



“Tackling Hate, Providing Hope”

Countering anti-Muslim Prejudice Through
Collective Social Action & Campaigns


MEASURING ANTI-MUSLIM ATTACKS
www.tellmamauk.org | 0800 456 1226
info@tellmamauk.org | Twitter: @TellMamaUK

26/07/2024

By E-mail

Mr Steve Watson QPM,
Chief Constable,
Greater Manchester Police

Dear Chief Constable Watson QPM,

RE: Incident at Manchester Airport on Wednesday the 24th of July 2024

We are writing concerning the incident that took place in Manchester Airport concerning officers from Greater Manchester Police (GMP). I think you will agree that the footage of an officer kicking a man in the head and stamping on their head was extremely distressing and disturbing and has understandably and rightly caused significant anger and public condemnation.

We are writing to you to also raise our further concerns about the initial communications which exacerbated a sense of mistrust amongst Muslim and other minority ethnic communities. It is an issue for all communities also - no person wants to see an officer kick a man on the floor with his face on the ground and then proceed to stamp on his head - as officers also used Pava spray on another man at the airport.

Whilst acknowledging the difficult and extremely stressful work that the police undertake, we must also stress what the former Detective Chief Inspector Shabnam Chaudhri and former Chief Inspector Dal Babu, (who both served in the Metropolitan Police Service) said, that there is no justification for a man or woman who is lying on the ground showing no visible signs of being a threat, being kicked and stamped on the head.

Whilst the subsequent GMP statements made clear that three of their officers were assaulted, including a female PC who suffered a broken nose, and four men were arrested, we want to stress how communities we have spoken with and those who have reported into Tell MAMA, believe that the statement in its totality came off as defensive and protective “of their own”. The initial communication was therefore poor, defensive, and self-defeating, as it undermined the utter seriousness of what transpired. Communities want accountability, not defensiveness.



“Tackling Hate, Providing Hope”

Countering anti-Muslim Prejudice Through
Collective Social Action & Campaigns

TellMAMA
MEASURING ANTI-MUSLIM ATTACKS
www.tellmamauk.org | 0800 456 1226
info@tellmamauk.org | Twitter: @TellMamaUK

Weeks earlier, it emerged that GMP suspended five officers and put two others on restricted duty over serious allegations of racial discrimination.

It is within this climate of mistrust coupled with a rising number of cases against Muslim communities reported to Tell MAMA since 7 October that many feel a deeper mistrust and genuine fear and anxiety that those assaulted could have easily been them, a friend, or a family member.

A failure to grasp the gravity of the situation in the initial communications, we repeat, has exacerbated the above, as Muslim communities and others want answers, as investigations continue.

Finally, we understand that the IOPC is now conducting a criminal investigation into the matter, and we urge that the force engage with communities and stakeholders to better understand community sentiments and create more honest lines of communication moving forward. What is obvious, is that kicking a man on the ground in the head is not policing by any means. It is thuggery.

We will continue to monitor the investigation closely and urge GMP and the IOPC provide more transparency as the investigation progresses.

Yours sincerely,

I Atta

Director, Tell MAMA