

Denmark Briefing: December 2023 and January 2024

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Anti-terror police operation and media smear campaign raise questions over Danish government collusion with Israel

- On December 14th, 2023, the police carried out a national anti-terror operation in [Denmark](#).

It was later revealed that the police had gotten their intelligence from [Israel's Mossad intelligence service](#) who claimed that an individual arrested has ties [to Hamas](#).

- A total of seven people were charged in the case, three of whom are not in custody and living abroad. One of the persons in police custody is a well-known face in the Copenhagen Muslim community.

The case is being conducted behind [closed doors](#), which means that the public does not know what the people are charged with. However, according to [the police](#), the operation was carried out on “suspicion of preparation for a terrorist attack”.

The Police Intelligence Service (PET) and the police claim that the case has links to the gang environment, the outlawed gang [Loyal to Familia \(LTF\)](#) and to [Hamas](#).

- [A few days](#) after the operation, an imam and neighbourhood community leader was vilified in one of the biggest media outlets in Denmark for, supposedly, being a Hamas leader in Denmark.

The allegations came after the Israeli Minister for Combating Anti-Semitism, Amichai Chikli, had sent an email to the Danish Minister of Interior and Health, Sophie Løhde (V), claiming that Hamas was active in Denmark under leadership of the Danish-Palestinian man and that he, supposedly, posed a security risk to both Jews and Danish society in general.

The Ministry did not react to the allegations; however, the email reached Danish-Israeli journalist a month later, who uncritically wrote an article about it, exposing the [man's name and picture](#).

- Since the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET) and the Danish government stated that they want to keep a close eye on statements condoning terrorism on [social media](#) and during [protests](#), at least [32 cases](#) are being investigated for condoning terrorism.



“Qur’an law” passed to prevent further desecration of religious scripture following international diplomatic crisis

- On December 7th 2023 the so-called “Qur’an law” to outlaw the desecration of religious scriptures - introduced in response to a spate of high-profile burnings of the Qur’an in Denmark and neighbouring countries which sparked a diplomatic crisis and international protests - was [passed](#).
- The law had been widely discussed and criticised for being too broad and imprecise, and consequently the Ministry of Justice [changed](#) parts of the law before the final vote. The bill now concerns “improper treatment of *writings* with significant religious significance” instead of the broader “*objects*”.

Additionally, the bill is now limited to religious communities that are *recognised* under the Danish Religious Communities Act and the Danish National Church.

It is also stated in the bill that works of art, where the improper treatment is a minor part of a larger work, will not be covered by the prohibition. Rasmus Paludan from the far-right political party Stram Kurs (Hard Line) has since announced that he has founded a theatre company called 'Official Message From Prime Minister of Denmark', to [circumvent the law](#).

- 94 members of the parliament voted in favour of the law, while 77 voted against it.

Those who [voted for](#) included the three governing parties (the Social Democrats, the Liberal Party and the Moderates) and the Social Liberal Party.

The eight opposing parties, both right and left leaning, voted against it.

- The government has presented the bill under the guise of ensuring [national security](#), and has been criticised for submitting to “[totalitarian, Islamist regimes](#)”.

However, others have criticised the bill for not emphasising Danish Muslims’ rights, and for blaming Muslim countries for demanding political action against Qur’an burnings, when, according to a professor, the main reason for the bill is to ensure good relations with [Denmark's foreign allies](#).