

## URGENT - Telegraph - Deadline 4pm Friday 6 June

From Janet Eastham <janet.eastham@telegraph.co.uk>

To info@upper-hand.org

Date Thursday, 5 June 2025 at 11:33 AM

Dear Mr Al-Mail,

I am a reporter at *The Telegraph*. I intend to publish an article (or articles) concerning your public comments and online material, primarily via your website <https://upper-hand.org>.

### Biographical Background

You are a [REDACTED] Muslim born in 1997 in Kuwait and claim to be related to the [REDACTED] In 2012, you founded the Upper Hand Organisation.

You arrived in the UK on a student visa in 2015 to study political science. During your studies, you were convicted in absentia in Kuwait of 13 offences, including defaming the Emir, spreading subversive ideas, and misusing telecom networks, receiving a total sentence of 53 years.

You state these convictions are persecution for your political and religious views. On 5 May 2017, aged 18, you were granted political asylum in the UK—which you claim makes you the youngest Kuwaiti to receive refugee status. You have since received a partial state pardon.

### Arrest and Public Statements

On 20 September 2024, you were filmed at a protest in Swiss Cottage, London, chanting “I love the 7th of October” and “I like an organisation that starts with H.” You were arrested under terrorism legislation, but not charged, despite the Metropolitan Police appealing the CPS’s decision. As you may be aware, following the publication of an earlier article in *The Telegraph* ([link here](#)), the CPS is currently “urgently reviewing” its decision not to charge you.

### Role of and ideology behind your Upper Hand Organisation in the UK

We intend to report that in the eight years since being granted asylum, you have used the Upper Hand Organisation, which you are said to directly control, to promote an extremist Islamist ideology incompatible with democratic values. The group calls itself a “transnational revolutionary movement” working to “prepare the ground for its dominance and reshape the world “according to the direction God wants.” It promotes the “revival of Islamic societies”, a hallmark of Islamist doctrine ([link here](#)).

Your 2022 manifesto, ‘You Are the Generation of Emergence’, describes the mission as “transcending national borders to form a global system grounded in Islam, preparing an international army and shaping the conditions for the appearance of the Promised Imam” ([link here](#)).

## Apparent admission of misleading police

On 14 March 2025, in a podcast titled *From Gaza to the World*, you appear to admit to misleading UK counterterrorism officers about your protest statement “I like an organisation that starts with H.” You told the host you realised officers “want to rummage through your inner thoughts...”. This is an implied admission that your true answer, such as Hamas, was withheld.

You described asking the officer, “What do you think?”—a seemingly evasive tactic—before mocking his suggestion of Hitler. The exchange continued: “He said, ‘Okay, it could be Hamas.’ I said, ‘Okay, and?’ He said, ‘Hezbollah?’ I said, ‘Yes, and?’ He said, ‘Houthis?’ I thought again—glory to God, all your enemies start with H. So I immediately said, ‘Maybe it’s Home Office—the Ministry of the Interior. Maybe I like the Home Office.’ What madness!”

At no point did you deny you meant Hamas, Hezbollah, or the Houthis. Instead, you recounted mocking officers and offering what appears to be a misleading and improbable answer, an apparent falsehood made clear by your concluding exclamation (“What madness!”), which frames such apparent deception as defiance.

You also praised the 7 October Hamas attacks as “qualitative and successful,” declared peaceful coexistence with Israel impossible, and applauded Hamas’s strategic deception. You call for terrorist groups to make the most of the Oct 7 massacre, saying: “I: We must seize opportunities. Not every day is an “October 7th.” When such a moment comes, we must make the most of it. If you strike, strike hard. Don’t wait for another chance.” You also discussed forging alliances with far-right Western groups based on shared opposition to LGBTQ+ rights and secular education.

## Belief that proscribed Islamist terror groups of watering down their jihadist doctrine

On 25 January 2023, your Centre published *The Shift from Global to National Agendas in Jihadist Movements*, criticising the Taliban, HTS, and others for abandoning global jihad in favour of nationalism. The memo urges a return to transnational warfare and condemns “pragmatism” as betrayal. It advises: “Jihadist groups must reject short-termism and prioritise goals that can confront the global system and produce major change.” It adds: “If jihadist groups attempt to isolate themselves from these contemporary conditions, they risk becoming irrelevant.” ([Source](#))

Your 2023 MA dissertation, *Romantic Islam*, praises traditional Islamist governance, criticises “woke” Muslims, and dismisses reinterpretations of jihad as cyber-activism. ([Source](#)) In an April 2025 podcast, you said Islamic and modern states are “fundamentally incompatible.” You offered only two outcomes — either Muslims remain stuck, “Or, if modernity and the international system collapse—which seems possible—they might break free from this limbo.” ([Source](#))

## Glorification of Jihad and Martyrdom

Your writings and media regularly frame jihad as a binding religious duty. A May 2025 nasheed praises fighters as “marching toward death” and imagery includes references common in jihadist propaganda, including the “black banner” ([Source](#)). I also intend to quote extremism experts on the meaning of the

imagery of the “Upper Hand” name, flag and logo.

The Telegraph will report that your 2024 Quranic exegesis Al-Majra wa Al-Marsa includes takfiri denunciations of peaceful Muslims, praise for perpetual armed resistance ([Source](#)).

On 11 November 2024, you announced your intention to surrender to police and urged others to “continue the path of jihad.” You described peaceful Muslims as “slaves and dwarves,” and issued an apparent threat to the UK: “What is coming to you is terrifying — either our annihilation or yours.” This binary framing echoes rhetoric common in jihadist propaganda. ([Source](#))

### **Open endorsement of extremist views**

You have made no effort to conceal your support for hardline Islamist positions and frequently promote causes aligned with proscribed or extremist organisations. On 18 February 2025, you submitted written evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee urging Parliament to “urgently reconsider” the proscription of Hamas.

In a separate submission to the Women and Equalities Committee on 19 March 2025, you explicitly called for UK taxpayer funding to be allocated to sharia-based mediation services. You also opposed the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 — which criminalises marriage of children – girls under the age of 18 — arguing that denying 16- and 17-year-old girls the right to marry “disproportionately affects young Muslim women.”

On 29 April 2025, you publicly criticised the BBC for what you described as “negative reporting” on Hezbollah since the 7 October attacks. You complained that the Corporation portrayed Hezbollah and Hamas “in a dehumanising manner” while favouring “Israeli narratives.”

### **Apparent attempts at radicalisation**

In addition to the repeated public appeals to join your Islamist movement on your blog post, at marches and on podcasts, on 17 August 2024, the Upper Hand Organisation issued Wake Up! Protect the Honour of Islam, a pamphlet portraying the Israel-Palestine conflict as a “war of faith.” It calls for mobilisation, glorifies jihad, and invokes the slogan “a new Khaybar awaits”, a phrase often used in calls for violence against Jews. The document claims your group is “committed to channelling resources toward strategic projects to achieve Islamic dominance.” ([source](#))

### **Apparent surveillance and alleged cross-border coordination**

You have published internal documents (e.g. [REDACTED], [REDACTED]) that reference open-source monitoring of named individuals and Telegram-based communication with overseas contacts. These include surveillance-style language and alleged biographical details of opponents, and suggest possible links to extremist actors abroad.

A 2022 report ([REDACTED]) from the Centre for Higher Studies examined “jihadi-Salafi organisational activity” and included encrypted content, weapons manuals, and tactical materials. Although presented as research, the Telegraph intends to report that the level of detail published and lack of clear critique

may risk the report being seen as a resource rather than a purely academic analysis. (Source)

If you would like to respond to any of the above please do so in writing by 4pm Friday 6 June. In addition, I would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

1. Do you accept that your statements, publications and podcast content may be interpreted as: support for proscribed terrorist organisations; encouragement of terrorism or glorification of terrorist acts; and/or attempts to radicalise or recruit others? These acts may constitute offences under terrorism legislation.
2. Do you accept the claim that—taken in their entirety—your public comments express a desire to transform democratic societies into undemocratic Islamist states governed by sharia law?
3. What is your response to the claim that your comments on 14 March 2025 constitute a deliberate attempt to mislead UK counterterrorism officers during an investigation?
4. Do you deny that your organisation – and your public comments – seek to promote jihadist militancy rather than peaceful political reform?
5. Do you accept that statements such as “What is coming to you is terrifying — either our annihilation or yours” may be construed as a threat or incitement to Britain?
6. Is this charity associated with you or your organisation?

<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/5011317/full-print>

Sincerely,

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The Telegraph

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