

Anti-Zionist attacks on Church and Messianic group



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Earlier this year a gang of twenty Muslim youths attacked Zion Baptist Church in Rochdale, assaulting the pastor and hurling racist abuse. Apparently they were incensed at the name of the church.

Speaking to Rochdale Online, Pastor Rigg said: *"I went out to take some rubbish out when I felt a whack on the back of*



the head." "I looked up to find about twenty youths pelting really hard snowballs. They were screaming and shouting all sorts of abuse, most of it about me being a Zionist". He added: "We have been here all week preparing for my dad's funeral, which is this weekend. We don't deserve this".

The church building had previously been targeted with anti-Israel graffiti.

Local Muslim leaders condemned the attack.

Anti-Zionist attacks on buildings used for worship have also reached Northern Ireland. [The Jewish Chronicle reported 5th March](#). "Anti-Israel graffiti was daubed on a centre used by a messianic Jewish community in response to the Gaza conflict. "Zionist killers of Palestinian children" and other offensive phrases were painted on the council-run building in Donaghadee, County Down, east of Belfast, where the Shalom Messianic Congregation meets

twice a month.” The council cleaned the graffiti. Congregation leader Jim Clint told the Jewish Chronicle: *“There are not too many people outside our group who would know we are there. It’s baffled me as to who could have done it, but it’s clearly someone anti-Israeli. It’s very upsetting and to begin with I kept it from many of our older members.”* It is likely the graffiti was the work of either radical Muslims or Republican anti-Zionists.

It is apparent that the Muslim community, which has lived in the UK for many years, was never before agitated by the many churches called “Zion” scattered around Great Britain. However things have changed, ever since Anglican priest Stephen Sizer launched his crusade against ‘Christian Zionists’, young Muslim youths are angry at even a church building with the word “Zion” on it, just imagine what it is like to be Jewish in Britain now! Sizer’s books *Christian Zionism* and *Zion’s Christian Soldiers*, his many articles for Muslim journals and web sites along with his speaking tours in Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Lybia, Egypt and Indonesia have brought Christian supporters of Israel, whether they are Christian Zionists or not, into the sights of many extreme Jihadists around the world and particularly in Britain. The Spectator magazine, 4th May 2009, notes that *“Last weekend the Revd Stephen Sizer, vicar of Christ Church, Virginia Water appeared at an anti-Israel meeting with an Islamist called Ismail Patel. Patel has not only accused Israel of ‘genocide’ and ‘war crimes’ but considers Disney to be a Jewish plot and supports Hamas, Iran and Syria.”* The article by Melanie Phillips goes on, *“the appearance of an Anglican churchman on a pro-Islamist platform in Britain is a new and significant development. The Church of England recently banned its clergy from joining the BNP; should it not equally ban them from siding with the forces of Islamofascism?”* (<http://www.spectator.co.uk/the-magazine/features/3409686/beware-the-new-axis-of-evangelicals-and-islamists.shtml>)
