.⁹⁸



08

[← BACK TO CONTENTS](#)

Western Media Bias



FRANCE
24

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NETHERLANDS

Netanyahu condemns 'anti-Semitic attack' on football fans

08

Western Media Bias

Justification of Israeli Violence as ‘Mental Illness’

Israeli tourist violence could not have persisted without the media’s complicity.

Mainstream media has either ignored instances of Israeli tourist violence outside of Europe altogether, or sympathetically justified instances of Israeli violence through the paradigm of mental illness.

This framing minimises Israelis’ violence as simply a form of PTSD, deep ‘battle scars,’ and extreme loneliness because of their IOF service - instead of demanding justice for the victims of Israeli violence.

‘He got out of Gaza, but Gaza did not get out of him’: Israeli soldiers returning from war struggle with trauma and suicide

El Al rescue flights to Amsterdam to operate on Shabbat, trauma response units activate

When battle-scarred Israelis go wild in India, this vet is there to help

Western Media Bias continued...

Inversion of Victim and Perpetrator

Western media's coverage of Israeli football hooligans' violent attacks in Amsterdam flipped the victim and the perpetrator, by depicting the Israeli football hooligans as the victims of 'antisemitic pogroms', rather than as the perpetrators of anti-Arab violence and hate speech, and incitement of genocide.

Media outlets also omitted key context from footage of the attacks in their broadcast coverage, mislabelling videos of Israeli violence as committed by antisemites.

Israeli soccer fans suffer 'anti-Semitic attacks' in violent Amsterdam incident: Officials

At least five people have been hospitalized and 62 others detained.

We must not turn blind eye to antisemitism, says Dutch king after attacks on Israeli football fans

Pogroms have returned to Europe, and the 'anti-racist' Left are silent

Chilling scenes in Amsterdam remind us of an ancient evil

Western Media Bias continued...

Absence of Context

Western media depicted acts of self-defence by Dutch-Arabs as antisemitic violence, instead of as defence of their community and city after days of Israeli violence and direct threats by Israelis to kill Arabs.

Similarly, Western media fails to contextualise that Israelis committing violence in Amsterdam are militarily trained, were supported by Mossad, and some of whom had and have been active in carrying out the genocide in Gaza.

**Amsterdam bans protests after
'antisemitic squads' attack Israeli soccer
fans**

**Just in case: Mossad agents to join Maccabi Tel
Aviv FC trip to Amsterdam**

*Antisemitic Attacks Prompt Emergency
Flights for Israeli Soccer Fans*

“And you would think that [the Dutch] parliament would say: ‘This foreign interference of [IOF] soldiers on genocide leave, there is no place for it in the Netherlands. These Maccabi thugs with values that are in complete opposition to what the Netherlands stands for. We stand with all the Dutch people that are being terrorised in their own city.’ But it was silent. Silent in parliament, silent in the cabinet.

And all those Amsterdammers who in this recent period were attacked by Maccabi thugs were abandoned by politicians and the rule of law. They had to leave in fear that their windows would be shattered or that they would get hit with a steel pipe in their necks only because of their support for the Palestinians. People were afraid to leave their house because these genocidal thugs were waiting for them.

Where was the rule of law to protect these people? Where was the police to act against this? Why is it allowed to happen that these people are able to come to Amsterdam and the Netherlands in the first place? And how are they able to spew their hatred undisturbed?”

Stephan van Baarle

Dutch politician for the DENK party.⁹⁹



Footnotes

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