



CARGO SHIPS ATTACKED IN THE GULF



AI conceptual image

based on <https://news.sky.com/story/dark-ships-and-shadow-fleets-what-is-crossing-closed-strait-of-hormuz-13517746>

By Adam Parker, OSINT editor and Freya Gibson, junior OSINT producer

Ships ablaze and vessels “going dark”: traffic through the Strait of Hormuz

What ships are still moving through the “closed” Strait of Hormuz?

By analysing vessel tracking data, maritime intelligence and verified video evidence, Sky News’ Data & Forensics team has been able to identify ships that continue to pass through the Strait of Hormuz while Iran increases its control over the crucial shipping route.

Iran’s decision to close the strait has almost halted traffic through the 24-mile-wide waterway. In recent days, only a small number of vessels have attempted the passage. Many of those ships have disabled their tracking signals or are believed to belong to so-called “shadow fleets”.

“They cannot physically seal off a channel of that size, but the threat to shipping is clearly there,” said Richard Meade, editor-in-chief of maritime risk analysis firm Lloyd’s List Intelligence.

Meade noted that Iran has previously demonstrated a willingness to use a variety of weapons in the region, including ballistic missiles as well as aerial and sea-based drones.

Which vessels are still passing through?

Although few ships appear on tracking systems, the true number of crossings is likely higher. Some vessels deliberately switch off their Automatic Identification System (AIS), a tactic known as “going dark”.

Tracking data, for example, shows the bulk carrier Rozana disappearing from monitoring systems before reappearing after

it had already passed through the Strait of Hormuz. The missing portion of the route appears as a dashed line in tracking records.

According to marine analytics company IMF Portwatch, roughly 30,000 ships normally transit the strait each year, equivalent to about 82 ships per day.

Among the vessels confirmed to have crossed recently are ships linked to Iran, China and Russia, as well as vessels registered in Greece, India, the United Arab Emirates and Singapore.

Marine tracking data from Kpler indicates that five ships managed by the Greek company Dynacom have also passed through the strait since the conflict began.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has called on shipping companies to continue operating in the region, urging owners to

“show some guts”.

Shadow fleet vessels dominate crossings

Tankers belonging to so-called shadow fleets now account for the majority of crossings, according to Lloyd’s List Intelligence.

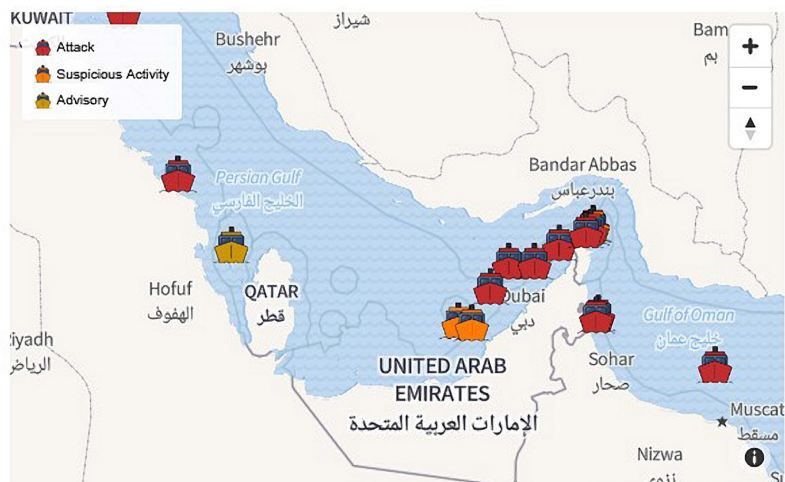
Their analysis found that eight of the 13 large oil and gas carriers that passed through the strait between 2 and 9 March were part of this shadow network.

A tanker is generally classified as part of the shadow fleet if it transports sanctioned oil cargo originating from Iran, Russia or Venezuela.

Ships targeted in attacks

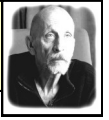
Since Iran restricted movement through the strait, 13 vessels in or near the waterway have been attacked, according to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

On 1 March, four ships were struck in incidents that left three people dead and



SOURCE: United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Centre

DATA X FORENSICS



several others injured.

Two additional vessels were attacked on 3 March, followed by at least one reported attack each day until 7 March.

Although incidents briefly stopped, attacks resumed on 10 March, with three more reported the following day.

United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) says 17 security incidents affecting vessels were recorded between 28 February and 11 March across the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman.

The ships involved fly the flags of several countries, including the United States, the Marshall Islands, Gibraltar, the United Arab Emirates, the Bahamas, Panama and India.

Example attacks

On 4 March, a container ship flying the Maltese flag attempted to pass through the strait but was hit by a projectile near the midpoint of the channel.

Tracking data shows the vessel Safeen Prestige coming to a halt shortly afterwards. The strike triggered a fire in the engine room and forced the crew to abandon the ship.

Sky News has also verified CCTV footage of another attack on the same day. A vessel managed by a US company, the Sonangol

Namibe, was targeted by an unmanned drone boat approximately 30 nautical miles southeast of Kuwait's coast.

According to UKMTO, the incident resulted in an oil spill.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has warned that any US, Israeli or European ship identified in the strait "will certainly be struck".

Surge in GPS interference

The region has also experienced a dramatic increase in GPS signal interference, affecting maritime navigation systems.

Ship tracking maps show hundreds of vessels suddenly shifting positions or clustering unrealistically in small areas — a clear sign of GPS jamming.

This type of interference disrupts navigation signals and can cause ships to transmit inaccurate location data.

It remains unclear who is responsible for the jamming. Analysts say the disruption could originate from Iran, but it may also involve other actors, including vessels attempting to conceal their movements or counter perceived threats. This makes it difficult to attribute the interference to a single source.

Impact on global shipping routes

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz

is also affecting global container shipping.

Two of the world's largest shipping companies — Maersk and Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) — together account for nearly 30% of global container shipping capacity. Both companies have suspended operations to the Middle East.

Maersk said the move was taken "as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of our personnel and vessels".

Tracking data from MarineTraffic shows the container ship Maersk Cincinnati changing course to avoid the strait.

On 2 March, the vessel made an almost complete U-turn at around 14:00 UTC and gradually moved away from the area. By 4 March it had returned to the Port of Salalah in Oman before later heading toward the Gulf of Kutch, where it appeared to be heavily loaded.

According to Meade, several ships are now reversing course after receiving new instructions.

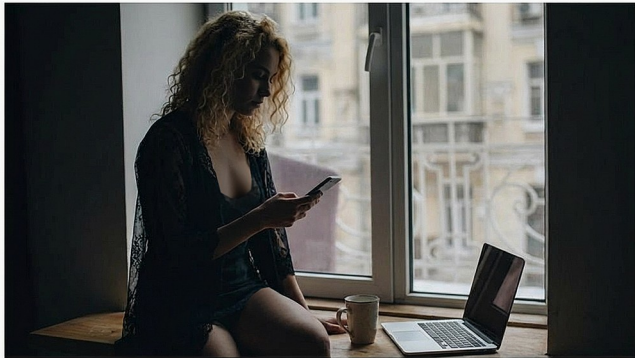
"We're seeing a number of vessels turning around," he said. "That may work for ships heading toward the Gulf, but those already inside it are effectively trapped."

based on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq571q9gd4lo>

By Chris Vallance, Senior technology reporter

The low-paid workers behind the OnlyFans boom

A woman based in the Philippines has described the emotional toll of earning less than \$2 per hour while pretending to be highly paid OnlyFans models in online conversations with subscribers.



OnlyFans is a platform that connects creators who post adult content with paying subscribers who can access photos, videos and direct messaging through a monthly fee. While some well-known creators make substantial incomes from the site, the task of chatting with fans and persuading them to purchase additional content is often outsourced to low-paid workers hired through third-party agencies.

The BBC spoke with one such worker. Labour groups representing these employees — often referred to as "chatters" — say the work is largely unregulated and raises concerns about labour conditions.

OnlyFans reported \$7.2bn (£5.3bn) in revenue in 2024, but declined to comment on

the issue. Its terms state that the company's contractual relationship is with the content creator, not with any staff or agencies hired to manage communications.

"It's not pleasant"

The worker, whose identity has been withheld for safety reasons, said she initially accepted the job to help support her family during a difficult financial period.

She worked eight-hour shifts, five days a week, earning under \$2 an hour, while being required to generate hundreds of dollars in sales of photos and videos during each shift. Some of the most successful creators on the platform reportedly make millions of dollars every month, though the woman said her role was simply to manage conversations and encourage purchases.

In a later role with a different agency she received slightly better pay and conditions, but still earned less than \$4 an hour.

She explained that she understood beforehand the job would involve explicit conversations with users, yet the reality still proved uncomfortable.

"You end up having several conversations at the same time," she said. "It can happen multiple times in an hour."

Many of the subscribers she interacted with seemed friendly but lonely, which she said made the experience feel sad — particularly because they believed they were speaking to the model

herself.

The deception also weighed on her.

"Technically I'm scamming them," she said. "I'm sending the photos and videos, but my focus is just making the sale."

The use of paid chat operators has led to legal complaints against OnlyFans and agencies working with creators. Some users argue the practice is misleading, although legal challenges so far have not been successful.

The woman also said that while she could tolerate many unusual requests from subscribers, certain interactions were more difficult.

"There are days when you really ask yourself what you're doing," she said. "Sometimes it really takes a toll."

Reflecting on her low pay, she described accepting the job for under \$2 an hour as "not her finest moment".

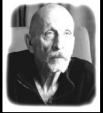
"It makes you question yourself — even your own sense of morality," she said. "It's heartbreaking, especially knowing the agency earns much more."

Concerns about safety and regulation

The worker also worried about potential legal risks, since anti-pornography laws in the Philippines are relatively strict.

The BPO Industry Employees' Network (BIEN), an independent union representing





outsourced service workers in the country, says the biggest concern is the lack of clear regulation surrounding this kind of digital work.

BIEN president Mylene Cabalona told the BBC that workers may be exposed to harmful or disturbing content without clear protections in place.

“The industry lacks strong safeguards regarding safety, accountability and worker protection,” she said.

However, she acknowledged that outsourced online roles — including chat moderation — can still provide opportunities for people to earn income from home while working for international clients.

“These jobs may offer higher earning potential than some local entry-level work and allow employees to build digital skills,” Cabalona added

based on <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/map-shows-every-publicly-listed-113040265.html>
Lynda Moyo & Callum Cuddeford

New interactive map highlights missing people across the UK (click the link above to see the map!)

A newly launched live and interactive map is displaying every publicly listed missing person in the UK, as families continue to appeal for the public not to forget their loved ones.

The project forms part of the Mirror’s “Missed” campaign, created in partnership with the charity Missing People. The initiative aims to raise awareness of the approximately 170,000 individuals reported missing in the UK each year, while also drawing attention to long-term cases that remain unresolved.


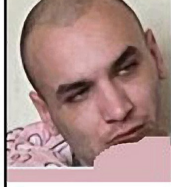






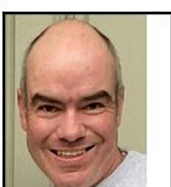



People who disappear come from all walks of life. Missing persons cases involve individuals of different ages, cultures, ethnicities, professions and socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as people facing physical or mental health challenges. Although some cases receive widespread media attention and stay in the public eye, many others quickly fade from public awareness — something families say never happens for them.

The online map allows users to zoom into specific locations and view active cases nearby. By clicking on a case, users can see photographs, names, ages and the length of time a person has been missing. It also includes options to report potential sightings or share information through social media.

At present, the map lists 98 missing person cases in the London area, including 59 in central London and 22 in east London.

The Mirror says the campaign reflects how awareness methods have changed in the digital age.

“In the past, missing people’s photos were printed on milk cartons,” the publication explains. “Today we are more connected than ever through technology and social media, and we want to use that connectivity to help share the faces of those who are missing. Every missing person — regardless of their background or circumstances — is

 <p>Adam Ming North West</p> <p>Download poster</p>	 <p>Jack Smith West Midlands</p> <p>Download poster</p>	 <p>Alexander James Flannagan East of England</p> <p>Download poster</p>	 <p>Paul Thompson North East</p> <p>Download poster</p>
 <p>Mark Jenkinson North West</p> <p>Download poster</p>	 <p>Mahdi Abdillahi Yorkshire and Humberside</p> <p>Download poster</p>	 <p>Daniel Hives North West</p> <p>Download poster</p>	 <p>Fatin Alshemeri North West</p> <p>Download poster</p>
 <p>John Keaveney Eire</p>	 <p>Ruairi Aherne Eire</p> <p>Download poster</p>	 <p>David McCallum Scotland</p> <p>Download poster</p>	 <p>Jason Maridadi Yorkshire and Humberside</p> <p>Download poster</p>

From- <https://www.missingpeople.org.uk/appeal-search>

someone’s loved one. They are always missed.”

“I stayed home in case he came back”

One of the cases highlighted by the campaign is that of Alexander Soley, who disappeared in 2008 after leaving a friend’s house in North London.

His mother, Nerissa Tivy, says that more than a decade later she still feels the pain of his disappearance every day.

Alexander was 16 years old, just two days away from his 17th birthday, when he went missing on 4 August 2008. According to his mother, a formal missing person investigation was not launched until two years later.

Speaking to the Sunday Mirror, Nerissa said she spent long periods staying inside her home in case her son returned.

“I didn’t leave the house for a long time in

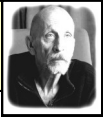
case he knocked on the door,” she said. Alexander would now be 33 years old, she added, and has missed many important family milestones.

“He doesn’t even know he has nieces and nephews. My eldest grandchild, Harley, was born the year he disappeared.”

At the time he vanished, Alexander had very little money and had not taken a bag or spare clothes, suggesting he had not intended to run away. However, his mother says police initially believed he had left voluntarily because he was due to attend court over a cannabis possession charge.

Six months after she reported him missing, officers even arrived at her home looking to arrest him, she said.

Alexander had been a student at City and Islington College, studying accountancy after



attending Islington Arts and Media School. Friends described him as a sports-loving teenager who was good at maths and hoped to pursue a career as an accountant.

His father, Christopher, died in 2014 without ever discovering what happened to his son.

Possible connections explored

A recent Channel 5 podcast titled "Where Is Alex?" examined the case and revealed that one of Alexander's close friends at the time of his disappearance later became involved in running a county lines drug operation. That individual was imprisoned in 2019.

The podcast also included comments from former Metropolitan Police detective chief inspector Mick Neville, who suggested Alexander's disappearance might potentially be linked to that of Andrew Gosden, a teenager who went missing in 2007.

Despite the years that have passed, Nerissa says she continues to think about her son constantly.

"People might look at me and think I seem cheerful or carefree," she said. "But the truth is, I miss my son Alexander all the time."

Raising awareness for every missing person Through its Missed campaign, the Mirror aims to use its platform to highlight missing people whose cases may not receive widespread public attention.

Working with the charity Missing People, the campaign's interactive map seeks to ensure that each case remains visible and that families know their loved ones have not been forgotten.

Because, as the campaign emphasises, every missing person — regardless of their circumstances — is someone who is loved and remembered.

based on <https://metro.co.uk/2026/03/11/labour-mp-reveals-waited-1-000-days-rape-case-reach-court-27361139/>

by Sam Corbishley

Labour MP says she waited more than 1,000 days for rape case to reach trial

A Labour MP has publicly spoken about being raped, revealing that it took over 1,000 days for her case to reach court, as she criticised the government for using survivors' experiences to justify proposed changes to the justice system.

Charlotte Nichols, the MP for Warrington North, chose to waive her anonymity while speaking in Parliament, arguing that ministers were using the experiences of victims to push forward plans that could limit the use of jury trials.

Nichols said that instead of tackling the significant backlog of cases in the courts, the government had framed the debate in a way that set victims and defendants against one another, which she described as harmful. Under the proposed Courts and Tribunals Bill, some criminal cases that would likely result in sentences of three years or less could be decided by a single Crown Court judge rather than a jury. The proposals would also allow magistrates' courts to handle offences carrying potential sentences of up to two years.



During the parliamentary debate on the legislation, Nichols shared details of her own experience for the first time. She told MPs that it took 1,088 days for her rape case to come to trial, after which the accused was acquitted.

In an emotional address to the House of Commons, she described the lengthy wait as deeply painful.

"I waited 1,088 days to go to court," she said, explaining that each day was extremely difficult. She added that being in public life meant the psychological impact of the trauma played out under public scrutiny. Nichols also spoke about the mental health challenges she experienced following the assault, including an incident that led to her being sectioned for her own safety — something she said still attracts abuse on social media.

However, she argued that personal stories like hers were being used in the current political debate in ways she found troubling.

She told MPs that some had suggested those who criticise the bill must not care about rape victims or had never experienced sexual violence themselves. Nichols said that assumption was incorrect in her case.

Instead, she explained that her own experience of the criminal justice system had made her determined to ensure reforms genuinely improve outcomes for victims.

Having endured what she described as the failures of a "broken" justice system, she said she believes reforms should focus on measures that meaningfully deliver justice rather than being used as political arguments.

Nichols added that there are many ways the government could better support survivors of rape that do not involve using their experiences to justify wider reforms that are not directly related to their cases. Campaign highlighting violence against

women

In November 2024, Metro launched This Is Not Right, a campaign aimed at raising awareness of violence against women and girls.

Working alongside Women's Aid, the initiative seeks to draw attention to what campaigners describe as a national crisis and highlight the scale of the problem across the UK.

Nichols noted that organisations such as Rape Crisis England and Wales have already outlined a number of practical measures to support survivors. Their report Living in Limbo calls for five key actions to improve the system for victims.

She urged ministers not to claim that the proposed legislation would deliver justice for rape survivors unless it genuinely leads to meaningful improvements.

Bill passes second reading in the Commons

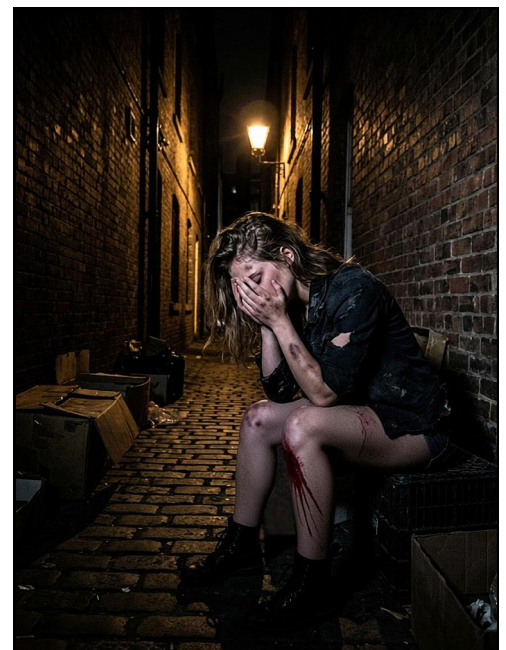
The Courts and Tribunals Bill passed its second reading in the House of Commons with 304 MPs voting in favour and 203 against, giving the government a majority of 101.

According to parliamentary records, ten Labour MPs voted against the bill, while around 90 did not record a vote.

Opening the debate, Foreign Secretary David Lammy warned MPs about the scale of the growing court backlog, saying Parliament faced a "stark choice".

He argued that delays in the system were causing serious harm.

"Victims are being worn down," he said, adding that some people abandon cases before they reach trial, allowing offenders to remain free and potentially commit further crimes.



Lammy said the government was attempting to address the crisis through investment, modernisation and reforms to the justice system.

He also described the proposals as "progressive" and warned that without action



the number of pending cases could reach 200,000 within the next decade.

Nichols, however, maintained that the way the government had framed the issue risked setting survivors and defendants against each other, which she said was damaging to the wider debate.

Calls for structural reform

Closing the debate, justice minister Sarah Sackman said there was broad agreement across Parliament that the growing backlog of cases represents a serious injustice.

She argued that deeper structural reforms were necessary, pointing out that Crown Court trials now take twice as long as they did twenty years ago.

According to Sackman, the system is struggling to cope with demand.

She said the government believed modernising the courts, alongside additional investment, would help restore public confidence in the justice system and ensure victims receive the support and justice they deserve.

Victims of sexual assault and rape are being "failed by the system" as court backlogs reach a record high, a charity has said.

The Salford Survivor Project said the long delays for cases to go to trial were having a serious impact on victims' mental health.

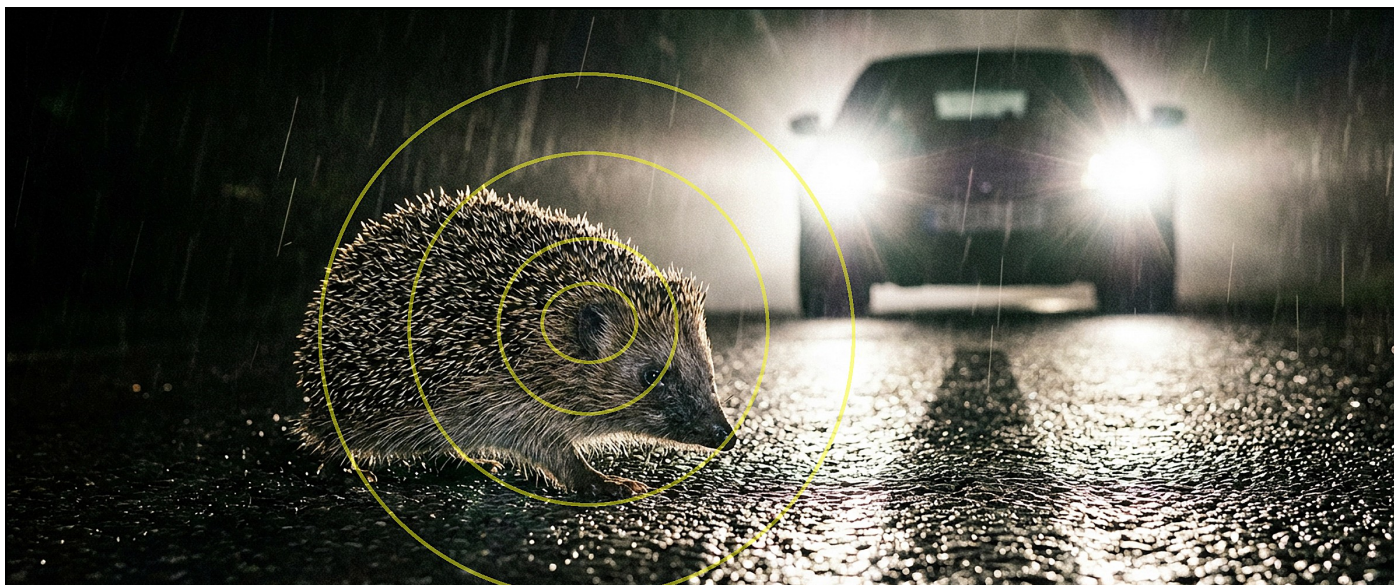
It comes as two victims shared their torment

over their continued wait to see if their cases would go to court.

The Ministry of Justice said the current government inherited a record and rising courts backlog and a plan was in place to tackle this.

According to the latest data released by the Ministry of Justice in March, the number of sexual offence cases waiting to go through the crown courts in the north-west of England had more than tripled between 2019 and the end of 2024.

At the end of last year, there were 1,790 open sexual offence cases in the North West - of which 762 were rape cases.



based on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8d52n0dnzro>

By Georgina Rannard, Science reporter

Hedgehogs can hear sounds far beyond human range, scientists discover

Scientists have discovered that hedgehogs can detect sounds at frequencies far higher than humans are able to hear.

The finding suggests the animals may be communicating using noises that people cannot perceive, rather than relying only on the snuffles, grunts and snorts typically associated with them.

Researchers say the discovery could have important implications for protecting hedgehogs, whose populations are declining across the UK and much of Europe.

Dr Sophie Rasmussen from the University of Oxford described the finding as a potential "game-changer". Understanding the animals' hearing abilities could help scientists reduce stress caused by certain sounds in rescue centres or design audio deterrents to keep hedgehogs away from dangerous equipment such as cars, lawnmowers or strimmers.

Rasmussen explained that the research began with an idea to create sound-based repellents that could protect hedgehogs.

"Because hedgehog numbers are falling across Europe, I wanted to see if it might be

possible to develop targeted sound deterrents," she said. "To do that, we first needed to understand their hearing range." Working alongside bioacoustics specialists, Rasmussen and her colleagues created a series of electronic sounds – including pulses and beeps – which were played to anaesthetised hedgehogs being cared for in rescue centres.

The scientists monitored the animals' brain activity to determine which frequencies they could detect.

The results surprised the researchers. "We found that hedgehogs can hear frequencies as high as 85 kilohertz," Rasmussen said.

For comparison, the upper limit of human hearing is around 20 kilohertz. Sounds above that level are classed as ultrasound. Cats can hear frequencies up to roughly 45 kilohertz, while dogs can detect sounds of around 65 kilohertz.

Using a three-dimensional model of a hedgehog's ear, the team discovered the animal possesses a particularly stiff chain of middle-ear bones that efficiently transmits very high-pitched sounds. The structure works in a similar way to the hearing mechanisms found in bats that use echolocation.

This capability could allow scientists to develop sound deterrents that would only be

audible to hedgehogs.

"That means we could potentially create targeted audio repellents that wouldn't affect humans or household pets," Rasmussen said.

One possible application would be reducing the number of hedgehogs killed on roads. Thousands are believed to die in vehicle collisions each year across the UK and Europe, and the species is currently listed as near threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Rasmussen hopes future research could explore whether vehicles, lawnmowers or gardening equipment might be fitted with devices that emit sounds hedgehogs would avoid.

Some vehicles already use ultrasonic devices designed to deter larger animals such as deer. According to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), ultrasonic whistles are already widely available for drivers to purchase.

However, SMMT chief executive Mike Hawes said further research would be needed to determine whether such devices would effectively protect hedgehogs.

Researchers also want to better understand which specific types of sounds might deter the animals.

"Would a scream frighten them, or would



The truth is here, not out there!

THE RAGGED-RAG

<http://ragged-rag.net>

something like a pulsating tone work better?" Rasmussen said. Any solution would need to be carefully designed so that hedgehogs are not driven away from gardens, which have become an increasingly important refuge as their natural habitats decline. Every year thousands of injured or sick hedgehogs are taken to wildlife rescue centres in the UK. Rasmussen says the new research also helps reveal more about the animals' sensory world. Rescue centres may unknowingly expose hedgehogs to ultrasonic sounds from machinery or electronic equipment that humans cannot hear but could be stressful for the animals.

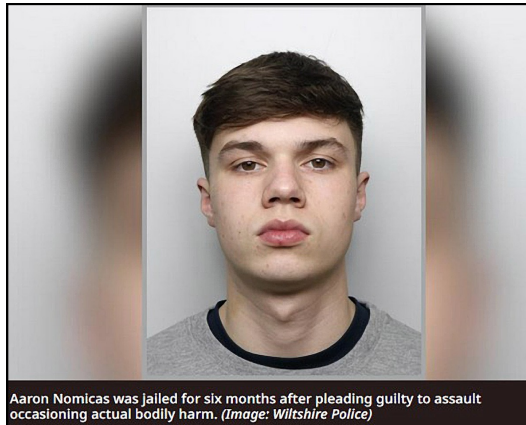
The discovery also raises the possibility that hedgehogs may communicate with one another using high-frequency sounds. "When hedgehogs encounter each other, you can see that they are interacting," Rasmussen said. "We usually assume it's just through smell or other signals." "But it's possible they're actually making noises to one another all the time — we just can't hear them."

The research has been published in the journal *Biology Letters*.

based on <https://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/25921923.salisbury-man-jailed-kicking-homeless-woman-unprovoked/>
By Frankie Crew, Reporter

Wiltshire man jailed for kicking homeless woman unprovoked

A man from Wiltshire has been sentenced to six months in prison after he kicked a homeless woman in the head during an unprovoked assault in Salisbury. Aaron Nomicas, 20, from Larkhill near Salisbury, appeared before Salisbury Magistrates' Court on Friday, 6 March. He admitted a charge of assault causing actual bodily harm and was handed a six-month



Aaron Nomicas was jailed for six months after pleading guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm. (Image: Wiltshire Police)

custodial sentence. The incident took place at around 3am on 17 January in Market Walk in Salisbury city centre. Nomicas was walking through the area when he suddenly approached the victim — a homeless woman in her 50s — and kicked her in the head while she was lying in the walkway. The woman, who had no connection to Nomicas, sustained injuries to her face, although they are not believed to be life-changing. After the assault, the people who were with Nomicas had to hold him back when the victim confronted him and called him a coward. Police were alerted to the incident later that day. Officers quickly launched an investigation, using CCTV footage from around the city centre to identify the suspect. Nomicas was subsequently located and arrested. Sergeant Joshua Bliss of South CID said the case highlighted the vulnerability of the victim. He explained that the woman had been sitting in the city centre with her dog, Lance, simply trying to stay warm when the attack happened. Because of her circumstances, she

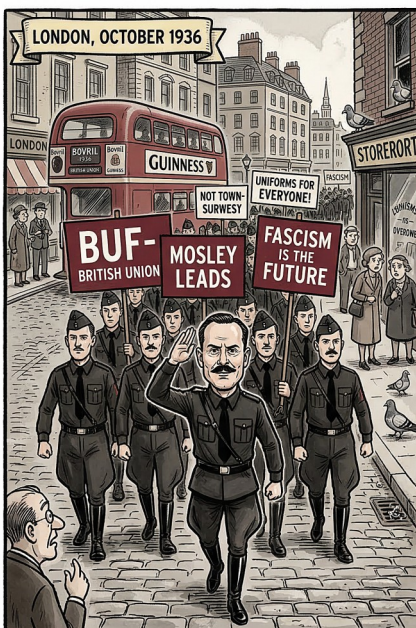
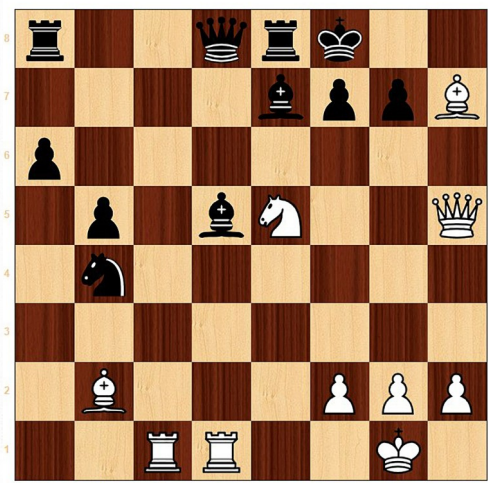
had little ability to defend herself or escape. According to Sgt Bliss, detectives and neighbourhood officers were able to identify and track down the suspect within two hours of beginning their enquiries. He added that the victim had described the attacker as a coward — a view shared by officers who later reviewed the CCTV footage showing the assault. Sgt Bliss said the outcome in court should serve as a warning that those who target vulnerable members of the community will be pursued and brought before the courts

In honour of women's day

Jane Goodall, a renowned primatologist, zoologist, and conservationist, passed away at the age of 91. Throughout her life, Goodall made groundbreaking discoveries in ethology, revolutionizing science and advocating for the protection of the natural world. She spent years observing chimpanzees in Africa, uncovering both their violent and gentle behaviours, and forming strong bonds with them. Goodall's work highlighted the similarities between humans and chimpanzees, showing their capacity for love, violence, and compassion. She emphasized the importance of conservation and reforestation to ensure a sustainable planet for future generations. Goodall's legacy is one of hope and dedication to nature, inspiring others to continue her important work.



#56 - White mates in 3



LONDON, 1936 - The BUF March



LONDON, 2026 - The Al Quds March

A TALE OF TWO MARCHES: LONDON STREETS, DIFFERENT SLOGANS, SAME CONTROVERSIES