

Jewish youth football team 'attacked by knife-wielding pro-Palestinian mob in Berlin'

From the [Telegraph](#)

A Jewish youth football team has been put under police protection after it said it was attacked by a [pro-Palestinian mob](#) armed with sticks and knives during a match in Berlin.



Makkabi Berlin was set up in the 1970s by Holocaust survivors. Credit: Markus Lehnardt/Anadolu

Teenagers from Makkabi Berlin's youth side say they were "hunted down" by a gang of Arab youths after a game against local rivals last week.

The game was played in Neukölln, a neighbourhood known for its large Arab and Turkish population.

A father of one player said that his son came home “deeply shaken” after being spat at during the game, before being harassed by a group of adults and children who followed the team off the pitch. The players were all aged between 13 and 16.

Discussing the incident on social media, the father posted a screenshot of a message sent by one of the players that described how they were chased by “Arab youths” who shouted “free Palestine” and ‘f-ing Jews” before threatening them with knives and sticks.

Alon Meyer, the president of Makkabi Germany, later told the Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper that he had spoken to other witnesses and that “threats, including chasing people with knives, undoubtedly took place”.

The opposing club, Schwarz-Weiss Neukölln, promised to throw out the perpetrators once they had been identified, saying that “incidents like this don’t belong on soccer pitches – and certainly not on ours”.

Makkabi Berlin’s adult team has received police protection since the Hamas-led attacks on Israel last year, but officers attended all the club’s home games across the German capital at the weekend in response to last week’s reported attack.

The team was set up in the 1970s by Holocaust survivors as the capital’s first Jewish sports club after the end of the Second World War.

The founders saw themselves in the tradition of Bar-Kochba Berlin, which was one of the largest Jewish sports clubs in the world in the 1920s.