



**THE CENTRE FOR  
SOCIAL COHESION**

**University of Birmingham Refuses to Ban Supporter of Suicide Bombing**  
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Just weeks after revelations about the radicalisation of Detroit bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab during his time at University College London (UCL), the University of Birmingham has sanctioned the appearance of a supporter of a terrorist organisation on their campus at an event on 20 January.

Azzam Tamimi is due to appear at an [event](#) entitled 'In Pursuit of Justice: Remember Gaza', which will take place in the University's main meeting hall, the Avon room. He was invited by the Islamic Society.

On 12 January 2010, the CSC sent a [letter](#) to the University which set out the following information about Tamimi's extremist views:

- In January 2009, Tamimi [stated](#) that he was in close contact with a leading member of Hamas, a proscribed terrorist organisation. He has also described himself as a 'sympathiser and supporter of Hamas'.
- During a [speech](#) in Trafalgar Square in 2006 he glorified terrorist organisations:

It is a matter of time as they (Israel) withdrew from South Lebanon, because of the great Jihad of Hizbollah...as they withdrew from Gaza, because of the great Jihad of Hamas and Islamic Jihad!

- Tamimi supports Hamas suicide bombings and in a November 2004 [interview](#) with Tim Sebastian on BBC Hardtalk, he stated that, were he given the opportunity, he would carry out a suicide bombing against Israel:

*Tim Sebastian:* So this is the reason - the only thing that is holding you back from strapping on a suicide belt is the fact that you can't get back to the Palestinian territories?

*Azzam Tamimi:* You see sacrificing myself for Palestine is a noble cause. It is the straight way to pleasing my God and I would do it if I had the opportunity.

- Tamimi is known to have [made](#) antisemitic remarks, saying that Jews should:

Sail on the sea in ships back to where they came or drown in it. Listen Israel and Jews around the world, unless you change there is no future for you.

In response to the letter from the CSC, Birmingham University's Director of Academic Studies, Brendan Casey, sent a [letter](#) in which he refused to condemn Tamimi, or bar his impending appearance on the campus. According to his letter:

The [University's] Code of Practice makes it clear that individuals, both from within and those visiting the University, are able to express their views provided: it is clear these are personal views; that such views are within the law; and that individuals do not espouse or advocate violent acts.

CSC Director Douglas Murray says:

'Birmingham University is clearly in denial. Our letter to them unmistakably demonstrates that Azzam Tamimi has repeatedly supported violent jihadist acts, and their Director of Academic Services, Brendan Casey, has completely refused to acknowledge this.

'Considering the recent events surrounding the Detroit bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, and the revelations about his radical activities on the UCL campus, the University of Birmingham is behaving in the most irresponsible fashion, for which it deserves heavy condemnation.'

**Enquiries: 0207 222 8909 / 07538 248610**

**[The Centre for Social Cohesion is an independent think tank](#)**

**\*The Centre for Social Cohesion \* Clutha House \* 10 Storey's Gate \* London \* SW1P 3AY \* 0207 222 8909 \*  
[mail@socialcohesion.co.uk](mailto:mail@socialcohesion.co.uk) \***