

PRESS RELEASE: LONDON MOTORCYCLISTS RIDE IN MASS PROTEST AGAINST THE MOTORCYCLE THEFT AND MOPED CRIME WAVE

London's motorcycling community is coming together this Saturday, 9th September, in a mass protest ride through the capital, to ask for more action in tackling the surge of motorcycle-related crime.

The ride has been organised under the banner #BikersUnited by a number of motorcycling groups and businesses, including the iconic Ace Cafe and a union representing London's food and courier delivery riders. The protest takes place in the same week that a London couple with a 10-month-old baby was attacked by knife-wielding muggers on a moped. The thieves threatened the baby with a large knife before riding away with a number of items.

Tim Fawthrop, the Greater London Representative of the Motorcycle Action Group, said, "On average, 65 bikes are stolen in London per day, sometimes in bike-jackings and often in broad daylight, with nobody stepping in to stop the thefts. Acid is being thrown at bikers and knives are often used. We need the authorities not just to recognise the problem but take more active measures to deal with it."

Jabed Hussain was attacked with acid when five delivery riders across North London were attacked for their scooters in a single evening. He has yet to return to work after the attack. Speaking on behalf of the newly formed Scooter Workers Union, co-organisers of the ride, he said, "Nobody feels safe riding in London and it's time to say enough is enough."

A year ago Ricky Hayden was attacked by machete wielding criminals who stole his motorbike. He subsequently died from his injuries. The Metropolitan Police have admitted there is a problem with nearly 50,000 motorcycle-related crimes being reported in the last year. London's motorcycling community is demanding that police are given enough resources to deal with an increase in motorcycle related crime of 41% in the last recorded year. They say it should be made easier for police to pursue motorcycle-riding offenders.

Anthony Van Someren, who runs a motorcycle-themed restaurant in Shoreditch, said "Not all of our customers are bikers but the subject on everyone's lips is the bike crime situation. I don't know whether it's had an effect on tourism yet, but London's reputation for bike crime and street muggings is spreading."

The protest ride will start at 10.30 am in Regent's Park before proceeding to Parliament Square and then heading east. The route taken will ride through some of the areas most affected by motorcycle theft and moped-enabled crime.

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