



As the far right mobilise around “Free Tommy Robinson”...

Don't let the far right grow

The far right are mobilising on the streets of Britain and are attempting to re-organise and grow.

They are falsely claiming the banner of ‘freedom of speech’ and calling for the release of long time far-right activist Tommy Robinson from jail, following his imprisonment for contempt of court.

But Robinson is no hero. He's not a representative of the forgotten “white working class”. He is a fascist.

An ex-British National Party member, Robinson led the violent English Defence League. He aims to divide ordinary people and to scapegoat Muslims and migrants.

Release

The fascist right, the Football Lads Alliance (FLA) and now the Democratic Football Lads Alliance (DFLA, Alt-right figures and increasingly UKIP are at the heart of campaigning for Robinson's release.

Once the FLA and DFLA claimed to be against all “extremism” and distanced themselves from Robinson. Now they have helped put him at the heart of a new far right movement.

And the international far right are mobilising too. Figures like Trump's ex chief of staff Steve Bannon and racist Dutch politician Geert Wilders have backed Robinson.

They believe the success that the racist right has achieved in the US and across much of Europe can be repeated here.

Pro-Robinson protests have seen increasing levels of racism and violence.

On 9 June 15,000 of his supporters rallied in London. Some openly gave the Hitler salute, and attacked anti-racists and police officers. A follow-up rally on



14 July saw a group of trade unionists attacked in a pub with beer glasses, in a ferocious assault.

At the heart of this movement is violent Islamophobia and increasingly attacks on the Labour and trade union movement.

UKIP

UKIP and its leader Gerard Batten are trying to rebuild their shattered forces by aligning with this new force on the streets. Anti-racists and the whole labour movement has to be alert to what is a growing threat.

When Robinson's supporters marched in Leeds they chanted anti-Muslim slogans. Just days later thugs acted on those slogans, firebombing a mosque and a Sikh gurdwara.

We have to build a mass anti-racist movement that can isolate far right ideas and can mobilise on the streets against them. Anti-racists are the majority. We have to mobilise that majority and drive the racists back.

The Islamophobic figures from the US behind Tommy Robinson

It was recently revealed that the Middle East Forum thinktank (MEF) has played a key role ‘legally and diplomatically’ in pressuring the British government to release Robinson.

The MEF is helping fund Robinson's defence and along with *Breitbart* (a far right pro-Trump website) is campaigning for Robinson.

Incredibly, Donald Trump's ambassador for international religious freedom was reported to have lobbied the British government on behalf of Robinson, after talks with *Breitbart*. US officials deny this.

The MEF has a ‘legal project’ which provides financial help to certain public figures who make inflammatory remarks about Islam.

The MEF's president is Daniel Pipes. He was nominated by ex-president George Bush to serve on the US Institute of Peace, a move criticised by many because of Pipe's Islamophobic views.

Pipes has attacked Muslim immigration, claiming that Muslim migrants “bring with them a chauvinism that augurs badly for their integration”.

Pipes refers to Geert Wilders as “the leader of Europeans who wish to retain their historic identity”. He also defended the right of the Danish newspaper, *Jyllands Posten*, to publish inflammatory Islamophobic cartoons.

Wealthy backers

Pipes and the MEF are pouring significant resources into Robinson's campaign. Expensive large screens, placards and T shirts bearing Robinson's image are financed by the MEF. The founder of the far right *InfoWars* website, Alex Jones, also donated £20,000 to Robinson.

Robinson and his racist friends

On the 9 June key figures from the British and international racist and fascist right spoke or sent messages of support to the “Free Tommy Robinson” rally in London. So who is Tommy Robinson – and who are his racist friends?

Tommy Robinson lynchpin of the far right

Robinson was the leader of the fascist English Defence League (EDL). Mass opposition in areas like Walthamstow and Tower Hamlets broke the EDL and saw Robinson quit the group in 2013.

Robinson then made links with ex-UKIP figure Anne Marie Waters and others to form Pegida UK. Far right groups in Europe continue to promote Robinson. He has flirted with the DFLA, and following his latest imprisonment, has become the figurehead of the British far right. UKIP's embrace of Robinson highlights how the racist right see the movement's fortunes entwined with his.

Steve Bannon former Trump adviser

Steve Bannon sent a message of support for Robinson to be read out at the 9 June demo. In recent months he has visited Europe several times, addressing far right crowds in France, Italy, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

He spoke alongside the fascist Front National leader Marine Le Pen, saying, “Let them call you racist, xenophobes, nativists, homophobes, misogynists—wear

it as a badge of honour!”

Bannon is a central player in trying to coordinate the far right across Europe. He has wealth and influential contacts and admires former UKIP leader Nigel Farage.

Bannon's *Breitbart* operation started several years ago. He started *Breitbart London* to help UKIP. *Breitbart* communicates its own fake news, heavily slanted to a far right nature.

Bannon's nationalism and pseudo anti-establishment rhetoric is about shoring up a base of hard-right, anti-left populism. Bannon likes to see himself as a right-wing radical. A far right international of various forces is central to his aims.

Geert Wilders leader of Dutch Freedom Party

This notoriously racist Dutch MEP spoke at length in Whitehall. He called Robinson the “bravest man in Britain” and railed that “we are foreigners in our own lands”.

He is leader of the racist Party for Freedom (PVV) in the Netherlands. The party won 20 seats out of 150 in the 2017 general election and is the second largest in parliament. Wilders made several attacks on high profile British Asians, particularly MPs.

Wilders continues to be a key link person in coordinating right-wing forces inside the European Parliament and beyond. He has close allies in France's fascist Front National, Austria's fascist FPÖ and Italy's racist Lega.

He followed up his trip to London by announcing he will hold a Prophet Muhammad cartoon competition at his party's parliamentary offices. This is a highly provocative move as many Muslims consider images of the Prophet Muhammad to be blasphemous.

In 2016 he was convicted of inciting hatred and discrimination after asking supporters whether

they wanted “fewer or more Moroccans” in their country. When people shouted “fewer”, Wilders said: “Then we'll fix it.”

Gerard Batten UKIP leader

Batten spoke at the Robinson event. Batten seems to be looking to the far right on the streets to rebuild UKIP after its local elections disaster.

He shouted in Whitehall that “mass immigration” was a “disaster that has fed Islamisation”.

At one point he said, “You either submit or resist”. The nature of such “resistance” was left hanging in the air.

UKIP members were prominent in the crowd. But even former UKIP leader Nigel Farage is reported to think Batten is too right-wing. Farage told a meeting of UKIP activists that opposing all Islam and backing Robinson was a political mistake.

Batten says Islam is a violent “death cult”. After becoming leader, he called for Muslims to be asked to sign a pledge attacking parts of the Koran. He has been interviewed by Robinson's YouTube channel at least once and is a favourite of groups like the far right Generation Identity.

Raheem Kassam ex-Breitbart editor

Raheem Kassam chaired the rally. He has associations with the alt-right in America and elsewhere.

Kassam was the London editor of the racist, far right, *Breitbart* website. He is still close to Steve Bannon. Kassam wrote a book called *Enoch Was Right* about the racist MP Enoch Powell, infamous for his “rivers of blood” speech in 1968.

He plays a prominent role in directing the Robinson bandwagon, alongside ex-EDL leaders such as Kevin Carroll.

Who are the Football Lads Alliance and the Democratic Football Lads Alliance?

The Football Lads Alliance (FLA) hit the streets seeking to whip up racism in the wake of the terror attacks in the summer of 2017.

It initially claimed to be against all forms of extremism, and distanced itself from Tommy Robinson. But it headed in an increasingly racist and Islamophobic direction.

It mobilised over 6,000 at London Bridge in June 2017 and up to 20,000 in Central London the following October.

But after failing to mobilise successfully in Birmingham earlier this year its leading figure John Meighan resigned.

The Democratic Football Lads Alliance (DFLA) emerged as the FLA went into decline. The FLA has now collapsed into the DFLA.


UKIP has thrown in its lot with the DFLA, holding joint strategy meetings, attending DFLA events and calling on DFLA members to join the party.


The DFLA is now backing the campaign to release Tommy Robinson from jail and has mobilised for two violent Robinson rallies.


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