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The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism is located in the Gilman Building, Tel Aviv University. Its extensive database monitors antisemitism and racism throughout the world, serving researchers and community, governmental and organizational workers in Israel and abroad, as well as human rights organizations and groups fighting racism.

The Institute works in cooperation with the World Jewish Congress (WJC), the umbrella organization of Jewish communities in 80 countries around the world. The WJC was headed in 2006 by President Edgar Bronfman and Secretary-General Stephen E. Herbits. The Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism, an Israeli state organization, collaborates with the Institute in data collection.

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Foreword

The annual publication *Antisemitism Worldwide* presents an analysis of antisemitism and racism around the world. Academic articles and book reviews, published formerly on a biennial basis in this journal, now appear in *Moreshet, Journal for the Study of the Holocaust and Antisemitism* (formerly, *Yalkut Moreshet*), issued jointly by the Stephen Roth Institute, the Moreshet Mordechai Anielewicz Memorial Center for Holocaust Studies and Research, and the Yale Initiative for the Interdisciplinary Study of Antisemitism.

The present volume consists of two parts: a general analysis of the year in review, specifically focusing on the impact of the Second Lebanon War on the level of antisemitism; and a country-by-country survey, divided according to region, since each part of the world has its own characteristic problems in addition to those common to all countries. The survey contains synopses of more detailed reports that appear on our website, <http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/CR.htm>. It provides information on extremist movements, antisemitic activities, attitudes toward the Nazi period and the Holocaust, and the struggle against antisemitism and racism. Countries where there was no evidence of antisemitism in 2006, or where it was not reported, are not included. The survey describes the phenomenon of antisemitism in the various countries without delving into their history, and focuses only on the situation in 2006. A series of graphs in the appendices providing statistical data complements the picture for 2006.

Categorization of antisemitic activities sometimes varies from one source to another. Our classification scheme divides these activities into: a) all expressions and modes of propaganda, most notably Holocaust denial, b) violent acts without the use of a weapon, and c) attacks using violent means. It should be emphasized that the survey is based on reported cases only, and that the data presented in the appendices include only violent attacks intended to cause loss of life and cases of actual damage to property. In fact, many more hundreds of minor incidents, such as graffiti, slogans and swastikas painted on walls, as well as personal insults and harassment, were also registered by Jewish communities and individuals. In many cases, it is hard to assess whether the injury or damage was motivated by antisemitism, or was an act of hooliganism, since the identity of the perpetrators is often difficult to establish.

It should be noted that the variety of data and materials coming from different areas entails a diversified approach on the part of the authors

and editors, thus ruling out complete uniformity in the presentation of the contents, especially with regard to names and references.

Israeli, Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, research institutes and individuals supply the relevant data and material, useful contacts, opinions and assessments, and above all the motivation, for combating antisemitism and racism. Thus, the annual review represents an international effort in this regard. We conclude by expressing our deepest gratitude to all the organizations and individuals who have taken part in this undertaking.

GENERAL ANALYSIS

OVERVIEW

A sharp escalation in physical, verbal and visual manifestations of antisemitism was recorded in 2006, marking a peak since 2000. All in all, about 590 cases of violence and vandalism were registered worldwide (compared to 406 in 2005), including major attacks perpetrated with a weapon and intent to kill (19 compared to 15 in 2005) and serious incidents of violence and vandalism aimed at Jewish persons, property and institutions (574 compared to 391 in 2005). It should be noted that the decrease in antisemitic violence between 2004 and 2005 (501 in 2004, the highest number since 2000, versus 406 in 2005) gave rise to cautious hope that a variety of measures taken by national and international bodies against antisemitism had begun to bear fruit. Although the 2006 statistics belie this optimism, the efforts of these organizations continued throughout the year, motivated by their desire to diminish this phenomenon.

Perhaps the most alarming finding that emerges from the 2006 data is the number of physical attacks on Jews – 270 (double the amount compared to 2005 – 132). Such assaults, which took place mostly in schools, at the work place and in streets near Jewish institutions, were usually randomly perpetrated when an opportunity presented itself. While desecration of cemeteries and memorials remained roughly on the same level as in 2005, 50 percent more schools and community centers were attacked, and 94 synagogues were damaged, compared to 56 in 2005.

Assaults on Jewish individuals, including youth and children, constitute an increasing threat. Although once the victims file a complaint they are asked by the police or other authorities to provide details of the perpetrators' identity, this is often hard to establish because of the nature of the attacks, and because extreme rightists as well as Muslims sometimes use identical anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist slogans. However, evidence at the scene of the crime clearly indicates that the proportion of Muslims among the attackers is far higher than their share in the population at large. (Recent estimates point to close to 20 million Muslim immigrants, both legal and illegal, in Central and Western Europe.) While the victims often feel vulnerable and unprotected by state institutions, the perpetrators tend to escape unpunished.

Australia, Canada, the UK and France witnessed the greatest rise in antisemitic violence. Of the 442 cases of all types recorded in Australia (including harassment, intimidation, threats and incitement to kill – 47 percent above the annual average), 50 were violent attacks targeting persons and community facilities. Canada recorded a 13 percent increase

in all categories, and the number of violent cases rose from 44 to 74. In the past Canada enjoyed a low level of antisemitism; however, anti-Jewish feeling has increased steadily in recent years, especially in the French-speaking parts. The year 2006 in the UK marked a nadir in antisemitic manifestations since monitoring began in 1984: an overall increase of 60 percent was registered in the second half of the year, and 37 percent in violent cases, all of which – over 100 – were directed against individuals. France recorded a 24 percent rise in manifestations of all kinds, and a 45 percent increase in violent incidents. Norway became a focus of concern in 2006 due to several planned and actual attacks on persons and synagogues and to the virulence of anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish expressions, which prompted Jewish community leaders to recommend that members avoid wearing Jewish symbols outside the home.

In Belgium the figure for acts of violence doubled, while it remained high in Germany. Antisemitic manifestations occurred on an almost daily basis in Germany, mostly harassment, and the incidence of desecration of cemeteries and particularly of Holocaust monuments there was the highest in Europe. In total, 324 violent cases were recorded in Western Europe. In addition, a host of anti-Israel demonstrations accompanied by antisemitic slogans took place notably in Italy, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

In 2006, South Africa registered the highest number of antisemitic incidents since the commencement of detailed record keeping two decades ago. Antisemitic activities peaked during the period of the Lebanon war and its aftermath. Seventy-nine antisemitic incidents were recorded in 2006, compared to 20 in 2005 and 37 a year before. The number of major incidents of violence and vandalism rose from three in 2005 to 15 in 2006. The Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) reported that the prevalence of strong anti-Israel sentiment within the mainstream South African media and NGO culture, particularly during the war, clearly contributed to a more hostile atmosphere toward Jews and Jewish institutions.

The CIS countries saw an increase from 62 to 76 violent incidents, especially in Ukraine (from 21 to 34). The ten East European countries that recently joined the European Union were required to demonstrate a low level of antisemitism and breaches of other minority rights as a precondition for acceptance – which is ironic, considering that this stipulation was set by West European countries where antisemitism flourishes. However, antisemitism appears to be on the rise in these countries, especially in Hungary, Romania and Poland.

Although most violent acts worldwide were spontaneous, a deliberate murder of a Jew took place in 2006 in the US (in Spain, the victim survived an attempt to kill him), while plans, both terrorist ones against Jewish institutions and those against individuals, were foiled in Norway, Russia, Ukraine and Corsica. It should be noted that premeditated acts have become more difficult to carry out because of stricter police monitoring of extremist groups, border regulations and surveillance in general. Thus, individual spur-of-the moment acts have become more common.

The impact of Middle Eastern events on antisemitism is never clear cut. Although, as in Australia, for instance, the Second Lebanon War was linked directly to the rise in antisemitic violence and rhetoric, this was not the sole or main trigger everywhere: France, Canada and the UK all witnessed a high level of antisemitic manifestations in the first part of 2006, with half the number of cases recorded then; Holland and Belgium also registered some serious incidents during this period, a fact attesting to internal social and political problems no less than the influence of Middle Eastern events. Although the US saw an overall decrease of 12 percent in antisemitic manifestations, some serious assaults and incidents of vandalism were recorded in 2006. Antisemitic acts and expressions in the US demonstrate, in some measure, a desire on the part of the radical, and sometimes liberal, left, as well as the extreme right, to use Middle Eastern events as a weapon against the President Bush administration.

As noted in previous reports, while data on violent cases highlight the picture of antisemitism, analysis of the causes and nature of the incidents, as well as the uncountable numbers of verbal and visual manifestations, complete it. In this regard, two major events marking 2006 account for many antisemitic expressions and for the image of the Jew and the Israeli they enhanced: the efforts invested by Iran to delegitimize Israel by denying the Holocaust, and the Second Lebanon War.

In late 2005 the present Iranian leadership decided to launch a well-planned campaign aimed at denying the Holocaust, with a specific political intention: Once they succeeded in having public opinion makers in Arab countries, and perhaps in the West, question whether the Holocaust indeed took place or at least was not grossly exaggerated, then, what they deem as a major argument for the establishment of the State of Israel would be undermined, and the Iranian president would be depicted as the defender of the Arab and Muslim world against the so-called Zionist threat. Even if the Holocaust took place, argued Ahmadinejad, the Europeans, perpetrators of the Holocaust, should pay for it and not the Palestinians. It is here that Ahmadinejad's claims not

only converge with those of the radical anti-Zionist left but reflect a widening consensus among the European mainstream, which considers Palestinians indirect victims of the Holocaust who have to suffer for the crimes of the Europeans.

Holocaust denial of the Iranian leadership is political in nature, in contrast to the classical, more theoretical denial that flourished in the 1980s and 1990s. Moreover, Iran's destructive intentions have been reinforced and sustained by Western Holocaust deniers, some of whom fled to Tehran in order to avoid trials or verdicts in their respective countries and shared their experience with President Ahmadinejad. The Holocaust caricature contest, themes reiterated in public speeches, and in mid-December 2006, the conference of so-called experts convened on the Holocaust, all attest to this cooperation.

Iranian-style attitudes toward the Holocaust radiate in two directions: first, they are echoed in the recent academic/intellectual anti-American, anti-globalization and post-colonial leftist trend which considers the establishment of the State of Israel a mistake. Such circles, particularly in the West, have their own bone of contention, which is not the Holocaust but rather Israeli policies. Still, the conclusions of both are identical: denying the Jewish people the elementary right of statehood in the land of Israel.

Venezuela, too, is under the sway of Iran. President Hugo Chavez signed an alliance with his "brother, Ahmadinejad," who convinced him that Israel was acting in Lebanon as the Nazis did in Europe. Chavez actively encourages and supports the extreme anti-Israel and anti-Jewish stance of the country's higher echelons, expressed in the official media, including relativization of the Holocaust, and blaming the local community for championing both Israel and Chavez's opponents.

Thus, state-supported antisemitism, which was prevalent until the 1970s in the Soviet Union, and in the Arab and Third World, has been re-introduced openly by Iran and Venezuela, and in an indirect manner, in Russia and Poland. In the Western world, especially, it has been replaced by non-governmental antisemitism, which comes from below. The notion that in the Arab world the level of antisemitic expressions is dictated by the Sunni-Shi'i conflict according to the whim of rulers is complicated by the flood of gory cartoons and virulently anti-Jewish TV series that originate in both moderate and radical Arab states. Since these are a weapon used in the conflict with Israel, the involvement, or at least financing, of the various regimes is sometimes clearly evident.

In addition, Iranian Holocaust denial reinforces an image of Jews and Israelis, whose allegedly sick minds and thirst for money, power and security made them invent this horror story. This stereotype was

confirmed by the events of the Second Lebanon War. The short period of sympathy which Israel enjoyed at the beginning of the war in July 2006 was swiftly reversed after the Qana incident, in which civilians, including children, were killed. The typecast of the Israeli as a killer of children, which Arab propaganda and TV series have fostered in recent years, blended with that of the Jew which has featured in history since the Middle Ages, reaching new heights during and after the war. Indeed, the image of the Jew created over the centuries has not basically changed: however, in each period or context a supposed characteristic is highlighted. During the Lebanon war the political anti-Zionist agenda emphasized the cruel child killer, allegedly the essence of Jews and Israelis, as well as Nazi-like behavior – an analogy that has become virtually an axiom no longer needing any further proof.

Cruelty as a Jewish feature is reflected mainly in caricatures. In today's communication channels, the Internet is the medium that best transmits a visual message. Indeed, a host of cartoons published in newspapers and distributed on the net conveyed an image of such stereotypical vicious, cruel, bloodthirsty, Nazi-like Jewish Israelis, that – and this is the subtext – they have no right to exist. This view was best exemplified in 2006, by the well-known Norwegian author Jostein Gaarder. He attributed current Israeli policies to ancient Jewish scripts, which he claimed, advocated cruelty and revenge against the enemies of the Chosen People, thus implying that such an evil entity would never change (see below for further details). Many similar expressions which appeared in mainstream media channels hence validate British scholar David Hirsch's phrase about the period of the war in 2006: "the summer in which anti-Semitism entered the mainstream."

THE IMPACT OF THE SECOND LEBANON WAR ON THE LEVEL OF ANTISEMITISM

The year 2006 witnessed an escalation in both physical and verbal violence against Jews compared to the previous year, which saw a relative decline in these phenomena. The rise in both physical violence and vandalism as well as antisemitic propaganda observed in various parts of the world, and especially in Western Europe, Australia and Canada, was coupled with the accumulative effect of continuing propaganda against the legitimacy of the existence of Israel as a Jewish state, reinforced by the events of the Second Lebanon War in the period July-August 2006.

WESTERN EUROPE

Violence and Vandalism

While the war in Lebanon was probably the main trigger for the intensification of antisemitic manifestations in most countries of Western Europe, in France a considerable rise which began in late 2005, escalated further in February and March 2006 due to an internal event: the murder of Ilan Halimi, a young French Jew. On 21 January, Halimi, was found naked, hand-cuffed and critically wounded alongside a railway track in the suburb of Saint Genevieve des Bois, 30 kilometers south of Paris, three weeks after he had been kidnapped by a gang in Paris who thought he was “one of these rich Jews.” He died on the way to hospital. To commemorate his memory, 200,000 people demonstrated on 26 February in Paris against racism and antisemitism. However, the murder seemingly inspired hatemongers, generating a clear increase in violent antisemitic manifestations.

The Second Lebanon War incited a second wave of antisemitic manifestations in France. According to the SPCJ (Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive), there was a 24 percent increase in antisemitic manifestations in 2006 compared to 2005 and a 45 percent rise in violent incidents. Our statistics on major acts of violence and vandalism indicate a rise from 72 to 99 incidents, particularly in assault of identifiably Jewish persons, and especially children, in France. In March, for example, Jews were accosted and severely beaten almost daily in public places such as railway stations or in the workplace. The attackers were often gangs who also shouted antisemitic insults. On 3 March, two Jews in Paris were severely beaten in separate incidents, one of them by a gang of five perpetrators. On 26 February, a non-Jewish social worker at a hospital in Schiltigheim, Strasbourg, was beaten by two men who painted “Muhammad” on her stomach and “dirty Jew” on her office wall. In

another serious incident on 13 March, a handicapped Jewish man was attacked in an underground parking lot in Antony and his nose broken. His assailant drew a swastika on his car.

The impact of the Lebanon war on the level of antisemitic manifestations, including violent attacks, was also evident in the UK. Of the 594 incidents recorded by the CST (Community Security Trust) in 2006, 59 percent occurred during the second half of the year. The total for 2006 was the highest ever recorded by the CST (since 1984). The organization registered 112 violent assaults, all against people – also a record – 37 percent more than in 2005. Vandalism of Jewish property rose by 46 percent. According to our database, there were 138 acts of violence and vandalism compared to 90 the previous year, a 50 percent increase. As in France physical attacks on Jewish individuals were the most common form of violence. Our data point to 90 such incidents out of the total figure for violence and vandalism. Violent acts were perpetrated in the streets, near Jewish institutions and in the workplace. In August, for example, two men called a waitress a “dirty Jew” as they passed a kosher restaurant in Golders Green, London, and punched the restaurant manager in the face. In another incident in the same month a Jewish woman, Linda Cohen, was attacked while serving drinks in her north London cafe. Two unidentified men in their twenties entered the cafe, grabbed her, threatened her with a knife and said that they would kill her for being a “stinking dirty Jew.” A Jewish man was punched in the face and an attempt was made to push him onto the train tracks at Leytonstone Underground train station, and in Manchester two visibly Jewish men were attacked by a gang who shouted antisemitic abuse. One of the men was struck several times over the head with a metal bar. In addition, antisemitic insults were often directed at Jews walking in the street or in public places.

In other Western European countries, too, serious violent and vandalistic incidents occurred during the Lebanon war and in its aftermath, although to a lesser extent than in France and the UK. In Italy, for example, 20 Jewish shops in Rome were attacked in early August, their locks filled with glue, shutters nailed and swastikas painted on the walls (see below). In Norway, three men of Middle Eastern appearance shouted antisemitic insults from a car at a visibly Jewish man in Oslo in mid-July, and then assaulted him physically.

Most violent incidents in Western Europe were random events, performed on the spur of the moment. In most cases, the offenders took immediate advantage of an opportunity that presented itself to vent their antisemitic sentiments rather than carried out a premeditated plan. This accounts for the large number of visibly Jewish victims, identifiable to

the perpetrators by their skullcap and traditional clothing. In Belgium, a religious Jewish couple and their baby were attacked in early January on the train to Antwerp. The father, who tried to protect his wife and baby, confronted the attacker who was armed with a knife, sustaining superficial wounds. The number of acts of violence and vandalism in Belgium increased from 9 in 2005 to 16 in 2006. In view of the escalation of assaults on identifiable Jews in the streets of Europe, Gideon Joffe, head of the community in Berlin – where in 2006 antisemitic incidents occurred on a daily basis – proposed ‘a kippa-test’. He suggested that those who wanted to experience what it felt like to be recognized as a Jew in the streets of Berlin should wear a kippa and/or a Star of David. According to Joffe, Jewish pupils were harassed and assaulted by non-Muslims as well as by Muslims.

On 1 December, a group of young people of Middle Eastern appearance attacked a 14-year-old Jewish girl, a pupil at the Lina Morgenstern High School in Berlin-Kreuzberg, as she was on her way home, after weeks of taunting and verbal abuse. She suffered blows to the head and back. As a result, she had to be given a police escort to go to school. In Oslo, following the assault in July (see above) and a spate of extremely anti-Israel, sometimes antisemitic, articles and caricatures during the Lebanon war (see below), the Jewish community recommended that members refrain from wearing a skullcap outside their home or that they cover it under a hat, and not speak Hebrew in public. The year 2006 reportedly witnessed the highest level of verbal harassment and physical attacks against Norwegian Jews since the end of World War II.

Although the perpetrators of antisemitic attacks were mainly young thugs acting spontaneously, in 2006 the threat of terrorism – which unlike street violence can cause a large number of casualties – against Jewish communities in Europe, was alarming. A plot of an organized terrorist group to strike Jewish targets in Europe was revealed in the wake of an incident in Norway on the night of 16 September, during which unknown persons fired from a vehicle at the central synagogue in Oslo, causing damage to the building. Three days later, the police arrested four suspects, who were investigated also for possible involvement in planning to blow up the US and Israeli embassies in the Norwegian capital and to murder the Israeli ambassador. Several days before the attack it was revealed that an al-Qa`ida-linked Algerian terror cell broken up by Italian police in fall 2005 had been conspiring to carry out attacks on targets in Oslo, including the city's main synagogue. Another suspected terrorist attack on a Jewish prayer house occurred on Corsica, where on 1 September a small home-made explosive was found

outside the Bet-Meir synagogue in Bastia. The bomb, made of a gas canister connected to a detonator, failed to explode.

As in previous years, identification of the perpetrators and their motives remained a very difficult task. Most of the offenders were not caught by the police and in many cases the victims could not provide sufficient details about their attacker. The fact that both Islamists and right-wing extremists often use similar slogans, incorporating old antisemitic stereotypes and/or referring to Zionism and Israel, complicates identification of the perpetrator and his motives. Additionally, it is unclear to what extent events in the Middle East have become a trigger affecting not only Arabs and Islamists but extreme right-wingers, as well. The “success” of an antisemitic incident carried out by an Islamist might inspire local right-wing and left-wing activists, and vice versa. In Italy for example the perpetrators who vandalized the 20 Jewish shops in Rome in August described themselves as “armed revolutionary fascists against the Zionist economy.”

Although the percentage of Arab and Muslim perpetrators can not be established accurately, it is clear that they are more highly represented than in the European population as a whole. Reports from the UK indicate that there is growing involvement of immigrants from Asia, probably Muslims, in violent incidents, and in France, of Africans, in antisemitic events. In the Paris suburb of Sarcelles where 20 percent of the population is Jewish, black African youths were responsible for several antisemitic incidents. On 28 May, 40 members of Tribe Ka (Tribu K), a black supremacist group, marched through the Rue des Rosiers in the historic Jewish Marais quarter of Paris. Armed with bats and clubs, they shouted threats and insults such as “Death to the Jews.” On 26 July, Interior Minister Sarkozy announced a ban on this black power group, stating: “Their antisemitism has no longer to be proved and the Republic cannot tolerate such action and behavior.” In recent years the black comedian Dieudonné M'bala M'bala has become one of the most provocative antisemites in France (see below).

Nevertheless, extreme rightists continued to be responsible for a large number of incidents. In the UK the CST reported that “white” perpetrators were involved in 47 percent of incidents in which a physical description of the perpetrators was provided. On 9 November neo-Nazis, some shouting “Heil Hitler,” vandalized the memorial in Berlin (at the site of the synagogue destroyed on Kristallnacht, 9 Nov. 1938), where Jewish community leaders had earlier attended a service. They also tore up wreaths and broke candles at the Kristallnacht memorial in Frankfurt a.d. Oder in east Germany. On 12 October, a 16-year-old boy was forced during the break by classmates in the Parey High School,

Saxony-Anhalt, to carry an antisemitic sign around his neck and walk around the schoolyard. The Nazi-style placard read: "I'm the biggest pig in town, only with Jews do I hang around [*Ich bin am Ort das grösste Schwein, ich lass mich nur mit Juden ein*]." In August, a couple and their eight-year-old child were attacked by three neo-Nazi activists at the Eisleben train station. They threatened the man, hit him on the head with a beer bottle and hurled antisemitic and xenophobic insults at him. As in recent years, Germany topped Europe in desecration of cemeteries, and especially Holocaust memorials, an act usually perpetrated by extreme rightists.

In France, the antisemitic hatred of right-wing extremists led to a killing on 23 November, following a soccer match between Hapoel Tel Aviv and PSG (Paris St. Germain). The rioters, a group of right-wing extremists, made Nazi salutes accompanied by vulgar racist and antisemitic insults. A French Jew attacked by the mob was rescued by a police officer, who was in turn assaulted. He then shot into the mob, killing one PSG fan and seriously wounding another. In Rome, during Italy's 2006 World Cup victory festivities, swastikas were painted on the walls of the old Jewish Ghetto. Minister of Interior Giuliano Amato declared that he felt alarmed as interior minister and ashamed as an Italian.

Jewish sites have become a target for both Islamists and extreme rightists on Jewish holidays. On 1 October, during the *Kol Nidre* service on the eve of Yom Kippur, some 20 worshippers at the Liberal Synagogue in Brussels were harassed by three young thugs of North African extraction who shouted "Dirty Jews" at them, while at the same time a group of skinheads in the street where the Ma'aleh Synagogue in Brussels is located repeatedly shouted "White Power" while making the Nazi salute.

While reports from all over Europe clearly indicated that the war in Lebanon affected the level of both verbal/graphic and violent antisemitic manifestations, it should be emphasized that antisemitic incidents occurred throughout the year without any clear linkage to events in the Middle East – demonstrating the continuous and even growing animosity of extremist Muslims and ultra-rightists toward Jews. As noted above, there was a considerable increase in violence against Jews in France following the antisemitic murder of Ilan Halimi. In fact, more than 50 percent of incidents of violence and vandalism in France occurred in the first half of 2006 before the outbreak of the Lebanon war. According to the CST report, a large number of antisemitic incidents in the UK – many of them abusive e-mails – targeted Jewish organizations during and after the war. About half of the violent events,

however, occurred before the outbreak of the war, including some of the most serious ones. In other countries, too, such as the Netherlands and Belgium, some of the gravest incidents against Jewish individuals occurred in the first half of the year. In Malaga, Spain, a Jewish individual was stabbed in a butcher's shop in early February by a Muslim, who claimed after he was caught that he had been motivated by a service he had attended at a nearby mosque. This incident, as well as others perpetrated by Muslims in Europe in the early part of the year, might have been triggered by the controversy over the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, which began in Denmark in fall 2005. It might be concluded from all reports in recent years that the level of violence directed at Jews in Western Europe is consistently high, regardless of any specific event in the Middle East, and that it tends to rise further in the wake of external events such as escalation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Insults and Propaganda – Antisemitic Motifs as Part of the Anti-Israel Campaign

There was also a considerable growth in verbal insults and threats directed against Jews, as well in the publication of antisemitic articles, particularly during and after the Lebanon war. With the intensification of anti-Israel attitudes in public discourse, it became more common to demand the disappearance of a state depicted as a prototype for crime and destruction and a danger to world peace. The wrath against Israeli policies and military activities expressed by various groups and individuals was often directed at Jewish communities and included typical antisemitic and anti-Zionist features. Such motifs characterized Islamists, as well as the extreme right and the extreme left, in Europe. They were prevalent in newspaper articles and in statements of mainstream politicians.

Anti-Israel protesters marched in various European cities with Hizballah flags; many called for the destruction of the Jewish state and shouted slogans and brandished placards equating Israel with Nazism. On 21 July, participants at a 1,200-strong anti-Israel demonstration in Berne, which included, allegedly, representatives of the Green Party, carried Hizballah flags, posters of Nasrallah, and Israeli flags adorned with swastikas; on 18 November, 20,000 people, organized by the Italian Communist Party (PDCI), the Forum for Palestine and the Social Youth Movement of the extreme left, rallied in Rome against Israel and the US. Effigies draped in Israeli and US flags were set on fire. The head of the Israeli figure was labeled "Nazi-Zionism." Well-known extremists also utilized the Lebanon war to further their own antisemitic agenda.

German National Democratic Party (NPD) leader Udo Voigt, together with 40 party members, for example, was detained by the police on 23 July in Verden for chanting “Israel – international genocide center.”

Calls to boycott Israel multiplied in 2006, especially in the UK, appearing on the agendas of many groups and individuals. Participants at the 2006 annual conference of the National Association of Teachers of Further and Higher Education (NATFHE), for example, passed a motion in May to boycott Israeli lecturers and universities who did not speak out against Israel’s “apartheid” policies. A month later the boycott was canceled after NATFHE merged with the Association of University Teachers (AUT) (which in 2005 had reversed a decision to boycott two Israeli universities – see *General Analysis 2005*) to form the University and College Union (UCU).

In mid-September, British Architects and Planners for Justice in Palestine (APJP) petitioned organizers of the prestigious architecture exhibition in Venice, Italy (Biennale Architettura), to ban an Israeli entry, which depicted 15 sculptures commemorating those who died in the Holocaust and in Israel’s wars. The APJP claimed that the exhibit was particularly distasteful in light of the war in Lebanon and the one-sided war in Gaza. The demand was rejected.

During a Muslim conference held in February by the Ramadan Fund in Manchester, Yvonne Ridley, a former *Daily Express* journalist, branded Israel a vile state and defined a terrorist as an Israeli soldier pointing a gun at the back of the mother of a Palestinian child. She urged a boycott of “Zionist shops.” On 13–17 February the Palestine Society held an Israel Apartheid Week at Oxford University, approved by the Student Union, which urged a complete boycott of Israel “until it complies with international law and respects the rights of Palestinians to self-determination and to return home.” In May, Professor Richard Seaford of the University of Exeter refused to review a book on ancient coinage for an Israeli scholarly journal at the request of Bar Ilan University in Israel, on the grounds that he supported an academic boycott of Israel. Emma Manning, editor of the UK-based *Dance Europe* magazine, refused to accept a piece by journalist Stephanie Fried about the Sally-Anne Friedland Dance Drama Company in Tel Aviv, claiming that they did not accept articles about Israeli dance groups or advertisements from Israel. However, she said, the article could be considered for publication if the group were to declare that they opposed Israeli policy on the West Bank. In 2004 Dan Randolph of the Kibbutz Dance Company refused to issue such a disclaimer as a condition for placing an ad in this magazine.

Verbal antisemitic insults, many directed against religious Jews in the street or in public places, as well as hate calls and e-mails sent to Jewish institutions, were common occurrences during the war and in its aftermath. The Dutch Jewish community registered a significant rise in such harassment, mainly insults, in July and August, which declined significantly only toward the end of the year. The Hamas rallying cry, "*Hamas, Hamas, Joden aan het gas*" ("Hamas, Hamas, Jews to the Gas!") and the accusation "*Kankerjoden*" (cancerous Jewish growth) were frequently directed against members of the local Jewish population by native Dutch citizens, often children, as well as by local Muslims.

From the beginning of the conflict in July until mid-August 2006, individual Jews and Jewish communities in Germany received hate mail on a daily basis. In Switzerland, according to figures published by the Swiss AkdH (Aktion Kinder des Holocaust – association that monitors and combats antisemitism, racism and extremism), the number of antisemitic manifestations reported in the German-speaking part of Switzerland doubled in 2006; most was verbal or written abuse against Jewish individuals and Jewish institutions. In Italy, too, Jewish organizations were flooded with e-mails blaming Jews for the violence in the Middle East.

Football stadiums throughout Europe were the scene for battle cries against Jews and Israel, such as "Death to the Jews" and "Gas the Jews," as well as "Hamas, Hamas, Jews to the Gas." "Gas the Jews," "Synagogues must burn again" and "Auschwitz is back," chanted fans in Berlin, when their club played against the Jewish Maccabi club in September. Similarly, slogans such as "Holocaust for the Jews" were yelled on 6 August during a soccer match against an Israeli team in Bulgaria, while on 12 October, the insults "F---g Jew pigs," and "f---g Israeli pigs" were hurled at young players from a Jewish soccer team in Denmark after a match against a team of immigrant youth. In November, Osasune fans in Spain shouted antisemitic and other slurs at Dudu Awate, a Deportivo player from Israel during a match between the respective teams, while in October, Dutch fans shouted "Hamas, Hamas, Jews to the gas" and other slogans during a soccer game between Ajax Amsterdam and Utrecht in Utrecht. In the Netherlands, antisemitic cries are an integral part of soccer matches, particularly at those played against Ajax Amsterdam, which is considered "Jewish."

Israel and Jews in general continued to be charged throughout 2006 with the most villainous accusations that can be leveled at a modern democracy and its citizens: Nazism and apartheid. Jews outside Israel were blamed for Israeli policies and had to suffer the consequences of antisemitic anti-Israel incitement not only by Muslims but also by

adherents of political ideologies on the right and the left. "There is an automatic assumption among some people that if you are Jewish, you support Israel, and since we don't like Israel, we don't like you," explained Denis MacShane, the UK Labour MP who headed the 14-strong all-party committee that released a report on antisemitism on 6 September.

In France, the comedian Dieudonné M'bala M'bala has become a leading protagonist in recent years on both the anti-Israel and the antisemitic scene. In 2006, he continued to accuse the Jews of involvement in the 15th century slave trade. In August he visited Beirut with a group of intellectuals, including the writer Alain Sorel. At a press conference he expressed his support for Hizballah's war "against Israel and against American imperialism," and condemned Israel's actions as "barbarian and Nazi-like."

A continuous spill-over of hate into the mainstream, especially into the so-called chattering classes – the influential socially and politically concerned mainstream elite – was observed throughout Western Europe. The term "Jew" (or "Israeli," or "Zionist" – the three may be interchanged deliberately) was repeatedly equated with "Nazi." British Tory MP Peter Tapsell, for instance, claimed that Israel's bombardment of Beirut was "gravely reminiscent of the Nazi atrocity on the Jewish quarter of Warsaw." Similarly, British Conservative Party legislator Andrew Turner likened Israel's actions in Lebanon to Nazi tactics. These comparisons were repeated in various permutations in the press and at demonstrations throughout the year. The *Telegraph*, for example, showed two identical scenes of devastation, one labeled "Warsaw, 1943," the other, "Tyre, 2006." At the end of July an image of a large Star of David covering the UK and Europe appeared on the letters page of the *Guardian*, signifying a Jewish conspiracy to take over the world. According to the caption, throughout a war that had killed Lebanese people, the "Israel lobby" had charged those criticizing Israel with antisemitism.

In Norway, Jostein Gaarder, author of the acclaimed novel *Sophie's World*, published an op-ed in August in the Oslo daily *Aftenposten*, entitled "God's Chosen People," in which he linked Israel's deeds to the allegedly arrogant ancient Jewish concept of the Chosen People. As in classical antisemitic rhetoric, he mixed historical periods, implying a centuries-long pattern of Jewish behavior expressed in Israeli acts. Thus, current Israel conduct was the outcome of Jewish self-perception, which permitted the Chosen People even the most immoral behavior. Gaarder went so far as to accuse Israel of child murder and ethnic cleansing, concluding that the Jewish state had forfeited its right to exist.

Politically-oriented anti-Israel articles, cartoons and caricatures also bore hallmarks of classic antisemitism. Demonization of Israel and dehumanization of the Jews were the main motifs. One of the most notorious cartoons, by Randi Mateland, appeared on 26 July in *VG*, the most widely-read newspaper in Norway (about 365,000 subscribers).

In the cartoon, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is shown in a bathroom, reflected in the mirror as Hizballah leader Hasan Nasrallah. While the latter is depicted realistically, Olmert is demonized through the use of stereotypical antisemitic attributes, including devils' legs. The bathroom is covered with Stars of David and the water faucet made of gold, demonstrating Jewish wealth.

The most extreme example of equating Israel with Nazi Germany was a cartoon, published on 10 July (two days before the war) in Norway's largest daily *Oslo Dagbladet* by well-known political cartoonist Finn Graf. In it Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is likened to Amon Goeth, the commandant of the Plaszow Nazi death camp near Krakow, who murdered Jews by firing at them indiscriminately from his balcony. The scene invoked is taken from Steven Spielberg's film *Schindler's List*.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

A pattern of antisemitic manifestations differing from that in the West continued in Central and Eastern Europe. While the relatively low level of antisemitism in those countries that joined the EU in 2004 (the Baltic republics, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia) and the two new member states that joined in January 2007, Romania and Bulgaria, might change, at present the region remains characterized by its own specific attitudes, which might in the long run be no less disturbing than those in Western Europe.

The Second Lebanon War in summer 2006 did not serve as a platform in Central and Eastern Europe for an outburst of antisemitic and anti-Israel sentiments, as it did in the West. While many media outlets in the area quoted or published Western reports which criticized Israel and accused it of "war crimes," in general, the mainstream media did not initiate antisemitic and anti-Israel debates. This might be due partly to the fact that Hizballah is perceived as a terrorist organization and attempts by extremist elements both on the left and the right to portray it as a liberation movement confronting ongoing Israeli aggression were not well received. Some former Communist states are still part of the shaky pro-US coalition, despite, in some cases, having second thoughts about the participation of their forces in Afghanistan and Iraq; nevertheless, the *casus belli* for the outbreak of violence in Lebanon – the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers – was perceived as a

scenario that could happen to their own troops. Further, the images of Israeli cities attacked by Katyusha rockets might have reminded many in the region of the times when Soviet weapon systems were aimed at the West. Finally, some saw Israel as being at war with a terrorist organization acting from a state which was powerless to impose its sovereignty over its own territory. Thus, the mainstream media were usually less critical of Israel than Western outlets such as *Le Monde* and the *Guardian*, and anti-Israel views published emanated from Western not East European sources. Furthermore, the mainstream media was careful to avoid a direct connection between Israeli “conduct” and Jewish stereotypes. On the contrary, whenever antisemitism was evident in events in the West, the Central and East European media would generally not hesitate to say so.

Nevertheless, local echoes of the war in Lebanon were manifested in several incidents, and events in the Middle East may have caused a certain rise in the terrorist threat level in the area – although, of course, it already existed due to the presence, as noted, of Central and Eastern European forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. In August the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic received e-mails blaming the Jews and Israel for the war against Hizballah. Similar threats of an antisemitic nature were reported in several Czech centers, such as Brno, while the head of the Jewish community in Prague received e-mails accusing Israelis of the “war against the Palestinians.” In October, the leading Czech newspaper, *Mlada Fronta Dnes*, reported that Islamic extremists had planned to take over a major Jewish facility, reportedly the Prague synagogue, and capture hostages. A further consequence of the Middle East crisis was the threat against Jewish targets in the Czech Republic made by the notorious neo-Nazi group *Narodni Odbor* (National Resistance) if the Czech president refused their demand to enlist the Iranian army to fight against Jews and Israel. During the riots in Hungary in early November (see below), neo-Nazi slogans and others such as “Long live Palestine” and “Long live jihad” appeared in the city of Vac.

Both moderates and extremists in most of the states of this region have been engaged in ongoing debates over their national history and the fate of the Jews during the Holocaust; thus, the unresolved past is a much more immediate subject for discussion than the link between antisemitism and anti-Israel propaganda. The media in the region – both left and center-right – continued to focus on historical memory from the perspective of the beginning of the seventh decade since the end of World War II in Europe and the liberation of the camps, stressing the participation of their nations’ leaders at the various ceremonies. There

was also discussion on the emergence of the postwar world and the Soviet Communist takeover. In this context, right-wing extremists complained about “overemphasis” on the suffering of the Jews and disregard for the “Judeo-Communist” terror of the Communist period. Such voices were heard especially in Romania where a public commission was formed to study the crimes of communism. A major Romanian newspaper *Ziua* gradually took a more overtly hostile line toward the Jewish role in the establishment of the Communist regime. *Ziua*, as well as other publications, such as *Tricolor* and *Romanian Mare*, repeatedly stressed that the commission was headed by an expert of Jewish origin, Vladimir Tismaneanu. Since most of the former Socialist states of Eastern Europe and the Balkans were liberated by the Soviet army, the behavior of Soviet troops was recalled, often in gruesome detail, in order to highlight the end of one of type of suffering and the beginning of another. Further, the discourse focused on the nature of “liberation” and its transformation at the end of the war, into “occupation” by the Soviets and local Communists.

Thus, the postwar experience also became a bone of contention over historical memory due to the different experiences of various social and ethnic groups. While Jewish collective memory stresses the element of liberation and the end of the attempt to annihilate the Jewish nation by the Nazis and their local collaborators, non-Jewish memory tends to highlight various, sometimes divergent, views of the Communist regime, the postwar plight, Soviet plunder of what remained of local economies, and the nature of the postwar trials. New disputes began emerging toward spring-summer 2006, the 60th anniversary of the wave of postwar sentencing and executions of numerous wartime leaders, and the anniversaries of postwar anti-Jewish pogroms and violence in Poland, Slovakia and Hungary. These events were again recalled in an area where historical revisionism, as in the case of Tiso in Slovakia and Antonescu in Romania, is still very much alive.

Right-wing populism is a potential ally of the more radical, openly nationalist, xenophobic antisemitic right. This new populism is anti-liberal in the sense that while it promotes democracy, it opposes liberal values of tolerance toward minorities, including homosexuals – hence the homophobic appeal of the Polish League of Polish Families. This trend promotes “traditional” – including religious – values, which are a short step from classical antisemitism, as voiced by Radio Maryja in Poland. In Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, electoral support for such parties and movements indicated a popular shift toward less tolerant ideas and ideals, in which Jews might figure as a future target. The xenophobic record of the populist Polish

League of Families, which is part of the government coalition in Poland, and of the Slovak National Party of Jan Slota in the Slovak government coalition – although currently limiting its discourse to attacking Hungarians and Roma – might presage the emergence of an antisemitism that competes with that of the far right. Moreover, the formation of an extremist faction in the European Parliament resulting from the election of far right Bulgarian and Romanian representatives might portend the gradual infiltration of extremist elements into democratic institutions.

The elections in Poland and the formation of a new government in 2006 heralded the emergence of this populist trend. While Polish politicians, including some at the highest level such as the president and prime minister, the twin Kaczynski brothers, attempted to distance themselves from antisemitic accusations, the Israeli government, represented by Ambassador to Poland David Peleg, refused in summer 2006 to work with the new Polish minister of education, Roman Giertych, leader of the League of Polish Families.

Does this new phenomenon represent a ‘post-Haider’ syndrome in Eastern and Central Europe? Will these forces end up being “tamed,” as they did in Austria, or will the election of xenophobic parties generate wider cooperation between extremists on the continent? While nationalist, populist and antisemitic voices may get more publicity and public attention, in the long run they might tighten links with West European partners. At the same time, Jewish and non-Jewish monitoring agencies and institutions will attempt to generate public debate in an effort to curb this troubling trend.

Commemoration of national events from the near and more distant past may further ignite antisemitic manifestations. In Hungary, wide-scale disturbances occurred in the fall on the occasion of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. Numerous demonstrations took place, some led by the extreme right, which sought to discredit the Socialist-led government. In Budapest several incidents were recorded: demonstrators shouted antisemitic slogans, and small, violent groups used the events to brandish antisemitic placards and attack Jewish sites, such as the Central Synagogue in Budapest.

NORTH AMERICA

The US

Violence and Vandalism

According to the ADL, there was a 12 percent decline in antisemitic manifestations in the US, from 1,757 in 2005 to 1,554 in 2006.

Nevertheless, one of the gravest antisemitic incidents recorded worldwide during the period of the Lebanon war took place in the US. Claiming that he was angry at Israel, Naveed Afzal Haq, 30, an American Muslim, entered the Greater Seattle Jewish Federation Center in Seattle on 28 July, and shot and killed Pam Waechter, 58, and wounded five others. Further, on 6 December, Derrick Shareef, 22, a convert to Islam, also known as Talib Abu Salam Ibn Shareef, of Rockford, Illinois, was arrested by the FBI-led Chicago Joint Terrorism Task Force. Shareef had planned to blow up the Rockford Cherry Vale Mall. He also discussed stabbing Jews in a synagogue and attacking the DeKalb County Courthouse.

Some of the most serious attacks on Jewish sites and property also occurred in the US during the war and in its aftermath. For example, on the day of the murder in Seattle, the Temple Beth Shalom synagogue in Queens, NY, was firebombed and damaged.

Insults and Propaganda – Antisemitic Motifs as Part of the Anti-Israel Campaign

The war in Lebanon, as opposed to other conflicts in which Israel has been involved in recent decades, such as the first Lebanon war (1982) or the two intifadas, was more ambiguous and did not lend itself as readily to anti-Israel propaganda or antisemitic responses. This is not to suggest that there were no such negative reactions in the mainstream. However, the war was also depicted as Hizballah's war, as Iran's war, or as the Shi'i or Islamic extremist war, tempering the usual "blame Israel" or "blame the Jews" syndrome. This was reflected, too, in the lack of major events connected to the war on campuses in fall 2006. However, the fact that it was of relatively brief duration and occurred in the summer when campuses were out of session may also account for the relatively muted response.

It might also suggest that the trigger for antisemitism lies more in Israel's dealings with the Palestinians than with Hizballah or Iran. As illustrated by Mearsheimer and Walt's article in the *London Review of Books* on the influence of "the Israel lobby" in the US, or Jimmy Carter's book *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, claiming that a policy of apartheid exists in the "territories," the Palestinian issue has been the focus for attacks on Israel and on American Jews. It should be noted that both works aroused enormous criticism. Alan Dershowitz, Frankfurter professor of law at Harvard Law School, for example, charged Mearsheimer and Walt with a conspiratorial view of history in which the "Israel lobby" has a stranglehold over US foreign policy and the American media.

Right-Wing Extremist Response

White supremacists, neo-Nazis and antisemites used the Second Lebanon War to promote their antisemitic views via extremist websites, Internet forums, and radio shows. For the most part, individuals posting on websites and forums did not make many comments about the war. Rather, remarks relating to events surrounding the war sometimes degenerated into virulently antisemitic rhetoric. If the war was mentioned at all, it served as a minor background to more general antisemitic rants. The most extreme antisemitic comments came in the form of open calls to kill Jews. One poster to the website of Hal Turner, a particularly antisemitic and racist radio host in New Jersey, wrote, "The dirty kike must be killed no matter what the outcome is. Kill them all those evil bastards." Another poster to the same website stated, "If the jews thought they had a problem with antisemitism before, they've let themselves in for a world of shit now [sic] ..."

Right-wing extremists on the Internet also utilized the war to propagate classic antisemitic myths, claiming that Jews control the banks, media and government in the United States. Many extremists alleged that their tax dollars were supporting Israel simply because the Jews forced the American government to ally itself with the Israelis. One posting on Turner's website stated, "I blame this government, both the administration and congress for aiding and abetting Israel's crimes. Who supplies these scumbags with their bombs and airplanes? Who sends billions of taxpayer dollars each year to these beggars? Who controls the media and the banking system?"

Well-known extremists also exploited the Lebanon war to further their own antisemitic agenda. In addition to Hal Turner, white supremacist and former Klan leader David Duke, and August Kreis, leader of a faction of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations, issued antisemitic statements on the Internet running the gamut from blaming Jews for other events such as the 9/11 attacks to calling for violence against "yehudi bastards."

Escalation of Anti-Israel Hostility within the American Left

Anti-war rallies organized throughout the country during summer 2006 in response to the war in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip marked a new stage in the increasingly hostile attitude toward Israel within significant portions of the American progressive and far left camp. The protests were marked by support for terrorist groups, calls for the destruction of Israel, messages equating Zionism with Nazism and a proliferation of antisemitic manifestations.

Cooperation between radically inclined Muslim and Arab groups and far left ones leading the movement against the war in Iraq was intensified. The majority of events against the war in Lebanon were organized by an alliance of three movements: the left-wing ANSWER Coalition and its parent organization, the International Action Center (IAC); the Muslim American Society (MAS), a Muslim Brotherhood inspired organization; and the National Association of Arab Americans (NCA). These were joined by Muslim and Arab advocacy groups with a more mainstream public image, including the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and a host of left-leaning Socialist groups and local Muslim associations. In August, for example, the ANSWER Coalition held a demonstration in Dearborn, Michigan, to protest the war. One of the speakers said that it was “known” that the American Congress had been bought by the Zionist lobby. The war between Israel and Hizballah in Lebanon validated in the eyes of more radical elements within the far left (such as ANSWER Coalition, IAC, Al-Awda, New Jersey Solidarity, Workers World Party, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, League for the Revolutionary Party, Party for Socialism and Liberation – Richard Becker) the notion that the fundamentalist Shi’i movement, as well as insurgents in Iraq and Palestinian terror organizations (which include radical Islamist groups) are important ideological partners for progressive movements in the West. For these groups, the perceived victory of Hizballah marked a significant defeat for Israel and a severe blow to what they regard as American imperialism. Protesters were outraged at what they viewed as unjustified Israeli destruction in Lebanon, but emboldened by Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah’s willingness to confront Israel.

This was also reflected in growing radicalism in the speeches and mood of the crowds present at the summer events. One striking example was the revival of an anti-Jewish slogan from the Middle East, chanted in Arabic, “*Filastin arduna wal-yahud kilabuna*” (“Palestine is our land and the Jews are our dogs!”) – documented at rallies in San Francisco, Chicago and New York City, among others. These demonstrations were organized by the IAC, ANSWER Coalition, the ADC, and CAIR. Another common catchphrase at anti-Israel and anti-war rallies in recent years (also in Arabic) has been: “Khaybar, Khaybar, oh Jews, the army of Muhammad will return!” evoking the Qur’an’s account of a battle between the Islamic Prophet and a Jewish tribe, which resulted in the subjugation of the Jews of Arabia. Notably, some of the more radical chants were in Arabic.

Protesters also called for the elimination of Israel and urged Hizballah to bomb Israeli cities. In addition, they charged Israel with committing genocide and accused it of Nazism. In December, cartoons were posted on buildings in the Brookline, Somerville and Cambridge areas of Greater Boston equating life in the occupied territories with the Warsaw Ghetto and calling for an end to the Jewish state. Organizers of one rally referred to Israel as "the genocidal Zionist state." This rally held in San Diego, California, on 12 August, was co-sponsored by MAS, NCA, CAIR, IAC, the International Socialist Organization, the Muslim Students Association and Al-Awda. In San Francisco, a protester held a sign which read "Nazi kikes out of Lebanon." In July, Israeli flags adorned with swastikas were raised during a demonstration organized by the ANSWER Coalition in Los Angeles. At the August 12 Washington DC rally, protesters chanted "Nasrallah, Nasrallah; the martyr is the beloved of Allah; the Zionists are the enemy of Allah." There were also signs stating: "The Zionists are the party of the Devil," "Zionism destroy the world [sic]" and "World without Zionism = peace." Speakers and protesters also claimed that Zionists control America and that Israel is an outpost of capitalism and American imperialism. Clovis Maksoud, representing the ADC, argued that "when Palestine is liberated, there will be the liberation of the Jews from the dehumanization that Israel and Zionism has inflicted on their religion and cultures." A sign at a July 28 rally in New York, organized by CAIR, MAS, the Islamic Circle of North America, Al-Awda, the Arab Muslim American Federation and endorsed by the ANSWER Coalition and IAC, asked: "Innocent Israeli civilians or Israeli Nazi occupiers?" In August, signs in San Diego read "Long Live Hizballah," and "Israel, Israel, uber Alles." An American flag with the stars replaced by Stars of David as well as swastikas dripping with blood was displayed.

Canada

In contrast to the US, the level of antisemitic manifestations in Canada increased in 2006. The League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada (the League), which monitors antisemitic events in Canada, reported on overall rise of 12.8 percent over the previous year and an increase of 20 percent in the number of violent incidents. It should be noted that Canada has witnessed a continuing escalation in violent antisemitic incidents in recent years, despite a slight decrease in 2005. This is attributed to the growing involvement of immigrants, many of them Muslims or persons of Arab origin, who tend to be motivated by dramatic events in the Middle East, such as the Lebanon war.

As in Western Europe, the war in Lebanon had a considerable impact on the level of antisemitism in Canada. The League reported that 28 percent of the total number of antisemitic incidents – 263 – occurred in July and August. These included mainly harassment, intimidation and abusive letters to Jewish institutions. At the end of July an anti-Israel demonstration was held by members of the Lebanese community and their supporters in Toronto. Placards with “Death to the Jews” and a Star of David intertwined with a swastika were raised. Jewish individuals were bombarded with phone and e-mail abuse during July and August, and a rabbi was assaulted and accused by his attackers of “wanting to start wars.” On the night of 2 September a petrol bomb was thrown through the window of the Skver-Toldos Orthodox Jewish Boys School in Outremont, Quebec. The Quebec Region of the Canadian Jewish Congress denounced the attack. Police are investigating.

It should be emphasized that as in Western Europe, in addition to the events reported during the Lebanon war, antisemitic manifestations were perpetrated by Muslim extremists and far right-wingers in Canada throughout the year without a Middle East trigger. Jewish individuals were assaulted, private property was damaged and synagogues were desecrated, particularly with Nazi symbols. In January, for example, a kosher restaurant in Montreal was attacked by a group of Arab speakers with rocks, bricks and a firecracker. A synagogue in Montreal was vandalized on three separate occasions in February. A month later two synagogues were desecrated there: members of the Chai Center discovered swastikas on the walls and windows of their synagogue and a few days later swastikas and Nazi symbols appeared on the nearby Zichron Kidoshim synagogue.

AUSTRALIA

The effect of the Lebanon war on the level of antisemitism was particularly significant in Australia. The Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) recorded 442 antisemitic events (violence, vandalism, harassment and intimidation) from October 2005 to September 2006, an increase of 110 incidents over the previous year and 47 percent above the annual average. According to our statistics, there were 50 violent incidents in 2006 directed against Jewish individuals and Jewish sites, in contrast to only 13 in the previous year.

A comparison between the figures for all incidents in the first six months of the year and in the period of the war and its aftermath demonstrates the role of this Middle East event as a catalyst for antisemitic incidents. In July alone there were more incidents than in the entire first half of the year. In fact, the figure for antisemitic incidents in

Australia in July was the highest for that month since 1945. There was a slight decrease in August and again in September, but the average remained much above that in the six months preceding the war.

Some of the most serious antisemitic incidents occurred during the war, such as an attempted arson attack on a Jewish youth center in Sydney and a physical assault on a rabbi and his family. In addition, several synagogues, such as the two Reform synagogues in Melbourne, were vandalized, many threatening telephone calls and e-mails were received by Jewish individuals and Jewish institutions and antisemitic slogans such as "Jews are the new Nazis" and "Kill Jews" appeared in central locations in various cities.

As in other parts of the world, it may be assumed that the incidents recorded during the period of the war were perpetrated not only by Islamists but also by extreme rightists inspired by the proliferation of virulently anti-Israel and antisemitic propaganda. In July, for example, the LaRouche cult e-mailed anti-Israel conspiracy theories to Jewish groups in Sydney and Melbourne.

It should be noted that prior to the war Jewish activists warned of the potential threat of virulently anti-Israel propaganda distributed by Islamists and extreme leftists to the safety of the Australian Jewish community. In February, for example, a front-page article in the University of Western Sydney student newspaper described Jews as blood suckers, money grabbers and thieves. The piece was accompanied by cartoons, one of which depicted the Jewish people as a giant squid drawing blood as it envelopes the earth. During the war Jewish student activists argued that far left groups, such as the Socialist Alternative Group, had crossed the line from political criticism of Israel to anti-Jewish slander. This accusation led in September to a fierce debate in which extreme left militants denied that they had adopted antisemitic language.

The impact of the antisemitic rhetoric of Islamist preachers on perpetrators of antisemitic incidents in Australia was also a central issue in Australia. The most notorious example was Shaykh Tajeddin al-Hilali, mufti of Lakemba Mosque, Sydney (considered the mufti of Australia). In July he was dismissed from his position on Prime Minister John Howard's Muslim Community Reference Group because of Holocaust denial sermons he had been delivering. He also referred to Israel as a cancer planted in the Muslim community.

THE CIS

In the CIS attitudes toward the war in Lebanon were expressed mainly in demonstrations, public statements and articles in newspapers or on the

Internet. Communists, far right-wingers and Muslim extremists participated in anti-Israel campaigns. Some anti-Israel manifestations included antisemitic motifs. In Tajikistan Molotov cocktails were thrown on two occasions at the Jewish synagogue in Dushanbe.

Russia

On 20 July a demonstration took place in front of the Israeli embassy in Moscow, initiated by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and sanctioned by the city authorities. The rally was attended by about 60 people, mainly Communists and members of the Palestinian diaspora in Russia. Protestors, some of whom held the red Communist flag and the yellow Hizballah flag, shouted "Death to the Israeli aggressor," "Israel get out of Lebanon" and "Stop the genocide of Lebanon"; they accused Israel and the US of initiating the war in Lebanon and burned Israeli flags. Some also held signs with slogans such as "Freedom for Palestine," "Israel and the US – Terrorists Number One and Number Two" and "Zionism Equals Fascism."

Communist Party members, including State Duma Deputy Vladimir Kashin, who was among the 19 Duma members who signed the petition to ban Jewish organizations in Russia in 2005, took part in another anti-Israel demonstration in Moscow on 4 August. Members of the Communist youth movements Union of Communist Youth and the Vanguard of Red Youth shouted catchphrases supporting Hizballah and one of the speakers called for violence against Israelis, declaring that the Arabs should fight "until the last Jew." Anti-Israel protests also took place in St. Petersburg and in Vladikavkaz, where Israeli flags were burned during one demonstration.

On 1 August the website www.soldat.ru, based in the city of Arkhangelsk and dedicated to Russian and Soviet military history, published the article "'The Mystery of Iniquity' in Action, or Russia for Non-Russians," by the 'Pravoslav fundamentalist' Mikhail Nazarov, who is known for his antisemitic views. The phrase "the mystery of iniquity" appears in the New Testament (Second Epistle to the Thessalonians, 2:7), referring to those who did not accept Christianity. Relating to events in the Middle East, in general, and to the war in Lebanon, in particular, Nazarov called the fighting between Israel and Hizballah another "unpunished riot of the Judeo-Nazi State of Israel." He claimed that Jewish organizations in Russia sanctioned Israeli aggression and urged the Russian authorities to oppose "the main sources of worldwide terrorism – Israel and the Jews." He also claimed that Israel and the US were carrying out provocations (such as the 9/11 attacks) in order to

change the geopolitical map of the world. Nazarov was also among those who called, in 2005, to ban Jewish organizations in Russia.

On 4 August, an article entitled "Lebanon in Flames: Experts and Muslim Figures on Developments in the Middle East," was published on the most popular Islamic website in the Russian language (www.islam.ru). Among the opinions expressed in the article, Muhammad Karachai, deputy head of the Union of Muftis of Russia, said the war in Lebanon had revealed the "aggressive nature of the Zionist state," which had organized "a real Holocaust in Lebanon." Boruch Gorin, spokesman of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, announced on 10 August that the federation would ask the Interfaith Council of Russia to call on the Union of Muftis to condemn Karachai's statement. Gorin added that such comments undermined "Jewish-Muslim dialogue in Russia." It is not known whether such a request was indeed filed. The article also quoted Ali Visama Bardvill, chairman of the Karelian Muslim Religious Board, who said that Israel was employing Nazi tactics and showing its inhuman face. Significantly, the word 'Israel' in the article appears in quotations marks.

The level of antisemitic violence and vandalism in Russia remained similar to that in 2005 – about 30 incidents. Antisemitic events included assaults on Jewish individuals, damage to Jewish communal property and graffiti on synagogues and cemeteries, mainly antisemitic slogans. In August, a petrol bomb was thrown at a synagogue in Khabarovsk and in November, two petrol bombs were hurled at the Jewish cultural center in Surgut. One of the most serious antisemitic incidents recorded worldwide in 2006 occurred in Russia. Claiming that he had come to kill Jews and shouting "Heil Hitler," Aleksandr Koptsev stabbed eight people in the ChaBad synagogue on Bolshaia Bronnaia St., Moscow, in early January. During questioning he admitted that he had read extremist material on the Internet and that he was motivated by anti-Jewish feeling, hatred and jealousy. The police found extremist literature, fascist symbols and a list of addresses of three other synagogues in Moscow in his apartment.

Ukraine

Demonstrations against "Israeli aggression in Lebanon" took place in several cities of Ukraine. On 19 July a rally, organized by the Russian Bloc Party (PRB), a marginal pro-Russian organization, and attended by Palestinians and Lebanese, took place in front of the Israeli embassy in Kiev. Demonstrators demanded the cessation of Israeli hostilities in Lebanon and some held signs equating the Star of David with the swastika. Anti-Israel protests were held in Kiev at least once a fortnight

during the war. Attended by 20–50 people, they were initiated by the Ukrainian Conservative Party, the Arab Home organization and left-wing groups such as Che Guevara.

On 24 July, practically all Ukrainian Jewish organizations – including the VAAD, Federation of Jewish Communities in Ukraine and All-Ukrainian Jewish Congress – held an impressive joint pro-Israel rally in Kiev.

The mass media in Ukraine (including the electronic media) were relatively objective in their coverage of the war in Lebanon, bringing both the Israeli and Lebanese sides of the story, and in some cases some very pro-Israel articles and commentaries. Nevertheless, some pieces contained sentences such as “Israel is killing peaceful inhabitants in the center of Beirut” or referred to “hundreds of thousands” of Lebanese victims, but ignored what was happening in Israel. The well-known antisemitic publications of MAUP (Inter-Regional Academy of Personnel Management – see *General Analysis 2005*) continued to publish antisemitic articles. During the war they focused on “Israeli aggression” against Lebanon. For example, an article in *Personal Plus* (Aug.) stated: “What Israel is doing today in Palestine and in Lebanon can only be termed political terror. Armed with all kinds of weapons (including weapons prohibited by the UN), the Israelis are cynically bombing and shooting innocent people: elderly people, women and children.”

An exception to the relatively objective coverage on Ukrainian television was Channel 5, since one of the commentators was the well-known political correspondent Igor Slisarenko, who on 8 May 2005 published an article, “Nothing Is Hate Speech When Directed against Arabs” on al-Jazeera website, expressing his concern that the whole world was insulting Arabs and Muslims; he was also chief editor of another MAUP journal, *Personal*.

Notwithstanding the response to the Lebanon war, antisemitism in Ukraine continued to escalate in 2006. Thirty-four incidents were recorded compared to 21 in 2005. Jewish individuals were attacked, Jewish institutions damaged and cemeteries and Holocaust memorials desecrated with swastikas and antisemitic slogans. Perhaps influenced by the incident in Moscow a month earlier, Georgii Dobrianskii entered the Brodskii synagogue in Kiev with a knife in February and threatened to kill Jews. He was stopped by the guards and arrested. Jews were attacked in the streets in various cities of Ukraine. Shouting “I don’t like Yids,” a group of youths in Odessa beat an Orthodox Jew in mid-September. In mid-December, three identifiably Jewish men in Kiev were beaten near a synagogue by a group of young men who shouted “Kikes, get out of here” and other antisemitic insults.

Transcaucasia and Central Asia

Transcaucasia and Central Asia witnessed several events which were uncharacteristic of the region.

Armenian Jews feared an increase in antisemitism in the wake of an influx of hundreds of Armenian refugees from Lebanon. Although most of the refugees did not support Hizballah's actions, they viewed Israel's conduct as "unwarranted and counterproductive." Armenian journalist Suren Gregoryan blamed the Armenian diaspora in Syria and Iran for disinformation and stereotypes held in Armenia about Israel and the Jewish culture. He maintained there was a real need for the free flow of information on these subjects into the country. Shogher Margossian, a Lebanese Armenian who arrived from Beirut a few days after the war began, said that she did not think the war would have an impact on Armenia's Jews. Her stories about life under Israeli bombing made no impression on people she met in Armenia, she claimed, since they had suffered a great deal during the 1990s during the war with Azerbaijan. Most Armenians saw the Lebanon war as a conflict between Israel and a terrorist organization and did not sympathize with Lebanon, a mainly Muslim country (about 94 percent of Armenians are Armenian Apostolic). Nevertheless, posters supporting Hizballah appeared in late July and early August in the center of the capital Yerevan.

In **Azerbaijan**, former Interior Minister (1992–93) Iskendar Gamidov, chairman of the National Democratic Party (Boz Gurd), made antisemitic and anti-Israel statements on 27 July. He accused the Jews of owning all the land in northern Azerbaijan, of trying to get hold of other assets and of acting as if they owned the world. According to Gamidov, some historians had come under the influence of Zionists and were claiming that the Jews were native inhabitants of Azerbaijan. As such, they could make demands on the state. He also alleged that Washington and Tel Aviv had formed a plan to take over Azerbaijan after they had completed the occupation of Syria and Iran. He said that Israel was discriminating against Muslims in Lebanon: when Israel bombed Christian areas in Beirut, the army command apologized, but when they bombed Muslim areas they considered this permissible, and the world also kept quiet. Commenting on the kidnapped Israeli soldiers, Gamidov asserted that if Israel had started a war when only two soldiers were kidnapped, Azerbaijan should launch a war against Armenia since in the past year alone 24 Azerbaijani soldiers had been captured.

Anti-Israel demonstrations took place in the capital Baku on 27 July and 3 and 7 August. Although the rallies were not authorized, the authorities did not intervene. On 5 August, about 70 people held a pro-

Hizballah demonstration in Nardaran, at which participants shouted slogans against Israel, the US, the European Union and other states. One of the speakers said that in the near future local Muslims would unite with Iranians to “destroy those demons” and another speaker criticized the government for not supporting Hizballah and for fearing the Jews instead of God. The demonstration ended with the burning of Israeli and American flags.

On 27 July 2006, during a joint press conference with the presidents of Iran and Afghanistan, who had come to **Tajikistan** for a visit, Tajik President Emomali Rahmonov strongly condemned Israel’s campaign against Hizballah, but completely ignored the latter’s bombing of Israel.

On 16 August an anti-Israel rally took place near the offices of the Tajik Islamic Revival Party in the capital Dushanbe. More than 300 Islamists shouting “Death to Israel” participated in the demonstration, which was led by the newly elected head of the party (following the death of the former leader on 9 August 2006), Mohiddin Kabiri.

On 18 August and again on 15 September Molotov cocktails were thrown at the Jewish synagogue in Dushanbe. The authorities did not act to protect the synagogue after the first attempt, thus facilitating the second one. In fact, they were seeking, in 2006, to demolish the building as part of a campaign to renovate the city center. In the summer they razed part of the building, where the *mikve*, a classroom and a kosher kitchen were located. It should be noted that in response to requests made by the president of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress, Alexander Mashkevich, to President Rahmonov, the authorities agreed to find an alternative location for the Jewish community to establish a new synagogue. Incidents like the Molotov cocktail attacks occur infrequently in the region; undoubtedly, they were a reaction to the war in Lebanon.

LATIN AMERICA

In Latin America, too, Jewish communities witnessed an intensification of antisemitic manifestations during the Lebanon war. Antisemitic expressions and motifs, both explicit and implicit, were part of fierce political attacks against Zionism and the existence of the State of Israel.

Brazil

A serious incident occurred in Brazil at the beginning of August: two petrol bombs were thrown at the synagogue in Campinas, 60 miles north of São Paulo, and the slogan “Lebanon, the true Holocaust,” painted on the sidewalk outside it. About three weeks later a lighted firecracker was tossed from a passing vehicle at the door of the Beth Jacob Synagogue in

São Paulo. In addition, there was a considerable rise in anti-Zionist statements, including comparisons between Israel and Nazi Germany.

In August, the workers' syndicate of São Paulo University, supported by a professor of history, a Trotskyist, Oswaldo Coggiola, together with Arab and pro-Hizballah groups, organized a public demonstration "against the massacre in Lebanon and in Palestine," which was to be held in a university auditorium. After Jewish professors protested against the militant nature of the event, the rector forbade use of the lecture theater. The rally, attended by students, university staff and left-wing groups, as well as representatives of some Arab pro-Hizballah organizations, therefore took place in front of it. The closure of the auditorium provoked anger among the organizers, who, in a bulletin issued on 11 August, accused the State of Israel and the Jews of being "Jewish murderers" and declared that the State of Israel should not exist. A month earlier the General Secretariat of the International Workers' Union in the city of São Paulo had issued a statement denouncing Israel's attacks on Gaza, in which it compared actions by Israeli soldiers to the Nazi siege of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Virulently anti-Zionist statements were made by radical left-wing politicians. During a solidarity visit, together with other Congress representatives, to the ambassador of Lebanon in Brazil, Federal Congresswoman Socorro Gomes, from the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB), stated that they had to "to put an end to the massacre in Lebanon by the Nazi-Zionists."

Argentina

While as of 1967, discussion in Argentina focused on Israeli withdrawal from the territories conquered in the Six Day War, in recent years, and particularly in 2006, there have been calls for the total destruction of the State of Israel. With the outbreak of the war in Lebanon and intensified fighting in Gaza, it was claimed that this was a legitimate demand. For example, graffiti saying, "Death to the State of Israel. Support the Palestinians," appeared on 12 July in a street near Plaza Congreso. The slogan "For destruction of the Zionist State of Israel" appeared in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Buenos Aires, on 13 September.

An antisemitic discourse on Israel has emerged in Argentina. It ranges from the use of traditional antisemitic motifs (the Jews' alleged killing of Christ, evocation of the blood libel, and comparing Israel to a cancer) to banalization of the Holocaust and denial of the right of Israel and the Zionist movement to exist. Other themes are alleged Jewish control of the media, "Nazification" of the State of Israel and the Jews, justifying terrorist attacks against Jews internationally and the accusation

that Jewish Argentinean citizens were more loyal to the State of Israel than to Argentina. These expressions multiplied during the days of the Lebanon war. For example, an e-mail sent to the AMIA Jewish community center in July, stated: "We hope that the bomb put in the AMIA [1994] was not the last one." It also said: "Long Live Lebanon." and "Death to the Dirty Jews." Slogans stating "Jews, you are conquerors," "Let's kill the Jews," "Commit a patriotic act: kill the Jews," "Jews are fascists" and "Jews are murderers." as well as comparisons with Nazis (such as "Israeli Hitlerian people, get out of Lebanon and Palestine") were reported almost daily in the streets of Buenos Aires in July-August. Catchphrases such as these, disseminated by people who deny being antisemites, were also everyday occurrences in the mass media during this period. According to the DAIA, a record 550 antisemitic events were recorded in Argentina in 2006, mostly antisemitic expressions, especially graffiti, directed against Jews and their institutions.

Israel is perceived as a military great power, backed by "the occidental empire" (the US), which is under the control of the "international Zionist lobby" and the "Jewish-North American lobby" (*lobby judeo-norteamericano*). In September, a bookstore located between Rivadavia and Nazca Street, Buenos Aires, was selling posters showing a Star of David equated with the US flag and a swastika. On 27 September, graffiti stating "Jews are murderers," "Jews=murders=USA" and "USA=Star of David," appeared on the corner of Vidal and Sucre Streets, Buenos Aires.

Among some radical left-wing groups in Argentina, theocratic countries and groups such as Iran, Hizballah and Hamas are portrayed as models of cultural and political resistance fighting imperialism. Supporters of such groups displayed Hizballah flags at demonstrations and defended the Iranian president. In August, for example, Jewish demonstrators protesting Iran's anti-Israel rhetoric and denial of the Holocaust outside the Iranian embassy were harassed by left-wingers displaying Hizballah and Iranian flags.

However, some left-wing parties (such as the Socialist Party, the center-left Argentina para una Republica de Iguales [Argentina for a Republic of Equal People – ARI], led by Elisa Carrio, and the small "greens" party Partido Humanista) wondered how left-wing groups could take a stand on behalf of Iran and Hizballah and support those who denied the Holocaust. In a statement made before the European forum of the Regional Humanista Europea – *Internacional humanista, Posición y Propuesta frente a los acontecimientos de Medio Oriente*, these parties demonstrated a more balanced approach. They denounced antisemitism

and condemned Hizballah and Hamas attacks against “the people of Israel,” but also “Israeli actions in Gaza and in Lebanon.”

Anger against Israel directed against the Jewish community, as the allegedly loyal supporter of Israel, revealed deep-seated antisemitic feelings. Jorge Abib, provincial senator of the Province of Cordoba, for example, said on a radio program on 29 July: “The Jews put the bomb in the AMIA. What Hitler did was a good thing... What Israel is doing is much worse than what Hitler did. They are the same acts that Hitler did but 10 times worse than that.” Because of the Jews’ identification with Israel, some urge restriction of their personal and/or collective civil rights or even for their deportation from Argentina to Israel. On 30 August, callers to the radio program “Rock and Pop,” hosted by Elizabeth Bernacci, demanded the expulsion of Jews from the country during a discussion about the political situation in the Middle East.

The new flare-up in the conflict between Israel and Hizballah was a reminder that the latter, together with Iranian agents, was responsible for the attack on the AMIA community center (1994). It should be noted that among some sectors of Argentinean public opinion this so-called unsolved incident is perceived as a “Jewish problem,” not an Argentinean one, and some even justify the attack. An anonymous e-mail sent to AMIA said: “The AMIA was already bombed, so [Jews] leave, go away and get your justice in Israel. Don’t bother us any more. You are the garbage of humanity!” (see Jorge Elbaum, “El lado izquierdo de la historia y el prejuicio,” *Controversias* 1, 2007).

Some neo-Nazi organizations, such as Partido Nuevo Triunfo, took advantage of the situation to claim that the State of Israel has no right to exist. Generally, the word “Zionist” is used by them as a synonym for “perversion” or “cruelty” and Israel is termed a ‘fascist state’. Partido Nuevo Triunfo does not accept the existence of a Zionist entity, “the self-proclaimed ‘State of Israel’” (see “*El Partido Nuevo Triunfo no reconoce la existencia de la entidad sionista autodenominada ‘Israel’*” – <http://pnt.libreopinion.com/novedades/nov20060720>; also, D. Stiglitz, *Antisemitismo, Medio Oriente y política Argentina*, Buenos Aires, 2006). The piece continues: “We are very glad about the very late but very positive wake up of other political sectors, which until now were allied to the International Zionist Movement, but appear now to understand the real nature of the enemy of the free people.”

Venezuela

The extremely anti-Israel stand of the government, backed by the official and semi-official media, has given rise to a trend in Venezuela of delegitimizing the State of Israel, relativizing the Holocaust and

employing Arab antisemitic propaganda and traditional antisemitic motifs to justify the country's stand toward current political events, such as the 2006 war in Lebanon. This antisemitic approach, adopted at the very top of the political hierarchy, is a result of the decision of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in 2006 to strengthen ties with Arab countries, reject the US, and appear as the new leader of Latin America, like Cuba's Fidel Castro in the 1960s and 1970s. The strengthening of Venezuelan-Iranian relations since February when an economic agreement was signed between the two countries may partly account for extremely anti-Israel statements made by members of Chavez circles before and especially after the war in Lebanon.

During the first months of the year the pro-Chavez mass media continued to accuse Israel, the Mossad and the Jewish community in Venezuela of involvement in various events in Venezuela (such as the 2002 coup d'état against Chavez). For example, an interviewee on the program "La Hojilla," on the official Venezuelan TV station (Venezolana de Televisión) (5 Jan.) said: "... since we ask for respect for all minorities, we ask the Jewish community to be loyal to Venezuela and that their members stop doing what they are doing to Venezuela."

The Second Lebanon War intensified anti-Israel rhetoric. Moreover, in contrast to other Latin American countries, openly antisemitic statements were made by official representatives and organs, including Chavez himself, the vice-president, several ministers and Congressmen and the pro-Chavez media.

Chavez compared Israelis and Jews to Nazis and to Hitler. Although this tendency began when he turned his back completely on the US and strengthened ties with the Arab world, his antisemitic statements were exceptional because they contradicted Venezuelan, as well as Latin American, tradition regarding the political use of antisemitism by leaders, not to mention his own previous admonition to avoid openly antisemitic statements.

On 19 July, before leaving Maiquetia airport for a visit to Argentina, Chavez told journalists that Israel was carrying out "a real genocide" of the Lebanese people. At a press conference, together with President Ahmadinejad during a visit to Tehran on 30 July, he said:

My brother Ahmadinejad informed me about the horrors of Israeli bombs against shelters where women and children are hiding. This is a cowardly attitude. Why don't they... confront a real army? They want war because they have the devil inside them... A force will emerge from the brave people [the Lebanese] that will put an end to the empire and to its people [*lacayos*, referring to the Israeli people].

On the TV program “Alo, President” (6 Aug.) on Venezolana de Televisión, he accused Israelis of “applying to the Lebanese people and to the Palestinian people the same treatment they have so criticized about the Holocaust... But this is a new Holocaust, they are murdering children... they are using US bombs... so that the Israelis can commit this genocide.” Two days later, he said: “No matter who criticizes me I have no intention of maintaining diplomatic relations with a state like Israel.”

In Peking on 25 August, and again in Doha three days later, he reiterated the genocide theme and likened Israeli behavior to that of the Nazis. In Damascus, on 30 August, he branded Israel “a creation of the North American empire in the Middle East” and “the reason for the conflict in the area.”

Venezuelan government officials blamed Israel entirely for the war. Referring to both the war and its conflict with the Palestinians, Foreign Minister and President of the Congress Nicolas Maduro, said on 15 July that “no pretext can justify such aggression.” On 29 August, he said he agreed with Kuala Lumpur that Israeli leaders should be tried by an international tribunal for the crimes they were committing in Lebanon.

Angel Rafael Tortolero Leal, a former Venezuelan diplomat in Israel, wrote in the pro-Chavez *Aporrea* (6 Aug.) that Israel’s “invasion” of Arab land in 1948 had been legitimized by the UN, including Venezuela’s “shameful” vote. Alluding to the Jewish community in Venezuela, he declared that in the face of “Zionist aggression” against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, “revolutionary persons” should be “on the side of solidarity [with the Lebanese and Palestinian victims].”

Several Congressmen, some of Arab origin, made anti-Zionist and antisemitic statements. Tareck El Aissami, a member of the Chavez coalition, denied the legitimacy of the State of Israel (*Aporrea*, 17 July); Adel El Zabayar, from the coalition party Movimiento Venezolano Revolucionario – MVR, developed the Holocaust denial theory of Roger Garaudy under the title “El lobby terrorista del sionismo internacional” (The Terrorist Lobby of International Zionism) (*Aporrea*, 16 July).

The Venezuelan Congress issued a statement on 19 July alleging that Lebanon was being “indiscriminately attacked by Israel with chemical weapons.” In the preceding debate, Adel El Zabayar accused Israel and Zionism of being expansionist. Rafic Souki (MVR) claimed Zionism had the power to commit mass murder.

On 31 July, Nicolas Maduro, as president of the Congress, compared the 2006 Qana tragedy to the Holocaust, alleging that the State of Israel was governed by crazy murderers.

These events remind us of the crimes committed by Hitler's Nazi army against the innocent people of Europe in the 1940s. We have to remember the Nazi Holocaust against the Jewish people, which seems to be happening again against the Arab people.

On 3 August the Venezuelan Congress passed a resolution initiated by Congressmen of Arab origin condemning the "genocidal offensive of the State of Israel."

The pro-Chavez online journal *A Plena Voz* carried, in August, several articles on the war comparing Israel and its leadership to Hitler and Nazism. In "¿Hasta cuándo?" (Until When?), well known intellectual Eduardo Galeano, blamed Israel for the creation of Hizballah. In "La sangrienta huella del fascismo" (The Bloody Sign of Fascism), Waldo Bastias likened the suffering of Lebanese children to that of children in Auschwitz. Germán Pinto Saavedra, in "La cuestión judía" (The Jewish Question) recalled the persecution of the Jews during the Third Reich, claiming that since 1948 Israel had been taking its revenge. In "Sionismo, colonialismo e imperialismo," Francisco Javier Velasco, delegitimized the Zionist movement.

Huge red headlines in the pro-Chavez publication *Docencia Participativa* proclaimed in July: "Stop the Massacre for God's Sake. For Allah's Sake. Jewish Murderers! Apocalyptic Beasts!"; and, in August: "Nazis in the XXth Century, Jews in the XXIth Century"; a Star of David Star filled with swastikas appeared on the back page of this issue.

An openly antisemitic campaign against Israel, the Israeli people and Jews in general, appeared in journals such as *VEA* and in *Los papeles de Mandiga* (also a radio program), as well as on Venezuelan radio and TV, both official and semi-official, especially Venezuelan National Radio, Radio YVKE Mundial and Venezolana de Televisión. The principal proponents were Vladimir Acosta, Alberto Nolia, Mario and Manuel Silva, Cristina González, Basem Tajeldine and Susana Khalil. They supported Hamas and Hizballah and accused the CAIV (representative organization of the Venezuelan Jewish community) and the Israeli ambassador of backing the "terrorist State of Israel."

On YVKE Mundial's program "Los Papaeles de Mandiga" (19 July), Alberto Nolia referred to "the dirty people that have control over the CAIV Jewish organization, to that group of Nazis that do not represent the Jews of Venezuela, most of whom are decent people and are not responsible for the acts of the Israel government," and asked, "How many children did the SS Jews murder? Because they are the SS in Israeli uniform. But the SS were more ethical, they were more decent than the Israeli soldier murderers." On another program he said: "We cannot have a relationship with the terrorist, criminal, racist State of Israel... it is

very strange, the democracy of Adolf Olmert or Ehud Hitler.” Nolia continued in this vein in his column “Cianuro en gotas” in the weekly *Los papeles de Mandinga* (8 Aug.).

Interviewing a Palestinian resident of Venezuela on the TV program “La Hojilla” on Venezuelan Television (8 Aug.), Mario Silva claimed that the coup d’état of 11 April 2002 against President Chavez was organized by the Israeli embassy and the chief rabbi of Venezuela.

In “Los judíos sionistas” published in *El Diario de Caracas* (2 Sept.), Tarek Muci Nasir (pseudonym), claimed the Zionists were a radical and destructive sect, who had committed a Holocaust-like genocide in Palestine and in Lebanon and would once again suffer from a Holocaust because of the hate the world felt for them. “The Jewish race is condemned to disappear because they intermarry... the only way remaining for them is to provoke wars... the Jews are lying when they say they are the chosen people... they are without a homeland because they killed Christ,” he continued, alleging that in Venezuela they controlled the economy, finances, media and commerce, and were trying to infiltrate the public service and politics. “Maybe we will have to throw them out of our country,” he said.

From October to December, there was a decline in antisemitic statements, probably due to the presidential elections (December), which took up much of Chavez’s, and hence the media’s, time.

THE ARAB WORLD

Similar to previous flare-ups between Israel and an Arab adversary, such as the Second Intifada which erupted at the end of September 2000, the Second Lebanon War unleashed a wave of anti-Israel incitement and antisemitic manifestations throughout the Arab world and within Arab and Muslim communities worldwide. The war was perceived not as a limited Israeli-Hizballah or Israeli-Lebanese confrontation but viewed within a broader regional and international context: an Israeli-Iranian war by proxy and a war that would shape a new Middle East order. As such, it aroused fears of Islamist advances in moderate Arab states and led to Arab re-alignment into two camps: a Saudi-Egyptian-Jordanian (pro-Western) axis and a Hizballah-Iranian-Syrian bloc. This division reflected an even wider Sunni-Shi’i schism, exacerbated by the war in Iraq. In regard to the alliance of Syria – which is ruled by the Ba’th secularist party – with the ‘Shi’i resistance camp, President Bashir Asad, the patron of Hizballah and the Palestinian Islamist Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements, identifies with Iran’s position vis-à-vis the region and the US. This complex state of affairs was expressed in official Arab reactions and attitudes to the war, which ranged from strong condemnation of

Israel to calls for restraint and even criticism of Hizballah. In contrast, "the Arab street" was almost unanimous in its support of and solidarity with Hizballah, manifesting a virulently anti-Israel mood, exacerbated by the incident in Qana on 30 July, when 28 innocent Lebanese were mistakenly killed. Whether victorious or defeated, Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah became an icon, gaining "a place in the hearts of millions of Arabs angered and ashamed by their governments' perceived acquiescence to Israeli and US policies," wrote Hamza Hendawi (*Washington Post*, 22 July).

Expressing complete identification, Palestinians across the political spectrum welcomed the Hizballah attack and kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers. Gunmen joyfully fired into the air, and prisoners held in Israeli jails reportedly began chanting and dancing as they heard the news. The daily *al-Ayyam* (17 July) depicted Nasrallah as a "superman" and demonstrators marched in solidarity, carrying placards proclaiming: "Yes to resistance, no to submission," in Ramallah, Jenin, Gaza and Nablus during the month of the war; PA TV boasted on 4 August that "The Zionists" have reacted "in horror, fear and confusion... living like mice and rabbits." Similar protests were held in Cairo, Amman, Baghdad and Bangladesh, as well as by Muslims in Berlin, London, Paris and Rome. Particularly vociferous was the reaction in Egypt, where leftists and Islamists alike, who have increasingly voiced their dissatisfaction with their president and regime, as well as with ties with Israel, discovered a new hero in Nasrallah, "a true man," "a brave man," whom they would even be happy to see leading their country. A message addressed to Nasrallah at a gathering of activists, intellectuals and journalists, held in Cairo on 17 July, expressed support for his resistance movement, which "guards this nation's rights, spirit and dignity" and "has restored the nation's confidence." Demonstrators in various Egyptian cities wrapped their heads with Hizballah banners, waved Lebanese and Hamas flags, shouted "Resistance is the solution" and burned the Israeli flag. They demanded closure of the Israeli embassy in Egypt and expulsion of the ambassador. The Egyptian Council for Women, chaired by the president's wife Susanne Mubarak, held a meeting on 1 August to show solidarity with Palestinian and Lebanese women, during which speakers attacked Israel's "aggressive war," motivated "by utter hatred of others... and by a conviction that peace is only possible when other nations decide to submit to Israel." At the meeting a representative of the Suzanne Mubarak Women for Peace International Movement announced that photos documenting Israeli atrocities had been compiled and would be sent to all concerned human rights groups "to highlight the huge volume of death and damage inflicted by the Israeli war." A

National Committee for Supporting the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples was established, and according to *al-Ahram Weekly* (17 Aug.), it was intending to launch a website urging people to boycott all Israeli and American goods and services, and to document war crimes committed by the Israeli army in Lebanon with the object of bringing its findings before the Hague Tribunal.

Islamists intensified the theme of Jew-hatred. "We are fighting the Jews in the name of religion, in the name of Islam, which makes this jihad an individual duty," declared leading Sunni Islamist scholar Yusuf al-Qaradawi, who sanctions martyrdom operations against Israeli civilian targets. This was the message in Friday sermons throughout the Arab world, which angrily denounced Israeli brutality and called for jihad. They underscored both the David-versus-Goliath glamour of Hizballah's fight against Israel, and antipathy toward the US and its Arab allies in the region.

Tens of thousands of followers of Shi'i Iraqi cleric Muqtada al-Sadr shouted slogans, such as "Death to Israel," and "Death to the US," in a rally held on Friday 4 August in Baghdad. Muslims who cannot join the Islamic resistance are permitted, according to Islamic law, to carry out actions to paralyze the interests of Israel and the US in their countries and in other places, stated Syrian cleric Shaykh Muhammad Sayyid Ramadan al-Buti, in an interview to Hizballah's al-Manar TV on 8 August. Ayman al-Zawahiri, Bin Ladin's second in command, renewed al-Qa`ida's call for holy war against Israel, threatening to attack everywhere. Despite the Sunni global jihad movement's antagonism to Shi'ites, there is tacit agreement between them regarding Israel and Zionism. "It is a jihad for the sake of God and will last until [our] religion prevails...from Spain to Iraq," he said in a message broadcast on al-Jazeera TV, 27 July.

Resentment of Israel was also expressed in antisemitic terms, such as accusing Israel of conspiring against Islam and the Arabs and embodying Israelis with age-old Jewish stereotypes, as well as with Nazi, racist traits. Venomous cartoons published almost daily across the Arab press played a major role in exposing a range of antisemitic prejudice. Israeli soldiers were depicted as bloodthirsty, Nazi-like figures; Jews were drawn with hooked noses, long beards and black hats; Israeli leaders were portrayed as greedy and manipulative and drank the blood of Lebanese victims; and the swastika was superimposed over the Star of David (*al-Watan* [Qatar]; 18, 20, 21 July; *al-Dustur* [Jordan]; 18, 26 July; *al-Quds al-'Arabi* (London), 19 July).

An increase in anti-Zionist and antisemitic articles was observed, and coverage of the war had a clear anti-Israel bias, with al-Jazeera network

taking the lead. Numerous commentaries reiterated traditional Islamic motifs, depicting traits of “the descendants of apes and pigs,” and stressing their violation of agreements, contempt for other religions, and adherence to Torah commands to kill and annihilate women and children.

“I hereby declare that I withdraw my recognition of Israel. This is not a state but an organized crime gang, more dangerous than any familiar mafia because it bribed the American judge, and acts against the law under its protection,” declared liberal Lebanese columnist Jihad al-Khazin in the daily *al-Hayat*, one of the most progressive papers in the Arab world, on 26 July, two weeks into the war. He went on to describe Israel as “a malignant tumor” spreading in the Middle East body, yet since he considered himself a man of peace, he did not call for uprooting it or throwing the Jews into the sea but for isolating it behind bars. Somewhat apologetically in an earlier column (22 July), he described Israel’s actions as Nazi, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as “a small führer” and his military leaders as “SS generals.” The expression “Israeli Nazism” is an oxymoron, he wrote, but “I can’t find any other logical definition for Israel’s Nazi-like actions... Is it logical for the survivors of the Holocaust and their descendants to do what the Nazis did to them?” Al-Khazin is not a Holocaust denier, but he has repeatedly equated Israel with Nazi Germany and described the Gaza Strip as a concentration camp. His columns included two major motifs: a conspiratorial alliance between Jews and Americans against Muslims and Arabs, derived from perceived unquestionable American support for Israel; and the equation of Israel and Zionism with Nazism. This analogy, and reference to the Holocaust, its terminology and symbols to describe the events, emerged as the most widespread theme in the Arab and Muslim discourse in the wake of the war, typifying mainstream and nationalist, as well as Islamist discourse.

Utilization of Holocaust references intensified after the incident in Qana, which was presented as a massacre reminiscent of the tragedy which occurred in the same village on 18 April 1996. “An Israeli-made holocaust”; “more than the Holocaust”; “Israeli terrorism is an integral part of Israel’s nature and creation”; “the symbiotic relationship between Zionism and Nazism”; and “the era of the new Nazism”, were a few of the phrases and headlines (*al-Riyadh*, 27 July; *al-Watan* [Kuwait], 31 July; *al-Nahar*, 1 Aug.; *al-Ba`th*, 18 July). Israelis were characterized as disciples of Hitler and war criminals, who should be brought to trial. A few articles (*al-Wafd*, 24 July; *al-Ahram*, 13 Aug.) wondered when Arabs and Palestinians would inaugurate museums, such as Yad Vashem, to exhibit Israeli atrocities and the “Arab holocaust.” Obviously, such themes

sought not only to dehumanize Israel and the Jews but to de-legitimize Israel's right to exist. Several articles delved into history to prove that the establishment of the State of Israel was a mistake. Researcher Khlaid Ibrahim Ba'ba' asserted in the Jordanian daily *al-Dustur* (31 July) that Israel had no legal legitimacy, while Zayd Hamza in another Jordanian daily, *al-Ra'y* (12 Aug.), asserted that "the biggest mistake of Israel now is that it forgets that Israel itself was a mistake!"

Antisemitic waves rise and recede in relation to political events and developments and are linked to broader processes affecting Arab societies. The Lebanon war provided a glaring example of the chaos prevailing in the region, the internal instability of the various states, Sunni-Shi'i animosity and regional rivalry for hegemony, exacerbated by the rise of Iranian ambitions to dominate the Middle East and even to obtain recognition as a world power. Several Arab leaders, therefore, did not identify with Hizballah – "their reflexive anti-Zionist response has been held in check," as Daniel Pipes phrased it – and a few of them even hoped for a swift Israeli victory. The political rift in the Arab leadership was evidenced on the religious level as well, leading to an unprecedented "war of *fatwa*" between a camp of religious scholars, particularly Saudis, who opposed Hizballah, considering it an enemy and Nasrallah a "Satan" and "infidel," and one that supported it, seeing it as "glorious national resistance." `Abd al-Rahman al-Rashid, director of al-Arabiya TV, even agreed, in *al-Sharq al-Awsat* (13 Aug.), with Western commentators who perceive Islamist movements as fascist. In Egypt, popular preacher Safwat Hijjazi, who issued an edict during the war calling for murdering any Israeli Jew, faced charges of instigating murder.

However, the Arab-Muslim discourse continued to interlace anti-Americanism with anti-Israelism and antisemitism, linking alleged American and Israeli interests and goals to destroy Islam. The main lesson Arabs derived from the war was that Israel is not invincible, a thought that might serve to inspire future unity and rally forces to amend the mistake committed by its establishment.

COUNTRY AND REGIONAL ABSTRACTS
(For full country reports and updates, see
<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/CR.htm>)

Western Europe

AUSTRIA

Austria has a Jewish population of 10,000 out of a total population of 8 million, mostly located in Vienna. Most registered members of the community are affiliated to the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien (IKG – Jewish Community Vienna).

The Forum against Anti-Semitism registered 214 antisemitic incidents (2005: 143) in 2006, including one physical assault and three incidents of vandalism. On the night of 25 November, over 100 windows were broken and the rest rooms damaged in the Lauder Chabad Jewish school in Vienna. The suspect, arrested on the school premises in the early morning of 26 November, gave his name as Adolf Hitler. Jewish community head Ariel Muzicant called the incident the most serious in the last 20 years. A 24-year-old of Croatian origin was sentenced in early 2007 to 15 months imprisonment for vandalism. In court he told journalists that there were too many Jews in Austria. The Jewish community of Austria thought the sentence too light.

The Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ) received 11 percent of the vote (21 seats) in the October 2006 general election, compared to 10 percent in 2002. Jörg Haider's Alliance for the Future of Austria (BZÖ), which split from the FPÖ in April 2005, gained 7 seats, while the FPÖ's former coalition partner, the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP), won 66 seats. At the opening of Parliament, all 21 FPÖ representatives wore a blue cornflower in their buttonholes. Between 1933 and 1938 blue cornflowers served as a symbol identifying the illegal NSDAP in Austria.

As a result of FPÖ's further shift to the right, beginning in 2002 and intensifying in 2005, the line between (legal) right-wing extremism and (illegal) neo-Nazism has become even more blurred. The Ring Freiheitlicher Jugend (RFJ), the FPÖ's youth wing) in particular, showed signs in 2006 of a convergence with Nazi discourse and activists. Neo-Nazis, for their part, have begun viewing the FPÖ, under the leadership of Heinz-Christian Strache, as "their" party. This trend was reinforced by Austrian neo-Nazi Gerd Honsik, who urged neo-Nazis for the first time to vote for the FPÖ. Honsik, who avoided serving an 18 month prison sentence in 1992 for violation of the Nazi prohibition law by fleeing to Spain, called the FPÖ "the only party in which the leading figures still profess to and stand up for the German people."

Following Honsik's appeal, Ariel Muzicant, president of the IKG, openly criticized the FPÖ in the media for its neo-Nazi connections. As a result, he was subjected to antisemitic attacks on the Internet.

In the wake of the death of an Austrian UN soldier in Lebanon in July, Dietmar Gerhartl, a FPÖ district councilor in Neunkirchen, Lower Austria, wrote on the website of the *Palästinensischen Gemeinde in Österreich* (Palestinian Community in Austria) that he had long since grown tired "of having to watch the injustice in Palestine without being able to say or do anything about it." As a *Freiheitlicher* (FPÖ member) "one is a victim of the Nazi bludgeon (and so with every criticism of Israel one is labeled a Nazi)." The "terrorist state of Israel has now killed an Austrian too in cowardly fashion," he said, and the "mass murderers with the Star of David... continue to go unpunished."

During a lecture to Catholic fundamentalists in September, FPÖ Member of Parliament Ewald Stadler spoke of the "cross-linking between politics and Freemasonry [code for Jews]." According to the right-wing Catholic antisemitic website *kreuz.net*, Stadler claimed that the EU was "the most important instrument of Freemason politics" and that the Masons were "busy developing a civil religion with the Holocaust at the center." The worldwide Freemason conspiracy was behind revolutions and uprisings, he said, and was attempting to bring all states under their control.

Shortly afterwards, during an election appearance in St Pölten, Stadler compared the *Fristenlösung* (law allowing abortion in the first trimester) to the Shoah: "The number of children murdered since the implementation of the *Fristenlösung* correlates with certain numbers... that we hear about time and time again in the historical debate."

Although the FPÖ affiliated weekly *Zur Zeit* (directed by FPÖ-MEP Andreas Mölzer) claims to have moderated its image, antisemitic articles continue to be published. Explaining the supposed real reason for the Prophet Muhammad cartoon affair, conservative Catholic writer Friedrich Romig alleged that the culture department chief of the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*, responsible for first publishing the Muhammad cartoons, had been posted to Washington in 1996, where he moved in "neo-conservative circles of dedicated Zionists." Back in Denmark he immediately began "to make the baiting of Islam socially acceptable." The "struggles over the cartoons became a way of unifying the West over the wars and [enabling the implementation of] repressive measures against... all countries that continued to oppose Zionist world domination," he said.

The Holocaust denial conference held in Tehran in December was attended by three Austrian right-wing extremists: Herbert Schaller, Hans

Gamlich and Wolfgang Fröhlich. Moishe A. Friedman, an American citizen living in Vienna and self-styled “chief rabbi” was also there. Friedman, who is often invited to Iran and receives assistance from the FPÖ, claimed that “Zionists” stood behind World War II and the Holocaust.

FPÖ activist John Gudenus, former member of the Bundesrat (Upper House) and Nationalrat (National Assembly), and until summer 2006 co-editor of *Zur Zeit* (see *ASW 2005*), was convicted and given a one year suspended sentence for repeated violations of the Nazi prohibition law. The proceedings related to comments made by Gudenus, who demanded “physical and scientific proof” of the existence of gas chambers in Nazi camps and denied there had been any in the Third Reich. A further issue raised at the trial was Gudenus’ visit to Mauthausen, where he commented on a photograph showing prisoners there that they “actually look quite good.”

Following his conviction, the *Zur Zeit* took up his cause in June, arguing that Gudenus had only exercised his right of freedom of speech in questioning the existence of gas chambers in the Third Reich. This position apparently reflects the FPÖ party line.

On 20 February an Austrian court sentenced British Holocaust denier David Irving to three years imprisonment. Irving was arrested in November 2005 before he could address Viennese students and graduates from the right-wing Olympia fraternity, among them many FPÖ politicians. On the advice of his lawyer, he pleaded guilty and said he had made a mistake claiming there were no gas chambers at Auschwitz. On 20 December Irving’s appeal was granted and two-thirds of his prison sentence was changed to probation, after he underwent what the judge called an “impeccable conversion.” The judge, Ernst Maurer, is reportedly sympathetic to the FPÖ. (Maurer was chosen to represent the party on the board of governors of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation.) Irving spent 13 months in prison. On 21 December he was deported to the UK where he renewed his racist and antisemitic diatribes at a press conference.

While in prison Irving engaged a new lawyer, Herbert Schaller, who since 1991 has openly denied the gas chambers. As noted, Schaller participated in the Holocaust denial conference in Tehran.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/austria.htm>

BELGIUM

Some 35,000 Jewish citizens live in Belgium out of a total population of 10 million. The two main centers of Belgian Jewry are Antwerp and Brussels. The Comité de Coordination des Organisations Juives de Belgique (Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations in Belgium – CCOJB) in Brussels is the community's roof organization.

Following a decrease in 2005, the year 2006 witnessed a steep rise in antisemitic manifestations, with 66 being reported. Although there was only one report of extreme violence (potentially causing loss of life), there were 3 cases of physical assault, 4 of vandalism of property, 24 of threats (verbal insults, etc.), 9 of abusive behavior (including graffiti), and 26 of receipt of antisemitic literature (in print or via the web). This is the largest number of acts since 2001, the year that the Bureau Exécutif de Surveillance Communautaire (BESC – www.antisemitisme.be) began monitoring activity. This marked increase may be attributed to four factors: a) the Second Lebanon War, during which 22 acts (out of a total of 66) were committed; b) the mainstreaming of antisemitic prejudice as a feature of everyday life (see below); c) improved communication between the BESC and the Centre pour l'Égalité des Chances et la Lutte contre le Racisme (Centre for Equal Opportunities and Combating Racism – CECLR/CEOOR), as well as the establishment of a 'diversity' unit by the Antwerp police where complaints can be filed anonymously, making it easier for members of the Orthodox community to be in touch with the local authorities; and d) greater monitoring by "surfers" of antisemitic and Holocaust denial material on forums.

According to the BESC, the cities most affected were Brussels and Antwerp. The steepest rise was in defamatory incidents (insults, and publications in the press and on the Internet), which increased by 50 percent (from 30 in 2005 to 45 in 2006). Compared to previous years, the Antwerp region was less affected than the Brussels one: only 10 incidents were recorded in 2006, compared to 19 in 2005 and 20 in 2004. However, as in 2005, when 75 percent of physical attacks on individuals were directed against members of the small but visible Antwerp Jewish community, the four attacks carried out in 2006 were all against Antwerp Jews. The vast majority of the victims of antisemitic acts in Antwerp tend to be Orthodox Jews, attacked by youths of various backgrounds – native Belgian, as well as immigrants and descendants of immigrants from Eastern Europe, the Maghreb and, more recently, Turkey. In the Antwerp region, strong support for the extreme right and incitement of

young Muslims by extremist Arab organizations constitute an explosive cocktail to the safety of the Jewish community.

On 5 January, a religious Jewish couple with a baby was attacked in a train by a passenger who began by insulting them. He then took out a knife and moved toward the couple in a threatening fashion. The mother escaped with the baby in her arms, together with other passengers in the compartment and the ticket inspector. The father, confronting the assailant on his own, had to defend himself so that his wife and baby could escape. He sustained a number of superficial injuries.

On the night of 2–3 October, two young Orthodox Jews, pupils at the Wilrijk yeshiva, were beaten up and insulted with antisemitic comments by a gang of three youngsters, apparently of East European origin. Further, on 30 November, a group of young Hassidic students, aged 13–15, on a trip to Beringen-Mijn, were attacked by local youngsters, of Turkish origin, who hit one of the students and then threw stones at the group and the youth hostel where the students were due to spend the night. They also shouted antisemitic insults and gave Nazi salutes. Windows of the building were shattered. The Beringen police interrogated six minors and four adults. The court ordered them to pay damages and interest, apologize to the young Jews and perform 30 hours of community service.

Demonization of Israel, a phenomenon which became more common after the outbreak of the Second Intifada, has given free rein to antisemitic remarks, which had been considered shameful since the Holocaust. Old clichés involving Jews and hackneyed antisemitic subjects have resurfaced in practically unchanged form – without generating any outcry. In these circumstances, condemning Jews is considered either normal, or at least ignorable. Among some progressive and leftist circles, a Jew who does not openly disown the State of Israel is considered the enemy of humankind. Thus, the re-issue and distribution in 2006 of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* at main newspaper kiosks in Belgium, met with no public reaction whatsoever. As far as is known, this reprinting of the entire work, as an appendix to a so-called anti-American novel *Les Protocoles de Sion*, by Patrick Henderikx and Patrice De Bruyne, warranted no mention in the Belgian press. In addition, it took more than four months for the CECLR/CEOOR to react and ban it.

Equally troubling was the cartoon by Kroll, Belgium's best-known cartoonist, which appeared in *Le Soir*, the main French-language daily, on 18 December. The cartoon conveys the message that Israelis rejoice collectively over Palestinian hardships, or – even worse – that they are the Machiavellian instigators thereof. The stereotype presented is a

seedy-looking ultra-Orthodox Jew, reminiscent of classical pre-Vatican II antisemitic images: repulsive both morally (a kind of Jewish Pontius Pilate) and physically; his son appears with side-locks, as a kind of junior skinhead.

A third example of this new blindness to Jews and/or insulting them, was the desecration on 24 July, during the Second Lebanon War, of the memorial to the Jewish Martyrs of Belgium, engraved with the names of over 25,000 Jews deported from the country. Situated in Anderlecht, a part of Brussels which used to be Jewish and now has a sizable Arab-Muslim population, the monument's crypt was ransacked. An urn containing human ashes brought from Auschwitz-Birkenau was emptied. Windows were broken and documents destroyed. The floor was soiled with condoms and excrement. The few short news paragraphs on the desecration that appeared in the media presented it as an act of vandalism, with no antisemitic overtones.

Antisemitic activity is also intensifying on Belgian websites, and especially on forums, where some moderators allow comments which could be prosecuted on the basis of legislation from 1981 (racism) and 1995 (Holocaust denial). It remains to be seen whether the newly set-up FCCU (Federal Computer Crime Unit – www.cyberhate.be), a Belgian federal police department responsible for hunting down criminal activities on the Internet, takes the appropriate steps.

Despite a general rise in support for the extreme right in the 2006 local elections, it did not meet the expectations of the Flemish Vlaams Belang, headed by Filip Dewinter. For instance, the party, which retains ties with small neo-fascist and antisemitic groups such as Voorpost and Were Di, failed to win the city of Antwerp, its main objective, losing its position as Antwerp's leading political party, despite having won 33 percent of the vote. The VB remains in the opposition. In the Francophone part, extreme right parties recorded moderate increases almost everywhere, gaining 11 percent of the vote in several places.

Another characteristic of the election was a trend toward communitarianism. Due to the high proportion of Belgians of foreign origin (especially in Brussels), and the fact that foreigners (who are not citizens) can vote at the municipal level, many Belgians of North African and Turkish descent were elected as to city councils. In Brussels, since attracting the foreigners' vote was essential, some parties – notably the francophone Socialist Party – included candidates from extremist parties (such as the ultra-nationalist Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi, alias the Grey Wolves) in order to assure the vital Turkish vote.

Belgium is home to a large number of Muslim communities. In fact, 20 percent of Brussels' citizens originate in Muslim countries. The

majority are naturalized Belgians or are Belgian by birth; thus, some 17 percent of Brussels' regional MPs have Arab-Muslim roots, mostly in Morocco. All were elected on democratic lists, the majority (90 percent) as candidates of the Francophone Socialist Party (PS). Because of their French colonial history, most Belgians of North African origin vote for francophone lists.

The Arab European League (AEL), an immigrant protest movement aspiring to introduce Islamic law (Shar'ia) into Europe 'by democratic means', was created in Antwerp in 2000. Its leader Dyab Abou Jahjah, a Lebanese-born Muslim, has aroused controversy due to his opposition to integration and to his demand to 'de-zionize' Antwerp. The AEL took advantage of the Prophet Muhammad cartoon affair (which began in September 2005 – see *ASW 2005*) to post several cartoons lampooning the Holocaust on its website. For example, in "Hitler goes Dutroux," displayed in February, Anne Frank is shown in bed with the notorious pedophile Dutroux, who says: "Write that in your diary, Anne."

On 18 April 2006, FN leader Daniel Féret and extreme right activist George-Henri Tonnelier, operator of the forum Tonnelier.be, were convicted by the Brussels Appeals Court of racism, including discrimination and inciting hatred. Moreover, Féret was declared ineligible for election for 10 years and assigned to 250 hours of community service in an absorption center for aliens. The party itself was not proscribed. Tonnelier campaigns for abrogation of the Belgian anti-racist and Holocaust denial laws. Two months later a Brussels criminal court banned the extreme right Nation, an offshoot of the defunct Assaut party (1988–94), for inciting to hatred and racial discrimination.

Two webmasters of Assabyle.com, an extremist Muslim website connected to the Brussels Belgian Islamic Centre (CIB), were sentenced in June to 10 months imprisonment and each fined €15,000 by a Brussels criminal court. They were convicted of antisemitism, denial of the Holocaust and incitement to racial hatred, under the laws against Holocaust denial and racism. This was the first conviction in Belgium of operators of an Internet site under these laws. In his verdict, the judge clearly stated that comparing Israeli policies to Nazi treatment of the Jews contained elements of Holocaust denial.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/belgium.htm>

DENMARK

There are some 7,000 Jews in Denmark, out of a total population of 5.25 million. Most of the community is concentrated in Copenhagen, but smaller communities exist in Odense and Aarhus. The central communal organization is the Mosaiske Troessamfund.

About 40 antisemitic incidents were recorded by the Jewish community in 2006, two of them violent. The majority were perpetrated by young people from immigrant Muslim communities (see below). Some incidents were ostensibly anti-Israel but had strongly antisemitic overtones. For example, on 21 July, a bus passenger on his way to a pro-Israel rally (intended to counter two anti-Israel demonstrations held that day) and carrying a Danish and an Israeli flag was hit several times in the face by a young Palestinian, who also tried to strangle him with the flags. The bus driver kept the doors closed until police arrived at the scene. The perpetrator was arrested. At the rally itself (held in front of the Danish parliament), people in passing cars hooted, made rude gestures and yelled abuse in Arabic. Two young men of Middle Eastern appearance approached the demonstration, screaming repeatedly "Jew pigs, Jew pigs," in Danish.

An identifiably Jewish man reported that he had experienced antisemitic attacks in September (three) and October (three). In the most serious incident, he claimed that three young men of Middle East origin had asked him if he was Jewish/Israeli. When he answered in the affirmative, they ran after him, throwing rocks, and screaming abuse. He managed to escape. In the other incidents, youths of Middle East origin yelled abuse such as "F---king Jew" or "Yahud," and made a rude gesture.

Harassment (including insults and threats) of members of the Jewish community was a common form of antisemitic expression in 2006, especially during the Second Lebanon War and its aftermath. On 3 June, after a non-Jewish man of Middle East origin was refused entry to the Copenhagen synagogue, he threatened: "Allah is Great... he will kill all the Jews, and there will be bombs in the synagogue..." When the police arrived, the man spat in the face of a police officer and was arrested.

In August, the Jewish school received a letter, referring to Jews as rats, snakes, vampires, pedophiles, AIDS and psoriasis, and threatening: "Perhaps you have forgotten that we have gasoline and stones..." On 18 August after the guards at the Copenhagen synagogue asked a young Danish man to stop vandalizing a road sign, he replied: "Jews are a weak and nasty people that are destroying the world... Jews are always playing

the 'Jewcard' to get what you want... You Jews control the world with your conspiracies... [sic]"

On 13 September a Jewish man (wearing a skullcap) on a train had his travel card ripped from him by a man who said: "Now we can find you if we need to." He returned the card after an argument, but five days later, the Jewish man heard the words: "You Jew, you f--king Jew," yelled at him from a passing car, one of whose passengers he identified as his attacker from the train.

Several pro-Lebanon/anti-Israel demonstrations were held in Denmark during the war. On 21 July, left-wing organizations such as the Danish-Palestinian Friendship, Socialist Youth Front (SUF) and Red Youth (Rød Ungdom) organized a rally during which participants carried posters of Hasan Nasrallah and Hizballah flags. Some demonstrators wore T-shirts showing the Star of David equated with the Nazi swastika.

On 27 November, the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* (as well as national TV) reported that a Qu'ran school in Vollsmose, an immigrant neighborhood in the city of Odense, used antisemitic teaching materials, among them a rap song ending with the words "... we're fighting til' the end/Until every Jew has been buried in a coffin."

A Jewish teacher in a school with several Muslim pupils reported a dozen antisemitic incidents directed at her: a colleague accused her of being part of "the Jewish conspiracy"; a student told her that he wanted to write an essay about killing Jews and asked her the best way to do it; another student asked her where he could find Jews to kill; a Muslim girl told her she did not want her parents to know she had a Jewish teacher, "because then Hizb-ut-Tahrir will come and I care about you."

In September, the Danish media reported increasing antisemitism in Denmark. The daily *BT* wrote, for example, that "Jews in Denmark are exposed to hatred. They cannot travel freely and suffer death threats and harassment on the streets." A young Jew who has since moved to Israel, interviewed in the *BT* article, said that when he walked on the street (in an immigrant area) wearing his skullcap, he was threatened with death and harassed daily, not only by immigrant youth but by families with babies and even elderly women. "We will kill you," they said. "This is our area, you Jewish pig." In another *BT* article, a police officer on duty in Aarhus said it was "an unnecessary provocation to wear a skullcap in certain [immigrant] neighborhoods of the city.

Such reports led to a debate in the Danish parliament in October, initiated by Soeren Espersen, DF (Danish People's Party, a right-wing party very critical of immigrants). Espersen asked Minister of Justice Lene Espersen (no relationship) what she intended to do when a young Jew had to "flee to Israel since he no longer can stay safe from Muslim

threats.” The minister replied that the Copenhagen Police Authority were taking the matter seriously and would try to register all criminal acts with a possibly racist motive.

A Danish academic, Christian Lindtner (see *ASW* 1997/8), participated in the Iranian Holocaust denial conference that took place in Tehran on 11–12 December 2006, drawing little media attention.

Estimates of the Muslim population in Denmark range from 200,000 (according to the authorities) to 300,000 (according to Muslim community officials in Denmark); however, only about 10 percent of the Muslim population is observant. The transnational fundamentalist Hizb ut-Tahrir (HuT) is well-established and very active in Denmark. The movement’s influence on young Muslims is evident in its ability to draw 400–1,500 of them to their various events. In 2002 Fadi Abdul Latif (Fadi Abdullatif), its spokesman, was convicted of making antisemitic threats. In August 2006 he was sentenced to three months in jail for threatening Jews and inciting violence against the Danish government. Following the verdict, he said that “through this court case, the Danish government and the Jewish state are portrayed as the victims of threats, but in reality, the Danish government is guilty of the killing and torture of innocent people in Iraq, and the Jewish state has committed massacres against women and children in Lebanon and Palestine.” A Justice Department investigation found that there was no basis in Danish law to prohibit HuT (see *ASW* 2003/4).

The authorities suspect that the extremist Iraq-based Ansar al-Islam and Ansar al-Sunna have members and/or supporters in Denmark. Hamas also has sympathizers in Denmark. Proceedings began in a Danish court against al-Aqsa Spannmål (al-Aqsa Foundation), an international organization with branches in various European countries. Both the US and Israel claim that the al-Aqsa Foundation channels money to Hamas terror activities, and several of its European branches have already been shut down. The Danish chairman of al-Aqsa Spannmål, Rachid Issa, sent 750,000 Danish kroner (about 100,000 euros) to the Islamic Charitable Society in Hebron, allegedly a front organization for Hamas.

The Lebanese Hizballah have exploited sympathizers in Denmark for espionage purposes. For example, Danish Muslim citizen Ayad al-Ashuah (Ayad al-Achouah) was sentenced to 33 months in prison in Israel for spying on behalf of Hizballah. Entering Israel with his Danish passport, he videotaped military installations in northern Israel (later hit by Hizballah during the Second Lebanese war). He was released in autumn 2006 after serving only half of his sentence.

The Islamist preacher Said Mansour was tried in 2006 for “inciting terror.” According to the prosecution, he used his publishing company, Al-Nur Islamic Information, to disseminate CDs, DVDs and other material calling for jihad. Mansour is connected to the so-called Glostrup case, the trial of four young Danish Muslims (18–22) arrested in Denmark in 2005 and accused of plotting to commit a terrorist attack in the country. They, in turn, are linked to two young Muslims convicted in Sarajevo, Bosnia (January 2007), for planning to commit terror attacks against countries with soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. When police in Sarajevo arrested the two (the Bosnian Swede Mirsad Bektašević, aka Maximus, and Turkish Dane Cesur Abdulkadir), 20 kg of explosives, a suicide bomber belt and other weapons, and a “martyr video” were found in their apartment. They were sentenced to 13 to 15 years in jail. Their arrests, in fact, triggered apprehension of the Glostrup four, as well as the capture in London, on 21 October 2005, of Younis Tsouli (aka Irhabi007), a key Internet expert for al-Qa’ida in Iraq. Those convicted in Bosnia are also suspected of contacts with Said Mansour and Shaykh Omar Bakri Muhammad, the British al-Muhajiroun leader (see UK).

The protracted international furor (events later described by Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen as “Denmark’s worst international crisis since World War II”) triggered by the publication of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad in the mainstream newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* on 30 September 2005 (see *ASW* 2005), only died down in spring 2006. A delegation of Danish Muslims (led by Imam Ahmed Abdel Rahman [‘Abu Laban’] and Ahmed Akkari) that set out on an extended tour of the Middle East in order to rally support for its protest against the newspaper’s act of “blasphemy” against 1.3 billion Muslims worldwide, showed prominent political and religious leaders a dossier, which included the Muhammad cartoons as well as other, more offensive ones that had not been published in *Jyllands-Posten*. Many in Denmark believe that it was this dossier that led to the widespread protests. Mass demonstrations of Muslims took place in Denmark and in other countries of Western Europe, and especially in the Islamic world, and official complaints were made to the Danish government by Danish Muslims, among others. Danish embassies were set ablaze by mobs in Beirut and Damascus. Danish companies suffered from a Middle East boycott, causing damage worth billions of Danish kroner.

The affair gave rise to a wide-ranging debate throughout Danish society on freedom of speech, with opponents accusing those permitting publication of such cartoons of racism. For the Jewish community in Denmark, the affair led to a period of increased public attention, but no

major antisemitic incidents could be related to the crisis. Chief Rabbi of Copenhagen Bent Lexner attacked the cartoons as “a stupidity that caused Denmark enormous damage, and was totally unnecessary.”

Most left-wing and extreme-left wing organizations and parties in Denmark are anti-Israel. However, in 2006 the extreme left and “autonomous” (regarding themselves as independent of society) groups in Denmark were mainly preoccupied with the closing of a youth center called Ungdomshuset (The Youth House), which was illegally occupied by young people in 1982. On 16 December, police arrested some 300 rioters during demonstrations which attracted some 1500–5000 participants. The riots were the worst in Denmark since 1993.

Neo-Nazi and other extreme right groups, such as Dansk Front (the Danish Front), the Danish National Socialist Party (DNSP) and Blood & Honour, tend to maintain a lower profile in Denmark than their counterparts in Sweden and Norway. Membership is low, ranging, according to the Danish police, from 4 to 500 members. The main concern of the extreme right is immigration.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/denmark.htm>

FRANCE

The French Jewish community, which numbered about 575,000 out of a total population of 62.4 million in 2005, is the largest in Europe. The greatest concentration is in the Paris area, followed by Marseille, Lyon, Nice and Toulouse, and Strasbourg. The main organizations of French Jewry are the Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France (CRIF), the Consistoire Central and the Fonds Social Juif Unifié (FSJU).

A total of 371 antisemitic incidents were recorded in France in 2006 compared to 300 in 2005, an increase of 24 percent, according to CRIF. Figures from the Ministry of the Interior were even higher: 541 antisemitic incidents, compared to 506 in 2005, an increase of 6 percent. The most serious antisemitic act by far was the kidnapping and killing of Ilan Halimi.

In January, Halimi, a cell phone retailer who worked in a Jewish district of Paris, was abducted by a gang on 21 January and died of his wounds shortly after he was found on 13 February by police near a railroad track. This was the most serious antisemitic act to have been recorded in France in decades, and probably the only murder of a French Jew motivated clearly by antisemitism; the case is expected to go to trial in 2008. The Halimi case caused a national trauma and was seen by the Jewish community, as well as by most politicians and the mainstream media, as the culmination of the wave of antisemitism that began in France in fall 2000.

Halimi was captured by a group of criminals known as “the Barbarians,” led by Youssouf Fofana (originally from the Ivory Coast) and consisting of people of various origins: African, Caribbean, Caucasian (including a Portuguese immigrant) and North African, many of them known to the police for various breaches of the law. By their own admission, the gang members selected their victim because he was Jewish and worked in a Jewish-owned shop in a largely Jewish neighborhood. After he was detained by the gang, Halimi was severely beaten, some say tortured, while they shouted antisemitic abuse at him. Fofana asked for a ransom of half a million euro, which he knew the family could not pay but believed that the Jewish community would raise in the synagogues.

When they raided the gang members’ homes, the police found antisemitic and neo-Nazi literature at one, and pages printed from a Salafi website at Fofana’s. Though the latter was described by his father as a devout Muslim, the police claim that none of the gang was connected to Islamism. Shortly after the police found Halimi, Fofana

fled to the Ivory Coast, where he was reportedly protected by at least one faction fighting the civil war. However, he was extradited and jailed on 4 March. From his cell, Fofana regularly writes letters filled with threats, antisemitic language and Islamist/jihadist proclamations to the judge in charge of the case. However, since he faces a life sentence without parole, many say that he is seeking to be declared mentally insane, which is his only chance of receiving a lighter sentence.

Following Halimi's death, a memorial service was held on 23 February at the Central Synagogue of Paris, attended by President Chirac, Prime Minister de Villepin and leaders of the major political parties. On 26 February, a demonstration took place in Paris, organized by CRIF, LICRA and SOS-Racisme, attended by then Minister of the Interior Nicolas Sarkozy and Minister of Foreign Affairs Philippe Douste-Blazy, among other officials and public figures.

The trend of antisemitic attacks on children continued (see *ASW* 2004, 2005). In January, two 11-year-old Jewish children were attacked in Paris by five youths of apparent North African origin. They hit and tried to strangle someone who intervened. The three victims were taken to hospital. Also in January, a group of school girls shouted "Dirty Jews, we'll send you back to Warsaw. Go back to the extermination camps. Heil Hitler. Long live the Arabs," at Jewish girls from a neighboring school in Strasbourg. The girls were also harassed physically (see also *General Analysis*).

Antisemitic violence broke out in the wake of a soccer match between the Israeli Hapoel Tel Aviv and PSG (Paris St. Germain). Right-wing extremists gave Nazi salutes accompanied by vulgar racist and antisemitic insults. A French Jew attacked by the mob was rescued by a police officer, who was in turn assaulted. He then shot into the mob, killing one PSG fan and seriously wounding a second. President Jacques Chirac and Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy deplored the racial violence.

Far left parties reacted to the Second Lebanon War with a virulent attack against the Israeli response, which they labeled "aggression." They consider both Hamas and Hizballah "resistance forces," despite their Islamist ideology. During demonstrations which took place in Paris (especially on 29 July), the Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire (LCR), the Communist Party and the Greens marched alongside Hizballah flag-waving Islamists, the Agir contre la guerre (Stop the War) network, the Association France-Palestine Solidarité (AFSP) and the Indigènes de la République.

The Front National (FN), founded in 1973 and led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, has about 15,000 active members. It holds 160 seats in the regional

councils, about 500 in the city councils and 7 in the Euro-Parliament, but none in the French Parliament. The party officially launched Le Pen's 2007 presidential campaign on 10 November. Under the guidance of his daughter Marine, several major tactical changes were instituted with the purpose of modernizing the party and moderating its image. During a visit to the village of Valmy, on the anniversary of the battle during which the French army defeated Prussian/Austrian forces in 1792, thus securing the victory of the republic, Le Pen called for an alliance of both "native" and immigrant French people against the political elite and globalization. He continued to woo the immigrant, especially Muslim, population by receiving controversial comedian Dieudonné M'Bala M'Bala (see below) at the party convention of 11 November. The party also courted the (non-existent) Jewish vote: Marine Le Pen became a member of the delegation for relations with Israel in the Euro-Parliament.

According to the Renseignements Généraux (the state security police) the total number of far right activists in 2004/5 was 2,500–3,500. The report stressed that the main target of far right activity was now the Muslim community. It identified 20 groups, split into five ideological subdivisions: the skinhead movement (1,000–1,500 activists) (see *ASW* 2005); the "Identity" movement; ultra-nationalists; neo-Nazis; and soccer "hooligans." The situation remained unchanged in 2006.

The "Identity" movement (total membership, according to the police report, 500) revolves around Bloc Identitaire, led by Guillaume Luyt, Philippe Vardon and Fabrice Robert. Membership is about 350. It publishes the quarterly *ID* (for *Identité*), which has an address in Belgium in order to avoid prosecution. In 2006, the Bloc featured prominently in the media due to the initiative of its sister organization, Solidarité des Français, to distribute pork meals to the homeless in Paris, thus excluding both Jews and Muslims. This scheme was banned in December by the Paris Police Authority, but an administrative court overruled the decision a few days later.

Neo-Nazis (who may also be skinheads) were responsible for the desecration of many Jewish cemeteries, as well as mosques and Muslim cemeteries. However, 2006 was a quiet year in this regard. The two youths who vandalized the Jewish cemetery of Herrlisheim (Alsace) in 2004, were arrested in January 2006. One of them was a neo-Nazi who also tried to murder a Moroccan immigrant. In a December 2006 landmark decision, a court sentenced unaffiliated neo-Nazis who had set fire to a mosque in Haute-Savoie to jail terms without parole.

The power of the Islamist movement should be assessed in relation to the number of Muslims living in France, which lies between 4 and 6

million, as well as to the level of religious practice among French Muslims, which is only about 15 percent. On the other hand, anti-Jewish prejudice among those who are devout remains high: according to a survey released in 2005 by the academic institution CEVIPOF, 46 percent of religious Muslims manifest some kind of antisemitic prejudice, while 28 percent do not (see *ASW 2005*). However, according to the 2006 annual report of the official Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme, over 45 percent of perpetrators of antisemitic incidents were French citizens or foreigners with a Muslim immigrant background (whether practicing Muslims or not), while the extreme right was responsible for about 10 percent.

The Swiss theologian Tariq Ramadan, and the groups that disseminate his thinking, *Présence Musulmane* and the *Collectif des Musulmans de France*, have a sizeable following among young Muslims in France among the middle and upper classes. Ramadan, who advocates a modern orthodox Islam rooted in the reality of European societies and values, has close ties to the anti-globalization movement and the Green Party, where Ramadan's virulent anti-Zionism is well received. The Ramadan tendency and radical left thinkers critical of Zionism and Israel meet at the main French Islamic website, www.oumma.com. Since Ramadan now lives mainly in the United Kingdom, he is barely mentioned in the French media.

Of particular concern to the authorities is the growing Salafi movement, inspired by Saudi *ulama* (Muslim scholars). According to a report of the *Renseignements Généraux*, the Salafis number some 5,000 and control about 30 mosques. Salafi activity is noticeable especially on Internet sites such as www.darwa.com, <http://www.sounnah.free.fr> and <http://www.salafs.com> (see *ASW 2005*).

While there is no organized, open expression of the jihadist trend, the French security services regularly dismantle cells that support jihad or plot terrorist actions. In December, Rachid Ramda was sentenced to 10 years in jail for his participation in the 1995 bombings in Paris, while the trial of six French detainees at Guantanamo was postponed until 2007. The French government also deports imams who incite racial hatred and antisemitism in their sermons. In September, Chellali Benchelalli, an Algerian Salafi imam from Lyon was deported with his wife and children, following their conviction for involvement in a jihadist cell.

The war in Iraq radicalized Muslims who view themselves more as Arab nationalists than as religious zealots. Anti-Zionist militants often try to build alliances with secular groups belonging to both ends of the political spectrum. This was seen once again during the summer of 2006 when Israel confronted Hizballah in Lebanon, and demonstrations

against the Israeli intervention were attended by all far left groups, the Communist Party and major pro-Palestinian organizations such as the L'Association France Palestine Solidarité (AFPS), but also by small groups of Shi'i followers of Hizballah. Hizballah gained considerable prestige in 2006 because it is viewed, even by secular militants, as the vanguard of the fight against the "Zionist entity." The same can be said of Hamas, whose religious agenda is seldom mentioned by pro-Palestinian supporters.

Antisemitism within the Afro-Caribbean community featured prominently in the media in 2006 because of three events: the murder of Ilan Halimi (see above); active connections between well-known comedian Dieudonné M'Bala M'Bala, the FN, the fascist extreme right and the conspiracy-minded anti-Zionist Réseau Voltaire; and the emergence of the black activist supremacist group Tribu KA. Dieudonné, who promotes the theory that the trade of African slaves was a Jewish enterprise and that France is ruled by "Zionists" (Jews) and "neo-Zionists" (Gentile supporters of Israel), stood for the French presidency but eventually withdrew from the race. However, he succeeded in building a coalition of supporters ranging from the anti-Zionist radical left (Ginette Skandrani) through Islamists (Shaykh Sefrioui, from the Comité Sheikh Yassine, a Hamas supporter) to former far right activists (his "chief of staff," known now as Marc Robert, was former FN member Marc George). Dieudonné led a delegation to Lebanon and Syria in September 2006, where he met with Hizballah and Ba'ath party officials. As noted above, he also attended the FN presidential convention in November. Dieudonné spreads his message through <http://lesogres.org>, currently the most virulently anti-Jewish website with any influence.

On 10 March a Paris court fined Dieudonné 5,000 euro for telling *Le Journal du Dimanche* in 2004 that the Jews, once slave traders, were now bankers, heads of show business and terrorists. In 2004, Dieudonné was acquitted of previous charges of antisemitism (see *ASW 2004*).

Even more extreme than Dieudonné is the racist, separatist Tribu KA, which spreads outright hatred of Jews under the leadership of its guru Kemi Seba (an alias). Believing in a mixture of Egyptian divinities and black supremacism, the movement claims that the black man was once the ruler of the world while the white man was culturally inferior. In 2006, the Tribu KA made its presence known by confronting Jews in the streets. On 28 May, a group of 40 demonstrators marched in the Jewish area of Le Marais in Paris, shouting antisemitic abuse at passers-by and seeking a fight with Betar and Jewish Defense League activists. Following what could have been a very serious incident, Jewish

organizations called for a ban on the group, fearing an escalation of violence similar to that which occurred in the wake of the murder of Ilan Halimi. Subsequently, Tribu KA was banned by then Minister of the Interior Nicolas Sarkozy on 26 July and its website closed by a court order on 14 August (it has since moved to www.seba-wsr.com). In September Tribu KA, now operating under the name Génération Kemi Seba, organized an “anti-Zionist summit,” with neo-fascists and Islamists.

In a report submitted on 21 March to Prime Minister de Villepin, the Commission nationale consultative des droits de l’homme (CNCDH), recommended measures to fight antisemitism, including a campaign stressing the gravity of racial, antisemitic and xenophobic propaganda. Also, in March, the Department of Education ratified the inclusion in the curriculum of Holocaust studies, antisemitism and Jewish-Arab relations in 60 French schools in 2007.

On 3 October, Robert Faurisson was given a three-month suspended sentence and fined 7,500 euros by a Paris court for denial of the Holocaust, in his sixth conviction for that offense. In February 2005 Faurisson granted an interview to the Iranian satellite TV channel Sahar 1, during which he declared that the Nazis did not try to exterminate the Jews and that there were no gas chambers at Auschwitz. Sahar1 has been banned in France since March 2005 for transmitting antisemitic broadcasts.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/france.htm>

GERMANY

According to government estimates, there are more than 200,000 Jews in Germany, making it the fastest growing community in the Diaspora. The largest Jewish centers are Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich and Hamburg, but Jewish communities are active in most other large urban areas. The Zentralrat acts as the roof organization of German Jewry, with headquarters in Berlin.

The Federal Office for the Defense of the Constitution (BfV) recorded a total of 1,636 antisemitic incidents motivated by extreme right ideology in 2006, a slight decrease compared to 1,658 the previous year. A similar trend was observed in regard to violent attacks on Jews: down from 49 in 2005 to 43 in 2006. Despite this decrease, there was a dramatic surge in antisemitic manifestations, especially involving Jewish pupils and youth, in the German capital Berlin. To some extent, this was part of the overall growth of violence at Berlin schools, which rose by 600 percent between 2002 and 2006. Because Jewish children have increasingly faced the hatred of Muslim as well as extreme right youth, the Jewish community advises parents to send their children to Jewish schools. Further, young religious Jews hide their skullcaps under a hat whenever they venture onto the street.

For example, on 1 December a group of youths of Middle Eastern appearance attacked a 14-year-old Jewish girl, a pupil at the Lina Morgenstern High School in Berlin-Kreuzberg, as she was on her way home. She suffered blows to the head and back, after weeks of taunting and verbal abuse. On several occasions she had to be accompanied to school by the police. On 12 October a 16-year-old boy was forced by three classmates in the Parey secondary school in Saxony-Anhalt to wear a Nazi-style placard around his neck during lunch break; the sign said "I'm the biggest pig in town, only with Jews do I hang around."

Verbal attacks on Jewish youth also rose in 2006, and the word "Jew" has become a popular insult. This phenomenon was observed increasingly during soccer games. For example, in November Muslim soccer players from TSV Helgoland insulted Jewish players from the TuS Maccabi team. Earlier, in September, antisemitic fans of VSG Gliencke in East Berlin shouted "Jew-pig out," and "We are building you a subway to Auschwitz," at Jewish players.

Nazi-style slogans were reported throughout the country. On 20 May the words "Germans: Beware! Don't buy from Jews!" (*Deutsche wehrt euch - kauft nicht bei Juden*) and a meter-high swastika, were painted on a shop window in the small town of Finsterwalde, while in Berlin, antisemitic

and xenophobic slogans such as “Jews Out” and “Turks Out,” were daubed on a tram station.

As noted in previous years, Jewish cemeteries and Holocaust memorials, as well as Jewish sites, were desecrated throughout Germany several times a week. On 9 November, for example, neo-Nazis, some shouting “Heil Hitler,” tore up wreaths and broke candles at the memorial in Frankfurt/Oder where Jewish community leaders and city officials had marked the anniversary of *Reichskristallnacht* (Night of Broken Glass, 1938) at the site of the synagogue destroyed there.

According to the Federal Office for the Defense of the Constitution (BfV), extreme right-wing activists numbered 39,900 in 2006 (2005: 40,000), including 4,200 neo-Nazis. As in 2005, 10,400 were classified as ready to use violence. Violent manifestations motivated by extreme right ideology increased by 9.3 percent to 1,115 (2005:1,047), while the total number of crimes linked to the extreme right increased by about 15 percent in 2006 to 18,142 (15,914 in 2005), some 50 percent higher than in 2004. The Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands (German National Democratic Party – NPD), the oldest and the most influential extreme right-wing party in Germany, won 7.3 percent of the vote in the September Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania regional elections (6 seats in the 71 member parliament).

Although the number of German extreme right Internet sites remained the same as in 2005 (1,000), the web presence of *Freie Kameradschaften* (free associations) tripled in three years: 190 comradeships used websites in 2006 to disseminate their propaganda and recruit new members, as did 131 local German National Democratic Party (NDP) groups (2005: 120).

As in France, youths originating in Muslim countries were behind many violent attacks on Jews in Germany. According to the BfV, 32,150 people were linked to radical Islamist organizations in Germany. However, youths responsible for attacks on Jewish pupils are not necessarily connected to any organization. German-Turkish journalist Ahmet Senyurt explains that they have been indoctrinated by antisemitic hatred, mainly through highly influential antisemitic programs broadcast on satellite TV and videos from Arab countries, which disseminate anti-Jewish and anti-Israel hate propaganda widely among the immigrant population throughout Europe. The Iranian series *Zahra's Blue Eyes* or *For You Palestine*, which depicts the government of Israel as stealing organs from Palestinian children, was shown (in Turkish) in Germany in 2006 on Milli Görüş' TV5. There are 1.5 million Muslims of Turkish origin living in Germany. Turkish Islamists of the Milli Görüş movement are also suspected of selling a DVD for children entitled *The Children of*

al-Aqsa, at the Central Mosque in Hamburg. The DVD portrays Jews as murderers and Palestinian terrorists as heroic resistance fighters.

There was a significant increase in numbers of antisemitic attacks carried out by Muslims in Germany. Since the beginning of the Second Intifada in September 2000, police statistics show that Islamic incitement and antisemitic graffiti in Berlin have increased by 100 percent. The police registered 88 antisemitic incidents perpetrated by Muslims, 7 of them violent attacks. Director of the Berlin Police Peter-Michael Häberer warned against underestimating the relatively small number of Muslim perpetrators, emphasizing that their psychological influence was important.

In an article published on 21 December in *Die Welt*, and entitled "How Islamists and Neo-Nazis Form a New Axis of Evil," historian Michael Wolffsohn noted that cooperation between Islamists and right-wing extremists, which began in 2000, has become steadily stronger. Other experts pointed out right-wing extremist "admiration" for Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad, who labeled the Holocaust a myth. Thus, during a NDP summer fair held in Regensburg on 10 June, the Iranian flag was hoisted as a sign of solidarity with Iran.

According to a survey published by the Bertelsmann Foundation in January 2007, 58 percent of Germans would like to leave the past behind. The survey also found that 30 percent of Germans agreed strongly or partially with the statements: "What the State of Israel is doing to the Palestinians is no different in principle from what the Nazis did to the Jews," and "Israel is waging a war of extermination against the Palestinians." This line of thinking is argued not only by extremists both to the right and left of the political spectrum but has entered the mainstream discourse. A petition signed by 25 German academics and published in *Frankfurter Rundschau* (15 Nov.), called to abandon the "special relationship" with Israel, established because of the Holocaust, so that Palestinian suffering might be acknowledged to be a result of the Shoah.

On 8 November the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (SPD) published the results of a survey on the themes of antisemitism, xenophobia and attitudes toward the Nazis, conducted in May-June 2006 among 5,000 Germans by the University of Leipzig, under Elmar Braehler. The study demonstrated the presence of extreme right views among all ages and social classes of German society.

Mainstream coverage of the summer 2006 Lebanon war also boosted the *Feindbild* (enemy image) of Israel and caused an increase in antisemitic manifestations. Jewish communities received an unprecedented amount of antisemitic insults and threat letters

throughout this period. An analysis by Media Tenor International of news coverage of Germany's public TV stations ARD and ZDF during the Second Lebanon War, from 21 July to 3 August, showed a significant anti-Israel bias.

As observed in previous reports, every weekend demonstrations, parades and meetings of extreme right activists and sympathizers, including neo-Nazis and skinheads, take place in Germany, frequently in provincial towns and villages. Noteworthy in 2006 was the rising number of counter-demonstrators – anti-fascists, who often outnumbered the extreme right marchers and stymied the intentions of the organizers.

For example, despite a ban on their annual demonstration, about 700 neo-Nazis gathered at the military cemetery in Seelow on 18 November, only to be met by 8,000 counter-protestors. Moreover, for many years extreme right activists would meet in the military cemetery of Halbe to honor Hitler's Wehrmacht soldiers on the eve of the German annual day of mourning for fallen soldiers. On 25 October, the State Parliament of Potsdam passed, by a large majority, a law banning neo-Nazi meetings at the Halbe location.

Many investigations, charges and bans are related to the music field, namely, lyrics of neo-Nazi or extreme right bands that distribute forbidden racist, xenophobic and antisemitic propaganda through the most popular medium among youth. For example, on 22 November, Max Hirsch, Bjoern Andrejka, Gerhard Miller and Sven Roland Stuetz, who compose the extreme right band Race War, were convicted of forming an illegal organization to promote racial hatred. They received suspended sentences of 17 to 23 months. Their music glorifies Nazism. Banned in Germany, their hate propaganda was allegedly distributed from the US or Belgium.

On 14 November, Germar Rudolf (alias Scheerer) went on trial in Mannheim, accused of denying the Holocaust and insulting the memory of the dead. He branded the Holocaust a fraud at the start of the hearings. Holocaust denial is a crime in Germany carrying a prison sentence of up to five years. Holocaust denier Ernst Zündel was being tried in the same court. Both were represented by the same defense attorney, neo-Nazi Jürgen Rieger.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/germany.htm>

GREECE

The Jewish population of Greece is estimated at approximately 5,000 out of a total population of 10 million. There are eight active communities, the main ones being Athens, Thessaloniki and Larissa. The Kentriko Israilitiko Symvoulío (Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece – KIS) is the governing body of Jewish communities.

Anti-Israel feeling, which intensified in Greece in 2002 and 2003 during the Second Intifada, but which subsided over the next two years, revived and escalated with the outbreak of the war between Israel and the Hizballah. Some MPs, as well as political analysts, made anti-Israel statements laced with antisemitic references (see below). Nevertheless, no serious antisemitic incidents occurred during this period. In August, a banner with a swastika was placed on the Holocaust monument of Drama, where no Jewish community has existed since the end of WWII.

Some leading media organs promoted the image of Israel as a Nazi state, which was attacking unarmed, helpless people in South Lebanon; Hizballah combatants were often described as “freedom fighters” and “resistance groups,” and antisemitic references, as well as comparisons with the Holocaust, were common. For example: “The bottom line is that the attitude of Israeli hawks, senior rabbis and the capitalists of Zionism is not surprising. They have always acted like that, defending their racist ideas about ‘supremacy’ and about being the ‘chosen people’” (Antonis Sanoudakis, daily *Ta nea*, 11 Aug.); “I write this with pain. The mentality of the Israeli leadership is no different from the Nazi mentality. It is no different from al-Qa`ida’s mentality” (Richardos Someritis, “Unfortunately Sharon Lives!” daily *To Vima*, 4 July); and “It is unconceivable that Jews, who suffered the greatest genocide of the century, tolerate such practices. They are not permitted to act like Goliath” (Stavros Lygeros, daily *Kathimerini*, 7 July). However, several well-known columnists, such as Tilemahos Maratos and Thanassis Papandropoulos, in the daily *Estia*, supported Israel’s right to exist.

During an official event marking the 32nd anniversary of the re-establishment of democracy in Greece (July 24), Greek President Karolos Papoulias said “Greek public opinion” was “shocked by the undeclared war against Lebanon,” and that “after WWII the world believed that the logic of collective punishment would never return.”

The main opposition party PASOK (Panhellenic Socialist Movement) placed the onus of responsibility for the war on Israel. Antisemitic statements and comparisons with the Holocaust were made by several PASOK politicians, such as MEP Nikolaos Syfounakis and MP Kimon

Koulouris, as well as by former Vice President of the Greek Parliament Panagiotis Kritikos. The Greek Communist Party issued an announcement condemning Israel's "imperialistic and gangster-like attack against the Palestinians and Lebanon." The left-wing Synaspismos party also condemned Israel. Synaspismos member Manolis Glezos, a popular Greek figure (because of his role in the Resistance during the German occupation), declared that "Israel has adopted and applied Hitler's methods."

While MEP George Karatzaferis, leader of the xenophobic far right LAOS (Popular Orthodox Herald) party (see *ASW 2005*), made no public statements, the party's weekly *A1* accused Israel of genocide of the Lebanese people. An editorial dated 15 July claimed: "If the Jews continue this way they will overtake Hitler's number of victims."

Many anti-Israel demonstrations, organized mainly by left-wing parties and worker's unions, took place in Athens, Thessaloniki and other Greek cities. During a protest in Thessaloniki on 1 August organized by the Workers Fighting Front (PAME), affiliated to the Greek Communist Party, demonstrators attempted to approach the Holocaust monument in order to place photographs there of Israeli "atrocities" in Lebanon. The police did not allow the crowd near the memorial.

Archbishop of Athens and All Greece Christodoulos issued a statement on 23 July, saying, *inter alia*: "Israel's right to self-defense has crossed the line of logic. Our Christian conscience protests. Do not provoke our conscience. Do not feed the world's condemnation against you. It's not in your best interest. Do not play with God. There exists a just God, retributive. Fear his wrath."

Earlier in the year, in February, graffiti and swastikas appeared, on the synagogue in Veroia, recently restored as a monument, while graffiti reading "Jews out," signed by the neo-Nazi group Chrissi Avgghi, continued to appear on the Athens-Corinth highway, despite repeated erasures (see also *ASW 2005*).

In January, the book *The Jews: The Whole Truth*, by well-known Holocaust denier Kostas Plevris, was published. The book was advertised by the far right weekly *Eleftheros Kosmos* and by related TV channels. The 1,400 pages are full of praise for Nazism, promote every kind of antisemitic stereotype and claim *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* are authentic. Legal action against Plevris has been taken by the Greek Helsinki Monitor and the Board for inciting racial hatred.

The annual (since 2004) Memorial Day for Greek Jewish Martyrs and Heroes of the Holocaust was marked in Athens in January at a ceremony

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attended by the president of the republic, the speaker of the Parliament, government representatives and party members.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/greece.htm>

ITALY

Some 30,000 Jews live in Italy out of a total population of 57 million, the largest communities being in Rome and Milan. The Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane (UCEI) is the roof organization of Italian Jewry.

About 50 antisemitic incidents were recorded in Italy in 2006 (15 in the July-August period). Half of these incidents were graffiti, mainly referring to Israel's intervention in Lebanon. Several serious events were recorded during the war. For example, 15 Jewish shops were vandalized in Rome in early August, their locks filled with glue, shutters nailed and swastikas painted on the walls. The perpetrators left flyers signed by the "Armed Revolutionary Fascists" and a pro-Hizballah flyer "against the Zionist economy."

The satirical magazine *Il Vernacoliere* (Livorno) published a cartoon in August, with the caption, "Israeli is not stingy with bombs. The world stares in amazement. Are they not Jews?" The cartoon shows a Jewish soldier saying to a Muslim: "You killed one of my civilians, I killed ten of yours. We will see who is stingy."

In other incidents, a Jewish Chilean citizen traveling on a bus in Verona was insulted and threatened by six Maghrebis who noticed his Star of David earring. In July, a taxi driver in Rome insulted and refused to carry a 75 year-old customer after discerning that he was a Jew. In addition, forty tombstones were overturned in the Jewish section of the Musocco cemetery in Milan on 15 May. Police were investigating.

Anti-Jewish symbols were reported at several demonstrations that took place during the year. Some 20,000 people, organized by the Italian Communist Party, the Forum for Palestine and the extreme left Socialist youth movement, rallied in November in Rome against Israel and the US. Effigies draped in Israeli and US flags were set alight. The head of the Israeli figure was marked "Nazi-Zionist." Many anti-Zionist slogans were heard, among them: "Israel must be destroyed." Further, during a march in Milan on 25 April to mark the 61st anniversary of Italy's liberation, organized among others by the Coordinamento di lotta per la Palestina (Coordinated Fight for Palestine), participants burned an Israeli flag symbolizing "apartheid and violence."

On 12 May *Liberazione*, the party organ of the Italian Communist Party, published a cartoon in which the security barrier between Israel and the Palestinian Authority bears a sign reading "Hunger Liberates," paraphrasing the sign at the entrance to Auschwitz, "Work Liberates."

According to unofficial estimates, some 700,000 of Italy's Muslim faithful and over 80 percent of Italy's mosques and Islamic cultural centers identify with the Unione delle comunità ed organizzazioni islamiche in Italia (UCOII), which does not hide its marked anti-Zionism and rejection of Israel's right to exist – with Israel almost always referred to as the “Zionist entity.” On 19 August, UCOII published a full page advertisement in newspapers of the moderate Monrif Group (*Il Giorno*, *La Nazione*, *Il Resto del Carlino*) comparing Israel's actions to those of the Nazis.

In September, the PdCI (Partito dei Comunisti Italiani – Italian Communist Party) and the Islamic Anti-Defamation League (IADL, which is close to UCOII) organized an anti-Zionist conference on the theme, “Peace is the Imperative – Victims of a Victim People,” in a meeting room of the Chamber of Deputies.

Italy's far left follows a strongly anti-Israel line that extends to demonization and even delegitimation of the State of Israel. In his column on the far left website *SottoVoce*, for example, former RAI State TV journalist Fulvio Grimaldi harshly attacked Israel (“an illegitimate Zionist racist entity”) and representatives of Italian Jewry and “Jewish-Freemason finance,” several times in 2006.

Representatives of the two Communist parties, Partito dei Comunisti Italiani (PdCI) and Partito della Rifondazione Comunista (PRC), often accused Israel of conducting terrorist and Nazi policies. A PdCI regional councilman argued that the “Israeli government is acting like the Nazis.” A PdCI mayor of a village in Campania said during a Radio 24 broadcast that “Israel is a blow to the stomach of the world.” To the journalist's question “Could you do without it?” he answered, “With great pleasure.”

The traditional, Catholic, nationalist Forza Nuova (New Force), led by Roberto Fiore, was active in inciting against Jews in 2006 at propaganda events it organized. For example, in November, during a demonstration in Rome, attended by more than 500 activists, participants shouted Nazi and antisemitic slogans such as “Juden Raus” and “Sieg Heil.” Identification with Forza Nuova is increasing, especially among the sub-culture of “ultra” supporters of some football teams and among high school students.

La Padania, the organ of the ethno-regionalist, populist Lega Nord (Northern League), though officially pro-Israel and sympathetic to Jews, sometimes contradicts this position. For example, during the Easter period, it referred to temple priests who “collected lavish profits from merchants and stuffed them in their greedy, ravenous pockets.” Moreover, while unreservedly condemning the Holocaust, it defends freedom of expression of Holocaust deniers.

Two days after fascist and antisemitic symbols were displayed at a football match played on 29 January between Rome and Livorno, Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu ordered the suspension of all matches where such demonstrations take place.

Full report online at:
<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/italy.htm>

NETHERLANDS

An estimated 30,000 Jews live in the Netherlands out of some 16 million inhabitants, the majority in Amsterdam. Dutch Jewry is represented by three councils, based on affiliation: the Nederlands Israelitisch Kerkgenootschap, the Verbond van Liberaal Religieuze Joden and the Portugees Israelitisch Kerkgenootschap.

According to the report of the Monitor on Racism and Extremism (Monitor Racisme en Extremisme: racistisch en extreemrechts geweld) for 2006 of the Anne Frank Foundation, racist activity in Holland escalated by 75 percent, despite a 10 percent decline in criminal racial offenses (to 265) from the previous year. About one-quarter of all hate crimes in 2006 were directed against Muslim immigrants. Possible explanations for the rise include increasing ignorance in Dutch society about World War II; a growth of intolerance toward "the other," particularly Jews, Muslims and homosexuals; and a coarsening of language.

Despite a decline in violent incidents (see below), the year 2006 witnessed a considerable rise in antisemitic activity in the Netherlands. The number of reported incidents rose by 64 percent, from 169 to 261, over the 2005 figures. This was due mainly to the many antisemitic e-mail messages received during the period of the Second Lebanon War and the escalation of Israeli military action in Gaza. This seems to confirm that an increase in tensions between Israel and neighboring states leads to a rise in antisemitic manifestations in Holland. The taboo against such expressions is weakened when Israeli policy is under fire.

Some antisemitic manifestations, however, did not appear to be connected to Middle East events. Of particular concern was the high incidence of vandalism, including the daubing of Holocaust memorials before and during the events held on 4-5 May marking the German surrender in 1945. The content of the graffiti (swastikas and slogans such as "Wir sind zurueck [We are back]") and the information released about those arrested indicates that this phenomenon is related to the rise of the extreme right.

The Landelijk Expertisecentrum Discrimination (LECD – Dutch Centre for the Survey of Discrimination), established in 1998, publishes a yearly report monitoring the handling of discrimination charges by the public prosecutor. In 2006 the number of cases of antisemitic discrimination rose by 24.6 percent compared to 2005.

The number of incidents defined by the Israel Information and Documentation Center (CIDI) as "physical violence" and "threats of

violence” fell considerably. In 2006 there were eight such incidents compared to 23 in 2005, the lowest level since 2001, when CIDI introduced both categories, and far from the peak of 31 incidents reached in 2002. Examples in 2006 were the arson attempt on the Dijk Synagogue in Slidrecht on 18 April and the stoning of a Jew wearing a skullcap (see below). There was also a steep decline of 50 percent – from 14 to 7 – in the number of incidents at schools, the lowest level since 2002 (also 7). Jewish cemeteries were also desecrated in Tarboro and Beek.

In August, CIDI reported a surge in the number of complaints of antisemitic incidents following the outbreak of hostilities in Lebanon and the escalation in Gaza. Death threats were received by two Jewish organizers of a pro-Israel demonstration and one of them was beaten.

In 2006 the Meldpunt Discriminatie Amsterdam (Amsterdam Anti-discrimination Agency) registered 46 complaints about antisemitic content on the Internet compared to 24 in 2005. As in 2005, antisemitism was the second largest category after islamophobia. Two sites of concern are the rap music Nieuwe Allochtonen Generation (NAG – New Migrants Generation) and Sluipschutters. Both disseminate the lyrics of songs that insult and threaten Jews.

The year 2006 saw a further 33.3 percent decline in the involvement of perpetrators of North African descent in antisemitic incidents, following a 38 percent decrease in 2005. This may be the result, in part, of Jewish-Muslim cooperation projects, such as Joods Marokkaans Netwerk, which brings together Muslim and Jewish youth.

The terrorist threat in the Netherlands from national networks diminished in 2006, according to the annual report of the AIVD (General Intelligence and Security Service), thanks to the government’s successful prosecution of terrorism suspects and the deportation of members of jihadist networks declared *persona non grata*. In March, for example, a verdict was reached in the “Hofstad trial” (see *ASW 2005*). Of the eleven suspects arrested in June and October 2005, six were sentenced. A further six persons closely linked to the Hofstad group were arrested in early November, after an investigation launched by the Crime Squad. They were indicted on various counts, including recruitment for an armed conflict.

The AIVD also reported further disintegration of the extreme right movement. Confidence in the success of extreme right political parties is waning, and a shift can be discerned from support of these parties to activism in the streets. Nevertheless the neo-Nazi Nederlandse Volks-Unie was active in 2006, in particular, during the municipal elections, but won no seats. The trans-national Blood & Honour operates in the

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Netherlands through Blood & Honour-Nederland, which is expanding due to its focus on extreme right music, and the more ideologically-minded and radical Racial Volunteer Force.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/netherland.htm>

NORWAY

Some 1,500 Jews live in Norway, out of a population of 4.4 million, mostly in and around the capital Oslo. The main organizing body is the Jewish Community of Oslo.

The year 2006 was the gravest in terms of antisemitic manifestations since 1945. Some of the incidents were extremely violent and most took place during or immediately after the Second Lebanon War.

In the early morning of 17 September, the Oslo synagogue was attacked by gunfire. Thirteen bullets were fired, damaging the façade, as well as a frieze symbolizing the post-Holocaust resurrection of Norwegian Jewry. This was the first time a Norwegian place of worship had ever been attacked by firearms. It was condemned across the Norwegian political spectrum and the synagogue and community center were given extra police protection for several weeks.

Four suspects were arrested three days later. Three were released, but the alleged head of the operation, a 29-year-old man of Pakistani origin with a criminal record, remains in custody after it transpired that he may also have been involved in a plot to assassinate the Israeli ambassador in Oslo and attack the American and Israeli embassies there. On 13 September, the Norwegian media revealed that members of an Algerian terror cell arrested in Italy in 2005, had planned a terrorist attack on the Oslo synagogue. The Norwegian police as well as the Jewish Community of Oslo had been made aware of this plot in November 2005. A month earlier, on the night of 2 August, the synagogue was stoned and several windows were broken. The unknown male perpetrator defecated on the stairs in front of the synagogue before disappearing.

On 15 July, the cantor of the Oslo synagogue (who wears a skullcap in public) was beaten up while he was strolling through the center of Oslo, by three men of Middle Eastern appearance. The men fled when they noticed surveillance cameras on the surrounding buildings. Subsequently, the board of the Oslo Jewish Community issued a recommendation that Jewish Norwegians and tourists refrain from speaking Hebrew and wearing skullcaps and Stars of David in public.

On 10 July, cartoonist Finn Graff of the popular tabloid daily *Dagbladet* portrayed Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as a concentration camp commander firing at random at Palestinian inmates. The cartoon was inspired by a scene from Steven Spielberg's movie *Schindler's List*, where Commandant Amon Goeth of the Plaszow concentration camp fired from his balcony at Jewish prisoners for fun. The Israeli embassy in Oslo reported the cartoon to the Norwegian

Press Ethics Committee, which ruled that its content was acceptable. During the debates over the Danish cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in February 2006, Graff explicitly stated that he would never dare mock Muslims in his cartoons due to fear of violent repercussions.

A month later, the intellectual and internationally renowned Norwegian author Jostein Gaarder published an op-ed, "The Chosen People," in the centrist daily *Aftenposten* (5 Aug.), recommending the end of the State of Israel and urging the Jewish people to prepare for another exile. Styling himself as the Jewish prophet Amos, Gaarder claimed to have written the op-ed (in Norwegian) as a wake-up call to the world's Jews. Moreover, Gaarder, employed traditional Christian anti-Judaism – with Judaism symbolizing primitive brutality, and Christianity mercy, humanity and progress.

In an interview accompanying the op-ed, Gaarder told *Aftenposten* that he, too, would never have published the Danish Muhammad cartoons because of his respect for the religious feelings of Muslims. Several Norwegian writers and cultural figures such as former Prime Minister Kåre Willoch and best-selling author Anne B. Ragde supported Gaarder's views; however, he was strongly condemned by historians Odd Bjørn Fure, Einhart Lorenz and Håkon Harket, and by author Herman Willis.

In late August, the daily *Aftenposten* revealed that Firuz Kutal, leader of one of the Oslo branches of the Socialist Left Party, had participated in the Iranian Holocaust cartoon contest. Kutal claimed that he was unaware that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had actually denied the Holocaust.

Extreme right-wing activity in Norway is marginal, and the number of organized racists is no more than 150. The main neo-Nazi groups are National Youth (the most violent), the Norwegian National Socialist Movement and Vigrid, founded and led by Tore Wilhelm Tvedt. The latter was sentenced in October to 45 days in prison for antisemitic remarks he made on various occasions, such as "all Jews should be wiped out," to the daily tabloid *VG* in 2003.

In January, accusations of antisemitism were directed at the Socialist Left Party (SV), then a member of the centrist-left government coalition, for singling out Israel, but not other countries that allegedly violate human rights, for a trade boycott. Neither the rest of the government (consisting of the Labour and Center parties) nor the opposition supported the proposal.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/norway.htm>

SPAIN

The Jewish population is estimated at about 50,000; however, the number of registered Jews does not exceed 14,000. The Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain (FCJE) represents Jewish interests to the government.

In one of the gravest attacks on a Jewish individual in Europe in 2006, a young Muslim stabbed a Jewish client in a Malaga Jewish butcher's shop in February. Police arrested the attacker and the victim was hospitalized with serious injuries. The perpetrator confessed that he had acted under the influence of sermons of the imam in the nearby mosque.

Twelve swastikas were painted on the front of the Center of Jewish Information in Toledo on 25 July. In addition, a well-known Toledo bookshop selling books of Jewish interest, Casa de Jacob, owned by a convert to Judaism, was defaced with antisemitic graffiti and an attempt was made to set it alight.

In November, during a soccer match between Deportivo La Coruna and Osasuna, Osasuna fans, waving Palestinian flags, shouted antisemitic and other slurs at Dudu Awate, a Deportivo player from Israel. Awate had been insulted in the past by Osasuna fans. In this context, the Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the European Council urged Spain to strengthen its efforts to prevent and punish racist and xenophobic manifestations at football matches and combat racist groups.

Although the majority of the media and public opinion did not doubt that Hizballah and Hamas had triggered the confrontations in Lebanon and Gaza in the summer, they nevertheless blamed Israel for them, sometimes lacing their attacks with antisemitic overtones. For example, the newspaper *La Razon*, which supports the conservative right Popular Party (PP), published an article attacking Israel on 14 July, entitled "Judiadas" (a pejorative reference to Jewish acts).

On the other hand, the Spanish government was accused by the conservative right – principally, the PP – of antisemitism following Prime Minister Rodriguez Zapatero's claim that Israel was using "abusive force" in Lebanon and his implication, at a meeting, on 20 July, of the Socialist Youth movement (where he donned a kaffiyah handed to him by one of the participants), that Hizballah and Israel were no different from each other. Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos fiercely denied that the government was antisemitic. Also in July, Socialists from Madrid and other leftists from the Madrid Regional Autonomy and Madrid City Hall

backed a demonstration in the city of several hundred participants, many of them Muslims "against war and against the crimes against Palestinian and Lebanese civilians."

An article entitled "Read the Talmud, Goyim," by Manuel F. Trillo, appeared on 13 August on the radical left, pro-Arab, antisemitic website www.rebelion.org, formerly a print magazine distributed at Spanish universities. The article, which is based on old antisemitic texts about the Talmud, reappeared on the Islamic site www.webislam.com in early October.

In September, the anarchist Post section of the Spanish CGT (General Confederation of Labor) published a declaration denouncing the issue of a postage stamp commemorating the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Spain and Israel. It demanded that the Spanish government boycott both the stamp and Israel because, among other reasons, it "was killing thousands of civilians" and "destroying infrastructure." The 600,000 stamps issued by Spanish Post were rapidly sold out.

Spain has a long history of fringe, openly xenophobic and/or neo-Nazi/far right activity, expressed by small parties and groups whose ideology ranges from traditionalism to extreme radicalism. Despite repeated electoral failures, they usually form an alliance a few weeks before an election in an attempt to win parliamentary seats.

Neighborhood neo-Nazi groups utilize websites abroad (such as www.nuevorden.net or www.libreopini3n.com) in order to avoid prosecution under the 1995 Penal Code. They adopted this strategy after legal action was taken against the Europa bookstore (see below). The soccer stadium is fertile ground for recruiting members to such organizations. In September, some 25 skinheads from Madrid engaged in a fight with a group of extreme leftists, using sticks, iron bars and chains. The police arrested five skinheads; four of them minors. The skinhead movement attracts an increasing number of adolescents to its ranks, seemingly because of its violence, which serves as an integrating factor.

On 10 April, police in Barcelona raided the Europa book store, which specializes in the distribution of neo-Nazi materials, and re-arrested Pedro Varela, its owner. Varela's detention is related to his links to ultra-right organizations. In November 1998, Varela was sentenced to five years in prison for advocating genocide, inciting racial hatred and distributing xenophobic materials (see *ASW 1998/99*). He appealed his sentence before the Constitutional Court, claiming Article 607.2 of the Criminal Code, stipulating imprisonment for denying the Holocaust or justifying the crime of genocide, was unconstitutional because it limited

freedom of expression. The verdict of the Constitutional Court was pending.

There are Islamic parties in the Spanish autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla in North Africa, but none in mainland Spain. However, the number of Islamic organizations is increasing in Spain because of the rapidly growing Sunni and Shi'i population (the latter from Pakistan, among other countries). In 2006 there were arrests in Torremolinos, Madrid, Catalonia and the Basque region, among other places, for alleged membership in Islamic terrorist groups.

Although the cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad (see *ASW 2005*) were not reprinted in Spanish newspapers, they aroused a heated debate in Spain over the limits of freedom of expression and respect for religion. According to a survey conducted by the Elcano Institute Barometer and based on 1,202 interviews carried out in March, 90 percent of Spaniards considered Muslim countries to be authoritarian, 79 percent to be intolerant, and 68 percent to be violent. Moreover, 88 percent viewed the violent Muslim reaction to the cartoons negatively and 38 percent believed that the affair was manipulated and incited by governments in Muslim countries. Nevertheless, 57 percent disapproved of their publication.

Two brothers were sentenced to one and two years of imprisonment for inciting to xenophobia and antisemitism on a web page. They were arrested in 2004 by the Catalanian police after they had set up the site, which included comments such as "The Holocaust was a holostory," and praise for Hitler, Mussolini, Franco and the Ku Klux Klan. The police also confiscated weapons, and antisemitic, xenophobic and neo-Nazi propaganda and insignia from their home in Tárrega. This was the first sentence in Spain for disseminating material on the Internet under Art. 510 of the Penal Code, regarding incitement to hatred or violence against groups or associations motivated by racism or antisemitism.

Full report online at:
<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/spain.htm>

SWEDEN

Sweden has a Jewish population of about 18,000, or 0.2 percent of the general population of 9 million. The majority live in the larger cities – Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. The various communities are independent but linked through the Council of Swedish Jewish Communities.

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, which took over the registering of all hate crime statistics as of 2006, reported a total of 3,259 such offenses, out of which 134 were thought to have been motivated by antisemitism – an increase of 21 percent over 2005, but 11 percent lower than in 2004. The 134 crimes were, in turn, grouped into five sub-groups: crimes against persons (including both violence and threats) – 51; incitement against an ethnic group – 50; defamation – 16; vandalism and graffiti – 14; and miscellaneous – 3.

The synagogue in the southern town of Malmö was the target of a bomb threat on 20 July, in the midst of anti-Israel demonstrations instigated by the war in Lebanon. The Central Jewish Council reported that threats against Swedish Jews had both increased and become more serious during this period.

In some left-wing intellectual circles, anti-Israel criticism has become interlaced with antisemitism. During the war in Lebanon, antisemitic expressions were manifested at an anti-Israel demonstration held in Malmö on 24 July. In the midst of hundreds of yellow Hizballah flags, several protesters carried placards equating the Star of David with the Nazi swastika. Some demonstrators shouted in Arabic “Teach them how to kill Jews.” Similar flags and placards were also seen at anti-war demonstrations in Sweden’s two largest cities Stockholm and Gothenburg.

In early 2006 *Ordfront Magasin*, probably the most influential left-wing periodical in Sweden, was sharply criticized by the NGO Swedish Committee against Antisemitism (SCAA) for invoking the notion of a Jewish conspiracy manipulating the media, in an article published in December 2005. Under the heading “The Swedish Media Is Controlled by the Israeli Regime,” journalist Johannes Wahlström claimed that the Israeli government, with the help of a powerful and secretive “lobby” and through the use of pressure, threats and intimidation, made Swedish newspapers, radio and television suppress certain information that could be damaging to Israel. These activities, Wahlström argued, were part of a global plan for control of the media drawn up in Jerusalem. The article

was published simultaneously on Israel Shamir's website. Shamir, a notorious antisemite and a Swedish citizen, is Wahlström's father.

The Vänsterpartiet (V – Left Party) claimed in a policy document entitled “Racism and Antiracism” that prejudice against Jews hardly posed a problem and that contemporary antisemitism was directed against Arabs and Muslims. The document, authored by veteran left politician Jörn Svensson, also maintained that “Jewish-Israeli fascism” was spreading hatred against Muslims and Arabs.

Police investigations into the Radio Islam website, following complaints by the SCAA and others, have to date led to no charges against Moroccan immigrant Ahmed Rami, arguably one of Europe's most notorious antisemites. The Swedish authorities have found it difficult to prove Rami's responsibility for the content on the site since he denies any connection. The case is further complicated from a legal point of view by the fact that the site is stored on a US server.

Sverigedemokraterna (Sweden Democrats – SD), which originated in a small band of marginalized Nazis, won 281 municipal seats across Sweden in 2006, taking the established parties by surprise. It also won 162,463 votes (2.93 percent of the vote) in the September 2006 general election. Sverigedemokraterna used the debate over Islamic fundamentalism – which arose out of the Prophet Muhammad cartoon controversy in Denmark – to gain support for their increasingly islamophobic stance.

Nationaldemokraterna (National Democrats – ND) received 3,064 votes in the 2006 general election. The party, a radical offshoot of the SD formed in summer 2001, won four seats in the 2002 municipal elections and three in 2006. Since 2005 Nationaldemokraterna has expressed virulently antisemitic rhetoric. Dan Eriksson, vice president of ND's youth wing NDU, referred to Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January, as, “the date that, for several years now, has made the most disgusting of sewer rats crawl out of their filthy holes, kneel to the star of hate and lick the blood-splattered feet of the new world order.”

Extreme right groups, including the most militant one, the Nationalsocialistisk front (National Socialist Front – NSF), united for two annual events, the “people's march,” held on Sweden's National Day in June, and the Salem march, held in December to commemorate the murder of a 17-year-old Swedish youth, Daniel Wretstöm, who had links to extreme right groups (see *ASW* 2004). The group that organizes both marches is Info-14, an “independent patriotic news medium.” Info-14 seeks to replace the traditional group structure of racist activists with a network of independent ones modeled after similar networks in Germany. The “14” in the name pertains to the widely-held neo-Nazi

slogan "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for White children," coined by recently deceased white supremacist David Lane, who was inspired by Hitler's *Mein Kampf*.

On 30 November, some 200 members of the NSF marched through the streets of central Stockholm. When the parade reached the Stockholm synagogue, activists began chanting "Israel – out of Sweden!"

In November, Ahmed Rami began cooperating with the NSF. Rami lectured on "The Jewish Question" at the party's Stockholm office that month.

In March 2006 the first ever Swedish survey focusing specifically on antisemitism was published by the Living History Forum and the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention. The study was carried out by postal questionnaire during March–May 2005, on a random sample of 5,011 people aged 16–75 and registered as residents in Sweden. Based on a combined scale of antisemitic notions (from responses to 15 statements), it was found that approximately 5 per cent of respondents harbored relatively systematic antisemitic attitudes. The majority, 59 percent, consistently rejected anti-Jewish prejudices. The 36 percent in-between included a significant group with a somewhat ambivalent attitude toward Jews: while they accepted some statements they repudiated others.

According to the results of an attitude scale measuring notions of power and influence, 13 percent of the adults (19–75 years) and 6 percent of the young people (16–18 years) tended to support images of power and influence held by Jews over the media, the global economy and US foreign policy. Fifteen percent of all respondents agreed completely or partly with the statement: "The Jews have too much influence in the world today."

The Chancellor of Justice dropped all charges against a Stockholm mosque that had been spreading virulently antisemitic propaganda in the form of lectures on tape. In them Jews were cursed and referred to as "brothers to pigs and monkeys," and there was an appeal to Muslims to kill Jews. The Chancellor of Justice argued that since the lectures also related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict the expressions directed against Jews could be seen as legitimate "war cries" in the debate on the Middle East. The decision, as well as the reasoning behind it, was strongly criticized by Jewish leaders and the SCAA. Legitimizing hatred against Jews and appeals to kill Jews with reference to the Israeli-Palestinian were totally unacceptable and dangerous, they argued. The decision was also criticized by some politicians and media organs.

Lena Adelsohn Liljeroth from the Moderaterna (M – Conservative Party) asked Minister of Justice Thomas Bodström whether and how he

planned to prioritize the struggle against antisemitism. Adelson Liljeroth expressed concern that the struggle against antisemitism had suffered since the charges against the Stockholm mosque were dropped.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/sweden.htm>

SWITZERLAND

The Jewish community remained stable at about 18,000, or 0.25 percent of Switzerland's population of 7.2 million. All major cities in Switzerland have a Jewish community, the largest ones being located in Zurich, Geneva, Basel and Lausanne. Seventeen communities are members of the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities (SIG/FSCI). CICAD (Coordination Intercommunautaire Contre l'Antisémitisme et la Diffamation), an independent organization based in Geneva, represents Switzerland's French-speaking Jewish communities.

A total of 140 antisemitic manifestations were recorded in Switzerland in 2006: 73 in the German-speaking part (from Sept. 2005 till Dec. 2006), double the number in 2005 (Dec. 2004– Dec 2005); and 67 in the French part, a decline from 75 in 2005. Forty-two of the incidents reported in the German-speaking part were directed against Jewish institutions, such as desecration of the synagogues in Biel and Wittigkofen. According to Samuel Althof, head of the Aktion Kinder des Holocaust (AKdH), the increase in the German-speaking area might be due partly to the fact that his organization, which compiles the report on antisemitism for the SIG, had become more widely known. According to CICAD, the decrease in the French-speaking areas could be explained by a decline in the dissemination of Holocaust denial literature.

Among the incidents recorded, stones were thrown at the synagogue in Lausanne, smashing several window panes on 2 April. The perpetrators were not caught. Swastikas were painted on a synagogue in Zurich on 4 July.

In addition, a young man carrying a large sack was reported near the Place de la Synagogue in Geneva on 27 February. He shouted "Dirty Jews" to those who were outside and then rushed toward the synagogue, left the sack and ran away. Police arrived and distanced the worshippers. Police sappers blew up the sack, which turned out to be full of feces, scattering them over a wide area.

In July a woman in Lancy, Switzerland, received a leaflet denying the Holocaust in her post box. The leaflet with the return address of the antisemitic Sweden-based Radio Islam (headed by Ahmed Rami – see *Sweden*), included texts by Holocaust denier Rene-Louis Berclaz, from the extreme right Swiss Association of Truth and Justice.

In October, an Israeli family on vacation in Lugano was refused rooms upon presenting their Israeli passports. They were told that Israel was the cancer of the world and loved war and that Israelis were not

welcome in the hotel. The CICAD contacted the local press and reported the incident.

The leader of the Swiss Association for Animal Protection, Erwin Kessler, compared animal farms to Nazi concentration camps and distributed leaflets to 850,000 households in 2006 condemning animal farms and *shechitah*. He has been tried and convicted several times under the anti-racism article of the Swiss Criminal Code. Kessler escaped abroad after refusing to pay a fine imposed on him under this article in 2006.

Bernard Schaub, a well known right-wing Holocaust denier, participated in the Holocaust denial conference held in Tehran in December. Besides denying the Holocaust, his speech was virulently antisemitic and anti-Israel. He also praised Swiss Minister of Justice Christoph Blocher, who seeks to change the anti-racism law (see below). Legal proceedings could not be initiated against Schaub because he spoke in Tehran, not in Switzerland. On 29 May the District Court of Aarau dismissed an alleged case of racial discrimination by Schaub. At a May Day speech made at a right-wing demonstration in the city on 30 April 2005, Schaub had said that capitalism equaled Jewish banking power such as the Rothschilds.

The guestbook of the AKdH website was the target of several antisemitic comments. For example: "Last Saturday I was driving through the Jewish quarter of Zurich. Man oh man oh man you all look pretty vile with your hooked noses and those hats. The international finance terror and capitalism is merely an invention of yours to rule the world indirect and follow the interests of warmongers. But one day the pay-back will be on you because..." The writer then quoted the words of the official song of the Hitler Youth. The AKdH launched legal proceedings against him.

Extremely anti-Israel as well as antisemitic slogans were noted at several demonstrations during the Second Lebanon War. "Israel Kinder murder" was heard during a rally of over 3,000 persons held in Berne on 29 July under the banner, "Neutrality does not impose silence." The peace banners waved at the beginning of the march were replaced toward the end with the flags of Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority and Hizballah, although the organizers had undertaken not to show them. Demonstrators held Israeli flags with swastikas and posters comparing Israelis to Nazis in front of the Federal Parliament in Berne on 21 July. "Death to Israel" was another common slogan heard during marches, most of which were supported by the Socialist Party and the Greens.

On 17 August, Jean-Arnold de Clermont, president of the European Conference of Churches of the World Council of Churches, which

represents 348 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican churches and cooperates with the Catholic church, stated in Geneva that Israel had planned the assault on Lebanon in order to disturb the religious harmony of Muslims, Christians and Jews in Lebanon.

In October Justice Minister Christoph Blocher (Swiss People's Party – SVP) began a campaign to revise Art. 261 of the anti-racism law, which punishes denial of genocide. He claims that freedom of speech is more important than protecting the sensibilities of minority groups. Since 2007 is a parliamentary election year, the issue was expected to be widely debated. The SIG has taken a firm stand that nothing should be changed and that the new law has proven to be efficient and preventive.

The online forum at the site of AZ Medien, publisher of the liberal newspaper *Aargauer Zeitung*, was closed down in September after anonymous supporters of tighter asylum legislation had used the platform for antisemitic propaganda. They attacked a former federal minister and a former chairman of SIG, both of whom had campaigned against the asylum law, describing them as “the deadly enemies of Switzerland” dedicated to “ruining the white race.” The police were investigating.

On 21 September, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg decided in favor of Daniel Monnat, a Swiss journalist who had aired a program challenging the concept of Swiss neutrality in WWII and emphasizing the country's ties with Nazi Germany, as well as its questionable attitude towards Jewish property, bank accounts and looted art. The Swiss Broadcasting Board penalized the television station for breaching broadcasting rules. A Swiss court dismissed an action taken by Monnat against the Board, but the European Court of Human Rights found in Monnat's favor, stating that his right to free speech had been infringed.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/switzerland.htm>

UNITED KINGDOM

The Jewish community of the United Kingdom numbers about 350,000, out of a total population of 58 million. Two-thirds of the community is concentrated in Greater London. Other major Jewish centers are Manchester, Leeds and Glasgow. The Board of Deputies of British Jews (BoD) is the principal representative of British Jewry. Security and defense activity is organized through the Community Security Trust (CST).

The CST recorded a total of 594 antisemitic incidents during 2006, a 31 percent rise over 2005 (455 incidents). This was 12 percent higher than the previous record figure recorded in 2004 (532), and continued the long-term trend of rising incident levels since 1997. In addition, the totals for July, August and September were, respectively, the third, fourth and fifth highest monthly totals on record.

Four incidents of life-threatening violence were recorded. They included the stabbing of a Jewish man in Stamford Hill, north London, during an unprovoked street attack; a gang assault on two ultra-Orthodox men in Manchester, during which one was struck several times over the head with a metal bar; an attack at a nightclub on two Jewish students by two Asian men who shouted antisemitic abuse and hit one of the students over the head with a bottle; and an assault on a father and his two sons walking to synagogue.

A further 108 violent incidents were recorded, the highest number in a single year. The majority were random, opportunist non-life threatening assaults on Orthodox Jews, and included 16 attacks on congregants on their way to or from synagogue. A further ten targeted Jewish school children. The ultra-Orthodox communities in north Manchester and north and northwest London are particularly vulnerable to such acts. For example, on 5 January three young Jewish school boys on a bus were verbally and physically attacked by three other youths. They knocked the skull caps off their heads and spat at them. A similar incident took place a month later in Manchester.

Seventy incidents involving damage and desecration to communal property were recorded, a rise of 46 percent over the previous year (48 incidents). For instance, a Jewish cemetery in Manchester was desecrated on two separate occasions, resulting in damage to 47 gravestones. In London, swastikas, SS signs, and the words "Juden Raus" were daubed on a South London synagogue.

There were 365 incidents of abusive behavior, including both verbal and written offenses, a rise of 34 percent over the previous year (273

incidents). Again, this was the highest total recorded in this category. Examples included the slogan "Jewish scumbag, go back to the camps" shouted by a group of Asian men at synagogue-goers in London; daubing of "the Jews are evil people" in large letters on a London Underground station; and the receipt by a Jewish charity in Manchester of a letter that stated, *inter alia*, "Jews are still crying about the killing of innocent people from 65 years ago, but are doing the same today in Beirut... There will never be world peace, as long as there is a living Jew."

A motion to boycott Israeli universities and academics was passed at the May annual conference in Blackpool of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE). The boycott applied to Israeli academic institutions and individuals who did not "publicly disassociate themselves from Israel's apartheid policies." The resolution was scrapped after the June merger between NATFHE and the Association of University Teachers (AUT). The Union of Jewish Students and Jewish academics had argued that the decision was discriminatory against Jewish students.

Chris Davies was forced to resign as leader of the Liberal Democrats (LDP) in the European Parliament in May after publication of a series of abusive e-mails to a Jewish woman, who had complained to him about comments he made during a visit to the West Bank in which he drew a parallel between the Holocaust and Israeli treatment of the Palestinians.

At an Edinburgh University meeting in December, Baroness Jenny Tonge repeated comments she had made at a LDP conference fringe meeting in September, that "the pro-Israel lobby has got its grips on the West End world, its financial grips. I think they've probably got a grip on our party." Baroness Tonge was sacked from her position as foreign affairs spokesman within the LDP in January 2004 for announcing that she would consider becoming a suicide bomber if she were a Palestinian. Her September remarks were condemned publicly in an open letter to *The Times* newspaper signed by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, as well as by an all-party group of members of the House of Lords and her party leader. In December, she was forced to resign as a trustee of Christian Aid.

In July 2006, two successor groups of the disbanded militant Islamist al-Muhajiroun (The Emigrants – AM; see *ASW* 2005), the Saved Sect (SS) and Al-Ghurabaa (AG), were proscribed under the amended Terrorism Act 2000 for glorifying terrorism (see below). Nevertheless, the groups continue activity under the joint UK leadership of Anjem Chowdhary and convert Abu Izzadeen (formally Trevor Brooks).

The Danish cartoons issue (see *ASW 2005*) led, in February, to public protests by many Muslim groups, most of which were peaceful. Islamist groups, however, staged sometimes angry demonstrations, among which those organized by the AM successor groups were notable for their violent and antisemitic rhetoric and placards. On 3 February, AG organized a march from the Central London Mosque, Regents Park, to the Danish embassy with banners which proclaimed “Behead those who insult Islam” and “Be Prepared for the Real Holocaust,” among others. In July, Chowdary was fined £500 and £300 costs, after being found guilty at Bow Street Magistrates Court, for failing to notify police of the February demonstration outside the Danish embassy. Three other demonstrators, Umran Javed, Nizanur Rahman and Abdul Saleem were also subsequently found guilty of inciting racial hatred at separate trials and were due to be sentenced in early 2007.

The Muslim Public Affairs Committee (MPAC) accused “the Zionists” of being behind the Danish newspapers’ “deliberate provocation, designed to outrage and incite Muslims.” Asghar Bukhari, founding leader of MPAC, admitted in December that he had donated £60 to the “Fighting Fund” of British Holocaust denier David Irving in 2000. Along with the money, Bukhari wrote to Irving “You may feel like you are on your own, but rest assured many people are with you in your fight for the Truth.”

Although then Prime Minister Tony Blair had committed the government to banning Hizb ut Tahrir (HUT- the Islamic Liberation Party) in an August 2005 speech, a decision not to do so was taken at the end of December on the grounds that there was no proven link to terrorism, nor did the party glorify it. It was agreed, however, that the decision would be subject to a regular review. HUT, as well as AM and MPAC, is proscribed by the National Union of Students (NUS) for promoting antisemitism. A motion to overturn the ban on HUT was defeated at the annual NUS conference in Blackpool, in April.

Following the May council elections, Respect – the Unity Coalition, a coalition of far left and militant Islamist activists, led by George Galloway MP, had a total of 17 local councilors. Galloway spoke at the annual al-Quds Day march (for the liberation of Jerusalem), organized by the Iran-oriented Justice for Palestine Committee of the Islamic Human Rights Commission.

Despite a public move towards respectability, and an attempt to woo Jewish support in a letter to the *Jewish Chronicle* in November, the British National Party (BNP) continues in private to promote antisemitism and violence. For example, in August, BNP supporter Mark Bulman was jailed for five years for daubing antisemitic graffiti in Swindon; books

recommended to members on the party website include some with antisemitic themes, such as John Tyndall's *The Eleventh Hour*, and others by the American anti-Jewish propagandist Michael Hoffman II. Fifteen BNP members, some senior, were charged with or convicted of criminal activity during 2006, 13 of them for racist offences.

In February, British Holocaust denier David Irving was jailed for three years by a Vienna court, after pleading guilty to charges of denying the Holocaust. He had been arrested in November 2005, on a 1989 warrant, during a one-day visit to address a student meeting. In December, his jail sentence was reduced on appeal, and he was repatriated. He will, however, remain on probation for the duration of his sentence (see also Austria).

Parliament passed several acts, including the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, the Equality Act 2006 and the Terrorism Act 2006, which amended the Terrorism Act 2000. The two former were due to come into force in 2007.

According to the Report of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism, published in September, Jewish people and institutions are being targeted regardless of the expressed motive; a minority of Islamist extremists incite hatred toward Jews; and Jewish students feel disproportionately threatened in British universities as a result of antisemitic activities.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/uk.htm>

CIS and Baltic States

BALTIC STATES

The three Baltic States, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, regained their independence in the early 1990s, following the collapse of the Soviet Union. All set up historical committees to research the Soviet and German occupations of their countries. They all claim that the Soviet occupation greatly exacerbated the feelings of the local population toward the Jews during the Nazi occupation that followed. Moreover, since part of the population associated the Jews with the hated Soviets, they collaborated with the Nazis in anti-Jewish actions.

LITHUANIA

Lithuania was the first of the Soviet republics to declare independence (11 March 1990), although it was recognized as a separate state by Moscow only in September 1991. There are about 6,000 Jews (out of about 3.5 million inhabitants), most of whom live in Vilnius (Vilna), the capital. Smaller Jewish communities exist in Kaunas (Kovno), Klaipėda (Memel), Šiauliai and in other cities and towns. The Jewish Community of Lithuania is the umbrella organization of Lithuanian Jews.

Several cases of desecration of Jewish cemeteries and memorials were recorded. On 23–24 June, 18 tombs were broken at the Jewish cemetery in the town of Sudervė near Vilnius. A memorial marking the Jewish cemetery on Olandų Street, Vilnius, which was destroyed by the Soviets, was desecrated with a swastika and the slogan “Juden Raus” on 8 August. The Jewish cemetery in Vilnius was attacked twice in 2006: on 23 June (22 tombs were damaged) and on 7 September (19 tombs).

Swastikas appear regularly on buildings and other places. In summer 2006, a swastika was carved on the grass on the right bank of the Neris River, Vilnius. As in other CIS states, the offenders in such incidents – who are never caught – are probably members of skinhead gangs or antisemites unaffiliated to any particular group.

The attitude toward the Nazi era is a serious problem in Lithuania, as well as in the other Baltic States. Some Lithuanians view Nazi Germany as the country that freed the Baltic States from the hated Soviets and regard locals who joined the Wehrmacht and the SS and may have participated, or at least been aware of, the mass murder of Jews as freedom fighters. This standpoint is manifested, for example, in the holding of memorial ceremonies and unveiling of monuments in honor of local Nazi collaborators.

Church and open antisemitism were cornerstones of the ideology of Nazi groups, nowadays devout Christians, regarded by the neo-pagan neo-Nazis as members of a Jewish sect, are their worst enemies. Thus, in addition to Jewish institutions, Christian (and Muslim) sacred places and memorials to Stalinism are their main targets.

Several Jewish sites were defiled in 2006. For example, in mid-September, five tombstones in the old Jewish cemetery of Sverzhn were broken, while on 9 November, swastikas and the slogan "Beat the Yids" were painted on the walls of the Israeli Informational Cultural Center in Minsk. Initially, the police refused to open an investigation, claiming that the latter incident was not "a deliberate act of fomenting national enmity"; however, following an appeal by the Israeli embassy to the interior ministry and the general prosecutor's office, they started an inquiry on 1 December. In late November, swastikas, Stars of David on gallows and threatening slogans were painted on the fence of the Minsk House of Charity of the Orthodox Church.

As in previous years, Belarus publications continued to inflame national and religious conflicts. On 18 January, basing itself on neo-Nazi sources, the state newspaper *Vechernii Mogilev* claimed that the yeast used for baking kosher bread is made out of human bones.

The Russian Orthodox Initiative (Minsk) published a book, *A Verdict on Those Who Kill Russia*, which was distributed widely in Belarus and Russia. The book is a collection of neo-Stalinist articles attacking globalization, the US, the Jews and Zionism. Although the Initiative has been issuing books with openly neo-Nazi content for seven years, the authorities have never tried to limit its activity. Attempts of local human rights organizations to prosecute it or revoke its publishing license have failed.

Following publication of the book, the Russian Orthodox Eparchy canceled its contracts with the Initiative and sold its 70 percent share hold, dating from 2004. On 23 June, a group of senior officials of the Orthodox Church published a document, "The Pastor's Admonition of the Minsk Eparchial Council," which accused the publisher V. Chertovich of spreading "odious nationalist and antisemitic information," and supporting neo-Bolshevik views and antisemitism. Nevertheless, the prosecutor's office continued in its refusal to initiate proceedings against the publishing house for inciting ethnic hatred.

The Russian Orthodox Book shop, owned by the Russian Orthodox Initiative, continued to sell antisemitic literature and videocassettes, such as the book *Jewish Fascism – Genocide of the Russian People*, and the movie *Russia with a Knife in Her Back: Jewish Fascism and Genocide of the Russian People*. Most of their stock is imported from Russia, but some is

produced locally; the book *Demons in Russia*, written by PhD candidate V. Zelenevskii and published privately, is one of the more odious antisemitic volumes that appeared in 2006.

On 10 August, the private newspaper *Vitebskii Kur'er* received a threat letter signed by the RNE (Russian National Unity – see, for example, *ASW* 2004), containing a caricature entitled “Let’s Clean Russia,” showing a young man in uniform adorned with swastikas standing near a Pravoslav Church. He is holding a man with a Star of David on his chest and dollars hanging out of his pockets. The letter urged the newspaper to stop publishing articles opposing the government and the president of Belarus since he is fighting the “Yids” and liberals who are trying to enslave the Russian people. Responding to the newspaper’s complaint in September, the police said they were investigating.

In April the prosecutor’s office in Mogilev issued an official warning to members of the Alef Jewish musical group for alleged infraction of the law concerning the propagation of religion. The group was accused of employing “Jewish religious symbols” – Stars of David and menorahs – when they played at a Purim party in a Jewish kindergarten in the city in March. The text of the warning included citations from the antisemitic book *How Antisemites Are Made*, by Deacon Andreii Kuraev, which claims, *inter alia*, that the Purim festival celebrates the alleged genocide the Jews inflicted on the ancient Persians. The public prosecutor charged the teacher Liudmila Izakson-Bolotovskaia with violating the children’s rights and said that the TV coverage of the festivities was illegal Jewish propaganda. In July, following protests by the Union of Jewish Communities and Organizations in Belarus, the prosecutor’s office revoked the warning.

Practically all official literature, including history textbooks and encyclopedias, ignores or mentions only in passing the Jewish tragedy during World War II, and most publications diminish the extent of Jewish resistance to the Nazis or disregard it completely.

The Jewish community is also in conflict with the authorities concerning the marking of mass graves of Jewish Holocaust victims: Jews are not permitted to inscribe on memorials the number of Jews murdered at a certain place, on the grounds that people of other nationalities may have been killed there, too (Minsk, Gorodeia, Mozyr, Brest). In addition, Holocaust memorials are desecrated regularly. In September a memorial to 8,000 Jewish inmates of the Slutsk ghetto was vandalized in the village of Gorevakha, near Slutsk. Memorials to victims of other nationalities nearby were not damaged.

On 12 November, at the time that a conference of German neo-Nazis was being held in Berlin to mark the 68th anniversary of

Kristallnacht, swastikas and the slogan “Death to Yids” were painted on the Yama memorial to Holocaust victims in Minsk, as well as on the Israeli embassy. The day chosen by the perpetrators and the fact that similar graffiti was painted in other parts of the city simultaneously indicate that it was a well planned action. Near the Yama memorial, leaflets signed by the previously unknown White Front for Aryan Resistance were left; they declared the beginning of a struggle against supporters of liberal democracy, Judaism and Masons, and called upon anyone interested in the “final victory of the Aryan spirit” to join the Aryan revolution.

On 29 November, a homemade bomb exploded at the memorial to Holocaust victims in Brest. The chairman of the local Jewish community, Boris Bruk, said this was the sixth time at least that the monument had been targeted since it was unveiled 14 years earlier; the perpetrators, however, were never caught.

An indirect sign of the authorities’ negative role in the solution of the Jewish population’s problems is their failure and reluctance to protect them from the aggressive chauvinism of individuals and organizations, such as branches of the Russian organizations RNE, Slavianskii Soiuz (SS) and others, most of whose activity is directed against Jews.

Until 2006 no appeal for action against antisemitic manifestations issued by the Union of Jewish Organizations and Communities was dealt with seriously. However, after antisemitic incidents and propaganda became principal expressions of neo-Nazism and an issue of public discussion, many leaders of other religions and nationalities, such as the Orthodox Diocese and the Islamic Union, voiced their support for the Jewish Union’s stand, as demonstrated during a round table held in Minsk in December 2006. Both the Orthodox Diocese and the Islamic Union have suffered desecrations of their own religious institutions at the hand of neo-Nazis.

The awarding of a medal in early January by Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko to Eduard Skobelev for his “spiritual contribution” demonstrates the authorities’ indirect encouragement of antisemitism. Skobelev is the author of *Stalin’s Testament* (2005), which defames Belarusian Jews. In the 1990s Skobelev proposed solving the “Jewish question” with guns and said he believed *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* were authentic.

Full report online at:
<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/belarus.htm>

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Moldova has a Jewish population officially estimated at about 30,000 out of a general population of approximately 4.3 million. The Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities of Moldova and the Jewish Congress of Moldova unite Moldovan Jewish organizations.

Several Jewish cemeteries were desecrated in 2006. In early May, 11 tombstones were broken at the Jewish cemetery in Bander, and other cases were reported in Tiraspol, Soroca and Orhei. Nazi symbols and antisemitic insults were painted on some graves.

Most anti-Jewish prejudice in Moldova is expressed by denying or distorting the facts of the genocide of the Jews (and other groups) during the fascist Romanian occupation of Moldova (1941–44) and Prime Minister Ion Antonescu's responsibility for the Holocaust. This phenomenon is linked to a similar situation in Romania, serving the objective of Romanian nationalists of reunifying the two countries on the basis of ethnic and linguistic ties.

The debate over the responsibility of Antonescu's for the Holocaust on Moldovan territory has intensified. To some extent it is connected to the development and introduction of new textbooks on the history of Moldova into general secondary schools. The new history course includes facts about the Holocaust and about Antonescu's responsibility for it, as well as information on minorities such as Jews and Roma who have lived in the land for centuries. Prior to 2006 the Moldovan school curriculum included the course "History of the Romanians," reflecting an ethno-nationalist line that completely excluded minorities. It also ignored the Holocaust in Moldova and Romania, and presented Antonescu in a positive light.

The new history textbooks were prepared on the recommendation of the Council of Europe and their authors were often attacked by various ultra-nationalistic organizations, such as unions of historians and political parties. The main tool of such groups is the media and the number of articles attacking the new history curriculum increased greatly in 2006, including in large-circulation mainstream newspapers, such as *Literatura și Artă*, *Timpul*, *Glasul Națiunii* and *Jurnal de Chișinău*.

Timpul, for example, a leading newspaper known for its identification with the extreme right in Moldova and Romania, published an article describing the Romanian pilots who bombed Moldovan cities and villages on 22 June 1941 as liberators. The article aroused a storm of indignation among the opposition media (such as the newspapers *Puls* and *Mediapuls*) and minority activists. The piece was followed by a series

of articles and interviews with former soldiers of the Romanian army, who according to *Timpul*, were “forgotten heroes of the Second World War.”

In 2006 the Romanian public TV channel TVR1 organized a TV-marathon entitled “Great Romanians of All Times,” in which viewers voted Ion Antonescu into third place in the list of “ten great Romanians.” Many of the above-mentioned Moldovan newspapers covered the event enthusiastically, stressing Antonescu’s importance for the Romanian nation. Asked to comment on the results of this television poll for *Timpul*, right-wing Moldovan politicians such as Vitalia Pavlicenco, leader of the recently established National Liberal Party of Moldova, and Mihai Ghimpu, leader of the Liberal Party and former activist of the Popular Front, all praised Antonescu’s actions during the war.

It may be assumed that these views of Antonescu’s actions were influenced to some extent by Romanian President Traian Basescu, who is extremely popular among Moldovan right-wing circles and whose speeches and activities are covered by the nationalistic media. Appearing on a show on the Romanian Realitatea TV channel, also transmitted in Moldova, Basescu said that the only mistake made by Antonescu was that he “did not know where to stop and this is unforgivable for a politician. He made a fundamental error – “crossing the Dniester River.” At the same time Basescu refrained from speaking about war crimes – the reason Antonescu was sentenced to death in June 1946.

An important international conference devoted to the Holocaust was held in Chisinau in October. Entitled “The Destiny of Jews in Bessarabia, Northern Bucovina and Transnistria in 1940-1944,” it was organized by the Ion Creanga State Pedagogic University. Although the conference gathered many Moldovan and international historians, journalists and sociologists, it aroused much criticism from some Moldovan historians and the Jewish community. Their target was mainly the history department of the Pedagogic University, many of whose members support the nationalist line promoted by Anatol Petrencu, a leading promoter of Holocaust denial in Moldova.

The problem of antisemitism and racism has been officially recognized by the Moldovan authorities. President Vladimir Voronin explicitly condemned antisemitism and Holocaust denial in a speech he gave in 2006 at the Serpeni Stronghold Memorial on the anniversary of the Chisinau-Iasi operation liberating Moldova on 22 August 1944. Nationalistic groups, among them, the Hyde Park NGO which protested outside, hung posters with inscriptions such as “Occupants, go home” and “Rehabilitate Ion Antonescu.” The memorial complex was

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constructed by the Moldovan authorities two years earlier as a symbol of the liberation of Moldova from fascist occupation.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/moldova.htm>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

According to the last census held in 2002, the Jewish population in Russia was 230,000, out of a total population of 144 million. Jewish umbrella organizations in Russia are the Vaad of Russia (also known as the Federation of Jewish Organizations and Communities, FEOR) and the Russian Jewish Congress (REK).

The year 2006 in Russia was marked by two trends in regard to antisemitism: on the one hand, it began with several attacks on Jews (see below); on the other, there were numerous initiatives on the part of NGOs to combat antisemitism and fascism. However, although law enforcement agencies were also more active in dealing with antisemitism, there was little change in the level and nature of such activity (including violent attacks with the intention to kill).

Antisemitism in Russia today should be examined in the context of the general ethnic situation there. Xenophobia toward ethnic and religious minorities in Russian society continues to be a serious problem. In 2006, skinheads murdered dozens of members of ethnic minorities and injured hundreds more in city streets; moreover, not all such crimes are reported. Jews are not prime targets of xenophobia; Caucasians, Central Asians and Roma are the main ones. For example, on 21 August, an explosion took place at the Cherkizovskii market in Moscow, which is owned by Jews and used by traders from China and Central Asia. Ten people were killed and about 50 injured.

Several major attacks and attempted attacks on Jews were reported in 2006. On 11 January, Aleksandr Koptsev stabbed eight people in the Chabad synagogue on Bolshaia Bronnaia St., Moscow, during prayers. Rabbi Itshkak Kogan and his son disarmed him as he shouted "Heil Hitler" and claimed that he had come to kill Jews. He was arrested and during questioning admitted having read extremist material on the Internet. He also said he was motivated by anti-Jewish feeling, but later denied this. The police found extreme right, nationalist and antisemitic literature, fascist symbols and addresses of three Moscow synagogues in his apartment. The incident was condemned by Duma deputies from various parties, the Russian-Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchy, the Russian Council of Muftis, the Central Spiritual Organization of Muslims and the Union of Journalists of Russia, among others.

On 27 March, Koptsev was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment; however, this ruling was overturned on 29 June by the Supreme Court and a retrial was ordered after both the defense and the prosecution filed

appeals. While the defense argued that Koptsev was mentally unstable, the prosecution asked to include an additional charge – incitement of ethnic hatred. On 15 August the retrial began and one month later the Moscow City Court convicted him of inciting ethnic and religious hatred and sentenced him to 16 years imprisonment in a maximum security prison and compulsory psychological treatment. This verdict was upheld by the Supreme Court on 30 November.

Two days after the Moscow attack, Vadim Domnitskii entered a synagogue in Rostov and threatened to stab the Jews there if the rabbi refused to speak to him. He was stopped by the guards and arrested. When the police questioned him, he said he was inspired by Koptsev. He was charged with hooliganism, but on 10 April was declared psychologically unfit to stand trial. In May, his trial for threatening to kill or injure people began in absentia. On 15 June the Kirov Regional Court of Rostov ordered Domnitskii to be hospitalized for treatment in a psychiatric hospital; however on 22 August a regional court released him. According to his lawyer, the court had deemed his crime insignificant.

In addition, two youths approached Rabbi Nison Rupp, the rabbi of Kostroma, at a trolleybus station on 13 February, spat in his face, shouted antisemitic remarks and made threatening gestures, while on 19 February, a 23-year-old Israeli citizen, a student at the St. Petersburg Hertzen University, was beaten and hospitalized with head injuries.

Synagogues, too, were frequently the target of antisemitic attacks. On 20 April (the anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birthday) a group of youths shouting antisemitic remarks threw stones at windows of a synagogue in Orenburg and painted Nazi graffiti on the fence. On 21 June Denis Poriadin approached the synagogue and Jewish community center in Ekaterinburg, shouted antisemitic insults and slashed the door with a knife. He was arrested and on 23 June; a local court found him guilty of assault and sentenced him to 24 hours detention.

Antisemitic graffiti was painted on Jewish facilities throughout the country. For example, on 18 February swastikas appeared on the building in Saratov housing the Jewish Agency's offices, as well as on the main door of the Jewish charity organization Khesed Yerushalaim. The police arrested Maksim Tiurim (no known affiliation) on 6 April and on 11 May the Kirov Regional Court in Saratov gave him a two year suspended sentence and one year of probation. "Death to the Yids," "Holocaust 88" and a swastika were painted on the fence of the Jewish cultural center and synagogue in Khabarovsk on 20 June.

Jewish graves were also desecrated. For example, during the week of Passover swastikas were painted on ten graves in the Jewish cemetery in Omsk, while in October eight gravestones were broken in the Jewish

section of the Egoshikhinskii cemetery in Perm. The cemetery has been desecrated several times in the past and was restored earlier in 2006 by the local Jewish community. On 2 October, 150 Jewish and Tatar gravestones were broken in a cemetery in Tver. Swastikas and antisemitic slogans were painted on some of the Jewish graves. Three suspects were arrested several days later.

Antisemitic leaflets with a picture of a medieval Russian warrior threatening a stereotypical Jew with a bayonet were distributed in mail boxes in Vladimir in May. The caption read, "Zionists Besmirch Victory," referring to the Soviet victory in World War II. On 10 June antisemitic and anti-immigration posters containing swastikas were hung on buildings in Moscow. They accused the Jews of occupying Russia and called to free the country from the "criminal regime of the Jewish occupation." On 13 July antisemitic posters showing a religious Jew emerging from a page of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and a Russian warrior stabbing him in the eye with a dagger, appeared on buildings in Vologda. The caption read: "We will exterminate our enemies without remorse."

Sovetskaia Rossiia, the organ of the Communist Party of Russia (KPRF), published an interview, on 29 July, with the party leader, Gennadii Ziuganov, who claimed that Zionism uses antisemitism as a "test weapon" and that Jewish oligarchs control the Russian media. On 30 June in an interview on the Irkutsk news website *virk.ru*, Duma deputy Igor Rodionov (Rodina Party – see below) accused the Jews of causing political disunity in Russia because of Zionism's pernicious influence.

One of the main tasks of pro-Kremlin political activists in 2006 was to prepare a smooth, trouble-free transfer of power for the 2008 presidential elections (when Putin will leave his second and final term in office), as well as for the late 2007 Duma elections. This required, among other measures, the weakening of opposition forces. One strategy was the launching of a media campaign to discredit some nationalist opposition groups (some of whose members have made antisemitic statements), such as the People's Patriotic Union, Rodina (Motherland), headed by Dmitrii Rogozin, originally established as a leftist nationalist bloc, under the control of the authorities, as a counterforce to the Communists. In particular, the official mass media targeted the "Letter of 500" (see *ASW 2005*), as well as the attack on the Moscow synagogue in January 2006 (see above).

There was an increase in criminal cases opened against perpetrators of antisemitic incidents on the charge of "incitement to ethnic enmity," instead of mere "hooliganism." Two trials of antisemites took place for

crimes committed prior to 2006. On 13 March the verdict was given in a Tomsk court regarding a booby trapped antisemitic poster set up on a highway near the city in 2002. It was revealed that the group responsible had also committed two murders, spilt mercury twice in a local restaurant owned by a Jewish man and had been planning to blow up the Tomsk synagogue. The court found the leader Victor Lukianchikov and group member Igor Kirillov guilty of banditry, terrorism, premeditated murder with aggravating circumstances, and kidnapping; the two were sentenced to 23 and 20 years, respectively, in a maximum security prison. A third member, Vladimir Istomin, was sentenced to 6 years and one month in prison.

On 2 October the Sverdlovsk Regional Court began discussing the case of the murder of 21-year-old Jew Andrey Dziuba, who was killed on 1 October 2005 in Yekaterinburg. The incident was publicized only after the trial began. The verdict, given in early 2007, found the suspects guilty of murder motivated by ethnic hatred and sentenced them to prison terms ranging from five to ten years.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/russia.htm>

TRANSCAUCASIA AND CENTRAL ASIA

The eight national republics in Transcaucasia and Central Asia gained their independence in the early 1990s after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Six of them have a Muslim majority (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan) and two have a Christian majority (Armenia and Georgia). Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan share a long common border with Iran; Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan adjoin Afghanistan.

The socio-political situation in these republics provides fertile ground for the activity of radical political and religious groups, some of which aspire to carry out a military coup and form an Islamic government. Georgia's and Kyrgyzstan's economic problems led to public unrest, which developed into political upheavals, while in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan public protests were harshly repressed by the government.

An anti-terrorist center was set up in 2006 in Tashkent to coordinate the efforts of Central Asian governments. Besides extremist Muslim groups, banned organizations include Christian Evangelistic groups and Harry Krishna, which allegedly inflame religious-nationalist tensions by trying to convert the local population to Christianity or Buddhism.

Radical Islamic groups such as Hizb ut-Tahrir (see *ASW 2004*) and IMU (Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan), which are inspired by neighboring Iran, are threatening the region with Islamic revolution. Since they are banned in the states in which they operate, they have been forced underground. Targeting governmental/state interests, they have carried out several suicidal terrorist bombings during the last decade in Uzbekistan. Two of the attacks were against the US and Israeli embassies.

The Jewish population is made up of several sub-groups: Bukharan, Georgian and Mountain Jews have been living in the region for centuries while Ashkenazi Jews arrived mainly during and after World War II. The Jewish population, which forms only a tiny fraction of the total population, has decreased dramatically in recent decades due to political, social and economic instability in the region. Mass emigration from the region (not only of Jews, but also of Russians, Germans and Poles, among others) has left a residue of some 30,000–50,000 Jewish residents, mostly Ashkenazi Jews, living in the capital cities. Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan each have about 10,000 Jews; about one thousand remain in Georgia and several hundred more live in Armenia, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, respectively. With the

exception of Turkmenistan (which does not permit religious and international organizations to operate on its territory), the republics impose no limitations on the activities of local or international (such as JAFI, the Jewish Agency for Israel; and the JDC, or Joint) Jewish organizations, which have representatives and offices in the capitals.

In general, with a few exceptions, the recent history of the region has not seen major antisemitic incidents. This may be ascribed to the fact that many local ethnic groups are engaged in national and territorial conflicts in the region, while Jews remain uninvolved.

However, the word “Jew” often appears in the context of discussions on “global conspiracies” or “American world domination.” It is also used pejoratively by the general public, especially when criticizing their presidents. For example, it is quite common in Uzbekistan to call President Islam Karimov a “Jew” and to accuse Kazakhstan’s President Nursultan Nazarbayev of having a “Jewish wallet” (referring to the patronage of Eduard Mashkevich, a local Jewish oligarch and president of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress). Similar censure is often heard about exploitation of the region with “Jewish money,” such as that of the SOROS Foundation. A simple search on Google, using as keywords the name of one of the presidents and “Zhid” (derogatory term in the Russian language for “Jew”) leads to hundreds of talkbacks blaming all the ills of the world – such as the sickness of Turkmenistan’s president, the war in Iraq and the Russian Revolution – on a “Jewish conspiracy.”

On 30 April Rabbi Menakhem Mendel Gershovich found a letter at the entrance to Chabad house in Alma-Ata (Kazakhstan), which contained phrases such as “Jews get out of Kazakhstan” and “Kazakhstan for Kazakhs – this is not the place for Jews”. The rabbi later said he had decided not to file a complaint since antisemitic incidents in Kazakhstan are very rare.

In Azerbaijan, former Interior Minister (1992–93) Iskendar Gamidov, chairman of the National Democratic Party (Boz Gurd), made antisemitic and anti-Israel statements on 27 July. He accused the Jews of owning all the land in northern Azerbaijan, of trying to get hold of other assets and of acting as if they owned the world. In Baku, the capital, several anti-Israel demonstrations took place on 27 July, and 3 and 7 August (the period of the Second Lebanon War).

Although Armenia is predominantly Christian, posters supporting Hizballah were hung in the center of Yerevan during the war.

Several violent attacks on Jewish religious communities in the region in 2006 may have been motivated by antisemitism. On 18 August and 14 September Molotov cocktails were tossed at the synagogue in Dushanbe (Tajikistan). In Tashkent (Uzbekistan) alone: Avraham Yegudaev was

killed in February in a hit and run incident near the synagogue (his relatives are convinced that the motive was antisemitic), and the secretary of the chief Chabad rabbi and her elderly mother were murdered in their house on 8 June; in addition, several members of the Jewish community were beaten. The authorities and Chief Rabbi of Uzbekistan David Gurevich rejected the possibility of antisemitism as a motive in the case of the secretary, which was solved surprisingly quickly – the police claimed it was a robbery. In other cases the perpetrators were not found.

The unveiling in Yerevan in 2006 of a joint monument to victims of both the Holocaust and the genocide of the Armenians in Turkey is a recent example of efforts to find similarities between the two events.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/transcaucasia.htm>

UKRAINE

According to the 2001 population census, there were 103,600 Jews in Ukraine; however, data of local Jewish organizations indicate the number of Jews to be 200,000–400,000. All-Ukrainian umbrella Jewish organizations include the Vaad of Ukraine (Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities) and the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine, among others.

Elections to the Ukrainian parliament (Verkhovna Rada) were held in March 2006. Following lengthy negotiations between the elected parties, a parliamentary majority was formed by the Party of Regions (PR, 32.14 percent of the votes), the Socialist Party (5.69 percent) and the Communist Party of Ukraine (3.66 percent). Viktor Yanukovich, leader of PR, became prime minister.

Also participating in the elections were some parties with an antisemitic agenda, including the Ukrainian Conservative Party (UKP), headed by the president of MAUP (see below), Georgii Shchokin, and the All-Ukrainian Union Svoboda (Freedom) headed by Oleg Tiagnybok; both leaders are known for their antisemitic rhetoric.

The UKP platform urged a struggle against Zionism and preference to Ukrainians in all governmental structures; Svoboda called for proportional representation of ethnic groups. Although the UKP agenda provoked a debate among members of the Central Elections Committee, the party was not banned from participating and anti-Jewish rhetoric became a key element of its campaign. At least half of its newspaper *Za Ukrainskuiu Ukrainu*, distributed free around the country during the campaign, was devoted to antisemitic content. In early March, at a meeting of the Forum of National Patriotic Forces in Kherson, UKP leader Georgii Shchokin accused the Jews of robbing the country and seizing power in Ukraine. He called for a ban on the activity of organized Jewry in the country.

The results of the elections to the Verkhovna Rada showed that the overall majority of the population was not prepared to support antisemites and extreme nationalists: UKP received only 0.09 percent of the vote and Svoboda 0.36 percent. However, in the western regions Svoboda was more successful in local elections: in Lvov, for example, it received 4.91 percent of the regional council vote.

Although, the parliamentary elections demonstrated that political antisemitism in Ukraine is not a serious phenomenon, individual politicians who expressed antisemitic views during the campaign, succeeded in gaining seats in the Verkhovna Rada. The “patriarch” of

the Ukrainian nationalist movement, Levko Lukianenko, won a seat as a member of the Julia Tymoshenko Bloc (BIuT). A few months prior to the elections he stated that Zionists (Jews) were supporting the State of Israel and sought to dominate the countries in which they lived. He recommended checking the nationality of the Ukrainian president's advisors and exposing the conspiracy of Jewish ownership of the mass media, whose organs were deliberately and systematically conducting an informational war against the Ukrainian nation.

Antisemitism in Ukraine should be examined in the context of the general attitude toward national minorities in the country. The year 2006 witnessed an increase in crime motivated by ethnic hatred. In the larger cities (Kiev, Kharkov, Dnepropetrovsk and Simferopol), skinhead groups became more active and street attacks against national minorities were more frequent. In the last three months of the year, three Africans were murdered in Kiev.

There was a commensurate increase in the number of attacks and attempted attacks on Jews. In Dnepropetrovsk an identifiably Jewish man, Khaim Gobrov, 20, was severely stabbed and beaten on his way from the Golden Rose Synagogue on 20 April, Hitler's birthday. A few days earlier four Jewish youths were attacked by a group of skinheads in the city's main square.

On 16 December, a group of youths shouting antisemitic insults such as "Kikes, get out of here" beat three religious Jews near a synagogue in Kiev. Two of the victims managed to escape and called the police but they were told to call again the next day. Meanwhile, the third Jew was severely injured and a passerby who tried to intervene was also hurt. The police arrived the next day and began an investigation.

Also in Kiev, a man came to the Brodsky Synagogue on 3 February, and asked the guards to call the rabbi. However, the guards noticed that he had a knife, stopped him and called the police, who arrested him. At the police station, the man, Gerogii Dobrianskii, said that if he was sentenced to a year or two in prison, he would return to the synagogue after his release. He was charged with planning to use a firearm and sentenced to one year imprisonment.

Three men assaulted a Jewish student, Azaria Menaker, at the Kiev metro on 5 March. He tried to defend himself with a BB (air) gun, which he had bought and registered after he and another student, Mordekhai Molozhenov, had been attacked in August 2005 (see *ASW* 2005). One of the perpetrators was injured and the other two were arrested.

Fans of an Israeli team that played a football match on 14 September against a local Odessa team were beaten up after the game. On 18

September, 24-year-old Haim Weitzman was beaten by a group of youths shouting "I don't like Jews" in the center of Odessa.

On 22 March several youths near the Brodsky synagogue in Kiev stopped a young man who was approaching and insulted him with antisemitic remarks. They also urged passersby to "stab and annihilate the Yids." One of the attackers was arrested. He told the police that he had become acquainted with the others during a skinhead gathering and that they had read a lot of antisemitic literature which they bought at book kiosks at the city. He was released because he was a minor.

Many memorials to Holocaust Jewish victims were desecrated in Ukraine. For example, on 21 February paint was spilled on a memorial to Holocaust victims in Feodosia and "Heil Hitler" scrawled on the memorial's plaque. On a nearby bus station the perpetrators had painted "Beat the Yids, Save Russia." On 23 March a memorial in Sevastopol was desecrated with slogans such as "Adolf Lives," "Skinheads," "White Power," "Glory to Russia," "Nazi" and "88 [Heil Hitler]." A suspect who had left his e-mail address on the memorial was arrested. The same memorial was painted with pink swastikas on 18 June. On 20 April (Hitler's birthday), swastikas and "6,000,000 lies" were painted on a memorial in Odessa to 12,000 local Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

Synagogues throughout Ukraine were stoned, threatened and/or desecrated with antisemitic graffiti. On 14 February, a leaflet reading: "Chabad is the road to hell! No to Judeo-fascism... Today our children do not go to the theater [after the Soviet regime confiscated the building it served as a puppet theater]. Tomorrow they will grab a gun and carry out a pogrom" and demanding its return to the theater company, was glued on the door of the Central Brodsky Synagogue in Kiev. The leaflet contained the logo of the city branch of the Reform and Order Party (PRP – which took part in the elections as part of the PORA-PRP bloc; see above). A similar but even more virulent letter with the signature of the head of the branch, Vladimir Bondarenko, was also mailed to the synagogue. Antisemitic graffiti signed by PORA also appeared at the Kiev-Mohyla Academy of the National University. However, the bloc released a statement dissociating itself from the act and condemning it.

Jewish cemeteries were desecrated in May in Berdichev and near Zhitomir. In June two pupils, 16 and 14, were arrested and admitted to desecrating the latter cemetery. On 19 October, 18 tombstones were broken at the Jewish cemetery in Glukhov.

Antisemitic graffiti also appeared in the streets. In early June, a Star of David on a gallows and "Juden Kaput! Don't Stop Hooligans" were painted in the underground passage in Kiev. On 31 July antisemitic

graffiti such as “Palestine for Arabs, Yids – Babi Yar,” was painted on a fence of a building of the State Committee for Material Reserves in Dnepropetrovsk. The local Jewish community thinks that this was a response to an earlier pro-Israel demonstration held in the city.

There was only a slight increase in the publication of antisemitic articles in 2006, despite it being an election year: 670 compared to 661 in 2005. The previous five years had witnessed a steep, progressive increase. Moreover, the proportion of antisemitic articles published in the first quarter of the year (i.e., the period of the election campaign) was no greater than that issued during the rest of the year. Since the great majority of printed antisemitic materials (newspapers, books, etc.) in Ukraine emanate from one establishment – MAUP (Inter-Regional Academy of Personnel Management – see *General Analysis 2005*), it might be concluded that this institution has reached the limit of its capacity, at least financially, in this endeavor.

MAUP authors call in their articles and books for a struggle against Zionism, which they identify with Nazism and consider a threat to the entire world; the aim of the Jews in Ukraine, and particularly of the Chabad organization, they claim, is to destabilize the country, while the goal of the Jewish nation is to rule the world and destroy all existing nations. Antisemitic articles appear in almost all issues of *Personal* and other newspapers and periodicals published by MAUP. For example, *Personal Plus* (no. 16, 19–25 April) contained an article headed “Was it Ritual Murder in Kiev?” implying that the Jews had participated in the murder of a pupil in the Podolsk area of Kiev for religious purposes and committed similar crimes in Russia.

MAUP also holds antisemitic conferences. In May, antisemitic and anti-Israel statements were made by participants at a conference attended by MAUP leaders, Ukrainian public figures and representatives from Arab countries. MAUP leaders accused “Rothschild soldiers” of genocide of the Ukrainian people. On 19 October, David Duke, former leader of the American Ku Klux Klan, lectured at a MAUP discussion club in Kiev. He presented the Russian edition of his book, *The Jewish Question through the Eyes of an American. My Research on Zionism*, spoke about the Klan and urged Ukrainians to cooperate with his organization, the National Association for the Advancement of White People.

Since June 2006 MAUP has been selling its antisemitic newspapers and journals in post offices in Kiev and at numerous book kiosks. In November it was discovered that antisemitic literature such as *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, as well as MAUP newspapers, were available at the store inside the Ukrainian parliament. MP Alexander Feldman asked for an investigation and all antisemitic publications were

confiscated. Also in November the west Ukrainian newspaper *Za Vihnu Ukrainu* began serializing the book *Adolf Hitler, the Founder of Israel*, by Heneke Kardel, which claims that Hitler and his staff were Jews who launched World War II and the Holocaust.

On 15 February, the antisemitic monthly *Idealist*, issued by a virtual movement of the same name, published a "List of 330 Yids in the Ukrainian Parliament." Beside each name was a Star of David, which the author explained indicated that they were either Jews or married to Jews. He adds: "Where there are no people – there are no problems. So, if the Yids disappear – the Yid problem will disappear too."

As in previous years, there was much rhetoric condemning antisemitism in general and MAUP in particular. In January, then Foreign Minister Boris Tarasiuk said on national TV that MAUP's antisemitic activity was "unlawful and wrong" and that there was no place for antisemitism or any other form of racism in Ukraine. In early August, Assistant Prosecutor General Tatiana Korniakova stated during a press conference that the prosecutor's office intended to conduct a thorough investigation of MAUP's publications.

On 18 October President Viktor Iushchenko assured rabbis from the Federation of Jewish Communities in Ukraine that the authorities were committed to the struggle against antisemitism. Nevertheless, he signed a decree in favor of recognizing Ukrainian nationalist fighters during World War II as war veterans. These soldiers fought against both the Soviets and the Nazis and some of them took part in the murder of Jews. About a month later he told the press that he had instructed the prosecutor's office and the Ukrainian Security Services to investigate the involvement of MAUP in inciting xenophobia. Nevertheless, all attempts in 2006 (as in previous years) to influence the prosecutor's office and other authorities to take action against MAUP were unsuccessful.

In June the education minister closed seven branches of MAUP and in October, revoked 4,655 graduate diplomas; however, the official reason given was "administrative irregularities" without reference to MAUP's antisemitic activity. A month later MAUP appealed the first decision and the licenses of these branches were renewed.

It should be noted that the media usually ignore antisemitic attacks and most of the incidents mentioned above were not reported.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/ukraine.htm>

Eastern Europe

HUNGARY

The 80,000 Jews living in Hungary, out of a total population of 10.55 million, constitute the largest Jewish community in Eastern Europe outside the borders of the former Soviet Union. The great majority live in Budapest, but there are also communities in Miskolc and Debrecen, as well as in smaller cities. The Federation of Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz) is the main body of Hungarian Jewry.

Antisemitism in Hungary in 2006 was manifested mainly in far right publications and demonstrations.

In October-November Hungary experienced perhaps its most acute crisis since the change of regime in 1989. Extremist activity reached a new level, with the events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian uprising. In recent years, Hungarian society, which is highly politicized, has been split between the liberals, the left (some of them reformed Communists), the center-right, and the more extreme right, over the significance of revolution's legacy for the present. Thus, the battle for historical memory and its place today has become a primary topic in the sharp-tongued political discourse. The opposition center-right FIDESZ openly called for the overthrow of the Socialist government, after it became public that Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany said at an internal meeting of his party that they had "lied day and night" to the people as to the real economic and social situation, and in fact, were cheating the electorate. His words added fuel to the already heated atmosphere surrounding the extreme right ceremonies in October commemorating the 61st anniversary of the rise to power of the Nazi Arrow Cross party in Hungary in 1944. The FIDESZ-led opposition and other groups to the right called for open defiance of the government. The consequent three weeks of daily rallies culminated in late October, when the police were accused of using force against violent demonstrators.

Participants in the various rallies of the nationalist right in Budapest marking the 1956 uprising shouted antisemitic and anti-Israel slogans, among them the accusation that Israel was guilty of war crimes. Security around Jewish sites and synagogues was reinforced, and there were rumors of panic among local Jews and community leaders. No attacks were actually reported, but this was the first time since 1989 that mobs of violent youths shouting antisemitic slogans were present on the streets. The center-right, which usually distances itself from extreme

right-wing events and their messages, chose to maintain a low profile while calling for moderation and the democratic expression of freedom of speech. This stand demonstrated, perhaps, an attempt to benefit from the violent noisy upsurge of opposition to the Socialist-led government, which, nevertheless, survived both the parliamentary (in April) and extra-parliamentary attempts in the streets to remove it from power.

The October-November events served the liberal press, such as the daily *Nepszabadsag* and the weekly *Elet is Irodalom*, which warned against the revival of extremist and antisemitic forces endangering the new Hungarian democracy.

In February, Hungarian police confronted groups of local neo-Nazis, especially from Blood & Honour, who were celebrating the anniversary of the 1945 attempt of Hungarian and Nazi troops to break out of Soviet-besieged Budapest. Following such displays of neo-Nazi power, the authorities promise to clamp down. However, the marches have become an annual display of neo-Nazism and Holocaust denial; as such, they are criticized by liberals and leftists in the Hungarian media. The open endorsement of the neo-Nazi Group for a Hungarian Future (Magyar Jovo Csoport) of the legacy of the Arrow Cross and its leader Szalasi, serves to spotlight the re-emergence of similar groups, which attract dozens of sympathizers.

As in previous years, in October a small group of neo-Nazis tried to commemorate the 61st anniversary of the rise to power of the Nazi Arrow Cross party in Hungary in 1944. The event was overshadowed by the political crisis and demonstrations during that month noted above.

Extremist nationalist groups have intensified their use of the Internet in the past few years. Several websites, such as www.jobbbik.net (a play on words, meaning 'more to the right' as well as 'better'), disseminate xenophobic and antisemitic/anti-Israel views, often in vague terminology in order to avoid legal action.

The nationalist, xenophobic and antisemitic Hungarian Justice and Life Party (MIEP), led by Istvan Csurka, has had no parliamentary representation since 2002. The monitoring site of the Jewish publication *Szombat*, www.antiszemitizmus.hu, claimed that Csurka was no longer "the flagship of antisemitism" due to the proliferation of antisemitic websites and groups in Hungary. MIEP supporters continued their tradition of shouting antisemitic and anti-American slogans at their annual rally in Budapest in March, commemorating the 1848–49 revolution.

The 62nd anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary was marked similarly to the previous two years (see *ASW 2004*), with the various memorial events stressing the "Hungarian tragedy" (the crime carried out

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by the Hungarian people against their nation when they destroyed a community of fellow citizens). However, the extreme right media continued its attacks on “holo-propaganda.”

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/hungary.htm>

POLAND

There are 5,000–10,000 Jews in Poland out of a total population of close to 40 million. The majority live in Warsaw, Wrocław, Krakow and Łódź, but there are smaller communities in several other cities. The Union of Jewish Religious Communities (Związek Kongregacji Wyznania Mojżeszowego), or Kehilla, and the secular Jewish Socio-Cultural Society (Towarzystwo Społeczno-Kulturalne Żydowskie), or Ferband, are the leading communal organizations and these, together with other Jewish groups, are linked by membership in the KKOZRP, which acts as a roof organization.

In May, Poland witnessed the creation of a new government coalition which, for the first time since the 1920s, includes openly antisemitic parties. Besides his own conservative-populist Law and Justice Party, the coalition, led by Jarosław Kaczyński, comprises two radical nationalist parties. One of them is Self-Defense (Samoobrona), some of whose members are neo-Nazi skinheads turned politicians, such as Mateusz Piskorski, its foreign policy spokesman. Self-Defense leader Andrzej Lepper holds an honorary doctorate from Ukraine's MAUP (see *Ukraine*). Lepper claimed he was unaware that MAUP published virulently antisemitic literature and refused to return the award. The other radical party, League of Polish Families (Liga Polskich Rodzin – LPR), has a tradition that goes back directly to the antisemitic brawls of the 1920s and the 1930s.

LPR leader Roman Giertych was appointed minister of education, and LPR activists occupy a number of other posts: Piotr Farfal, 28, of All-Polish Youth (Młodzież Wszechpolska – MW – the LPR's youth wing), became deputy head of the state-run Polish Television (TVP). Farfal's extremist past was exposed by *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Poland's largest newspaper, which quoted from the anti-fascist magazine *Never Again* (*Nigdy Wiecej*). The latter reported that in 1995 Farfal edited and published a racist skinhead magazine entitled *Front*.

Faced with international pressure, notably the refusal of the Israeli embassy in Warsaw to cooperate with the education ministry while the LPR leader held the post, Roman Giertych attended the commemoration ceremony for Jedwabne victims on 10 July. Critics of Giertych have pointed out that his overtures to the Jewish community (such as an interview with the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*) were in stark contrast to the antisemitism that is rampant among the party's rank and file. Giertych himself is honorary chairman of the above-mentioned All Polish Youth, which organized a video-taped neo-Nazi gathering in

2004, which the police were investigating. Leokadia Wiacek, personal assistant to Roman's father Maciej (LPR, Polish representative to the European Parliament), was dismissed by the latter in November for being detected on the video giving the Nazi salute.

The government paid for and built a large monument to Roman Dmowski, which was unveiled on 11 November, despite a wave of public protest. Located in the center of Warsaw, the monument honors the man known as the father of 20th century antisemitism in Poland.

The Law and Justice Party appears increasingly to be embracing elements of the nationalist ideology espoused by Dmowski. Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski, for example, has repeatedly voiced his support for Radio Maryja, which frequently broadcasts antisemitic messages while supporting the government. For example, on 27 March, Radio Maryja's regular commentator Stanislaw Michalkiewicz launched a vehement attack on the "Holocaust industry," stating, *inter alia*, that Jews had humiliated Poland internationally by demanding money.

While no official data is available for 2006 alone, the magazine *Never Again* identified 227 hate incidents in the latter half of 2005 and first half of 2006, most of them antisemitic, including an assault, desecrations and violent behavior and antisemitic slogans at football stadiums. On 27 May, Michael Schudrich, Poland's chief rabbi, was punched and attacked with pepper spray on a Warsaw street by a man shouting "Poland for the Polish!" This was the first report of an antisemitic assault in many years. The police arrested Karol G., a 33-year-old extreme right activist and former parliamentary candidate of the Polish National Party (PPN), who admitted to the assault. The attack was widely condemned by the government and the media, and President Kaczynski apologized personally to Schudrich. Three months later, the assailant received a two-year suspended prison sentence.

On 16 May an anti-racist activist was stabbed and nearly killed near his home in Warsaw. The attack was widely regarded as connected to the neo-Nazi website Redwatch, operated by the Polish branch of the Blood and Honor network, which had published the activist's name on its list of "enemies." The Redwatch website published the photos and names of people allegedly "involved in anti-fascist and anti-racist activities, including non-white immigrants, activists of leftist associations and all kinds of supporters and activists of the homosexual and pedophile lobby in the wider sense." After a lengthy investigation, the authorities in Poland arrested several people linked to Redwatch and a man who allegedly carried out the attack on the activist. Nevertheless, the site continued to list names of "race traitors."

Earlier, in March, Redwatch posted threats against a female history teacher from Bialystok who included lessons on the Holocaust. They published her picture, her telephone number and threats such as, "We'll stab you in the back," and called her "an enemy of the white race."

The 61st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp (27 January) and the 60th anniversary of the pogrom in Kielce (4 July) were officially commemorated.

In March the Polish government announced its desire to change the name of the memorial site at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The government, led by the Law and Justice Party, requested that the UNESCO-listed name be changed from "Auschwitz Concentration Camp" to the "Former Nazi German Concentration Camp Auschwitz-Birkenau." Polish officials stressed their frustration at hearing references in the media to the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp as a "Polish concentration camp." The initiative was supported by Yad Vashem.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/poland.htm>

ROMANIA

The Jewish community in Romania has dwindled to fewer than 6,000 out of a total population of 21.5 million. The main Jewish centers are Bucharest, Iasi, Cluj and Oradea. The Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania promotes and coordinates communal activities.

Antisemitic and anti-Israel articles sometimes appear in Hungarian language press organs in Romania, especially *Erdeelyi Naplo*. In its issue of 8 August, during the Second Lebanon War, the paper published the article 'Bloodthirsty Zionism,' which employed clichés from the new antisemitism to viciously attack Zionism, Jews and Israel.

Antisemitic attitudes continued to surface in the debates over the role of the Jews in the Communist regime. The formation, in March 2006, of a Presidential Commission for the Study of the Romanian Communist Dictatorship, headed by a well known American scholar of Jewish-Romanian background, Vladimir Tismeneanu, whose father was a Communist activist, provided such an opportunity. From the time of its inception until the commission submitted its report to President Basescu in December, the antisemitic press frequently mentioned Tismeneanu's origins. Greater Romania Party leader Vadim Tudor (in the daily *Tricolorul*, 11 May), as well as others, branded Tismeneanu a "Jewish provocateur." Placing Tismeneanu as head of a commission on the crimes of the Communists was like nominating the son of a former senior Nazi to head a commission on the Holocaust, proclaimed one commentator in the leading Romanian daily *Ziua*, on 16 May.

There were several cases of desecration of Jewish sites in 2006. In January a person who threw stones at the Jewish Theatre in Bucharest was caught, and deemed by the police to be mentally ill. Some 20 tombs were vandalized in the Jewish cemetery of Resita on 24 March.

While the overall number of antisemitic events was no higher than the average for recent years, the authorities were demonstrating more openness, publicizing antisemitic incidents and responding more rapidly. However, according to the Center for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism (MCA Romania – www.antisemitism.ro), they still tend to downplay antisemitic incidents, often attributing acts of vandalism to children, drunkards or mentally unstable people.

The debate in Romanian society over the nation's role in the Holocaust continued in 2006, with arguments for and against the rehabilitation of Ion Antonescu. Discussions over the nation's past and future intensified in 2006 prior to Romania's entry into the European Union on 1 January 2007.

As in previous years, antisemitic propaganda accompanied the continuing campaign to rehabilitate the Antonescu legacy and cleanse historical memory of the fate of Romanian Jewry during the Holocaust. The material on pro-Legionnaire sites, such as *Pagina Romaniei* Nationaliste and *Dreapta Noua*, attempts to introduce Codreanu's doctrines to the younger generation through historical revisionism, including whitewashing the Iron Guard's murderous activities. These include the January 1941 pogrom in Iasi, which it attributes to "Jewish behavior." Such propaganda activities may be linked directly to official and public reactions following submission of the Report of the International Commission of Historians on the Holocaust in Romania in October 2004.

Newspapers, such as the daily *Ziua*, frequently published articles alleging that the Jews fared better in the Holocaust on Romanian territory than is generally portrayed, mentioning a "high survival rate" and the possibility of emigration under the Antonescu regime (see, for example, *Ziua*, 5 Aug.). While not overtly denying the Holocaust, such publications promote a revisionist, distorted view of events.

In June, several small nationalist organizations, including *Vatra Romaneasca* and the Marshal Ion Antonescu League, sponsored public prayers marking the 60th anniversary of Antonescu's execution as a war criminal. The Jewish community protested, citing the relevant legislation, but there was no official clampdown on the organizers and events. Likewise, clips showing the annual march held in Tancabesti in November, commemorating Iron Guard founder Corneliu Codreanu, were available over the net, including on YouTube and on extremist Romanian sites. The New Right organization *Noua Dreapta* was one of the organizers. Participants in this event wave the flags of the movement and sing marching songs. However, since they are usually few, skirt the highways, do not hinder traffic and avoid overtly antisemitic or racist slogans, the authorities do not interfere.

The Greater Romania Party (PRM), led by Corneliu Vadim Tudor, which suffered a resounding defeat in the November/December 2004 parliamentary and presidential elections (see *ASW 2004*), has reverted to its previous antisemitic line, although it has been more preoccupied with internal power struggles than with Jewish issues.

In January, various events were held to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the 1941 pogrom in Bucharest, in which at least 120 Jews were slaughtered during a revolt of Iron Guard Legionnaires against the Antonescu government. At a conference held in Bucharest, President Traian Basescu conveyed a message, stressing the need to teach the younger generation the realities of those times. In June, commemorative

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events and a major conference were held in Iasi, where more than 15,000 Jews were killed during several days of atrocities, also in 1941.

In October, Holocaust Day was commemorated for the third time in Romania, following the decision to mark 9 October, the beginning of the deportations to Transnistria in 1941. Of the 150,000 Jews deported there, a total of 90,000 perished.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/romania.htm>

SLOVAKIA

Slovakia has some 3,000 Jews out of a total population of 5.35 million. The largest Jewish community is in the capital Bratislava. The Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the Slovak Republic is the main communal organization.

In the June 2006 general elections, the first since the country joined the EU, the Slovak National Party (SNS), long branded an “ultra-nationalist, right-wing extremist” organization, won 11.73 percent of the vote and joined the new coalition government led by Robert Fico’s Smer Party. After the elections, a BBC News analysis labeled the SNS a “far right” party (BBC World Service, 18 June), and in October, Smer, which considers itself a “center-left” party, was suspended from membership of the Party of European Socialists (PES), on the grounds that that its coalition partner, the SNS, “incites or attempts to stir up racial or ethnic prejudices and racial hatred.” It should be noted, however, that the SNS has no record of antisemitic pronouncements by its members. Relations with Hungary became more strained after the Hungarian minority claimed that the government had adopted a more nationalist line toward it.

The country recorded a low level of antisemitic activity in 2006; however the trend of desecrating Jewish sites continued. In April posters of Hitler, adorned with eagles and swastikas, were placed on a monument to Jewish Holocaust victims in Rimavska Sobota; this was the second vandalistic attack within a year, the previous one being in July 2005. Also in April, five tombstones were vandalized in Rimavska Sec. There were no suspects in either investigation.

Right-wing extremists (including neo-fascists, antisemites and populists) maintained their active campaign to rehabilitate the wartime Tiso regime. Their attempts to rewrite history took place in a variety of forums, such as “scientific” meetings and various publications. The works of leading revisionists, such as Milan S. Durica and Jozef M. Rydlo, who wrote positive appraisals of the regime, were especially praised in the bi-weekly *Kultura*, which identifies with the Slovak fascist state and its Christian ideals. Its pseudo-intellectual discourse is described by the editors as a forum “dedicated to ethics.” *Kultura* serialized the memoirs of Alexander Mach, the wartime interior minister and one of those blamed for the tragic fate of the Jewish community. While denying there was antisemitism during the Tiso years, *Kultura* considered the “curtailing of the Jews’ rights” an act of “heroism by Tiso

and officials of the Slovak Republic.” Likewise, *Kultura* paid respects to Tiso “on the anniversary of the violent death of our president.”

Slovenske Narodny Noviny (Slovak National News), the weekly of the ultra-nationalist group Matica Slovenska, also openly supported commemoration of the war-time state. In March, it attacked those who perceive Tiso as a war criminal. The paper also inferred that the arming of Nazi Germany in the 1930s was supported by American Jewish capital. Moreover, it called for 14 March (the establishment of the pro-Nazi puppet state in 1939) to be instituted as a “memorial day for Slovaks.”

In addition, *Slovenske Narodne Noviny* took sides on the frequently debated question as to whether there is antisemitism in present-day Slovakia. Like other pro-Tiso publications, it not only denied there was antisemitism in Slovakia but reiterated that, in any event, the Jews in Slovakia were not “Semitic in origin but Khazar.”

The organizational structure and modus operandi of the ultra-nationalist Slovenska Pospolitost bring to mind the wartime fascist Hlinka Guard. For instance, it has adopted the anthem of the Tiso-led state. On 14 March the movement organized a rally in Bratislava, with 150-200 participants, to commemorate the 67th anniversary of that state. The aim of the movement is to “rid ourselves once and for all of enemies and parasites,” and its motto is “For the good of the Slovak family, as Jozef Tiso wanted.”

Slovenska Pospolitost registered as a political party in January 2005, prompting calls from liberal segments of Slovak society for it to be outlawed. The movement’s ideology is clearly pro-Tiso: its bulletin praises the wartime state and uses its symbols openly. It opposes the EU and accuses the Jews of harming Slovakia’s interests, warning, “Do not let Slovakia be circumcised.” In March, the Supreme Court of Slovakia banned the group, ruling that the existence of such a political party contradicted the state’s constitution. However, it remained registered as an NGO, whose exact status was in dispute.

Several events commemorating the beginning of the transport of Slovakian Jews to the death camps, in March 1942, took place in 2006. Traditional memorial services were held in Nitra and Kosice, as well as in Poprad, from where the first transport of unmarried girls left on 25 March 1942.

The 2006 general election triggered a marked rise in political extremism around the issues of racism, intolerance and xenophobia. In this connection, there were numerous activities aimed at highlighting the importance of the struggle against antisemitism and the legacy of the war-time fascist regime. Among them, were four exhibits organized by

the Museum of Jewish Culture in September, on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Jewish Codex – the antisemitic legislation of the Tiso regime.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/slovakia.htm>

The Middle East

ARAB COUNTRIES

In early February, a tribunal headed by former Malaysian PM Mahatir Muhammad, found US President George Bush, British PM Tony Blair and Israeli PM Ariel Sharon guilty of human rights violations and crimes against peace and humanity. They were convicted in an "international trial" held in Cairo at the initiative of the Arab Lawyers Union, with the participation of a few Western representatives, such as former American attorney Stanley Cohen, of bombing private homes, public buildings, hospitals and schools, obstructing food and medical supplies, destroying water and electricity supplies, and arresting, detaining and torturing innocent civilians in Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan. Although not widely covered by the Arab media, the trial was symptomatic of the prevailing Arab and Muslim mood. In an article entitled "A Holocaust of a Different Kind," published in the Jordanian Islamist weekly *al-Sabil*, attorney Muhammad Ahmad al-Rusan wrote that the tribunal was an answer to official Arab inaction and to the incompetence of international organizations in the pursuit of justice and in protecting peoples and individuals from oppression.

Similar attitudes were found in surveys carried out in other Muslim countries. A solid majority of Muslims continued to believe that the 9/11 attacks in the US were not carried out by Arabs, while Muslim Brotherhood members of the Egyptian parliament, together with other opposition representatives, voted against ratification of an Arab agreement to fight terrorism in mid-January. Usama Bin Ladin and Ayman al-Zawahiri, explained opposition deputy Rajab Hamida, "are a thorn in America's heart... you cannot incriminate any Arab for praising them and their activities."

"The distemper of these global times can be read in a wide variety of settings, where this new virulent anti-Americanism competes with historical antisemitism as a single explanation for the failures and delusions of entire nations," wrote *Washington Post* correspondent Jim Hoagland on 26 March. Indeed, the rise in anti-Americanism has been accompanied by an escalation in antisemitic manifestations, reinforcing the correlation between the two phenomena.

Political developments in the year 2006 gave a further boost to Islamists in Arab countries. In January, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt won over 80 seats in Parliament, becoming the biggest opposition party, and Hamas won the parliamentary elections in the Palestinian

Authority (PA); Hizballah emerged as the victor in the Second Lebanon War in July-August, in the eyes of the greater Arab public (see *General Analysis*); Sunni and Shi'i Islamist clashes in Iraq curtailed any attempts to restore law and order; Bin Ladin and al-Zawahiri continued to release audio and video tapes encouraging martyrdom and jihad against the Jews and the Crusaders; and Iran intensified its involvement in the Arab-Israeli conflict. All these triggered an increase in antisemitic manifestations, which reached a peak during the Lebanon War, proving once again that they are closely linked to political developments in the region. There was an intensification in the employment of Holocaust metaphors to describe the situation in the PA and Israeli behavior, as well as in the use of antisemitic caricatures to convey the negative traits of Israel and Zionism. The affair of the caricatures of Prophet Muhammad published in the Danish daily *Jyllands-Posten*, as well as in other European papers in September 2005, reverberated in the Middle East at the beginning of 2006, triggering a chain of events: an international caricature contest on Holocaust themes announced by Iran in February, followed by an exhibition and a conference in December aimed at questioning the established narrative of the Holocaust and Zionist usage of it (see below).

The perception that the Jews (or Israel, the Mossad or Zionism) are behind every disaster befalling humanity, particularly those affecting Arabs and Muslims, continues to dominate the Arab discourse. Accordingly, Kamal Jaballah, writing in *al-Quds al-Arabi* (21 Oct.) from Canada, claimed that it was common knowledge that "international Zionism" was the driving force behind all the calamities of the Arab world. He suggested "search[ing] for the Mossad" in the assassination of Lebanese PM Rafiq al-Hariri in 2005; similar accusations were raised in previous years (see *ASW 2004*). Likewise, the war raging in Iraq was repeatedly attributed to Zionist machinations and hatred, which derived from the Jewish legacy of the Old Testament and the Talmud. Israel's hidden hand was allegedly behind the racist attitude toward Muslims in the World Cup games which took place in Germany, the crisis in Darfur and anti-Sudanese demonstrations worldwide, and the suicide bombings in the Egyptian resort of Dahab in the Sinai Peninsula, on 24 April, killing 24 Egyptians and foreigners and wounding 100.

Accusing Israel and Zionism of Nazism and racism is associated in the Arab discourse with Israeli policy toward the Palestinians. This was a recurring theme in many of Jihad al-Khazin's columns in the London-based liberal paper *al-Hayat*. Attacking European and American decisions to suspend financial aid to the PA, following the Hamas victory in the PA parliamentary elections in January, al-Khazin labeled Israeli

government members on 9 March "Nazi war criminals," accusing them of being part of one of the most barbaric and terrorist movements in the modern age with its "Nazi army." On 19 April, following Israeli retaliation for a Palestinian suicide attack in Jerusalem, he repeated his allegation, asserting that since many members of the government and the army were descendants of Holocaust victims or survivors, "they can exploit their knowledge of Nazi expertise in order to apply 'the final solution' to the Palestinian problem." (For other expressions in the same vein during the Second Lebanon War, see *General Analysis*).

Jews and global Zionism were persistently portrayed as controlling the fate of the world and particularly the US; however, whereas "the West accepts the Zionist grip, the Arabs reject it." Saudi intellectual 'Awad al-Qarni alleged in an interview to Iqra' TV on 16 March that "the Zionist gang is now toying with the fate of America, and consequently, with the fate of the world, for the sake of Jewish biblical greed and hatred." Iraqi Ayatollah Ahmad Baghdadadi stated in an interview on al-Jazeera TV on 5 May that the two major American parties were playing the roles assigned to them by global Zionism.

Undoubtedly, the study "The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy," by Stephen M. Walt of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and John J. Mearsheimer of the University of Chicago, published in a shortened version in March in the *London Review of Books*, reinforced this belief. The report, which argued that US Middle East policy, and particularly its unconditional support of Israel, was contrary to American long-term strategic interests and blamed the Israel lobby for this misguided approach, received much attention from Arab observers. While seeing it as a confirmation of their long-standing claims, some commentators exposed inherent antisemitic beliefs. Calling his article in *al-Ahram* "The Israeli Octopus in America," Egyptian resident political analyst in Washington Muhammad Hakki considered the report "the first cracks in the dam."

Hamas' victory in the PA parliamentary elections, coupled with its persistent resistance to recognize Israel's right to exist and renounce its charter, which contains bold antisemitic references, reinforced the Islamist discourse on Israel and the Jews. Indeed, according to a public opinion poll conducted in mid-March by the Hebrew University and the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in Ramallah, nearly 60 percent of Palestinians opposed recognition of the State of Israel by Hamas.

Arab and Muslim attitudes to the commemoration of the Holocaust by the international community remained unchanged (see *ASW 2004, 2005*). The Egyptian parliament unanimously refused a request by the

Knesset speaker that Egypt commemorate the event annually. According to the Kuwaiti daily *al-Qabas*, Egyptian MPs considered the UN resolution not binding on the Arabs, explaining that dozens of other genocides committed by Israel against the Arabs should have been commemorated instead. The Muslim Council of Britain also continued its adamant boycott of the UK's National Holocaust Day. Mustafa Hajju Kharma reiterated the traditional Arab approach to the Holocaust in the Islamist weekly *al-Sabil*, contending that it "does not concern us Arabs and Muslims," especially since the perpetrators admitted it and legislated laws that incriminate whoever doubts it in any way. "What concerns us... is that the Jews are being compensated for the suffering inflicted on them by the Europeans on the account of the Arabs and Muslims."

Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad's statements on the Holocaust in 2005 continued to generate Arab reactions in 2006 similar to those noted previously (see *ASW 2005*). However, the conference on the Holocaust that he convened on 11-12 December provoked more extensive responses. Arab commentators were divided between those who supported the conference, those who rejected it for tactical reasons, and those who denounced it. While articles in Syrian papers considered the conference a serious and courageous attempt to break the siege on researchers so that they might expose the truth about the Holocaust, some commentators, such as *al-Akhbar* editor Ibrahim Sa'dah, claimed it would only harm the Arab cause. Outright denunciation of the conference was expressed by writers such as the Palestinian Hasan Khidr, in the daily *al-Ayyam*, who saw it as part of a broader phenomenon: the growing influence of Iran and of Islamist thought in the Middle East.

Usage of cartoons in the struggle against Israel and the Jews was particularly striking in 2006. Bahrain's largest daily newspaper *Akhbar al-Khalij* published numerous cartoons pointing to the Jews as the real culprits behind the Danish cartoons defaming the Prophet Muhammad. One of them depicted a block of cheese shaped as a Star of David full of worms with the caption: "Zionism's infiltration of Denmark and insults of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him," and the injunction "Boycott them."

Any survey of Arab antisemitic manifestations would be incomplete without the voices censuring them. Although critics tended to be Arabs residing in the West and publishing in the Arab press there (such as Washington-based Egyptian scholar `Amru Hamzawi) and occasionally appearing in television debates, they were joined by a few intellectuals and journalists from Arab countries (such as Yemenite writer Ilham Mani'), out of a deep concern for the future political, economic and

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cultural development of the region. In this context, they criticized the stagnation of Islamic thought, Islamist movements and the discourse of violence and terrorism.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/arab.html>

TURKEY

The Jewish community numbers approximately 20,000 out of a total population of 73 million. Most Jews live in Istanbul. The community is represented by the Chief Rabbinate.

No violent antisemitic incident against Turkey's Jewish community was recorded in 2006. However, Turkish police are constantly on the alert and step up security at Jewish institutions whenever a potential threat is detected. Most antisemitism in Turkey is manifested in publications. Many educated young Turks are heavily influenced by this propaganda, consequently forming a negative view of Jews and Israel although they may never have met either a Jew or an Israeli. According to a Pew Global Attitudes Survey conducted during the summer, only 15 percent of Turks looked kindly upon Jews.

Extremely antisemitic articles may be found in the Islamist newspapers *Anadoluda Vakit* (*Vakit*) and *Millî Gazete*, as well as in the ultra-nationalist publications *Ortadoğu* and *Yeniçağ*. They attack Jews or Judaism either directly, by claiming, for example, that Jews distort the Old Testament or by quoting from books such as *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*; or indirectly, by harshly criticizing Israeli policies, the Israeli prime minister and Zionism.

During the Second Lebanon War, some mainstream media joined Islamist and ultra-nationalist organs in demonizing Israel and the Jews. However, most of the severest attacks were in the Islamic media, including denial of the Holocaust and blood libel. For example, *Millî Gazete* claimed on 8 July: "Judaism which has been distorted since its origins is built on violence. Jewish violence has its impact on everything, from the ideal of Zionism to occupational policies"; the ultra-nationalist *Önce Vatan* stated on 26 July: "We say that we saved the lives of Jews that we brought from Spain to our country by ships. Their leaders always behaved nicely to us and behind our backs they perpetrate every kind of evil as they have done for five hundred years... I say now they have to go. Also my antipathy against Hitler has begun to change, too"; while according to *Vakit*: "It is Jewish propaganda that Hitler killed 6 million Jews. It is a lie by Zionist Jews. If Hitler were resurrected he would say: 'It was a lie that I killed innocent Jews. Look at what they are doing now. Wouldn't it have been better if I had exterminated the ancestors of these monsters completely?'"

In addition, numerous NGOs condemned Israel and many anti-Israel demonstrations were held in various cities; at one rally in Istanbul, 100,000 people gathered in the Çaglayan neighborhood. Slogans

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demonizing Israel were reported at a demonstration organized by the banned Welfare Party of former Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

It should be noted, however, that some serious columnists of mainstream newspapers were more balanced. For example: Defne Samyeli, in *Güneş* (21 July), said, "As I wrote before, I said that it was not the people of Palestine and Lebanon but Hizballah and Hamas who are terrorists and don't want peace. They are the ones who are sacrificing their people by screaming to death."

Conspiracy theories are used by both Islamists and ultra-nationalists to demonize both Jews and Israel. Turkish-Israeli arms modernization projects; agricultural projects in southeast Turkey connected to GAP (the South-East Anatolia Agricultural Irrigation Project), which employ Israeli experts; mutual visits of Turkish and Israeli officials; and the alleged role of the Mossad in northern Iraq have all nourished these theories. Another common notion is that the Jews, the supposedly chosen people who consider themselves superior to others, are trying to take over the world by creating internal problems in the countries to which they have spread, thereby destroying them.

New editions of two books by writer-journalist Hasan Taşkın were published in 2006. *Scenarios of Israel in GAP* and *Forceps*, deal mainly with the Israeli aspiration allegedly deriving from the Torah, to establish a Greater Israel from the Niles to the Euphrates, which would also include part of southeast Turkey.

Following Turkey's signature, together with 104 other countries in December 2005, of the UN agreement denoting 27 January, the date of the liberation of Auschwitz in 1945, as Holocaust Memorial Day, the Foreign Ministry issued a declaration on 27 January 2006, stating that Turks had always helped Jews in their most troubled times and that Jewish intellectuals had contributed to the education of Turkish youth.

Verdicts were given in two trials in 2006 (see *ASIW 2005*). In the case of the book *Turkey under the Threat of Israel and Zionism*, the author Turkish nationalist Cemal Anadol was acquitted but the legal process was continuing. Two appeals against the decision were rejected. In the case of the proceedings against the son of a terrorist who blew himself up in the bomb attack at HSBC Bank on 20 November 2003, as well as against the newspaper which published his antisemitic remarks a month later, the young man was acquitted on the grounds that the crime had no legal basis. Several other trials were continuing.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/turkey.htm>

North America

CANADA

Estimates of the size of the Jewish community range from 340,000 to 380,000, out of a total population of approximately 31.1 million. The main Jewish centers are Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Calgary and Edmonton. The principal advocacy organizations are B'nai Brith Canada and the Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA).

In 2006, 935 incidents were reported to the League of Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada (the League), an overall increase of 12.8 percent over the previous year, and more than a four-fold increase since 1997 (212 cases). Of the total, 588 cases were classified as harassment (bomb threats/abusive or threatening behavior), 317 as vandalism and 30 as violence against persons.

The harassment category increased by 10.7 percent over 2005, while cases of vandalism escalated by 16.1 percent. The provinces of Quebec and Manitoba, where the majority of attacks against synagogues occurred, showed significant increases above the national average. Forty-two incidents were directed at synagogues in 2006, compared to 35 the previous year, including synagogues in Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Toronto and Bellville (Ontario). In Edmonton, a synagogue firebombed in 2000 and vandalized in 2005 was defaced yet again in 2006. There were 54 incidents in school settings (both private Jewish and public schools). This represents an increase of 12.5 percent from the previous year's 48 incidents, including the firebombing of an Orthodox Jewish day school in Montreal.

Over 250 reports of web-based hate activity with a Canadian connection were reported. This compares to 164 in 2005, representing a significant rise of 54 percent. The Canadian Human Rights Commission and Tribunal have continued to signal a willingness to step up activity to fight hate on the Internet, especially in light of the intensification of neo-Nazi activity through the web, in Canada, and around the world. In a complaint brought by Ottawa-based lawyer Richard Warman -- Warman v. Kulbashian and Richardson -- the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ordered significant fines against individuals for their role in maintaining two hate websites targeting Jews and other ethnic groups.

Events in the Middle East tend to cause a ripple effect in Canada, resulting in upsurges in particular months. During 2006, the months of July and August were clearly distinguished by a marked spike in

antisemitic incidents relative to the rest of the year. In these two months there were 263 incidents, comprising 28 percent of the year's total (146 in July and 117 in August). This compares to 50 incidents in July 2005 and 68 in August 2005. This leap can be traced directly to the impact of the Second Lebanon War.

Antisemitic postings were once again reported on far left sites, such as the website Peace, Earth and Justice, which embraces anti-Israel causes. In a February posting to this site for example, an article was quoted referring to "Holocaust Orthodoxy" as an "immensely profitable shake down operation for Israel... and the Zionist master plan to decimate Muslim society and culture." Anti-war protests organized in 2006 in Toronto and Montreal by left wing groups featured Hizballah flags and symbols. In one such protest, a Jewish prayer shawl was publicly desecrated in view of a local politician.

Apparently answering calls for the isolation of Israel by extreme left groups, a major labor union passed a motion supporting the international boycott campaign against Israel. Late in 2006 members of a teachers' union began attempts to pass a motion to support the boycott, and even to seek support for the development of teaching materials to take the issue into the classroom. A task force of a faith-based group (Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada) voted to endorse a boycott against Israel as well. The fact that supposedly mainstream institutions such as church groups and teachers' unions are joining the anti-Israel camp indicates the growing influence of far left groups in Canada.

Inflammatory anti-Israel campaigns continued to be mounted, with events demonizing the Jewish state and delegitimizing its existence. At York University, a rally against Israel with posters describing it as an apartheid state was allowed to proceed in a central location.

In June, seventeen individuals, including five youths, alleged to be "like-minded Islamic extremists," were arrested as suspects in an alleged bomb plot in Ontario. These charges once again raise concerns regarding home-grown extremists within Canada who share the al-Qa`ida ideology and who have become radicalized by parents, preachers and the Internet. Canadian security experts warn of a growing body of evidence indicating that terrorist groups, particularly Muslim extremist organizations, are active in the country, and appear to be shifting from support roles such as fundraising and procuring weapons to planning and preparing terrorist acts.

White supremacists continue to be among the most active extreme right groups. The Canadian-based website Stormfront Canada hosts a busy forum for neo-Nazis and their sympathizers. A number of militant

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white supremacists are facing criminal charges and/or human rights complaints in Canada. Decisions by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal against white supremacists for hate messages posted on the Internet were handed down in five cases. For example, Reinhard Gustav Muller was sentenced to 16 months in prison following a 2005 conviction for postings on his website that denied the Holocaust and accused the Jews of creating certain diseases, while Glenn Bahr, an alleged white supremacist who was fined by the Human Rights Tribunal for his Internet activities, was committed to stand trial on hate crime charges.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/canada.html>

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Jewish community in the United States numbers 5.2 million, or 2.2 percent of the total population of 282.1 million. The bulk of American Jewry live in major metropolitan areas and their environs, including New York, Los Angeles, Southeast Florida, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco Bay, Philadelphia and Cleveland.

Leading national Jewish organizations include the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), Anti-Defamation League (ADL), B'nai Brith, Hadassah, Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) and American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). The Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations acts as the domestic and foreign policy umbrella group for 52 member organizations. The United Jewish Communities (UJC) represents Jewish community federations and independent Jewish communities throughout North America.

While most antisemitic activity in the US has been limited to hate propaganda, members of extremist organizations and their associates – as well as private individuals – sometimes engage in threats, violence and vandalism. Antisemitic incidents in the United States declined for the second consecutive year in 2006. The overall total of 1,554 antisemitic incidents in 2006 was down 12 percent from 2005 (1,757).

The decline came in a year marked by several violent attacks. On 28 July, Naveed Afzal Haq, a 30-year-old US citizen of Pakistani descent, shot and killed staffer Pamela Waechter and wounded five others when he allegedly forced his way through a security door of the Greater Seattle Jewish Federation. He told Federation staff members that he was “a Muslim-American” who was “angry at Israel.” He surrendered shortly after the event. That attack and others underscored the continuing threat to Jewish community institutions, particularly at a time of heightened conflict in the Middle East.

Cases of harassment decreased by 22 percent in 2006, with 885 incidents reported, compared to 1,140 in 2005. Acts of vandalism increased by 8 per cent to 669, compared to 617 incidents reported in 2005, and 644 in 2004. Examples ranged from synagogue vandalism to swastikas and other anti-Jewish graffiti painted on schools, private homes and public buildings.

In 2006, a total of 77 incidents were related to racist/ultra-right-wing activity, compared to 112 in 2005 – a significant decline, possibly linked to factional in-fighting within these groups.

A factor that again played a role in both harassment and vandalism incidents was the high number of antisemitic acts reported at middle and high schools – 193 nationwide. In the eight states with the highest overall totals of antisemitic acts in 2006, 15 percent of all incidents were school based – compared to 13 percent in 2005. These included swastikas painted or scratched on desks, walls and other school property, and antisemitic name-calling, slurs, mockery and bullying.

Eighty-eight antisemitic incidents were reported in 2006 on campuses across the country, a decrease of 10 percent from the 98 in 2005, but more than the 2004 total of 74. Besides vandalism of Jewish student organizational property, they included some activities that crossed the line from anti-war and anti-Israel rallies and demonstrations to harassment of Jewish students and other antisemitic phenomena.

Tensions stemming from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Second Lebanon War spilled over onto US college campuses and into anti-war protests. The war between Israel and the Hizballah in Lebanon validated in the eyes of more radical elements within the far left the notion that the fundamentalist Shi'i movement – as well as insurgents in Iraq and Palestinian terror organizations, including extremist Islamist organizations – was an important ideological partner of progressive movements in the West. This was expressed in a sense of growing radicalism reflected in the speeches and the mood of the crowds present at events held in response to the war in Lebanon.

Various signs at rallies sponsored by the Muslim and Arab communities, as well as by anti-war and far left Socialist groups, equated Zionism and Israel with Nazi Germany. One typical sign (from the largest rally in DC) featured a Star of David with the caption: "The Nazis are back." A protester at a rally in San Francisco (August 12) held a sign that proclaimed: "Nazi kikes out of Lebanon." A common chant in Arabic (with variations) at these events was: "Nasrallah, dear: bomb Tel Aviv... bomb Kiryat Shmona."

Speakers at the rallies also criticized US support for Israel, which many of them blamed on Israel's stranglehold on American policy. For instance, at a demonstration in Dearborn, Michigan (18 July), one speaker said: "We know that the president is being bought by the Zionist lobby. We know that the [US] Congress is being bought by the Zionist lobby."

Increasingly, international terrorist groups with an antisemitic agenda – including Hamas, Hizballah, and al-Qa`ida-affiliated groups – which target the United States generally, and Jews specifically, have found Internet providers in the United States less willing to host their antisemitic and violence-promoting materials. Nevertheless, terrorist

groups continued to find the Internet a valuable resource for posting and distributing anti-US and antisemitic propaganda, and for urging attacks on Jews in the US and around the world. Some international antisemitic terrorist groups have stated that participation in the 'Internet jihad' is essential. Pronouncements by al-Qa`ida leaders, including Usama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri, often include accusations against 'the "Crusaders" and "the Jews."' In videos posted online using file-sharing services in countries around the world, and widely discussed and disseminated through sites on US servers, al-Zawahiri often begins his statements with the words: "O mujahideen brothers who are defending the lands of Islam against the Zionist-Crusader attack in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan and Chechnya..."

In 2006, the National Socialist Movement (NSM) became the largest neo-Nazi group in the United States, largely due to the demise of the National Alliance and Aryan Nations. However, subsequent internal discord led to the ouster and eventual departure of some leading activists.

By 2006, Volksfront, based in Portland, Oregon, had become one of the most active white supremacist groups on the West Coast. Many members of Volksfront have been convicted of violent hate crimes. For example, two brothers Jacob and Gabriel Laskey, pleaded guilty in a federal court in Portland, Oregon, in August 2006, to throwing swastika-etched rocks at Temple Beth Israel in Eugene during a religious service in 2002. Both face extended prison sentences.

With over 40 active groups, most with multiple chapters or "klaverns," Ku Klux Klan groups remain the most common type of hate group in the United States. Klan groups increased their activities in the United States in 2006, in large part by exploiting anti-immigration sentiment, a mainstream issue that Klan leaders believe will help them bring their message to a larger audience. The Tennessee-based Brotherhood of Klans (BOK) organized a series of events in 2006, including "unity" gatherings for white supremacists. The BOK also established new chapters in many parts of the country.

Since 2002 the racist skinhead movement in the United States has undergone a strong resurgence. Numbers of groups and unaffiliated/independent racist skinheads have increased, and the amount of associated criminal activity has risen correspondingly. Most of this activity – including several murders and attempted murders – is hate motivated, the most common targets being African-Americans, Hispanics, multi-racial couples or families, Asians, gays and lesbians, homeless people and Jews.

Racist skinheads committed a number of violent crimes in 2006, including several murders, including a particularly brutal attack on a Hispanic teenager in Houston, Texas. He survived despite suffering massive internal injuries. In November, one of the attackers, David Henry Tuck, was convicted of aggravated sexual assault and sentenced to life in prison. The other attacker, Keith Turner, was convicted of the same crime in December and sentenced to 90 years in prison.

In 2006, prison officials and police on the streets alike struggled to rein in the criminal activities of members of racist gangs both in and outside prisons across the United States. Members of such groups committed murders, kidnappings and assaults, and engaged in illegal drug trading, identity theft, counterfeiting and more. Many criminal activities and trials involved the Aryan Brotherhood, and especially the high-profile federal trials of Aryan Brotherhood leaders in California on racketeering charges for a variety of murder, attempted murders, and other crimes.

Following his release from prison in May 2004, former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke continued promoting his antisemitic theories both in the US and abroad. In March, Duke praised the controversial paper written by two academics, John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, entitled "The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy" (*London Review of Books*, March), which claimed that an Israel lobby manipulates American foreign policy and engineered the military overthrow of Saddam Husayn. Duke claimed that the paper reflected many of the assertions he had made over the years, and that he been "validated." Duke's plaudits for the paper were reported in the media, and Duke himself made a rare appearance on mainstream television when he was interviewed on 21 March 2006, by Joe Scarborough on the MSNBC program "Scarborough Country."

Duke addressed an audience at the MAUP – the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management (see *Ukraine*) – in October, on "Zionist influence in the United States." Duke also addressed the "Review of the Holocaust: Global Vision" conference hosted by Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Tehran in December. In his remarks, listed on the events program as "A Holocaust Enquiry," Duke reiterated his view that Zionists control and manipulate governments, politics and media in the Western world.

Hal Turner, a New Jersey-based white supremacist Internet radio show host, is a hardcore antisemite and former member of the neo-Nazi National Alliance. Although Turner claims no formal affiliation with any white supremacist group, his Hal Turner Radio Network provides air time to other white supremacists. Turner himself repeatedly made

statements on his radio show and website that encouraged listeners to attack and kill Jews, Hispanics, and federal officials.

Minister Louis Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam (NOI) leader who has long expressed antisemitic and racist rhetoric, began 2006 by blaming Jews and Israel for the war in Iraq, for controlling Hollywood and for promoting what he considers immorality, during his February Saviours' Day address in Chicago. By September, however, Farrakhan had relinquished his leadership role with the group after nearly 30 years, due to illness.

In 2006, the New Black Panther Party (NBPP), the largest antisemitic and racist black militant group in the United States, continued to capitalize on media attention surrounding racially charged issues by organizing protests – often threatening violence - under the guise of championing the causes of black empowerment and civil rights. The NBPP has achieved some success infiltrating mainstream media, with its leaders frequently appearing on national television in 2006. In an interview on "The O'Reilly Factor," for example, NBPP leader Malik Zulu Shabazz blamed Jews for creating negative images of blacks, and Zionists for terrorist attacks against them.

In the realm of terrorism and hate crimes law, key provisions of the US Patriot Act were renewed by the United States Congress in early March and signed into law by the president. The new version slightly modified the original act, including granting access to court for people who receive subpoenas under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act so that they can challenge "gag orders" relating to the summons.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/usa.htm>

Latin America

ARGENTINA

The Jewish population of Argentina, numbers about 180,000 out of a total population of 37 million. Some 80 percent live in Buenos Aires city and the Greater Buenos Aires area. The leading Jewish organization is the DAIA (Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas), which represents communities and organizations to the authorities and is responsible for safeguarding the rights of members. AMIA (Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina) is the main community organization.

Antisemitic activity increased dramatically in 2006, with over 500 antisemitic events being recorded, compared to 375 the previous year. During the first half of the year the majority were reports of wall graffiti, which was more virulent and appeared more frequently and in more locations than in the previous year; however, there were also a few violent attacks on Jewish individuals, threats to Jewish institutions and especially, harassment and insults. The second half of the year was marked by similar tendencies; however, the impact of the Second Lebanon War could be detected in the employment of anti-Israel motifs which combined traditional antisemitic and anti-Zionist content, especially in wall graffiti.

Among violent incidents, a priest shouting, "Jew, I will kill you. All the Jews must be murdered!" assaulted an identifiably Jewish man in the resort city of Mar del Plata on 11 January. A 15-year-old boy dressed in Orthodox Jewish garb was slapped in the face by a fellow passenger on 11 November in Buenos Aires. The man was arrested.

Insults were a common form of antisemitic activity. For example, in January an employee in Misiones Province, northern Argentina, called his boss a "dirty Jew," while on 9 March, the mayor of the town of Santorino, in Entre Rios Province, Daniel Salva, also labeled a Jewish citizen a "dirty Jew."

Jewish institutions received a number of bomb threats. On 4 April, the Sephardic Congregation, Buenos Aires, received a phone call threatening: "We have placed a bomb. You have one hour to leave the place," and "One, two, three, BOOM!" On 29 May, the Asociación Israelita de Salta, in Salta Province, received a message saying: "You will explode."

Wall graffiti combining traditional antisemitic motifs with Nazi-type threats to kill Jews was detected at different times and in different places; however, the content seemed to indicate that the same groups were

responsible. For example, the text "God, liberate us from the Jews!" appeared on the Galerías Pacífico shopping mall in Buenos Aires, and then, in other parts of the city. The slogans "5000 years of Jewish harming the world" and "The Jews are taking our lives" were painted on a train station in the neighborhood of Vicente López in Buenos Aires Province. Similarly, the catchphrase "God save us from the Jews! [*Dios, salvanos de los Judios*]" appeared on 4 January in Reconquista and 25 de Mayo streets, Buenos Aires, and five days later in a street nearby.

In other provinces, the entrance to a Jewish cemetery of Córdoba Province was defaced with the message, "The Final Solution will come! Heil Hitler Dirty Jews. Get out of the country," and two swastikas. A swastika was also painted on the building of the Asociación Israelita de Bahía Blanca on 6 February.

Anti-Jewish graffiti also appeared at soccer venues, such as the Ferrocarril Oeste Club stadium, where swastikas and the slogans, "Jews get out" and "Arbeit Macht Frei" were painted on 11 February. On 17 June the slogan 'Basta de Judios' (Enough of Jews) appeared on the walls of the Independiente Pacífico soccer stadium in Neuquén, signed by 'Poder Ario' (Aryan Power).

In recent years, the anti-imperialistic stand of antisemitic groups linking the US, Jews and Israel, has featured in their graffiti. For example: on 4 April, the slogan "Bush works for the Jews" was reported on the corner of Madero and Córdoba streets, Buenos Aires.

An antisemitic discourse on Israel has emerged in Argentina in the last few years. It ranges from the use of traditional antisemitic motifs (the Jews' alleged killing of Christ, evocation of the blood libel, and comparing Israel to a cancer) to banalization of the Holocaust and denial of the right of Israel and the Zionist movement to exist. In 2006, in particular, there were calls for the complete destruction of the State of Israel. With the outbreak of the war in Lebanon and intensified fighting in Gaza, it was claimed that this was a legitimate demand. For example, graffiti saying, "Death to the State of Israel. Support the Palestinians," appeared on 12 July in a street near Plaza Congreso, Buenos Aires. The slogan "For destruction of the Zionist State of Israel" appeared in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Buenos Aires, on 13 September. For a discussion on the antisemitic discourse in Argentina and the trend toward the delegitimization of the State of Israel, see *General Analysis*.

In 2006 the justice authorities released a number of prisoners who had served several years of their jail sentence for involvement in the 'local connection' to the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish Center, due to irregularities in the taking of testimony. The DAIA, AMIA and the Families and Friends of the Victims organization asked the Supreme

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Court of Argentina to issue a final verdict in the case. In addition, the Argentinean government issued a warrant for the arrest of eight Iranian citizens, including former President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, claiming that he and the Iranian government of that time were responsible for the act.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/argentina.html>

BRAZIL

Brazil has a Jewish population of about 100,000, out of a total population of over 185 million inhabitants. Most Jews live in Brazil's major cities – Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Porto Alegre. The umbrella institution representing the Jewish community of Brazil is the Confederação Israelita do Brasil (CONIB), which coordinates Jewish organizations from 13 states.

Antisemitic activity increased significantly in 2006, especially during the Second Lebanon War. For example, on 5 August, six youths threw stones and a Molotov cocktail at the entrance of the Sociedade Israelense Brasileira Beth Jacob synagogue, Campinas. Windows were broken and the door was burned. The synagogue was empty and the resulting fire was extinguished by neighbors. The perpetrators wrote, "Lebanon is the real Holocaust" on the road and ran away. The perpetrators were not found. About three weeks later a lighted firecracker was tossed from a passing vehicle at the door of the Beth Jacob Synagogue in São Paulo.

According to the Forum de Coordenação contra o Anti-Semitismo (Coordination Forum against Antisemitism), 100 instances of graffiti painting of swastikas and the symbol "88" were reported on Jewish homes and on a synagogue in Teresópolis (RJ) in May.

The US State Department annual report for 2006 on human rights practices in Brazil said there were signs of increasing violence toward Jews. These were manifested in the number of web blogs with antisemitic content, as well as acts of vandalism and threats against Jews by mail or phone, and swastikas painted in the streets.

In addition, there was a considerable rise in anti-Zionist statements, including comparisons between Israel and Nazi Germany.

Another serious incident involved a demonstration planned to take place in a campus auditorium by the workers syndicate of São Paulo University, supported by Trotskyite Professor of History Oswaldo Coggiola, together with Arab and pro-Hizballah groups, "against the massacre in Lebanon and in Palestine." Because of its militant character, several Jewish professors alerted the rector, who forbade use of the auditorium for that purpose. The manifestation thus took place in front of the hall, with the participation of students, academic and administrative staff, left-wing groups and some Arab and pro-Hizballah groups.

In reaction, the university workers syndicate called in its bulletin of 11 August for an end to the State of Israel, stating that "Jewish genociders" were responsible for the closure of the auditorium. They

also wrote that they were defending the struggle of the Arab, Palestinian and Lebanese people against Israeli state terrorism. It was further claimed that "Israeli bombs are threatening the democracy of the University of São Paulo."

There was also an escalation in antisemitic expressions and demands for the destruction of Israel on Brazilian web pages, and especially in blogs. In his column "Through Which Mouth Do They Speak?" (11 Aug. – <http://www.sebastiaoery.com.br/visualizar.jsp?id=516>), well-known journalist Sebastião Nery wrote: "Behind the mystery of the brutality of Israel against Lebanon, destroying the country, killing more than 1000 people (and causing the death of 100 Jews) under the insignificant pretext of the kidnapping of two soldiers by Hizballah guerillas, is the hand of business and banks..."

Twenty-one Brazilian cartoonists sent entries to the Holocaust cartoon contest initiated by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Brazil was third after Iran and Turkey in number of submissions. Well-known Brazilian caricaturist Carlos Latuff (see *ASW* 2004) won second prize.

Anti-Zionist and virulently anti-Israel expressions continued to appear in the media throughout the year. For example, Marxist sociologist of Jewish descent, Gabriel Bolaffi, a professor at São Paulo University, wrote under the title, "Zionism – A Sad Irony," in *Journal Estado de São Paulo* (14 Jan.), that the Iranian president was correct "in certain points of his discourse," hinting that the end of Zionism and the State of Israel would be desirable and just.

Reports of neo-Nazis graffiti on synagogues continued. "Death to the Jewish pigs" and "Valhalla88" accompanied by a swastika, for example, were drawn on the synagogue of the Jewish Association of San Andres of the São Paulo State (Associação Religiosa Israelita de Santo André), on 7 August.

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CHILE

The Jewish community, numbering approximately 15,000 out of a total population of 14.5 million, is concentrated mainly in the capital Santiago de Chile. The Representative Committee of Jewish Organizations in Chile (CREJ) encompasses all Jewish communities and organizations in the country.

There was a steep escalation in antisemitic events in 2006: 153 compared to 56 in 2005 (30 in 2004, 54 in 2003, and 78 in 2002). The main trigger seems to have been the Second Lebanon War, but the Jewish community has felt threatened for several years, indirectly by Iran (due to its involvement in the 1994 AMIA bombing in Argentina), but particularly due to the growing presence in the country of radical Islamic groups, and to some extent racist skinheads, who might expand their activities to targeting Jews. Antisemitism was manifested mainly in harassment (40 acts) and suspicious activity in the vicinity of Jewish facilities (observing them and taking pictures – 47), but there were also five violent attacks. There were three reports of threats and 35 of graffiti.

On 26 March, for example, a group of some 20 Palestinians, aged 25–28, shouted antisemitic slogans and tried to beat up eight boys in their late teens, four of them from the Jewish community. The victims were in the lobby of the Estadio Palestino club, where an event for young people was taking place.

Many incidents were recorded during the war. One of the most serious occurred in the Liceo Manuel Salas School in Santiago, where a boy held a knife to the throat of a girl, on 8 August, threatening, “I will kill you because you are a Jewess.” The boy was suspended for two days and then for the year 2007.

During the war, an extreme left group named Conciencia (Conscience) hung three posters in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Chile. The first, with an Israeli flag on the back, referred to the “massacre perpetrated by the capitalist Nazi State of Israel”; the second showed the Israeli flag, with the Star of David replaced by a swastika, while the third condemned the US and European states for giving arms to Israel in order to maintain their socio-economic domination.

The influence of Islamic leaders in Latin America is of great concern to Jewish communities in the region. Members of this sector manifested troubling tendencies during the Second Lebanon War. Speaking on the TV program “Zero Tolerance” (Tolerancia cero), transmitted by Chilevision, Shaykh Suhail Assad, the leading force of the Centro

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Cultural Islamico and the most powerful representative of Shi'i Islam in Chile, declared on a visit to Colombia during this period, that "since the creation of the State of Israel the Muslim people have felt oppressed because of the presence of a foreign entity in the region that has imposed itself by force." Assad, an increasingly influential leader in the community, reportedly has links to the fugitive Moshen Rabbani, one of the suspects in the 1994 AMIA bombing in Argentina.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/chile.htm>

MEXICO

There are approximately 40,000 Jews in Mexico out of a population of 104 million. Most live in the capital Mexico City and its environs, while the rest inhabit the cities of Guadalajara, Monterrey, Tijuana and Cancun. The Jewish Central Committee of Mexico (JCCM) represents the Jewish community in relations with the government and with Jewish communities around the world.

Mexico underwent a stormy election year in 2006. Political campaigns for the federal elections for president, senators and deputies began long before the scheduled date in early 2006, and there were many disqualifications due to irregularities and fraud. In a close election held on 2 July and a voter turnout of almost 60 percent of registered Mexicans, Felipe Calderón, candidate of the center-right Partido Acción Nacional (PAN), was elected president, with only 240,000 votes (0.54 percent) more than Andres Manuel López Obrador, candidate of the opposition left-wing party Partido de la Revolución Democrática. Calderón succeeded Vincente Fox, also of PAN.

The five candidates for the presidency and the three candidates for mayor of Mexico City, as well as dozens of candidates running for the Congress, attended forum meetings organized by the Jewish community. The winning candidate Calderón condemned México's vote on the Zionism=racism resolution (1975) as one of the most unfortunate decisions in contemporary Mexican history.

A period of political transition and widespread public uncertainty could well have opened the door to scapegoating – something Mexican Jews have experienced in the past. Despite the crisis atmosphere, there was only a moderate rise in antisemitic activity (48 incidents compared to 37 in 2005) and anti-Jewish expressions were isolated.

Swastikas were frequently sighted in various neighborhoods of Mexico City, sometimes near Jewish institutions. In January, for example, swastikas appeared on the subway station of Tasqueña, and in November on telephone booths in downtown Mexico City. In October, swastikas were found on trees and cars outside the Yeshivá Kéter Torá.

No violent antisemitic incidents were recorded, but there were several threats and offensive messages sent to Jewish institutions. In January, an e-mail entitled "For a Mexico without Jews" was sent to Jewish institutions and individuals. The message, which originated in Argentina, promoted antisemitic and neo-Nazi websites. Hate messages e-mailed to Jewish institutions and individuals were reported throughout the year. They included texts such as: "I wish there would be a new Holocaust

where you can be cremated,” and “Why don’t you leave this country, damn Jews. You are human trash, stop infecting our nation.”

Anti-Israel sentiments that crossed the line from objective criticism of Israeli policies to antisemitism sometimes appeared in the print and the electronic media. Some articles, editorials, cartoons and opinion pieces, especially during the Lebanon War, described Israel as a violent, militaristic nation insensitive to the plight of others and interested only in furthering its own expansionist aims. For example, a cartoon in the daily centrist *Ovaciones* (13 Aug.) showed a gigantic missile with a Star of David about to hit a fleeing Lebanese woman and child. Others compared Israelis to Nazis: the daily left-wing *La Jornada* (26 July) published a cartoon of a large Star of David with black lines added to four points, turning it into a swastika. Following the attack on Qana (30 July), a cartoon in the daily centrist *Metro* (1 Aug.) showed a plane hovering over the death and destruction in Qana, with one pilot saying to the other: “We hit 37 children,” and the other one replying, “Fine, they’d be future terrorists.” Another, in the daily centrist *Excelsior* (25 July), showed a Lebanese child in a pose similar to that in the famous photo of the Jewish child in the Warsaw Ghetto, against the ruins of a town hit by a huge missile marked with a Star of David.

During the war, Jewish organizations were flooded with e-mails blaming Jews for the violence in Middle East. On 27 July, graffiti appeared on the walls of the Israel-Mexico Cultural Center saying “Murderers” and “Stop the war.”

Left-wing demonization of Israel was often linked to traditional anti-Americanism, with the stereotype that Jews control the media, politics and financial markets in the United States and the rest of the world. “The recent declarations of Ahmadinejad regarding the ‘myth’ of the Jewish Holocaust have shaken the axiology of the victim, on which the New World Order and the international dominion of the Zionist entity are founded. It is an untouchable and sacred dogma of the Anglo-Saxon-Zionist partnership” (José Luis Ontiveros, weekly center-left *Siempre*, 2 Jan.).

The war also triggered a wave of antisemitic, anti-US demonstrations in defense of the Palestinians and Lebanese people. On 25 July, the Coordinator of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and an unknown movement called “Middle East People in Resistance,” organized a rally outside the American embassy, at which they shouted slogans and brandished placards demanding “Stop the massacre: Americans and Zionists off this planet.”

The World Wide Web has facilitated the opening of local chapters of extreme right groups based in other parts of Central and South America.

Thus, there is a Mexican chapter of the Argentinean Nazi site Libre Opinión while Último Reducto is an Iberoamerican site promoting National Socialist ideology. Both consider themselves part of the White Mexican Supremacist movement, which blames Jews for all the country's problems.

Salvador Borrego, one of the most prolific antisemitic authors in Spanish and an important source of neo-Nazi ideas, is also honorary president of Defrauded Mexicans, a new cyber NGO which posts antisemitic and anti-Zionist articles, as well as excerpts from his books, on its website.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Vatican's Nostra Aetate declaration (1965), the Jewish community organized an event at the Sephardic Synagogue, with the participation of leading officials of the Catholic Church, as well as the secretary of the interior. A DVD with the declaration, a survey of the development of the Jewish-Catholic relations in the last four decades, and messages from representatives of both communities, were presented. Some 11,000 copies were sent to churches, seminaries, and other institutions of the Catholic Church in Mexico, as well as to institutions of the Jewish community.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/mexico.html>

URUGUAY

The Jewish community of Uruguay is estimated at about 25,000 out of a population of 3.2 million. The majority of Jews live in the capital Montevideo, with a smaller community in the city of Paysandú. The Comité Central Israelita del Uruguay (CCIU), embracing some 60 communities and organizations, functions as the national Jewish representative body.

Uruguay is not an antisemitic society and there is no specifically antisemitic press. Nevertheless, there were several antisemitic manifestations in 2006, especially during the Second Lebanon War, including antisemitic/anti-Zionist graffiti such as swastikas equated with the Star of David, posters and press articles, and anti-Israel rallies, some of which bore anti-Zionist motifs. Left-wing and human rights organizations, such as Partido de los Trabajadores (the Workers' Party), joined with Arab groups, such as FEARAB, and especially Lebanese groups, in organizing several such demonstrations. On 14 August, Israeli and US flags were burned during a youth march which commemorated the death of a demonstrator in the past and had nothing to do with Jewish/Middle East issues. However, it should be stated that most events were held to express solidarity with the Lebanese people.

A series of posters showing skeletons were pasted on the Holocaust memorial in Montevideo on 20 August. In the same period the website indymedia uruguay posted photos of alleged Israel massacres with the caption, "They did it to show the Zionist people that they are carrying out a Holocaust against the Palestinian and Lebanese people."

The radical left *La Juventud* is consistently and vehemently anti-Israel and anti-American. During the Second Lebanon War and the escalated hostilities in Gaza, a regular editorial column, entitled "Apuntes para la reflexión [Points for reflection]," listed atrocities allegedly committed by Israel. In addition, the word 'Holocaust' was often used to depict events in Gaza and Lebanon. For example, an article by Irene Ramos was published under the title "Gaza Is Undergoing a Bloody Holocaust," while on 6 August, an editorial stated: "In the Middle East, the US, together with Israel, is carrying out a new Holocaust against the people of Lebanon and Palestine."

Another theme in this publication was to allege that the Uruguayan Jewish community was an agent of international imperialism. An editorial dated 26 July, describing a solidarity rally with Israel referred to the CCUI president as "an agent of international capitalism." Another editorial headed "Wars of Conquest" (7 Aug.), alleged that Israel's

summer war in Gaza and the Second Lebanon War were led by “the eagles of Tel Aviv, the defenders of imperialistic wars in the Middle East.”

On the other hand, several former presidents of the republic, such as Jorge Batlle and Luis Alberto Lacalle, as well as official representatives, took part in a pro-peace solidarity rally with Israel organized by the CCIU on 24 July, together with the Zionist Organization and the Zionist Youth Federation.

Nazi and antisemitic graffiti appeared throughout the year in the streets of Montevideo and elsewhere in the country. For example, a Star of David equated with a dollar sign was reported on 21 March in Guayabo Street, behind the University of the Republic (Universidad de la República) law faculty. Stars of David equated with swastikas and Nazi symbols, among other graffiti, appeared in April in the neighborhood of Pocitos, where many live. In May, after Israel’s Independence Day, similar graffiti was reported in the neighborhood of Parque Rodó, near the Holocaust memorial, as well as on the monument itself. After the latter incident, Ricardo Ehrlich, mayor of Montevideo, actually cleaned the memorial himself. However, the graffiti reappeared in August.

One of the most infamous ritual murder canards of the Middle Ages continues to be told in the contemporary Catholic world – in Spain, in particular, but in South America, too. On the Saint of the Day program broadcast on the Catholic radio station Radio Oriental (CX12), on 27 October, the narrator said in connection with Saint Dominguito de Val: “[The Spanish boy] was a particularly devoted child who was sacrificed by the Jews on Good Friday [in the year 1250].”

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/uruguay.htm>

VENEZUELA

The Jewish population continues to decline as a result of severe instability in the country. There are probably no more than 15,000 Jews remaining (out of a total population of close to 26 million), down from 20,000 before the current political and economic crisis. Most of the Jews live in the capital Caracas, while the second largest community is in Maracaibo. The Confederación de Asociaciones Israelitas de Venezuela (CAIV) embraces five leading Jewish organizations.

The extremely anti-Israel/anti-Zionist stand of the government, backed by the official and semi-official media, has given rise to a trend in Venezuela of demonizing the State of Israel, relativizing the Holocaust and employing Arab antisemitic propaganda and traditional antisemitic motifs to legitimize the country's stand toward political events, such as the 2006 war in Lebanon.

A characteristic of the new antisemitic discourse in Venezuela during 2006 was the blending of old and new antisemitic stereotypes using religious themes (Judas, deicide, usurers, etc.), on the one hand, and modern ones (Jews as capitalists, Zionist racists, etc.), on the other. Some commentators stressed that Venezuela, too, was a victim of the Zionists. Regarding the Simon Wiesenthal Center's condemnation of the police raid of the Hebraica Club in 2004 (see *ASIW 2004*), for example, journalist Afif Tajeldine claimed in the article "A Zionist Challenge to Venezuela," posted on *Aporrea* online (16 Jan.) that it was farcical that this "instrument of international Zionism [the Wiesenthal Center]," pretended to defend the Jewish people. The Zionists had succeeded in segregating the Jewish people from the rest of the world and turning a religious nation-state into a bastion of capitalism. "We must remove the masque of Zionism and reveal it as a grotesque, racist, egoistic, segregationist philosophy and the government of the State of Israel as a terrorist state responsible for the new Palestinian holocaust... [Zionists] are the usurers of history, the Judas, the Pharisees..."

Continuing the line of differentiating the Zionists from the Jewish people, Tarek Muci Nasir (pseudonym), in the article "Los judíos sionistas" published in *El Diario de Caracas* (2 Sept. – see also *General Analysis*), called on the Jewish people "to dissociate themselves from the genocidal Zionists as the only way to be accepted among the nations." Others, such as Congressman Adel El Zabayar, from the official MVR party, praised the Orthodox Jewish sect Naturei Karta as "good Jews" because they oppose Zionism and the State of Israel (*Aporrea* online, 26 March).

Other critics emphasized Israel's alleged racist motives and ethnic cleansing plan in Palestine on the eve of Israel's establishment. Journalist Susana Khalil, in an article entitled "Al Nakba" (The Catastrophe) published in the daily pro-government *Diario Vea* (11 June), alleged that the plan was "to create a macabre scenario of terrorizing and threatening the native population [i.e. the Palestinians] in order to make them flee Palestine so that [the Zionists] might create a state solely for themselves." "On 14 May 1948," she continued, "Europeans, Russians [and] Jewish-Zionists, mostly Ashkenazim [meaning non-Semites]," had succeeded in "creating and imposing in Palestine the nation-state of Israel," which was based on "the extermination of the native people" who had been living there continuously for generations. Khalil believes that the solution to the conflict is to create a single state, in order to "put an end to segregation and apartheid," to "restore the history of love between Arabs and Jews, destroyed by Zionism," and to "liberate the Jews from racist Zionism."

Linking the US and Zionism/Israel is particularly effective in strengthening anti-Zionist feeling in Venezuela. Vladimir Acosta claimed on his program on Radio Nacional de Venezuela (16 Jan.) that US and Zionist groups, among others, were trying to convince people that President Chavez was antisemitic. He cited the allegation made by Zionist organizations, such as the Wiesenthal Center, that Chavez's Nativity speech of December 2005 (see *ASW 2005*) was anti-Jewish in order to exemplify their attempts to portray the president as an enemy of the Jewish people. Zionists had a hold over the US, he asserted, and many Zionists were American citizens who worked to further Israel's "colonialist racist policies and organize wars in the Middle East." Injecting another antisemitic element into his argument, he added that anyone who questioned the figure of six million dead in the Holocaust was an antisemite, according to the Israeli government. On 12 June, Acosta, alleged there were two murderous governments, the US and Israel, and reiterated that Israel was a "genocidal, terrorist, racist state."

Acosta denies being an antisemite, only "anti-Zionist" or "critical of the State of Israel." In his program of 15 February he spoke of the concept of antisemitism. Antisemitism, he said, "has become an arm used by Jewish Zionists, an ultra-right and reactionary wing of the Jewish movement" to cover up and justify the crimes of the State of Israel and attack all those who denounce those crimes.

Jews continue to be blamed for the 9/11 bombings in the US. On 26 March, Congressman Adel El Zabayar (see above) alleged on *Aporeia* online that although 2,600 Jews worked in the World Trade Center, Israeli security forces had alerted them and only people of Arab and

Latin origin were harmed. He also accused Israel of involvement in the putsch against Chavez on 11 April 2002. On the TV program "Dando y dando," on the official Venezolana de Televisión (3 March), moderators Tania Díaz and Freddy Fernández discussed 9/11 with two survivors, one of whom claimed that it was "well known" that several Jews who worked in the Twin Towers did not come to work that day.

Venezuela tightened its ties with Iran in 2006. Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro attended the "Third International Conference of Solidarity with the Palestinian People" in April in Iran, where he promised solidarity with the Arab and Islamic world if the US attacked Iran and support for Iran's nuclear development, and proposed "mass destruction of nuclear weapons beginning with the US, European countries and Israel."

Defending President Ahmadinejad's declarations on the Holocaust made in 2006 (see *General Analysis*), Luis Fuenmayor, former rector of the Central University of Venezuela and a pro-Chavez militant, wrote in the daily pro-Chavez *Últimas Noticias* (3 May), that Ahmadinejad did not deny the Holocaust of the Jews but had only stated that the Europeans should "indemnify the Jews and give them territories in Europe since it [the Holocaust] was perpetrated in Europe." Vladimir Acosta similarly supported Ahmadinejad in his Radio Nacional de Venezuela program (24 May).

The Second Lebanon War intensified anti-Israel rhetoric. President Chavez himself repeatedly reiterated that Israel was committing "a real genocide" of the Lebanese people and compared Israeli conduct to that of the Nazis. Venezuelan government officials blamed Israel entirely for the war. Referring to both the war and its conflict with the Palestinians, Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro told the Congress on 15 July that "no pretext can justify such aggression." On 29 August, he said he agreed with Kuala Lumpur that Israeli leaders should be tried by an international tribunal for the crimes they were committing in Lebanon. Maduro also compared the 2006 Qana tragedy to the Holocaust, alleging that the State of Israel was governed by crazy murderers.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/venezuela.htm>

Australasia and South Africa

AUSTRALIA

The 115–120,000 Jews in Australia out of a total population of over 20 million constitute the largest Jewish community in the East Asia and Pacific Region. The great majority of Australian Jews live in Melbourne and Sydney, but there are also significant communities in Perth, Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Adelaide. The elected representative organization of the Jewish community is the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ).

The ECAJ logged 469 reports of anti-Jewish violence, vandalism, harassment and intimidation in 2006. Reports of physical attacks on persons or property equaled the highest ever total, while incidents of face-to-face harassment (not involving violence) exceeded the previous highest total in 2003 by 30 percent; graffiti vandalism was 8 percent higher than in the previous worst year (also 2003). The number of telephone threats was also the highest since national record keeping began.

Some of the most serious antisemitic incidents occurred during the period when Israel responded actively to Hizballah and Hamas aggression. On 11 July, for example, the Bentleigh Progressive synagogue in Melbourne was painted with antisemitic slogans and other vulgarities, and bricks were thrown through the windows of the Leo Baeck Center in Kew (Melbourne). There were two incidents on 30 July in Sydney: an attempt was made to set fire to the Jewish youth center near the Mizrahi synagogue in Bondi, and a concrete block was thrown through the window of the home of Rabbi Yossi Wernick, adjacent to the Parramatta synagogue. His car windows were also smashed. Witnesses reported about ten men of Middle Eastern appearance laughing and running down the street.

In addition, on 5 April a rabbi was attacked and insulted at the entrance to a synagogue in southeast Melbourne. The assailant punched him in the chest, pretended to pull out a gun and told the rabbi not to move or he would shoot. A passer-by offered help and the assailant fled. On 14 October members of the Australian Ocean Grove Football club shouted antisemitic remarks at 33-year-old Menachem Vorchheimer and his children; when he confronted them they grabbed his hat and skullcap and yelled that they should go to the Nazis. Victorian police subsequently charged three men; the trial opened in April 2007.

Some comments and letters in the mainstream media in 2006 contained antisemitic. In "Cartoonists Draw Ire and Fire in Unholy War," the writer commented "There's also no shortage of savagery done in the name of Judaism, masquerading as Israeli self-interest" (*West Australian*, 11 Feb.). During the Second Lebanon War, a letter-writer in *The Australian* (19 July) claimed, "a small band of very effective Israeli and Jewish lobbyists" had convinced Australian politicians to act against Australian interests, while an anonymous letter in *MX Sydney* (18 Aug.) alleged that Jewish people manipulate public sympathy to make "themselves, their religion and their race beyond reproach." In a feature article in the *Canberra Times* (1 Aug.), an academic depicted Palestinians as the moral heirs of the victims of Nazism and an editorial cartoon in the *Canberra Times* claimed Israel's "ammunition" in its "war on Lebanon" was "Holocaust sympathies."

On the left wing, an analogy between Nazism and Zionism was made in the article "Sharon's Departure Will Not Change the Nature of Israeli-Palestinian Politics," in the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist) newspaper *Vanguard* (25 Jan.).

Although reduced to minimal representation in the parliaments of Western Australia and Queensland, as well as in active membership, the ultra-right One Nation party continued to publish anti-Jewish material in its organs in South Australia and Queensland. For example, the Beenleigh branch newsletter of One Nation carried comments such as: "The Banking System which was foisted on this country in 1694 & during succeeding years over most of the world has been the main means by which the Zionists have brought misery & impoverishment everywhere." An antisemitic article in *The Nation*, published in 2004, was the subject of a complaint under Federal Racial Hatred, which concluded in 2006 with the paper's editor issuing an apology and the individuals responsible for its publication being reprimanded.

Extremist elements in the Arab and Muslim communities continued to publish virulently anti-Jewish material. For example, the web-based Mission Islam promotes *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* as well as various Muslim-authored works hostile to Jews. The website of this group includes a section "The Truth about the Talmud" which contains a list of sub-headings, such as "Sick and Insane Teachings of the Talmud," "Genocide Advocated by the Talmud" and "Moses Maimonides: Advocate of Extermination." In 2006, the online forums of Islamic Sydney included threads such as "Why are Jews powerful" (3 April) and "US support for Israel will end in a 'Holocaust'" (16 July).

Also on the Internet, local affiliates of the international Indymedia network propagate extremely anti-Israel and overtly antisemitic material.

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Sydney Indymedia, for example, began publishing a “Weekly zio report” (16 April), which repeatedly used the term “zionazi.” On 23 June, it posted the article “Nazi Zionists Criminal Empire Must Be Exposed!” which referred to “John Howard – the zionist slave,” and “the United Zionist States of America,” and made direct analogies between Israel and Nazi Germany.

In September, the Federal Senate approved a resolution condemning racism, with the title of the resolution but not its text referring to antisemitism; individual parliamentarians also denounced antisemitism.

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/australia.htm>

NEW ZEALAND

The Jewish population in New Zealand is estimated at 9,000 out of a general population of about 4.2 million. The New Zealand Jewish Council represents the community's interests to the government.

New Zealand's traditional image as a safe, antisemitism-free country has changed somewhat in recent years. In 2006, there were 32 reported incidents of antisemitism, an increase of 88 percent over the previous year (17 incidents; 2004, 25).

The breakdown of incidents was similar to that of 2005: 54 percent consisted of assault or attempted assault (6 percent); graffiti and vandalism (19 percent); verbal abuse and intimidation (6 percent) and suspicious people and vehicles (23 percent). The remaining 46 percent comprised e-mails, letters and phone calls from either right-wing inspired groups or mentally ill people (mainly phone calls).

On 27 August a community member was beaten in Hamilton when he identified himself as Jewish and Israeli. This was the first violent assault on a Jewish individual since 1991. The attacker was apprehended and was awaiting trial. On 31 October an Israeli working in New Zealand was accosted in the city center near the synagogue by two males who harassed and threatened him verbally. He ran away dropping his kippa, which the two men grabbed and laughed.

E-mails and letters sent to Jewish organizations and individuals by ultra-right-wing groups such as the National Front and other white supremacist organizations, as well as graffiti in public places, included swastikas and references to Hitler.

Left-wing groups such as Friends of Palestine promoting pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel agendas were active in 2006. On 28 November a protest organized by pro-Palestinian groups took place outside the synagogue and community center in Auckland during a visit by former Israeli Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon; a smaller protest took place in Wellington at a similar event earlier in the week. Information advertised on Jewish websites about the occasions was re-posted in numerous forums, along with comments such as "Is this a 'bring your own Qassam [rocket] and semtex [plastic explosive]' event?" Ya'alon was referred to on the Tumeke web blog as "the butcher of Qana." The police responded swiftly and in large numbers to keep the protesters away from function attendees.

"Increased vigilance" against terrorism, together with "counter-terrorism," continued to be the biggest single component of the Security Intelligence Service activities." Its 2005 report also noted the "complex

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symbiotic relationship between criminals and Islamic extremists.” A small group of Maori Muslims were reportedly being recruited in prison and claimed to support Usama bin Laden. The New Zealand Federation of Islamic Associations reportedly funds the group (see *ASW* 2005).

Full report online at:

<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/new-zealand.htm>

SOUTH AFRICA

The Jewish population began to stabilize in the new millennium at about 80,000, out of a total population of 46 million. They live primarily in the two urban centers of Johannesburg and Cape Town, as well as in Durban, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, East London and the Greater Plettenberg Bay area. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) is the central representative organization and civil rights lobby of the Jewish community, with most of the country's Jewish communal organizations being affiliated to it.

Antisemitism in South Africa today is largely confined to radical groupings within the country's 800,000-strong Muslim community. Of those based in Cape Town, the Muslim Judicial Council (MJC) openly backs extremist organizations such as Hamas and Hizballah, and its leaders have made antisemitic statements on a number of occasions. The Islamic Unity Convention (IUC) has been engaged in an extended court battle with the SAJBD over antisemitic broadcasting by its mouthpiece Radio 786. Qibla, founded in 1979 and led by Achmat Cassiem, has been largely dormant during the present decade.

In 2006 South Africa recorded its highest number of antisemitic incidents since detailed record-keeping began two decades ago. The prevalence of strong anti-Israel sentiment within the mainstream South African political, media and NGO culture clearly contributed to a more hostile atmosphere toward Jews and Jewish institutions and was the obvious motivation for at least half the incidents recorded. Antisemitic activities peaked during July-October, a period coinciding with the hostilities in Gaza and Lebanon and their aftermath. Antisemitic manifestations were of a more direct nature than in the past, and included a sharp increase in instances of verbal harassment and intimidation.

Seventy-nine antisemitic incidents were recorded in 2006, more than a three-fold increase over the previous year's total. The four months July-October alone saw twice as many antisemitic events as in the whole of 2005. They included verbal abuse, threats and intimidation (40), assault (4), vandalism (7 – cemeteries being the main target) and bomb threats (2). There were only a few instances of anonymous hate mail being received, in contrast to previous years when this was the main form of anti-Jewish harassment. More than half of the incidents took place in Johannesburg, with Cape Town accounting for most of the remainder.

In the assault cases, a Jewish youth was struck in the face with a bottle in a Johannesburg pub after objecting to an antisemitic joke, and a group of Durban Jewish youths were drawn into an altercation at a Durban nightclub in the course of which one was called a "f--king Jew" and another was stabbed in the face with a screwdriver.

A Pretoria man in the process of converting to Orthodox Judaism and wearing a skullcap and *tzitzit* (ritual fringes) was threatened and insulted by a farmer for whom he was doing building work. The latter called him a *Judenvarke* (Jewish pig) and pointed his rifle at him.

Anti-Jewish propaganda in the public realm occasionally surfaced. At a mass Muslim march held in Cape Town to protest against cartoons portraying the Prophet Muhammad in Danish and other European newspapers, placards reading "Die Grootste Mites: Israel, Die Holocaust, Vryheid, Demokrasie" (The greatest myths: Israel, the Holocaust, freedom, democracy) were among those displayed. A journalist interviewing some of the marchers noted that many Muslims blamed the Jews for the cartoons (*Die Burger*, 18 Feb.).

The Jewish background of Democratic Alliance leader Tony Leon was again used against him and his party (see, for example, *ASW* 1999/2000) in the course of a municipal by-election in Cape Town in June. A pamphlet was distributed in the name of the African Muslim Party (but not, in fact, endorsed by it) prior to the election, beginning: "Did you know Tony Leon and his Israeli wife are supporters of the Racist and Murderous Israeli Government policies..."

At an academic seminar in Pretoria, sponsored by the Iranian government in December, ANC Member of Parliament Farida Mohamed cited *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* as a credible historic document and inferred that the historicity of the Holocaust was a matter of debate. ANC spokesperson Smuts Ngonyama subsequently reiterated his party's position that the Nazi genocide "should be condemned with the contempt that it deserves."

Muslim groupings continued in their efforts to organize boycotts of businesses that support Israel and sell Israeli produce. During the year, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the umbrella organization for the local trade union movement which claims a membership of two million, issued numerous strongly worded statements calling for South Africa to break off all relations with Israel. In November, COSATU supporters joined with sympathizers of the militant Muslim group Qibla in a protest march in Cape Town. A memorandum branding Israel an "illegitimate, terrorist state, racist, expansionist and chauvinistic... [with] no right to exist" was handed over to the foreign minister.

In the 2005 affair of antisemitic graffiti daubed by a resident of White River on his wall in full view of his Jewish neighbor (see *ASW 2005*), the latter, through the Human Rights Commission, took the case to the equity court; as a result, the first trial on an antisemitic issue in post-apartheid South Africa, was heard in March. The ruling went in favor of the complainant and the guilty party was fined.

Full report online at:
<http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2006/sth-africa.htm>

Appendices

The graphs in this section refer to violent acts perpetrated against Jewish targets worldwide during 2006. The figures are based on the database of the Stephen Roth Institute and reports of the Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism.

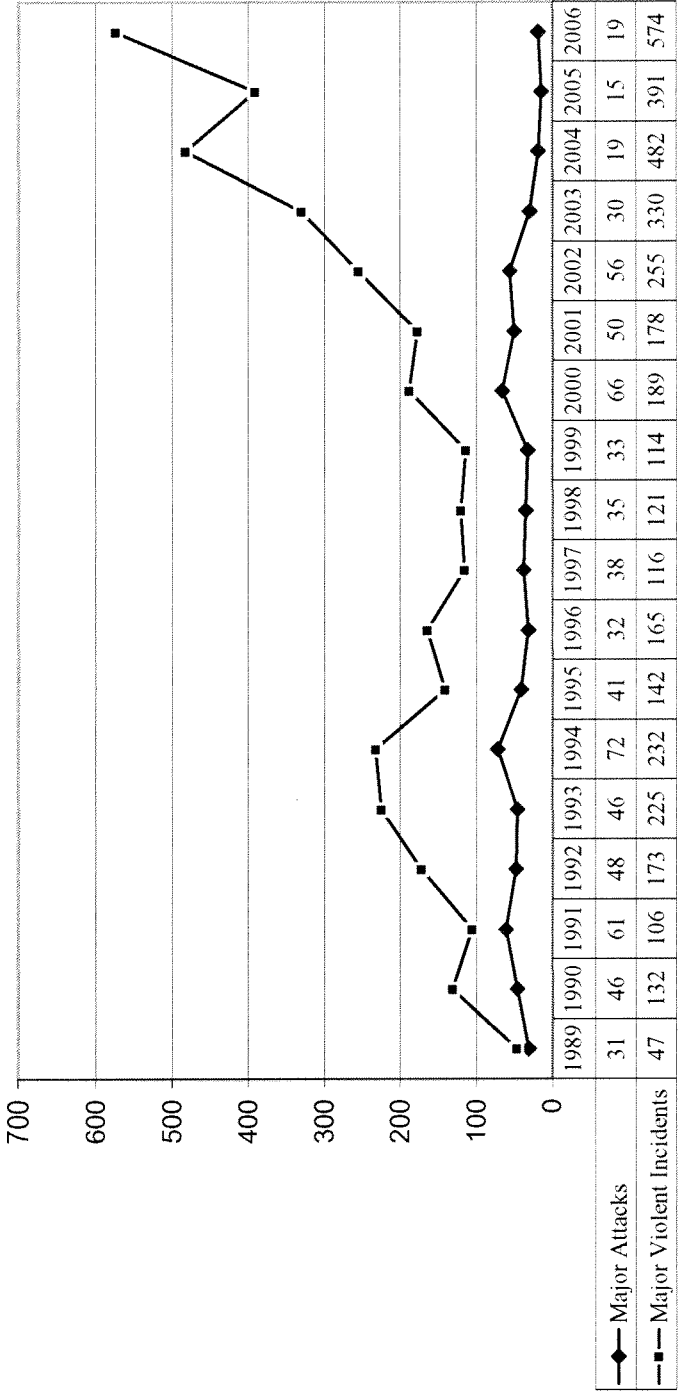
The data in the graphs are divided into two categories:

(1) Major attacks. Includes attacks and attempted attacks by violent means, such as arson, firebombing and shooting.

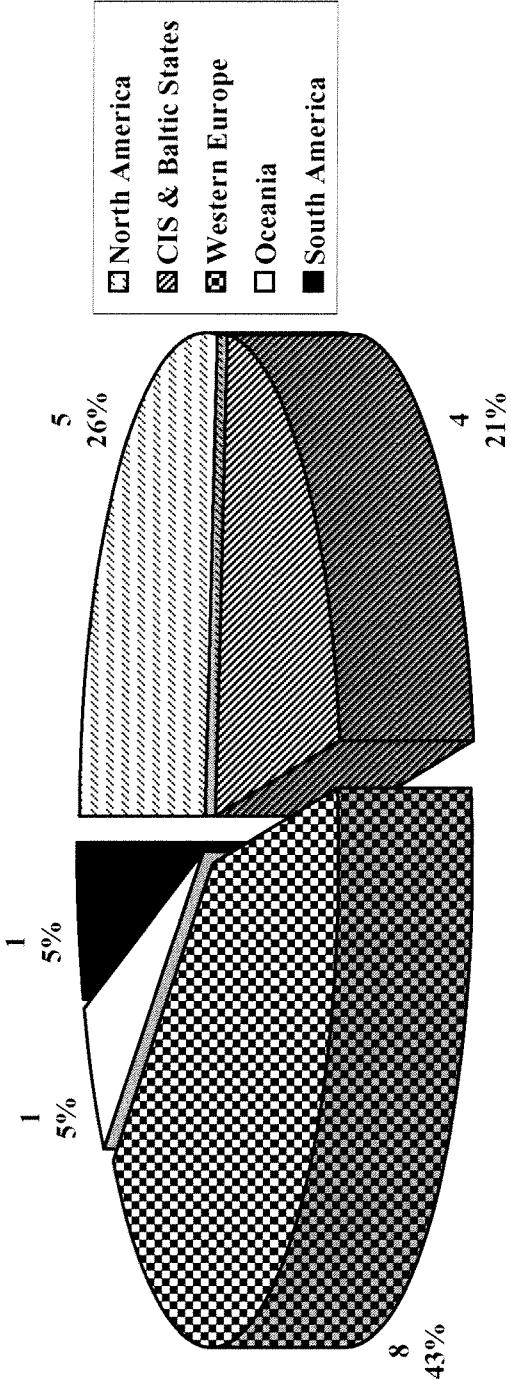
(2) Major violent incidents. Includes harassment of individuals and vandalism of Jewish property and sites, e.g., damage to community buildings, desecration of synagogues and street violence not involving the use of a weapon.

It should be stressed that the graphs reflect only serious acts of antisemitic violence.

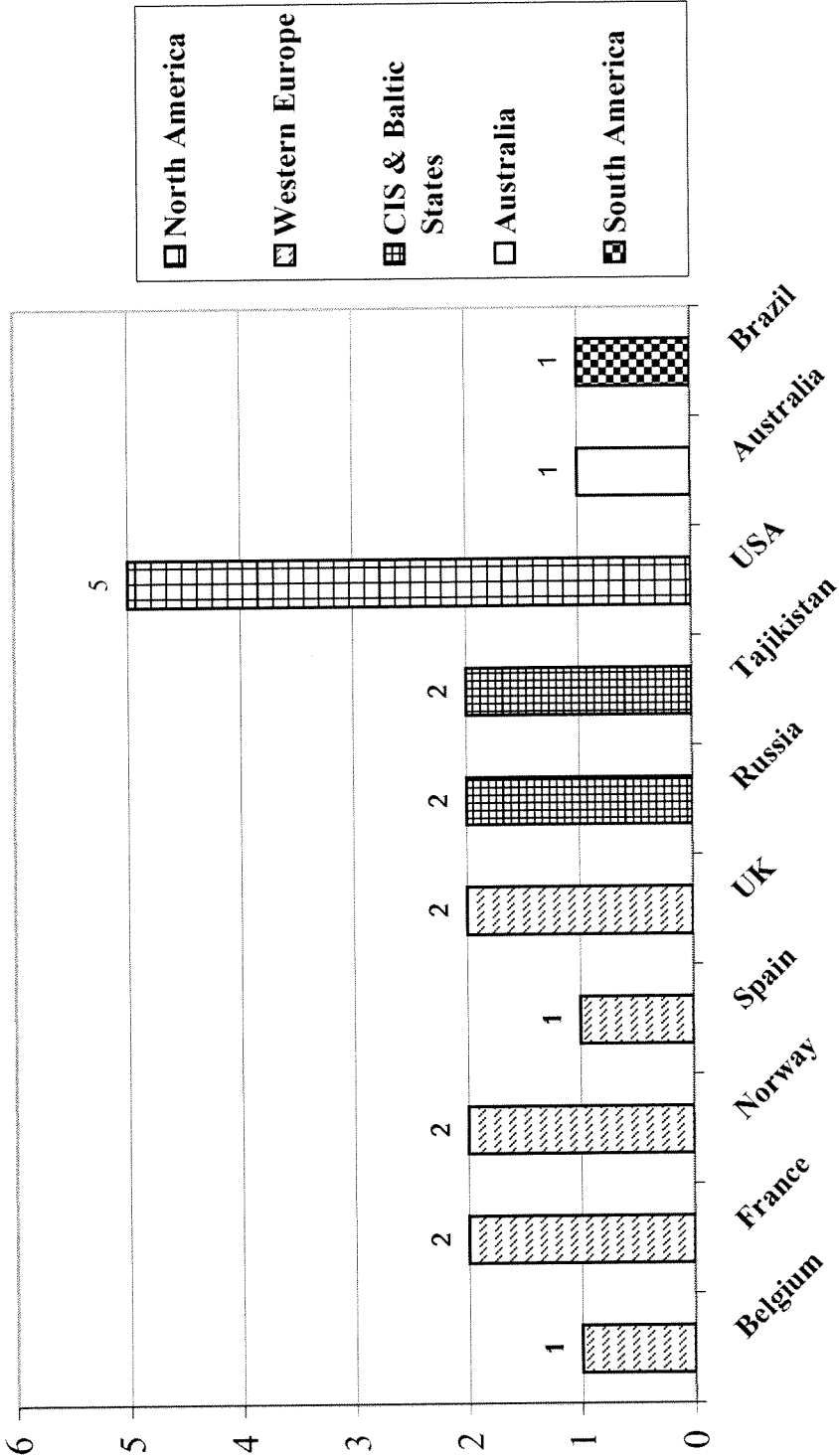
Violent Antisemitic Incidents 1989-2006



Major Attacks in 2006 Breakdown by Continent

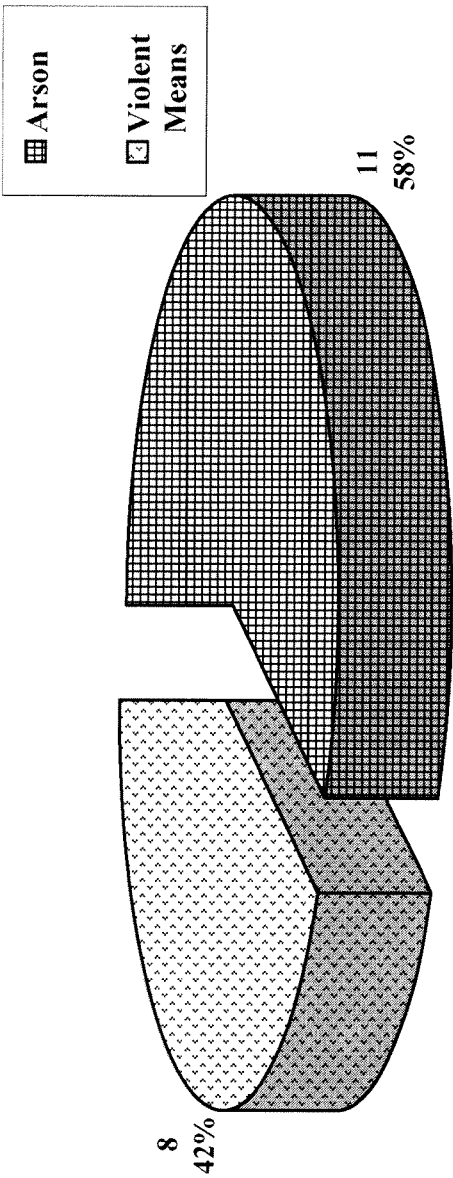


Major Attacks in 2006 Breakdown by Country

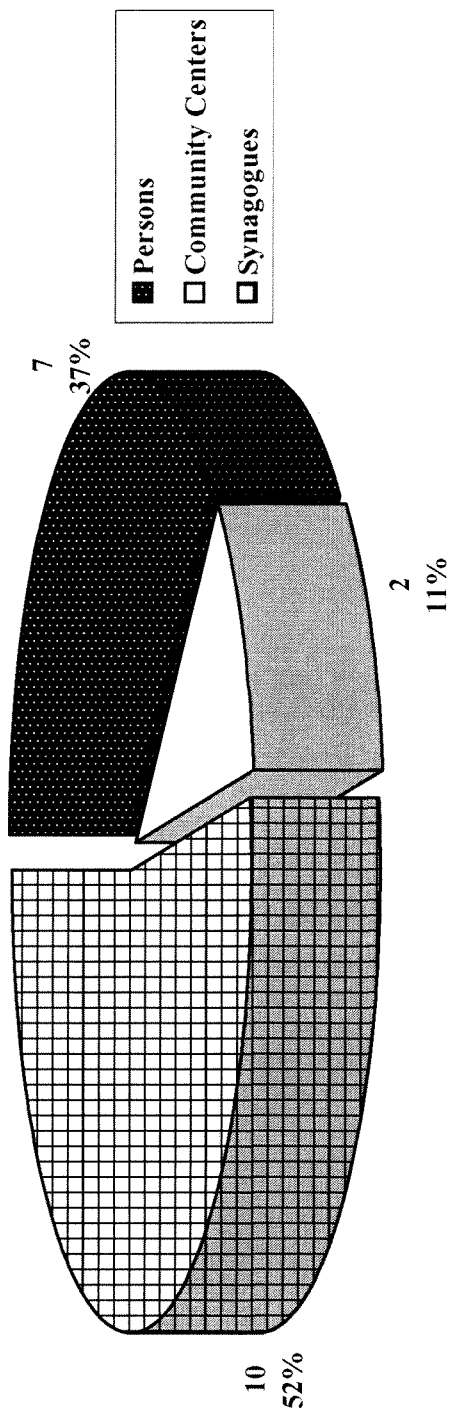


Major Attacks in 2006

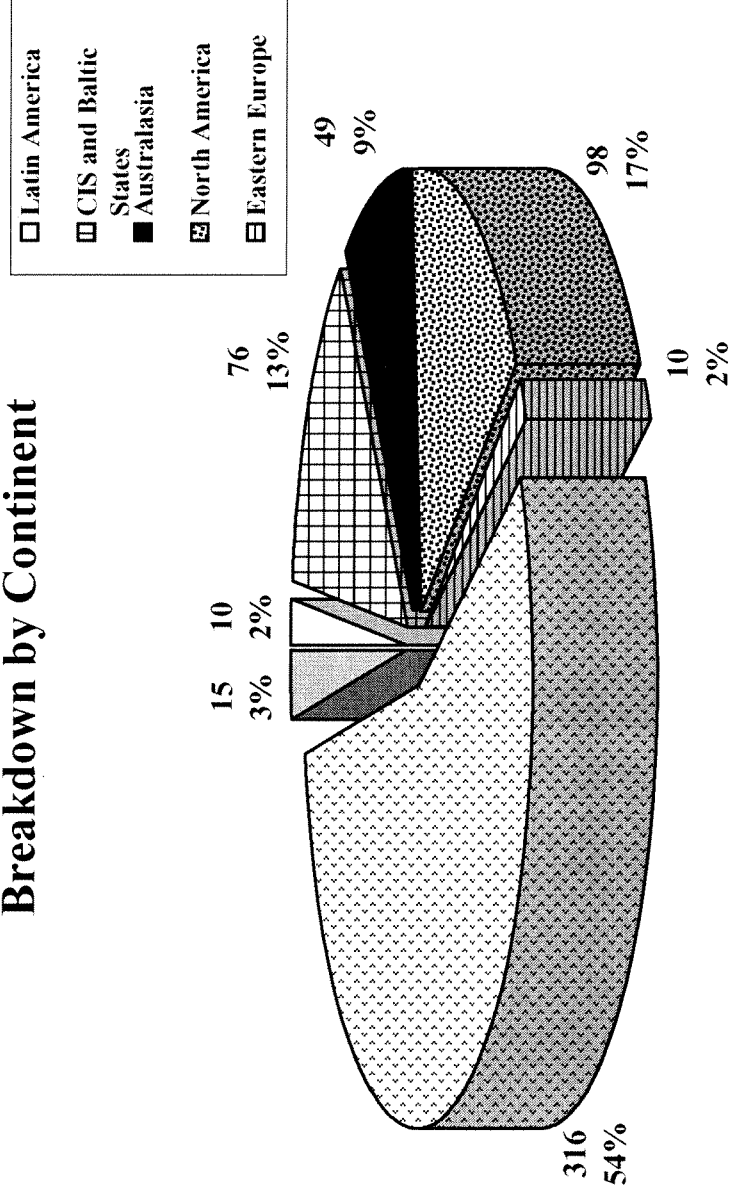
Breakdown by Modus Operandi



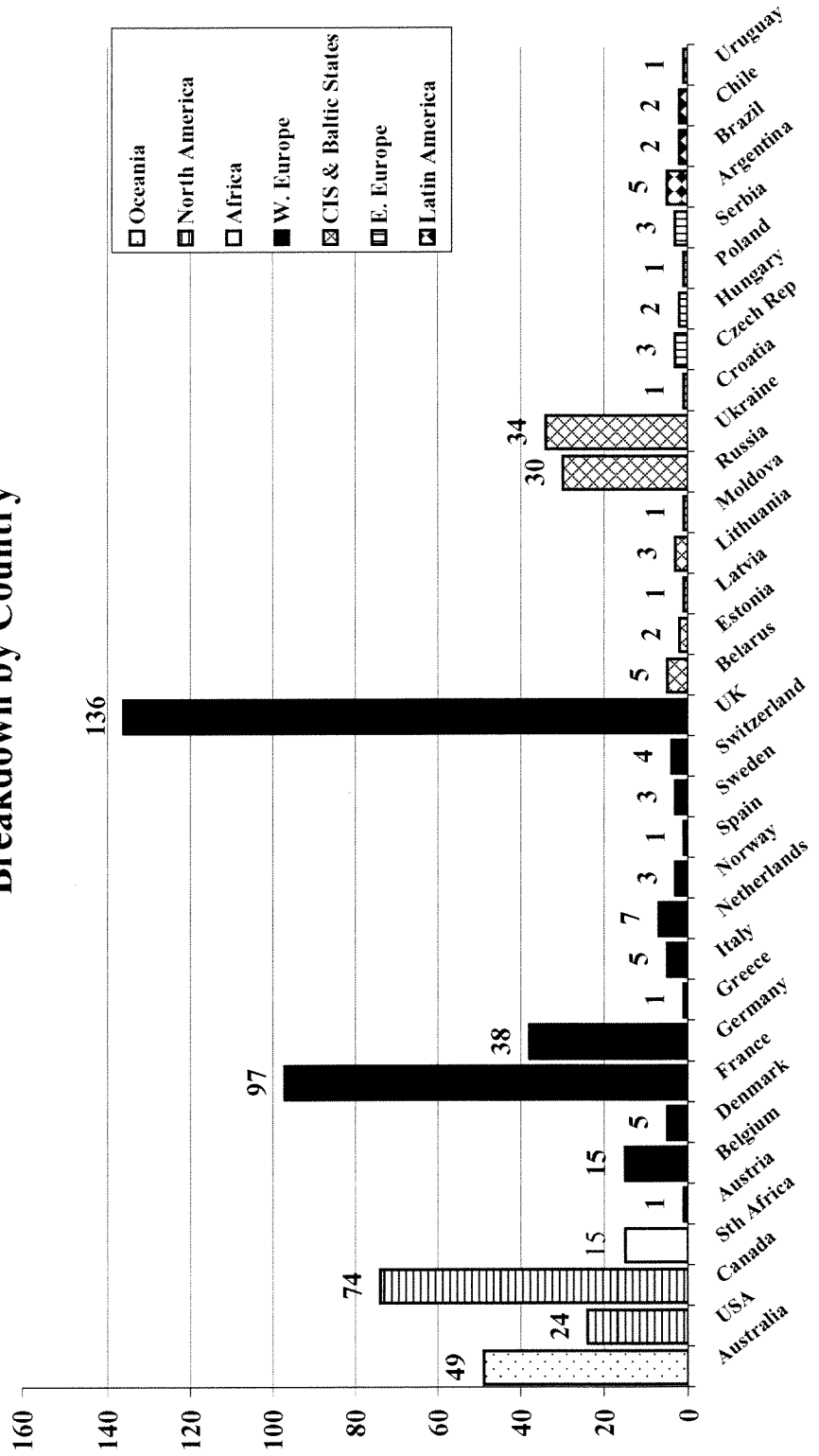
**Major Attacks in 2006
Breakdown by Target**



Major Violent Incidents in 2006 Breakdown by Continent

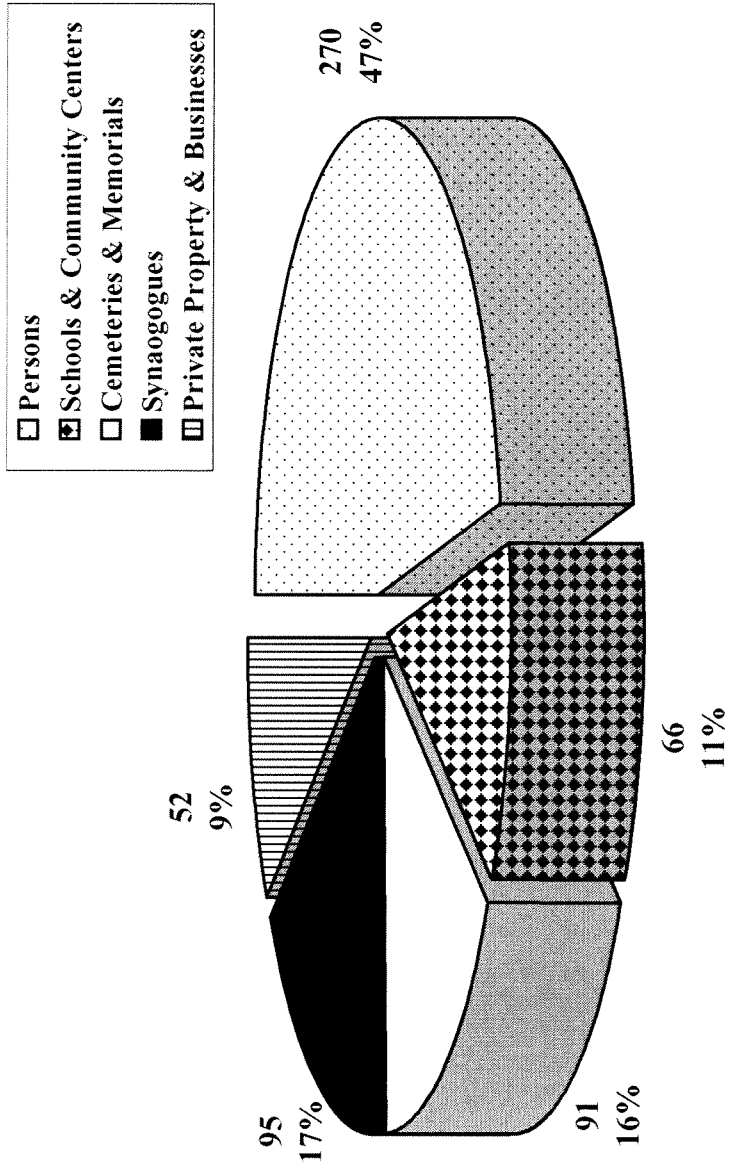


Major Violent Incidents in 2006 Breakdown by Country



Major Violent Incidents in 2006

Breakdown by Target



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