

Not just Labour's Azhar Ali: MP Khalid Mahmood's October 7th Conspiracism



ROCHDALE, ENGLAND – FEBRUARY 07: Labour candidate for Rochdale, Azhar Ali launches his by-election campaign on February 07, 2024 in Rochdale, England. (Photo by Christopher Furlong/Getty Images)

by Robert Harris

With news last night that the trouble UK Labour finally suspended its Rochdale candidate Azhar Ali, primarily [over his assertion](#) that Israel let the October 7th genocide happen so it could invade Gaza, which he stated at a seemingly large private regional Labour Party meeting, it raised the question as to how mainstream such anti-Semitic conspiracy theories are

within UK Labour, which Keir Starmer supposedly excised of Corbynite anti-Semitism, given that Ali's claims took all of six months to come out. The question is more than apt given the initial apologism from senior Labour figures, where a senior member of the shadow cabinet travelled to Rochdale to campaign by his side. Furthermore, Labour MP Khalid Mahmood effectively endorsed the same nonsensical conspiratorial theory (as if Netanyahu would have put paid to his lengthy career in such ignominy) on British TV as mentioned [in this story](#) a few months ago:

MP Khalid Mahmood, reputedly the longest serving Muslim Member of Parliament with a significant position and media profile in Britain, on GB News' 29 October [Camila Tominey Show](#) (see almost 35 minutes into the video), peddles October 7th conspiracy theory when twice bringing up his claim that PM Netanyahu/Israel is also responsible for the October 7th massacre, given it took a significant period for the IDF to respond. He was clearly suggesting that it is correct to place a broadly similar amount of blame on Israel as with Hamas which suggests he believed they intentionally let the massacre happen. However, Israel was preoccupied with violence in the West Bank/Judea and Samaria, and was duped by a seeming desire to cooperate economically which also convinced allies like the US where Hamas was even mocked on Palestinian Street for not engaging in confrontations. It is with justification that such stances are seen as on the spectrum of October 7th denialism.