

= 2000 UEFA Cup Final riots =

The 2000 UEFA Cup Final Riots , also known as the Battle of Copenhagen , were a series of riots in City Hall Square in Copenhagen , Denmark , between fans of English football team Arsenal and Turkish side Galatasaray around the 2000 UEFA Cup Final on 17 May 2000 . The scuffles , in which four people were stabbed , also involved fans from other clubs and were viewed by the media as part of a retaliation for the killing of two Leeds United fans by Galatasaray supporters the month before .

The events of the day started early in the morning when skirmishes broke out in a bar , which led to an Arsenal fan being stabbed . Later in the day , Galatasaray fans occupied City Hall Square before heading towards Arsenal fans in bars nearby . The Galatasaray fans were later attacked from behind by members of British hooligan firms seeking revenge for the Istanbul stabbings . Despite deploying 2 @, @ 000 officers to the area and having prior warning of potential trouble , the police were unable to control the riot until they fired tear gas at the rioters . This led to 19 injuries , including 4 stabbings , and 60 arrests with similar events occurring in England and Turkey in the aftermath of the riots .

The riots were condemned by football authorities with threats of expulsion of national football teams from European competition being given out if similar events happened again . The Danish police also were criticized for their handling of the riots .

= = History = =

Arsenal qualified for the final by defeating French club Lens in their semi @-@ final . Galatasaray beat English team Leeds United but their matches were marred by violence : two Leeds United fans were stabbed to death before their semi @-@ final first leg at Galatasaray 's Ali Sami Yen Stadium in Istanbul on 6 April 2000 . The events happened at 22 : 00 in Istanbul 's Taksim Square during a fight between Leeds fans and Galatasaray fans . Leeds fans had been drinking in bars reportedly taunting local people and Turkish police intervened to stop fights breaking out . There were reports that a Galatasaray fan had run to a telephone to call for support when he saw Leeds fans arriving . Galatasaray fans entered the area shortly afterwards which precipitated a fight between the two sets of supporters . This led to the two Leeds fans being stabbed .

It was not clear how the fight started , with reports of it either being started by Leeds fans throwing beer glasses and insulting the Turkish flag , or being started by Galatasaray fans throwing chairs . Police arrested Ali Umit Demir and three other men for the stabbings . Demir was later found guilty of murder and was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment . As a result of the stabbings , Leeds United banned Galatasaray fans from attending the second leg at Elland Road , claiming that the safety of fans could not be guaranteed . The ban was supported by UEFA and only 80 tickets were issued to Galatasaray for officials and representatives of the Turkish government .

The stabbings caused anger throughout the United Kingdom , and subsequently members of Arsenal 's hooligan firms The Herd and The Gooners , wanted to avenge the deaths of the Leeds fans , and telephoned other British hooligan firms , inviting them to join them in Copenhagen to attack Galatasaray fans . It was reported that members of Leeds United 's Leeds United Service Crew and Chelsea 's Chelsea Headhunters , along with hooligans supporting Rangers , Cardiff City and Swansea City all travelled to Denmark to join Arsenal fans in attacks on Galatasaray fans . This led to the final being considered " high risk " ; 2 @, @ 000 members of the Danish police were assigned to the game , with assistance from members of British and Turkish police forces .

= = Events = =

On the Wednesday at 1 : 00 , Galatasaray fans attacked a bar in Strøget in Copenhagen , where some Arsenal fans were located . The Arsenal fans left the club to confront the Galatasaray fans , which led to a fight lasting for an hour before riot police managed to control it and arrested 4 Britons and 4 Turks . In the fight , Paul Dineen , an Arsenal fan , was stabbed , leading to Arsenal offering

fans refunds if they did not want to fly to the game . Dineen was released from hospital later in the day and attended the match as a guest of the Arsenal directors .

Throughout the day large numbers of fans , both English and Turkish , were seen throughout the city and at the airport . Later , large numbers of Galatasaray fans congregated in Copenhagen 's City Hall Square , raising the Turkish flag in the square . Arsenal fans congregated in nearby bars . Galatasaray fans attempted to provoke the Arsenal fans in the bars , and the two sides began chanting at each other until bottles were thrown from both sides around 16 : 00 . The Danish police then moved in to separate the fans , and moved the Galatasaray fans back towards the square .

Then , in a calculated attack , approximately 500 Arsenal fans attacked from the main road behind the Galatasaray fans . This caused a severe riot in the city square , with several restaurant facilities used by fans to fight each other , with iron bars and knives also being used . This lasted 20 minutes before the Danish police attempted to break up the melee with dogs and tear gas . The violence , which included fans from other English clubs and Turks living in Denmark , lasted for 45 minutes . There were further clashes at the airport the day after the game .

At Parken Stadium , where the final was to be played , the police erected iron fencing outside to separate the Arsenal and Galatasaray fans as a precaution . UEFA also requested that fences be put up around the perimeter of the pitch . The riots did not spread to the stadium , although there was an attempt to pull down the fences by fans heading towards the Arsenal area of the stadium before police stopped them .

After the match , which Galatasaray won 4 ? 1 on penalties , approximately 300 Arsenal fans in the Finsbury Park area of Islington in London attacked Turkish restaurants and businesses , with bottles being used to break windows . They then broke into an apartment building to threaten Kosovan refugees with a knife , mistakenly believing them to be Turkish . Six people were arrested and three Metropolitan Police officers were injured . In Turkey , nine people were accidentally shot and injured by Galatasaray fans firing guns in celebration despite police warning them not to .

= = Injuries and arrests = =

In all , four people were stabbed during the riots : two English , one Turkish and one Dutch fan . A Danish police officer and a Turkish cameraman were also injured in the riots . In total , nineteen people were injured and sixty people were arrested , with 15 of the arrested being subsequently banned from attending Euro 2000 . Nineteen of the arrested were British , thirty @-@ six were Turkish and the rest of the arrested included people from Sweden , Germany and the Netherlands . The British fans were later released without charge but were forbidden from returning to Denmark . The rest were fined an equivalent of \$ 500 and banned from Denmark for a year .

= = Aftermath = =

The day after the riots , the executive director of the Football Association , David Davies , issued an apology for the violence . The Copenhagen riots followed a long line of similar events involving English football fans , and in June , UEFA 's executive committee listed the Heysel Stadium disaster , disorders in Charleroi and Brussels , the killing of the two Leeds fans in Istanbul , and the Copenhagen riots and warned the British government that if there was any more rioting then England would be expelled from Euro 2000 . In response , Prime Minister Tony Blair stated , " Hopefully this threat will bring to their senses anyone tempted to continue the mindless thuggery that had brought such shame to the country . " The Prime Minister of Turkey , Bulent Ecevit also made a call for fans to avoid violence after the riots , stating " Sports should be an initiative for friendship , not for fighting " . In August 2000 , Arsenal banned thirty @-@ seven people involved in the Copenhagen riot from Arsenal 's Highbury stadium . Leeds United also banned three of their fans from Elland Road after they had been identified in pictures of the riots .

In the United Kingdom , Arsenal fans were originally blamed for the violence as the police had fixed blame on them . In Turkey , the media portrayed Galatasaray fans as acting in self @-@ defence , with criticism directed at the British fans for allegedly attacking members of the press . However ,

there were conflicting reports , with claims that some Galatasaray fans were instigating some of the violence . Later on , British media blame also transferred towards Galatasaray fans .

The Danish police were also criticised for their handling of the riots . Their policing of City Hall Square in the days running up to the final was described as " non @-@ existent " by Dineen . It was noted by Turkish newspaper , Radikal that cannabis was being freely traded in the city square during the time before the riots , and the police did nothing about it . Arsenal fans also criticised the police , claiming that they had been slow to intervene and were " too soft " on the hooligans . It was claimed that the police failed to control the riots , and that they had been undermanned and outmanoeuvred , to which Mogens Lauridsen , the police chief in Copenhagen admitted that the police had been " under @-@ prepared " . This came after Arsenal had warned the police before the final that there could be hooligans travelling to Copenhagen .

In the United Kingdom , the Daily Mirror newspaper printed pictures of Arsenal fans alleged to have been part of the violence . It later arose that the majority of the people in the photos were either not involved or had been acting in self @-@ defence . The photos led to some postmen working for Royal Mail losing their jobs because they had been seen in the photos and in television coverage , even though they had not been arrested . Michael Doherty , the chairman of the Communication Workers Union , and his brother Tom took Royal Mail to an Employment Tribunal for unfair dismissal claiming they had been acting in self @-@ defence . In 2001 , the tribunal ruled in their favour , and ordered Royal Mail to reinstate them . In 2012 , the editor of the Daily Mirror at the time , Piers Morgan apologised for printing the pictures .

In 2013 , Arsenal invited Galatasaray to compete at their annual Emirates Cup tournament . Some Arsenal fans reacted negatively to the news , claiming that there was still bad blood between the two sets of supporters and were concerned that there would be a resumption of hostilities between them .