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**Moshe Kantor Database for the Study of Contemporary
Antisemitism and Racism**

Antisemitism Worldwide

2020



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CONTENTS

Methodology	4
“Lockdown with Keyboards” - Overview	5
Regional reports	
Post-Soviet Region and Eastern Europe- Inna Shtakser	20
Latin America - Lidia Lerner	40
Arab Countries – Yarden Ben-Dor	55
Scandinavia – Peter Lebenswerd	64
South Asia - Navras J. Aafreedi	71
Country reports	
Australia – Julie Nathan	74
Austria - Florian Zeller	81
Belgium – Joel Kotek	87
Canada – Ran Ukashi	94
Czech Republic – Zbynek Tarant	99
France – Riva Mane	104
Germany - Sarah Rembiszewski	114
Greece - Michal Navoth	122
Iran - Liora Hendelman-Baavur	129
Italy - Stefano Gatti and Betti Guetta	137
The Netherlands – Hanna Luden	144
Poland - Michal Bilewicz and Inna Shtakser	148
Portugal - Ruth Calvão	156
South Africa – David Sacks	166
Switzerland – Simon Erlanger and Jonathan Kreutner	170
United Kingdom – Elliott Cohen	176
United States –Aryeh Tuchman	183
Articles	
E.U. Activities in Combating Antisemitism - Katharina von Schnurbein	199
A Survey of Antisemitic Activity and Trends on American Campuses –Tammi Rossman-Benjamin	203
BDS - Activities and Counter-Measures - Giovanni Quer	206
Antisemitism On the Dark Web: Conspiracies, Communities and Actions – Lev Topor	215
Appendices and Graphs	
Graphs - Haim Fireberg	
A. Major Violent Incidents Worldwide, 1989-2020	222
B. Major Violent Incidents Worldwide in 2020 – Breakdown by Modus Operandi	223
C. Major Violent Incidents Worldwide in 2020 – Breakdown by Target	224
D. Major Violent Incidents in 2020– Breakdown by Country (1)	225
E. Major Violent Incidents in 2020 – Breakdown by Country (2)	226
Caricatures	227
Overview in Hebrew	233
Working Definition of Antisemitism	243

This report in full is available on the Kantor Center's website: <https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/kantor>.

The Kantor Center Methodology

The report is based on the ongoing Kantor Center for the study of Contemporary European Jewry, the Moshe Kantor Database team's work, and on the various reports and data sent to us by organizations and contact persons in about 40 countries – a network we established during more than 25 years of activity. It should be noted that The Kantor Center and database is the only center, in Israel and abroad, that monitors and analyzes antisemitic manifestations worldwide, according to the same criteria, over such a long period of time that make a multi-year comparison possible. Nevertheless, we are aware of the possibility that not all the relevant data on antisemitic manifestations has reached us, because in many countries monitoring is not consistent or systematic; or because their databases are restricted to free public study because of States' rules; and because – as all monitoring agencies agree – not all manifestations are reported. Still, we do believe that information about the major manifestations has reached us.

The data and numbers presented herein on major violent antisemitic cases are the result of a specific monitoring and analysis system developed by the Kantor Center team, using specific criteria:

1. Proven antisemitic motivation;
2. Counting a multi-event as one case;
3. No exaggeration or diminishing the severity of the situation;
4. Distinguishing between violent cases and verbal and visual manifestations.

Differences might occur between our published data on the number of violent incidents and those released by other monitoring communities and institutes. Monitoring communities and agencies sometimes present numbers of all types of antisemitic manifestations put together, violent, verbal and visual.

We are aware of the necessity to analyze antisemitism in the broadest possible context. Therefore, there can be no understanding of antisemitism without a solid background knowledge of the political, economic and social developments in any given country and in the international arena, and for this we are indebted to our contributors from the world at large.

Lockdown with Keyboards: Antisemitism Worldwide 2020 – the Corona Year

Abstract

The coronavirus pandemic and the resulting reality dictated both the nature and extent of antisemitism in 2020, which was an unusually tense and turbulent year all over the world. Prejudice, superstition, primordial emotions, and bizarre theories surfaced and dominated the scene, and manifestations of antisemitism, both verbal and visual, were vicious and outrageous.

- **Blaming the Jews and Israelis for developing and spreading the coronavirus** (or 'Judeovirus'), was the main motif in this year's antisemitic manifestations. This notion is rooted in a deep fear of the Jew/Israeli as a spreader of disease in both the past and present. Iran contributed to the accusation's dissemination.
- **Lockdowns reduced encounters between Jews and their ill-wishers**, diminishing the number of violent incidents from 456 to 371 - a number typical for 2016-2018. Moreover, no one was murdered this year for being Jewish, although any physical attack might end in a severe or fatal outcome. In most countries a decrease was observed in violent incidents, attacks on both people and property, threats and arson, but the level of vandalism against Jewish property and institutions remained unchanged.
 - o A rise was registered in Ukraine, and a decline in Australia, the UK and especially in France and Canada. Worrying trends continued in Germany and the USA:
 - o in Germany a rise was recorded in the total number of incidents, with the opposition to vaccines generating comparisons to the Holocaust, and continued desecration of Jewish memorials and cemeteries;
 - o in the US antisemitic activities on the internet have intensified, and focal events like the killing of George Floyd by a police officer, the emergence of the BLM (Black Lives Matter) and Antifa movements as well as the Presidential elections have engendered conspiracy theories and boosted the activities of white supremacists and QAnon.
- **Vaccine opponents**, both in Israel and abroad, compare the pandemic to the period of the Holocaust, and themselves to the persecuted Jews. This notion peaked with a comparison of Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla to Josef Mengele.
- **The lockdown enhanced all types of online activity, impacting the extent of antisemitism:** the restrictions imposed on large networking services like Twitter and Facebook, and the commitments they took upon themselves – to erase expressions of hatred, racism and antisemitism, started to reduce the number of antisemitic

manifestations on the web. At the same time, both antisemitic and anti-Zionist expressions became fiercer and more accusative, as a result of the pandemic's spread and its dire economic consequences.

- **Extremist groups, especially on the far right, such as white supremacists and neo-Nazis, left the open social networks, moving their operations to the clandestine darknet** - which is free of any restrictions or supervision. In the darknet, which grew substantially over the past year, they run their own websites, that are very hard to track. Ultimately, the decline that was observed in antisemitic manifestations in the open networks, was accompanied by a rise in antisemitic activities on the darknet.
- **Another new phenomenon to emerge during the pandemic was zoom-bombing:** as zoom became a most common and effective channel of communication, extremist individuals and small groups seized the opportunity and began to break into zoom conferences of synagogues, Jewish community centers and university students, disrupting the meetings and posting their own hate messages instead. The number of such disruptions is hard to quantify.
- **The economic crisis resulting from the pandemic significantly lessened the ability of the BDS to inflict financial damage on Israel and Jewish institutions.** Instead, BDS has focused its efforts on Lawfare – warfare in the legal arena, as well as support for the Palestinian struggle against the Abraham Accords and Arab-Israeli cultural collaboration.

The trend of accusing Jews and Israelis for spreading Covid-19 waned somewhat in the summer, but was rekindled in the fall, with the advent of the vaccines. In-between, several other important events occurred, like the killing of George Floyd, the emergence of BLM, and the European Court of Justice's permitting countries to ban kosher slaughtering, reinforcing antisemitic expressions and attacks.

Several important achievements in the battle against antisemitism should be noted, such as the appointment of more special envoys in various countries and institutions, a growing willingness to adopt the Working Definition of Antisemitism, allocation of funds for ensuring the security of Jewish communities, and increased restrictions on the social media. The Kantor Center is currently mapping the adoption of the Working Definition of Antisemitism worldwide, alongside the heated debate that surrounds it.

A detailed overview

- **Blaming the Jews and Israelis for developing and spreading the coronavirus** (or 'Judeovirus') is a graver accusation than any previously made against Jews throughout history: Today's pandemic is regarded as a present-day Holocaust, a devastating global calamity, that has already killed more than 2.5 million people and caused extensive economic devastation. About a year ago, in February 2020, the pandemic began to spread across the globe, immediately followed by accusations that the virus

had been developed and was being spread by Jews and Israelis; they are the ones who would find a cure and vaccine for the disease, selling it to the ailing world and making a huge profit. Over the following months this libel spread rapidly. We received reports to this effect from dozens of countries, in the form of aggressive messages and numerous malicious caricatures. Moreover, the accusation was heard not only from extremist circles, such as white supremacists, ultra-conservative Christians, or the usual accusers like Iran, Turkey and the Palestinian Authority. It also spread to populations with no well-defined political or ideological identities.¹ The Rothschild family and billionaire George Soros, who was previously blamed for bringing the immigrants to Europe, are mentioned repeatedly as partners in the global pharmaceutical industry, funding the spread of the virus and expected to gain even more wealth from it. Haredi Jews were especially targeted, because they were infected in large numbers while disobeying the imposed regulations.²

- While in the US, for example, accusations mostly target Jews in general and Haredi Jews in particular, in the Middle East, it is Israel, Zionism and the Mossad that are considered responsible for the global situation.
 - Iran has facilitated the dissemination of this accusation: In South America, for instance, Iran has TV and radio networks, such as Hispan TV, that blame Israel,³ and a Twitter campaign, probably Iranian, equating Israel with the virus, has reached millions of users. Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei uses his own Twitter account to constantly call for terrorism against Israel and for Israel's annihilation, comparing the country to the coronavirus.⁴
 - Islamist propaganda in general describes Israel itself as the virus that is most dangerous to humanity, naming it Covid-1948, after the year in which Israel was established. IDF soldiers are accused of spreading the virus in the Palestinian Authority, and warders in Israeli prisons are accused of injecting it to prisoners.⁵
- **Jews/Israelis as spreaders of disease:** The common maxim, that Jews will be blamed anyway for any trouble under the sun, does not suffice in this case. Deep fear of the Jew/Israeli as a spreader of disease in both the past and present, is at the source of the accusation. This is fear of an unknown disease, rapidly spreading, darkly

1 [https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU Spokesperon - Summary Coronavirus-based Antisemitism \(1\).pdf](https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperon%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20(1).pdf).

2 <https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/.premium-soros-conspiracy-theories-play-prominent-in-attacks-against-u-s-jewish-politicians-1.9212170>.

3 [https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperon%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20\(1\).pdf](https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperon%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20(1).pdf).

4 https://www.gov.il/he/Departments/General/report_anti240121.

5 [https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperon%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20\(1\).pdf](https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperon%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20(1).pdf).

mysterious, and such dread engenders prejudice, superstition and primordial emotions, like those evoked by tuberculosis or leprosy when they had no cure. Throughout history Jews have been perceived as spreaders of disease, ever since they were driven out of Egypt: supposedly the Tribes of Israel had contracted leprosy and infected their surroundings, leading to their isolation and consequent banishment from the Land of Goshen; The accusation of well-poisoning was added in the Middle Ages, during the Black Plague of the mid-14th century, when people looked for someone to blame for the great catastrophe; Jews served as physicians in the courts of kings and princes, and many legends reflect fear of their great power and knowledge; In the USA of the late 19th century Jews were blamed for spreading typhus and cholera; the Nazis were obsessively terrified of Jews as spreaders of disease, describing them as rats, mice and lice, not as a metaphor but as the real thing - Germans would open doors in the ghettos by kicking the door handle with their boots in order not to touch it – and their propaganda spread throughout Europe, as did the propaganda engulfing the so-called ‘Doctors’ plot’ initiated by Stalin toward the end of his life. The term Judeovirus,⁶ added to the lexicon this year, effectively encapsulates this fear and the reemergence of the Jew’s persona as a spreader of disease.⁷

- **Figures and trends:** The restrictions imposed on populations as a result of the pandemic altered the nature of antisemitic activities: Just like other populations, including anti-Semite activists, Jews were absent from the public space. Many community institutions were closed down, children stayed at home, and consequently no one was murdered this year for being Jewish. The count of bodily injuries decreased from 170 in 2019 to 107 in 2020. Damage to private property was also reduced from 130 to 84 incidents, simply because people mostly stayed at home. On the other hand, a rise was observed in desecrations of Jewish cemeteries and vandalizing of Holocaust memorials and other Jewish monuments – from 77 to 96 incidents, because these sites are open and unprotected. The number of vandalized synagogues also increased from 53 to 63, since being closed, they became easy prey.⁸ In the US a gradual rise in violent incidents has been observed for several years, reaching 119 this year, and Germany also saw a significant escalation in the total number of cases, reaching 2,275 (compared to 1,839 in 2019) - the highest number recorded since 2001 - including 59 violent incidents. In both countries, vandalism accounted for most of the incidents.⁹ A significant decline was noted in Australia, the UK and especially France, where the Ministry of the Interior and the Jewish Community both reported a drop of 50% in all types of incidents, due to the tight lockdown, as well as Canada, where the number of violent cases dropped by more

6 <https://twitter.com/hashtag/judeovirus>.

7 https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/PP_DP_260720.pdf.

8 See attached graphs, compiled by Dr. Haim Fireberg.

9 See report on Germany by Ms. Sarah Rembiszewski herein.

than a half.¹⁰ Most incidents occurred in countries with large Jewish communities: the US, Canada, the UK, Australia, France and Germany. In all other countries, with the exception of Ukraine, less than 10 incidents (per country) occurred in 2020.

- **Antisemitism on the web:** Since the public space was shut down during the pandemic, and people stayed at home with their computers, activities in the social media skyrocketed. These included antisemitic activities and messages – which escalated in aggressiveness and verbal abuse. Since countries closed down their borders, greatly restricting exits and entries, discussions on immigrants and immigration, the focus of attention in previous years, were replaced by online discourse on the coronavirus, the economy and who was to blame for the crisis. When zoom became a major means of communication, a phenomenon called zoom-bombing emerged – breaking into zoom conferences of synagogues, Jewish community centers and Jewish students, disrupting the meetings and using the platform to their own hate messages - swastikas, antisemitic presentations or speeches, etc.¹¹
 - The monitoring system of Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs identified more than a million antisemitic posts in English during 2020, as well as about a million in other languages – including approximately 500,000 in Arabic and 250,000 in French. This marks a drop of about 50% compared to 2018, achieved through agreements with the leading media companies. There is, however, a downside to this improvement: the decrease of antisemitism in the leading networks led to a strengthening of undercurrents – namely, the darknet.
 - Analysis of darknet's contents reveals that while in the open networks about 70% of the antisemitic messages deal with new antisemitism, and about a quarter express classic antisemitism, this ratio is reversed in the darknet: about 70% manifest classic antisemitism and only about 20% display new antisemitism.¹²
 - Possibly users, particularly in the US and UK, came to regard the new antisemitism in the open networks, including antisemitic descriptions of Israel, emphasis on Zionist conspiracies and discussions on the BDS, as more political and not truly antisemitic - and thus more legitimate than classic antisemitism, and certainly more than support for Nazi ideology or the denial or distortion of the Holocaust, both of which have risen over the past year.

10 See report by the SPCJ on France herein.

11 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/20/style/zoombombing-zoom-trolling.html>.

12 https://www.gov.il/he/Departments/General/report_anti240121.

12 <https://en->

[humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperson%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20\(1\).pdf](https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperson%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20(1).pdf).

- **The darknet and extremist groups in the US:** As noted above, 2020 saw an advancement in legislation, restrictions and agreements between international institutions that monitor and combat antisemitism and the large networks, especially in the West. Other countries, such as Russia, China, Iran and some Arab countries, did not sign such agreements, and have their own platforms. The restrictions led extremist groups to leave the open networks, and descend into the dark or alternative net, where they can be free of any supervision or restrictions.¹³ Quite a number of websites host these groups, changing their names and entrance procedures to prevent exposure. Thus, for example, CHAN 8 became KUN8, where right-wing extremists feed each other with materials they prefer, such as **The Turner Diaries** - a dystopian novel describing a violent race war in the US, which ultimately annihilates all non-whites in the world. The FBI has defined this novel as the Bible of the racist right: the perpetrators of the terror attacks near San Diego, in Christchurch, New Zealand, and also in Halle and Vienna, drew inspiration from this book, while finding the contacts and training they needed on the darknet.¹⁴ Trafficking of arms, women, pedophilia and pornography also takes place in the clandestine darknet, and Iran has its own darknet station, Press TV, that also spreads its messages out in the open.¹⁵
 - One major example of the growing presence of extremists in the darknet is the QAnon movement. Launched in 2016, QAnon has gradually expanded, and by 2020 it had acquired a wide audience of supporters. This far-right movement, defined by the US Department of Homeland Security as a potential source of domestic terrorism,¹⁶ is founded upon a bizarre conspiracy theory, whereby a secret cabal of pedophilic and cannibalistic Satan-worshippers is running a global child sex-trafficking ring and even devouring the children(!).
 - According to some American media, QAnon has acquired millions of followers and fans, because it presents an image of a cosmic struggle between a cult striving for world domination through the Democrats (QAnon's sworn enemies), blacks, and Jews on one side, and the true patriots who support Donald Trump and defend the foundation on which the US was built, as they see it, on the other.¹⁷
 - Before the last presidential elections, some of QAnon's spokespersons advocated violence if their opponents should win, and in fact members of this group stood out in the storming of the US Capitol. Even though the Jews are not at the top of their list, but rather all those who do not fit into their

13 See report by Dr. Lev Topor on Antisemitism on the Dark Web: Conspiracies, Communities and Actions herein.

14 <https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Turner-Diaries>.

15 <https://www.presstv.com/>.

16 <https://www.hsdl.org/c/conspiracy-theory-trends-qanon/>.

17 <https://www.vox.com/2020/10/9/21504910/qanon-conspiracy-theory-facebook-ban-trump>.

worldview, the familiar motifs are quite clear – murdering children and using their bodies.

- In effect this is just one more version of the blood libel and the evil force striving for world domination behind the scenes: Cabal is a term used in antisemitic and other conspiracy theories to signify a dark, secret body with evil powers. The storming of the Capitol was closely followed by a wave of extreme antisemitic and anti-Zionist expressions in the unsupervised networks, including death threats, calls for the f---g Jewish rats to leave “our country”, and letting the Zionists know that they, the patriots, would not allow a hostile takeover of the White House.¹⁸ The acronym ZOG, a known derogatory term used by the American far right, which stands for Zionist Occupation Government, meaning that the Zionists run the US government, has also been restored by QAnon.¹⁹

- **Vaccine opponents and the Holocaust, in Israel and abroad:** Since the pandemic is perceived as a terrible catastrophe, it is compared to the worst disaster the world has ever known – the Holocaust. This comparison is especially prevalent among vaccine opponents, who equate the restrictions and lockdowns for containing the pandemic with policies of the Nazi regime. Establishment and governments are accused of applying means of coercion: lockdowns are compared to incarceration in ghettos and concentration camps; vaccines are described as wicked medical experiments; certificates granting privileges after vaccination are seen as the infamous 'selection' procedure in Nazi death camps; antivaxxers feel that they are as undesirable and persecuted as the Jews were; the epitaph on the gate to Auschwitz served as a source for the new slogan 'The vaccine sets one free'; and so on. In Germany, where opposition to the vaccines is particularly strong, demonstrators wore a yellow star on their clothes, with the word 'unvaccinated' replacing the word 'Jew', and called Chancellor Merkel a Nazi.²⁰ Opposition to the vaccines has generated social and political tension, partly because it comes from groups that either oppose or don't recognize the establishment, like the Haredim in Israel, or from people who define themselves as outsiders who don't follow the rules, largely left-wingers. Far-right supporters of former President Trump also held similar views. The word 'Auschwitz' was observed on a black T-shirt worn by someone in the crowd that stormed the US Capitol. The words 'Auschwitz', 'Josef Mengele' and others also appear on many posters, caricatures and illustrations, both in Israel and abroad. Prof. Galia Rahav, Head of the Infectious Disease Unit at the Sheba Medical Center was called a Nazi, and a newspaper in Greece published the picture of Albert Bourla, a Greek Jew and CEO

18 https://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/news/local_news/ohio-leaders-groups-react-to-protester-s-anti-semitic-sign/article_184d17b0-8304-11ea-ab52-b31d5703d75d.html;

<https://www.ecaj.org.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/ECAJ-Antisemitism-Report-2020.pdf>.

19 <https://www.adl.org/education/references/hate-symbols/zog>.

20 <https://www.dw.com/en/maltese-envoy-quits-after-calling-merkel-a-nazi/a-53387702>.

of Pfizer, next to a picture of Mengele.²¹ The advent of the vaccines, coupled with Israel's vast vaccination campaign, assisted by Israelis and Jews who hold prominent positions in the companies that produce these vaccines, like Bourla and Tal Zaks, Chief Medical Officer at Moderna, reinforced the accusations: Israelis and Jews join hands so that Israel may be first to recover from the pandemic, while the rest of the world stands in line and begs the Jews for help.

- **Impact of major events:** During the summer of 2020 the wave of accusations seemed to wane. They appeared less frequently, and the traditional outbreaks of violence were not observed during the Jewish holidays. The accusations were, however, renewed in the fall, with the emergence of the vaccines. In fact they had not disappeared, but had been replaced by others: Right after the killing of **George Floyd** by a police officer in Minneapolis in May, the content of accusations against Jews and Israelis, both individually and collectively, changed from one day to the next: First, the slave traders who had shipped hundreds of thousands of Africans to the US, were allegedly Jews, 'privileged' then as now, closely connected to the ruling class, financially benefiting from these ties and holding key positions. In this way, a continuity was established between the image of the Jew in previous centuries and the Jews of today. This accusation, totally lacking any historical foundation, divided the Afro-American public from the Jewish community – in complete contrast to the fact that many Jewish leaders and youth took part in the Afro-Americans' struggle for civil rights.²² Moreover, the **Black Lives Matter movement**, emerging after the killing of George Floyd, which was originally non-violent and won the support of the Jewish public, later exhibited antisemitic views in its slogans and demonstrations. Examples include the June protests in Paris, which merged with pro-Palestinian demonstrations, as well as outbursts of vandalism in American cities, that became the order of the day.²³ Second, the allegedly fact-founded news that the Israel Police train American policemen, goading them towards ruthlessness and racism, spread quickly. This notion turned the existing collaboration - combating terrorism and sharing intelligence - into a means for allegedly imbuing American police with the ugly traits of Jews/Israelis, suggesting that Israelis are able to impact forces much larger than themselves. Third, the comparison between Palestinians and Afro-Americans also came up immediately – implying that both populations suffer from the cruelty of Israel and its Jewish supporters, and that this similar, dual oppression is enabled by the close alliance between Israel and the US government.
- **The Antifa movement** joined forces with BLM and BDS. This movement, which comprises a variety of groups and networks, first originated in the 1930's, focusing on an aggressive struggle against far-right extremism and racism in all their forms. Its

21 See report by Michal Navoth on Greece herein.

22 <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/jews-and-the-african-slave-trade/>.

23 <https://www.afr.com/world/europe/why-black-lives-matter-protests-are-a-catalyst-for-anti-semitism-20200623-p555ch>.

activists advocate the strongest opposition to the West in general and capitalism in particular, and being mostly extreme far-leftists, they are ardent anti-Israelis. They side and operate with BLM, they are at the spearhead of BDS, and have voiced support for Palestinian terror and violence in US campuses.²⁴

- **In December, toward the end of the year, another issue surfaced: the declaration of EU's Court of Justice in Luxembourg permitting states to ban both kosher slaughtering and Muslim Halal.** A little earlier, in September, the same Court had announced that it was committed to freedom that would enable both Jews and Muslims to live by the customs of their respective faiths, and in November the EU Council published a long, even moving declaration denouncing antisemitism.²⁵ But both these important declarations contrast with the image of the Jew, as reflected in the ban on kosher slaughtering: once again the Jews' alleged innate cruelty emerges, a legacy derived from the Old Testament with its jealous and vengeful God, Who commands His followers to raise a strong arm, this time against helpless animals. This cruelty goes hand in hand with yet another characteristic – namely the dogmatism reflected in adherence to age-old halachas, that should long ago have been changed and adapted to a modern world that regards the treatment of animals as a measure of values and compassion. The inversion typical of antisemitism is clear: In the Middle Ages the Jews were accused of having an affinity, even intimate relation, with pigs; using blood is prohibited in Judaism, because 'blood is the soul', but blood libels continued into the 20th century; and kosher slaughtering was publicly denounced as hurtful to the animal, even though the European public is quite ignorant of its procedures. One horrible image engraved in the Germans' collective memory comes from the 'The Eternal Jew', a film produced at Goebbels' command: a line of bearded Jews with knives in their hands and an evil grin on their faces, a cow slaughtered, twitching in agony for long moments as its blood pours onto the floor.²⁶ Germans weren't the only ones to see this film, which came to symbolize Jewish cruelty toward animals. Like all Nazi propaganda, it was distributed throughout Europe. So the ban on kosher slaughtering may not be antisemitic per se, but it does reinforce this negative image of the Jew.

- **The activities of the BDS** (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) were impacted by both the pandemic and the political changes in the Middle East - mainly the normalization of relations between Israel and several Arab states, and the signing of the US-sponsored Abraham Accords. The impact of the pandemic and economic slowdown was reflected in a significant decrease in anti-Israeli economic initiatives. Even the US publication of a blacklist of companies operating beyond the green line did not increase their number.²⁷ On the other hand, support for the activities of anti-Israeli

24 <https://www.wsj.com/articles/q-a-what-is-antifa-11598985917>.

25 <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2020-12/cp200163en.pdf>;
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/47065/st13637-en20.pdf>.

26 <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/der-ewige-jude>.

27 See report by Dr. Giovanni Quer on BDS herein.

students and Palestinian boycott initiatives was continued. Support for the Palestinians, who consider themselves wronged by the Abraham Accords, led the BDS to oppose normalization – in contradiction to its spokespersons' declarations about wishing for peace and prosperity in the Middle East. In this context, most boycott initiatives targeted Arab performers who appeared in Israel or together with Israeli performers. These boycotts engendered a heated debate in Israel's Arab sector.²⁸ In addition, the debate about a juristic boycott on Israel intensified: those in favor declare that they promote freedom of speech, while their opponents claim that the boycott is tainted with antisemitism. In the US anti-BDS legislation is in effect in states that adopted it, and the movement was declared antisemitic by Foreign Secretary Pompeo. In Europe, however, opinions vary: The European Court of Human Rights has reversed French legislation against the BDS, and in the UK a court reversed a decision made in accordance with an anti-BDS government policy. In Germany the Bundestag's 2019 decision is still in effect, defining the BDS's argumentation and methods as antisemitic.²⁹

- **In Germany, a significant gap was identified between the efforts of the government and its various agencies to combat antisemitism, and its real-life manifestations:** In 2020 a rise was recorded in the total number of incidents - from 2,032 in 2019 to 2,275 – an increase of 11% and the highest figure since 2001. 410 of these events occurred in Berlin during the first half of the year. The real numbers are probably much higher, since surveys have found that about 80% of the incidents are not reported (an average of 75% are not reported in EU countries). Moreover, very few arrests are made, and punishment is almost nonexistent. The number of radical Muslim activists has grown, and far-right activists have apparently increased their numbers by about 7,000-8,000.³⁰ A growing number of these activists join the military and the police force, amassing arms and training for the day when they will overthrow the government. According to police reports, 90% of the antisemitic incidents were perpetrated by the far right,³¹ but this estimate has been severely criticized, as it was in 2019, because once again the part of the radical Muslims was greatly underestimated.
 - o The desecration of monuments, particularly Holocaust memorials, including the well-known Stolpersteine (stumbling stones), as well as Jewish cemeteries, continued in 2020; Many zoom-bombing incidents were recorded; Opposition to Covid-19 restrictions and vaccines was manifested in weekly demonstrations over several months, attended by a diversity of participants – not necessarily from the far right, and voicing extreme ideas that compared the pandemic to the Holocaust; Descent into the clandestine darknet was observed in both Germany and Austria, due to the ban on Holocaust denial

28 *Ibid.*

29 <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-middle-east-55000041>; <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-bds-israel-idUSKCN1SN204>.

30 See report on Germany by Ms. Sarah Rembiszewski herein.

31 <https://www.jpost.com/bds-threat/antisemitic-crimes-increase-in-germany-police-report-658941>.

and on support for Nazism, as well as the restrictions and penalties imposed by the Bundestag on Twitter and Facebook; Support for the QAnon movement is widespread; and generally people seem to be growing tired of discourse on the Holocaust – a trend confirmed by a comprehensive survey held on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.³²

- Opposition to the Working Definition of Antisemitism is on the rise, especially among those who claim that the Definition blocks criticism toward Israel. This trend was particularly apparent in the heated public debate surrounding the views of Cameroonian philosopher Achille Mbembe.³³
- In the ongoing effort to combat these antisemitic activities and trends, a few dozen special envoys were appointed in various locations and institutions, and increased funds were allotted to the protection of Jewish communities, as well as education combating racism and antisemitism. Germany's legislation on these issues is perhaps the most meticulous in the world, with the Bundestag dedicating in-depth discussions to the BDS and restrictions on the social media.
- There is also an attempt to closely monitor the far-right, especially within the military and police force, including searches for concealed weapons, and a commando unit was even disbanded as a result.³⁴ Angela Merkel has declared that antisemitism is a disgrace, and that she herself is deeply ashamed about the rise of antisemitism, which is becoming increasingly present and unabashed.³⁵

Achievements in the battle against antisemitism

This year, like the previous two years, saw some reassuring achievements in the battle against antisemitism.

First, more special envoys, responsible for combating antisemitism, were appointed in several countries, like the Netherlands, Romania and Canada, and the envoy of the US State Department was promoted to the rank of Ambassador. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Miguel Moratinos as UN Focal Point for combating antisemitism.³⁶

32 https://www.deutschlandfunkkultur.de/studie-zu-70-jahre-nach-auschwitz-junge-deutsche-sind-des.1278.de.html?dram:article_id=310367.

33 <https://www.dw.com/en/why-achille-mbembe-was-accused-of-anti-semitism/a-53293797>.

34 <https://www.dw.com/en/ksk-german-special-forces-company-dissolved-due-to-far-right-concerns/a-54386661>.

35 <https://www.dw.com/en/angela-merkel-laments-disgrace-of-kristallnacht/a-55548319>.

36 <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/united-nations-appoints-first-un-focal-point-to-monitor-antisemitism-636863>.

In March the Austrian Parliament made a decision, considered historical, and supported by all parties, including those on the extreme right and left, to combat antisemitism. Senior minister Karoline Edtstadler was appointed to lead a comprehensive strategic plan for the battle against antisemitism - the outcome of extensive efforts, and an annual budget was determined for ensuring the security of Jewish communities. In June the Hizballah was outlawed, following another decision of the Parliament, and BDS was declared antisemitic.³⁷

Second, the Working Definition of Antisemitism was adopted during 2020 by a growing number of countries, universities, sports clubs, municipalities and local councils, and this trend continues in 2021. The Kantor Center is currently mapping the adoption of the Definition worldwide, and the total number exceeds 450. Recently Bahrein also adopted the Definition, and most important: it was adopted by the Global Imams Council, following the signing of the Abraham Accords.³⁸ The EU published a detailed handbook recommending a correct and comprehensive use of the Definition, as part of a more general decision to recognize the battle against antisemitism as a clause in its political plans.³⁹

As the adoption of the Working Definition progresses, as it becomes a value-based statement, an affirmation of standing by those who combat antisemitism and other injustices, criticism and opposition to its implementation also intensify. The main opponents are intellectuals and academics, especially those who support Palestinian rights. Their main argument is that the Definition is detrimental to freedom of speech as well as to the Palestinians' right to self-determination, and that the four points in the Definition, indicating when anti-Zionism is in fact antisemitism, turn any criticism of Israel into antisemitism. These claims are unfounded, since the Definition is non-legally-binding, namely it is a recommendation and not part of any legislation, and also because the Jewish People's right to self-determination detracts nothing from the Palestinians' right to self-determination. The Definition also states explicitly that criticism of Israel, which is just like criticism of any other democratic country, cannot be regarded as antisemitic.⁴⁰ One of President Joe Biden's first steps was to warmly adopt the Definition without grounding it in legislation,⁴¹ while Greece was the first, and for now the only country to

37 <https://www.austria.org/the-latest/2020/2/28/austrian-parliament-presents-resolution-proposal-condemning-anti-semitism-and-the-bds-movement>.

38 <https://eurojewcong.org/news/news-and-views/global-imams-council-adopts-ihra-definition-of-antisemitism/>.

39 https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Hanbook%20practical%20use%20of%20the%20IHRA.pdf.

40 <https://www.haaretz.co.il/opinions/letters/.premium-1.9480441>;
<https://www.haaretz.co.il/opinions/letters/.premium-1.8973295>.

41 <https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/1612302208-biden-administration-embraces-and-champions-ihra-definition-of-anti-semitism>.

establish an inter-office committee charged with proposing a legal framework for implementing the Definition in education, in the legal system and in government.⁴² Researchers at the Kantor Center believe that using the Definition as is, and the assistance it provides in various areas, like identifying instances of antisemitism, instructing police, serving as supportive material in court, and encouraging discussions on fundamental issues in parliaments and universities before adopting the Definition, are more beneficial than grounding it in the law and making it a coercive tool.

Third, allocation of funds for protecting Jewish communities: New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, former President Donald Trump, Germany's Office of the Interior, the Sachsen-Anhalt state where the city of Halle is located, the Austrian government – have all announced that they would increase their existing funding or allocate new funds to the protection and development of security means for the Jewish communities.⁴³

Fourth, Jewish education and Jewish life: Morocco has announced that it would include chapters on the history and culture of Moroccan Jews in its curriculums.⁴⁴ Germany plans a series of events in 2021, to celebrate 1700 years of Jewish life in Germany, including the battle against antisemitism.⁴⁵

Former President Trump approved the Never Again Education Act, authorizing the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington D.C. to promote the teaching and awareness of the Holocaust.⁴⁶ The European Council regards antisemitism as an "attack on European values", and indicates the need to combat it decisively.⁴⁷ In October the Foreign Minister of Abu Dhabi met with Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi at the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, and together they announced: Never again!⁴⁸ The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, decided to upgrade both the battle against antisemitism and support for Jewish life, and appointed her VP Maragaritis Schinas to handle these affairs.⁴⁹

42 See report by Michal Navoth on Greece herein.

43 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/austrian-government-triples-security-funding-for-local-jewish-community/>; <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/germany-pledges-extra-26-million-for-jewish-security-642842>.

44 <https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/.premium-moroccan-schools-teach-jewish-history-in-groundbreaking-first-1.9360358>.

45 <https://berlinspectator.com/2021/02/21/germany-celebrates-1700-years-of-jewish-life-on-its-territory-1/>.

46 <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr943>.

47 <https://www.worldjewishcongress.org/en/news/eu-calls-antisemitism-incompatible-with-values-demands-national-strategies-from-member-countries-12-3-2020>.

48 <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-israel-gulf-germany/uae-minister-vows-never-again-in-berlin-holocaust-memorial-visit-together-with-israeli-counterpart-idUKKBN26R2HG?edition-redirect=in>.

49 https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?newsletter_service_id=1955&newsletter_issue_id=27770&pdf=true&fullDate=Sun%2012%20Jan%202020&lang=default.

Moreover, in recent years, institutions like the European Union and Israel's Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Affairs have intensified their talks with the companies running the social media. Certain companies have undertaken to change their policies with regard to erasing antisemitic content as soon as it is discovered. For example, Facebook agreed to change its policy, responding to an approach by a coalition of 150 organizations. The Kantor Center was party to a letter to the press which accompanied this approach to Mark Zuckerberg.⁵⁰ There has been progress in developing tools enabling the detection of antisemitic discourse on the internet, based on the Working Definition. Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs has developed the Antisemitic Cyber Monitoring System, which identifies antisemitic expressions in several languages on several networks, and in 2020 even began to monitor websites in the darknet, which are more difficult to access. However, despite repeated declarations on the part of the leading services, and some progress made so far, there is still a long way to go. In a meeting of the Knesset Aliyah and Absorption Committee chaired by David Bitan, participants were appalled when Twitter's representative in Israel told them that Twitter does not block the account of Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of Iran, because his messages – urging for the annihilation of Israel – are considered verbal dispute on foreign affairs;⁵¹ and Twitter's CEO said in a hearing at the US Congress that Holocaust denial is not defined as prohibited information. Financial interests, the ignorance of younger generations about antisemitism, the Holocaust and the situation in the Middle East, the wish to address broad audiences and create visibility for the companies, still prevent full progress in removing antisemitic content from open networks.

How will 2021 be viewed in retrospect? Will the level of antisemitic manifestations decline once the pandemic is over and the world is back to normal? Or will violence escalate when people return to the public space and encounter each other once again? There is no way of knowing. But in the meantime, worldwide monitoring must be continued, and findings analyzed and made public. Moreover, a broad view must be maintained: not only Jews but others as well are being blamed in this scene, like the Chinese and East Asians in general, immigrants and foreigners, and even Bill Gates, 5th-generation antennas and more. And there are other discriminated minorities, with which we can join forces and struggle for a better world.

50 <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/coalition-of-more-than-120-ngos-calls-on-facebook-to-create-a-comprehensive-hate-speech-policy-on-anti-semitism-301108674.html>.

51 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/twitter-tells-mks-khameneis-eliminate-israel-posts-dont-violate-its-rules/>; <https://www.timesofisrael.com/twitter-ceo-suggests-holocaust-denial-not-banned-on-platform-in-senate-grilling/>.

REGIONS

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Ukraine

According to the annual report of the United Jewish Community of Ukraine, the number of cases of antisemitism declined from 66 in 2019 to 49 in 2020. However, the report also noted that, unlike in 2019, there were five instances of physical violence against individuals that were motivated by antisemitism in 2020. The report also noted a substantial increase in antisemitism on social media. Given these instances of violence and the upsurge in antisemitism on social media, it is unsurprising that 56 percent of the Jewish respondents to the poll believed that the level of antisemitism in Ukraine had increased in 2020.⁵²

As in 2019, several cases of vandalism against Jewish communal property, antisemitic graffiti in the public domain, and antisemitic pronouncements in the media, whether online or print, were reported. In addition, there was a bizarre incident in Kulomyia, where a senior police officer, after singling out Jews as having criminal contacts, demanded a list of all members of the Jewish Orthodox community as well as the names of all Jewish students at the local university.⁵³

As far as physical violence is concerned, in 2020 there were two attacks on synagogues, in Vinnitsa⁵⁴ and in Mariupol,⁵⁵ during which the perpetrator attacked an employee and

52 'Otchet po antisemitizmu v Ukraine za 2020 god', Obyedinennaya evreiskaya obshchina Ukrainy. February 16, 2021. <https://jewishnews.com.ua/society/otchyot-po-antisemitizmu-v-ukraine-za-2020-god> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; 'Antisemitizm in Ukraine, report for 2020', Obyedinennaya evreiskaya obshchina Ukrainy. https://jew.org.ua/images/pdf/Anti-Semitism_in_Ukraine_2020.pdf. Last accessed on February 17, 2021.

53 Alexandra Odynova, 'Ukraine Police Probe Senior Officer's Request for Jews' Personal Info', in CBS, May 14, 2020. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ukraine-police-probe-senior-officers-request-for-jews-personal-info/>. Last accessed on February 17, 2020; 'Outrage after senior police officer asks for list of all Jews in Ukrainian city', in Independent, May 12, 2020. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/jewish-community-ukraine-kolomyia-anti-semitism-police-a9510126.html> . Last accessed on February 17, 2020; Sam Sokol, 'Ukraine to punish police chief who demanded list of Jewish citizens', in Forward, May 13, 2020. <https://forward.com/news/breaking-news/446364/ukraine-to-punish-police-chief-who-demanded-list-of-jewish-citizens> . Last accessed on February 17, 2020.

54 'Drunk man attacks synagogue in Vinnitsia, Central Ukraine', 112 Ukraine, February 26, 2020. <https://112.international/society/drunk-man-attacks-synagogue-in-vinnitsia-central-ukraine-48933.html> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; 'V Vinnitse sovershenno napadenie na sinagogu', in Jewish.ru , February 27, 2020. <https://jewish.ru/ru/news/articles/192262/> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; 'Napadenie na sinagogu v Vinnitse: politsiia otkryla dva dela', in Ukrinform, February 26, 2020. <https://www.ukrinform.ru/rubric-regions/2884640-napadenie-na-sinagogu-v-vinnice-policia-otkryla-2-dela.html> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021.

55 Eli Nahum, 'Unknown man burst into Mariupol synagogue with an axe', in Monitoring Antisemitism Worldwide, July 28, 2020. <https://www.antisemitism.co.il/2020/07/unknown-man-burst-into-mariupol.html>. Last accessed on February 17, 2021; 'V Mariupole neizvestnyi napal s toporom na sinagogu

a guard, respectively. Two Hasidic Jews were knifed in separate incidents in Uman; these attacks stemmed from tensions between locals and the Breslav Hasidic community, which has refused to respect the Covid-19 related quarantine in the city.⁵⁶ The report of the United Jewish Community of Ukraine mentions an additional case of physical violence in Berdiansk, where an anonymous Jewish man complained that a neighboring couple shouted antisemitic insults and attacked him.⁵⁷ Although there were no other reported cases of violence against individuals, there were some additional threats of anti-Jewish violence. For example, in March 2020, in multiple Ukrainian cities, bomb threats were made against Jewish synagogues.⁵⁸ In addition, due to rumors that Jews were buying up Ukrainian land in an attempt to gain control over Ukraine, in April 2020, an individual organized a public action in Odessa against this alleged threat, using the slogan: ‘Beat the Jews – Save our State’.⁵⁹

There were several cases of vandalism against Jewish community property and Holocaust memorials. For example, a Jewish community center in Kherson was firebombed;⁶⁰ a memorial stone commemorating local Holocaust victims in the Cherkassk region was destroyed;⁶¹ in Ostrog, swastikas were painted on a stand informing visitors of the history

I ustroil draku s okhrannikom’, NV, July 28, 2020. <https://nv.ua/ukraine/events/na-sinagogu-v-mariupole-napal-muzhchina-s-toporom-video-novosti-ukrainy-50102669.html> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021;

56 Cnaan Liphshiz, ‘Jewish man beaten at supermarket in Uman, Ukraine’, in Jewish Telegraphic Agency, September 1, 2020. <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; Tatyana Ocheretyanaya, ‘Izbienie hasida v Umami, politsiia otkryla ugolovnoe proizvodstvo’, in Segodnia,

September 2, 2020. <https://www.segodnya.ua/regions/others/izbienie-hasida-v-umani-policiya-otkryla-ugolovnoe-proizvodstvo-1474119.html> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; Cnaan Lipshiz, ‘Jewish teenager lightly wounded in attack in Uman, Ukraine’, in Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 20, 2020.

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/jewish-teenager-lightly-wounded-in-attack-in-uman-ukraine> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; ‘Man who attacked a Hasid with knife detained in Uman’, in Unian ,

October 22, 2020. <https://www.unian.info/society/uman-case-man-who-attacked-a-hasid-with-knife-detained-11190185.html> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021.

57 ‘Antisemitizm in Ukraine, report for 2020’, Obyedinennaya evreiskaya obshchina Ukrainy. https://jew.org.ua/images/pdf/Anti-Semitism_in_Ukraine_2020.pdf . Last accessed on February 17, 2021.

58 <https://www.facebook.com/eduard.dolinsky> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021.

59 ‘V Odesse odnofamiletz Yarosha pytalsia provesti aktsiiu s antisemitskim lozungom – ego srazu zhe zaderzhala politisiia’, in Prestupnosti net. April 5, 2020. <https://news.pn/ru/criminal/233398> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; Svetlana Manekina, ‘ V Odesse radikal Yarosh pytalsia provesti miting protiv prodazhi zemli, obviniv evreev v zemel’noi reforme’, in Antifascist, April 6, 2020.

<http://antifashist.com/item/v-odesse-radikal-yarosh-pytalsya-provesti-miting-protiv-prodazhi-zemli-obviniv-evreev-v-zemelnoj-reforme.html> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021.

60 Marcy Oster, ‘Firebombing damages Jewish center in Ukraine’, in Jewish Telegraphic Agency, April 21, 2020. <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads> . Last accessed on February 18, 2021; Marcy Oster, ‘Jewish Center in Ukraine Lightly Damaged by Firebomb’, in The Times of Israel, April 22, 2020.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/jewish-center-in-ukraine-lightly-damaged-by-firebomb/> . Last accessed on February 18, 2021.

61 Yuri Strigun, ‘Vandaly znishchili evreiskii pamyatnik u Lisiansky’, in Vechirni Cherkasu, February 18, 2020. http://vechirka.net/vandali-znishchili-evreyskiy-pamyatnik-u-lisyanci?fbclid=IwAR3Favpxrwr9wBU-oIyKwYrk_dSYptDr-uZ6qqscFlwk2zkTUSWhpmTzNt0 . Last accessed on February 18, 2021;

‘Prestupnikov razbivshikh pamiatnik zhertvam Holokosta ne nashli. Esli voobshche iskali.’, in

of the local Jewish community,⁶² and in Mariupol, a painted SS symbol and the slogan, ‘Death to the Jews’ were discovered.⁶³ The report of the United Jewish Community of Ukraine also cited complaints from community members of antisemitic graffiti in multiple other locales: Rivne, Kyiv, L’viv, Odessa, Shepetivka, and Dnipro.⁶⁴

There were also numerous antisemitic expressions in both print and social media in 2020. For example, *Vgolos*, a newspaper based in L’viv, published several articles that accused Jews of trying to gain financial and political control over Ukraine.⁶⁵ Such accusations also appeared in social media.⁶⁶

The authorities in Ukraine have repeatedly turned to Ukrainian nationalist organizations for a ‘usable past’ in order to legitimate the new Ukrainian statehood. Unfortunately, these organizations were often racist, antisemitic, and during WWII collaborated with the Nazis. This collaboration often included taking an active part in the Holocaust. During 2020 various Ukrainian cities, for example, glorified such individuals as Mikhaïlo Mulik, an SS Galicia division veteran,⁶⁷ Vasil’ Levkovich, a WWII commander of the Rovno and

Remembrance, Research, and Justice, May 27, 2020. <http://remembrance.ru/2020/05/27/polizei/>. Last accessed on February 18, 2021; ‘Politsiia pod Cherkassami ne nashla vinovnykh v razrushenii memorial evreiam’, in Jewish News, May 25, 2020. <https://jewishnews.com.ua/society/policziya-pod-cherkassami-ne-nashla-vinovnyix-v-razrushenii-memoriala-evreiam>. Last accessed on February 18, 2021; ‘‘Eto vse zh –dy pridumali’’. Zhitel’ L’vova rasskazal pravdu o karantine’ in EurAsia Daily, April 2, 2020. <https://eadaily.com/ru/news/2020/04/02/eto-vse-zhdy-pridumali-zhitel-lvova-rasskazal-pravdu-o-karantine>. Last accessed on February 19, 2021.

62 <https://www.facebook.com/eduard.dolinsky> Last accessed on February 18, 2021.

63 ‘Politsiia otkryla ugovnoe delo po faktu antisemitskoi nadpisi v Mariupole’, in Jewish News, May 14, 2020. <https://jewishnews.com.ua/society/policziya-otkryla-ugolovnoe-delo-po-faktu-antisemitskoj-nadpisi-v-mariupole>. Last accessed on February 18, 2021.

64 ‘Otchet po antisemitizmu v Ukraine za 2020 god’, Obyedinennaya evreiskaya obshchina Ukrainy. February 16, 2021. <https://jewishnews.com.ua/society/otchyot-po-antisemitizmu-v-ukraine-za-2020-god>. Last accessed on February 17, 2021.

65 Roman Gurs’kii, ‘Evrei khochut ostatochno zabrati sobi vladu v Ukraini’, in Vgolos January 20, 2020. https://vgolos.com.ua/news/yevreyi-hochut-ostatochno-zabraty-sobi-vladu-v-ukrayini_1152017.html?fbclid=IwAR2yS4Cz0RHxAhLuvPQUv3LCO90Iyf1n8cCOydarr8ot2eHYaSxV1leSSs. Last accessed on February 18, 2020; Roman Gur’skii, ‘Geroi chi zlochintsi: ‘Evrei vidchuli shcho do vladi priishli liudi, daleki vid ukrains’koi identichnosti’, in Vgolos March 2, 2020. https://vgolos.com.ua/news/geroyi-chy-zlochintsi-yevreyi-vidchuly-shho-do-vlady-pryjshly-lyudy-daleki-vid-ukrayinskoyi-identichnosti_1182776.html?fbclid=IwAR1WNAz2AaKClcqYaYWU0xg4sPSilzK-L. Last accessed on February 18, 2021.

66 <https://www.facebook.com/eduard.dolinsky> Last accessed on February 18, 2021. ‘Otchet po antisemitizmu v Ukraine za 2020 god’, Obyedinennaya evreiskaya obshchina Ukrainy. February 16, 2021. <https://jewishnews.com.ua/society/otchyot-po-antisemitizmu-v-ukraine-za-2020-god>. Last accessed on February 17, 2021

67 Natalia Petriv, ‘U Frankivs’ku v ostanniu dorogu proveli veterana OUN Mikhaïla Mulika’, in Misto, January 28, 2020. <http://mi100.info/2020/01/28/u-frankivsku-v-ostannyu-dorogu-provodyat-veterana-oun-myhajla-mulyka-foto/?fbclid=IwAR3TWTxAVgn35NDLm9q5kuOQInPIS3T84DQix4mKto1v3b7gLY2vNchcR58>. Last accessed on February 18, 2021; <https://www.facebook.com/eduard.dolinsky> Last accessed on February 18, 2021.

Dubno Ukrainian police,⁶⁸ Yurii Polianskii, the mayor of L'viv during the Nazi occupation,⁶⁹ Osip Bezplal'ko, organizer of 1941 anti-Jewish pogroms in Zolochiv, and Miron Branitskii and Oleksa Babyi, active participants respectively in the WWII murder of L'viv Jews⁷⁰ and the 1941 massacre of Kyiv Jews in Babyi Yar.⁷¹ The Kyiv Shevchenko University published in August 2020 the memoirs of Kost Smovskii without mentioning that during WWII he was a Nazi collaborator, who took an active part in the massacres at Babyi Yar (Ukraine, September 29–30, 1941) and in Khatyn' (White Russia, March 22, 1943).⁷² Moreover, when the regional Kyiv court in May 2020 attempted to ban organizations from publicly displaying the symbols of the WWII Ukrainian SS division 'Galicia,' their decision was reversed on appeal by the Kyiv Sixth Administrative Court.⁷³

Overall, the number of antisemitic events in 2020 that were significant enough to gain the attention of the press was not large, but there were numerous small-scale attacks that contributed to the opinion among Ukrainian Jews that there were substantial, largely latent, antisemitic feelings within the country.

68 Victoria Venk, 'Ziguiushchii professor I borez za chistotu rasy. Kakikh geroev predlagaiut chestvovat' ukraintsam deputaty 'Slugi naroda' in Strana. April 29, 2020. <https://strana.ua/news/264084-natsistskie-druzja-iz-oun-i-upa-kakikh-heroev-predlahajut-ukraintsam-deputaty-sluhi-naroda.html> . Last accessed on February 18, 2021. <https://www.facebook.com/eduard.dolinsky> Last accessed on February 18, 2021.

69 On February 4, 2020. <https://www.facebook.com/eduard.dolinsky> Last accessed on February 18, 2021.

70 Marina Zhdanovich, 'Karantin kak detonator', in Odná Rodina, November 17, 2021.

<https://odnarodyna.org/content/karantin-kak-detonator> . Last accessed on February 18, 2021.

71 'V Ternopol'skoi oblasti otkryli memorial'nuiu tablichku v chest' odnogo iz palachei Babyego Yara', in News Front, November 17, 2020.

72 'Kievskii universitet Shevchenko izdal memuary natsistskogo prestupnika', in Strana, August 25, 2020.

<https://strana.ua/news/286000-kafedra-mirovoho-ukrainstva-universiteta-shevchenko-izdala-memuary-natsista-kostja-smovskoho.html>. Last accessed on February 18, 2021; Ol'ga Kazachenko, 'Vedushchii universitet Ukrainy proslavil natsistskogo palacha', in Polit Navigator, August 27, 2020.

<https://www.politnavigator.net/vedushhijj-universitet-ukrainy-proslavil-nacistskogo-palacha.html>. Last accessed on February 18, 2021. <https://news-front.info/2020/11/17/v-ternopolskoj-oblasti-otkryli-memorialnuyu-tablichku-v-chest-odnogo-iz-palachej-babego-yara/> . Last accessed on February 18, 2021;

'Na Ukraine otkryli ocherednuiu memorial'nuiu dosku natsistskomu palachu', in Antifascist, November 17, 2020. <http://antifashist.online/item/na-ukraine-otkryli-ocherednuyu-memorialnuyu-dosku-nacistskomu-palachu.html>. Last accessed on February 18, 2021; 'Yurii Radchenko. 'S Zhitomira mene perekinuli na front do M. Vasil'kova dlia poshuku komunistiv I zhidiv, piznishe – banderivtsiv': biografiia aktivista OUN (M) Oleksi Babiya v svitli 'spogadiv pro vtechu vid rozstrilu', in Historians. July 3, 2020.

<http://www.historians.in.ua/index.php/en/doslidzhennya/2764-yurij-radchenko-z-zhitomira-mene-perekinuli-na-front-do-m-vasilkova-dlya-poshuku-komunistiv-i-zhidiv-piznishe-banderivtsiv-biografiya-aktivista-oun-m-oleksi-babiya-v-svitli-svogadiv-pro-vtechu-vid-rozstrilu>. Last accessed on February 18, 2021.

73 Aleksandr Shakhov, 'Lizhete nogi okkupantam'. Kak posle ugroz natsionalistov sud otmenil zapret na simvoliku SS 'Galitchina', Strana, September 24, 2020. <https://strana.ua/news/291414-kak-natsionalisty-zastavili-sud-otmenit-zapret-na-simvoliku-ss-halichiny.html> . Last accessed on February 18, 2021; '6-oi appeliatsionnyi administrativnyi sud Ukrainy reabilitiroval 'chest' SS Galitchina' in Oles' Buzina, September 23, 2020. <https://buzina.org/golos-naroda/3786-ss-galicia.html>. Last accessed on February 18, 2021; 'Lizhete nogi okkupantam', in Naspravdi, September 24, 2020. <https://naspravdi.info/novosti/lizhete-nogi-okkupantam>. Last accessed on February 18, 2021.

Hungary

Edit Inotai and Claudia Ciobanu, in their research on Hungarian antisemitism today, agreed that Hungary is a safe country for Jews.⁷⁴ Indeed, in 2020, there were no reported cases of physical attacks on people motivated by antisemitism and only one reported case of vandalism in a Jewish cemetery in Kecel.⁷⁵ Still, Hungary repeatedly faces accusations of antisemitism. Such accusations are not based on cases of antisemitic violence, but on the conservative Hungarian government's tolerance towards its supporters holding racist and antisemitic views as well as of its usage of habitual antisemitic discourses in attacks against its political enemies.⁷⁶

The Jewish financier and philanthropist George Soros was for the last several years presented by Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán and his supporters as the most important enemy of the Hungarian state. Soros is a liberal, who has invested much money and effort in East European cultural and educational infrastructures. Given his infusion of cash into the region, it is particularly odd that he is constantly accused of wishing to profit from Hungary's weakness. The accusation makes sense only if it is based on an antisemitic stereotype of a greedy Jew. Another common accusation against Soros, based on his interest in assisting refugees from the Middle East and Africa, is that due to his hatred of European culture, he plans to swamp Europe with refugees of different non-European cultures and thus destroy Europe. Here too, the accusation is not based on fact, but rather the stereotype of the Christian-hating Jew, since Soros is well known for his substantial contributions to sustaining the cultural institutions in Eastern Europe. On February 16, 2020, in his Address to the Nation, Viktor Orbán repeated these two accusations against Soros.⁷⁷ Although the Hungarian public has become accustomed to such accusations and occasionally even laughs at them,⁷⁸ it was shocked when Szilárd Demeter, a Hungarian

74 Edit Inotai and Claudia Ciobanu, 'Antisemitism creeps back as Hungary and Poland fail to draw red lines' in *Balkan Insight*, September 11, 2020.

75 Cnaan Liphshiz, 'Headstones smashed at Jewish cemeteries in Moldova and Hungary', *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, November 3, 2020. <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021.

76 Edit Inotai and Claudia Ciobanu, 'Antisemitism creeps back as Hungary and Poland fail to draw red lines' in *Balkan Insight*, September 11, 2020. Stephen I. Pogany, 'Reinventing the Protocols of the Elders of Zion: Anti-Semitism in Orbán's Hungary', in Alfredo Alietti and Dario Padovan eds., *Clockwork Enemy: Xenophobia and Racism in the Era of Neo-Populism*. Mimesis. 2020, pp. 115, 126.

77 Eva S. Balogh, 'Urban: 'A liberal is a commie with a college education'', in *The Hungarian Spectrum*, February 16, 2020. <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/02/16/orban-a-liberal-is-a-commie-with-a-college-education/> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Eva S. Balogh, 'Three takes on Victor Urban's speech', in *The Hungarian Spectrum*, February 17, 2020. <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/02/17/two-takes-on-viktor-orbans-speech/> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021. <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/09/11/antisemitism-creeps-back-as-hungary-and-poland-fail-to-draw-red-lines/> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021.

78 Daniel Acs, 'Az ember, aki az anyját is megolte volna', in 444, May 4, 2020.

<https://444.hu/2020/05/04/az-ember-aki-az-anyjat-is-megolte-volna> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Eva S. Balogh, '444: George Soros: the man who would have killed his mother', in *The Hungarian*

writer and known supporter of Orbán, published an article in the right-wing newspaper, *Origio* on November 28, 2020 in which he equated Soros's attitude towards Hungary with that of the Nazi Holocaust perpetrators and Hungarians with Jewish Holocaust victims.⁷⁹ Numerous Hungarian journalists protested. The protestors included József Pálincás, former minister of education and president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, who was a close political ally of Orbán in the late 1990s, István Gusztos from the *Hírklikk* newspaper, [Tóth Csaba Tibor](#) from the *Merce* newspaper, and many others. The Jewish periodical *Szombat* and the umbrella organization of Jewish-Hungarian religious communities *Mazsihisz* protested as well. Demeter, in reaction to these protests, publicly withdrew the article from publication. It was deleted from the newspaper's website.⁸⁰

Orbán's demonization of George Soros also functions as a discursive political strategy; by identifying the views of his liberal opponents with those of Soros, whom he has portrayed to the public as the quintessential 'anti-European greedy Jew,' Orbán hopes to discredit his opponents. Yet, antisemitic discourse has not been the primary manifestation of government antisemitism. More typical is the government's tolerance of the antisemitic views of its political supporters. For example, when Beatrix Siklósi, a supporter of Orbán

Spectrum, May 9, 2020. <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/05/09/444-george-soros-the-man-who-would-have-killed-his-mother/> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021.

79 'Europat Soros Gyorgy gazkamrajanak'' hivni vallalhatatlan minden joerzesu ember szamara', in *Mazsihisz*, November 28, 2020. <https://mazsihisz.hu/hirek-a-zsido-vilagbol/mazsihisz-hirek/europat-soros-gyorgy-gazkamrajanak-hivni> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Janos Gado, 'Kontrollvesztes', in *Szombat*, November 28, 2020. <https://www.szombat.org/politika/kontrollvesztes> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Istvan Gusztos, 'Libsi, libernyak, Liberarja', in *HirKlikk*, November 28, 2020. <https://hirklikk.hu/kozelet/libsi-libernyak-liberarja/373254/> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Tibor Toth Csaba, 'Demeter Szilard cikkevel elismerte: a kormányzati sorosozas valoban antiszemita kampany', in *Merce*, November 28, 2020. <https://merce.hu/2020/11/28/demeter-szilard-cikkevel-elismerte-a-kormanyzati-sorosozas-valoban-antiszemita-kampany/> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Eva S. Balogh, 'Szilard Demeter's Loathsome Attack on George Soros', in *The Hungarian Spectrum*, November 28, 2020. <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/11/28/szilard-demeters-loathsome-attack-on-george-soros/> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Eva S. Balogh, 'Orban loses key players in his match with the EU', in *The Hungarian Spectrum*, November 29, 2020. <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/11/29/orban-loses-key-players-in-his-match-with-the-eu/> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021.

80 'Europat Soros Gyorgy gazkamrajanak'' hivni vallalhatatlan minden joerzesu ember szamara', in *Mazsihisz*, November 28, 2020. <https://mazsihisz.hu/hirek-a-zsido-vilagbol/mazsihisz-hirek/europat-soros-gyorgy-gazkamrajanak-hivni> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Janos Gado, 'Kontrollvesztes', in *Szombat*, November 28, 2020. <https://www.szombat.org/politika/kontrollvesztes> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Istvan Gusztos, 'Libsi, libernyak, Liberarja', in *HirKlikk*, November 28, 2020. <https://hirklikk.hu/kozelet/libsi-libernyak-liberarja/373254/> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Tibor Toth Csaba, 'Demeter Szilard cikkevel elismerte: a kormányzati sorosozas valoban antiszemita kampany', in *Merce*, November 28, 2020. <https://merce.hu/2020/11/28/demeter-szilard-cikkevel-elismerte-a-kormanyzati-sorosozas-valoban-antiszemita-kampany/> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Eva S. Balogh, 'Szilard Demeter's Loathsome Attack on George Soros', in *The Hungarian Spectrum*, November 28, 2020. <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/11/28/szilard-demeters-loathsome-attack-on-george-soros/> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Eva S. Balogh, 'Orban loses key players in his match with the EU', in *The Hungarian Spectrum*, November 29, 2020. <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/11/29/orban-loses-key-players-in-his-match-with-the-eu/> . Last accessed on February 20, 2021.

and known anti-Semite, was appointed director of Kossuth radio, the government remained silent despite widespread public protests.⁸¹ Another example of the government's willingness to overlook antisemitic bias for political gain concerned the release of the National Basic Curriculum for Literature in February 2020.⁸² The 'required' reading list did not include any works by Hungary's most famous author, Nobel laureate Imre Kertész, a Jewish Holocaust survivor. However, the list did include multiple works having antisemitic content from the 1930s and 1940s by authors such as Albert Wass, Ferenc Herczeg and József Nyírő.⁸³ The government ignored the antisemitic content of these books and the protests against their inclusion by teachers and academics, since these books promoted nationalist views that the government wanted to see taught in schools.

In addition to its willingness to tolerate antisemitism, the Hungarian government is also willing to tolerate a historical distortion of WWII events in Hungary, including the Holocaust. In 2020, Hungary continued idealizing those Hungarians who fought on the

81 Eva S. Balogh, 'Antisemitic? Racist? Never Mind! Beatrix Siklósi, the New Head of Kossuth Radio, is Unstoppable', in The Hungarian Spectrum, January 7, 2020.

<https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/01/07/anti-semitic-racist-never-mind-beatrix-siklosi-the-new-head-of-kossuth-radio-is-unstoppable/>. Last accessed on February 19, 2021; 'Hihetetlen: Siklosi Beatrix került a Kossuth Radio elere', in Neokohn, January 7, 2020. <https://neokohn.hu/2020/01/07/hihetetlen-siklosi-beatrix-kerult-a-kossuth-radio-elere/>. Last accessed on February 19, 2021; Gyorgy Farkas, 'Siklosi Beatrix kinevezese miatt ujra all a bal', in 24.hu, January 8, 2020. <https://24.hu/belfold/2020/01/08/siklosi-beatrix-kossuth-radio-tiltakozas/>. Last accessed on February 19, 2021; Illes Szurovecz, 'Halmozza az antiszemita botranyokat, alhirekkel posztolja tele a Facebookot: o a Kossuth Radio uj igazgatoja', in 444.hu, January 7, 2020. <https://444.hu/2020/01/07/halmozza-az-antiszemita-botranyokat-alhirekkel-posztolja-tele-a-facebookot-o-a-kossuth-radio-uj-igazgatoja>. Last accessed on February 19, 2021; Attila Ferenc, 'Antiszemita alhirekre felkeszulni: Siklosi Beatrix a Kossuth Radio uj igazgatoja!', in Zsurpubi, January 7, 2020. <https://zsurpubi.hu/cikk/9777-antiszemita-alhirekre-felkeszulni-siklosi-beatrix-a-kossuth-radio-uj-igazgatoja/>. Last accessed on February 19, 2021.

82 Susan Rubin Suleiman, 'Jewish Nobel laureate Imre Kertesz is dumped from the Hungarian curriculum', in Tablet, February 19, 2020. <https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/arts-letters/articles/holocaust-hungary-viktor-orban>. Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Zoltan Kovacs, 'Hungarian state secretary Zoltan Kovacs responds to Tablet', in Tablet, February 21, 2020. <https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/arts-letters/articles/hungarian-state-secretary-responds>. Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Marton Dunai, 'Hungarian teachers say new school curriculum pushes nationalist ideology', in Reuters, February 4, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hungary-politics-teachers-protests/hungarian-teachers-say-new-school-curriculum-pushes-nationalist-ideology-idUSKBN1ZY28Y>. Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Edit Inotai, 'Hungary's curriculum crusade', in Balkan Insight, February 7, 2020. <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/02/07/democracy-digest-hungarys-curriculum-crusade/>. Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Katalin Madacsi-Laube, 'A new era of greatness: Hungary's new core curriculum', in Cultures of History, June 28, 2020. <https://www.cultures-of-history.uni-jena.de/politics/hungary/a-new-era-of-greatness-hungarys-new-core-curriculum/?fbclid=IwAR2ipSDIZGcPafBP0aVx5adhkprVs3gApBD0mNJfYGuxXMw-Ms1eraaHt0>. Last accessed on February 20, 2021.

83 Stephen I. Pogany, 'Multiculturalism and Propaganda: Depictions of Romanians and Jews in the Fiction of Albert Wass'. 2019, p. 1. https://www.academia.edu/39288450/Multiculturalism_and_Propaganda_Depictions_of_Romanians_and_Jews_in_the_Fiction_of_Albert_Wass. Last accessed on February 20, 2021.

side of Germany in WWII as well as those Germans who in 1944–1945 helped defend Budapest against an attack by the Red Army. On February 8, 2020, an annual neo-Nazi demonstration commemorating the failed attempt of German and Hungarian soldiers to break out of the Soviet encirclement of Budapest on February 11, 1945, took place as usual in Budapest. The demonstration was organized by two far right groups: Legio Hungaria, established in 2018, and the Hungarian Hammerskins, a group about which the press seems to know very little. In addition, Hungarian Neo-Nazis organized government-supported memorial tours, in which the participants wore swastikas and replicas of an iron cross were awarded.⁸⁴

Despite these disturbing instances, there is within the country strong resistance to the idealization of the Nazi past. Demonstrators at the above-mentioned February 8, 2020 demonstration were confronted by counterdemonstrators.⁸⁵ In Budapest District XII, Mayor Zoltán Pokorni, a member of the ruling Fidesz Party, collaborated with mayors from two other Budapest districts, belonging to the opposition, to organize a joint outdoor exhibition called “Siege 75” in February 2020. This outdoor exhibition offered an alternative interpretation of the last days of WWII to that presented by the neo-Nazi demonstrators.⁸⁶

Two anti-Fascist demonstrations also confronted the March 1, 2020 far-right march, celebrating the WWII Hungary leader Miklos Horthy.⁸⁷ Horthy, considered a hero by

84 Eva S. Balogh, ‘The day of honor: Neo-Nazi demonstrators celebrate ‘defenders of European civilization’, in The Hungarian Spectrum, February 8, 2020. <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/02/08/the-day-of-honor-neo-nazi-demonstrators-celebrate-defenders-of-european-civilization/>. Last accessed on February 20, 2021.

85 Eva S. Balogh, ‘The day of honor: Neo-Nazi demonstrators celebrate ‘defenders of European civilization’, in The Hungarian Spectrum, February 8, 2020. <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/02/08/the-day-of-honor-neo-nazi-demonstrators-celebrate-defenders-of-european-civilization/>. Last accessed on February 20, 2021.

86 Eva S. Balogh, ‘Zoltan Pokorni stands up for historical truth, shaken by his own family history’, in The Hungarian Spectrum, February 7, 2020. <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/02/07/zoltan-pokorni-stands-up-for-historical-truth-shaken-by-his-own-family-history/>. Last accessed on February 20, 2021. Edit Inotai, ‘Dark family secrets expose Hungary’s history problem’, in Balkan Insight, February 13, 2020. <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/02/13/dark-family-secrets-expose-hungarys-history-problem/>. Last accessed on February 20, 2021.

87 Eva S. Balogh, ‘Remembering Horthy’s election as Hungary’s governor, March 1, 1920’, in The Hungarian Spectrum, March 1, 2020. <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/03/01/remembering-horthys-election-as-hungarys-governor-march-1-1920/>. Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Lacko Bernath et. al. ‘Toroczkai antiszemita toposzokkal hergelte a kozonseget, a Mi Hazank horthysta megemlekezest tartott’, in Merce, March 1, 2020. <https://merce.hu/2020/03/01/antifasiszta-ellentuntetok-varjak-a-mi-hazank-horthysta-felvonulasat-budapesten/>. Last accessed on February 20, 2021; ‘Toroczkai: Hatalyon kivul fogjuk helyezni Trianont’, in Index, March 1, 2020. https://index.hu/belfold/2020/03/01/mi_hazank_betyarsereg_horthy_miklos_tuntetes/. Last accessed on February 20, 2021.

Hungarian nationalists, was also known for his antisemitic policies and for his collaboration in sending Jewish Hungarians to the camps in 1944.⁸⁸

In conclusion, while antisemitic violence is extremely rare in Hungary, the government is willing to tolerate antisemitism among its supporters, to utilize antisemitic discourse occasionally for its political goals, and to tolerate glorification of WWII Hungarian nationalists even though they fought on the side of the Nazis and took part in the Holocaust. On the other hand, there is substantial resistance in Hungary towards such tolerance, expressed through street demonstrations as well as through the press.

The Russian Federation

The Levada Center, a Russian think tank specializing in public opinion polling, concluded based on a survey of the Russian population conducted between August 20 and 26 of 2020 that although antisemitism still exists in Russia, the Jews are the least hated ethnic minority in the country.⁸⁹ In their October 2020 report, the Independent Center for Information and Analysis Sova reached a similar conclusion.⁹⁰ Yet, a study by the same Levada think tank, published in July 2020, claimed that Russian Jews are concerned about latent antisemitism within the country. Alexei Levinson, head of sociocultural research at the center and author of the report, noted that many Russian Jews attribute the small number of antisemitic attacks to Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin's refusal to tolerate antisemitism in any form. As a result, the police and the courts have taken a similar stance.⁹¹ This view was echoed by Rabbi Alexander Boroda, the head of the Federation of Russia's Jewish Communities, in a June 2020 interview with the Interfax news agency. Based on data from the US State Department, Boroda expressed serious

88 Eva S. Balogh, 'Remembering Horthy's election as Hungary's governor, March 1, 1920', in The Hungarian Spectrum, March 1, 2020. <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2020/03/01/remembering-horthys-election-as-hungarys-governor-march-1-1920/>. Last accessed on February 20, 2021; Lacko Bernath et. al. 'Toroczkai antiszemita toposzokkal hergelte a kozonseget, a Mi Hazank horthysta megemlekezest tartott', in Merce, March 1, 2020. <https://merce.hu/2020/03/01/antifasiszta-ellentuntetok-varjak-a-mi-hazank-horthysta-felvonulasat-budapesten/>. Last accessed on February 20, 2021; 'Toroczkai: Hatalyon kivul fogjuk helyezni Trianont', in Index, March 1, 2020. https://index.hu/belfold/2020/03/01/mi_hazank_betyarsereg_horthy_miklos_tuntetes/. Last accessed on February 20, 2021.

89 'Ksenophobia I natsionalizm', Levada Center. September 23, 2020, https://www.levada.ru/2020/09/23/ksenofobiya-i-natsionalizm-2/?fbclid=IwAR26L2qUWTiWw98jAnZenxYTkFsS46TqeJ-JqzE7eEU0MUUIoKFr3cu8_0I. Last accessed on February 16, 2021

90 'Otchet ob antisemitizme v Rossii. 2020, (July-September). Informatsionno-anarlicheskii center Sova. October 2020. <https://www.ru.civic-nation.org/upload/iblock/5c8/5c89380158b47b5999606a33a3162f1e.pdf>. Last accessed on February 16, 2021

91 Tara Kavalier, 'Jews in Russia Fear Low Levels of Anti-Semitism Are Temporary', in The Media Line. August 4, 2020, <https://themedialine.org/top-stories/jews-in-russia-fear-low-levels-of-anti-semitism-are-temporary/>. Last accessed on February 16, 2021

concerns about latent antisemitism in Russia. Although this data was from 2017, Rabbi Boroda believes, contrary to the findings of the Sova and the Levada Centers that the situation has not improved.⁹² Valery Engel voiced similar concerns in his article ‘Is Russia Immune to Anti-Semitism?’ published in *Fair Observer* on December 22, 2020; he argued that the low number of antisemitic events in the Russian Federation was indicative of current authorities’ commitment to fighting antisemitism rather than an actual change in the populace’s attitudes towards Jews.⁹³ Still, both Rabbi Boroda and Valery Engels acknowledge that the number of hate-based attacks against Jews in the country is miniscule.

In fact, judging by the latest data, there were no physical attacks on Jews in the Russian Federation in 2020. The most serious hate-based event of 2020 was an attempt by two members of the marginal and unregistered organization, ‘Citizens of the USSR’, to hire a killer to assassinate Yuri Tkach, the chief rabbi of the Kuban region. ‘Citizens of the USSR’ is an organization that refuses to accept the legitimacy of the Russian Federation. Its members, largely elderly, occasionally get together for protest actions. The organization is decentralized, and it is unlikely that beyond the two members who were apprehended, any other members were involved.⁹⁴ The Urals-based former priest and monk Father Sergii (Romanov), another marginal person, publicly claimed that the Jews invented the Covid-19 epidemic in order to further exploit Russians. The church, due to this and other Covid-19 pronouncements, forbade Sergii to preach.⁹⁵ While the initiators in both cases were marginal to the Russian society, their actions might be expressions of the latent

92 ‘Prezident FEOR zayavil o vysokom urovne skrytogo antisemitizma v Rossii’. In Interfax. June 15, 2020. <https://www.interfax.ru/russia/713200> . Last accessed on February 16, 2021

93 Valery Engel, ‘Is Russia Immune to Anti-Semitism?’. *Fair Observer*. December 22, 2020. <https://www.fairobserver.com/region/europe/valery-engel-russia-anti-semitism-xenophobia-trends-2020-news-16611/>. Last accessed on February 16, 2021.

94 Anna Gritsevich, ‘Analitiki sochli pokushenie na glavu kubanskikh evreev edinichnym sluchaem antisemitizma’. In *Kavkazskii uzel*. September 24, 2020. <https://www.kavkaz-uzel.eu/articles/354525/> Last accessed on February 16, 2021. ‘Na Kubani politsiia instsenirovala ubiistvo lidera evreiskoi obshchiny chtoby zaderzhat’ ‘grazhdan SSSR’ in *Polit.ru*. September 23, 2020. <https://polit.ru/news/2020/09/23/sssr/> . Last accessed on February 16, 2021.

95 ‘Sviashchennika sredneural’skogo monastyria lishili prava propovedovat’ posle otritsaniia im koronavirusa’ in *Kommersant*. April 27, 2020. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4332851> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; Ivan Zhilin, ‘Dukhovnik Pokrovskoi v khode propovedi proklial tekhn, kto zakryvaet khramy’, in *Novaya gazeta*. April 26, 2020. <https://novayagazeta.ru/news/2020/04/26/161034-duhovnik-poklonskoy-v-hode-propovedi-proklyal-teh-kto-zakryvaet-hramy> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; Milena Faustova, ‘Russkoi tserkvi dosazhdaet ne tol’ko koronavirus, no I sektanstvo’, in *Nezavisimaya gazeta*. April 27, 2020. https://www.ng.ru/faith/2020-04-27/100_faith27042020.html . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; Maria Ignatova, ‘Otetz Sergii prizval demontirovat’ vyshki 5G’, in *Kommersant*. July 21, 2020, <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4425424> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; ‘Skhimonakh Sergii potreboval ot Putina peredat’ emu vlast’’, in *Kommersant*, July 13, 2020. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4415436> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; ‘Shest’ sviashchennikov zapreshcheny v sluzhenii iz-za podderzhki skhimonakha Serii’, in *BBC*, July 14, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/russian/news-53404816>. Last accessed on February 17, 2021.

antisemitic feelings within the Russian Federation about which Jewish respondents to the Levada Center poll, as well as rabbi Boroda, expressed concern.

Latent antisemitic feelings have also occasionally found expression through attacks on property, particularly synagogues, cemeteries, and Jewish cultural centers. The police and the court system have reacted swiftly and efficiently to such cases. On April 12, 2020 an arson attack caused severe damage to a synagogue in the northwestern city of Arkhangelsk.⁹⁶ In addition, on July 28, 2020, thirty headstones and monuments of the Jewish cemetery in the Nevskij district of St. Petersburg were vandalized.⁹⁷ On September 20, 2020, the police detained a drunken neighbor who vandalized the Shamir Jewish community center in eastern Moscow while shouting antisemitic epithets. The damage was minor.⁹⁸

The Russian-Jewish Congress and the Sova Center’s Report on Antisemitism in Russia, 2020, mentioned several verbal attacks, one on Russia-1 television show and three in the press (The North-West Political News Agency), with an antisemitic subtext, insinuating that Jews have too much influence in the Russian federation.⁹⁹

96 Cnaan Liphshiz, ‘Synagogue in northern Russia badly damaged in suspected arson attack’ in The Times of Israel. April 13, 2020. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/synagogue-in-northern-russia-badly-damaged-in-suspected-arson-attack/> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; ‘Arsonists Attack Synagogue in Russia’s Northwestern City Of Arkhangelsk’ in Radio Free Europe. April 14, 2020. <https://www.rferl.org/a/arsonists-attack-synagogue-in-russia-s-northwestern-city-of-arkhangelsk/30552610.html> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; Cnaan Liphshiz, ‘Synagogue torched in northern Russia’, in The Jerusalem Post. April 14, 2020. <https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Antisemitism/Synagogue-torched-in-northern-Russia-624600> . Last accessed on February 17, 2020.

97 Liliia Kozlova, ‘Vandaly razgromili desiatki nadgrobii na Evreiskom kladbishche v Sankt-Peterburge’, in Komsomol’skaya Pravda. July 29, 2020. https://www.spb.kp.ru/online/news/3959254/?fbclid=IwAR1J89fq3xnOVbv2M3t_Yi0omQyHGT5z5y4Wz-p3AX6Qrv6gT3DKKHv1R6Q . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; Eli Nahum, ‘Vandals smashed 30 gravestones at the Jewish cemetery in St. Petersburg’ in Monitoring Antisemitism Worldwide. July 29, 2020. <https://www.antisemitism.co.il/2020/07/vandals-smashed-30-gravestones-at.html> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; ‘Oskverneny nadgrobii na Evreiskom kladbishche v Sankt-Peterburge’ in Newsru. July 29, 2020.

98 ‘Na evreiskuyu obshchinu ‘Shamir’ na vostoke Moskvy soversheno napadeniie’ in Stmegi. September 22, 2020. <https://stmegi.com/posts/83323/na-evreiskuyu-obshchinu-shamir-na-vostoke-moskvy-soversheno-napadenie>/https://www.newsru.co.il/world/29jul2020/cemetery_507.html . Last accessed on February 17, 2021. ‘Moscow Cops Arrest Man for Antisemitic Vandalism at Jewish Educational Center’ in Algemeiner. September 24, 2020. <https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/09/24/moscow-cops-arrest-man-for-antisemitic-vandalism-at-jewish-educational-center/> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; Eli Nahum, ‘Antisemitic attack on the Jewish community in eastern Moscow’ in Monitoring Antisemitism Worldwide. September 23, 2020. <https://www.antisemitism.co.il/2020/09/antisemitic-attack-on-jewish-community.html?fbclid=IwAR3V0pYXChyJ22wC-weSKU6lfCHjwbOG6bbV2sOnSnYXecLXXzFL7pzTgKQ> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021.

99 ‘Report on Antisemitism in Russia 2020’, The Russian-Jewish Congress and Sova, Center for Information and Analysis.

In addition, the press had reported that in a few cases, social media has been used to communicate antisemitic messages. The perpetrators were identified, arrested, and given short prison sentences, suspended sentences, or fined.¹⁰⁰ In another instance, a dispatcher refused to provide taxi service to a Tver resident, who said that she had just attended an exhibition on the Holocaust. The dispatcher was fired.¹⁰¹

Overall, it seems that, although some latent antisemitism exists within the country, antisemitic hate-based attacks on either persons or property are extremely rare.

Lithuania

While there were no reported cases of physical violence against individual Jews in Lithuania in 2020, a group of bikers on May 9 (Victory over Nazism Day) rode through Vilnius wearing Wehrmacht uniforms and playing Nazi marches. The Jewish Community of Lithuania filed a complaint with the police protesting this act of intimidation. In June 2020, the Jewish Community received a letter from the police notifying them that the action of the bikers was within the law. The police claimed that they found no Nazi symbols on the uniforms and no legal restrictions exist on the types of marches that can be played.¹⁰²

Beyond this act of intimidation, there were several instances in which memorials to prominent local Jewish leaders, such as Eliahu Ben-Shlomo, the Vilna Gaon (1720–1797)

100 ‘Incidents of Antisemitism in Russia I Quarter (January-March) 2020’, Sova Center for Information and Analysis. https://mcusercontent.com/bb6dbeca6a8eba1604dbc5c62/files/03ab85de-be24-4dc9-a5a4-393df5ab222c/SOVA_Report_1_quarter_2020.pdf . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; ‘V Kirove osudili eshche odnogo ekstremista’, in Newsler, February 6, 2020. <https://www.newsler.ru/incidents/2020/02/06/v-kirove-osudili-eshhe-odnogo-ekstremista>. Last accessed on February 17, 2021; ‘Otritsavshemu Holokost zhiteliu Ivanovskoi oblasti vypisali stotyasiachnyi shtraf’, in RIA Novosti. April 13, 2020. <https://ria.ru/20200413/1569961416.html> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; ‘Zhitel’ Ivanovskoi oblasti vyplatit krupnyi shtraf za otritsanie Holokosta’, in Remembrance, Research & Justice. April 27, 2020. <https://remembrance.ru/2020/04/27/zhitel-ivanovskoy-oblasti-vyplachivayet-krupnyy-shtraf-za-otritsaniye-kholokosta/> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; ‘Zhitelia Kazani arestovali na 5 sutok za vyskazyvaniia v sotssetiakh protiv evreev I urozhentsev Kavkaza’ in STMEGI. June 29, 2020. <https://stmegi.com/posts/81230/zhitelya-kazani-arestovali-na-5-sutok-za-vyskazyvaniya-v-sotssetyakh-protiv-evreev-i-urozhentsev-kav/> . Last accessed on February 17, 2021; ‘Report on Antisemitism in Russia 2020’, The Russian-Jewish Congress and Sova, Center for Information and Analysis.

101 ‘V Tveri dispatcher taksi otkazal zhenshchine iz-za vystavki v pamiat’ o zhertvakh Kolokosta’, in Tver News, January 24, 2020. ‘Incidents of Antisemitism in Russia I Quarter (January-March) 2020’, Sova Center for Information and Analysis. <https://tvernews.ru/news/254719/>. Last accessed on February 17, 2021. https://mcusercontent.com/bb6dbeca6a8eba1604dbc5c62/files/03ab85de-be24-4dc9-a5a4-393df5ab222c/SOVA_Report_1_quarter_2020.pdf. Last accessed on February 17, 2021.

102 ‘Politsiia Litvy otkazalas’ vobuzhdats’ delo protiv baikerov-neonatsistov’, in Remembrance, Research & Justice, June 23, 2020. <https://remembrance.ru/2020/06/23/vezdedoroga/>. Last accessed on February 24, 2021; ‘Lithuanian prosecutor drops anti-Semitism case against Nazi bikers on Victory Day’, in Jewish Community of Lithuania, June 2, 2020. <https://www.lzb.lt/en/2020/06/02/lithuanian-prosecutor-drops-anti-semitism-case-against-nazi-bikers-on-victory-day/>. Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

and Tsemakh Shabad, a famous local Jewish physician (1864–1935), were vandalized.¹⁰³ In addition, the 2020 struggle over the future of the capital city’s old Jewish cemetery had clear antisemitic elements. The National Tourism Business Association, the Lithuanian Tourism Association, and the Lithuanian Hotel and Restaurant Association, supported by the municipality,¹⁰⁴ wanted to construct on property that was part of the cemetery a new convention center. The Jewish community, on the other hand, protested against the anticipated desecration of Jewish graves. When Jewish protests succeeded in delaying the construction of the convention center, members of the association launched a protest action that was clearly antisemitic. They placed chairs in the cemetery on which they had taped mock 1000 Euro banknotes, thus evoking the antisemitic stereotype of the Jew as motivated solely by money.¹⁰⁵

However, the primary matter that provoked discord between the authorities and the Right on the one hand and Jewish and human rights organizations on the other had to do with the memory of the Holocaust. The Lithuanian authorities, as well as the nationalist right, wished to glorify those Lithuanian nationalists who collaborated with the Nazis during WWII, including in the murder of local Jews. Jewish organizations protested against any such glorification, as they had done in previous years.

In 2020, the State Center for the Study of Genocide and Resistance was the focus of numerous protests by various Jewish and human rights organizations. The historians, Julius Norwilla and David Katz of the Defending History Organization have described the center as ‘one of Eastern Europe’s major centers of Holocaust obfuscation, Double Genocide revisionism, and far-right whitewashing of Nazi collaborators as “anti-Soviet national heroes.”’¹⁰⁶ On June 23, 2020 (the date mistakenly celebrated by the Lithuanian far right as the day on which Lithuanians drove the Red Army out of the country), the chief

103 Mikhail Krishtal, ‘Oskverniaiut pamiatniki zhertvam Holokosta: vakhnaliaia neonatsistov v Pribaltike i na Ukraine’, in Rubaltic, July 7, 2020. <https://www.rubaltic.ru/article/politika-i-obshchestvo/07072020-oskvernayayut-pamyatniki-zhertvam-kholokosta-vakkhanaliya-neonatsistov-v-pribaltike-i-na-ukraine/>. Last accessed on February 25, 2021. <http://defendinghistory.com/vilnius-city-council-session-of-8-july-2020-a-swift-surgical-attack-on-the-old-vilna-jewish-cemetery/103225?fbclid=IwAR0sHvamemN6WvPoYAWYx0H7i88tmRP-lCvdJF3T4rD9uiWuJkdHdMdB2uQ>. Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

104 Julius Norwilla, ‘Vilnius City Council Session of 8 July 2020: A Swift, Surgical Attack on the Old Vilna Jewish Cemetery’, in Defending History, July 13, 2020.

105 ‘Prie Sporto rumu Vilniuje – tylioji turizmo verslo akcija’ in Lrytas, May 1, 2020. <https://www.lrytas.lt/bustas/architektura/2020/05/01/news/prie-sporto-rumu-vilniuje-tylioji-turizmo-verslo-akcija-14722464/>. Last accessed on February 24, 2021. <https://www.lzb.lt/en/2020/06/30/neo-nazi-terrorist-case-announced-8-months-later/>. Last accessed on February 24, 2021;

106 ‘Chief Historian of Lithuania’s State-Sponsored ‘Genocide Center’ is Key Speaker at Events Glorifying June 23rd 1941 and – Noreika and Skirpa’, in Defending History, June 23, 2020. <https://defendinghistory.com/chief-historian-of-lithuanias-state-sponsored-genocide-center-is-key-speaker-at-events-glorifying-june-23rd-1941-and-noreika-and-skirpa/102914?fbclid=IwAR3YyWRs8hJNFR6KI2Tl7aPbBQasajPeXxu22GIIeXEhV1Jco6Vsr-vVAOU>. Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

historian of the Center, Andrius Bubnys proudly spoke under a banner depicting Holocaust perpetrator Jonas Noreika and ethnic-cleansing advocate Kazys Škirpa at an event celebrating this false anniversary.¹⁰⁷ As for Jonas Noreika, he is considered a national hero, since after WWII he led the anti-Soviet resistance in Lithuania. During WWII however, he served as a Lithuanian officer under the Nazi occupation, and in that capacity, he imposed policies that isolated the Jews and took away their property. Since there is no proof that Noreika personally murdered Jews, both the State Center for the Study of Genocide and Resistance and the Lithuanian state refuse to condemn Noreika's actions.¹⁰⁸ Kazys Škirpa—also viewed as a national hero for his role in the struggle against the 1940 Soviet occupation of Lithuania, founded the Lithuanian Activist Front which in 1941 actively collaborated with the Nazis in the mass murder of Lithuanian Jews.¹⁰⁹ When at the end of 2019 city officials in Vilnius decided to change the name of an alley that had previously been named in Škirpa's honor, it prompted protests by local nationalists on January 1, 2020.¹¹⁰

The Lithuanian parliament in 2020 also proposed making 2021 the year of Juozas Lukša-Daumantas — a nationalist killed by Soviet security services in 1951, who during WWII was leader of the pro-Nazi Lithuanian Activist Front militia. According to multiple witnesses, Lukša-Daumantas actively participated in the 1941 Lietukis Garage massacre in Kaunas, where locals tortured and beat to death dozens of Jews.¹¹¹ The Jewish Community of Lithuania protested the parliamentary proposal.

107 'Chief Historian of Lithuania's State-Sponsored 'Genocide Center' is Key Speaker at Events Glorifying June 23rd 1941 and – Noreika and Skirpa', in *Defending History*, June 23, 2020. <https://defendinghistory.com/chief-historian-of-lithuanias-state-sponsored-genocide-center-is-key-speaker-at-events-glorifying-june-23rd-1941-and-noreika-and-skirpa/102914?fbclid=IwAR3YyWRs8hJNFR6K12TI7aPbBQasajPeXxu22GIIeXEhV1Jco6Vsr-vVAOU> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

108 'Souchastnik unichtozheniia evreev ostanetsia natsional' nym geroem Litvy', in *Remembrance, Research & Justice*, April 25, 2020. https://remembrance.ru/2020/04/25/souchastnik-unichtozheniya-jevreyev-ostayetsya-otkrytym-geroyem-litvy/?fbclid=IwAR04xufx8vDyzuJ3MiLxMLoIW8LxkgU9_HF-j8ir-oKUxOVWfUVic5ecaZY . Last accessed on February 24, 2021; 'Lithuania's Supreme Administrative Court Reconfirms 'National Hero' Status of Holocaust Collaborator J. Noreika', in *Defending History*, April 2, 2020. <https://defendinghistory.com/vilnius-appeals-court-rejects-challenge-to-holocaust-collaborator-j-noreikas-status-as-national-hero/102252> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

109 Milan Chersonskij, 'The other side of the 'hero's' legend, *Jerusalem of Lithuania*, No. 7-8, October-December 2009, pp. 151-152.

110 'Trispalves diena minejo ir buvusioje Kazio Skirpos vardo alejoje, kuri ir toliau kelia aistras', in *LTR*, January 1, 2020. <https://www.lrt.lt/naujienos/lietuvoje/2/1129598/trispalves-diena-minejo-ir-buvusioje-kazio-skirpos-vardo-alejoje-kuri-ir-toliau-kelia-aistras>. Last accessed on February 24, 2021; Ignas Jacauskas, 'Vilniaus valdzia nueme K. Skirpos aleja zyminti lipduka, zada kreiptis i policija', in *15 min*, January 2, 2020. <https://www.15min.lt/naujiena/aktualu/lietuva/vilniaus-valdzia-nueme-k-skirpos-aleja-zyminti-lipduka-zada-kreiptis-i-policija-56-1254372> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

111 Cnaan Liphshiz, 'In Lithuania, lawmakers want to dedicate 2021 to honoring an alleged perpetrator of Holocaust pogrom', in *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, June 2, 2020. <https://www.jta.org/2020/06/29/global/in-lithuania-lawmakers-want-to-dedicate-2021-to-honoring-alleged->

In August 2020, The Jewish Community of Lithuania also protested the decision of the state-sponsored Lithuania Genocide Museum to appoint journalist Vidmantas Valušaitis as a top advisor to the museum. According to a statement issued by the Jewish Community of Lithuania, Valusaitis “has been deliberately distorting history in his publications for several years and presenting to the public untrue facts about the antisemitic actions of the Lithuanian Activists’ Front and the Provisional Government of Lithuania” during the Holocaust’. The statement added that Valusaitis is unfit for the post because he is “openly defending anti-Semites who directly or indirectly took part in the extermination of the Jews of Lithuania.”¹¹²

In addition to appointing individuals with documented antisemitic views to institutions ostensibly dedicated to documenting the history of genocide, the state has also shown a willingness to take action against individuals who criticize the state’s glorification of Holocaust perpetrators. On August 25, 2020, the Lithuanian police arrested and planned to deport Miguel Puertas, a Spanish university lecturer working in Lithuania, for publishing writings critical of Lithuania for conferring upon alleged Holocaust perpetrators, including Jonas Noreika, state honors.¹¹³

Overall in 2020, while the number of antisemitism-based cases in Lithuania was not large, the Lithuanian nationalists’ glorification of those Lithuanian nationalists who collaborated with the Nazis and took part in the Holocaust created an ongoing tension between them on the one hand and the Jewish and human rights organizations on the other. The authorities, it seems, avoid taking a clear stand on the matter in order to avoid conflict with either side in this conflict over history.

[perpetrator-of-a-holocaust-pogrom](#) . Last accessed on February 24, 2021; Dovid Katz, ‘Will Lithuania’s parliament really name 2021 for alleged participant in LAF’s Kaunas atrocities of June 1941?’ in *Defending History*, June 29, 2020. <https://defendinghistory.com/will-lithuanias-parliament-really-name-2021-for-alleged-holocaust-collaborator-juozas-luksa/102980> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021; Kestutis Girnius, ‘Pagerbkime partizanų vada Juozas Luksa-Daumanta’, in *Delfi*, June 29, 2020. <https://www.delfi.lt/news/ringas/lit/kestutis-girnius-pagerbkime-partizanų-vada-juozas-luksa-daumanta.d?id=84639219> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021; Laurence Weinbaum, ‘Lithuania picks the wrong man to honor’, in *The JC*, July 10, 2020. https://www.thejc.com/comment/analysis/lithuania-picks-the-wrong-man-to-honour-1.501512?fbclid=IwAR3Q5IOchG1fOr8B4w8FjR_71S89q-auXa7Qie9RftHtb_Hq-lkzumhvBxw . Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

¹¹² Cnaan Liphshiz, ‘Alleged Holocaust distorter named top adviser to Lithuania genocide museum’, in *The Times of Israel*, August 27, 2020. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/alleged-holocaust-distorter-named-top-adviser-to-lithuania-genocide-museum/> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021.

¹¹³ Cnaan Liphshiz, ‘Lithuanian police holding activist who protested glorification of alleged Holocaust perpetrators’, in *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, September 1, 2020. <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021; ‘Kak v Litve izbavliaiusia ot neugodnykh grazhdan i inostrantsev: v tiur’mu ili von iz strany’, in *Baltnews*, September 1, 2020. https://baltnews.lt/vnutri_Lithuania_politika_novosti/20200901/1020159859/Kak-v-Litve-izbavlyayutsya-ot-neugodnykh-grazhdan-i-inostrantsev-v-tyurmu-ili-von-iz-strany.html . Last accessed on February 25, 2021.

Latvia

In 2020, Latvian authorities, as in previous years, heroized those Latvian nationalists who fought on the side of the Nazis in WWII and took part in the Holocaust. On May 8, 2020, in his official capacity as the Latvian Minister of Defense, Artis Pabriks honored the Latvian legionnaires of the Waffen SS by laying flowers on their graves in the Brothers' Cemetery in Lestene. The Latvian Volunteer Legion, honored by the minister in 2019 and in 2020, included members of the infamous Arajs Commando - a Latvian auxiliary police unit—that according to various sources, killed 35,000 Jews between 1944 and 1945. Several Jewish organizations published protests against the minister's actions.¹¹⁴

This was not the only incident in 2020 involving the Arajs Commando. In June 2020, the Latvian Museum of Aviation published a new edition of Herberts Cukurs's book, *Mans lidojums uz Japānu (My Flight to Japan)* about his pre-WWII career as an aviation pioneer. Unfortunately, the new edition included no preface or editorial note that mentioned Cukurs's affiliation with the Arajs Commando during World War II or his personal involvement in the murder of Jews.¹¹⁵

Romania

Speaking on Romania's National Holocaust Commemoration Day in 2020, President Klaus Iohannis warned about the rise of antisemitism and Holocaust denial during the Covid-19 pandemic.¹¹⁶ His warning is indicative of Romanian authorities' commitment to combatting antisemitism. This commitment included the 2020 appointment of Silviu Vexler as Romania's High Representative for Fighting Antisemitism, Protecting the Memory of the Holocaust, and the Development of Jewish Life.¹¹⁷

In fact, the number of antisemitism-related cases in Romania in 2020 was miniscule. Incidences included vandalism of a Holocaust memorial in Targu Mures (Transylvania)¹¹⁸

114 'Ministr oborony Latvii vozlozhil tsvety k mogilam legionerov SS', in Remembrance, Research & Justice, May 14, 2020. <https://remembrance.ru/2020/05/14/ss-mann/> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021; Evgenii Leshkovskii, 'V den' razgroma natsizma ofitsial'naya Latvija pochtila pogibshikh v Lestene', in Sputnik, May 8, 2020. <https://lv.sputniknews.ru/politics/20200508/13701733/V-den-razgroma-natsizma-ofitsialnaya-Latviya-pochtila-pogibshikh-esesovtsev-v-Lestene.html> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021.

115 Aleksandrs Feigmanis, 'New book' by Holocaust killer H. Cukurs hits Latvia's bookstores', in Defending History, June 14, 2020. <https://defendinghistory.com/new-book-by-holocaust-killer-h-cukurs-hits-latvias-bookstores/102787> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021.

116 'Romania's president warns about the rise of antisemitism during the Covid-19 pandemic', in European Jewish Congress, October 15, 2020. <https://eurojewcong.org/news/communities-news/romania/romaniias-president-warns-about-the-rise-of-antisemitism-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

117 'AJC welcomes appointment of senior Romanian official for fighting antisemitism', in Cision, March 9, 2020. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ajc-welcomes-appointment-of-senior-romanian-official-for-fighting-antisemitism-301020098.html> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

118 'Hataron tul: Ismeretlen tettesek megrongaltak a marosvasarhelyi holokauszt emlékművet', in Mazsihisz, September 14, 2020. <https://mazsihisz.hu/hirek-a-zsido-vilagbol/kozelet/hataron-tul-ismeretlen->

and inappropriate remarks made by Francis Dobos, the spokesperson for the archdiocese of Bucharest. During his filmed Easter greeting, Dobos spoke about how Jesus’s disciples had feared the Jews and compared this fear to the contemporary fear of the Coronavirus. The MCA Romanian Center for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism risked equating Jews with the virus. Although Dobos denied this was his intended meaning and apologized for his words, the archdiocese released him from his post as spokesperson.¹¹⁹

Bulgaria

On June 24, 2020, Ekaterina Zaharieva, the foreign minister of Bulgaria, pointed out during a video conference call with the board of directors of the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry that the Bulgarian government pursues a consistent policy against antisemitism, xenophobia, and hate speech. Zaharieva also stated that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working on the first Bulgarian national action plan against antisemitism.¹²⁰ Indeed, on February 10, 2020, Bulgaria’s Attorney General Ivan Geshev applied to the Sofia City Court to de-register the Bulgarian National Union Edelweiss, as an NGO; the paramilitary organization sponsors the annual Lukov March, a torchlit procession of rightwing extremists and neo-Nazis.¹²¹ Authorities also canceled the 2020 march.¹²²

The number of reported cases of antisemitism in 2020 was miniscule. Antisemitic incidents included vandalism of graves in Shoumen Jewish cemetery¹²³ and a bizarre conspiracy theory advanced by the Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister Krassimir Karakachanov. Karakachanov accused NGOs backed by the Hungarian-born Jewish philanthropist and financier George Soros of wanting to take power in order to introduce

[tetesek-megrongaltak-a-marosvasarhelyi-holokauszt-emlekmuvet](https://www.antisemitism.co.il/2020/09/holocaust-memorial-in-targu-mures-was.html) . Last accessed on February 24, 2021; Eli Nahum, ‘Holocaust memorial in Targu Mures was damaged’, in Monitoring Antisemitism Worldwide, September 14, 2020. <https://www.antisemitism.co.il/2020/09/holocaust-memorial-in-targu-mures-was.html> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

119 Cnaan Liphshiz, ‘Romanian priest accused of equating Jews with virus says he was misinterpreted’, in The Times of Israel, April 15, 2020. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/romanian-priest-accused-of-equating-jews-with-virus-says-he-was-misinterpreted/> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021; Cnaan Liphshiz, ‘Archdiocese of Bucharest replaces spokesperson accused of equating Jews with virus’, in Jewish Telegraphic Agency, April 24, 2020. <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

120 ‘Foreign minister: Bulgarian government consistent against antisemitism, hate speech’, in The Sofia Globe, June 25, 2020. <https://sofiaglobe.com/2020/06/25/foreign-minister-bulgarian-government-consistent-against-antisemitism-hate-speech/> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021;

121 ‘World Jewish Congress welcomes court action against organizers of Lukov march’, in The Sofia Globe, February 14, 2020. <https://sofiaglobe.com/2020/02/14/world-jewish-congress-welcomes-court-action-against-organisers-of-lukov-march/> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021;

122 ‘Cancellation of 2020 Lukov march welcomed’, in The Sofia Globe, February 23, 2020. <https://sofiaglobe.com/2020/02/23/cancellation-of-2020-lukov-march-welcomed/> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

123 ‘Bulgaria: tombstones vandalized in Jewish cemetery dating back to the 19th century’, in Behind the News, January 17, 2020. <https://btnews.online/archives/116792/bulgaria-tombstones-vandalized-in-jewish-cemetery-dating-back-to-the-19th-century/> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

gay marriage.¹²⁴ Soros is a favorite target of the European far right and is routinely accused of promoting various causes on the liberal agenda in order to weaken and take control of Europe.

Slovenia

In 2020, there were important legal developments, pertaining to the Nazi era, in Slovenia. In January, an unnamed grandchild of the notoriously antisemitic General Leon Rupnik, succeeded in persuading the country's Supreme Court to annul the death sentence imposed on him in 1946 on the grounds that the 'military tribunal which tried him had been procedurally inadequate'. In theory, the invalidation of the indictment could have led to the case being sent to a lower court for retrial. However, a retrial would require Rupnik's presence in court—an impossibility given the defendant is dead. The Slovenian government, in any case, issued a statement stating that the annulment does not constitute a rehabilitation of Rupnik, who is still considered a war criminal. Still, the Wiesenthal Center, as well as Slovenian Jewish organizations, have protested the court's decision. Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, former senior consultant on constitutional affairs to the British Policy Exchange, expressed concern that the annulment may open the possibility of challenging all trials against war criminals conducted immediately after the war, including the ones at Nuremberg. He proposes that if the Slovenian Constitutional Court declines to review and reverse the verdict of the country's Supreme Court, an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg should be made.¹²⁵

Croatia

Menachem Z Rosensaft, the associate executive vice president and general counsel of the [World Jewish Congress](#), published an article on June 25, 2020 in the British newspaper The Independent on the rise of the Croatian fascist movement. The author claims that for some time now in Croatia, there have been widespread efforts to rehabilitate and legitimize the WWII ultranationalist and separatist movement Ustaša by characterizing it and its members as patriots. The movement murdered hundreds of thousands of Serbs

124 'Bulgarian deputy PM spreads antisemitic conspiracy myth involving George Soros', in World Jewish Congress, August 12, 2020. <https://www.worldjewishcongress.org/en/news/bulgarian-deputy-pm-spreads-antisemitic-conspiracy-myth-involving-george-soros-8-3-2020> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

125 Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, 'Slovenia attempts to rewrite its wartime pro-Nazi history', in The Article, June 25, 2020. https://www.thearticle.com/slovenia-attempts-to-rewrite-its-wartime-pro-nazi-history?fbclid=IwAR3nxptphkgeONLikoKTnFNG_QxwYsMMbmst-Xl9yUYv8ExWD0GZfVR1wQ . Last accessed on February 25, 2021; 'WWII Slovene Nazi Rupnik not Guilty on Technicality, Will Not Be Rehabilitated, Heirs May Claim Property', in Total Slovenia News, June 11, 2020. <https://www.total-slovenia-news.com/politics/5343-ww2-slovene-nazi-rupnik-not-guilty-on-technicality-will-not-be-rehabilitated-heirs-may-claim-property> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021; Cnaan Liphshiz, 'Slovenian court voids executed Nazi collaborator's 1946 treason conviction', in The Times of Israel, January 15, 2020. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/slovenian-court-voids-executed-nazi-collaborators-1946-treason-conviction/> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021.

and tens of thousands of Jews, as well as many Roma and Croatian anti-fascists. Rosensaft asserts that Croatian authorities have largely turned a blind eye to the reintegration of Ustaša terminology into the country's contemporary culture and by extension, into the broader Croatian political mindset. The most notable exception to this trend has been Zoran Milanović, Croatia's president, who had often protested publicly against the legitimization of Ustaša.¹²⁶ For example, on May 1, 2020, Milanović walked out of a state wreath-laying ceremony, because at least one participant was wearing a t-shirt with a slogan used by Ustaša during WWII. Other top officials, including conservative Prime Minister Andrej Plenković, stayed.¹²⁷

Serbia

There were no reports on antisemitism-based cases in 2020 Serbia. In fact, Alexander Vucic, the president of Serbia, flew a flag, featuring the Star of David and the word "Jude" over his official residence to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 21, 2020. He tweeted a picture of the flag flying alongside the Serbian national flag with the following message in Serbian and English: "This badge was a symbol of the attempted destruction of the Jews by the Nazis. Now it is a symbol of honor. 75 years after. Never again."¹²⁸

Bosnia

On May 11, 2020 the press reported protests from both Jewish organizations and the embassy of Israel in Bosnia against a decision of the archbishop of the Catholic Church of Bosnia Vinco Puljić to host a memorial service for members of the Croat pro-Nazi Ustaša militia. The Ustaša members were active perpetrators of the Holocaust. The ceremony

126 Menachem Z. Rosensaft, 'Croatia's fascist movement is on the rise yet again', in Independent, June 25, 2020. <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/croatia-fascism-nazi-ustasa-sasenovac-antisemitism-zoran-milanovic-a9583146.html> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021; Sven Milekic, 'Business as usual: Croatia's denial of Ustasa crimes', in The Sofia Globe, July 9, 2020.

127 'Croatian president Milanovic protests WWII Ustasha slogan', in DW, May 1, 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/croatian-president-milanovic-protests-wwii-ustasha-slogan/a-53305754> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021; 'Croatia president quits state ceremony in protest at Nazi-era salute', in Euractiv, May 1, 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/croatia-president-quits-state-ceremony-in-protest-at-nazi-era-salute/> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021.

128 Donna Rachel Edmunds, 'Serbia flies yellow-badge flag to honor Holocaust victims', in The Jerusalem Post, January 21, 2020. <https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Antisemitism/Serbia-flies-yellow-badge-flag-to-honor-holocaust-victims-614786> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021; Marcy Oster, 'Serbian president flies Star of David flag to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day', The Times of Israel, January 22, 2020. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/serbian-president-flies-star-of-david-flag-to-mark-holocaust-remembrance-day/> . Last accessed on February 24, 2021.

took place in Sarajevo on May 16, 2020 and thousands of Bosnians demonstrated against it.¹²⁹

Moldova

On October 31, 2020 at least five headstones were smashed at the Jewish cemetery in Chisinau, Moldova. Swastikas, a pentagram and the number 666 (symbolizing Satan) were spray painted on other headstones. The Moldova Jewish community points out that this cemetery has been targeted for three years in a row.¹³⁰

On a positive note, in 2020, the 2016 program Likrat Moldova that addresses antisemitism was still successfully operating. The program entails Jewish teens going to local schools to dispel antisemitic stereotypes.¹³¹

Albania

The Albanian government is highly committed to fighting Anti-Semitism and thus, on October 28, 2020, proudly hosted “The Balkans Forum against Anti-Semitism.” The forum was organized by Albania’s Parliament in partnership with the New York-based Combat Anti-Semitism Movement (CAM) and the Jewish Agency for Israel. Regional top leaders, US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and other officials from the Balkans, Europe and the United States participated in the forum.¹³²

129 ‘Bosnian Catholic cardinal to honor Nazi collaborators in memorial service’, in The Times of Israel, May 14, 2020. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bosnian-catholic-cardinal-to-honor-nazi-collaborators-in-memorial-service/> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021; Cnaan Liphshiz, ‘Bosnian Catholic cardinal plans to honor Nazi collaborators in memorial service’, in Jewish Telegraphic Agency, May 13, 2020. <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021; ‘Israel learns it’s dangerous to equate victims and perpetrators of Ustasha crimes’, in Total Croatia News, May 11, 2020. <https://www.total-croatia-news.com/politics/43522-ustasha> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021.

130 Cnaan Liphshiz, ‘Headstones smashed at Jewish cemeteries in Moldova and Hungary’, in Jewish Telegraphic Agency, November 3, 2020. <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021.

131 Larry Luxner, ‘In Moldova, Jewish teens go to schools to dispel anti-Semitic stereotypes’, in Jewish Telegraphic Agency, February 6, 2020. <https://www.jta.org/2020/02/06/global/in-moldova-jewish-teens-go-to-schools-to-dispel-anti-semitic-stereotypes> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021.

132 Llazar Semini, ‘Albania hosts online Balkan anti-Semitism forum’, in AP, October 28, 2020. <https://apnews.com/article/race-and-ethnicity-virus-outbreak-albania-anti-semitism-edi-rama-ea7d0e10e4a3e1fba6e347dd9f5d2d5b> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021; ‘President of Albania’s Jewish Community: ‘Tirana is the Jerusalem of the Balkans’’, in Exit News, October 2, 2020. <https://exit.al/en/2020/10/29/president-of-albanias-jewish-community-tirana-is-the-jerusalem-of-the-balkans/> . Last accessed on February 25, 2021.

LATIN AMERICA / Lidia Lerner

Jews in Latin America are generally well integrated in their respective countries and, with the exception of “Chavist” Venezuela, do not suffer from official discrimination. Most Latin American countries have adopted legal instruments prohibiting discrimination and hate speech and protecting minorities, and authorities in general attempt to enforce measures protecting these rights.

Although antisemitism persists in some Latin American countries, it is not as serious as in other regions. In contrast to developments in Europe and other parts of the world, and despite the two major Iranian-backed terrorist attacks which took place in Argentina in the 1990s, antisemitism in Latin America today remains mostly in the “virtual world”. Many, though not all, antisemitic manifestations and incidents are linked to the conflict in the Middle East.

There is in Latin America a tradition of nationalistic, Catholic-based, traditional antisemitism. Antisemitic manifestations emanate from the conservative, nationalist right and from populist circles on the left, in addition to Muslim militant groups. While “classical” antisemitism has diminished, there has been a significant increase in the “new antisemitism” directed against the State of Israel and Jews in general, who are considered Israeli instruments and accused of double loyalty.

2020 was characterized by the outbreak of the coronavirus. The pandemic had its impact on antisemitic manifestations in Latin America, as in other regions. In some cases, it led to a rise in conspiracy theories and blood libels blaming the Jews, or Zionists, for the dissemination and even creation of Covid-19. HispanTV, the Iranian Spanish language satellite network, systematically accused Israel and the Zionists of masterminding the pandemic. These accusations were picked up by anti-Israeli groups in South America, which repeated accusations such as blaming Israel for propagating the virus among Palestinian prisoners. One example: the “zoom bombing” of a zoom meeting of the Argentinian branch of the World Zionist Organization on June 8, 2020 by a group of young people who were masturbating and sharing images of swastikas. On the other hand, isolation had its impact on the number of incidents in the “real world”.

Despite the fact that the last decades have seen a progressive rise in antisemitism in Latin America, an interesting phenomenon was noted in a report on online antisemitism in Spanish published by the monitoring “Observatorio Web”: in 2020 only 3% of results related to “Jew” were found to be antisemitic, while in 2016 the number reached 30%. However, Spanish is the second most popular language on Facebook, where 30% of the content related to Jews in 2020 is antisemitic.

One should not, however, speak about antisemitism in Latin America as a whole. There is a big difference between the various countries, some of which are or were home to

significant Jewish communities, like Argentina, Mexico and Venezuela, while in others the communities are very small or non-existent. There is also a vast difference between the numbers and characteristics of antisemitic incidents recorded in each country. The country causing the most concern today is Chile, with its large and radical Palestinian community, where the head of the Jewish community expressed concern over the possibility of a rise of violence between the two communities.

An important development is the adoption of the IHRA Definition of antisemitism by some countries in Latin America, such as Argentina (June 2020) and Uruguay (January 2020).

Argentina / Marisa Braylan

During 2020, the DAIA (Delegation of Argentinian Jewish Communities) received around 500 complaints on antisemitic acts (compared to 920 in 2019). These are only approximate numbers since to date the registry of cases corresponding to this period has not yet been finalized.

Undoubtedly the pandemic and mandatory isolation have framed the antisemitic events of 2020. The media and especially the social networks echoed conspiracy theories present in more traditional antisemitism, blaming the Jews for actually creating the virus and spreading it worldwide.

Various notes published in the media, linked to the dissemination of information on the advance of the Coronavirus, were a source of input for Judeophobic voices.

One of the most notable incidents concerns a program on the C5N news channel, hosted by journalist Tomás Méndez. A pseudo-investigation was described, attempting to demonstrate that some Jewish community, influential in the world of politics and economics, was responsible for the creation of Covid-19 and its subsequent introduction in China, appealing in this way to long-standing antisemitic prejudices.

Following the rejection of this claim by a large part of society and its condemnation by DAIA and INADI (National Institute Against Discrimination) a few hours later, the news station distanced itself from the report and renounced the message as clearly discriminatory. The journalist also apologized to the entire Jewish community for his words and the content of the report. The damage, however, had already been done: the antisemitism latent in parts of Argentinian society was activated and became widespread. Hundreds of antisemitic comments appeared over the following hours in the communication forums of the different media and on social networks.

During 2020, complaints were also filed against various extreme right groups, some of them national in scope, that wove lies and spread hate messages through the social

networks. Such groups participated in various marches against social isolation in different parts of Argentina, bearing antisemitic signs and slogans.

An important point to be made is that during the period of this study, the number of reported cases that were effectively prosecuted was double those prosecuted in 2019. There were just over 40 cases effectively brought to justice as cases of antisemitism under the Anti-Discrimination Law. This leads to the conclusion that even though no significant increase in cases was recorded, the levels of violence and their severity did intensify.

Finally, we must note that, as has been happening for some years now, the largest number of reported events occurred in virtual space.

Brazil / Samuel Feldberg

Brazil's media has been dominated this year, as elsewhere in the world, by the Covid-19 pandemic and the measures to combat it.

Unfortunately, in Brazil the federal government has managed the pandemic very poorly, generating a political dispute with governors and mayors of the main states and cities.

As often happens in such cases, a scapegoat is presented for the failures and antisemitic manifestations have been part of this phenomenon.

It doesn't help that Brazil's president, who has denied the importance of social distancing, the use of masks and quarantines when necessary, is an ardent lover of Israel. As a result, Israel and its symbols were linked to absolutely non-related political arguments.

For example, Evangelical churches, supporters of the president and of Israel, have denied the importance of the pandemic, keeping the churches open for multitudes of worshippers and, obviously, spreading the virus.

In March 2021, when it became known that a team at Ichilov hospital in Tel Aviv had developed what seemed to be an effective drug for the virus, the Brazilian president immediately sent a 10-member delegation to check the news, even though the drug had only been tested in 30 patients. This generated a wave of protest, for important resources were being wasted, instead of concentrating on the vaccination campaign and providing financial support to those who need it.

There have also been several instances of comparing the measures against Covid-19 with the Nazi regime, and social distancing with concentration camps - mostly by people who have no idea what they are talking about. Terms like "Gestapo measures" taken against the population and "Arbeit macht frei" to criticize the lockdown appeared several times in social media.

Religious authorities compared Brazil to “an open gas chamber”, and then retracted their comments. The Brazilian Jewish Confederation protested strongly against all these expressions and took the proper legal action when possible.

In spite of all this, Brazil is a very tolerant society and antisemitism is a relatively mild phenomenon. During 2020 there were no physical attacks against members of the Jewish community and most incidents were internet-related.

In the pages attached to this report you can follow the events that occurred throughout the year.

Colombia

On April 28th, 2020 Colombian radio station Sigue La W revealed audio recordings in which Carlos Fajardo, representative of Coper (a municipality of Boyaca, Colombia) allegedly sent antisemitic WhatsApp voice messages to a third person stating: “We use brands as a way to resist these Jewish dogs, in Coper there are Jews and I’m not going to tell you who they are, big-nosed and long-eared, we don’t want these Jewish dogs, look who dressed the Nazis (...) I have a pistol worth the lives of many probes, an SS pistol.” Willinton Cortés, a former candidate for the Council of Coper, also said that Fajardo approached him on business premises in the municipality, calling him “Jewish, Peasant”.

Chile

Although today Chile is considered by many to be a model of democracy and human rights in Latin America, the situation of the Jewish community in Chile continues to cause rising concern. Chile exhibits the highest levels in Latin America of antisemitism disguised as anti-Zionism, fueled by the Palestinian Federation, which is the largest Palestinian community outside the Arab world. Delegitimization of Zionism and demonization of Israel are growing, fostered by Chile's BDS movement, which is the strongest in all Latin America.

During 2020, a series of events took place, which caused serious concern in the Jewish community.

One of the most serious events was the Chilean Senate’s endorsement, in July 2020, of a resolution calling on President Sebastián Piñera to adopt a law boycotting goods from West Bank settlements and banning commercial activity with companies that operate there, as well as companies “involved in the violation of humanitarian international law”.

In addition, on October 10, a march in Las Condes (a municipality in Chile’s Santiago province) protesting against a new constitution, included a strong presence of the neo-

Nazi group “Rechazo”. Some participants carried Nazi symbols and slogans and made Hitler salutes. Others raised flags with swastikas or wore shirts with the initials ATP, short for the slogan “Aún Tenemos Patria” - “We still have a homeland”, used by the nationalist anti-immigration movement whose motto is “Chile for Chileans”.

Another serious incident: Daniel Jadue, Governor of the Recoleta province, shared conspiracy theories with antisemitic content on his Twitter account and in several interviews. In a radio interview on July 5, Jadue said that some of the “alternative media in the country are being bought by the Zionist community of Chile”.

During the second week of December 2020, a student at the Universidad de Chile presented a project in an English class declaring that Hitler was a great leader and “we should be inspired by him”. Some Palestinian leaders in Chile have nicknamed COVID-19 the “Zion Virus”.

Gerardo Gorodischer, president of the Chilean Jewish community, complained that the Palestinian community is using the opportunity to enhance discrimination against the Jewish community and expressed concern over the possibility of rising violence between the country’s Jewish and Palestinian communities.

Peru

On April 4th, 2020 Peruvian Member of Parliament José Barba Caballero made an antisemitic joke on his Twitter account reacting to the restrictions caused by the global Coronavirus pandemic: “In Israel, the quarantine has been a great success. The police went around with moneyboxes and no Jew was left on the streets”.

Uruguay

On May 20th, 2020 Uruguayan magazine La Verdad published an editorial on the internal political situation in Uruguay stating that Uruguayan President “Lacalle Pou does not respond to the sacrosanct people, but to the true bosses (mandamases) of our country...: the Jews”.

Venezuela / Based on a report by Beatriz W. de Rittigstein

Antisemitism in Venezuela comes directly from the top, from government circles, which promote and encourage antisemitic manifestations - often disguised as anti-Zionism or anti-Israeli policies, and frequently linked to events in the Middle East as well as internal developments. Antisemitism in Venezuela has increased since the ascent of Hugo Chávez and his successor Nicolás Maduro to the presidency.

During 2020, senior officials continued to manifest antisemitic attitudes. These officials include: President Nicolás Maduro himself; Vice President Delcy Rodríguez and her brother Jorge Rodríguez, current president of the National Assembly and former Minister of Communications; Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza who continued to promote antisemitic campaigns on the web, including through official networks; Tareck El Aissami, appointed Minister of Petroleum, accused of drug trafficking by the US judicial system, and considered the link between Hezbollah and Venezuela. Diosdado Cabello, number two in the regime, who wields great power, also began utilizing antisemitism as a political tool. Through his television program "Con el mazo dando" he accuses any opposition member of Jewish origin, such as Henrique Capriles, David Smolansky and Ricardo Hausmann, of being a "representative of Zionism". The state media, including TeleSur, VTV, RNV, Aporrea, Correo del Orinoco, Ciudad Caracas, Diario Vea, Ultimas Noticias, also promote antisemitism. In addition, the government maintains a significant number of accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram managed by both employees and robots, which promote campaigns against Israel.

Venezuela maintains a close relationship with the Palestinian Authority, as well as Iran and other Muslim countries. It has a large and influential Arab population, some members of which occupy prominent positions in the government. The official site of the Union of Palestinian Youth in Venezuela posts aggressive tweets such as "Here I add a progressive map of Palestine for those who do not know the subject, which shows how the Zionist racist genocidal colonialist movement, supported by the British Empire and now with the support of the United States, occupied Palestine through massacres and ethnic cleansing". Several Venezuelans of Arab origin display all kinds of antisemitic prejudice. One of them is Basem Tajeldine who publishes daily interviews on Hispan TV, on various far-left pages, on his own blog and on social networks, always referring to Israel as "#IsraHell".

A new character appeared on the antisemitic scene during 2020: Hugo Moyer Agostini, chemical engineer. In his daily column on the Chavista Aporrea website, Moyer lashes out furiously against the State of Israel, demonizing it as the supreme evil in the world, basing his arguments on Hispan TV and various well-known antisemitic writers. For instance, in *Aporrea*, 29/02/2020, under the title "The Secret Revealed", he writes that "I am aware that I am gambling when I insist that behind what happens in Venezuela stands not only, nor fundamentally, Donald Trump, the CIA or the State Department and to a lesser extent, Pence, Bolton or Abrams (who is probably of Jewish origin as a good part of President Trump's advisers, including his son-in-law and even his daughter who assumed Judaism as a religious faith and I do not doubt that, as her father and her husband, is a fan of Zionism). They are simple 'puppets' of a triadic world game.... That is hard to ...understand for those who do not have enough information, defend Zionist interests... beyond the appearances that are deliberately created by the world media controlled by Zionism and

its allies in Europe, America and the world”. He also accuses Israel of participating in the attempted coup d'état against President Hugo Chávez. He cites Tajeldine, accusing the Jewish community of staging the attack on the Tiferet Israel Synagogue in 2009. Finally, he refers to the annual reports on antisemitism in Venezuela published by the Jewish community, accusing the community of interfering in Venezuela, by various means (media, economic, religious, and political) and being involved in coup attempts not only in Venezuela and Colombia, but even in the US and in Israel itself.

Emilio Silva, professor at the Venezuelan Bolivarian University, published in 2020 a series of antisemitic notes in the official Diario VEA. The first of these appeared on June 11, 2020, under the title “Zionism and Nazism: Two Sides of the Same Coin”. This was followed by over 15 notes in which Silva manipulated historical facts to demonstrate a non-existent relationship between Zionism and Nazism.

Despite the above, antisemitism has not permeated Venezuelan society. Seen as manipulation by those who caused the great tragedy that affects Venezuelans, it does not arouse sympathy among ordinary citizens. The political, economic and humanitarian crisis the country is going through has had its impact on the Jewish community, and the vast majority has left the country, but there is still a very active community which strives to keep the institutions functioning.

Mexico

Antisemitism has never been an official policy in Mexico and the Government does not support discrimination nor violent acts. Since 2003 the country has an Antidiscrimination Law that considers Antisemitism as a discriminatory action. Nevertheless, Antisemitic incidents, especially in mass and social media appear frequently.

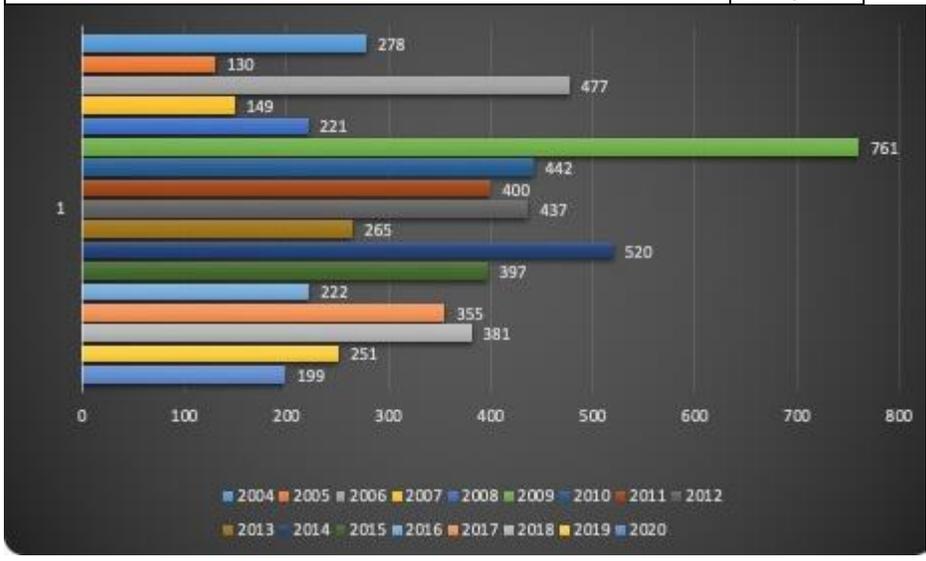
2020 was a different year due to the Covid-19 pandemic that gave way to the manifestation of conspiracy theories. Nevertheless, as in previous years, in Mexico the Israeli-Palestinian conflict triggered most of the negative arguments and Antisemitic manifestations.

Social networks, mainly Twitter, were the space where Antisemitic and anti-Zionist arguments were more active, including both trends as well as isolated messages based on economic, racial and political stereotypes. Antisemitic stereotypes described Jews as powerful and owners of the money and used derogatory terms to refer to Jews.

This year negative articles in the traditional media decreased compared to previous years, however, as happened in other countries, Antisemitism in social media increased. In order to monitor this phenomena Tribuna Israelita keeps track and identifies the sources, the arguments and the “influencers”.

Incidents		
Graffiti (swastikas, flags, flyers, etc.)		2
Verbal aggressions or threats		4
Sale of Nazi memorabilia		1
Sale of Antisemitic literature		1
Radio, TV and Internet		1
Total		9
Support for the Palestinian cause		
Events (conferences, seminars, interviews, etc.)		7
Gatherings (demonstrations, rallies, etc.)		5
Support of groups or politicians		2
Others		3
Total		17
Written Media		
Neutral articles (including, op-eds, cartoons and letters to the editors)		2,270
Negative articles (including op-eds, cartoons and letters to the editors)		199
Positive articles (including op-eds, cartoons and letters to the editors)		16
Total		2485
Social Media		
Neutral mentions		257,249
Negative mentions		201,896
Total		459,145

Negative articles in the Mexican press: 2004-2019



Social Media

WORD CLOUD  Filters are not being applied to all sources
Jan 13, 2019 - Dec 31, 2019



Top Negative Keywords

civiles palestinos derechista neoliberal... verdadero enemigo
demolida de madrug... sionista de mierda criminal ratero
palestinos presos insecto lavador de... palestina de abu
hipócrita bastardo sionista de basura... stand up imparable avance
lavado de dinero **sionista de porquer...** igual de inepto
mexico basura familias ratas lavadora de dinero...
cínico ratero libertad de expresi... lavador de dinero
supuesto encuentro... vulgar ladrón fauna de antihijo de puta
patrón de comportam... criminal hijo desplantes de sober...

Some events that took place in Mexico this year generated Antisemitic *and* anti-Zionist reactions mainly in the social media platforms:

1. Annual International Day of Commemoration of the Victims of the Holocaust
 - On January 27th, the Senate of the Republic broadcast live through its Facebook page the Annual Commemoration Act in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust and in Memory of Don Gilberto Bosques Saldívar. (<https://www.facebook.com/SenadoMexico/videos/212075216619078/>).
 - Although the majority of the comments expressed were of solidarity, several negative messages were also exposed:

-  **Pablo Genaro Mejía Martínez**
 Claudia Galindo la misma película, diferentes protagonistas. □ → Same movie, different characters
-  **Bernardo Agustín**
 No veo a los hipócritas judíos sionistas llorar por las atrocidades que hacen al pueblo Palestino y los veo llorar como Magdalenas por lo que les pasó en la 2da. guerra mundial. → I don't see the hypocrite Zionist Jews crying about the atrocities they commit against the Palestinian people and I see them cry like Magdalenas for what happened to them in WWII
-  **Isidro Torres**
 A ver... Quien mato a los judios?? Los Alemanes... Por que los palestinos tienen que pagar los platos rotos?? VIVA PALESTINA LIBRE!! MUERA EL ESTADO TERRORISTA-SIONISTA DE ISRAEL!! → Let's see... Who killed the Jews?... The Germans. Why do the Palestinian people have to suffer the consequences? LONG LIVE PALESTINE!! DEATH TO THE TERRORIST-ZIONIST OF ISRAEL!!

2. The “Deal of the Century”, Peace Plan to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict presented by the President of the United States, Donald Trump

- The news of the presentation of the peace plan for the Middle East by the President of the United States, Donald Trump, on January 28, generated negative arguments and messages as well as activities in support of the Palestinian cause.
- On January 28th, Alfredo Jalife-Rahme, known for his anti-Zionist and Antisemitic rhetoric, criticized Trump's initiative, and uploaded to his Facebook page the map proposed by the peace plan along with the saying “A map that says it all” (https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2158443084258953&id=106534119449870) generating many negative posts from his followers:



- 

Noe Ruiz
 Pero que lastima que los judios no hallan aprendido la lección siguen matando a miles de niños mujeres y hombres inocentes en gasa

→ What a pity that Jews have not learned their lesson, they continue to kill thousands of children, innocent women and men in Gaza
- 

Calo Lopez
 Hipócritas el único holocausto que existe es el de q los asesinos israelíes matan y quitan sus tierras a los palestinos

→ Hypocrites, the only Holocaust that exists is that of the Israeli murderers killing Palestinians and taking their lands.
- 

Hector Ramon Torres Jimenez
 porque nada mas judios...es una falta de respeto para todos los demas que murieron en la misma guerra...ademas el holocausto judio debe ser cuestionado y no celebrado.

→ Why only the Jews ... it is a lack of respect for all the others who died in the same war ... the Jewish Holocaust must be questioned and not celebrated.
- 

Nery Romero Rojas
 y ahora los judios se portan igual que los nazis

→ And now the Jews behave like the Nazis

Support for the Palestinian cause was promoted mostly through social networks by the BDS Mexico group on Facebook, despite the fact that BDS is not strong in the country. As in previous years, the most common negative arguments were: The policies of the State of Israel towards the Palestinians, described as “oppressive, occupying, genocidal, superior in force”; the special relationship between Israel and the United States; the idea of victims turned into perpetrators.



PALESTINE IS NOT *FOR* SALE
PALESTINE IS OF THE PALESTINIAN *PEOPLE*
SAY NO TO THE DEAL OF THE CENTURY

What is the deal of the Century and why should we reject it?

Come with us and we will stop together the genocide of the Palestinian people.

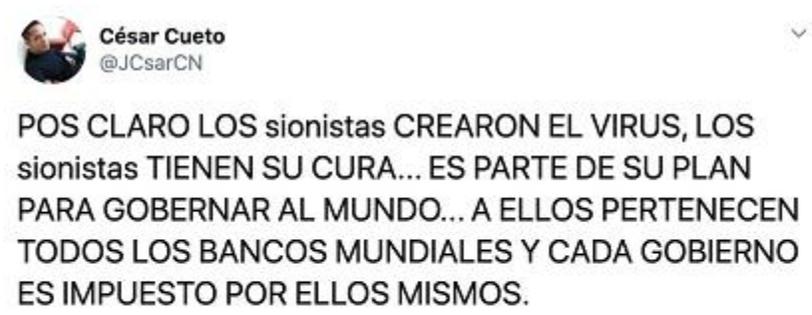
3. Coronavirus

Since March, the health emergency caused by the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic has generated, mainly on social media, a series of negative, Antisemitic and anti-Zionist messages:

a. In the social media some users blamed the Jews for the pandemic



The Coronavirus, is a virus invented by the Zionists in the USA. It is a simple cough. The real *pandemic* is called Jews. This is a lethal virus that has for 5,000 years killed goyim, animals and everything else according to the vibration of the Universe.



Of course, the Zionists created the virus and the Zionists have the cure... This is part of their plan to rule the world... They own all the world banks and they *impose* on every government.



Israel announces they discovered the cure for Covid-19. This would be excellent news

2:27 p. m. - 6 may. 2020 - Twitter Web App



There are videos *that* show that the Coronavirus is a Jewish invention to exterminate a big part of the population... I believe them.

b. Negative comments made by Influencers

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 emergency, the actress Patricia Navidad - who has 161,500 followers on Twitter - known for her beliefs in Antisemitic and anti-Zionist conspiracy theories, has been stating on her account that the "Coronavirus Covid-19 is not a pandemic, but it is actually a Zionist manipulation and a coup led by George Soros in conjunction with Bill and Melinda Gates, the UN, the World Health Organization and others".



c. Activities in support of the Palestinian cause that took place in other countries, were promoted by zoom in Mexico.





4. Visit of Marcos Shabot, President of the Central Committee of the Jewish Community of Mexico's in Washington as part of the group of businessmen who accompanied Mexican President López Obrador

By invitation of the Mexican President, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, Marcos Shabot, President of the Central Committee of the Jewish Community of Mexico, was part of the group of Mexican businessmen who accompanied the President on his visit to Washington DC. on July 8th and 9th. Due to the nature of the trip, this topic occupied considerable space both in the national press and on social networks.

On Twitter, the following negative mentions were detected regarding the participation of Shabot in the trip:



The Jewish Community can fuck up



ALEJANDRO MAYA @ALEJAND31528683 · 8 jul.
En respuesta a @PatyArmendariz @LOVREGA y @lopezobrador_
Hmmmmm los judíos es tema aparte. Viva Palestina libre.

Hmmmmmm Jews are another issue.

Live free Palestine

5. Volkswagen case

On September 5th, Fernanda Martinez published on her Twitter account a photograph of the official presentation of the first Volkswagen model, created during the Third Reich. The picture, in which Adolph Hitler is surrounded by swastikas as well as members of the Nazi government, was exhibited in a Volkswagen concessionaire in *Mexico City*. She posted: "Dear @Volkswagen_MX, sadness and deep concern these photos that are an apology for racism".



The Jewish Community complained, and Volkswagen Mexico and the German Embassy condemned the incident, and the photos were taken down.

ARAB COUNTRIES / Yarden Ben-Dor

The year 2020 saw, on the one hand, an overall continuation of the antisemitic discourse across the Arab media and social networks, similar to that of previous years. Accordingly, most antisemitic manifestations were recorded in reaction to worldwide news events, and linked to the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, unlike previous years, the global eruption of the COVID-19 pandemic sparked a sharp increase of antisemitic manifestations accusing Israel and the Jews of being responsible for the pandemic, depicting Israel and the Jews as the virus itself and more. On the other hand, 2020 also marked a peak in the overall rise of voices from within the Arab world denouncing antisemitism and Holocaust denial. This was especially evident in the highly publicized visit of Muslim clerics to the Auschwitz concentration camp, and in events resulting from the Abraham Accords between Israel, the UAE and Bahrain, followed by normalization agreements between Israel and additional Arab countries. Nevertheless, it is important to note the debate triggered by these events, which used antisemitic motifs to defy this new trend.

As in previous years, the antisemitic discourse focused mainly on defaming the Jews and the Jewish religion along with blaming Israel and the Jews for the ills of the Arab world, and in some cases even relying on the forged Protocols of the Elders of Zion. The main motifs of such expressions documented throughout 2020 were the continuance of Holocaust denial, comparing the Jews with the Nazis and accusing them of mutual collaboration, classic antisemitic descriptions of Jews as prophet killers, blood libels, vilifying internal rivals as “Jews” and more.

COVID-19 pandemic

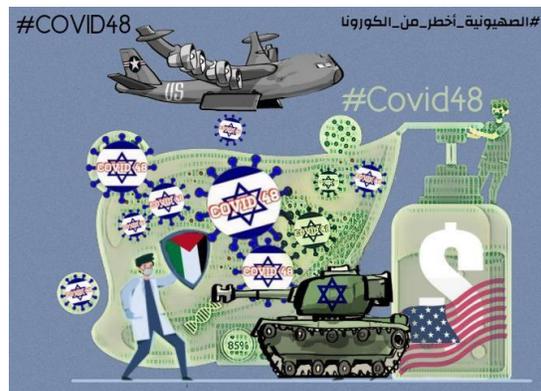
2020 may also be characterized as the year of COVID-19 - the mysterious respiratory disease of unknown origin that appeared in the Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019, and subsequently spread to nearly all countries across the globe, leaving nearly 120 million people infected and more than 2.5 million dead as these lines are being written. As this pandemic drew worldwide attention, its eruption also fueled a wave of antisemitic propaganda ranging from dozens of cartoons published in the Arab media and social networks, to opinion articles and statements accusing the Jews and Israel of causing the virus and/or striving to benefit from it, equating the Jews and Israel with the virus itself or linking the pandemic with the Holocaust.

In one set of reactions, conspiracy theories emerged, accusing Israel and the Jews of spreading the virus while benefiting from it. For example, on 16 March, the Jordanian writer of Palestinian descent, *Aṣad al-Azuni* claimed in the Palestinian **Dunya al-Watan** news portal, that the Jews and the CIA are responsible for the outbreak as part of their alleged attempts to ignite wars worldwide. In another instance, Lebanese physician *Hadi Issa Dalul* claimed in an interview on Syrian **al-Ikhbariya TV** on April 4, that the Jews are evading the worldwide financial collapse resulting from the pandemic, just as they had managed to avoid losses following the 9/11 attacks, and even suggested that they

were also to blame for these attacks. On 7 July, Jordanian columnist *Rashad Abu Dawud* invoked similar claims, suggesting that the COVID-19 outbreak is part of a conspiracy for creating a Jewish world government, relying on the Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted a range of Holocaust denial manifestations: On April 2, writer *Mustafa Abu al-Sáud* published an opinion article in the Hamas-oriented Gaza-based **Felesteen** daily, calling his readers to "*utilize every disaster on the positive side, just as the Jews continue to harvest the crops of what they claim to have been subjected to during the 'Holocaust', a lie that most of the world's idiots [still] believe [that actually happened].*" On July 3, Sweden-based writer *Ihab Muqbil* similarly denied the Holocaust in an article posted in the independent Iraqi news portal **Sawt al-'Iraq**, in wake of the pandemic's outcomes in Sweden. Discussing the rise of the death toll in the country and the overall number of cremated corpses in a local Linköping cemetery, Muqbil reached the conclusion that the Holocaust is a mere lie, as "*according to the Official Western hypocritical myth, Hitler's crematoriums operated around the clock, and here comes the representative of the Linköping Cemetery and affirms that crematoriums must stop operating for maintenance from time to time.*"

Another result of the COVID-19 pandemic was a large-scale campaign on social media platforms, Twitter in particular, using cartoons and images that link the outbreak with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with hashtags such as **#Covid48**, **#Covid1948**, **#Zionism_Is_More_Dangerous_Than_Corona** and others. In most of these cartoons, Israel and the Jews were portrayed as the virus itself with its famous spikes, and a Star of David drawn inside. In one case, on April 20, Palestinian activist *Muhammad al-Kiswani* posted on his Twitter account a picture of a health worker holding up a shield depicted as the Palestinian flag, against a virus named "Covid48", following bombing by a US Air Force aircraft. In another case, also from April 20, Jordanian Twitter activist, *Qutayba Abu Hammad* posted on his account a cartoon of a tank with the Coronavirus marked with a Star of David as its turret, and a Palestinian demonstrator standing in front of it - claiming that Zionism is worse than the virus. On May 22, the Iranian **Fars News Agency** also posted a similar cartoon on their official Twitter account, entitled: "**#Covid_1948 is more dangerous than Covid19.**"



Left: Cartoon posted by Jordanian activist, Qutayba Abu Hammad, Twitter, April 20.

Right: Cartoon by Palestinian activist, Muhammad al-Kiswani, Twitter, April 20.

The Holocaust in the Arab World & increasing voices against antisemitism

The Holocaust remained a central point of discussion in the Arab world, as it had been in previous years. However, unlike previous years, 2020 saw an unprecedented number of voices and public acts driven by Arab world figures denouncing the Holocaust and antisemitism while calling for interreligious dialogue and tolerance. As this may predict a shift of mind from within the Arab world, these events also sparked a debate between supporters and opponents of this trend.

The first event to mark this change was the publicized visit, on 23 January, of the Mecca-based Saudi Muslim World League (MWL) Secretary General, *Dr. Muhammad al-Issa*, accompanied by a delegation of 25 senior Muslim clerics, at the Auschwitz concentration camp, in conjunction with the American Jewish Committee (AJC) to mark the upcoming 75th International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The event itself, which was also televised on the Saudi **al-Arabiya** TV network, brought to light voices of other participants, like the Lebanese-Shiite cleric *Muhammad Ali al-Hussayni*, who stated in an interview that "*We condemn and denounce this heinous crime that affected the Jews and humanity more than 75 years ago, as they were followers of a religion, and [the Holocaust] took place under the name of religion and therefore is unacceptable.*" Following this event, Dr. Muhammad al-Issa delivered a speech at the AJC's Virtual Global Forum held on 14-18 June, in which he continued to speak against antisemitism, Islamophobia and extremism in general. In his address, al-Issa recounted his visit to Auschwitz and vowed "*Never Again.*"

Even though both events triggered negative reactions - such as an editorial published in the Pan-Arab **al-Quds al-Arabi** daily on 15 June, accusing al-Issa of ignoring the Palestinian cause, and labeling his visit to Auschwitz "hypocrisy," or that of *Muhammad Salih al-Musfir* in the Qatari **al-Sharq** daily from 28 January, condemning al-Issa for not praying over "*martyrs of Gaza, Iraq and Syria*" - they also paved the way for numerous supportive reactions, mostly from Saudi-based Twitter activists who denounced Holocaust denial and called for religious co-existence. In one example from 25 January, Saudi intellectual *Turki al-Hamad* called the visit an example of tolerance, adding that despite the Arab feelings towards Israel and the Jews, the Holocaust remains "*a mark of shame on the forehead of humanity*" and concluding: "*If we want worldwide solidarity with our problems then we need to show our solidarity for other problems.*" In another example, the Saudi former Director of the Jeddah-based Middle East Center for Strategic and Legal Studies, *Abd al-Hamid al-Hakim*, published a series of tweets supporting al-Issa. In one of them, from 2 February, he attacked a Jordanian TV host, *Umar Ayasra*, who, reacting to the visit, had denied the Holocaust on Jordan's **al-Yarmuk** TV: "*Mr. Ayasra demonstrates the worst form of hypocrisy by underestimating a heinous crime against humanity.*" On 22 June, the Saudi writer *Abd al-Aziz Bin Ahmad Sirhan* posted an opinion article in the Saudi daily **Ukaz** in support of al-Issa and his participation in the AJC's Virtual Global Forum, discussing the religious role of Islam in the fight against crimes like the Holocaust, and responding to those who had criticized him for emphasizing massacres of

Jews rather than others: "*Jews were subjected to this massacre due to their faith and due to the foolish Nazi crimes.*"

Another point of debate was the highly publicized Fifth World Holocaust Forum held in Jerusalem on 23-24 January and attended by 49 high-level delegates, including heads of state, religious figures and others. On the one hand, we heard voices similar to those documented, such as the Moroccan *Kamal Ayt Bin Yuba* who on 24 January spoke out against Holocaust denial in the Iraqi **al-Hiwar al-Mutamaddin** portal. Calling the Holocaust an "*undisputable fact*," Bin Yuba also spoke out against "so-called Islamic countries" seeking to spread hatred against Jews in schools, including countries that already maintain diplomatic relations with Israel. On the other hand, this event triggered responses accusing Israel of exploiting the Holocaust as a policy of blackmail or perpetrating a Holocaust against the Palestinians, accusing the Zionist movement of collaborating with the Nazis and more. In one example from 21 January, referring to the upcoming event, **al-Quds al-Arabi** posted an editorial claiming that Jewish companies in Palestine had paid tens of millions of dollars to the Nazi industry and sponsored the collaboration of worldwide Zionist institutions with the Nazis, in order to facilitate the immigration of 60,000 German Jews to Palestine. The article also accused Israel of using the Holocaust as "Zionist propaganda" to cover up its crimes against the Palestinians. In other responses, such as *Basil Turjman's* on 22 January in the Jordanian **al-Dustur**, the Palestinians were portrayed as "*the victims of the last Holocaust.*" Discussing the event, Basil stated: "*In Jerusalem... many still stand waiting for the end of the ongoing 72-year-old tragedy of the last [Holocaust] victims.*" Another example is an editorial posted on 25 January in the UAE-based **al-Khalij** daily, which accuses Israel of outdoing the practices of Nazism and Fascism in its maltreatment of the Palestinians, while accusing others of antisemitism in order to justify its existence. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that after the signing of the Abraham Accords between Israel and the UAE, the article was removed from the website.

The Abraham Accords

The normalization treaties signed between Israel, the UAE and Bahrain on September 15, and the later agreements signed with Sudan and Morocco, paved the way for numerous supportive reactions ranging from televised statements to opinion articles and even posts in the social media. Even though most of these expressions of support weren't linked directly to antisemitism, they may also indicate a change of approach towards Judaism and antisemitism, given the chain of events generated by the agreements.

Apart from the joint celebration of Jewish holidays such as Hannukah by Israeli, Moroccan and UAE diplomats, it is important to note several other events that can shed a brighter light on this change. The first was the joint visit on October 6, of the UAE's Foreign Minister, *Abdullah Bin Zayid aal-Nahyan* and his Israeli counterpart, *Gabi Ashkenazi*, to Berlin's Holocaust memorial, where Bin Zayid's assertion "Never Again" was recorded in the visitors' guestbook. On 23 October, the *U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism* and the Bahraini *King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence* signed

a memorandum of understanding affirming Bahrain as the first Arab country to adopt the *International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's* (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, combating all forms of antisemitism while promoting religious coexistence. Another event worth mentioning was Morocco's decision to introduce Jewish history and culture into its educational curriculum. This complements the trend of omitting antisemitic material from Saudi textbooks, noted in IMACT-se's study on December 2020, although these actions do not necessarily reflect a direct shift resulting from the agreements.

The normalization agreements further exposed the ongoing diplomatic tension and crisis between several Gulf countries and Qatar, in which it has been implied that Qatar promotes antisemitism. An example of this may be seen in the report published on 27 September in the UAE's **al-Bayan** daily, quoting IMACT-se's study published in August, on the Qatari curriculum, in what may seem like an attempt to criticize Qatar and perhaps even accuse it of promoting antisemitism. The report itself noted that Qatar continues to spread antisemitic material through its textbooks, including descriptions of Jews as prophet killers, promotion of blood libels, Holocaust denial and more.

Alongside all these positive outcomes, the Abraham Accords and the events leading to them also triggered condemnations and antisemitic reactions in the Arab world. For example, on 4 February, merely 6 months prior to the agreements themselves, in response to a preliminary meeting between Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and Sudan's de-facto head of state Abd al-Fattah al-Burhan, the **al-Quds al-'Arabi** daily posted a cartoon by *Usama Hajjaj*, in which the latter was accused of being a Jew in disguise.

Following the agreements several other reactions were documented, such as another cartoon by *Usama Hajjaj* published in **al-Quds al-'Arabi** on 20 September, depicting a scene from a famous antisemitic *Hadith*, where instead of the Muslim believer killing a Jew at the end of time, the same Muslim throws down his sword and runs to shake hands with the same Jew, portrayed as Israeli PM Netanyahu. In light of the original *Hadith* text, where the rocks and trees call upon the Muslim believer to kill the Jew hiding behind them, the rock in the cartoon instead asks the Muslim: "*O Muslim, O servant of Allah, what are you doing!!?*" On 22 September, the Qatari Journalist *Muhammad al-Marri* posted an opinion article in Qatar's **al-Sharq** daily, claiming that the normalization agreements with the UAE serve the Zionists' goal of seizing control over the world. Citing an antisemitic tale about a Jewish Rabbi who foresaw that the Jews would rule the world, and reviewing previously signed peace treaties between Israel and Arab countries, al-Marri concluded that "*the Zionists will never deviate from their description in the Quran as violators of agreements and treaties, and will constantly strive to [spread] fitna, destruction and corruption on earth.*" On 9 October, in an opinion article published in the Palestinian **al-Quds** daily, *Muhammad al-Nubani* condemned 'Abdullah Bin Zayid aal-Nahyan's visit to Berlin's Holocaust memorial following the signing of the treaty, accusing him of adopting the complete Zionist narrative surrounding the Holocaust, and claiming that the overall count of Jewish Holocaust victims was only about 800-900 thousand rather than six million.

In addition to articles and cartoons, several antisemitic statements were also recorded in response to the events. On October 6 Sudanese Islamic scholar *Abd al-Hayy Yusuf*, criticized the treaties on Hamas' **al-Aqsa TV**, denouncing them as "treacherous." Citing various Quranic verses that emphasize, in his mind, why "*Allah forbids us to ally with Jews*," Yusuf concluded that "*the verses of the Quran tell us that hostility towards these people is obligatory*." On 15 December Algerian Islamic scholar *Yahya al-Sari* was quoted on Algerian **al-Bilad TV**, accusing the Arabs of turning into Zionists and even adopting Jewish "Talmudic practices."



Left: Cartoon accusing Sudan's al-Burhan of being a Jew in disguise, al-Quds al-'Arabi', February 4

Right: Cartoon based on an antisemitic Hadith, al-Quds al-'Arabi, September 20

Emmanuel Macron, Antisemitism & Islamophobia

The October-launched plan of French President Emmanuel Macron to combat Islamist radicalism in the country, labeling Islam a religion in "crisis," sparked a wave of reactions across the Arab and Muslim world. Macron's avowal to defend the publication of caricatures of Prophet Muhammad as an act of freedom of speech rekindled the discussion of Islamophobia versus Antisemitism, previously triggered by the 2015 **Charlie Hebdo** terror attacks. One of the most conspicuous reactions against Macron was the campaign launched by Turkish President *Recep Tayyip Erdoğan*, who on 26 October denounced Macron's plan as a "hatred campaign," called for a boycott of French goods, accused European leaders of being "fascists" and even claimed that Muslims in Europe are "*now subjected to a lynch campaign similar to the one launched against the Jews in Europe before World War II*."

Macron's actions and statements also triggered other reactions, ranging from conspiracy theories to cartoons mocking him and adding antisemitic motifs. For example, on 8 November, Lebanese researcher *Muhsin Salih* appeared in the Iranian Arabic language **al-'Alam TV**, and accused the Zionists of controlling Charlie Hebdo along with most of the French and American media. In another response from October 26, France-based international law expert *Dr. Abd al-Ilah al-Rawi* appeared on Turkish Arabic language

Channel 9 TV, invoking a conspiracy theory in which Macron was "created by the Rothschilds," as they "have a huge lobby that controls the capital and media in the whole world, not only in France." On 13 November, the Egyptian actor and TV host, *Wajdi al-'Arabi* spoke in the Turkey-operated Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood **Watan TV**, criticizing Macron for falsely accusing Islam of terrorism and claiming that France is responsible for erecting "pyramids" of Algerian skulls during the colonial period. He therefore criticized the Arab public for not doing enough to keep the subject alive, unlike the Jews who in his mind constantly keep the Holocaust alive. He even justified Hitler's actions, claiming that Allah "annihilates oppressors by means of other oppressors; Hitler burned them, and they deserved it."

Other reactions, like the following cartoons, were connected to the discussion of Islamophobia versus Antisemitism: On 27 October, **al-Quds al-'Arabi** posted a cartoon by *Usama Hajjaj*, mocking Macron for defining anti-Jewish satire as antisemitism, satire against black people as racism and satire against women appearing in advertisements as sexual prejudice, as opposed to satire against Prophet Muhammad which is considered an act of "freedom of speech." In another instance, from 4 November, Mauritanian cartoon artist *Khalid Mulayi Idris* posted in his Facebook profile a cartoon of Macron holding a microphone and giving a stereotypical Jew the right to speak while physically shutting the mouth of the Muslim standing on his other side. The cartoon, which had already been circulating online since 27 October, sparked outrage in French circles, and following its publication it was even reported that the French embassy in Mauritania consequently terminated a work contract involving Idris.



Left: al-Quds al-'Arabi's cartoon, October 27

Right: Khalid Mulayi Idris' cartoon, published on his Facebook page, November 5.

General manifestations

Just as in previous years, some events triggered lesser antisemitic reactions than those described above, but should be noted nevertheless. One example was the Beirut explosion on August 4, that gave rise to several conspiracy theories accusing Israel and the Jews of standing behind it. On 5 August, *Anwar' Abd al-Hadi*, member of the PLO's

political bureau and ambassador to Damascus claimed in an interview on the **Palestinian Authority's official TV** channel, that the Israelis are most likely responsible for the explosion, since due to their "fake Biblical mentality" they are capable of committing any crime. On 14 August, Houthi Islamic scholar *Shaykh Ibrahim al-Ubaydi* delivered a sermon on Houthi-Yemeni **al-Iman TV**, accusing the Jews of standing behind the explosion, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, ISIS, 9/11 attacks and more.

Another incident that triggered sporadic responses was the killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American civilian, by a white police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on May 25. The incident and the mass civil unrest that followed triggered responses in the Arab media, connecting it to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and accusing Israel of acting on racist grounds. One of these, written by *Ibrahim Badran*, former Jordanian Minister of Education, and published on 8 June in the Jordanian **al-Ghad** daily, accused Israeli police officers of choking to death Palestinian demonstrators, in a manner similar to the killing of Floyd, and added that Israel's actions against the Palestinians surpass those of the Nazis. Other reactions were portrayed in cartoons featuring American police officers learning their practices from Israeli soldiers and other figures with a Star of David on their uniforms.

Left: a cartoon entitled "Two sides to one coin", al-Quds al-Arabi, 3 June

Right: a cartoon published by the Palestinian al-Hayat al-Jadida daily on 4 June.



Other events that triggered interesting reactions may be seen in the Iranian written media. On May 1 the **Iranian Student Network** published an editorial denying the Holocaust in response to the decision of the German government on April 30, to outlaw the Lebanese Hizballah group and designate it a "terrorist organization". Claiming that most of the German Bundestag is controlled by "the Zionist regime," in a way similar to the supposed "Jewish domination" of the whole country's industry and economy, the article also stated that "*the alleged Holocaust is one of the world's greatest lies and today many Germans have already discovered its falsity.*" In another case, on May 13, Iranian scholar and writer *Sáadullah Zaréi* marked the Iranian Quds day by promoting a blood libel against the Zionist movement in an opinion article published in **Kayhan** daily. Describing the Zionist movement's Jewish faith as inherently "racist," Zaréi claimed that "*according to Zionist leaders, the story of Judas [Iscaariot] and the Messiah is not over yet.*" Speaking also on trends of normalization between Israel and the Gulf states, he accused

the Zionist movement of wishing, in this way, to seize control over lands that had been owned by Jewish tribes in the 7th century, and fulfilling their aspiration to extend their rule from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that like in previous years, many antisemitic expressions continued to be publicized in both written and televised media even without any major triggering event. An example of this is an article published on 3 June by *Khalifa al-Mahmud* in the Qatari **al-Raya** daily, describing how the Jews have managed through the Rothschild family to seize control over the world. Al-Mahmud accused the Rothschild family of controlling the European stock markets and contributing to their instability in times of war, controlling the prices of gold and the banks, and thus enabling them to become "*a spreadhead of the Jews' dream of establishing their state.*" In another example, columnist *Abd al-Hamid al-Hamshari* published a series of opinion articles in the Jordanian **al-Dustur**, between 23 June and 9 July, discussing "*Jewish fabrications and fairytales,*" by addressing subjects such as: the Jewish attitude toward non-Jews as presented in the Mishnah and the Talmud, where they were allegedly considered "pigs"; Accusing the Zionist movement of falsely linking antisemitism with anti-Judaism, as Jews are the descendants of Khazar tribes and therefore have no connection whatsoever with the Semitic race; The Jewish connection to the Holy Temple as a myth, "*falsely attributed to the Prophet of God, Solomon*"; and more. Televised statements were also documented, like the one from 27 December, in which Kuwaiti-born Jordanian-Palestinian academic *Ibrahim' Allush* denied the Holocaust in an interview on the Lebanon-based **Palestine Today TV**, claiming that "*not a single person – Jewish or non-Jewish, died in [any] gas chamber, because there were no gas chambers at all.*"

Scandinavia 2020 / Peter Lebenswerd

Background

For a description of the historical and sociological background of the Scandinavian Jewish population, I kindly refer you to reports from previous years. To date, no overall official statistics have been published regarding antisemitic incidents in 2020, but publication of several studies is expected during 2021. There are however some reports from the previous year that can serve as background for the trends of 2020. In 2019, the Danish monitoring organization “AKVAH” recorded 37 antisemitic incidents in Denmark, including one threat, five cases of vandalism, 30 cases of antisemitic remarks and one case of discrimination. According to reports of the National Police from the same year the number of antisemitic hate crimes had increased from 26 cases in 2018 to 51 in 2019, shedding light on the difficulty of obtaining a complete picture of the situation. One of the reported cases of vandalism in Denmark in 2019 included approximately 90 separate acts of vandalism in one Jewish cemetery, as described below. In Sweden, the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (BRÅ) published a study in 2019 investigating the nature of antisemitic hate crimes over time in Swedish society. The study shows that between the years 2008-2016 there were 564 police reports, 330 investigations and 103 sentences concerning antisemitism. Publication of updated numbers is expected in late 2021, but the qualitative part of the study, based on police reports, court rulings and interviews that present the attitudes of both victims and perpetrators, can be assumed to still be relevant today. The study reveals that expressions of antisemitism in Sweden occur in a range of different environments and contexts, including schools, workplaces, Jewish institutions, online and in people’s homes. The study concludes that there are “few places where members of the Jewish community can be free of feelings of fear or concern about exposure to antisemitism.” The perpetrators were shown to come from many different types of backgrounds and were by no means all affiliated with organized groups, although several groups from the entire political and religious spectrum include antisemitism in their ideological foundations. Jews interviewed in the study stated that in addition to the threat from extremists they are also exposed to antisemitic jokes, prejudices, and stereotyped comments, as well as threats, violence, and molestation, by persons whom they describe as normative Swedes, and whom they do not perceive as belonging to any specific group or ideological milieu. Jews living in cities with large numbers of immigrants from the Middle East have more frequently experienced antisemitic incidents, often committed by persons of this background.

2020

Despite the fact that there are as yet no published statistics on incidents in 2020, several examples of such incidents have been recorded in the Nordic countries, as seen below. Despite the increasing difficulty of categorizing the origin of antisemitic expressions due

to the blurring of boundaries between the various categories, I have sorted them roughly along political and sociological lines, mainly for practical reasons.

The political right

The mainstream political right-center in Scandinavia usually likes to portray itself as both pro-Jewish and pro-Israel and is often perceived as such by members of the Jewish communities. However, these parties' increasing political dependence on more extreme and anti-immigration right-wing parties is creating a dilemma in this respect. On the one hand, these right-wing parties, such as the "Danish People's Party" in Denmark, the "True Finns" in Finland, the "Progress party" in Norway and the "Sweden Democrats" in Sweden, often claim to be strong opponents of antisemitism, insisting that the most acute threat to Jews today stems from antisemitic immigrants from the Middle East - a problem that, according to them, can only be solved by stopping immigration, and especially Muslim immigration. Drawing upon the same logic, the Sweden Democrats have stated that they are the most pro-Israeli party in the country, claiming to urge governments to make more pro-Israeli decisions. On the other hand, the very same parties, some of which historically developed from ultra-nationalist movements, usually want to prevent basic expressions of Jewish life such as kosher slaughter and Jewish Day Schools, with the professed goal of stopping immigration and *assimilating* the minorities already in the countries into the majority culture. It should be noted that in the case of Sweden, several parties from left to right, strive for similar legislation regarding these same matters, for alleged reasons like the "right" of children to an education without religious content. In the case of the "Sweden Democrats" there have also been recurring incidents covered by the media, in which the party's representatives expressed strong antisemitic views.

There are however more extreme and openly antisemitic right-wing groups, including neo-Nazis who are exhibiting growing confidence and becoming increasingly synchronized throughout all Scandinavian countries. The main example is the pan-Nordic organization Nordic Resistance Movement (NRM). On Yom Kippur in September 2020, the NRM orchestrated a synchronized antisemitic campaign across the Nordic countries, in which activists campaigned outside Jewish facilities, challenged Jewish worshipers, distributed pamphlets and put up posters and stickers with antisemitic content in dozens of cities and towns in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and even Iceland. According to the NRM the purpose was to "make the Nordic people aware of foreign Jewish customs and Zionist domination plans throughout the Nordic region." Around the same time Simon Lindberg, a Swedish NRM activist was identified as the one who in November 2019 had given the order to attack Jewish targets throughout Scandinavia, including a Jewish Cemetery in the Danish city of Randers, where almost 100 tombstones were vandalized (see above). In Finland it was revealed in June 2020 that Finnish and Swedish NRM activists had been participating in paramilitary training courses in Russia. The organization was banned in

Finland in September following a decision by the Finnish Supreme Court but is still legal in the other Scandinavian countries. In Norway, representatives of the Jewish community have expressed frustration at what they see as the failure of the Norwegian government to take the NRM's threats against Jews seriously. The Jewish Community together with the Norwegian Center Against Racism (CAR) reported the NRM and its local website as early as 2018, but no action has been taken.

In September 2020 an “alternative book fair” was organized in Sweden by individuals linked to the radical nationalist environment, as an alternative to the annual Swedish book fair, the largest literary festival in Scandinavia. Speakers included individuals connected to the extreme right, including journalist Ingrid Carlquist – who is an example of the increasing acceptance of openly expressing antisemitic ideas. Carlquist, who has openly denied the Holocaust, has frequently been invited as a guest speaker by perfectly legal political parties, such as the right-wing AFS (Alternative for Sweden). On such occasions she has blamed “Jews” for the failed integration of immigrants, accused them of infiltrating all political parties in Sweden, and more.

The political left

The problem of antisemitism within the political left was debated publicly in Sweden in 2020. The main problem is seen as a continuous bias against and disproportional focus on Israel, which in several cases has taken on antisemitic aspects. One extreme example is the phenomenon recurring in social media and demonstrations organized by the left, of supporting ideas that seek Israel’s destruction as “justice” to the Palestinians. In June 2020 the municipality of the Swedish city of Malmö decided to cut the grants to the Social Democratic Party’s youth movement, the SSU, after it was revealed that the slogan “crush Zionism” had been used repeatedly in its demonstrations. The Social Democratic Party is currently the ruling party in Sweden. A related notion, possibly inspired by post-colonial discourse in some political circles, is that the victims and weakest members of society today are to be found within certain ethnic groups, including immigrants from the Middle East. This has affected the response to antisemitism in two ways. On the one hand, representatives of these ideas, who claim to be anti-racists, are often reluctant to problematize antisemitism coming from groups seen as victims of existing structures - despite the fact that a large part of Scandinavian antisemitism does originate from perpetrators with an immigrant background. The second problem from a Jewish standpoint is that these groups seem less eager to address antisemitism as an issue in its own right, outside the context of general racism. The exception has been antisemitic expressions coming from the extreme right or neo-Nazis, because left-wing groups then have a clearer political motivation consistent with their own ideological worldview. As a result, politicians and journalists on the left sometimes appear somewhat apologetic, explaining certain expressions of antisemitism (i.e. those coming from Middle Eastern

immigrants) as a “logical consequence” of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, regardless of the perpetrators' clearly stated motives, while regarding right-wing antisemitism exclusively as ideologically motivated. But even here there are signs of “de-Judaization” in relation to Nazi ideology and the Holocaust. Thus, for example, the theme of Holocaust memorial days is frequently rechanneled to the Palestinian situation. In one example Anna-Karin Hammar, anti-Israel activist, priest and former candidate for the position of Archbishop of Sweden, proposed replacing the 2020 commemoration of the November Pogrom/Kristallnacht with a pro-Palestinian event, calling on ordained priests within the State Church of Sweden to join in “a day of solidarity with the Palestinians”. In 2015, also on the eve of the November Pogrom/Kristallnacht commemoration, Sweden's main left-wing parties organized a memorial ceremony in the city of Umeå, but did not invite the Jewish Community, explaining that they feared the Jews would be “offended” by the anti-Israeli nature of the event.

An example of the criticism against the mainstream left’s response to antisemitism is the decision of the Swedish government (led by the Social Democrats) in 2020 to open a state-funded Holocaust museum in Sweden. This led to a heated debate in which some right-wing politicians criticized the Social Democratic government for focusing on the Holocaust while “ignoring” and even “creating” current problems for the Jews living in Sweden - referring to what they perceived as a lame response to antisemitic attacks committed by immigrants from the Middle East.

Antisemitism and the population with Middle Eastern background

The relatively large numbers of immigrants from the Middle East, Afghanistan and other countries has created tension in Sweden and to some extent also in Norway and Denmark. After the great immigration wave from Syria in 2015 there have been increasing signs of failure to integrate these immigrants into society, resulting in a growing sense of alienation with consequent radicalization. The Swedish and Danish secret services have warned that several cities have become hotbeds for ISIS/Daesh recruitment, and dozens, maybe even hundreds of people, have gone to Syria to fight for ISIS. The Swedish government has been criticized for not taking the threat of returning ISIS fighters seriously enough.

In the Swedish city of Malmö, during violent riots in August 2020, protesting against the burning of the Koran by Danish politician Rasmus Paludan, the incited crowd raised their fists and repeatedly shouted slogans against Jews, like "Oh Jews, remember 'Khaybar', Mohammad's army returns", referring to Khaybar, a place where according to Islamic tradition Jews were killed by Muhammad and his followers in the 7th century. This slogan has been heard for years in Scandinavia at anti-Israel rallies, but in this case the demonstration was not a protest against Israel but rather against an extreme right-wing leader, and still the slogans ended up being directed against Jews. In another incident, in

October, the Malmö Municipality decided to immediately suspend all cooperation with a new Arab book fair set to take place in the city, after discovering that the fair offered purchases via an online bookstore (Safahat Publishers of Syria) that also sells antisemitic literature, including a book entitled 'The Synagogue of Satan: The Secret History of Jewish World Domination'.

One of 2020's more publicized incidents occurred in Sweden, when it was revealed that Hamid Zafar, a school principal and politician from the Right-Liberal Party "Moderaterna", named "Swede of the Year" in 2018, had been posting antisemitic material partially inspired by Middle Eastern antisemitism, in various social media forums under different pseudonyms, for four years. As an immigrant himself Zafar had become a popular voice in the Swedish debate on immigrants' integration into the Swedish educational system, and was seen as a good example of successful integration. However, since he is a member of a party leaning toward the right, the response to this affair was somewhat inverted: those on the political right, who usually push the idea that immigrants from the Middle East are responsible for most of current antisemitism, felt compelled to defend him, while left-wing politicians, who are usually cautious about expressing criticism of Swedes with an immigrant background, attacked Zafar vigorously.

This, as well as the aforementioned debate on the Holocaust museum, can serve as examples of how politicized the debate on antisemitism has become, with different political camps trying to gain political points at each other's expense by accusing the other side of antisemitism. This might impact the Jewish population's confidence as to the pure intentions of politicians fighting antisemitism regardless of political affiliation.

Another noteworthy public incident in Scandinavia was the repeated vandalizing of a kosher grocery store in Copenhagen, Denmark in June 2020. Also, a local church in the Norwegian city of Strand decided to remove a public Christmas decoration in the form of a Star of David at the mayor's request - due to "complaints" that the symbol was "too reminiscent of Israel and Jews".

IHRA Working Definition and actions against antisemitism

With regard to the issue of adopting the Working Definition of Antisemitism of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA WDA), the Scandinavian countries can be said to show support in theory but still with a relatively low level of actual implementation.

In January 2020 Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven published an article in the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot in which he declared for the first time that Sweden endorses the IHRA working definition, providing a list of examples that serve as illustrations. The context of the government's statement is believed to be Sweden's planned hosting of an international conference on the Holocaust. The conference, "the Malmö International

Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism” scheduled for October 2021, will host heads of state and government from about 50 countries, experts, researchers and representatives of civil society. In the spring of 2020 the government also reported a number of educational initiatives against antisemitism, as well as increased security measures for Swedish Jews.

Finland has not officially adopted the IHRA WDA but has expressed endorsement/acceptance on different occasions. During his speech at a memorial ceremony for the victims of the Holocaust on January 27, 2020, Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto said that the Finnish government uses the IHRA's definition of antisemitism on a national level, within the European Union and internationally, “even though it is not legally binding”. In July 2020 the National Forum for Cooperation of Religions in Finland (CORE Forum) officially called for a more formal adoption and in September the National Lutheran Bishop Conference in Finland decided to officially endorse the working definition. The endorsement was seen as surprising in some circles, as several Finnish bishops have been criticized in the past for strong anti-Israeli activism.

Denmark has not adopted the working definition but in January 2020 Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen stated that the government intends to introduce a national action plan against antisemitism, as well as an official definition of antisemitism in Denmark based on the IHRA WDA.

Norway, who has not adopted the definition, is relying on its “action plan against antisemitism”, adopted in 2016 as the central document around which almost all political discussion about antisemitism in Norway takes place. The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO), the largest and most influential umbrella organization of labor unions in Norway, decided to strongly and officially oppose the IHRA working definition during their Trondheim Conference in January 2019.

Covid-19

Although no official numbers were available when this report was written, the assumption is that the Scandinavian countries have not seen a significant number of antisemitic incidents specifically connected to the Corona crisis. However, wherever antisemitism appeared in the social media, conspiracy theories about Jews and Corona were also present. A study by the Swedish Defense Research Agency (FOI), published in October 2020, shows that almost 35 percent of posts about Jews in the main social media platforms contain antisemitism or hostility towards Jews. It is also worth mentioning that when Israel’s very successful vaccination campaign became world news, several news media companies in Sweden and Norway were accused of antisemitism after calling Israel an apartheid state for not vaccinating the Palestinian population in the West Bank/Judea & Samaria and Gaza.

Conclusion

Despite the lack of exact figures, it can be assumed that the situation in Scandinavia during 2020 has not changed dramatically compared to the last couple of years. The two main acute threats are still seen as: (1) The extreme right/Neo-Nazi movement, especially the NRM with their increasingly synchronized actions, and (2) The growing number of ideologically motivated Islamists active in several cities throughout the region. The anti-Israel bias in the media and in some political circles is disturbing to many local Jews, not least on a psychological level. In Sweden and Norway there still seems to be an uncertainty in the Jewish Communities as to the sincerity of the intention of the government and authorities to combat root causes for antisemitism. Also, the hopes are that the Corona crisis will not negatively affect the levels of antisemitism.

South Asia / Navras J. Aafreedi

There are a couple of cases from India and Pakistan during the last year that could be seen as relevant to our study of antisemitism.¹³³ One is the bomb blast outside the embassy of Israel in New Delhi, India on January 29, 2021, clearly an anti-Zionist attack. The attack was one of a series of attacks against Israeli targets across the world allegedly perpetrated by Iran in the wake of the assassination of its nuclear scientist in November 2020 for which Iran blames Israel. Jaish ul-Hind, a terrorist organization believed to be affiliated with Iran, has taken responsibility for the attack.¹³⁴ A one-and-a-half-page letter found at the site mentioned the late Iranian IRGC Quds force commander Qaseem Soleimani and the late Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh as martyrs and claimed that the attack which did not injure anyone was just the trailer. It has also been said that it should not be seen as merely a coincidence that the attack took place on the 29th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between India and Israel, as Iran realizes the significance of the India-Israel-US triangle and is determined to sabotage it. This attack was preceded by one in 2012 in which an Israeli diplomat's car was exploded in New Delhi, severely wounding his wife traveling in it then.

The other is the acquittal of four men accused of the murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl, son of Israeli Jewish parents, in 2002 by the Supreme Court of Pakistan on January 28, 2021, upholding the verdict given by the Sindh High Court in April 2020. They were acquitted because the prosecution's case was found to be deeply flawed. Police and prosecutors have tried to gloss over what is widely acknowledged, that the main defendant Omar Saeed Sheikh, a British Muslim citizen of Pakistani descent, surrendered to Pakistan's intelligence services. They have instead claimed that he was arrested a week later, wandering around Karachi airport. It is also suspected that the Pakistani authorities have deliberately discounted evidence suggesting that Sheikh himself carried out the murder physically.¹³⁵ Husain Haqqani, director for South and Central Asia at the Hudson Institute and Pakistan's ambassador to the U.S. from 2008 to 2011, in an op-ed he published in the *Wall Street Journal*, whose South Asia Bureau Chief was Daniel Pearl, draws our attention to the fact that Sheikh had declared soon after his conviction in 2013 how he did not expect to be executed for "it is a decisive war between Islam and *Kafirs* (infidels). And everyone is individually proving on which side he is." In this, Haqqani explains, Sheikh asserted that he was confident that "the powers that be in Pakistan

133 The author, Dr. Navras J. Aafreedi is Assistant Professor, Department of History, Presidency University, Kolkata, India; Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP), New York; and co-editor of *Conceptualizing Mass Violence* (London and New York: Routledge, 2021). For more: <https://linktr.ee/njaafreedi>.

134 Jerusalem Post Staff, "Terror group claims responsibility for attack on Israeli embassy in India", Jerusalem Post, January 31, 2021. Accessed on February 28, 2021 at <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/explosion-reported-near-israeli-embassy-in-new-delhi-india-report-657167>

135 Shaham, Udi, "New Delhi explosion – why specifically India?", Jerusalem Post, January 31, 2021. Accessed on February 28, 2021: https://www.jpost.com/international/new-delhi-explosion-why-specifically-india-657360?fbclid=IwAR39jSjwneK-TpV_JpFpHInDKkDENygmt4W3-y8kas%E2%80%A6

would eventually side with him, a true-believer, rather than with unbelievers.” According to him, Pakistan Supreme Court’s decision could be seen as a vindication of Sheikh’s bravado.¹³⁶

136 Kermani, Secunder, “Daniel Pearl: Pakistan court acquits men accused of murder”, BBC News, January 28, 2021. Accessed on February 26, 2021 at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-55735869>

136 Haqqani, Husain, “Acquitting Daniel Pearl’s Killer Is Part of Pakistan’s Dance With Jihadism”, Wall Street Journal, January 28, 2021. Accessed on February 26, 2021 at <https://www.wsj.com/articles/acquitting-daniel-pearls-killer-is-part-of-pakistans-dance-with-jihadism-11611875865>

COUNTRIES

Australia / Julie Nathan

ECAJ Report on Antisemitism in Australia 2020 ¹³⁷

Two articles are provided for the Kantor Centre Report which show antisemitic incidents and antisemitic discourse in Australia in 2020. The first is an article, in full, which summarises the antisemitic incidents recorded in the *ECAJ Report on Antisemitism in Australia 2020*. The second is composed of extracts of an article which shows some of the antisemitic online discourse by Australians in 2020 – in this case, related to responses to the BLM movement.

1. Anti-Jewish incidents in Australia in 2020 continue to cause concern ¹³⁸

Australia is generally considered a relatively safe and free environment for its Jewish population. Despite this, antisemitism persists, with many incidents of attacks and threats against Jews. This situation is one that many Australians are often unaware of. Each year, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ), the peak national body representing Australia's Jewish community, produces a Report on Antisemitism in Australia.

A major section of the report is dedicated to antisemitic incidents. These include physical assault, verbal abuse, vandalism, graffiti, and threats via email, postal mail, telephone, and leaflets/posters. In contrast to other organizations which produce reports for other targeted communities in Australia, the ECAJ does NOT include as incidents expressions of hate that are online.

During the 12 months up to 30 September 2020, there were 331 antisemitic incidents logged by the ECAJ. Although this was an overall decrease of 10% from the previous 12-month period which had 368 incidents, there was a marked increase in the number of the most serious categories of incidents with a doubling in the number of reported incidents of physical assault from 4 to 8 and a 12% increase in direct verbal abuse, harassment and intimidation from 114 to 128; while there were decreases in the number of incidents of vandalism and in graffiti.

The increase in the number of more serious incidents is especially concerning in light of the fact that synagogues and other Jewish community facilities were closed for varying periods from March 2020 onwards due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and there were thus

¹³⁷ The ECAJ Report on Antisemitism in Australia 2020 is available at

<https://www.ecaj.org.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/ECAJ-Antisemitism-Report-2020.pdf>

¹³⁸ Julie Nathan. 2021. 'Anti-Jewish incidents in Australia in 2020 continue to cause concern'
<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/anti-jewish-incidents-in-australia-in-2020-continue-to-cause-concern/>

fewer opportunities for antisemites to abuse, harass and intimidate Jews in the vicinity of those facilities as they have done in the past.

In order to show what antisemitism looks like, instead of publishing publicly numbers and statistics, the following is a compilation of some of the antisemitic incidents that occurred in the 12 months up to 30 September 2020 in Australia.

Incidents of **physical assault** occurred but mostly without causing serious injury. Examples include: physical assault of a young Jewish man on the way home from synagogue; physical assault and verbal abuse of a Jewish school student wearing a uniform from a Jewish school by five teenage males on a bus, who harassed the student, calling him names, and referred negatively to him as Jewish and slapped him on the head; assault of a Jewish student, in Year 8, who had been subjected to antisemitic bullying for months at school, when two bullies smacked him multiple times on the head. Another incident occurred when a Jewish family had an object thrown at them and was verbally abused with *"Fuck off Jews"* as they passed a Jewish school; and the occupants of a van threw eggs at two Jews near a synagogue.

Verbal abuse, harassment and intimidation of Jews is the category which usually has the highest number of incidents each year. The main verbal expressions referenced Hitler and Nazism, and also threats of violence, while bodily expressions commonly were composed of Nazi salutes and shooting gestures towards Jews. Many incidents were perpetrated by people in cars driving past synagogues and Jewish schools.

Some of the verbal abuse used against individual Jews and Jewish families include being shouted at with expressions of *"You Jewish scum! Jewish cunt!"*; *"Fucking Jews! Fucking cunts!"*; *"Fucking Jews!"* towards children at a Jewish school; *"I'm gonna smash your fucking faces in you Jew dogs!"* There was harassment in the workplace of a Jewish man whose wife was pregnant when he was told by a colleague: *"Another fucking Jew coming into the world"* and harassment of a Jewish family by placing a piece of pork rind at the front door to their home.

A male in a passing vehicle yelled *"Kikes! You fucking Jewish cunts!"* and made a Nazi salute towards a Jewish man and his family; a male gave a Nazi salute and shouted *"Fuck you! Heil Hitler!"* to people outside a Jewish community organization facility; another male verbally abused three school-aged Jewish boys, yelling *"Heil Hitler!"* and giving a Nazi salute. The driver of a vehicle jumped out of his car and yelled at a Jewish man: *"Not enough of your people have been burned in the oven!"*; another driver yelled out his window to a rabbi *"Do you want me to come up and finish what Hitler started?"*; and a public servant at work said: *"Hitler should've killed all of the Jews"* in front of colleagues.

Physical threats against Jews included: *"I can bring thirty boys and bomb the shit out of the synagogue!"*; male passenger of a passing vehicle made a gun gesture with his hand

and mimicked shooting at people outside a synagogue; driver of a passing vehicle made a gun gesture towards people outside a synagogue; male passenger of a passing vehicle made a gun gesture mimicking shooting a rifle towards people outside a Jewish school; female and male approached a synagogue, then made punching gestures and gestures imitating discharging a firearm, and the female was verbally abusive and yelled “Hitler”; a male said “*Fucking Jew!*”, gestured a slashing of the neck then said “*Kill all the Jews*”; a male on a tram shouted “*You fucking Jews. We’re coming to gas you!*”; a death threat to conduct a shooting at a synagogue in Sydney was posted on an anonymous, alternate platform; another death threat to conduct a mass shooting on 28 April 2020 at synagogues in Sydney was sent to three rabbis.

Vandalism often consisted of etching swastikas into property belonging to Jews, like cars, homes and businesses. Incidents included: two swastikas scratched into the bonnet of a car; swastika etched in concrete at the entrance of a newly built apartment block in an area where many Jews live; spray-painting of swastikas on Cranbourne Golf Club, a club set up in 1951 by Jews in response to other golf clubs not admitting Jews as members. One incident involved a young female who approached a synagogue and began verbally abusing a Jew saying “*I want to blow this place up*” and “*stupid Jews*”, she then began throwing rocks and kicking windows, breaking four windows at the entrance, she then spat at other Jews there and threatened them with a stick, saying she was there “*because I hate fucking Jews*”.

Graffiti often takes the form of swastikas at or near Jewish communal facilities or in areas where Jews live. More disturbing was that the graffiti often called for the murder of Jews: “*KILL ALL JEWS*” with swastikas and Nazi SS lightning bolts on a bus which transports students from a Jewish school; another “*Kill the Jews*” with swastikas on a school bus; “*Kill the Jews*” on a bus; “*Kill the Jews*” on a wooden bench in a park; and “*Kill the Jews*” on a bird mural in a park. Other incidents include graffiti with the words and symbols: “*Fuck Jews*” and a swastika on a synagogue; “*Jews*”, a swastika, and Star of David; “*Hitler still lives in our hearts*” and a swastika; “*4th Reich*” along with a Star of David; “*The real virus is globalism*” next to a Jewish Star of David; “*Stop Dan Andrews*” (Premier of Victoria) with a Star of David forming the letter ‘a’ in ‘Dan’ and a swastika instead of the letter ‘s’ in the surname ‘Andrews’; and large swastikas painted on footpaths in areas where Jews live.

Emails can provide more detailed information on how others view Jews. Hate emails are sent to individuals, to Jewish organizations and to Jewish community media. Many contained antisemitic conspiracy theories, while some advocated violence and genocide against Jews. Extracts of some of the emails include: “*BURN COWARD JEWS*”; “*Gas all of the Jews*”; “*The Gois are coming for you*”; “*Jews must be exterminated. only communism will save us*”; “*Adolfe Hitler*”, with the email address “*burnthejews*”; “*You filthy bastards. The real holocaust is coming for you... and it’s just around the corner. every race on the*

planet except yours will celebrate at the new found freedom from jewish zionist oppression”; “Oh the Jews are getting scared. National Socialism is on the rise every day. And rightly so. You evil Jews will face your real Holocaust. Your lies and raping of the world is coming to an end. May your God have mercy on your soulless bodies”.

A series of private messages included: *“Hitler should have gassed you Jewish scum. You cursed jew. Your race is hated killed and hung. You probably rape little boys rabbi. Your people got killed off cause they are pieces of garbage. Your race I’d most hated go home. Your a Jewish piece of shit should have been gassed. Fuck off jew boy”.* Other emails include: *“jews r behind all the wworld wars through financing both sides never get between a jew and a bag of gold”; “I hope justice will soon be served on these Scum of the earth as many aussies have had a gutful of the JEWS and THEIR LIES... the International JEW the World’s Foremost Problem... no wonder the world hates jews, and little wonder they have been kicked out of every country they have ever lived, they are evil they are disgusting, and nothing but untermensch”; and multiple emails about “The Financial Collapse of Judaism”.* A cardiologist emailed his sister, a landlord, to tell her Jewish tenants to *“tell him to pack his jew bags and fuck off”.*

Postal mail, delivered to, or placed in the letterboxes of, the homes and businesses of Jews was another means to express hatred and intimidate Jews. Examples include mail composed of: words *“Jewish Bastards”*; *“Achtung Yooda”* (Attention/warning Jew); a CD with the words *“THE ARYANS”* and two swastikas, and a note *“The Inevitable Extermination of the Jews. The “Secret” Master Plan”*; another mail had *“Death of the Jews Secret master Plan”*; *“Fuck you JEW VIROS is yoor FAULT. DIE”*; *“you Jews are a problem all over the world”*; *“All Jews are Dole Bludgers. All Jews go to Hell-Fire when they die! Jews are inferior”*; and *“Jews are traitors. Jews are cowards. that is why all Jews go to HELL when they DIE!!”*

Telephone, both calls and texts, are another means to convey threats against Jews, usually Jewish community facilities. Some of these included the words: *“I’d like to enrol my child. My name is Adolf Hitler”*; *“Run Jews, run Jews. Hitler’s coming for you”*; *“How many Jews do you keep in your gas chamber?”*; *“I want to get your Torah and wipe it on my arse”*; *“Watch your back you dirty dog”*; *“fucking Jews who have fucked the World. Have a good gas chamber day. The holocaust never happened”*; *“Hello. This is [...]. Do you want to execute some Jews?”*; *“your a dog fuck off out jew cunt we wll bring you down jew dog low life”*; *“fuck off we dont want you dog cunt euck off last warning dog jew”*; *“die Jew”* and *“go to the gas chambers at Auschwitz”.*

The eighth, and final, category of incidents is **posters, stickers, placards** and the like. Examples include: a note with *“Deutschland (sic) uber JUDEN”* (Germany over Jews) and a drawing of a crossed-out Star of David; placard at an anti-5G protest composed of the Jewish Star of David with the text of ‘5G’ in red and dripping like blood inside the Star of

David; a poster titled *“Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion – a Summary”* with 24 dot points; a Nazi poster with the text of *“Fight for Europe”* with the Nazi Death’s Head (Totenkopf) symbol, the neo-Nazi Celtic Cross (Sun Cross), and a neo-Nazi shield; and Neo-Nazi stickers by National Socialist Network including *“White Revolution is the only solution”*, *“Australia for the White Man”*, *“Australian Fascist Action”* and of the NSN emblem placed around the streets including at synagogues.

A placard handwritten in red marker and placed near a Jewish facility read: *“The Plandemic is created by the Jews, the one who CONTROL THE WORLD. Globalist of the world one mainly Jews & ... WE know Jews are the chosen people from SATAN. JEWS ARE THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD, they are liars, deceivers & so on. We were involved in all wars, because the JEW’S. Now the Jew’s are doing WHITE GENOCIDE. if the Jews succeed on white genocide = meaning that will be the END Black, Red & Yellow. The JEWS mainly the globalist elite of the world to get rid off 5 billions people – worldwide. Now the Coronavirus is a HOAX to control every-one, the purpose of all that, ... force you to get vaccinate with covid-19 evil vaccines & kill you ... Its to dehumanise you! ... THE PLANDEMIC ... Jews were expelled over 110 times from over 90 countries.”*

What may begin as graffiti and verbal abuse and other expressions of harassment and intimidation, if left unchecked, can escalate into something much more insidious and violent. No minority community should have to face hatred and attacks on their own. It is important for people not to be bystanders, but to be upstanders – to stand against antisemitism and other forms of racism. It is incumbent upon a society’s leaders and legislators to not only condemn antisemitism but to ensure effective laws are in place to counter attacks on Jews and to deal with those people advocating violence against Jews.

As Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General, declared on 19 October 2019: *“We have passed the point where antisemitic incidents can be perceived as isolated echoes of the past. Antisemitism strikes and kills again. It is a rising form of violent extremism, which requires a firm response by all Member States to protect Jewish communities and safeguard universal human rights.”*

2. ‘Why ethno-nationalists are cheering on BLM’¹³⁹

... Euro-ethno-nationalists view European western society as being racially impure and sexually degenerate, a civilization in its last throes. They compare it to the Weimar Republic in the 1920s, the heyday of sexual freedom and artistic expression, but more importantly the precursor to the Third Reich in 1933. Now that it is 2020, many believe

139 Julie Nathan. 2020. ‘Why ethno-nationalists are cheering on BLM’
<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/why-ethno-nationalists-are-cheering-on-blm/>

we are ‘in Weimar’, and that around the corner is the Fourth Reich which will usher in ‘an idyllic and pure world’ in North America, Europe and Australasia.

Many saw Covid-19 as the catalyst to White-Revolution, especially the ease with which it was racialized and blamed on the Chinese and the Jews. ...

Of far more importance and gravity, what are Euro-ethno-nationalists and other right-wing extremists thinking, planning, doing?

Their postings fall into three broad categories – Jews as the orchestrators of BLM, African Americans as inherently violent, and the opportunities for the ethno-nationalist movement. The following content is composed predominantly of direct quotes, as an effective method to convey the accuracy and tone of their views, in order to be better informed about the threat from Euro-ethno-nationalists and other right-wing extremists.

Jews – portrayed as the orchestrators of BLM violence

In response to the re-activated BLM movement, many right-wing extremists are promoting conspiracy theories about who is behind BLM and the outbreak of violence. Predictably, the number one target is that perennial scapegoat – “the Jews”. Whilst most right-wing extremists blamed Jews, a few sought another culprit – the government. Many openly referred to Jews, while some used triple parentheses, the (((echo))) symbol, around words as a code to indicate that they were referring to Jews.

Expressions by those people who blamed “the Jews” for BLM include: “Black Lies Matter is just another Jewish creation”; “Well it’s the jewish antifa organisers whom are paying the protestors \$200 bucks per day and busing them in from out of town to smash up the cities”; “Jews are behind it, to divide the niggers and whites, kick out the Jews division will stop”; “Bunch of LOW IQ Global Commies, lead by jews, funded by Globalists like SOROS, paying blacks to riot”; and “Kikes really working hard to rile up the nogs against Whitie.”

In a similar vein, others wrote: “disgusting filthy #jews who incite riots and encourage blacks to loot and burn... these stinking (((cockroaches))) ... get rid of jews and our problems disappear...”; “Hebrew hounds ripping into Whitey’s throat as they loot and burn cities”; “you have to admit the jews ‘racism’ scheme is brilliant. they just whip up angry mobs and turn them against white people. so you don’t even focus on what the jews are doing”; and “These #GeorgeFloyd functionally #Jewish dindu riots... #America is on the fast track to Hebrew hell!”

There were those who focused on the BLM movement as being part of a broader strategy by “the Jews” to commit race war and genocide. These were expressed as: “The Levantine money changers have managed to orchestrate a worldwide racial holy war against whites. World War 3? You’re in it right now”; “So, how is everyone enjoying the jewish genocidal war against whites and Western civilisation? Are we having fun yet? Are you looking

forward to a stunning and brave future of (((equality, tolerance and inclusion))) without white people?"; "(((They))) want a Race War. (((They))) know exactly what they are doing. ... (((They))) know that the low IQ nigger is gonna act out this shit"; "They [Jews] want to incite the entire world to hate whitey"; "Is everyone enjoying our hegemonic jewish tyranny?"; and "The kikes are just itching for a hot race war."

Others claimed that "the Jews" used African Americans for their own ends: "Stop blaming blacks for the violence, and treating ANTIFA ... They are useful idiots and can be easily dealt with once we have won back our liberty and self-determination. The true enemy is the globalist Jewish ruling class, the corporate media they own, and the politicians they buy" and "When Jews lose power they unleash looting, raping, disgusting low IQ blacks. This is a tactic dirty Jews have used for hundreds of years."

One person combined many antisemitic conspiracy theories: "This whole world wide ShitShow over the last six months or so, has been aided, abetted, orchestrated and funded, not to mention Completely promoted by the j€ω\$ and media to further (((their)) j€ω World Order out of chaos agenda. Low IQ Niggers and brain dead liberals are too dumb, duped, delusional to see they're mere tools to be used by these sick, satanic baby murdering j€ω\$. I can't wait to see what's next on (((their))) twisted talmudic playbook..." Another person went so far as to call for lynching: "The only people in #America that deserve to be lynched in the streets are #Jews and Shabbos Goy #Zionist criminals."

A minority preferred to place the blame on the government for orchestrating the riots, as a means to divert attention from the restrictions imposed to stop the spread of Covid-19, rather than putting the blame on Jews. ...

Euro-ethno-nationalists – their own portrayals

Many stated how they saw it – that this is a war being waged against ethnic Europeans: "The jewish mass media wants you to see the riots as "protests" for "racial justice," but what we are seeing is really an anti-White insurgency" ...

Others used images to show what happens when ethnic Europeans organise, and to compare 'black' violence with 'white' violence. Images were posted of mass parades of Nazi German troops with the caption "This is what a white chimpout looks like", using the term "chimpout" which is generally used referring to violence by ethnic Africans. An image of a pair of photos, one of a group of African Americans rioting, jumping on burnt-out cars, with the caption "Black people when they get pushed too far", and the second one of a Nazi German parade with the caption "White people when they get pushed too far". The message being conveyed is that ethnic Africans may riot and destroy suburbs, but ethnic Europeans will politically organise a whole country into a military power in order to destroy their enemy.

One expressed how he saw it: “This is what many people don’t understand about Whites: Guns and ammunition are a part of White culture, it’s imbedded into our DNA. Whites also know how to organize — It’s not going to help their cause or their race, it’s just pissing us the fuck off. And this is one of the many reasons why National Socialism is rising all around the world. Sieg Heil.” ...

Austria / Florian Zeller

Antisemitism in Austria during the Covid-19 crisis

As the Kantor Center already reported in the past year, we saw antisemitism rise in the context of the Corona Crisis worldwide. The antisemitic narratives and stereotypes connected to diseases and pandemics aren't a new phenomenon, as Dina Porat argued so correctly when she said that “the coronavirus adds a new layer of its own”¹⁴⁰ to this history of antisemitism.

In Austria we could observe an increasing number of antisemitic manifestations connected to mobilizations against the Covid-19 measures. Here, as in all German-speaking countries, many demonstrations were organized under the label “Querdenker” which translates into “lateral thinker”. At their peak, they could mobilize about 20.000 people for their events. In Austria these mobilizations had an antisemitic note from the beginning, which became more and more explicit over the past year. Initially giving the impression of hosting an obscure mixture of people who believed in esoteric conspiracies or denied the existence of the virus, it is clear by now that far-right actors used or organized this kind of mobilization to spread their ideology on the fertile ground of conspiracy beliefs. Alongside the homophobic¹⁴¹ and (anti-Chinese¹⁴²) racist¹⁴³ articulations, antisemitism seems to be one of the movement's main ideological cornerstones. On a symbolic level we could observe people wearing yellow badges or showing signs saying “vaccinations liberate”¹⁴⁴¹⁴⁵ (paraphrasing “work liberates”, the famous epitaph at the entrance to Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps). This form of comparison can be understood as a form of secondary Antisemitism¹⁴⁶, motivated by a deflection of guilt, but might further be understood as a sign of ignoring or ignorance

140 https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/PP_DP_260720.pdf

141 <https://twitter.com/PresseWien/status/1302228298970337281>

142 <https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000117882167/gelbe-gefahr-hass-mit-zukunft-und-vergangenheit>

143 <https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000122530823/rassismus-und-corona-schuld-sind-die-anderen>

144 <https://presse-service.net/2020/05/14/wien-kundgebung-gegen-die-corona-massnahmen-der-regierung-14-05-2020/>

145 <https://burgenland.orf.at/stories/3080236/>

146 Post-Holocaust “secondary antisemitism” is not a “weaker” form of antisemitism but rather a concept that points to new origin or source of antisemitic resentment. It is motivated by the wish to repress and split off Holocaust remembrance and guilt from the collective memory. In short, Jews are collectively blamed, by their very existence, for reminding Germans/Austrians of their nation’s crimes, guilt, and responsibility. (Rensmann Lars 2017)

of history, leading to comparing Covid-19 measures to national socialism. In addition, we observed various antisemitic conspiracy theories blaming Jews for the coronavirus or claiming that Jews would profit from the crisis. We even saw Corona protesters wearing white overalls and posing in front of Adolf Hitler's birthplace¹⁴⁷ - leading to an investigation under the Prohibition Act ("Verbotsgesetz").

Far-right parties also began to frame the corona crisis in a racist, homophobic and antisemitic manner.¹⁴⁸ In the Viennese election for example, the Freedom Party candidate Dominik Nepp referred to corona as "Asylantenvirus" ("Asylum seeker Virus") and the newly founded political party "Team HC", led by the former Vice President Hans Christian Strache, promoted Christina Kohl who had shouted at a Corona demonstration "Soros has got to go, Rothschild has got to go, Rockefeller has got to go, Illuminati has got to go!".¹⁴⁹

Also, we observed conspiracy myths like the "New World Order", "QAnon" and the narrative of a "Great Replacement", modified to fit into corona conspiracy narratives. As the year unfolded, we saw Neo-Nazis¹⁵⁰ and right extremists¹⁵¹ gaining more influence in the corona mobilizations, and former antisemitic codes such as "Globalists"¹⁵² became more blatant, when a protester gave the Nazi salute¹⁵³ in one of the demonstrations. The movement seemed to become more violent when far right hooligans¹⁵⁴ started to get involved in the protests. In particular, physical and verbal attacks on journalists rose to a new level reflecting Austria's continuing slide in the index of press freedom¹⁵⁵ - which began with pressure on free press under the Peoples party (ÖVP) and the far-right Freedom party (FPÖ) coalition.

Antisemitism in Austria: Reports, Figures and Trends

The following report consists of "service-based data", i.e. the documentation and statistics provided by victim protection organizations, NGOs or the police. A small number of NGOs and political organizations collect data on incidents and also monitor antisemitism in the media. In addition, police reports and statistics are compiled for the annual report of the *Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution* ("Verfassungsschutzbericht"), and some federal country institutions also collect data. One

147 https://www.kleinezeitung.at/international/corona/5918741/Polizei-ermittelt_CoronaDemonstranten-posieren-vor-Hitlers-Geburtshaus

148 <https://www.doew.at/erkennen/rechtsextremismus/neues-von-ganz-rechts/archiv/juli-2020/die-extreme-rechte-in-zeiten-von-corona-iv>

149 <https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000119303044/mit-strache-gegen-soros-rothschild-die-illuminaten-und-chemtrails>

150 <https://twitter.com/PresseWien/status/1356371502057345025>

151 <https://twitter.com/PresseWien/status/1356370972295786496>

152 <https://twitter.com/PresseWien/status/1353081710548815873>

153 <https://twitter.com/PresseWien/status/1340412397895491585>

154 <https://twitter.com/PresseWien/status/1356371252093603841>

155 <https://www.rog.at/press-freedom-index/>

example is the *Antidiscrimination Office Styria* that reports discrimination on its website and funds the phone application “Banhate” for easily accessible reporting.

Currently, there are three major institutions that collect and publish data on antisemitic and/or racist incidents systematically: The *Antisemitism Report Office* (Meldestelle Antisemitismus); The *Civil Courage and Antiracism Work (ZARA)*, which monitors antisemitism as a sub-category of racist or (extreme) right-wing incidents; and the *Documentation Center of Austrian Resistance (DÖW)* foundation, which monitors current activities of the extreme right as well as antisemitism in all its manifestations, including Islamised and left-wing Israel-related antisemitism. The final 2020 reports of *DÖW*, *Antisemitism Report Office*, and *ZARA*, as well as the data of the *Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution*, have not yet been published.

Data accumulated by these institutions is mainly based on the documentation of antisemitic incidents and, as a consequence, determined by victims' access to relevant institutions (NGOs, police, etc.) and by the social incentives or deterrents to reporting facts - which is a general bias-problem of all service-based data collection. The actual extent or prevalence of antisemitism, as well as the underlying social-psychological reasons for antisemitic resentments, can only be analyzed via integrated qualitative-quantitative studies, which are still rare in Austria. Service-based data, however, definitely allows an evaluation of trends; the outcomes for the year 2020 are depicted in the following paragraphs.

As noted above, most final reports have not yet been published, and therefore, this report will refer to unpublished statistics from *ZARA* and the half year report of the *Antisemitism Report Office*. In 2020 *ZARA* counted a total of 152 incidents linked to antisemitism, 106 of which took place online. Of all antisemitic cases, 51 were registered as prosecutable under the Prohibition Act (“Verbotsgesetz”). The Prohibition Act of 1947 contains various legal provisions for combating any resurgence of National Socialist activities. Another 13 are prosecutable under Section 283 of the Criminal Code: incitement to hatred (“Verhetzung”).

The *Antisemitism Report Office* completed its report¹⁵⁶ for 2019, discovering a 9.5% increase in antisemitic incidents compared to the last available data of the *Forum against Antisemitism*, from 2017. With the shift from the *Forum against Antisemitism* to the *Antisemitism Report Office* they also adopted the category's advice by the *Community Security Trust (CST)*. This enables a comparison between *RIAS* in Germany and *CTS* in the UK.

In 2019 there were a total of 550 incidents, including 6 incidents in the category of assault, 18 threats, 78 cases of damage and desecration, 209 cases in the literature category which covers mass-produced antisemitic literature distributed in large quantities, and 239 in the abusive behaviour category which includes many different types incidents, encompassing

¹⁵⁶https://fca755ac-004d-4a98-bf62-6ebd5ba1ecc3.filesusr.com/ugd/116a82_36a58e700cf64d0a8b92a4c2811cbc68.pdf

all verbal and written antisemitic abuse. More recent data is provided by the 2020 half year report of the *Antisemitism Report Office*, listing as many as 257 incidents up until 30.06.2020.

Interpretation

The given service-based data of the report published in 2019 indicates an increasing number of reported antisemitic incidents compared to 2017. More recent data from the half year report 2020 seems to suggest fewer incidents in the first half of the year. However, this does not indicate a decline in antisemitism as a whole. The Covid-19 measures had a relevant impact on everyday life, possibly affecting the ways in which antisemitism is expressed and therefore reported. In addition, the number of cases in the second half of the year is still unknown.

Incidents of antisemitism

Below I present a selection of antisemitic incidents, which became an issue for public debate and were reported by the media. Since I already covered antisemitism in connection with the Corona Pandemic at the beginning of this report, I will now focus mostly on incidents not directly associated with Corona mobilizations. This should also illustrate that new expressions of antisemitism do not necessarily replace those that already exist, but must be understood as additional forms. The following list makes no claim to completeness. Unfortunately, there were many more incidents that would be worth mentioning. Therefore, I focused on incidents that had greater influence on the public or were of special interest.

- January

An ongoing debate about the historian Professor Lothar Höbelt from the University Vienna gains momentum when it becomes known that he has given a lecture ("Entgermanisierung?" Österreich und Deutschland nach 1945) at the far-right thinktank *Institut für Staatspolitik (IfS)*¹⁵⁷. Höbelt is already known for his participation in a commemorative publication¹⁵⁸ for the Holocaust denier David Irving and several questionable statements in his lectures. This results in protests of Jewish Student Organizations¹⁵⁹, Antifascists and the Austrian Students' Association¹⁶⁰.

The Mauthausen concentration camp is smeared with swastikas.¹⁶¹ In connection with this act of vandalism. the *Austrian Mauthausen Committee* criticizes Thomas Stelzer

157 <https://www.progress-online.at/artikel/h%C3%B6belt-%E2%80%93-%E2%80%89abriss-eines-skandals>

158 <https://www.doew.at/erkennen/rechtsextremismus/neues-von-ganz-rechts/archiv/jaenner-1999/festschrift-fuer-irving>

159 <https://www.facebook.com/joehwien/posts/2525156640895182/>

160 <https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000113319157/studierende-blockierten-hoersaal-von-fpoe-historiker-hoebelt>

161 <https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000112974551/kz-gedenkstaette-mauthausen-mit-hakenkreuzen-beschmiert>

(Peoples Party), the current Governor of Upper Austria, for not responding strongly enough against right extremism and instead supporting events like the “Burschenbundball” - an important extreme-right¹⁶² event.

- February

Criticism of the results of the panel investigating (Historikerkommision) the Freedom Party’s history continues, after several prominent historians pointed out gaps in covering the ideological continuity between the Freedom Party and National Socialism.¹⁶³¹⁶⁴

BDS Austria initiate a resolution against the Parliament's decision to ban BDS from government resources¹⁶⁵, and organize a demonstration in front of the US Embassy, with shouted slogans like “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!” “Israel child killer!” and “Intifada!”.¹⁶⁶

- May

Lisa Eckart, an Austrian comedian, uses racist and antisemitic cliches in her program, sparking a discussion in Austria and Germany about political satire and antisemitism.¹⁶⁷

In Vienna BDS activists stage a public execution of a Palestinian by the Israeli Army in the Viktor Adler Platz.¹⁶⁸

- June

Journalistic research reveals that former Vice President Hans Cristian Strache (Freedom Party) wrote his dedication in an antisemitic publication which was originally printed by the National Socialist publisher Stürmer.¹⁶⁹¹⁷⁰

- July

Inspired by the debate on racist monuments in the USA, the discussion on the monument of anti-Semite Karl Lueger in Vienna is rekindled¹⁷¹. Different forms of protest are implemented and demands for contextualizing or tearing down the monument are raised. In this context an Art Collective decorates the monument with the word “Schande”

¹⁶²<https://www.mkoe.at/gedenkstaettenschaendung-und-burschenbundball-mauthausen-komitee-kritisiert-lh-stelzer>

¹⁶³<https://www.doew.at/neues/wissenschaftliche-stellungnahme-zum-fpoe-historikerbericht>

¹⁶⁴<https://www.diepresse.com/5763160/historiker-kritisieren-den-fpo-historikerbericht>

¹⁶⁵<https://bdsmovement.net/news/palestinian-civil-society-austrian-parliament-oppose-resolution-criminalize-peaceful-activism>

¹⁶⁶<https://presse-service.net/2020/02/03/palaestinensische-kundgebung-vor-der-us-botschaft-in-wien-03-02-2020/>

¹⁶⁷<https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000117376970/kritik-an-kabarettistin-lisa-eckhart-judenwitz-und-n-wort-schmaeh>

¹⁶⁸<https://www.oe24.at/oesterreich/chronik/wien/hinrichtung-mitten-in-wien-favoriten-nachgespielt/431159143>

¹⁶⁹<https://www.bonvalot.net/wem-strache-seine-widmung-geschrieben-hat-832/>

¹⁷⁰<https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000117825141/handschriftliche-antisemitische-widmung-von-hc-strache-aufgetaucht>

¹⁷¹<https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000120381787/initiativ>

(disgrace). The word is still sprayed as graffiti and written in concrete letters on the statue.¹⁷²

- August

In Graz we see a culmination of antisemitic incidents: in February a 16-year-old boy was attacked in Graz for wearing a ring with the Star of David¹⁷³. In August the synagogue is vandalized and smeared twice¹⁷⁴ and at the end of the month Elli Rosen, President of the Jewish Community, is physically attacked by the same person who had vandalized the Synagogue and other buildings with homophobic and antisemitic smears. In response to these antisemitic incidents a vigil is held in front of the Synagogue, and is charged by the police for the questionable reason of blocking the streets.¹⁷⁵ Also in August, the prosecution under the Prohibition Act (“Verbotsgesetz”) begins against two police officers from Graz who had shared Nazi-Memes and are known for their antisemitic statements.¹⁷⁶

- November

On November 2 in Vienna an Islamist Terror attack near the synagogue kills four civilians and injures 23. It remains unclear whether there was an explicit antisemitic motive behind it. The extreme right nevertheless spreads racist and antisemitic conspiracies after the attack claiming that “Jews profit from the attack”.¹⁷⁷

Independently from the terror attacks authorities search dozens of homes across Austria and question people suspected of ties with the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas. One of the suspects, Farid Hafez who is a political scientist at the Department of Political Science and Sociology at the University of Salzburg, compares the raid of his home, where his children also live, with the “Kristallnacht” (“Night of Broken Glass”)¹⁷⁸. This is broadly criticized.¹⁷⁹

In 2017 Johannes Hübner (Freedom Party) ran for the Austrian parliament, but when a recording of his lecture at a far-right event became public, with him making antisemitic

172 <https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000120484297/kuenstler-verewigten-graffiti-auf-karl-lueger-denkmal-mit-beton>

173 <https://orf.at/stories/3156978/>

174 <https://kurier.at/chronik/oesterreich/schwere-sachbeschaedigung-an-grazer-synagoge/401008172>

175 <https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000119726258/anzeige-gegen-synagogen-mahnwache-peinlich-und-vielsagend>

176 <https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000119528008/ein-hund-namens-adolf-rechtsextreme-umtriebe-bei-polizei-aufgedeckt>

177 <https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000121716078/nach-dem-anschlag-in-wien-rechtsextreme-machen-nun-stimmung-gegen>

178 <https://bridge.georgetown.edu/research/xinjiang-and-kristallnacht-in-austria-freedom-of-religion-under-threat/>

179 <https://www.diepresse.com/5901958/vergleich-razzia-mit-pogrom-uni-salzburg-distanziert-sich-von-forscher>

comments, he withdrew. Now he has been appointed to the Bundesrat by the Freedom Party.¹⁸⁰¹⁸¹

Conclusion

This year we observed how the corona pandemic fuelled new forms of antisemitism which found expression in various demonstrations against federal coronavirus measures. In this context antisemitism was mostly expressed in combination with conspiracy beliefs and narratives blaming Jews for the pandemic and claiming that an imagined group of Jewish persons in power profit from the crisis. Also, we saw various forms of secondary antisemitism such as publicly worn symbols and speeches. Forms of guilt deflection were observed when people minimized, relativized or downplayed the Holocaust, and placed themselves as today's true victims of the same repression experienced by people during the Shoah. While a great number of demonstrators against coronavirus measures can be included in the Far-right, there is still a large portion of people who are more difficult to categorize in terms of political spectra - for example esoteric Christian groups or the "Peace Movement". The ideological glue which holds these people together seems to be the belief in a wide range of conspiracy myths. Confronting this new expression of antisemitism is entangled with other current issues like how to address "Fake News" and the general spread of conspiracy beliefs. For now, it is too early to tell whether the "National Strategy against Antisemitism"¹⁸², released in January 2021 by the Federal government, can address this "new", as well as the old forms of antisemitism. While on paper the strategy seems ambitious, we will have to wait and see if it is implemented in a way that can address antisemitism in its various forms.

Literature

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Belgium / Joël Kotek

Nowhere in the EU, except for France, do Jews experience as much hostility in the streets as they do in Belgium (cf. the deadly attack on the Jewish Museum on 24 May 2014). Since 2001, Belgium has seen an increase in the number of cases related to antisemitism.

¹⁸⁰<https://www.doew.at/erkennen/rechtsextremismus/neues-von-ganz-rechts/archiv/juli-2017/causa-huebner-reaktionen-und-offene-fragen>

¹⁸¹<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/politician-noted-for-antisemitic-comments-nominated-to-austrian-senate-650420>

¹⁸²<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:8bd2975f-0483-4e74-abd9-d66446195d7c/antisemitismusstrategie.pdf>

For the fifth time in 10 years, *Antisemitisme.be* and UNIA, the *governmental Center for Equal Opportunities* have handled more than 100 cases of antisemitism in the past year. The number of antisemitic incidents more than doubled between 2017 and 2020, from 56 to 115. An increase of 32% was documented compared to 2019. Clearly, antisemitism is widespread on the Internet, accounting for more than half of documented antisemitic incidents.

It is clear that antisemitic discourse has become commonplace at all levels - from a call for war against Jews at a pro-Palestinian demonstration in Brussels to violence against Haredi people in Antwerp. On five occasions, Haredi Jews, by definition extremely visible, were violently attacked by young Muslims or East Europeans.

COVID-19: The health crisis did not fail to generate accusations against the Jews. They were accused of not respecting the rules because they considered themselves above the law, or of being directly responsible for the pandemic and intending to make money from it. An article posted on the Facebook page of i24NEWS entitled "*Coronavirus: a vaccine will be ready in a few weeks (Israeli scientists)*" became the target of antisemitic comments such as: "*It is well known that it is the Jews who transmit this horrible coronavirus, so they have the vaccine to market it later... still the money*". In an item criticizing Haredi people arrested in a Synagogue in Antwerp, several comments of antisemitic nature appeared. One of them read: Sven De Smet (President of the umbrella organization of the Aalst Carnival): "*Zinloos! Gods uitverkoren ras!*" "*Nonsense! The race chosen by God!*"

In Belgium, antisemitism has many faces. Different forms of Jew-hatred exist alongside each other. Some are rooted in the extreme right while others come from the extreme left, and especially now from the Muslim population. Another form is 'everyday antisemitism' in the form of stereotypes.

Examples of traditional antisemitism:

i) Aalst Carnival. In 2019, one float at the carnival featured two figures of ultraorthodox Jews holding bags of money. One had a rat on his shoulder. This was not the first time that seemingly antisemitic themes were displayed at the Aalst Carnival. In 2013, participants dressed as Nazis and walked around with cans labeled "Zyklon B" - the toxin used by the Nazis to kill Jews in gas chambers. In 2020, a year after sparking controversy and a wave of international protests over antisemitism, the annual carnival's organizers brought back antisemitic themes, with new antisemitic slogans, costumes and floats. These included: orthodox Jews dressed as insects (ants); UNESCO merged with the Gestapo and the Nazis - carnival-goers dressed in SS uniforms with the words "Unestapo"; conspiracy messages according to which the Jews dominate UNESCO with their financial power, particularly involving the Mossad; and caricatures of Jews with hooked noses

resembling caricatures from the 1930s. A float, driven by men dressed as ultraorthodox Jews, with fake hooked noses and silver face paint, featured a large sign proclaiming six “regulations” handed down by the fictitious “Jewish festival committee”: *“No Jews in the parade; no mocking of Jews; don’t ever tell the truth about the Jew; what the Jew wants will happen; all drugs and black money are ours.”* For the first time, Belgium’s prime minister intervened in the debate and asked legal institutions to determine if the law had been broken. The city of Aalst is run by the New Flemish Alliance (N-VA), a nationalist party and partial successor of the pro-Nazi collaboration, pushing for an independent Flanders. Thus, many Flemish politicians supported the position of the mayor of Aalst. One was Vincent Van Quickenborne, a former nationalist politician (Volksunie), who has since joined the liberal party (Open VLD), and at the time served as MP and mayor of Kortrijk. In an antisemitic tweet, following international protest by UNESCO, Jewish organizations and Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz, he denounced the growing influence of the Jews in Belgium: *“The Jewish lobby is working overtime these days. After wanting to damage the Aalst parade, it is now acting in Washington to take control of the power!”* He accused the American “Jewish lobby” of opposing Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders because the latter *“knows the truth about the Jews!”* These remarks gave rise to a wave of reactions in Belgium’s political circles. Liberal MP Frederique Ries reacted: *“Did you write ‘Jewish lobby’? Did I read these words written by a former minister and current member of parliament!? What a shame! These are terrible antisemitic words. You should know, Mr. Quickerborne, that the disappointment, disgust and dismay after the Aalst parade was expressed internationally. This is not just a Jewish issue. The fight against racism is global and we are proud to fight antisemitism”.* Claude Marinower, a Jewish MP and member of the same Flemish Liberal and Democratic party as Vincent Van Quickenborne, wrote: *“It seems that nothing has changed since the darkest times and your comments show this once again.”* Since then, Vincent Van Quickenborne has been appointed Minister of Justice.

ii) Chrétien.be. Another example of unimpeded antisemitic discourse, worthy of the pre-war period, are the publications of a curious political movement called “Christian.be”. Headed by Emmanuel Colbrant, this movement is built upon foundations of antisemitism and conspiracy theories, as can be seen on their internet page. Here they do not hesitate to bring out of oblivion the old accusations that flourished before the Holocaust, updated with anti-Zionist sauce. In the 21st century, one can read posts stating that *“Jews do not worship God but Satan”, “Jews killed Jesus”* who *“was Palestinian for being born in Bethleem”*, Jews propagate COVID-19 with the help of the Liberal Party (MR), the Talmud preaches hatred, if not the death of non-Jewish mankind, Jews stir up hatred between Christians and Muslims. This group presents itself as allied to Sunni Muslims, and there is every reason to believe that it is financed by the United Arab Emirates, now at peace with Israel!

Examples of far-right antisemitism:

- i) A man called the general number of the Jewish Social Service in the middle of the afternoon. He started by asking why we were angry about the Aalst Carnival, when the Israelis were killing children every day. The operator got worried and asked for his name. He answered "Adolf Hitler" and hung up.
- ii) A professor and his assistant at Ghent University's Department of Communication Sciences were forced to resign, after one of them received the police with calls of "Sieg Heil" and "Welcome to Nazi Germany" when they intervened in a nightly disturbance.
- iii) On a train between Antwerp and Mechelen, four individuals accessed the intercom service normally used by attendants and ordered the "Jewish cancers" to get off the train.

Example of left-wing antisemitism:

The day after the elimination of the Iranian general Qassem Soleimani by the American army, lawyer Jean-Marie Dermagne, former president of the Bar and former director of research on Human rights (sic) at the Catholic University of Louvain, posted the following on his Facebook wall: *"The real masters of the world are the Israelis. Trump, the sinister blowhard, is (like his predecessors) only their armed puppet. They are the ones doing the shooting."* This activist, who is close to the socialist party (PS) and the Belgian communist party (PTB), firmly believes that Israel is the *'master of the world'*. He also accused Israel of being responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic in Gaza at a time when the Palestinian enclave was completely free of it. This supposedly progressive man is a repeat offender. For example, in 2017, he posted on his Facebook page a drawing by Noël Gérard, named Joe Le Corbeau, a cartoonist associated with French fascist Alain Soral, claiming that the Rothschilds control all but six of the world's central banks. His disgust with Israeli Jews is such that he served as the Belgian lawyer of French antisemitic activist Dieudonné Mbala. His son, Pierre-Yves Dermagne is currently a federal Socialist minister.

Examples of Muslim antisemitism:

- i) In June 2020, a group of demonstrators chanted *"Khaybar, khaybar, Ya yahud, jaysh Muhammad sawf ya'ud"* (*"Khaybar, Khaybar oh Jews, Muhammad's army will return"*), during the demonstration in Brussels against the possible annexation of Palestinian territories by Israel. The slogan refers to a battle between early Muslims and Jews in the seventh century.
- ii) Also in June, some shocking remarks appeared on the Facebook page of a member of the Christian party (CDH): a photo of Korans piled up, with the following comment: *"O God, destroy these Jews for this holy Koran. Share this post #for all Muslims to curse these Jews."*

iii) In April, under a Facebook report on an alleged assault by the Israeli army, user Mohammed Chatt posted the following comment: *"The Jew is a murderer in lam and Hitler understood that the Jew is the cancer of humanity as long as there are Jews the world will be sick I swear that an atomic bomb on their face and I swear and jemes tomorrow to burn I"*. The comment was reported and deleted by Facebook.

iv) After the expulsion of Belgian-Turkish MP Emir Kir from the Socialist Party, following a complaint by Jérémie Tojerow, a socialist militant of Jewish origin, Tojerow became the target of antisemitic and conspiratorial remarks on the social networks Twitter and Facebook. These included one by Mehmet Inan: *"This decision has a much wider scope than just Emir Kir. It is the exclusion of all Turkish politicians who dare to keep links with the AKP and MHP. It is significant to see that the person who filed the complaint, Jeremie Tojerow, is of Jewish origin, probably dual Belgian-Israeli, and probably even met Netanyahu, the 9/11 criminal, in person. This affair was therefore one more Zionist step to dominate Belgian politics and to keep the Zionist oligarchy in power in all the countries they run"*. The socialist MP Emir Kir had been persuaded to support extreme right-wing activists and Turkish Holocaust deniers.

v) *In 2020, a study conducted among 1672 French-speaking students in Brussels, by Joël Kotek and Joël Tournemenne of CEESAG, highlighted the prevalence of antisemitism among young believers, Catholics and even more so Muslims.*

APPENDIX: The Jew and the Other in Brussels' French-speaking schools

In Belgium, no scientific study has been conducted on the question of antisemitism in schools, and this question has been a blind spot since 1945, simply ignored by the political, media and academic worlds. The massacre at the Jewish Museum in 2014 changed nothing, arousing no particular awareness. However, politicians and journalists alike know that today only specifically Jewish locations - including nurseries, schools and youth movements, require daily military surveillance and that supposedly Jewish students have been harassed.

The findings of Elchardus

The only notable exception is a study conducted by a sociologist from the Dutch-speaking Free University of Brussels (VUB), Mark Elchardus, in the context of a general survey of Flemish youth in Brussels, where he highlighted the reality of a very high prevalence of antisemitism among Muslim students. According to his findings, about half of them express antisemitic opinions. To verify these results researchers affiliated with the European Centre for the Study of the Shoah, Antisemitism and Genocide (CEESAG) - a laboratory linked to the Institute for Jewish Studies near the ULB, decided to conduct a "counter-investigation" in 2018-2019, on the theme of young people and the Other. this

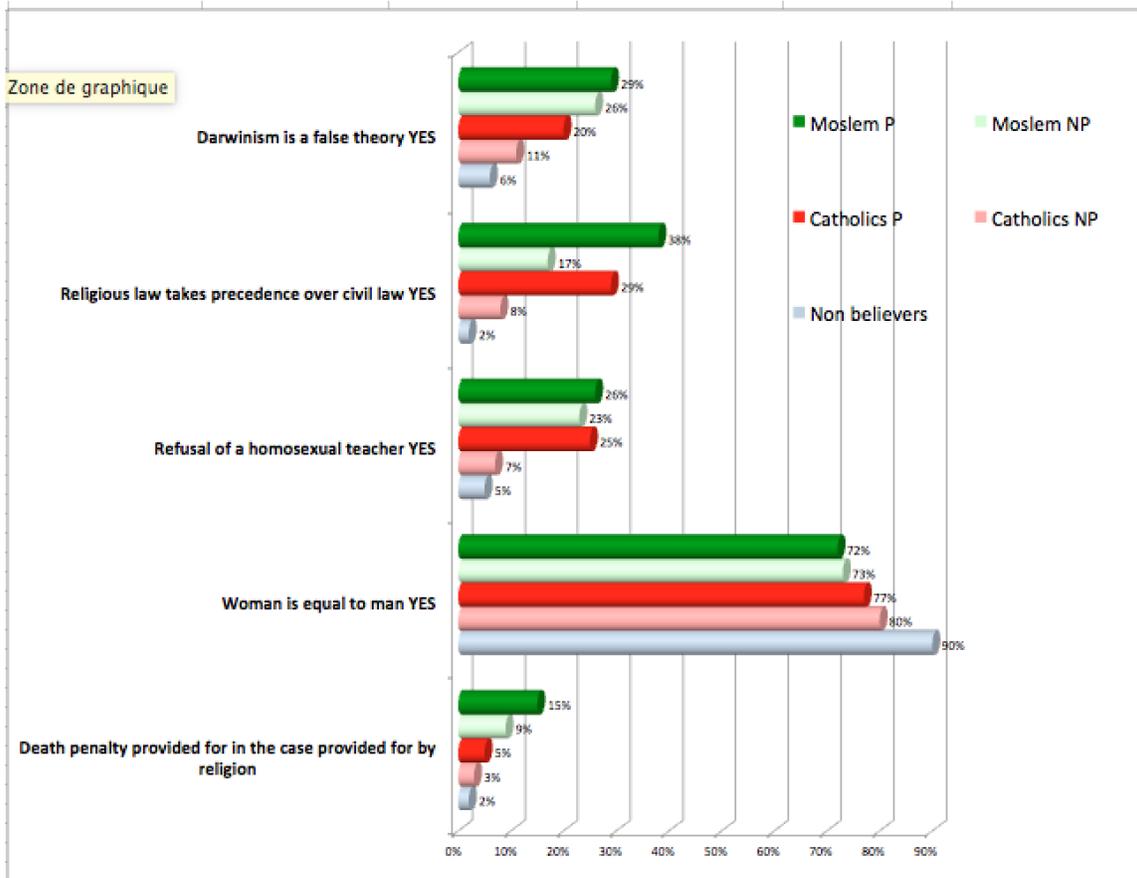
survey addressed the notions of antisemitism, homophobia and misogyny, this time in the French-speaking school network in Brussels.

What does the data on young people in Brussels reveal?

The weight of Islam

The survey confirms the significant weight of Islam in the Brussels region: 39% of the young people surveyed claim to be Muslim. Of these, 81% claim to be practicing Islam and only 19% declare themselves non-practicing. At the same time, our survey confirms the strong secularization of Belgians of Christian and Jewish origin as well as their increasing marginalization. Catholics are clearly a minority (25%).

If, on the whole, Belgian youth appear to be committed to cultural liberalism, a second observation stands out: the attitude of young people in Brussels toward the Other is very clearly linked to their religion. This is undoubtedly the main lesson of this study, which on the whole validates the conclusions of multiple surveys carried out in recent years by various European university institutes, including Mark Elchardus' survey. With regard to antisemitism, but also sexism or homophobia, it is not so much socioeconomic factors as cultural and religious elements that must be questioned: to a significant degree, practising Catholics and Muslims share the same prejudices. Compared to nonbelievers, young 'radical' Catholics appear to hold twice as many, and Muslims three times as many, antisemitic prejudices, regardless of their gender, educational background and level of education and/or their parents' socioeconomic status. In some cases, Muslim high school girls reveal more conservative attitudes than their male coreligionists. For example, 40% of practicing Muslim women refuse to consider marriage with a Jewish spouse, compared to 29% of Muslim men. The religious factor predominates over others, without cancelling them out. On the other hand, generally speaking, the "cultural" Catholics, i.e., non-practicing Catholics, hold opinions close to those of nonbelievers. Our survey confirms the tendencies underlined by the study of Mark Elchardus (VUB).



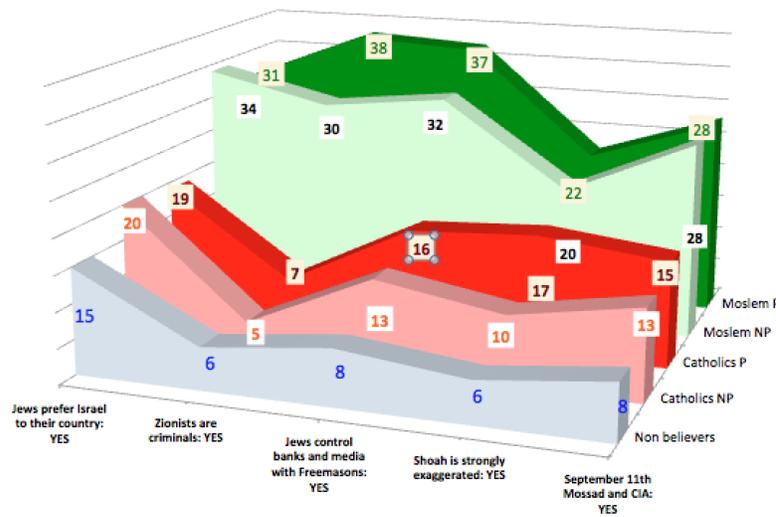
Gr 3

Our Muslim high school students showed more conservative values than the rest of the sample in all areas for the five items listed above.

The undeniable "Islamic effect"

The study reinforces the ethno-religious, culturalist analysis grid of the different surveys carried out in recent years by various European university institutes, all of which underline the "Islamic effect" in the derogatory representation of the Other. Antisemitic prejudices are very much present among Brussels youth of the Muslim faith. Without really being able to quantify hostility to Jews (see the 50% of the VUB survey), it is clear that Muslim respondents are three times more likely than nonbelievers to share antisemitic prejudices, regardless of their educational background, gender, field of study or level of religiosity. Thus, if 6% of nonbelievers feel that the Shoah's consequences have been exaggerated, this rate climbs to 21% for Muslims as a whole. They are also more than 35% more likely to believe that *"The Jews control the banks and the media with the Freemasons"* and more than 35% more likely to believe that the Zionists are criminals. This question illustrates the effects of religious practice on adherence to antisemitic items. In fact, adherence to this item is 6% among people who declare themselves to be

"atheists" or "nonbelievers", 22% among "non-practicing Muslims", including 20% among high school girls, and 17% among "practicing Catholics".



Gr 4

In all the items concerning Jews, the young Muslims surveyed displayed significantly more derogatory representations than the rest of the sample.

Canada / Ran Ukashi (B'nai Brith)

Overview

The year 2020, characterized as it was by the global COVID-19 pandemic, was a year that saw significant political, economic, and social strife around the world, including in Canada. As has been observed throughout history, such periods of tumult and relative discord tend to foment racial, ethnic, religious, and other prejudices, including antisemitic expressions, be they in the form of harassment, vandalism, or violence.

In particular, a significant number of recorded incidents of harassment, vandalism, and violence centered to one degree or another around conspiracy theories blaming Jews for creating and/or perpetuating the novel coronavirus, seeking to control governments and populations by way of the virus, deliberately infecting — or seeking to infect — non-Jews, among other absurd and dangerous sentiments. There were additional conspiracy theories that translated into antisemitic sentiments, including claims that Jews and/or the State of Israel are responsible for instances of police brutality against African Americans in the United States and prejudice against Blacks in Canada. Such sentiments spanned the ideological spectrum from the far-left to the far-right.

As such, the year 2020 appeared to be similar to previous years in terms of the number of antisemitic incidents, and Jews continue to be the most targeted religious minority in Canada. In fact, according to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, police-reported hate crimes for 2019 — the most recently available statistics on the phenomenon — revealed that 15% of all hate crimes in Canada targeted the Jewish community, despite the community comprising only about 1% of the national population. Unfortunately, this trend has been ongoing for at least a decade.

The Canadian Context: 2020 Trends in Antisemitism

Distribution of Incidents

Across the country, there were relative decreases (although generally still higher than numbers recorded even half a decade ago) in all provinces except for Ontario and the Atlantic provinces, including New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. While it is somewhat unsurprising that Ontario, given that it is home to the country's largest Jewish population, had the highest number of recorded incidents in Canada—consistent with previous years except for 2019 when Quebec exceeded Ontario in total incidents—what was surprising was that the recorded number of incidents in Ontario in 2020 was the highest for that province on record.

Secondly, another surprising finding was that although Quebec, with the second largest Jewish population in Canada, had the second highest recorded antisemitic incidents in 2020, Atlantic Canada, which historically up until 2020 was the region with the lowest number of incidents (and the lowest population of Jewish citizens) had the highest growth in antisemitic incidents compared to any other region, including Ontario. These findings are disturbing “milestones” regarding the nature and spread of antisemitism in Canada.

Harassment

While there was a relative drop in terms of online harassment in 2020, it still constituted by far the vast majority of harassment in Canada due to the ease of communication afforded by online platforms, and in many cases the anonymity that can be afforded by such mediums, to avoid consequences and prosecution. It must be emphasized, however, that this decrease in online manifestations did not represent an absolute drop in total harassment. In fact, there was a relative increase in “in-person” harassment to make up the difference, despite the various and frequent periods of “lockdowns” and self-segregation/quarantine measures in place at different times across the country. As such, levels of harassment reached record highs in 2020, all things considered.

Examples of online harassment experienced during the pandemic included several instances of “Zoom bombings,” whereby a Zoom meeting (or some other peer-to-peer videotelephony program) of a Jewish institution, synagogue, school, or even private

gathering is hijacked by antisemitic agitators displaying antisemitic content (often including pornographic images), across the country.

In total, COVID-19-related incidents accounted for approximately 1 in 10 of all recorded incidents of antisemitism in 2020.

Vandalism

Rates of vandalism were lower than in the past several years. However, many of the recorded incidents were far more “intimate” insofar as they targeted personal property to a significant degree. An inordinate amount of mezuzot were damaged or removed from doorposts of Jewish-owned properties. Additionally, there were several cases of vandalism against Jewish houses of worship and sacred spaces, such as the desecration of the Montreal-area Kol Yehouda Synagogue where Torah scrolls were found strewn about the building and religious items were found in the toilet, as well as a Jewish cemetery in Winnipeg where two windows of a mausoleum were smashed. Additionally, it is noteworthy that over 1 in 10 incidents of vandalism took place in primary, secondary, and post-secondary educational institutions.

Violence

Violent incidents were at their lowest in years, but just under half of all incidents were COVID-19-related, targeting primarily the visibly observant Jewish community, and taking place particularly — but not solely — in Quebec. Many of the attacks were precipitated following erroneous reports in the mainstream media that gave the impression that members of the local observant Jewish community were deliberately flouting COVID-19 regulations, alongside widely promulgated online conspiracy theories. The range of violence recorded included people being slapped in the face, spat on, shot with BB pellets from a moving vehicle, having bottles thrown at them from an apartment window, and being headbutted. In Winnipeg, one incident unrelated to the pandemic involved a teenaged student at a local high school being beaten by seven other students after being told that “Jews should go back to the ovens.”

While not all victims of violence in 2020 were visibly observant Jews, there is nevertheless an observable historical trend whereby the most visibly observant Jews tend to face the brunt of physical attacks.

Antisemitism on Canadian Campuses

As has been the case in previous years, antisemitism continues to spread on Canadian campuses. Below are some examples of incidents transpiring over the past year:

- A college of the University of Toronto sponsored former Black Panther member to speak at an “Israel Apartheid Week” event, where the speaker lauded two former terrorists of

the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) — a listed terrorist entity in Canada — and blamed Israel for heavy-handedness by American law enforcement against African Americans, among other absurd statements.

- A student union at the University of Toronto Scarborough reaffirmed its 2013 support for the antisemitic Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, and vowed not to work with any organizations that “normalize” Israel, thereby excluding Jewish and Israeli student groups — as well as students, and discriminating against them on the basis of their national origin.

Antisemitism in Canadian Primary and Secondary Schools

There has been a concerning rise in antisemitism at primary and secondary schools across the country over the past number of years—a phenomenon which was formally acknowledged by Canada’s largest school board, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), in its Human Rights Annual Report 2018 – 2020. For 2018-2019, antisemitic incidents constituted 23% of hate incidents reported to the TDSB, and in 2019-20 they accounted for 11%. Yet despite the decrease in the previous year, Jews constituted the single largest religious group targeted by a hateful incident in either case. The report notes that “Incidents of Antisemitism have risen at an alarming rate,” alongside incidents of homophobia, anti-Black racism (which constituted the largest form of hatred identified by the TDSB between 2018-2020), among others.

The TDSB is by no means unique in its experience with antisemitism, as incidents have been documented from across the country, including the abovementioned incident of violence at a high school in Winnipeg, among other cases of antisemitic harassment and vandalism. As has been the case in previous years, antisemitism is growing in Canadian primary and secondary schools, with expressions both online and in-person transpiring among younger and younger age ranges.

Fighting Antisemitism

Despite the grim data presented above, there have been important successes in the fight against antisemitism over the past year. Below are several illustrative examples of B’nai Brith Advocacy initiatives that led to tangible results in combatting antisemitism and discrimination in Canada:

1. Two Polish-language newspapers in the Toronto-area were censured for publishing antisemitic articles, including a COVID-19-related conspiracy theory, after being exposed by B’nai Brith Canada.

Andrzej Kumor, the editor of the longstanding antisemitic newspaper *Goniec*, was arrested and warned that any further promotion of hatred against Jews would result in criminal charges. Kumor’s paper had published articles suggesting that Jews are spying on the public through the WhatsApp cellphone application, that Jews and

Zionists have “terrorism in their blood”, that sinister Jewish forces control the U.S. and Polish governments, and other conspiracy theories.

A second publication called Głos, edited by Wiesław Magiera, published an article blaming the COVID-19 pandemic on a Jewish plot, while elsewhere blaming “organized Jewry” for creating and controlling the terrorist group “ISIS/ISIL, and also alleging that Jews intended to take over Poland. Following B’nai Brith Canada’s exposure of this article, the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada severed their ties with the paper.

2. Following months of campaigning alongside several Jewish activists and local municipal councilors, the Town of Ajax in Ontario pledged to rename a street named after Hans Langsdorff, a Nazi naval captain who commanded German forces at the 1939 Battle of the River Plate, dealing another blow to Nazi glorification in Canada.
3. Following fruitful discussions with the Archdiocese of Edmonton, Father Rydzyk, head of the controversial Radio Maryja radio station and other media enterprises in Poland, was barred from visiting the Archdiocese of Edmonton and affiliated parishes in the future due to his station’s longstanding promulgation of highly discriminatory, antisemitic, and inflammatory content. This was the first instance, anywhere in the world, of an Archdiocese publicly barring Father Rydzyk, an outspoken and influential cleric in Poland.

Furthermore, following discussions with CJMR 1320, a radio station broadcasting Radio Maryja in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), the station took principled action in severing its ties with Radio Maryja, further eroding the nefarious influence of the station in Canada as well as its global stature.

Arthur Topham Charged Again

Thanks to the dogged work of dedicated B’nai Brith volunteer Harry Abrams, Arthur Topham, a convicted hater from British Columbia, was sentenced to a 30-day conditional sentence plus three years’ probation, after failing to comply with the terms of his previous probation. The initial probation stemmed from Topham’s 2017 conviction for willfully promoting hatred against Jews. In 2012, Topham was first charged after he had called for Jews to be forcibly sterilized, claimed that Canada is “controlled by the Zionist Jew lobby,” and described Jewish places of worship as “synagogues of Satan”, ultimately leading to conviction by a jury in November 2015.

The original decision to convict Topham was an important development in combating criminal hate speech in Canada, demonstrating that there are consequences for inciting hatred against fellow citizens - which serves as a deterrent to some, and a relief to others.

IHRA

Following advocacy efforts by B’nai Brith Canada and other advocacy groups, Ontario — the province with Canada’s largest Jewish community — became the first Canadian

province to adopt the IHRA Definition in October through a legally binding Order in Council that explicitly “adopts and recognizes the Working Definition of Antisemitism, as adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Plenary on May 26, 2016.”

This development represented a major milestone in allowing for a provincial level of government to incorporate the best available definition of antisemitism — the definition that also enjoys the broadest possible consensus within the Jewish community around the world — in policymaking efforts to combat antisemitic hatred and discrimination, in all areas within provincial jurisdiction.

More Needs to be Done

Much progress has been made in the fight against antisemitism. The scourge of online antisemitism has been recognized at the highest levels of government, and is receiving considerable attention and analysis at the parliamentary level. Provincial and municipal governments are increasingly recognizing the importance of defining antisemitism and incorporating this definition into the existing policy suites at all levels of government. Canada now has a Special Envoy who will focus his efforts, with a federal mandate, to combat antisemitism and Holocaust denial both at home and abroad, and work with community groups such as B’nai Brith Canada to meaningfully address this phenomenon and take concerted action to stamp it out wherever and whenever it arises. B’nai Brith Canada has long advocated its “Eight-Point Plan” as a practical path towards concerted and sustained action against antisemitism in all domains of public life in Canada, and continues to urge its adoption at all levels of government and civil society.

Czech Republic /Zbyněk Tarant

“Why is Israel so successful in vaccination? Because Jews do not believe in antisemitic conspiracy theories.”

– Czech Covid-19 anti-antisemitic joke (recorded in January 2020)

Summary

In the turbulent year of 2020, the Czech Jewish communities noted a certain increase in online antisemitic incitement, but the overall situation has not changed significantly. Despite several incidents noted in this report, the Czech Republic remains a safe and welcoming country for its Jewish communities. The impact of the coronavirus pandemic can be felt in certain qualitative characteristics of Czech antisemitism, but the attitudes of the general society to its Jewish minority seems not to have changed in any statistically significant way. Online incitement currently presents the most serious challenge, especially in times, when rational, evidence-based science is under the attack of hoaxes and disinformation. Penetration of antisemitism into jokes about inoculation is seen as a

challenge for the next year, when a nation-wide vaccination program against Covid-19 is expected to take place. The combination of antisemitism and anti-vaxxer's discourse is nothing but a continuation of an older antisemitic myth about Jews poisoning the wells or Jewish doctors spreading diseases. Any efforts to curb anti-vaxxer hoaxes should take the possible antisemitic dimensions of these myths into consideration.

General trends

Most of the annual statistics and yearbooks in the Czech Republic are usually not finalized before mid-Spring of the following year. Most quantitative data in this report are thus based on preliminary or mid-year reports from 2020. Also, the latest public opinion surveys cited in this report come from Spring 2020, so they may not fully reflect the social impact of the Covid-19 crisis. The annual poll by the Center for Public Opinion Surveys found no statistically significant change of attitudes towards Jews in comparison to previous years. Jews were ranked by the Czech respondents in a similar “somewhat positive” category together with Germans and Vietnamese.¹⁸³ Judging from a mid-year report of the Czech Ministry of Interior, there was no significant increase of extremist activity and hate crimes between January and September 2020. The police investigated 23 crimes with antisemitic subtext, mostly of verbal nature (internet posts, shouting of antisemitic slogans or slurs in public areas, expression of support for groups aimed at curbing human rights etc.).¹⁸⁴ Protests against epidemiological measures, mask wearing and vaccination, like the one that took place at the Old Town Square in Prague on 28 October 2020, may influence the final statistics, however, as antisemitic incidents were reported from them (see below).

In a preliminary report, the Prague Jewish community noted an increase of about 25% in verbal antisemitic incidents online. The vast majority of antisemitic incidents took place online. The community reported at least one report of a violent attack with alleged antisemitic subtext and the incident is currently under investigation.¹⁸⁵ The Center for Jewish Studies in Olomouc has experienced a case of “Zoom bombing” with antisemitic subtext, when a group of online trolls infiltrated and disrupted its Zoom session, where an academic lecture on Jewish history was supposed to take place. The lecture had to be ended by the administrator.¹⁸⁶ The total number of active antisemitic websites, blogs and other online outlets (online radio etc.) have remained similar to the previous year. A total

183 “Vztah české veřejnosti k národnostním skupinám žijícím v ČR – březen 2020”, April 29, 2020, Center for Public Opinion Surveys – Czech Academy of Sciences, available at: <https://cvvm.soc.cas.cz/tiskove-zpravy/ostatni/vztahy-a-zivotni-postoje/5203-vztah-ceske-verejnosti-k-narodnostnim-skupinam-zijicim-v-cr-brezen-2020> [cit. 12.01.2021].

184 “Problematika extremismu na území České republiky v 1. pololetí 2020 – MV”, Czech Ministry of Interior, available at: <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/ctvrtletni-zpravy-o-extremismu-odboru-bezpecnostni-politiky-mv.aspx> [cit. 12.01.2021].

185 Detailed version of the report will be published by the Federation of Jewish Communities by April/May 2021 at the Federation's website: <https://www.fzo.cz/projekty-fzo/forum-proti-antisemitismu/vyrocní-zpravy-o-projevech-antisemitismu-v-ceske-republice/>

186 Centrum judaistických studií Kurta a Ursuly Schubertových, FF UP Olomouc, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/169548736412565/posts/3745477838819619>

of 107 active antisemitic websites were identified in 2020 (109 in 2019) during the preparation of this report.¹⁸⁷ The majority of these websites can be labeled as “conspiracism” and “esotericism” with heavy pro-Russian inclinations. They often combine occult conspiracy theories with ideas of Russian neoconservatism, neo-Fascism and neo-Stalinism.¹⁸⁸ As such, these websites are often difficult to label by using the traditional “far-left” and “far-right” labels. Traditional neo-Nazi and far-right websites continued to decline. Far-left and Islamist websites were negligible compared to the significant role of esoteric conspiracism, yet several cases were found.

Impact of the coronavirus

The country managed to successfully minimize the impact of the first epidemic wave between March and May 2020, but the situation forced the populist government of Andrej Babiš to implement highly unpopular measures. Fearing political backlash, the measures were repeatedly strengthened and relaxed leading to mixed, confusing messages that contributed to the public's frustration. The second wave, which struck in early October, took the Czech government by surprise. The resourceful Czechs, who in the Spring made headlines for having sown face masks in their homes and launching a whole innovation spree with 3D-printed medical equipment and ventilators made of commonly available parts, became increasingly tired of the situation. As also happened in other countries, the government was criticized for issuing lockdowns without offering appropriate reimbursement to the businesses and individuals affected. Unfounded information was spread on some occasions, not only by fringe groups, but also by some scientists, pundits and political elites. And while antisemitism was not present in the discourse of these mainstream elites, their proclamations contributed to the general mistrust and confusion about scientific, evidence-based methods, which in turn provides fertile ground for antisemitic conspiracy theories.

Fortunately, the antisemitic conspiracy theories about Covid-19 have not penetrated the Czech mainstream and have remained contained within the more fringe conspiracist scene. This scene, which is very closely connected with the pro-Russian disinformation outlets and diverse far-right and neo-Stalinist groups, strived to use this crisis as a leverage for mainstreaming its worldviews. The groups have generally failed to present their own comprehensive solutions to the epidemic, partially because they refuse to admit the very existence of the epidemic - which was taking more than 170 lives every day between November 2020 and January 2021, with the cumulative death toll rising to more than 13,000 by January 11th 2021.¹⁸⁹ At the end of 2020, the Czech Republic had the highest

187 Author's own research

188 For a more detailed analysis and sources, see: Tarant, Zbyněk. Antisemitism in the Czech Republic: Understanding Current Trends. *Antisemitism Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (Spring 2020), pp. 108-142, DOI 10.2979/antistud.4.1.05

189 COVID-19: Přehled aktuální situace v ČR [Health Ministry's official Covid-19 website], available at: <https://onemocneni-aktualne.mzcr.cz/covid-19> [cit. 12.01.2021].

numbers of infections per million in the world. One tenth of the population can be expected to be infected by the end of January 2021.

It took some time for the antisemitic narrative of the Covid-19 crisis to be formulated. That may partly be due to ambivalent attitudes of portions of the Czech antisemitic scene vis-à-vis Communist China and by the fact that Covid-19 has no obvious connection to the Jews. The virus originated in China and Israel was among the most heavily affected countries. While the Czech antisemitic scene is almost unanimous in its support of Putin's establishment in Russia, some of the most influential antisemitic outlets initially attacked the failure of the Chinese regime to contain the pandemic¹⁹⁰ and later to use it for propagandist purposes. At the same time, the Chinese narrative about the virus being introduced to China by "American military athletes" or about Covid-19 as a "biological weapon against Chinese males"¹⁹¹ was echoed by the same outlets.

The initial narratives included claims that the entire pandemic is a (Jewish) hoax, or that Jewish and Israeli companies were somehow involved in the Wu Han research center. The name of Bill Gates started to appear in the Czech discourse in connection with the pandemic already during the Spring, accusing the multi-billionaire of profiteering from the crisis. More comprehensive antisemitic narratives of Covid-19 took off by the end of Summer 2020, connecting the pandemic to the "New World Order" conspiracy theory in its various forms, accusing the "Globalists", Bilderberg, George Soros, Bill Gates or "international kabbalah" of using the crisis for a "global transformation" or "great reset" of society. China was allegedly conspiring with the Rockefeller Foundation in order to extent its model of population control to the rest of the world.¹⁹² Signs accusing the Czech government of "fulfilling the Rockefeller's Foundation plan" were spotted on November

190 "Coronavirus v Číně nakazil již přes 150 000 lidí, mrtvých je skoro 25 000 a číslo stále roste! Telekomunikační gigant Tencent pustil na několik hodin na web necenzurovaná čísla! Odvážný čínský novinář přehající před čínskou policií natočil ořesné video a svědectví z nemocnic ve Wuhanu! Pacienti leží na chodbách, dokonce i před záchody, mrtví pacienti na židličkách, kteří se nedočkali v čekárně pomoci! Nakažení lidé jsou napojeni na bomby s kyslíkem, nemocnice už nemají další místo, místní samospráva nařizuje lidem domácí vězení, nikdo je v nemocnici už neošetří!" Aenews, February 5, 2020, available at: <https://aeronet.cz/news/video-coronavirus-v-cine-nakazil-jiz-pres-150-000-lidi-mrtvych-je-skoro-25-000-a-cislo-stale-roste-telekomunikacni-gigant-tencent-pustil-na-nekolik-hodin-na-web-necenzurovana-cisla/> [cit. 12.01.2021].

191 "Novel Coronavirus 2019-nCov čelí podezření, že může jít o prototyp biotechnologické zbraně zaměřené prioritně na čínské muže, rozuměj čínské vojáky! Potvrzuje to studie 6 výzkumníků publikovaný na serveru americké biotechnologické laboratoře Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory z New Yorku! Podle slovenského lékaře mechanika viru vyvolává v plicích nemoc ARDS, která vede k ukončování procesu oxyličování krve a ke smrti! Britský ministr obrany již v roce 1997 předpověděl, že některé patogeny a viry by šly použít pro vyhlazení celých specifických ras a etnik!" Aenews, February 9, 2020, available at: <https://aeronet.cz/news/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-celi-podezreni-ze-muze-jit-o-prototyp-biotechnologicke-zbrane-zamerene-prioritne-na-cinske-muze-rozumej-cinske-vojaky-potvrzuje-to-studie-6-vyzkumniku-publikovany/> [cit. 12.01.2021].

192 "Co na nás chystá Čína, přesně podle Rockefellerova plánu." New World Order Opposition, February 9, 2020, available at: <http://www.nwoo.org/2020/10/22/co-na-nas-chysta-cina-presne-podle-rockefellerova-planu/> [cit. 12.01.2021].

17th, during protest against the pandemic measures in Prague.¹⁹³ Occasional anti-Jewish slurs could be heard from football hooligans participating in the protests, Such as “gas the Jews!” during the protest on October 28, 2020,¹⁹⁴ which later turned violent, forcing the riot police to disperse the crowd. Security at the nearby Jewish landmarks had to be put on high alert during the demonstrations.

When discussions about the first promising vaccines started during the Spring and Autumn of 2020, the entire narrative was connected with the claims of the long-established anti-vaxxer (anti-vaccination) movement. The antisemitic scene had a difficult time dealing with the fact that Russia has its own vaccine and vaccination program. Traces of smear campaigns against Pfizer and Moderna vaccines can be found, but the narrative focused on the alleged dangers of vaccination in general. At some points vaccination was explicitly presented as a Jewish invention and Jewish scheme to poison or sterilize the population. In an article circulated among multiple websites, vaccination was compared to the Holocaust with pharmaceutical companies and vaccine producers being compared to the IG Farben company, which supplied Cyclone B for the Nazi genocide of European Jewry. The article was titled “*Vaccination is the New Gas Chambers*”.¹⁹⁵ Memory of the Holocaust was abused to protest against special measures for inoculation by wearing Yellow Stars of David with an inscription “*not inoculated*”.¹⁹⁶ An image of this symbol was used on posters protesting against the plans to allow only vaccinated persons into restaurants and cultural events – a plan dubbed by the critics as “vaccination apartheid”.¹⁹⁷ The images of yellow stars being used to protest against vaccination triggered nation-wide condemnations from government politicians, the Jewish community and the Israeli embassy. One of the protesters who used the symbol told the press that “people, who are not inoculated, suffer like the Jews during the Holocaust”, possibly referring to what she saw as segregation - either failing to realize the genocidal dimensions of the Holocaust or intentionally abusing the references to it.¹⁹⁸

193 Česká televize, November 17, 2020, <https://ct24.ceskatelevize.cz/domaci/3227422-lide-si-pripominaji-17-listopad-hromadne-akce-ale-nebudou> [cit. 12.01.2021]. Confirmed by testimony from independent source.

194 Personal observation

195 Vakcinace jako novodobé plynové komory, Czech Free Press, December 12, 2020, available at: <https://www.czechfreepress.cz/dalsi-blogy/vakcinace-jako-novodobe-plynove-komory.html> [cit. 12.01.2021]

196 Novotný a Pekarová se ostře pustili do odpůrců očkování se žlutou hvězdou, CNN Prima News January 9, 2021, available at: [utm_source=www.seznam.cz&utm_medium=sekce-z-internetu#dop_ab_variant=0&dop_req_id=dNapHCkxZJS-202101091010&dop_source_zone_name=hpfeed.sznhp.box](https://www.seznam.cz/utm_source=www.seznam.cz&utm_medium=sekce-z-internetu#dop_ab_variant=0&dop_req_id=dNapHCkxZJS-202101091010&dop_source_zone_name=hpfeed.sznhp.box) [cit. 12.01.2021]

197 “Řekněme NE nucenému očkování proti koronaviru”, Národní demokracie January 1, 2021, available at: <https://narodnidemokracie.cz/rekneme-ne-nucenemu-ockovani-proti-koronaviru/> [cit. 12.01.2021]

198 “Neočkovaní trpí jako Židé za holokaustu, říká žena, která přišla na protest s hvězdou”, Aktuálně.cz January 11, 2021, available at: <https://zpravy.aktualne.cz/domaci/odvolana-liberecka-ombudsmanka-se-haji-na-socialnich-sitich/r~194e9254540211eb9c800cc47ab5f122/> [cit. 12.01.2021]

Using the infamous “Jewish Merchant” meme as a template, the neo-Nazi youth movement *Dělnická mládež* (Workers’ Youth) tweeted an image of a stereotypical Jew, offering the syringe with the vaccine in one hand, while holding a knife prepared in the other and saying: “*get yourselves inoculated*”. The tweet added that “*we will not get ourselves inoculated, no matter what the globalist bastards say*”.¹⁹⁹ A week later, the same neo-Nazi movement tweeted an image of a Jew sterilizing an Aryan woman with an injection.²⁰⁰ While both the tweets were mostly met with ridicule and anti-Nazi jokes, they may point to a more worrying trend. The combination of antisemitism and anti-vaxxer’s discourse is nothing less than a continuation of an older antisemitic myth about Jews poisoning the wells or Jewish doctors spreading diseases. As such, it could present a challenge for future years.

France / Riva Mane

50 Percent Decrease in Incidents

The number of antisemitic incidents recorded in France in 2020 by the Jewish Community Security Service in France (SPCJ), has declined by 50 percent compared to 2019²⁰¹. Physical assaults however remained almost unchanged from 2019, despite the nationwide lockdowns during the coronavirus pandemic and the decrease of activity in the Jewish community.

- 339 antisemitic incidents were recorded in 2020, significantly lower than the 687 in 2019 and 541 in 2018, and similar to the figures for 2016 (335 incidents) and 2017 (311).
- The number of physical assaults remained almost unchanged, with 44 assaults in 2020 compared to 45 in 2019, despite three and a half months of COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions as well as the significantly lower activity in Jewish institutions.
- The decrease in antisemitic incidents was mainly noted in acts of vandalism, graffiti, insults and hate-mail (as opposed to virtual email).

Antisemitic Discourse in 2020

As the SPCJ also noted, antisemitic activity continued to thrive in 2020 on the “nearly lawless Internet”, where disseminators of antisemitic contents could operate with impunity. The boundaries of online antisemitic rhetoric were stretched further, mainly through:

199 “My se proti onemocnění COVID-19 očkovat nenecháme! Ať si nás ty globalističtí bastardi vydírají, jak chtějí!” Twitter of “@DMLadez”. December 17, 2020 (12:04 AM)

200 “Záleží jen na nás, jestli se to stane skutečností!!!” Twitter of “@DMLadez”. December 29, 2020 (9:23 AM)

201 <https://www.antisemitisme.fr/dl/2020-CP-FR.pdf>.

- A wave of coronavirus-related conspiracy theories linking Jews to the outbreak of the pandemic.
- A surge of antisemitic remarks on social media after the runner-up to "Miss France 2021" revealed her Israeli background on French television during the Miss France beauty pageant.

According to a survey from February 2021 on "The Perception of Antisemitism in France",²⁰² carried out by the IPSOS institute and commissioned by the CRIF:²⁰³

- At least 74 percent of French citizens believe that antisemitism is a widespread phenomenon in France.
- 56 percent also believe that antisemitism is more severe today than a decade ago.
- 88 percent of those polled believe that the fight against antisemitism in France should be a priority for public authorities.

Violent Attacks despite Lockdowns

The decline in the overall number of antisemitic incidents in France may be attributed to the strict lockdowns²⁰⁴ and restrictions on movement imposed by the French government to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result of the restrictions there was a decrease in antisemitic activity directed against Jewish institutions, which were also subject to the government's restrictive measures. Nevertheless, despite the overall decline in incidents, the lockdowns and restrictions did not lead to a similar decrease in violent antisemitic attacks, which remained similar to the previous year.

Major incidents

One major incident of physical violence occurred in August 2020, when a 29-year-old man was brutally beaten and called a "dirty Jew" by two men who left him unconscious in the elevator of a Paris building²⁰⁵. In another August incident, the neighbor of a Paris synagogue smashed the synagogue's mezuzah to "restore religious neutrality" as the perpetrator later explained.²⁰⁶ In July, dozens of gravestones were vandalized in the Gruissan cemetery in the Aude region with swastikas and the words "Death to Jews" and

202 <http://www.crif.org/fr/content/crif-la-perception-de-lantis%C3%A9mitisme-en-france-5-chiffres-%C3%A0-retenir-sondage>.

203 CRIF – The umbrella organization for Jewish institutions in France (Conseil Représentatif des Institutions juives de France).

204 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the French government declared a national lockdown from Mid-March to May 11 and a second national lockdown from October 30 to December 15, followed by a nightly curfew.

205 <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/jewish-man-called-dirty-jew-and-beaten-unconscious-in-paris-elevator>.

206 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/paris-synagogue-neighbor-smashes-mezuzah-to-restore-religious-neutrality/>.

"Death to the French"²⁰⁷. In August a Jewish graffiti artist wearing a T-shirt reading "Israel" was assaulted in Strasbourg by a group of men who yelled, "You are a Jew, you have no place here" and spray-painted a graffiti reading, "no Jews allowed". One perpetrator was sentenced to six months in prison for a hate crime and vandalism²⁰⁸. In October, a kosher restaurant in Paris was ransacked and vandalized with swastikas and the slogans "Hitler was right," "Jewish homos," "Jews get out" and "Free Palestine".²⁰⁹ In December four individuals violently attacked a Jewish family in their car in Aubervilliers (near Paris), shaking the vehicle while smashing glass bottles and yelling antisemitic slurs, including "F___ the Jews"²¹⁰.

Online Antisemitism

The Internet continues to serve as a major platform for the proliferation of antisemitic insults, threats, hate-mail and conspiracy theories. The antisemitic discourse online reflects the society and rhetoric of the real world, but at times also creates it, transcending the virtual boundaries and materializing into antisemitic incidents in reality.

Coronavirus and online antisemitism

The outbreak of the global coronavirus crisis sparked a wave of disease-related conspiracy theories online²¹¹ which accounted for much of the recorded online antisemitism. Such theories, propagated mainly by French far-right activists²¹², were in some views reminiscent of antisemitic medieval libels during epidemics like the Black Death plague²¹³. With millions of people under lockdown in their homes, antisemitic activists could disseminate their theories to a large captive audience. One example was a caricature showing former health Minister Agnès Buzyn, who is Jewish, pouring poison into a well²¹⁴, which was shared in French social media tens of thousands of times. Another viral image depicted Buzyn as the "happy merchant"²¹⁵, an antisemitic caricature of a grinning Jewish man rubbing his palms together. Yet another widely shared video accused Buzyn

207 <https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/occitanie/aude/cimetiere-gruissan-vandalise-vingtaine-tombes-taguee-croix-gammees-1853112.html>.

208 <https://fr.timesofisrael.com/strasbourg-un-suspect-interpelle-apres-une-agression-et-des-tags-antisemites/>.

209 <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/paris-kosher-restaurant-torn-apart-and-vandalized-with-anti-semitic-graffiti>.

210 <https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/12/18/french-cops-arrest-perpetrators-of-violent-assault-on-jewish-family-singing-hanukkah-songs-in-their-car/>.

211 <https://www.voici.fr/news-people/actu-people/agnes-buzyn-et-son-compagnon-yves-levy-victimes-dodieuses-attaques-antisemites-677445>.

212 <https://www.nouvelobs.com/coronavirus-de-wuhan/20200405.OBS27077/tribune-racisme-et-antisemitisme-en-temps-de-covid-19.html>.

213 <https://www.nouvelobs.com/coronavirus-de-wuhan/20200405.OBS27077/tribune-racisme-et-antisemitisme-en-temps-de-covid-19.html>.

214 <https://www.lemondejuif.info/2020/03/haine-du-juif-sur-internet-agnes-buzyn-victime-dodieuses-caricatures-antisemites/>.

215 https://twitter.com/dr_1_alexandre/status/1243216703204536320.

and her husband, Yves Levy, a professor of clinical immunology and former CEO of INSERM (the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research), who is also Jewish, of withholding chloroquine (a possible Coronavirus antidote) from the French public for financial gain.²¹⁶ The video received 170,000 views on YouTube before being deleted. Alain Soral, a Holocaust denier convicted of antisemitism, said in a YouTube video watched by 406,000 viewers, that the coronavirus is being used by "the luminary community, which we are forbidden to name" [that] wants to cash in on the backs of the French to weaken French people by the sheer weight of the death toll"²¹⁷. The antisemitic French comedian Dieudonne M'bala M'bala posted similar antisemitic theories on his YouTube channel, and one post about the virus received 410,000 views. CRIF historian Marc Knobel has observed that the French "anti-Semites have adopted the virus as a theme to push their message to a large, frightened and angry audience."²¹⁸

Jewish Figures Targeted on Social Media

In September Jewish TV host Valerie Benaim received a flood of antisemitic messages and threats on social media following her harsh criticism of Freeze Corleone, a French rapper who had been criticized for antisemitism, conspiracy theories and apologies for the Holocaust. One social media user later attempted to physically attack Benaim at the Paris TV station, making death threats and antisemitic remarks. The man, who is mentally deranged, was convicted and given a suspended two-month prison sentence²¹⁹.

A wave of antisemitic threats, insults and remarks were sent in December on the social media to the runner-up to "Miss France 2021", after she revealed her father's Israeli origins on French television during the Miss France beauty pageant²²⁰. Both LICRA and Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin announced legal action would be taken against the individuals who had sent the messages.

In May the Twitter hashtag #sijetaitjuif ("If I were a Jew") reached Twitter's most trending topics list in France with 2000 tweets using the hashtag, mostly attached to antisemitic remarks or jokes about the Holocaust.²²¹ The hashtag was condemned by the BNVCA, LICRA²²², the Union of French Jewish Students and philosopher Bernard Henri Levi.

216 <https://www.franceinter.fr/caricatures-complot-liste-de-noms-le-coronavirus-engendre-des-attaques-antisemites-sur-le-web>.

217 <https://www.jta.org/2020/04/02/global/an-unwanted-symptom-of-the-coronavirus-crisis-in-france-anti-semitic-conspiracy-theories>.

218 <https://www.nouvelobs.com/coronavirus-de-wuhan/20200405.OBS27077/tribune-racisme-et-antisemitisme-en-temps-de-covid-19.html>.

219 <https://www.leparisien.fr/hauts-de-seine-92/un-homme-condamne-apres-des-insultes-antisemites-contre-la-chroniqueuse-de-c8-valerie-benaim-29-12-2020-8416541.php>.

220 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55389153>.

221 <https://www.newsweek.com/twitter-polices-us-political-ads-anti-semitic-hashtag-trends-france-1505078>.

222 National Bureau for Vigilance against Antisemitism and International League against Racism and Antisemitism.

Holocaust Education and Holocaust Denial Online

A survey conducted in September 2020 by IFOP on "Attitudes towards the Holocaust among Students"²²³, for the UEJF and French newspaper JDD²²⁴, revealed the extent of antisemitic discourse among youngsters and the influence of online Holocaust denial, propagated mainly through Youtube and Facebook:

- 10 percent of the students questioned said it was impossible to teach the Holocaust in the classroom.
- 20 percent had encountered one or more students who questioned the occurrence of the Holocaust.
- 29 percent said they had read or viewed content questioning the occurrence of the Holocaust.
- 57 percent have learned about Holocaust denial theories on Youtube and 40 percent on Facebook.

However, the survey also revealed encouraging developments about Holocaust education:

- Some 87 percent of the students questioned said they had heard about the Holocaust.
- 95 percent had heard about the gas chambers.
- 80 percent had learned about the Holocaust at school.

Some 68 percent of the students questioned said they knew about the Vel'd'Hiv Roundup of Jews for deportation to Nazi concentration camps, whereas in 2012 only a third had heard about it.

Islamic extremism – a threat to the Jewish community and to France's secularism

Islamic extremism in France is increasingly perceived as a common threat to both the French Republic as a whole and the safety and wellbeing of the Jewish community in France. The clash between Islamist ideas with the values of secularism (or *laïcité*) and free speech have led President Emmanuel Macron and his centrist government to declare "a war against radical Islam" in defense of secularism.

In late September, following a stabbing attack by an alleged Pakistani Islamic terrorist²²⁵ at the former headquarters of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin visited the Boulogne-Billancourt synagogue outside Paris to announce that he had ordered extra protection of 7000 police and soldiers²²⁶ during the Yom Kippur

223 <https://www.ifop.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/11756220-20Rapport.pdf>.

224 UEJF - Jewish Students Union of France and the newspaper; JDD Journal du Dimanche.

225 <https://www.reuters.com/article/france-security-paris-int-idUSKCN26G1NT>.

226 <https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/french-minister-vows-to-protect-jewish-community-after-paris-stabbing-1.9190025>.

services: "[...] we know that Jews are particularly targeted by Islamist attacks and we should obviously protect them".²²⁷

The stabbing attack coincided with the ongoing trial²²⁸ of the fourteen suspected accomplices in the fatal Islamic attacks on Charlie Hebdo's offices and a kosher supermarket in 2015.²²⁹ The suspect in the stabbing was reportedly targeting Charlie Hebdo magazine after it recently republished caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.²³⁰ Following the attack Darmanin said on Twitter, "We are still at war against Islamist terrorism".²³¹

In October, President Macron announced a crackdown on "Islamist separatism", only days before a Muslim extremist brutally decapitated Samuel Paty, a school history teacher, after he displayed cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in a class on free speech. The Jewish organizations CRIF and BNVCA applauded Macron's declaration²³² and following Paty's murder urged their members to join the massive rallies across France in memory of Samuel Paty, advocating freedom of expression, and also calling for a proper response to the "escalating nature of Islamist attacks".²³³

Legal Responses and Authorities' Actions

Prosecution of Far-Right Activists and Holocaust Deniers Facebook and Instagram permanently ban Dieudonné

The Facebook and Instagram social networks announced in August that they had banned the account of controversial comedian and convicted Holocaust denier Dieudonné M'bala M'bala, for spreading content that mocked Holocaust victims²³⁴ and for using "dehumanizing terms against Jews". The statement also said that, "in accordance with our policy on dangerous individuals and organizations, we have permanently banned Dieudonne [from both networks]".

227 <https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/nous-sommes-en-guerre-contre-le-terrorisme-islamiste-affirme-gerald-darmanin-20200927>.

228 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/verdict-due-in-paris-trial-of-accomplices-in-charlie-hebdo-kosher-store-attacks/>.

229 In January 2015 Islamic terrorists carried out a coordinated attack in Paris, killing 12 people at the Charlie Hebdo magazine after it had published cartoons depicting the Muslim prophet Muhammad. The terrorist Amédy Coulibaly killed a police officer and four Jews in the Hyper Cacher supermarket two days later.

230 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54307820>.

231 <https://www.reuters.com/article/france-security-paris-int-idUSKCN26G1NT>.

232 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/most-jews-back-french-crackdown-on-radical-islam-targeting-religious-activities/>.

233 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/thousands-rally-in-france-after-teachers-beheading-shocks-country/>.

234 https://www.lemonde.fr/pixels/article/2020/08/03/facebook-interdit-a-dieudonne-toute-presence-sur-facebook-et-instagram_6048019_4408996.html.

Earlier in May CRIF²³⁵ announced that it had filed a lawsuit against Dieudonné for two videos he had posted on his YouTube channel, one featuring Holocaust denier Robert Faurisson together with the late Jewish politician Simone Veil and the other mocking Jewish figures and organizations²³⁶.

Dieudonné convicted and fined for mocking Holocaust

Dieudonné was sentenced in September to a fine of 10,000 euros for having made racist remarks in his show "The Ball of the Quenelles" in June 2017. The court ruled that the term "Krakow pajamas gag", which Dieudonné used in his show in reference to the outfit worn by the Jewish deportees in the Auschwitz Nazi death camp, was "offensive to Jewish victims of the Holocaust".

Alain Soral Arrested for online antisemitic conspiracy theories

In July, police arrested the far-right Holocaust denier Alain Soral, for incitement to hatred against Jews and actions that "endanger the fundamental interests of the republic".²³⁷ The arrest was in connection with his website, "Equality and Reconciliation" in which he had propagated antisemitic conspiracy theories. Soral has previously been sentenced to imprisonment for incitement to racial hatred and Holocaust denial but has so far avoided prison by appealing his convictions.

Soral Fined for two cases of online Antisemitism

The Paris Court of Appeal sentenced Alain Soral's Kontre Kulture publishing house in September, to pay 134,400 euros to LICRA²³⁸, for putting the antisemitic book from 1892 "Le Salut par les juifs" ("Salvation by the Jews") by Léon Bloy back on sale on his website "Equality and Reconciliation", contrary to a court decision.²³⁹ In another case, the Paris Criminal Court imposed on Alain Soral a fine of 5,400 euros for blaming the Jews for the Notre-Dame de Paris fire in 2019, also on his website. He was convicted for incitement to hatred on basis of religion.

Far-right activist Hervé Lalin received a prison sentence for online antisemitism and Holocaust denial

In September a Paris court sentenced the far-right activist and Holocaust denier Hervé Lalin (a.k.a Hervé Ryssen) to 17 months in prison for inciting hatred against Jews online, Holocaust denial, antisemitic insults and defamation²⁴⁰. The court convicted Lalin for a series of antisemitic postings on Facebook and Twitter, and for his 2018 YouTube video

235 CRIF - Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions the umbrella organization of Jewish institutions in France.

236 <http://www.crif.org/en/actualites/crif-crif-files-lawsuit-against-french-polemist-dieudonne>

237 https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2020/07/29/le-polemist-d-extreme-droite-alain-soral-interpelle-et-place-en-garde-a-vue-a-paris_6047641_3224.html.

238 International League against Racism and Antisemitism.

239 https://www.lemonde.fr/police-justice/article/2020/09/25/alain-soral-condamne-a-payer-134-400-euros-a-la-ligue-contre-le-racisme-et-l-antisemitisme_6053567_1653578.html.

240 <https://www.leparisien.fr/faits-divers/le-negationniste-ryssen-incarcere-apres-plusieurs-condamnations-pour-des-propos-antisemites-20-09-2020-8388189.php>.

called "The Jews, Incest and Hysteria" — in which he attacked Jews as a "people of incest". He was also convicted for Holocaust denial in passages of a book he had published in 2018 entitled "Antisemitism without Complexity or Taboo".

Rapper Freeze Corleone facing criminal charges for antisemitism and Holocaust denial

France's interior minister Gerald Darmanin condemned French rapper Freeze Corleone in September for his "unspeakable antisemitism and negationism [Holocaust Denial]" confirming that his ministry would take legal action, and calling on the Twitter and Facebook networks "not to spread this filth".²⁴¹ In addition, fifty members of the French parliament wrote to the Ministry of Justice demanding the rapper's prosecution, and former cabinet minister Christophe Castaner said that he had referred the case to the Paris public prosecutor. According to LICRA, Freeze Corleone's debut album "The Phantom Menace", was replete with "antisemitism, conspiracy theories, and apologies for Hitler, the Third Reich and [Afghan Taliban commander] Mullah Omar". Corleone's album, which reached number three in French charts after its release in September, included the lyrics: "F_k the Shoah (Holocaust)!", "I arrive determined like Adolf in the 1930s," and "Every day I f_k Israel like I live in Gaza."

Appeals in trials on the murders of Mireille Knoll and Sarah Halimi

Outrage over "Not Criminally Responsible" Verdict in Sarah Halimi Trial

Hundreds of members of the French Jewish community and their supporters demonstrated in January against the Paris Appeals Court's ruling which upheld the decision that Kobili Traore, a Muslim man who brutally killed his elderly Jewish neighbor Sarah Halimi in 2017, would not stand trial because he was "not criminally responsible" for his actions.²⁴² Traore threw Halimi out the window of her Paris apartment while shouting "Allahu Akhbar," ("God is greatest" in Arabic). The court stated that Traore's judgment was impaired by heavy consumption of cannabis, which aggravated an existing mental condition. It also said Traore "does appear to have voluntarily ended the life of Sarah Halimi" and retained the aggravated element of a hate crime in the indictment against Traore.

The court's decision sparked outrage in the Jewish community²⁴³ and wider French public and CRIF's President Francis Kalifat wrote in an open letter to the Attorney General: "Is an antisemitic crime the only crime that is excused by the judiciary because of massive drug-taking, whereas in all other crimes the judiciary would consider that to be an

241 <https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/09/17/french-rapper-freeze-corleone-facing-criminal-prosecution-for-antisemitism-holocaust-denial-on-hit-debut-album/>.

242 <https://www.france24.com/en/20200105-hundreds-rally-in-paris-to-seek-justice-for-murdered-jewish-woman-sarah-halimi>.

243 <https://www.algemeiner.com/2019/12/19/french-jews-express-dismay-and-indignation-as-accused-antisemitic-killer-of-sarah-halimi-evades-criminal-trial/>.

aggravating circumstance?”²⁴⁴ President Emmanuel Macron also expressed his support for putting Traore on trial, but was rebuked by senior judicial officials.

French court rejects killers' appeal and retains antisemitic nature of Mireille Knoll's murder

In November the Paris Court of Appeals retained the antisemitic nature of the murder of Mireille Knoll²⁴⁵, an 85-year-old Holocaust survivor who was robbed and stabbed to death in her Paris apartment in 2018. The two men charged with the murder, Alex Carrimbacus and Yacine Mihoub, had appealed the previous court's decision arguing that the accusation of antisemitism had been "fabricated".²⁴⁶ The court rejected their plea based on statements by Carrimbacus who told police that Yacine Mihoub justified the attack on Knoll by saying "Jews have money."²⁴⁷

According to Le Figaro newspaper Mihoub was "compulsively addicted to antisemitic websites and a staunch defender of Hamas"²⁴⁸. A police investigation established that he was attracted to Islamist ideas, had praised the terrorist attack on Charlie Hebdo magazine in 2015, and had yelled "Allahu Akbar" ("God is greatest" in Arabic) while stabbing Knoll²⁴⁹.

Controversial Anti-Racism Movement and Jean-Luc Melenchon's Remarks

Antisemitic Slogans in BLM Demonstration for Adama Traoré

Paris police opened an investigation in June, after some protesters were heard shouting "dirty Jews"²⁵⁰ at an anti-racism demonstration held in Paris in Place de la Republique, in memory of Adama Traoré, a black man who died in police custody there in 2016.²⁵¹ The protest for Traoré was part of the international BLM movement (Black Lives Matter) against racism and police violence, which originated in the United States and gained momentum following the killing of George Floyd by the police. The chants began after counter-protesters from the far-right movement Génération Identitaire²⁵² waved a banner reading "Justice for victims of anti-white crimes".

244 <http://www.crif.org/fr/actualites/crif-lettre-ouverte-du-president-du-crif-francis-kalifat-madame-la-procureure-generale-pres-la-cour-dappel-de-paris>.

245 https://www.lepoint.fr/justice/mireille-knoll-la-cour-d-appel-confirme-un-meurtre-antisemite-19-11-2020-2401840_2386.php.

246 <https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/11/19/appeal-by-accused-killers-of-holocaust-survivor-mireille-knoll-to-drop-antisemitism-charge-rejected-by-french-court/>.

247 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/french-court-orders-trial-over-womans-alleged-anti-semitic-murder/>.

248 <https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/meurtre-de-mireille-knoll-l-antisemitisme-reconnu-20200713>.

249 Ibid.

250 <https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/protesters-shout-dirty-jews-at-paris-rally-against-police-racism-1.8920575>.

251 <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/protesters-shout-dirty-jews-at-paris-rally-against-police-racism>.

252 https://www.francetvinfo.fr/faits-divers/police/violences-policieres/video-violences-policieres-le-mouvement-generation-identitaire-deploie-une-banderole-appelant-a-la-justice-pour-les-victimes-du-racisme-anti-blanc-durant-la-manifestation_4007113.html.

A video of the chants was posted on the right-wing weekly news site Valeurs Actuelles²⁵³ and distributed on social media²⁵⁴. Some protesters also held up anti-Israel signs including one reading "Israel, laboratory of police violence" and waved Palestinian flags. The police released a statement saying it had "reported the antisemitic comments to the French judiciary"²⁵⁵. Jean-Luc Melenchon, from the far-left LFI party ("France Insoumise") accused the police of "inciting hatred by spreading gossip about antisemitism" [in order to] "sow division within an anti-racist protest"²⁵⁶, remarks for which he has been criticized.

Jewish Community Criticizes Anti-Racism Protest

Following the Traoré protest, CRIF president Francis Kalifat said anti-Semites had infiltrated the protest "using a noble cause, the fight against racism, to spread hatred against Jews and Israel."²⁵⁷ He criticized the participants for not denouncing the antisemitic protesters and asked why these protesters did "not protest when Sarah Halimi and Mireille Knoll were murdered?"²⁵⁸

Melenchon's Controversial Remarks on the Crucifixion of Jesus

During an interview in July on the French BFM-RTL TV news channel, Jean-Luc Melenchon, member of the French National Assembly and head of the LFI (La France Insoumise) far-left party, purportedly accused Jews of being responsible for the death of Jesus²⁵⁹. Asked by his interviewer whether police should "be like Jesus on the cross and not respond" when provoked by demonstrators, Mélenchon replied, "Listen, I don't know if Jesus was on the cross. I know who put him there, it seems that it was his own compatriots"²⁶⁰. The Wiesenthal Center condemned the remark saying, "The repeated accusation of deicide throughout the Middle Ages resulted in pogroms, torture and execution of Jewish communities [and culminated] in the Nazi Holocaust". The Judeo-Christian Fellowship of France similarly condemned the remarks and the French Jewish parliamentarian Meyer Habib reacted on Twitter, writing, "No Mr. Mélenchon! [...] Jesus Christ was condemned to death by crucifixion by the Roman Ponce Pilate, not by his Jewish compatriots! The temptation was perhaps too strong to recycle the age-old antisemitic deicide trope."²⁶¹

253 <https://www.valeursactuelles.com/societe/sales-juifs-des-insultes-antisemites-proferees-lors-de-la-manifestation-pour-adama-traore-120550>.

254 https://www.huffingtonpost.fr/entry/manifestation-pour-adama-traore-des-sales-juifs-entendus-la-prefecture-saisit-la-justice_fr_5ee4f9abc5b63e88e0d0ea07.

255 <https://twitter.com/prefpolice/status/1271826457661243393>.

256 https://www.huffingtonpost.fr/entry/manifestation-pour-adama-traore-des-sales-juifs-entendus-la-prefecture-saisit-la-justice_fr_5ee4f9abc5b63e88e0d0ea07.

257 <https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/.premium-the-dilemma-of-french-jews-and-the-fight-against-racism-1.9015973>.

258 Ibid.

259 <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/far-left-french-politician-accuses-jews-of-being-responsible-for-jesus-death>.

260 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEitFUsJ5P8&ab_channel=BFMTV.

261 <https://www.i24news.tv/fr/actu/france/1594810752-france-jean-luc-melenchon-accuse-de-repandre-des-cliches-antisemites>.

Germany 2020/Sarah Rembiszewski

"The Corona issue is just a pretext for anti-democratic and antisemitic resentment."

We are dealing with a social climate in the Federal Republic in which anti-Semites have the feeling that they do not really have to reckon with any form of rejection or sanctions. Anti-Semites still feel on the upswing."²⁶² Samuel Salzborn²⁶³

Despite the massive restrictions on public life since March 17, 2020, aiming to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of antisemitic manifestations reached its highest level since 2001. With the beginning of the anti-lockdown, and later anti-vaccine demonstrations in the streets all over Germany, it quickly became clear to those who monitor antisemitism and hate crimes that the rallies had become hotspots for expressions of antisemitic hatred, which otherwise would have disappeared from the streets. The numbers collected for the first months did not yet give a clear picture, as fewer incidents were reported due the pandemic's restrictions. However, while football stadiums, restaurants, pubs, public transportation, and schools were closed, antisemitic hate messages and threats were observed increasingly in cyberspace - on Telegram, Facebook and Instagram, which became the main means for delivering such content. Zoom bombing (with 'zoom' referring to the popular video conferencing platform) became a means for attacking zoom meetings related to Jews or Jewish issues, disrupting them with hate graphics, threatening messages or actions, hate speech and pornographic contents.²⁶⁴

In a release published on September 22, 2020, the Department for Research and Information on Antisemitism Berlin (RIAS), a civic organization, documented 410 incidents — more than two per day — during the first half of 2020, apparently suggesting a certain decrease compared to the same period in 2019, with 458 incidents.²⁶⁵

But it soon became clear that antisemitic manifestations had become increasingly public, especially when rallies erupted all over Germany, drawing protestors of multiple ideological backgrounds, including large numbers of extreme right-wingers and neo-Nazis. When it became evident that Covid-related contact restrictions were here to stay for longer than expected, the emergence of antisemitic myths was observed not only in cyberspace, but in the public sphere as well. With anti-lockdown rallies on the rise during 2020, antisemitic manifestations increased, reaching numbers that had not been registered since 2001.²⁶⁶

262 <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/zwischen-corona-demos-und-juedischem-alltag-natuerlich-hat-berlin-ein-antisemitismus-problem/26177178.html>.

263 Prof. Samuel Salzborn has been the antisemitism commissioner for the state of Berlin since August, 2020.

264 <https://www.adl.org/blog/how-to-prevent-zoombombing>.

265 <https://report-antisemitism.de/en/rias-berlin/>.

266 <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/taeglich-mindestens-sechs-angriffe-von-judenhassern-hoehchststand-antisemitischer-kriminalitaet-seit-20-jahren/26905120.html>.

2020 was also the year after the murderous attack on the synagogue of Halle, where two people were killed on October 9th 2019 - Yom Kippur, the highest Jewish holiday. The victims were not Jewish, but the motivation behind the murderous attack was antisemitic hatred: neo-Nazi Stephan Balliet (27) intended to storm the synagogue and commit a massacre. (see German chapter in 2019 GA). The attack left the country in “shock”. Nevertheless, the final numbers of reported antisemitic incidents, published by the BKA (Bundeskriminalamt, Federal Police) at the end of 2020, “surprised” the authorities as well as the Jewish communities in Germany. Even before the numbers were made public, the concerns of the Central Council of Jews in Germany had been growing. "In view of the numerous antisemitic incidents at the corona denier demos and the conspiracy myths on the Internet, it was unfortunately to be expected that the number of antisemitic crimes would rise again," Josef Schuster, Head of the Zentralrat, told the media. "Now it is a sad certainty." The preliminary statistics show that "the radicalization of society is advancing and respect for minorities is falling," warned Schuster.²⁶⁷ According to the Antisemitic Cyber Monitoring System (ACMS) of the Israeli Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, “28.5% of the posts related to Covid-19 contain Holocaust Denial and Distortion. Most of these express Holocaust trivialization by comparing Coronavirus restrictions to the antisemitic policies of the Nazi regime, and those who oppose these restrictions compare themselves to Jews during the Holocaust.” For instance, the infamous phrase “Arbeit Macht Frei” has been repurposed to say “Impfen Macht Frei,” which means “Vaccination Liberates.” Anti-vaxxers also compare alleged “vaccination stations” to Auschwitz and claim that the police are developing a dictatorship which will persecute those who refuse the vaccine by sending them to concentration camps.²⁶⁸

The official numbers show the highest level of antisemitism since 2001. Analysis of this phenomenon, to understand tendencies and trends, produced evidence that antisemitism is not mainly an imported issue, as sometimes claimed. This year, no trigger was needed from a conflict zone in the ME involving Israel. The corona epidemic and related issues like vaccination, triggered a wave of antisemitism all over the globe, with Germany conspicuous in its report of a considerable rise. It was evident to those monitoring and analyzing antisemitic manifestations, that the combination of antisemitism with anti-vaxxers’ discourse is nothing but a continuation of an older antisemitic myth about Jews poisoning the wells or Jewish doctors spreading disease. (see Czech report)

According to a response from the federal government to a parliamentary question from left-wing Member of the Bundestag Petra Pau, 2,275 antisemitic crimes were documented in 2020 (compared to 1,839 in 2019) - the highest number since the police introduced the Politically Motivated Crime (PMK) recording system in 2001.

267 <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-sees-spike-in-antisemitic-crimes-reports/a-56537178>.

268 [https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/report_anti240121/en/anti-semitism_2020%20YEARLY%20REPORT%20-%20FINAL%20\(EN\)_v7.pdf](https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/report_anti240121/en/anti-semitism_2020%20YEARLY%20REPORT%20-%20FINAL%20(EN)_v7.pdf).

The number of unreported cases is likely to be much higher, however, because surveys have shown that 80 percent of all antisemitic attacks are not reported (see previous reports). It must be noted that according to these statistics, while incidents increased on the whole, violent attacks decreased from 72 in 2019 to 55 in 2020. Although the police were able to identify 1,367 suspects, only five people were arrested and there no arrest warrants were issued. The vast majority of antisemitic hate crimes were perpetrated by the far right. Cases involving Islamists, left-wingers and others accounted for only a small portion, according to the published statistics.

However, this does not mean that antisemitic feelings are not widespread among Muslims in Germany. A classified German intelligence report (Antisemitismus im Islamismus), by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), revealed widespread Islamic antisemitism among Muslim organizations in Germany, including defective statistics about the origin of crimes resulting from Jew-hatred. The findings show that antisemitism is an important part of islamist ideologies. According to Thomas Haldenwang (CDU) hostility towards Jews is "represented by practically all noteworthy Islamist organizations that are active in Germany" - Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, Milli Görüs, Hezbollah and the "Islamic State". In view of these findings, the BfV has been sharply criticized, as official statistics, according to which 70, 80 or 90 percent of all antisemitic attacks in Germany are carried out by right-wing radicals, may be inaccurate - especially considering that unclarified cases of antisemitism are mostly attributed to extreme-right motivations.²⁶⁹

Although attacks and assaults decreased (probably because of multiple lockdowns), there have been desecrations of cemeteries, synagogues, Holocaust memorials (especially of "Stolpersteine") as well as violent attacks against Jews, Jewish homes and Jewish sites.

The most serious and most widely publicized event was an attempted murder on October 5th, (almost exactly one year after Halle), in which the perpetrator attacked his visibly Jewish victim with a folding spade, causing several severe head injuries.

At the beginning of attacker's trial on 12 February 2021 the public was excluded because the 29-year-old defendant was considered mentally ill. For Philipp Stricharz, Chairman of the Hamburg Jewish Community, there can be no doubt about his anti-Jewish motive: the perpetrator took a taxi to the synagogue, where his target was a man with a kippah. "It must be recognized that we as a Jewish community are threatened," said Stricharz. "How can you prevent antisemitic acts in the future if you don't even call them antisemitic?"²⁷⁰

269 <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/verfassungsschutz-judenhass-islamisten-akte-1.4925890>.
<https://www.idea.de/politik/detail/antisemitismus-gehört-zur-grundausstattung-islamistischer-ideologien-113189.html>.

270 <https://www.ndr.de/nachrichten/hamburg/Prozess-um-Angriff-auf-juedischen-Studenten-startet,synagoge508.html>.

IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism

For some time now, the most effective and acclaimed means for defining an incident as antisemitic, has been the sometimes controversial IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism (see Kantor study....), adopted in 2017 by the German Bundestag, and since then by many state governments, universities, football clubs, and a range of governmental and non-governmental bodies. "The adoption of the definition sets a framework," said Green parliamentarian Volker Beck. "Government action at various levels – from legal prosecution through educational measures to the sensitization of the judicial system – is now more binding. We can create a common understanding in government of the problems and challenges, as well as an evaluation framework for preventing and combating [antisemitism]."²⁷¹

On October 1, 2020 the state of Hesse adopted the Definition and a week later, on October 8, during the World Holocaust Forum, Borussia Dortmund signed the pledge, also resolving to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) Working Definition of antisemitism and make an important contribution to the fight against antisemitism.

Rallies

Today, Germany is at the forefront of a global anti-vaccination movement, with demonstrations all over the country constantly intensifying. The protesters include conspiracy theorists, radical extremists, anti-Semites, football hooligans and antivaxxers. Germany already had a fervent anti-vaccine movement long before thousands of protestors took to the streets in the spring of 2020, reflecting a historic skepticism of government control and an affinity for alternative medicine. (Footnote: The first vaccine opposition groups were founded in 1869 in Leipzig and Stuttgart — five years before the imperial vaccination law. The Imperial Association Opposing Compulsory Vaccination soon had 300,000 members.²⁷²)

The Federal Association Rias (The Federal Association of Research and Information Centers on Antisemitism,) identified the following Holocaust-related expressions in the first nationwide "Fundamental Rights Demonstrations" against the corona restrictions on May 2: Freiburg, Baden-Württemberg: "Vaccination liberates"; Ravensburg, Baden-Württemberg: "What is currently happening, I have to compare with the burning of books in a very dark time."; Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg: "We will not tolerate a new Holocaust, this untested vaccination craze, for its world domination."; Villingen-Schwenningen, Baden-Württemberg: a sign with the inscription "Corona economic Holocaust"; Augsburg, Bavaria: "Final solution of the Corona question: vaccination";

271 <https://www.dw.com/en/german-government-adopts-international-antisemitism-definition/a-40608166>

272 https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/coronavirus-vaccine-anti-vaxx-germany/2020/07/02/da7efc7e-acba-11ea-a43b-be9f6494a87d_story.html.
<https://www.facebook.com/notes/bundesverband-rias-ev/1933-2020-das-geschichtsbild-auf-versammlungen-gegen-corona-ma%C3%9Fnahmen-in-deutsch/255991889140319/>.

Munich, Bavaria: "No more corona fascism"; Regensburg, Bavaria: One person wore a jacket with the words "1933 - 2020 wake up"; Berlin: A demonstrator wore an armband with a yellow star with the word "Jew"; Darmstadt, Hessen: A "Jewish star" with the word "unvaccinated"; Leipzig, Saxony: "1933: Reichstag fire, 2020: Covid-19 coup d'état".²⁷³

Example:

A rally supported by neo-Nazi groups drew more than 20,000 protesters in Berlin on Saturday, 1 August 2020, demanding an end to coronavirus restrictions. The demonstration was organized by a Stuttgart-based group called Querdenken 711 ("Thinking Against the Tide"). In an apparent reference to a 1935 documentary about the Nazi army by Leni Riefenstahl, the rally took place under the motto "Day of Freedom". Some attendees displayed antisemitic slogans, while others compared Germany's regulations for stopping the spread of the coronavirus to Nazi directives. An intervention by Jewish groups led authorities to alter the planned route, which would have passed by a main city synagogue during Shabbat services. Berlin police broke up the demonstration a few hours after it started, forcibly removing some speakers from the stage they had set up. More than 100 people were arrested. Counter-protesters also demonstrated, some holding up signs that said "No Place for Nazis." Berlin's Jewish community expressed dismay at the open antisemitism shown at the rally.²⁷⁴ "In retrospect, this demonstration has confirmed many of our fears," said Sigmunt Koenigsberg, commissioner against antisemitism for the Jewish Community of Berlin. "The Shoah was repeatedly relativized and antisemitic conspiracy myths were part of the standard repertoire."

Relating to the use of the Shoah and references to the Nazi regime in the rallies, the antisemitism commissioner of the state government, the Munich state parliament member Ludwig Spaenle (CSU), observed "with great concern that opponents of the Corona measures are putting themselves on the same level as the Jews persecuted by the Nazi regime and portraying themselves as resistance fighters against an allegedly undemocratic government: "We are not allowed to watch that."

For quite a few corona deniers, the enemy's image is clear. Once again, the Jews are supposedly responsible, even if the terminology, punishable under criminal law, is replaced by ciphers. The names are Soros, Rothschild or "global elites" whose "puppets" are democratic politicians and - as declared on a demonstration poster on May 16 in Munich - also police officers. At rallies, people of Jewish faith were accused of being "masterminds and beneficiaries of the pandemic," observed Bavaria's Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann (CSU) in mid-2020. "Jewish stars" with the inscription "unvaccinated", comparisons with murdered heroes of the Nazi era and conspiracy theories against the

273 <https://www.dw.com/de/corona-proteste-im-aufwind/a-5444303>.

274 <https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/europe/10000007268465/coronavirus-protest-germany.html>;
<https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/thousands-attend-berlin-rally-against-covid-19-rules-featuring-antisemitic-dispalys-1.9041939>.

supposed "money Jew" - all this is piling up in the German Corona denial scene and it is increasing!²⁷⁵

Extreme right

At the beginning of February 2021, the federal government reported a rise in crimes committed by neo-Nazis and other right-wingers. The police identified more than 23,000 relevant crimes in 2020. This too is the second highest level since 2001. The danger posed by right-wing extremism in Germany is high. This was manifested, among other things, by the attacks in Kassel, Halle and Hanau. The best-known case in 2020 was that of a racist far-right extremist who killed nine people in the city of Hanau on February 19th.

Accordingly, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution now counts 32,080 people within the "right-wing extremist potential" - compared to 24,100 last year. One reason for this significant increase is the inclusion, for the first time, of the estimated 7,000 supporters of the völkisch AfD (Alternative Fuer Deutschland) "wing" among the right-wing extremists.²⁷⁶ The AfD is the first majority right-wing extremist party in the German Bundestag (see previous GA) since the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany, and more than half of its electorate is latently or manifestly right-wing extremist, according to a survey of the Bertelsmann foundation. Parts of the AfD have again attracted Holocaust comparisons referring to the corona measures taken by the government. The AfD's Schleswig-Holstein compared the Infection Protection Act with the Enabling Act (Ermächtigungsgesetz) of 1933 and the measures for preventing the spread of the disease with the persecution of Jews under National Socialism. In addition, the AfD's Salzgitter shared a photo with the slogan "Vaccination Liberates" based on the epitaph "Work Liberates" (Arbeit macht frei) over the entrance to the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Army

On July 2nd, 2020 it became known that Germany's defense minister, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, had disbanded a fighting unit of the Kommando Spezialkräfte (Special Forces Command, KSK) of the German army, considered infested with right-wing extremists. In May 2020, weapons and Nazi propaganda material were discovered during a raid on the home of "Little Sheep", sergeant major of the Bundeswehr. For years, German politicians and security chiefs had rejected the notion of any far-right infiltration of the security services, speaking only of "individual cases." However, cases of far-right extremists in the military and police, some hoarding weapons and explosives and maintaining safe houses, have increased alarmingly. Thomas Haldenwang, president of Germany's domestic intelligence agency, has identified far-right extremism and terrorism as the "biggest danger to German democracy today", with ties to neo-Nazi networks and the New Right. The president of the Military Shield Service, (MAD) Christof Gramm sees a

²⁷⁵ <https://www.freitag.de/autoren/christian-gerlin/ueber-den-antisemitismus-der-querdenker>.

²⁷⁶ <https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/verfassungsschutzbericht-2019-afd-fluegel-sorgt-fuer-anstieg-bei-rechtsextremisten-a-315cfa7a-9d14-4372-8e22-0753ed92e9d0>.

"new dimension" in the problem of right-wing extremism in the army. "Excessive patriotism without a commitment to the laws of the state will not be tolerated in the Bundeswehr," said Gramm.²⁷⁷

Police

Right-wing extremism has also been a problem in the German police force for quite some time (see previous reports) but has been ignored for many years by the authorities. When the dimensions of the phenomenon became public, Rhine-Westphalia Interior Minister Herbert Reul appointed an officer for right-wing extremism in the police force.²⁷⁸

29 police officers are being investigated for the dissemination of 126 right-wing extremist images in at least five WhatsApp chat groups, including messages with the image of Adolf Hitler and montages of refugees in gas chambers.²⁷⁹

Responses

In view of recent developments, the federal government of Germany decided to allocate an additional 22 million euros to the protection of Jewish institutions. The money is intended for measures of structural protection, as announced by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Central Council of Jews in Germany on September 17th, 2020. Interior Minister Horst Seehofer justified this step explaining that it was for "German reasons of state" that Jews must be able to live safely in Germany. "The Jewish community can rely on the federal government doing everything it can to guarantee the necessary protection. We are aware of our responsibility".²⁸⁰

On September 15, 2020, marking the 70th anniversary of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) honored the Council as a reliable partner in politics and society. At the same time, she criticized rising antisemitism, which causes her "great concern". "Antisemitism", said Merkel, "is a shame and I am deeply ashamed of the expression of racism and antisemitism in our country in these times.

277 <https://taz.de/Rechtes-Netzwerk-in-der-Bundeswehr/!5548926/>;
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/03/world/europe/germany-military-neo-nazis-ksk.html>;
<https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/bundeswehr-mad-sieht-neue-dimension-von-rechtsextremismus-a-3d607f87-6ed7-4a64-b8e1-4f36f3f33c25>.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/germany-disbands-elite-military-unit-after-reports-of-right-wing-extremism/2020/07/02/01dceb8a-bc6c-11ea-97c1-6cf116ffe26c_story.html.
278 <https://www1.wdr.de/nachrichten/ruhrgebiet/essener-polizeipraesident-dementiert-rechsextreme-chatgruppen-100.html>.
279 <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/uebelste-und-widerwaertigste-hetze-rechtsextreme-chatgruppen-bei-polizei-in-nrw-aufgedeckt/26191432.html>.
280 <https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/schutz-juedische-einrichtungen-101.html>.
<https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/innenministerium-bund-gibt-22-millionen-euro-fuer-schutz-juedischer-einrichtungen-aus-a-41e83f8d-1fe8-4753-bb76-fd5bff0b5a97>;
<https://www.zeit.de/politik/deutschland/2020-09/antisemitismus-schutz-juedische-einrichtungen-bundesregierung>.

Racism and antisemitism have never disappeared, but for some time now they have been more visible and uninhibited."

Central Council President Josef Schuster expressed similar concerns. "The trust that Jews have placed in Germany has been deeply shaken over the decades and again and again today," he said, referring to antisemitic attacks. "The majority of the population is behind us and so are the established parties." The Central Council of Jews in Germany was founded on July 19, 1950 in Frankfurt am Main. At that time around 15,000 Jews were living in Germany. Today the Central Council represents 105 Jewish communities in Germany with around 100,000 members; its administration moved from Frankfurt am Main to Berlin in 1999.²⁸¹

Rabbis in German Army

In May 2020 the German Bundestag voted unanimously in favor of a state treaty, according to which rabbis in the Bundeswehr can also take on pastoral work in the future. The Orthodox Rabbi Conference Germany welcomed the parliamentary decision and the church commissioner of the Union faction, Hermann Gröhe (CDU), said: "Military rabbis are a great gift for the Bundeswehr." There are around 94,000 Christians and around 300 Jews in the Bundeswehr.²⁸²

Controversy and debate

In a letter of July 24, 2020, to German Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU), more than 60 scientists, writers and artists from Germany and Israel warned of an "inflationary, factually and legally unfounded use of the term antisemitism", and a "mood of branding, intimidation and fear", criticizing the work of antisemitism commissioner, Felix Klein. They accused Klein of "diverting attention from real antisemitic sentiments and riots that actually endanger Jewish life in Germany" with "the support of right-wing populist Israeli voices". They further expressed concern about "a threat to freedom of expression aiming to suppress legitimate criticism of Israeli government policies." The letter was sharply discussed and criticized.²⁸³

Since mid-April 2020, the Cameroonian post-colonialist philosopher, historian, political scientist and thinker Achille Mbembe has been at the heart of a virulent debate stirring up the German political media, with the biggest German newspapers (Die Zeit, the Frankfurter Allgemeine and the Sueddeutsche Zeitung) taking up the issue. The debate was set off on March 25th by Lorenz Deutsch, cultural spokesman of the North Rhine-Westphalian faction of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), who criticized Stefanie Carp,

281 <https://m.bundestkanzlerin.de/bkinm-de/mediathek/merkel-ruft-zum-kampf-gegen-antisemitismus-auf-1007680>.

282 <https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/bundeswehr-bekommt-militaerrabbiner-a-693fb3cc-23c9-49b1-a03f-96d01e44e4bb>.

283 <https://www.welt.de/kultur/plus212380853/Antisemitismus-Ja-es-gibt-ein-Klima-der-Angst-und-Einschuechterung.html>.

director of the Ruhrtriennale, for inviting Achille Mbembe to give a speech at the opening of the major international cultural festival held every year in Bochum, (but cancelled in 2020 because of the corona pandemic). Achille Mbembe has been accused of antisemitism, relativizing the Holocaust and claiming that Israel is an apartheid state. His case has sparked a broader debate on freedom of expression and criticism of the state of Israel in Germany. Achille Mbembe claims that the "shameful allegations" against him are unfounded. "Everything I have ever written or said rests on a single foundation, namely the hope for the development of a truly universal community, from which no one is excluded," the philosopher wrote in a detailed reply in the weekly Die Zeit on April 23, also stating that antisemitism is "a terrible crime." He further underlined his position on April 28, declaring that he would never trivialize the Holocaust or equate the mass murder of the Jews with apartheid in South Africa.²⁸⁴

Greece / Michal Navoth

The present survey of Greece for the year 2020 is divided into two parts. The first refers to antisemitic incidents generally and to the Golden Dawn trial specifically; whereas the second part concerns Corona-related antisemitism.

Antisemitic incidents

Throughout 2020, antisemitic manifestations in Greece were mainly non-violent. As in recent years, there were no incidents targeting Jews, and acts of vandalism against Jewish sites were few. Jewish cemeteries and Holocaust monuments continue to be traditional targets.

At the beginning of January 2020, the Holocaust memorial in the northern Greek city of Trikala, once one of the country's oldest Jewish communities, was vandalized. The Star of David was removed from the monument, erected to commemorate the Jews deported to Auschwitz, and its surrounding fencing was torn down.²⁸⁵

284 <https://www.zeit.de/2020/18/antisemitismus-achille-mbembe-vorwuerfe-holocaust-rechtsextremismus-rassismus>;
<https://besacenter.org/perspectives-papers/achille-mbembe-antisemitism/>;
<https://www.theafricareport.com/27554/achille-mbembe-accused-of-antisemitism-the-german-controversy/>;
<https://www.dw.com/en/why-achille-mbembe-was-accused-of-antisemitism/a-53293797>.

285 The incident occurred a few days after the walls of a newly restored historic synagogue in Trikala were smeared with the abusive antisemitic slogan "Jewish snakes out."

World Jewish Congress (WJC), January 6, 2020,
<https://www.worldjewishcongress.org/en/news/holocaust-monument-and-newly-renovated-synagogue-vandalized-in-greece-1-1-2020>; Newly renovated historic synagogue in Greece vandalized, December 31, 2019, at <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads>

Though it was the final event for the year, it was not the only antisemitic event for Trikala, whose monument was defaced three times in 2019. See Michal Navoth, Greece, in Kantor Center for the Study of Cotemporary European Jewry, Antisemitism Worldwide 2019 and the beginning of 2020, 107, <https://en->

Greece saw a spike in antisemitic vandalism in October 2020 in connection with the final stage of the five-and-a-half-year-long trial of the neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn.²⁸⁶ On October 5, 2020, just two days before the verdict was rendered, the words "Juden Raus", a German phrase once used by the Nazis, meaning "Jews Out", was daubed in black on the outside fence of the Jewish cemetery in Nikaia, southwestern suburb of Athens, along with a symbol similar to the swastika used by Golden Dawn.²⁸⁷ After Golden Dawn leaders were handed their sentences this trend became even more acute. "Death to Israel" was written on October 10, 2020 at the entrance gate of the Jewish Cemetery of Thessaloniki; On October 11, 2020 four headstones were smashed at the Jewish Cemetery of Rhodes; On October 16, 2020 graffiti which read "With Jews you lose" was painted on the façade of the Holocaust Monument of Thessaloniki, dedicated to the city's 50,000 Jews who had been exterminated, concluding this "chain of desecrations".²⁸⁸

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS) issued announcements requiring the Greek State to take all necessary steps to arrest the perpetrators and put them on trial, and calling for the reinforcement of security measures in all Jewish monuments and institutions in Greece;²⁸⁹ as well as condemnation by the Greek Foreign Ministry. In addition,²⁹⁰ an active response was made. At the instruction of Athens Mayor, Kostas Bakoyannis, the municipality's agencies immediately erased the inscription on the fence of the Jewish cemetery in Nikaia.²⁹¹

humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/humanities/kantor/Kantor%20Report%202020_130820.pdf

286 See infra.

287 AFP, Jewish cemeteries, Holocaust memorial desecrated in Greece, October 19, 2020, at <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jewish-cemeteries-holocaust-memorial-desecrated-in-greece/>

288 JTA, Two Greek cemeteries and a Shoah monument vandalised in apparent hate crimes, October 21, 2020, at <https://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/two-greek-cemeteries-and-a-shoah-monument-vandalised-in-apparent-hate-crimes/>; Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS), KIS Announcement for the Attacks Against Jewish Sites – Graffiti at the Holocaust Monument of Thessaloniki, October 19, 2020, at https://kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=900:kis-announcement-for-the-attacks-against-jewish-sites-graffiti-at-the-holocaust-monument-of-thessaloniki&catid=49:2009-05-11-09-28-23;

289 Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS), KIS Announcement for the Antisemitic Graffiti at the Jewish Cemetery of Athens, October 20, 2020, at

https://kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=901:kis-announcement-for-the-antisemitic-graffiti-at-the-jewish-cemetery-of-athens&catid=9:deltiatypoy&Itemid=32; Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS), Vandalism of the Jewish Cemetery of Rhodes, October 19, 2020, at https://kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=903:-vandalism-of-the-jewish-cemetery-of-rhodes&catid=9:deltiatypoy&Itemid=32.

290 Ministry of Foreign Affairs announcement on the desecration of the Holocaust Memorial in Thessaloniki, October 19, 2020, at <https://www.mfa.gr/en/current-affairs/statements-speeches/ministry-of-foreign-affairs-announcement-on-the-desecration-of-the-holocaust-memorial-in-thessaloniki.html>.

291 KIS, Antisemitic Graffiti at the Jewish Cemetery of Athens.

On December 4, 2020 the words “Jesus Wins” together with Christian symbols were scrawled on the exterior wall surrounding the Synagogue and a nearby Holocaust monument in Larissa in northern Greece.²⁹²

On the night between the 28th and 29th of December 2020, a Christogram cross with the words “Jesus Christ Conquers” were sprayed on the Holocaust monument of Drama in northeastern Greece. The vandals also broke a part of the marble base of the monument. Similar damage was done to a memorial plaque at the nearby tobacco warehouse, where on March 3, 1943, the Bulgarian occupying forces arrested and imprisoned the Jews of the city before deporting them to extermination camps. Like in the case of Nikaia, the event prompted condemnation from the Jewish Community and the Greek Foreign Ministry, and the municipality of Drama reacted swiftly to fix the damage and delete the graffiti.²⁹³

The Golden Dawn trial

Wrapping up a trial that began in April 2015, a Greek Court ruled on October 7, 2020 that the neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn had been a criminal organization disguised as a political party, and convicted 68 defendants, including 18 ex-MPs.²⁹⁴ According to the presiding judge, Maria Lepenioti, the court had concluded that seven of Golden Dawn’s 18 former MPs, including the party's founder, Nikolaos Michaloliakos, had led the criminal organization. The rest were found guilty of participating in the gang.²⁹⁵

The murder on September 17, 2013, near Athens, of anti-fascist musician Pavlos Fyssas, by Giorgos Roupakias, who admitted to being an active supporter of Golden Dawn, served as a wakeup call that triggered a crackdown against the party, including massive unprecedented reactions from the Greek authorities, as well as a judicial investigation

292Cnaan Liphshiz, ‘Jesus Wins’ graffitied on Greece synagogue and Holocaust monument, December 4, 2020, at <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jesus-wins-graffitied-on-greece-synagogue-and-holocaust-monument/>; Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS), KIS Announcement for the Vandalism of the Holocaust Monument and the Synagogue of Larisa, December 4, 2020, at https://kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=919:announcement-&catid=9:deltiatypoy&Itemid=32; Foreign Ministry condemns vandalism of Larissa’s Holocaust Monument, synagogue, December 4, 2020, at <https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/259931/foreign-ministry-condemns-vandalism-of-larissa-s-holocaust-monument-synagogue/> [in the original – M.N].

293 Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS), Vandalism of the Holocaust Monument of Drama – Reactions and Restoration, January 5, 2021, at https://kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=922:vandalism-of-the-holocaust-monument-of-drama-reactions-and-restoration&catid=49:2009-05-11-09-28-23.

294 Jackson Richman, Greek court brands neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn a criminal organization, October 7, 2020, at <https://www.jns.org/greek-court-brands-neo-nazi-party-golden-dawn-a-criminal-organization/>.

295 Helena Smith, Golden Dawn guilty verdicts celebrated across Greece, The Guardian, October 7, 2020, at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/07/golden-dawn-leader-and-ex-mps-found-guilty-in-landmark-trial>.

into the alleged criminal activities of Golden Dawn.²⁹⁶ In addition to the fatal stabbing of Fyssas, defendants in the trial were also convicted of other violent attacks on immigrants, refugees and left-wing political opponents, as well as illegal possession of weapons.²⁹⁷

On October 14, 2021 the Court sentenced the seven members of the Golden Dawn leadership to 13 years in prison, and in several cases added a few more months – approaching the maximum penalty for heading a criminal organization,²⁹⁸ which is 15 years under Greece’s revised penal code. Lawyers for the Defense had argued during the legal proceedings for sentences to be reduced. Michaloliakos, a Holocaust denier and ardent admirer of Hitler, was handed an additional six-month jail term for illegal arms possession. Other senior figures like Ioannis Lagos received a prison term of 13 years and eight months and Ilias Kasidiaris was handed a 13-and-a-half-year prison term. Eleven other former MPs received sentences ranging from five to seven years for membership in a criminal organization. Roupakias was the only defendant to be given a life sentence for the murder of Fyssas.²⁹⁹

In a country that had suffered so much under the Nazi occupation, it has taken far too long to acknowledge that Golden Dawn was operating in a strict hierarchical structure inspired by Nazi ideology.³⁰⁰ Still, the question to be asked now is: What will be the implications of the landmark ruling, the biggest trial of fascists since Nuremberg? The long-awaited decision of the Greek court has ramifications for the far right across Europe and Greece.³⁰¹ As Dr. Moshe Kantor, European Jewish Congress President, pointed out: “[w]e hope other nations which allow similar neo-Nazi parties to run in elections and sit in parliaments will likewise proscribe parties which promote racist and hateful

296 Michal Navoth, The Worrisome Defiance of the Golden Dawn, KANTOR CENTER POSITION PAPERS 4 (Mikael Shainkman ed., August 2014), https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/0001/Michal%20Navoth.pdf; Michal Navoth, Between the Far Right and the Far Left: Current Issues of Racism and Nationalism in Greece, KANTOR CENTER POSITION PAPERS 1-2 (Mikael Shainkman ed., March 2017), <http://www.kantorcenter.tau.ac.il/sites/default/files/PP%20Greece%20170320.pdf>.

297 Greece Golden Dawn: Neo-Nazi leaders guilty of running crime gang, October 7, 2020, at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54433396>; Jewish Cemeteries, Holocaust Memorial Desecrated In Greece.

298 Golden Dawn leadership sentenced to 13 years in prison, October 14, 2020, at <https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/258056/golden-dawn-leadership-sentenced-to-13-years-in-prison/>.

299 Helena Smith, Neo-Nazi leaders of Greece's Golden Dawn sentenced to 13 years, The Guardian, October 14, 2020, at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/14/greece-golden-dawn-neo-nazi-prison-sentences>.

The Court rejected requests for the sentences of Michaloliakos and other former MPs to be suspended pending appeal. See Helena Smith, Greek court jails Golden Dawn leaders as it rejects calls for delay, The Guardian, October 22, 2020, at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/22/greek-court-rejects-bid-to-delay-jailing-of-golden-dawn-leaders>

300 Smith, Neo-Nazi leaders; Michal Navoth, Greece, in Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, Antisemitism Worldwide 2017 General Analysis Draft, nn. 40-41 and accompanying text, at http://www.kantorcenter.tau.ac.il/sites/default/files/Doch_full_2018_220418.pdf

301 Smith, Golden Dawn guilty verdicts.

ideologies.”³⁰² Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis responded: “[a]fter the Greek people voted the neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn out of Parliament in the last election, today the Greek justice system convicted its leadership of operating as a criminal organization.”³⁰³ Thus, it was not only a victory for democracy and the rule of law; the sentence is indicative of mainstreaming the fight against antisemitism. Yet, clear as these lessons and messages from the historic verdict may be, far right nationalism, both in Greece and elsewhere, has not disappeared from the scene.

In Greece it has been shattered.³⁰⁴ Golden Dawn, once a marginal group, became the third-largest party in Greece during the country’s economic crisis. By tapping into public anger over the growing immigrant population and austere measures taken in the debt-stricken country, Golden Dawn managed to portray themselves as true patriots and the only defenders of Greek interests. They maintained this position throughout the trial, until the summer of 2019 - when in the snap election of 7 July, 2019, Golden Dawn, plagued by strife within the party, failed to cross the 3 percent threshold required to enter the Greek parliament and lost its seven-year-long parliamentary representation. Since then, it has all but collapsed amid defection and infighting.³⁰⁵ A new party, however, has squeezed into the Greek Parliament - the Greek Solution. Though it is not a neo-Nazi party, it is in the far right of the political spectrum.³⁰⁶

It seems that the vacuum created by the downfall of Golden Dawn appeals to some other actors as well. In the first half of October 2020 the Greek daily KATHIMERINI wrote about a confidential report of the Greek police that was leaked to the press. According to the report, a total of 16 far-right groups were vying to fill the vacuum left by Golden Dawn. Some of their members have in the past been convicted of assaulting, inter alia, Jewish sites.³⁰⁷

302 Leader of Greek Neo-Nazi Golden Dawn Party Convicted of ‘Leading a Criminal Organisation’ October 8, 2020, at <https://moshekantor.com/press/in-the-news/21262/>

303 Richman, Greek court.

304 Daniel Trilling, Why did Golden Dawn's neo-Nazi leaders get away with it for so long? The Guardian, October 8, 2020, at <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/oct/08/golden-dawn-neo-nazi-violence-greece-political-class>

305 Michal Navoth, Measures Taken by Greek Government to Combat Antisemitism, presentation given at Kantor Center's 14th International TAU Seminar on Contemporary Antisemitism: From Statements to Actions: Official Measures in Combating Antisemitism (Ein-Gedi, November 25-27, 2019), nn. 20-21 and accompanying text, at https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Michal%20Navoth-%20Measures%20Taken%20by%20Greek%20Government%20to%20Combat%20Antisemitism%20.pdf; Smith, Golden Dawn guilty verdicts.

306 Navoth, Measures Taken, n. 24 and accompanying text.

307 Yiannis Souliotis, Far-right groups vying to fill Golden Dawn vacuum, October 12, 2020, at <https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/257963/far-right-groups-vying-to-fill-golden-dawn-vacuum/>

The racism represented by Golden Dawn has not disappeared.³⁰⁸ Greece must continue countering antisemitism. The wave of antisemitic occurrences in October 2020 made this all the more evident. In November 2019 Greece adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)'s definition of antisemitism.³⁰⁹ According to the latest report of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), published on September 10, 2020: "[i]n Greece, an inter-ministerial committee is being set up to propose a legal framework for using the IHRA definition in education, justice and public administration."³¹⁰ Undertaking such measures can serve as Exhibit A in Greece's struggle.

Corona-related antisemitism

Articles related to the Coronavirus and antisemitic conspiracy theories were published in the Greek press, mainly in far-right and nationalist Greek newspapers such as ELEFTHERI ORA, MAKELEIO, in Golden Dawn's weekly CHRYSSI AVGHI, and also in posts on different social media platforms. They accused the Jews, Zionists and Israelis of causing and spreading the Coronavirus pandemic or intending to make a profit from the vaccine they were already developing.

The narratives in these sources fall broadly into categories such as: Zionists' orchestrated plan for world domination, their economic domination, Holocaust trivialization and the Palestinians.³¹¹ On May 15, 2020 an article in ELEFTHERI ORA claimed: "The coronavirus was spread by the Zionist dominators of the globe for world governance."³¹² Similarly, Henry Kissinger's article entitled: *The Coronavirus Pandemic Will Forever Alter the World Order*, published on April 3, 2020 in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL,³¹³ was distorted by an article posted in a blog the following day, which read: "The scheming Zionist proposes world dictatorship – Kissinger shows us the medicine for Covid-19: World Dictatorship!"³¹⁴ On March 19, 2020 MAKELEIO quoted the daily AL-WATAN of Saudi Arabia, which claimed that "...the coronavirus is a plan of the American and Israeli pharmaceutical companies aiming at profit".³¹⁵ In the same vein, MAKELEIO published an article on May 2, 2020 writing that "The Jews, the Israelis, apparently the allies of the Americans, who have the best

308 Richman, Greek court.

309 Navoth, *Antisemitism Worldwide 2019 and the beginning of 2020*, n. 250 and accompanying text.

310 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), *antisemitism - overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in the European Union 2009-2019*, 93 (2020) at

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-antisemitism-overview-2009-2019_en.pdf

311 Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS), *Antisemitic Articles in Greek Media related to Coronavirus Pandemic (March-May 2020)*, 1 June 2020 (hereinafter: KIS Memo).

312 Id.

313 Henry Kissinger, *The Coronavirus Pandemic Will Forever Alter the World Order*, April 3, 2020, at <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-coronavirus-pandemic-will-forever-alter-the-world-order-1158595300>

314 KIS Memo.

315 Id.

intelligence in the world, most probably have the vaccine already ready..."³¹⁶ The Jews who had been blamed for Greece's economic woes during the financial crisis were now blamed for the economic recession triggered by the coronavirus. On May 13, 2020, discussing the repercussions of the pandemic for world economy, CHRYSSI AVGHI argued: "the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic has left people all over the world with no illusions about the role of Zionist capitalism".³¹⁷ On March 28, 2020 Efimerida TON SYNTAKTON, which is part of the mainstream press, published an article asserting that "... Israel has created a chamber for the reproduction of the virus, which could at any moment lead to a holocaust not only of the Palestinians but of several neighboring countries as well, reaching Europe soon...".³¹⁸

The Palestinians were also referred to in a video posted on May 4, 2020 in the Twitter account of the BDS movement in Greece, denouncing the Israeli policy towards Palestinians during the corona pandemic.³¹⁹

Toward the end of 2020, the good news that the vaccine had been produced sadly corroborated the Coronavirus-inspired antisemitic expressions. Following the announcement made by Albert Bourla, CEO of the Pfizer pharmaceutical company and a Greek Jew, on the upcoming Covid-19 vaccine, the front page of the daily MAKELEIO of November 10, 2020 came out with a shocking illustration and title: the photo of Nazi doctor Josef Mengele next to the photo of Dr. Bourla,³²⁰ with a huge title that read "Jewish veterinarian will stick the needle in us!" The outrage and disgust of Greek Jewry were expressed in the KIS announcement: "[t]he identification of the CEO of Pfizer as Mengele, the so-called butcher of Auschwitz, is an appalling and unethical assault against Albert Bourla only because he is a Jew... The vaccine of a company suddenly becomes "*poison*" due to the Jewish religion of the company's CEO, Albert Bourla, and its production is compared to the Nazi experiments in Auschwitz, in an attempt to prevent people from using it..."³²¹ The KIS announcement was followed by an immediate response from the General Secretary for Religious Affairs, George Kalantzis: "... it is a great honor and a source of pride for our country that a Greek – regardless of which God he might believe

316 Id.

317 Id.

318 Id. See also Victor Eliezer, Coronavirus: The Jews are in the line of fire again, May 7, 2020, at <https://eurojewcong.org/news/news-and-views/op-ed-by-victor-eliezer-coronavirus-the-jews-are-in-the-line-of-fire-again/>

319 KIS Memo.

320 Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS), Antisemitic Front-Page Title of the Newspaper Makeleio – Reactions by the General Secretary for Religious Affairs and the Greek Jewry, November 11, 2020 at https://kis.gr/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=911:antisemitic-front-page-title-of-the-newspaper-makeleio-reactions-by-the-general-secretary-for-religious-affairs-and-the-greek-jewry&catid=12:2009&Itemid=41

321 Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS), KIS Announcement for the Antisemitic Front-Page title of the Newspaper: "Makeleio", November 10, 2020, id.

in, or not believe - holds such a responsible position and has significantly contributed to finding a solution for this unprecedented health crisis." ³²²

A preliminary investigation into fake news regarding the pandemic and the vaccine was ordered by the Athens Prosecutor's Office soon after, on November 19, 2020. Among other issues, the inquiry will focus on articles published in the MAKELEIO newspaper, including the one of November 10, 2020.³²³

On October 2020 MAKELEIO was convicted by the First Instance Court of Athens for "insulting and for having contributed on purpose to the reproduction of a rhetoric of hate against the Jews"³²⁴, but its defamatory content during the coronavirus crisis continues to add to the bigotry of the lowest kind against the Jews.

Iran / Liora Hendelman-Baavur

The global outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in early 2020 became fertile ground for the dissemination of antisemitic and anti-Israeli conspiracy theories in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which surged in two major waves. The first wave targeted the **"Zionist regime" along with the United States as responsible for creating and spreading the virus in order to gain either power or profit.** The second wave focused on comparisons between the coronavirus and the state of Israel, arguing that the latter is far worse than the first.³²⁵ Theories of conspiracy of this sort can be viewed as part of what Josep Borrell, the European Union's foreign affairs chief, has named "the global battle of narratives", referring to attempts made by some countries to discredit and stigmatize other nations as alleged carriers of the virus.³²⁶ However, in the case of the Islamic Republic of Iran, these myths exacerbate antisemitic rhetoric and imagery (invoking the classic triumvirate of blood, money, and power) under the aegis of the state, headed by Iranian Supreme

322 Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS), Announcement by the General Secretary for Religious Affairs, George Kalantzis for the Front-Page title of "Makeleio", November 10, 2020, id.

323 Athens Prosecutor's Office orders probe into fake news, November 19, 2020 at

<https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/259357/athens-prosecutor-s-office-orders-probe-into-fake-news/>

324 Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS), Announcement by the General Secretary for Religious Affairs. The Court imposed a \$2,200 fine on Stefanos Chios, the publisher of the Makeleio for an op-ed written in 2017 in which he called Minos Moissis, a former president of the Athens Jewish community, a "crude Jew who runs a loan-shark firm." See Cnaan Liphshitz/JTA, Greek newspaper publisher convicted of hate speech against Jewish leader, The Jerusalem Post, November 6, 2020 at <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/greek-newspaper-publisher-convicted-of-hate-speech-against-jewish-leader-648218>; Cnaan Liphshitz, Greek newspaper likens Pfizer's Jewish CEO to Nazi doctor Josef Mengele, November 13, 2020 at <https://www.timesofisrael.com/greek-newspaper-likens-pfizers-jewish-ceo-to-nazi-doctor-josef-mengele/>.

325 "Film: Similarities between coronavirus and the Zionist regime from the perspective of the Supreme Leader of the Revolution," [Nasim online](#), May 22, 2020.

326 "EU HRVP Josep Borrell: The Coronavirus pandemic and the new world it is creating", [European Union Eternal Action Service](#) (EUAS), March 24, 2020.

Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i, renowned for his advocacy of Holocaust denial. Seeds of hate and incitement of violence against Jews are systematically planted by state-sponsored channels of communication, cultural events³²⁷, and publications of semi-academic institutions, as well as Iranian schoolbooks.³²⁸

Beginning in late February and throughout March, state-sponsored media in Iran zealously advanced the notion that the "Zionist regime" was involved in engineering and spreading the coronavirus. Reminiscent of the medieval period, when Jews were blamed for spreading the Black Death plague,³²⁹ a barrage of speculations appeared in national media outlets, voiced by various public figures, including representatives of parliament, the clerical establishment, the security forces, and academia.

On February 28, the news agency of the Shi'i seminaries in Qom quoted a political activist from Yemen by the name of Salim al-Muntaser, saying that Israel's national intelligence agency had produced the corona virus.³³⁰ The following day, on February 29, the veteran Majlis deputy Gholamali Jafarzadeh Iman Abadi of Rasht, tweeted that Covid-19 should be considered "a biological attack" on Iran, launched by the U.S. and the Zionist regime.³³¹ On March 3, the head of Iran's Civil Defense Organization, Brigadier General Gholam Reza Jalali, said that the outcomes of the coronavirus epidemic and the western states' media propaganda suggest that the virus might be a biological attack against China and Iran.³³²

While repetition makes an idea seem more credible, regardless of whether it is true or not, citing multiple sources tends to enhance the "illusion of truth" effect, and hence, early conjectures soon gave way to speculative accusation. On March 11 radical cleric Mehdi Ta'eb stressed that in order to strike Iran, its enemies "are willing to let 100 million people die all over world."³³³ The next day Ali Karami, Professor of Medical Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, accused the Americans and Zionists of creating this virus as an

327 In March, the organizer of the 2006 Iranian Holocaust cartoon contest launched a new initiative titled "we defeat coronavirus," which featured some highly antisemitic works. Iran House of Cartoon, affiliated with the Tehran Municipality, presented the works on its website.

328 David Andrew Weinberg, "Incitement: Antisemitism and Violence in Iran's Current State Textbooks," ADL Report, uploaded online February 2021. <https://www.adl.org/antisemitism-in-iranian-state-textbooks>.

329 Bernd Debusmann, "Covid-19 and the people the world loves to hate – Jews," News Decoder, September 10, 2020. <https://news-decoder.com/covid-19-and-the-people-the-world-loves-to-hate-jews>.

330 "A Yemeni political activist says: The Coronavirus is Produced by the Mossad of the Zionist Regime," *Hawza News*, February 28, 2020. <https://www.hawzahnews.com/news/888379>.

331 "Rasht representative in the parliament: The corona virus is a biological attack by the United States and the Zionist regime," *Jamaran News*, February 29, 2020. <https://www.jamaran.news>. A similar notion he expressed in his twitter account as well, https://twitter.com/Jafarzadeh_ir/status/1233726868806918145.

332 "Civil Defense Chief: Coronavirus Likely Biological Attack against China, Iran," *Fars News*, March 3, 2020. <https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/13981213000410/Civil-Defense-Chief-Crnavirs-Likely-Bilgical-Aack-agains-China-Iran>.

333 Mehdi Ta'eb: Corona was created by the United States and the Zionists," *khavar-e dagh*, March 11, 2020 (accessed April 24, 2020).

“ethnic weapon” against Iran.³³⁴ Using similar terminology, pseudo-intellectual Ali Akbar Raefipour, who is best known for his lectures in universities about Satanism and Freemasonry, referred to Covid-19 as “Zionist biological terrorism.”³³⁵

At the same time, Iran’s English language news network *Press TV*, summoned a “Western expert” from its arsenal of conspiracy theorists, to support the regime’s **speculations that “Zionist elements” in the U.S. or Israel have exploited the global coronavirus epidemic to create and spread a deadlier strain of the virus in Iran.** “I believe that what is going on, under the cloak of the alleged coronavirus epidemic, is that biological warfare is being conducted against Iran by Zionist elements who are taking advantage of the situation,” said James Fetzer, a retired professor of philosophy at the University of Minnesota to *Press TV* on March 5.³³⁶

On March 7, another frequent contributor to *Press TV*, Kevin Barnett, a former University of Wisconsin-Madison instructor, wrote that “...UANI (the United Against Nuclear Iran organization) is just one of the many Israeli pressure groups running United States foreign policy. It's just an outrage. And now they're trying to amplify the plague of coronavirus in Iran, which one suspects that they themselves may have actually engineered...”³³⁷ The translation of this opinion column appeared the next day in Hispan TV, the Spanish language news channel operated by Iran’s broadcasting cooperation since December 2011.³³⁸

Intended to reinforce Iran's ties with Spain and boost its influence in Latin America, Hispan TV follows in the footsteps of Press TV and the Arabic satellite TV station, Al Alam, in promoting the Islamic Republic's ideological agenda and disseminating controversial conspiracy theories disguised as accurate and unbiased news coverage of the world and Middle East events. On March 18, The Jerusalem Post reported a number of disturbing incidents of Turks blaming the coronavirus pandemic on Jews and Zionism.³³⁹ The following day, Hispan TV presented the report as news based on supposedly reliable

334 "This Virus has been manipulated," Sobh-e Qazvin, March 12, 2020.

335 Ali Akbar Raefipour, "The Zionist biological Terror/Professor Raefipour/Corona virus," <https://filimchi.ir/FL/261pu1409434>.

336 See for instance, "Zionist elements developed deadlier strain of coronavirus against Iran: Academic," *Press TV*, March 5, 2020. <https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2020/03/05/620217/US-coronavirus-James-Henry-Fetzer>.

337 "US, Israel waging biological warfare on massive scale," *Press TV*, March 7, 2020. <https://www.presstv.com/detail/2020/03/07/620357/us,-israel-waging-biological-warfare-on-massive-scale>.

338 "Opinion: EEUU e Israel libran guerra biológica a gran escala contra Irán," Hispan TV, March 8, 2020. <https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/opinion/450929/eeuu-israel-iran-coronavirus-guerra-biologica>

339 Donna Rachel Edmunds, "Coronavirus is a Zionist plot, say Turkish politicians, media, public" *The Jerusalem Post*, March 18, 2020. <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/coronavirus-is-a-zionist-plot-say-turkish-politicians-media-public-621393>.

analysis and evaluation of Turkish experts quoted in the Israeli press.³⁴⁰ ISNA reported that according to "a new study conducted by researchers at the University of Oxford, it was found that one in five Britons believes that the Jews created Covid-19 to bring economic collapse in order to enjoy financial gain."³⁴¹

According to some foreign experts and Iranian expatriates, the purpose of the intensive promotion of these and other conspiracy theories was to distract Iranian citizens from the regime's mounting failures in dealing with the pandemic.³⁴² A video clip entitled "Corona, Israel and the Conspiracy Theory: Spreading the Virus (is the Work of the Jewish State)," uploaded to YouTube in September, summarized the defamations promoted in Iran since the outbreak of the pandemic. Under this provocative title, the producer *Iran Wire*, a bilingual news analysis website operating since 2014 by Iranian journalists in Diaspora, argued: "for the Islamic Republic, any crisis can be instrumental for building a new theory about Israel."³⁴³

The second major wave of conspiracy theories teeming with antiemetic ingredients, surged throughout the month of May. Against the backdrop of Quds Day, an annual event initiated by Iran to express support for the Palestinians, this wave propagated comparisons between the coronavirus and Israel, claiming that the latter is worse and deadlier than the first. In addition to the above-mentioned association made by Ayatollah Khamene'i, in an interview with the *Iranian Students' News Agency*, Shahruz Barzegar, member of the Parliamentary National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, stated: "The corona does not erase the crimes of the Zionist regime from the minds of the people. The hands of Zionism and the arrogant regime, who committed many crimes, are stained with the blood of many people in the region."³⁴⁴

On May 25, the junior cleric Mehdi Dary, the Friday prayer leader of Rudan County, called all Muslims to unite "against the illicit and fake Zionist regime, this ruthless and bloodthirsty virus is worse than the corona".³⁴⁵ Hamid Shahriari, the recently appointed general secretary of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought, took advantage of this opportunity to emphasize, "Muslims of the world should express their

340 Asia Occidental Informe: El nuevo coronavirus es resultado de un complot sionista," Hispan TV, March 19, 2020. <https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/asia-occidental/451932/coronavirus-covid19-sionismo-israel>.

341 "The root cause of corona is identified in England as a Jewish Conspiracy," [Khabar online.g](http://Khabaronline.g)

342 Seth J. Frantzman, "Iran's Regime Pushes Antisemitic Conspiracies about Coronavirus," The Jerusalem Post, March 8, 2020.

343 Iran Wire, "Corona, Israel and Conspiracy Theory: Spreading the Virus (is the Working of the Jewish State), uploaded to YouTube on September 22, 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0T_s7JGYisg

344 "A member of the Parliamentary National Security Commission," ISNA, May 21, 2020. <https://www.isna.ir/news/99022920589/>.

345 "The Fictitious Zionist Regime is a Bloodthirsty virus and worse than Corona", [Roodan News](http://www.roodannews.ir/2020/05/21), May 25, 2020. <http://www.roodannews.ir/2020/05/21>.

enmity with the evil virus of Zionism."³⁴⁶ In an interview conducted by the news agency *Tasnim*, affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards, with Hakam Amhaz, the Tehran-based Lebanese journalist was quoted saying: "The Zionist regime is similar to the coronavirus, which has infected humanity everywhere; this regime has inflicted the whole world with its economic, security, intelligence and media levers and cancer."³⁴⁷



Instance of Iran's systematic efforts to delegitimize Israel's right to exist. Infographic poster by Iranian News Agency *Sobh-e Tus*, entitled "A Virus Named Israel," beneath the hashtag #Covid1948. The banner at the center says "Comparing Israel with the Corona," The left column lists the similarities, and on the right methods of coping with the virus's symptoms are depicted. May 18, 2020.³⁴⁸



Right: "An Invitation to all freedom seekers of the world to fight the global virus, Israel", over the hashtag #Covid1948, *Al-Alam TV*, May 14, 2020.³⁴⁹

346 "On Quds Day, the Muslims of the world declare their enmity with the evil virus of Zionism," *Islamic Republic of Iran News Agency* (IRNA) May 21, 2020. <https://www.irna.ir/news/83795595>.

347 "Interview: The similarities between "Corona" and the Zionist regime / Al Saud and Israel are two sides of the same coin," *Tasnim*, May 10, 2020. <https://www.tasnimnews.com/fa/news/1399/02/21/2263093>.

348 "A Virus Named Israel," *Sobh-e Tus*, May 18, 2020. <http://sobhtoos.ir/post/349651>.

349 Poster, *Al-Alam TV*, May 14, 2020, <https://fa.alalamtv.net/news/4927771>.

Left: "The Virus Israel is worse than a cancerous tumor", [Khabarnegaran-e Javan](#), May 16, 2020.

Government officials of the Islamic Republic frequently claim that Iran's animosity is directed at the state of Israel (or "the Zionist regime"), and not at the Jews, but this is utterly contradicted by its hateful messages and representations of the Jewish people across both ancient and modern history. This is especially evident, not only in Iran's republication of "the Protocols of the Elders of Zion"³⁵⁰ but also in its systematic efforts to depict human history as essentially a conflict between Islamic leaders on the one hand and scheming, malicious enemies of Islam on the other. On May 26, a poster reading "An endless revolution: the world without Zionism," accompanied an extensive review by Iranian news agency *Raja* of the Jewish distortion of the Book of Esther, allegedly intending conceal an ancient conflict between the Jewish people and the Iranians. The review linked this narrative to Iran's depiction of Zionism and the state of Israel as plotting global imperialism, led by the U.S., against the Muslim world as a whole and Iran in particular.³⁵¹



Source: [Raja News Agency](#), May 26, 2020.

The following month the cleric Abolfath Davati declared that "Zionism is the source of racism and oppression in the world," and further stressed the need to put an end to this U.S.-supported "criminal system".³⁵² Evoking additional myths and tropes, Iran's foreign

350 The pseudo-scientific website Iranian [Jewish Studies Center](#), <http://jscenter.ir/jewish-studies/jewish-bibliography/>.

351 "On the Occasion of Quds Day," [Raja News Agency](#), May 26, 2020. <http://www.rajanews.com/news/336847/>.

352 "Zionism; The source of racism and oppression in the world," [IQNA](#), June 26, 2020. <https://iqna.ir/fa/news/3906398>.

ministry spokesperson, Sayyid Abbas Musavi, tweeted: "The captivity of Europe by the Zionist lobby is impressive," followed by Minister Zarif, who was quoted saying, "Many western countries are hostages of the regime of Israel".³⁵³



An image accompanying a review entitled "The Jewish people from Predilection to Racism," attests to the linkage between the Jewish people, Zionism and racism in Iran's anti-Israeli propaganda. *Jewish Studies Center*, December 16, 2020.

Depictions of Zionism as a racist, imperialist plot akin to other Jewish or Western conspiracies against Islam throughout history, portraying Zionist Jews as the enemies of Iran, and the Jewish state as “fake” (because it is based on lies) are in line with the Islamic Republic's maxim according to which Israel should “disappear” in order to “liberate Jerusalem.” Blatantly conveying this message, on May 19 Ayatollah Khamenei’s office posted on his official website and twitter accounts (in both Persian and English) an illustrated poster with the provocative title “Palestine will be free. The final solution: Resistance until referendum.”

The poster depicts a fictitious conquest of the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem by a coalition of forces including Palestinian Hamas and Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, other Iranian-backed Shi'ite militias, and even two members of the anti-Zionist religious group of Jews *Neturei Karta*, implying that the struggle against Israel transcends borders.³⁵⁴ Some of the figures wave flags, while others carry guns, against a backdrop of photos of the late IRGC Quds Force leader Qassem Soleimani, and a smaller photo of Ayatollah Khomeini, the leader of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. This image was not only disseminated online, but also printed on May 21 on the front page of numerous conservative newspapers including *Kayhan*, the hardline

353 "Iran: Muchos Países Occidentales son Rehenes del Régimen de Israel", [Hispan TV](#), May 20, 2020 and "Iran: Es Impresionante el Cautiverio de Europa por Lobby Sionista," [Hispan TV](#) and [IRNA](#), May 22, 2020.

354 Michael Segall, "Iran Presents the "Final Solution" – to the Question of Palestine," Jerusalem Issue Briefs, vol. 20 no. 10 (May 27, 2020). <https://jcpa.org/article/iran-presents-the-final-solution-to-the-question-of-palestine>.

newspaper considered Ayatollah Khamene'i's mouthpiece, and *Javan*, the daily associated with the IRGC.



The illustration/s that went viral on the web as "the Final Solution Poster" of Khamene'i (the English version on the right, Persian on the left). The office of Iran's Supreme Leader also distributed a version in Arabic via its affiliated social media platforms.

Incorporating the term "final solution" (*rah-e hal nahaei*), the codename given to the Nazi plan for the genocide of Jews during World War II, into the poster, was obviously not coincidental, and aroused strong backlash in international media. Amid the wide media impact, some members of the Iranian government tried to tone down the message by claiming that the poster calls for a referendum on the status of the Temple Mount site.³⁵⁵ However, other senior officials, including Foreign Minister Zarif, who proved hawkish in his response (see screenshot of his tweet below), were backed by the office of Ayatollah Khamene'i, which emphasized its intentions even more rigorously in a follow-up statement:

....the western accusations of anti-Semitism, which they keep repeating, are completely unfounded. On the basis of this proposal, Jewish, Christian and Muslim Palestinians together will determine the political system of their country by participating in a referendum. That which should definitely go is the Zionist regime, since Zionism is a bizarre innovation, which has been fabricated in the name of Judaism, but it is totally alien to that religion.³⁵⁶

355 Kersten Knipp, "Opinion: Ayatollah Khamenei and the 'final solution' in the Middle East," DW News, May 24, 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/opinion-ayatollah-khamenei-and-the-final-solution-in-the-middle-east/a-53549351>.

356 "Which Final Solution," official website Khamenei.ir, May 30, 2020 <https://english.khamenei.ir/news/7592/Which-final-solution>.



Italy / Stefano Gatti and Betti Guetta (CDEC) Observatory of Antisemitism of the CDEC Foundation

The Observatory of Antisemitism of the CDEC (Contemporary Jewish Documentation Center) Foundation in Milan is the only center on the Italian Peninsula that daily monitors, collects, compiles and studies antisemitic incidents (assault, threats, damage and desecration, abusive behavior, etc.) occurring in Italy. The Observatory is especially engaged in monitoring online antisemitism, due to its recent dramatic increase.

Antisemitic incidents are reported to the Observatory in a number of ways, most commonly by e-mail, through the Observatory's website and by phone through the 24hour hotline Antenna Antisemitismo (run on behalf of UCEI – Union of Italian Jewish Communities).

The Observatory documents and analyzes both offline and online Jew-hatred, performs quantitative and qualitative surveys as well as targeted social studies on antisemitism, and organizes opinion polls with sample size, Focus Groups, web sentiment analyses, inquiries on opinion leaders and research on the web. It also prepares an annual report on antisemitism in Italy for UCEI and for the Kantor Center at Tel Aviv University, as well as a quarterly report on antisemitism for UCEI and OSCAD (Italian Police department for protection against discrimination acts).

The Observatory disseminates collected information and data and supports initiatives that report and combat antisemitic acts. Its daily updated website (www.osservatorioantisemitismo.it), records approximately 500 entries every day, at times peaking as high as 3,000. Googling the term "antisemitism" reveals that the Observatory's website is on page one, at the top of the results.

The Observatory's archive includes the most comprehensive library in Italy of antisemitic books published since 1945. Moreover, it keeps numerous collections of antisemitic magazines, photos, audio recordings and videotapes.

The Observatory's staff attends national and international conferences and congresses on antisemitism organized by numerous organizations such as, among others, the Kantor Center, the Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism, the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism, the OSCE-ODIHR, the American Jewish Committee, and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

The Observatory collaborates with institutions that deal with antisemitism: Kantor Center of Tel Aviv, Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism of Jerusalem, Community Security Trust of London, Institute for Jewish Policy Research of London, International Network Against Cyberhate of Amsterdam, the Australian Online Hate Prevention Institute and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Since December 2019, the Observatory has worked with Vox – Osservatorio Italiano sui diritti allo studio on the “La Mappa dell’Intolleranza” [Map of Intolerance], in collaboration with the Statale University of Milan, the University of Bari, the Sapienza University of Rome and the Sociology Department of the Università Cattolica of Milan.

Antisemitism in Italy in 2020: methodological premise

The Observatory defines an antisemitic incident as any malicious act aimed at Jewish people, organizations, or property, where there is evidence that the victim or victims were targeted because they are (or are believed to be) Jewish. In this vein, the Observatory has adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism.

The Observatory does not trawl the internet looking for online incidents to log. It records only the antisemitic incidents occurring in Italy that are reported either by media or by a member of the public (by phone or email via Antenna antisemitismo) who was either a victim or witness of the incident.

The total number of antisemitic incidents recorded in 2020 by Observatory is only an indication, as the actual number is much larger, and impossible to accurately quantify. Serious antisemitic incidents are more likely to be reported than verbal or written abuse. Hence, the collected data mirror only the reported incidents and not the whole spectrum of antisemitic incidents that occurred throughout the year in Italy. The under-reporting, namely the lack of reporting of antisemitic incidents, represents a significant problem as it distorts the real understanding of the phenomenon. A second relevant problem is the under-recording: police forces and the legal system fail in pronouncing crimes to be antisemitic.

Even so, it is undeniable that existing data indicate that antisemitism is on the rise. Antisemitism keeps growing visibly on social media, it has become normalized, and harassment is a daily occurrence.

This report describes antisemitic incidents perpetrated in Italy by single individuals or groups of extremists – neo-Nazis, haters of Israel, religious fanatics etc. – who disseminate their hatred mainly on online platforms. Whereas violent anti-Jewish acts are committed exclusively by extremist political groups (right, left, etc.), prejudice against Jews is widespread across socio-cultural classes and political and ideological groups, emerging in many forms, from different sides of the political spectrum.

Given the continual growth of online antisemitism, which generates a greater liquidity of contemporary antisemitism, starting this year (2020 report) the Observatory will publish a summary that distinguishes **offline episodes** (insults, threats, graffiti, writing on doorbells, insults to schools, etc.) from **online episodes** (social network profiles, websites, blogs, Twitter, Zoom bombings, etc.) – keeping in mind the methodological difficulties of depicting the complexity of attitudes and of a multifaceted ideology such as antisemitism.

Antisemitism in Italy

Antisemitism is not a problem of the past but very much a current-day issue. We can see this through events, in language on certain social media, and even on some major news platforms. Antisemitism can appear in many different shades, changing as a result of the political, economic and social situation, which dictates its spread and visibility. The incubation periods vary, with antisemitism reemerging in the public debate due to global problems, economic crises, or social and cultural changes. While during dormancy periods antisemitism occupies only restricted territories, and is perpetrated in limited fields, during critical phases it can easily break through such limitations. The current economic and social situation, combined with the ongoing pandemic, create a favorable environment for the rise of antisemitic attitudes.

Concerned about the problem of antisemitism, the Italian Parliament, in January 2020 founded the National Coordination for the Fight against Antisemitism, led by pedagogue and former MP Milena Santerini.

On January 27, 2020, marking Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Council of Ministers emphasized its commitment to promoting the memory of the Holocaust and opposing any kind of antisemitism. To this end, the Council fully adopted the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, using it as a main reference for recognizing antisemitic expressions and behaviors. On June 16, 2020 the Presidency of the Council of Ministers established a task force for the recognition of the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism, consisting of representatives of institutions, ministries, Jewish organizations and CDEC's

Observatory of Antisemitism. After 14 public hearings, the task force made its last report in December 2020.

Coronavirus and antisemitism

From March 14 on, the Antenna antisemitismo started to receive reports of incidents (all on the internet) accusing Jews of being responsible (or co-responsible) for Covid-19. In these, the motif “poisoning by Jews” was found 18 times.

All in all, throughout 2020, the “poisoning by Jews” motif was found 134 times in the 3,977 posts and online discussions of 300 social media profiles of extremists monitored by the Observatory of Antisemitism.

However, this motif was not a central theme in antisemitic attacks in 2020. Instead, the pandemic triggered a wave of secondary antisemitism, in which Covid-19 is seen as part of a big “globalist” conspiracy designed to increase control over the population (the “herd”) by “Zionist” transnational organizations and tycoons such as George Soros and Bill Gates.

Even the biggest online spreaders of conspiracy theories, like Maurizio Blondet’s blog (circa 30 thousand daily views), or the video blog ByoBlu (with videos watched by thousands of users), have not attributed particular importance to the subject “Jews-Covid19.”

In Italy, the debate on the virus focused mainly on conspiracy theories and anti-Chinese xenophobia: Covid-19 is seen as either a biological warfare tool (which leaked or was leaked from Chinese laboratories), or a tool for social control created by élite groups (EU, transnational institutions, the military, pharmaceutical companies).

Coronavirus and conspiracy theories

The impact of Covid-19 on social media platforms was strong and virulent, driven by a conspiracy theory sentiment. The pervasiveness of the conspiracy approach stems from its promise to make sense of situations which are hard to understand, like the Coronavirus pandemic, and above all identify who is to blame: behind every problem there is someone who conspires against us. Those who are influenced by conspiracy myths adopt a radicalized and distorted view of reality, and have a profound distrust of authority, institutions, the State, the government, and also of the community in charge of solving a given problem (doctors, virologists, etc.). No-Vax groups have frequently used metaphors related to the Shoah in their protest, presenting themselves as the “new Jews.”

Coronavirus and antisemitism

Antisemitic conspiracy theories and the online disinformation campaign related to Covid-19 were the central issues addressed in the third meeting of the European Commission antisemitism working group on the implementation of the declaration of the Council on combating antisemitism. The meeting, held on June 17, 2020,³⁵⁷ brought together representatives from Member States, the European Commission, FRA, and the Jewish community's organizations from all over the European Union. Discussions revealed that online antisemitic conspiracy myths are not to be associated with any particular political group: these myths are spread by a wide range of people and groups. Furthermore, online disinformation on Covid-19 reaches a wider public compared to informational messages about the virus.

The main traits of antisemitic discourse in 2020

- The most widespread antisemitic motif in 2020 was the one connected to economic matters: obscure Jewish-Zionist lobbies — utilizing the sprawling power of banks and international organizations — govern and manage the world.
- Anti-Semites continue to depict Jews according to archaic and popular judeophobic myths and antisemitic canards, such as: blood libels, ritual murder, deicide, hate against the human species, etc.
- Jews are depicted according to old Nazi physiognomic models (hooked noses, grinning mouths, goatee beards, etc.), and described according to stereotypes: rich, connected to each other, inclined to conspiracies and to world domination (“the Zionist octopus”), exploiters, racist, elitist, loyal to Israel, and internationalists. Sometimes this demonization reaches forms of pseudo-biologicistic antisemitism, as in the case of Giovanni Cianti's and Mauro Biglino's books and conferences that describe Jews as a pseudo-human “race.”
- All Jews are described as “Zionists”, and Zionism is understood as evil.
- The commencement of the parliamentary debate on the Zan Law against homophobia³⁵⁸ - aiming to counter hate crime and hate speech targeting LGBTQI individuals - kick-started a wave of antisemitic and homophobic tweets. Tycoon George Soros was designated as the person behind this law, as part of his plan to corrupt the morals of the world's population.

357 <https://fra.europa.eu/en/event/2020/european-commission-antisemitism-working-group-meet>

358 <http://www.senato.it/service/PDF/PDFServer/DF/356433.pdf>

Incidents reported to the Antenna Antisemitismo

In 2020, the Observatory of Antisemitism received 332 reports; after several in-depth analyses, 230 of these reports were identified as antisemitic incidents. 50 reports were related to incidents occurring offline, and 180 were related to online antisemitism.

Graffiti	22
Threats	13
Defamation	12
Discrimination	1
Physical attacks	1
Antisemitism in the mainstream media	1
Total (offline)	50
Online antisemitism	180
Total	230

These numbers are based on reports received by Antenna Antisemitismo, but the real amount of antisemitic incidents is greater by far. In 2020, the Observatory of Antisemitism also found:

- 308 antisemitic websites
- 300 antisemitic Facebook profiles, with a total of 3,997 posts and online discussions
- 900 antisemitic twitter profiles (according to Mediavox)
- 104,347 hostile tweets (according to the Osservatorio Vox Diritti)

Since these surveys come from heterogeneous sources, media and research tools, the summary should be seen as an example of the Italian context.

Antisemitic incidents reported by:

Non-Jews or people who are not identified as such	105
Jewish Community members	97
Mainstream media	21
Emails sent to the Observatory of Antisemitism	7
Total	230

Locations

In 71 of 230 offline antisemitic incidents, it has been possible to identify the city where the incident had occurred: Asolo, Bari, Bologna (2), Bagheria, Cagliari, Faenza (2), Firenze (2), Fondi, Forlì (2), Garbagnate Milanese, Genova, Latina, Livorno, Mestre, Milano (19), Mondovì, Napoli, Padova, Palermo, Pavia, Pinerolo, Pistoia, Pomezia, Pozzuoli, Riva del Garda, Reggio Calabria (3), Roma (6), San Daniele del Friuli, Schio, Siracusa, Tivoli, Torino (3), Torrebelvicino, Trento, Trieste (2), Valenza, Venezia (2), Vicenza.

Victims of antisemitism

151 incidents involved Jews and/or Jewish institutions being depicted as: racist, rich, greedy, conspiring for World domination, "Zionists".

Following is a list of the most frequently used terms: Zionist, "giudei", Israelites, Talmudists, Khazars, Ashkenazi, "Nazi-Zionists", racist and Hitlerian Zionists, Zionist organ thieves, Nazi Secret Service (referring to the State of Israel), SS (Super Sionisti), Israel uber alles, Zionist octopus, Jewish race, Hebrew cancer, Hebrew mob cancer, schnoz, cockroaches, rats, Jewish disease, plague spreaders, foreskinners, Jewish-Zionist lobbies, Jewish banks, Jewish bankers, Jewish lobby, Judeo-bolshevism, Cabala, Jewish masonry, Jewish International, New World Order, Globalist Zionist stateless usury, Zionist parasites, masonic and satanic élite, Synagogue of Satan, deicide, Shoah, Jews as fuel (referred to their burning in concentration camps), international Zionism, Illuminati, Elders of Zion.

"Zionist" is the most prevalent term in anti-Jewish discussions, mostly with a negative meaning: Zionism is used as a synonym of metaphysical Evil, and Zionists are described as devoted to Evil, cruel, murderous, deceitful, racist, organ thieves, etc.

In 79 incidents negative stereotypes were attributed to Jewish individuals and/or institutions. The most common targets were: Holocaust survivor Liliana Segre, Holocaust

survivor Sami Modiano, MP Emanuele Fiano, Holocaust survivor Nedo Fiano, journalist David Parenzo, billionaire George Soros, the Rothschild Family, the Elkann Family, the Jewish Community in Milan, the Jewish Community in Rome, CDEC's Observatory of Antisemitism, UCEI (Union of the Italian Jewish Communities).

Books

In 2020, 65 books with antisemitic content were published in Italy (compared to 50 in 2019); 20 are anti-Jewish classics, and 45 are new.

Netherlands / Hanna Luden (CIDI)

2020 was a very unusual year in many ways, due to the influence of Covid-19 on our lives. This is reflected in our findings regarding antisemitic incidents in the Netherlands. The country was locked down for many months, resulting in fewer human interactions: at work, school, sports and in the public space. The Covid-19 issues dominated public discussion and political attention, pushing other issues to the margins of the public agenda. We have witnessed a shift of many activities and discussions from real life to the online arena, accelerating the trend which had begun in previous years. The influence of the online platforms on real life behavior is of special concern. These issues are reflected in our findings regarding Antisemitism in the Netherlands in the year 2020.

135 antisemitic incidents registered in the year of lockdown

Despite significantly reduced real-life interaction, we registered 135 antisemitic incidents in 2020. Considering the limited (physical) interaction this year, we find this an alarming figure, although much lower than the 182 incidents we registered in 2019.

The more notable incidents include antisemitic vandalism in synagogues and verbal abuse against individuals and during demonstrations, often targeting the police, who were called 'Nazis' and 'Cancer Jews'...



(translation of the top text, in

white, which is the caption of the illustration: *“all opposition (group) ‘smells’ to Zionisme ... if you scrape the surface a little.”*

Significant increase in online antisemitic incidents

In 2020 we noted a very significant shift of activities to the online arena: websites, discussion forums and - mainly – social media. And this year’s ‘harvest’ is alarming: conspiracy theories, Holocaust denial or trivialization, accusing ‘the Jews’ of spreading the Coronavirus and manipulating the discussion on vaccination, and Israel of using it as a weapon, are some examples, which of course crossed borders and languages. Quantitative analysis of the incidents is an unrealistic challenge. The examples, though, are very startling. We have been working on methods and tools for the analysis of online Antisemitism, particularly in the social media, and hope to present results later this year.

1. "All opposition (groups) 'smell' of Zionism ... if you scrape the surface a little."

Private sphere

A clear rise in antisemitic incidents was noted in the so-called private sphere, both online and in ‘the real world’. The escalation of extremist ideas is reflected in both the number and character of the reported incidents. Moreover, the perpetrators seem to feel more confident than ever about expressing their views openly and boldly: a growing quantity of uninhibited antisemitic hate speech and memes was posted in discussion groups on

Facebook, WhatsApp, and online forums, as well as in open posts on Facebook, Tik Tok, Instagram and Twitter. Less mainstream social networks also seemed to host an increasing number of antisemitic manifestations.

Covid-19 and Conspiracy ideas

Not everyone was happy with the measures taken by the government in response to the pandemic, or with the vaccination campaign. Unfortunately, all too often the Jews (and/or the state of Israel) were blamed for either or both, accused of generating and/or benefiting from the pandemic, or controlling the whole world with the vaccines. In anti-vaccination circles, Israel – being first in the world to vaccinate its population, was harshly criticized and portrayed as an evil power. This international phenomenon has its followers in the Netherlands, who express their views both online and in real life - in demonstrations, publications, and discussions. Their use of WWII symbols – the Yellow Star and/or depicting the country's leaders as Nazis - is of great concern, as they trivialize the war and the Holocaust.

Politics

The above-mentioned discussions were also reflected in the country's political arena, with ideas expressed by some political parties both in parliament and on other occasions. In anticipation of the March 2021 elections these discussions already intensified in 2020. Antisemitic sentiments were expressed by groups – all too often related to political parties. The right-wing party FVD, known for its anti-refugee and anti-immigrant views, has also been a strong 'anti Soros' voice in the public debate. The party lost many of its politicians due to antisemitic speech within party echelons and by the party. These politicians eventually established a competing political party. Following these events, the FVD – which quadrupled its power in the March 2021 elections - adopted a strong anti-vaccination and anti-covid-measures campaign.

Pupils and students

Most schooling in the Netherlands in 2020 took place online, while sports clubs could only open their doors for short periods. Consequently, young people's social life was conducted almost entirely online. CIDI registered incidents of antisemitic bullying and using Nazi symbols and gestures. It seemed increasingly difficult for parents to access and supervise their children's communication with their peers, with the effect that incidents were often noted only when things got out of hand.

Government actions to combat Antisemitism

The Dutch parliament and government have shown concern about the upsurge of Antisemitism in the Netherlands. The parliament has decided on a list of measures to be

taken, including the adoption of the IHRA working definition of Antisemitism, the appointment of a Coordinator for Antisemitism, and the allocation of a 3-year budget for combating Antisemitism in sports and education. In addition, it was decided to combat online Antisemitism, although no clear measures have been defined. Measures to combat discrimination and racism are currently under discussion and some decisions have already been made, such as appointing dedicated discrimination investigators.

Reporting

One important challenge in the battle against Antisemitism is convincing people to file complaints about antisemitic incidents to the police, or even report them to watchdog organizations like CIDI. Too many people feel that their complaints are unlikely to lead to any real action, and that the police would not take them seriously, or give the issue priority.

Police and Law enforcement

The police are still struggling with their own procedures regarding the identification of Antisemitism, supporting the public and handling complaints. All too often the issue does not receive the proper attention, and it takes the police too long to handle the few filed complaints – too often with no satisfying results. The law in the Netherlands forbids group-discrimination as well as Holocaust-denial. It is also quite difficult to obtain reliable figures about the number of complaints regarding Antisemitism, making it very hard to get a clear picture of the situation. The police need to be trained to recognize and react properly to antisemitic incidents or complaints.

Summary of our most important recommendations for combating Antisemitism

CIDI advises the government to invest in education about history, the Holocaust and Antisemitism, as well as about Jewish communities in the Netherlands. We stress the importance of training (aspiring) teachers on how to react to hate-speech, conspiracy ideas, holocaust denial and related issues. It is important to keep discussions on Antisemitism separate from issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Any incident of Antisemitism in class can be used as a trigger for discussion.

Online Antisemitism should be combated, and police should be provided with resources and training enabling them to carry out investigations. Social Media organizations need to make sure that their platforms are clean and should respond to reports quickly and strongly. The governments should enforce this through laws and regulations and must not leave it to the private sector. Researchers should be provided with tools to study social media databases, just as they investigate child pornography or terrorism. They should be given access to the raw information. The social media organizations should

work transparently and report periodically about the extent of Antisemitism on their platforms and about the steps they take against it.

Poland / Inna Shtakster and Michal Bilewicz

Evolution of antisemitic views in times of the COVID-19 pandemic

Since March 2020 Poland, like other countries in the region, has faced the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on psychological knowledge, we expected such a pathogenic threat to lead to increased prejudice and more authoritarian attitudes³⁵⁹. But even though the pandemic did in fact lead to stigmatization of several immigrant and minority groups, with acts of verbal and physical aggression directed particularly against people from East Asia³⁶⁰, no antisemitic events of similar scale have been observed. Conspiracy theories blaming Jews for the spread of disease appeared only on the absolute margins of political debate³⁶¹.

The Center for Research on Prejudice at the University of Warsaw conducted a nationally representative longitudinal study of antisemitism in September 2019, March 2020 and September 2020, in order to assess the dynamics of prejudice in times of pandemic. The questionnaire included three subscales, measuring specific components of antisemitic imagery: conspiracy antisemitism (the belief in secret Jewish plots and control), secondary antisemitism (denial of responsibility for crimes against Jews and negation of antisemitism), and traditional antisemitism (blaming Jews for deicide, belief in blood libels)³⁶². Each of these measured participants' agreement with a list of statements. Comparison between measurements at the three points in time did not reveal any significant changes in antisemitism: the average level of all forms of antisemitism remained unchanged.

359 E.g. Murray, D. R., Schaller, M., & Suedfeld, P. (2013). Pathogens and politics: Further evidence that parasite prevalence predicts authoritarianism. *PLoS One*, 8(5), e62275.

360 E.g. <https://radio.lublin.pl/2020/03/lukow-wietnamka-zaatakowana-przez-nieletnich-sprawa-zajmie-sie-sad/>.

361 With some evident exceptions like the openly conspiracist website "Nowe Ateny".

<http://noweateny.pl/International/details/353/KTO-WYGRA-DONALD-TRUMP-CZY-SLEEPY-JOHN-BIDEN-A-WIC-KAMALA-HARRIS-Z-KOMINTERNU-WHAT-THE-FUCK-A-C-TO-ZA-RNICA>.

362 More on this distinction here: Bilewicz, M., Winiewski, M., Kofta, M., & Wójcik, A. (2013). Harmful Ideas. The Structure and Consequences of Antisemitic Beliefs in Poland. *Political Psychology*, 34(6), 821-839.

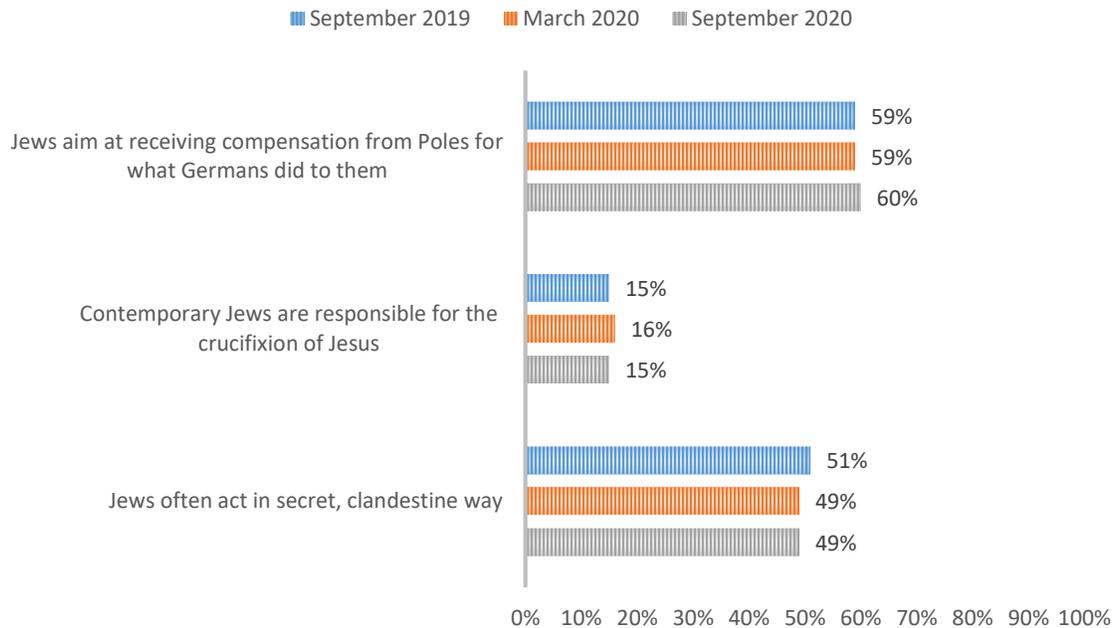


Figure 1. The dynamics of antisemitic stereotyping in Poland based on a nationally-representative online panel study. Bars indicate participants' agreement with three statements from the three-factor scale of antisemitism (sum of positive responses, from "rather agree" to "agree completely"). Initial sample size: N=1078.

In 2019 51% of Poles declared that "Jews often act in secret, clandestine ways". In March 2020 49% agreed with this statement, and in September 2020 also 49% of the participants agreed. 15% of surveyed participants blamed contemporary Jews for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ in 2019, 16% in March 2020 and 15% in September 2020. In 2019 59% of Poles viewed Jewish material claims against Poland as unjustified, and the percentage remained the same in March 2020, rising slightly to 60% in September 2020. We did not observe any significant correlations between participants' antisemitic views and their pandemic-threat perceptions (perceptions of COVID-19 as a serious threat to their lives).

At the same time all these studies showed a high and constant percentage of Poles sharing antisemitic conspiracy theories or expressing negative views of any Jewish material claims. The widespread antisemitic beliefs in Polish society are obviously also known to the politicians. The mobilizing potential of antisemitic topics has been noted by right-wing politicians in the Polish 2020 presidential campaign, as well as in the parliamentary debates about Jewish claims, in which far-right parties aimed to increase their political legitimacy.

Politicized antisemitism

Another study, carried out at the beginning of the pandemic, in March 2020³⁶³, focused on how Poles perceive Israelis. It showed that the declared attitudes of Poles toward Israelis vary across the political spectrum. The voters of the radical right-wing party (Konfederacja) exhibited, on average, a rather negative attitude toward Israelis. Voters of liberal and left-wing parties (Lewica and Koalicja Obywatelska) reported a clearly positive attitude. The voters of the ruling party (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość) expressed ambivalent attitudes. From this study it is quite clear that the views on Jews and Israel are strongly related to political ideologies.

Antisemitic arguments were used in Polish political life quite frequently in 2020. Quite early in the year, the right-wing organization March of Independence Detachments (Roty Marszu Niepodległości) launched a legislative initiative against the claims of the American Jewish organization (“Stop447 bill”), submitting 200,000 signatures in support of this regulation³⁶⁴. The aim of the regulation was to oblige the Polish government to oppose any Jewish material claims against Poland. The campaign around this legislation used leaflets with antisemitic imagery, as well as anti-Jewish rhetoric in speeches in Warsaw city center, presenting Jewish organizations as enemies of Poland³⁶⁵. The legislation was debated in the parliament in April 2020. The radical right-wing party (Konfederacja) expressed straightforward support for the initiative, and, quite surprisingly, the peasant party (PSL – Kukiz15) also supported further proceedings on the legislation. One of the leaders of the parliamentary left, Maciej Konieczny from Lewica, said in the debate: “The extreme right wants to instigate an anti-Semitic campaign. This should come as no surprise. One of the initiators of the project is the former head of the ONR [extreme right-wing movement – referring to the pre-war radical party responsible for anti-Jewish pogroms]. This movement has been cultivating antisemitic obsessions for over a hundred years. Scaring Jews who are allegedly going to plunder Poland fits in perfectly. Nationalist prodding has led to crimes more than once. This was the case when, after a vile campaign, the nationalists murdered President Narutowicz.”³⁶⁶

The most notorious use of anti-Jewish rhetoric was observed during the Presidential election campaign. The election took place in the midst of the pandemic, on June 28 (first round) and July 12 (second round). The first incident related to the antisemitic motif of competitive victimhood occurred during the 80th anniversary of first deportation to Auschwitz concentration camp. The President of Poland took part in the ceremony, but no other candidates were invited due to pandemic restrictions. The radical right-wing

363 <http://cbu.psychologia.pl/2021/03/13/nowy-raport-cbu-polacy-o-izraelczykach-izraelczycy-o-polakach/>.

364 <https://www.pap.pl/aktualnosci/news%2C573962%2Czebrano-200-tys-podpisow-pod-obywatelska-inicjatywa-ustawodawcza-stop-447>.

365 <https://www.rp.pl/Polityka/191109493-Projekt-ustawy-narodowcow-z-antysemityzmem-w-tle.html>.

366 <https://www.wprost.pl/kraj/10315185/sejm-debatowal-o-projekcie-ustawy-stop447-nacjonalistyczne-szczucie-juz-nie-raz-doprowadzilo-do-zbrodni.html?fbclid=IwAR2grTRW2-WynUy0ml3x2g4ZHhom35qTpITRj5soTXwXuqSP8u-8SpuebXQ>.

candidate Krzysztof Bosak suggested that the fact that he had not been invited was an attempt to silence the truth about the Polish ethnicity of Auschwitz victims. Poster campaigns and other commemorative initiatives stressed that Auschwitz was a place of predominantly Polish martyrdom. This issue incited numerous antisemitic responses in the social media.

Quite unexpectedly, the most vigorous use of anti-Jewish rhetoric was observed not in the first round of the election, in which several radical candidates led aggressive campaigns against each other. It was only a few days before the second round of the election that the Polish ruling party leaders, as well as governmentally controlled media, openly used anti-Jewish rhetoric, suggesting that the interests of the Jewish community are hostile to Poland. When the candidate of the liberal opposition, Rafał Trzaskowski, suggested that he supports the restitution of Jewish property, the leader of Prawo i Sprawiedliwość, the Polish ruling party, Jarosław Kaczyński, said that “only someone without a Polish soul, a Polish heart or a Polish mind could say something like that. Mr. Trzaskowski obviously has no such qualities.”³⁶⁷ The main evening news of the Polish state-controlled public station presented the opposition’s candidate as “a believer in the god of Spinoza, the Jewish philosopher”, a person obedient to international Jewish organizations and a former recipient of the George Soros scholarship.³⁶⁸ A program on Polish public TV, entitled “Will Trzaskowski fulfill Jewish demands?” was later reported to the National Media Council, a regulator of state-controlled media, by several Jewish organizations, including the local branch of the American Jewish Committee, and the Chief Rabbinate of Poland.³⁶⁹

Ultimately, the President, supported by the governing party was re-elected with the support of more than 10 million voters - the largest support for any political candidate in the country in the past 30 years. The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights investigated the elections and reported that Polish public television “failed in its legal duty to provide balanced and impartial coverage. Instead, it acted as a campaign vehicle for the incumbent and frequently portrayed his main challenger as a threat to Polish values and national interests”³⁷⁰.

Antisemitism in culture

Antisemitic incidents in cultural life were relatively rare in 2020. Two events worth mentioning are the publication of the book “Cham niezbundetowany” by journalist and writer Rafał Ziemkiewicz, and the planned concert of Hungarian far-right rock band Hungarica in the state-run Centre for Contemporary Art at Ujazdowski Castle in Warsaw.

367 <https://natemat.pl/314323,kaczynski-atakuje-trzaskowskiego-bez-polskich-duszy-serca-i-umyslu>.

368 <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/poland-has-antisemitism-problem-trump-administration-could-fight-it-635879>.

369 <https://jewish.pl/pl/2020/07/15/organizacje-zydowskie-zlozyly-skarge-na-wiadomosci/>.

370 <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/poland/455731>.

Rafał Ziemkiewicz, a journalist of the Polish state television and a right-wing weekly, became known for his controversial statements about Jews in 2018. At that time he used a common antisemitic slur (“parchy”) when referring to international responses to the Holocaust law introduced in Poland. His new book, published in 2020, included several remarks that were considered antisemitic by monitoring organizations (such as the Open Republic and Never Again). In his book Ziemkiewicz states, “Zionism became particularly cruel under the impact of the Holocaust or rather the Holocaust myth created by Zionism. According to prominent Zionists, the Shoah proved that Jews have to be ruthless”. Other excerpts suggested that Israeli youth are “trained as killing machines, (...) members of a unique race”. The Open Republic society urged book distributors and sellers to withdraw the book from their shelves³⁷¹, whereas Never Again successfully appealed to the largest Polish e-commerce company Allegro to stop selling the book³⁷².

In August 2020 the Centre for Contemporary Art, a leading state-controlled modern arts institution in Poland, organized a concert of Hungarica, a Hungarian “nationalist rock band”, as part of the celebration commemorating the victory of Polish forces over Soviet Russia in 1920. The band has been accused of using fascist symbols and references to antisemitic movements.³⁷³ In response, several Polish bands that had also been invited to play at the concert refused to participate. Following the protests of several institutions and public intellectuals³⁷⁴, the Centre retracted Hungarica's invitation.

Law suits against scholars

Another troubling issue regarding the situation in Poland in respect to antisemitism is the growing difficulty in performing scientific research on historical and current manifestations of antisemitism. In February 2020 two Holocaust historians, Jan Grabowski and Barbara Engelking, came before the district court in Warsaw because of their investigations on Polish participation in anti-Jewish crimes during the Holocaust. Grabowski and Engelking were taken to court by Ms. Filomena Leszczyńska from the village of Malinowo, who accused the scholars of “defaming the memory” of her late relative, described in a book as a participant in antisemitic crimes. In fact, the case was backed by the Polish League Against Defamation - a right-wing NGO closely associated with the government³⁷⁵. The Grabowski and Engelking trial continued in 2021. Both scholars viewed the lawsuit as a typical SLAPP case (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) intended to silence researchers of Poles’ maltreatment of the Jews.³⁷⁶

371 <http://www.otwarta.org/otwarta-rzeczpospolita-w-sprawie-najnowszej-ksiazki-rafala-ziemkiewicza/>.

372 <https://wyborcza.pl/7,162657,26022529,wyjasniamy-dlaczego-mein-kampf-mozna-kupic-na-allegro-a-ksiazki.html>.

373 <https://wyborcza.pl/7,75410,26190501,hungarica-w-csw-aktywisci-apeluja-do-ministra-glinskiego-o.html>, <https://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/07/arts/design/07anti.html>.

374 <http://www.otwarta.org/oswiadczenie-ws-wystepu-zespołu-hungarica/>.

375 <http://www.anti-defamation.pl/rdiplad/aktualnosci/pozew-przeciwko-engelking-grabowskiemu-rdi-wspiera-edwarda-malinowskiego/>.

376 <https://oko.press/prof-engelking-odpiera-zarzuty/>.

In October 2020, another hearing took place at Warsaw District Court – the trial of social psychologist Michał Bilewicz, accused of calling the cartoonist of pro-governmental journals a “notorious anti-Semite”, and using the cartoons as examples in his lecture on secondary antisemitism (specifically the cartoon entitled “Polish Holocaust”, depicting a Jewish soviet officer with a Star of David shooting a Polish patriot)³⁷⁷. On November 19, 2020, the court dismissed all claims in the lawsuit and stated that “There is no doubt that uprooting antisemitism is within the legitimate public interest”.

Such legal cases, although not initiated directly by the state, are backed by institutions related to the ruling party and supportive of the government, generating serious doubt regarding the possibility of further unconstrained research on contemporary and historical antisemitism in Poland.

Poland/Inna Shatkser

In 2020, there were no reported cases of antisemitism-based violence against individual Jews in Poland; however, there were several cases of vandalism of Jewish communal property, including a community center in Wroclaw³⁷⁸ and cemeteries in Tarnow³⁷⁹, Zabrze, Tarnowskie Gory and Dobrodzien.³⁸⁰ There were also, according to an Op-Code and European Community Rights, Equality and Citizenship program report (2014–2020), multiple instances of hate speech directed at Jews on Polish social media. The authors of the report suggest that the Polish government is reluctant to address such hate speech due to the popularity of the racist far right within the country. The report, in fact, noted that politicians and journalists habitually utilize antisemitic discourse, thereby encouraging others to do so as well.³⁸¹

In 2020, indeed, government ministers and their top supporters made antisemitic pronouncements that appeared in the press. In addition to such pronouncements, the Polish government, as in previous years, refused to accept that Poles in substantial

377 <https://www.ijl.org/activity/>.

378 Katarzyna Markusz, ‘Man smashes window of Jewish community building in Poland’, in Jewish Telegraphic Agency, April 17, 2020. <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/man-smashes-window-of-jewish-community-building-in-poland> . Last accessed on February 23, 2021.

379 Katarzyna Markusz, Jewish cemetery in Poland vandalized with spray-paint’, in Jewish Telegraphic Agency, June 15, 2020. <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads> . Last accessed on February 23, 2021.

380 Katarzyna Markusz, ‘Tombstones vandalized at three Jewish cemeteries in Poland’, in Jewish Telegraphic Agency, September 14, 2020. <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/tombstones-vandalized-at-3-jewish-cemeteries-in-poland> . Last accessed on February 23, 2021; ‘Zniszczone groby na zydowskim cmentarzu. ‘Tak, jakby ktos czegos szukal’, in TVN24, September 9, 2020. <https://tvn24.pl/wroclaw/dobrodzien-zniszczone-macewy-na-zydowskim-cmentarzu-4687355> . Last accessed on February 23, 2021.

381 ‘Monitoring and reporting illegal Hate-Speech. Shadow Monitoring Report.’ First Edition. Op Code – Open Code for Hate-Free Communication and Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program of the European Union, p. 5, 7, 9, 10. https://www.nigdywiecej.org/docstation/com_docstation/172/opcode.pdf . Last accessed on February 22, 2021.

numbers took part in the Holocaust and habitually attacked historians writing on this topic. As part of this denial, the government also, as in previous years, refused to discuss demands for restitution of Jewish property confiscated during WWII. This position has substantial popular support in Poland, and the conservative president Andrzej Duda effectively utilized the topic in the summer 2020 presidential elections against his opponent, the Warsaw centrist Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, who according to Duda was willing to consider restitution. The supporters of Andrzej Duda utilized borderline antisemitic accusations against the ethnically Polish Trzaskowski, suggesting that his willingness to consider restitution is anti-Polish and constitutes a collaboration with foreigners against the Poles. The Anti-Defamation League reacted to this claim pointing out that the Jews whose property had been confiscated were Polish citizens and that such a differentiation between the interests of Jewish and non-Jewish Poles was borderline racist.³⁸² In Poland, numerous organizations and individuals protested as well, claiming that there is no place for such a discourse in presidential elections. Protests were registered by Andrzej Krajewski, a member of the board of the media watchdog organization The Society of Journalists, by Pavol Szalai, an affiliate of Reporters without Borders, and by Prof. Rafal Pankowski, head of the Never Again association.³⁸³

In 2020, Polish authorities and their conservative supporters continued their attacks on historians addressing the sensitive topic of Polish collaboration with the Nazis in the Holocaust. *The Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle* recently claimed that Poland unfortunately seeks to establish national honour through historical amnesia.³⁸⁴ The Polish far-right's furious reception of Barbara Engelking and Jan Grabowski's book, *Na Posterunku. Udział polskiej policji granatowej i kryminalnej w zagładzie Żydów* (On Duty: The Role of Polish 'Blue' and Criminal Police in the Holocaust), based on a combination of known and newly introduced archival documents as well as interviews with Holocaust survivors and eyewitnesses, constituted just such an attack. In their book, Grabowski and Engelking claim that Polish police played a much more important role in the Holocaust than previously assumed. The book therefore debunks the prevailing belief in contemporary Poland that Poles did not participate in a systematic and organized form in the murder of

382 Cnaan Liphshiz, 'How Poland, Hungary, Russia & UK Labor Party Use Antisemitism in Politics', in *The Jerusalem Post*, February 18, 2021. <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/poland-hungary-russia-and-uk-labour-party-use-antisemitism-in-politics-report-659353> . Last accessed on February 21, 2021.

383 Vanessa Gera, 'Polish state TV seeks to discredit president's key rival', in WPRI, June 10, 2020. <https://www.wpri.com/news/us-and-world/polish-state-tv-seeks-to-discredit-presidents-key-rival/> . Last accessed on February 23, 2021; Timothy Garton Ash, 'For a bitter taste of Polish populism, just watch the evening news', in *The Guardian*, June 25, 2020. https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/25/polish-populism-evening-news-public-broadcaster-presidential-election?CMP=share_btn_fb&fbclid=IwAR2STZvJ8O7tH9SV3ykB4y57y6-0Eb7z1musxJC7RVUEH8Ctqq9wH84QgZQ . Last accessed on February 23, 2021.

384 'Soft-Core Holocaust Denial', in *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle*, February 17, 2021. <https://jewishchronicle.timesofisrael.com/soft-core-holocaust-denial/> . Last accessed on February 21, 2021.

Jews, but rather did so as individuals; these individuals are depicted as ‘wild weeds,’ who were not part of normative Polish society. Grabowski points out in an interview with the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* that his new book infuriated the far right in Poland, because the policemen in question were, in fact, normative members of Polish society and a number of them were even active members of the anti-Nazi underground. Thus, some of these policemen, who had murdered Jews, are viewed as heroes in Poland due to their underground activities.³⁸⁵ In addition to the attacks on Engelking and Grabowski, the prominent historian Dariusz Stola withdrew his name from consideration for reappointment as the director of the Jewish museum in Warsaw, because the minister of culture refused to formalize the competition committee’s recommendation of Stola for the position. The minister’s refusal was motivated by Stola’s work that called attention to Polish collaboration in the Holocaust.³⁸⁶ In contrast, Przemysław Czernek, a member of the ruling Law and Justice Party (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość; PiS) who in 2019 called for removal of a Holocaust memorial in Lublin because it highlighted Polish complicity in killing Jews, was appointed in October 2020 as Poland’s education and science minister.³⁸⁷

In 2020, the far-right newspaper *Najwyższy Czas!* (Supreme Time) published an ‘investigation’ into whether opposition Senate speaker Tomasz Grodzki had Jewish roots since his ‘face and lively gesticulation may indicate he is of Jewish or semi-Jewish origin’.³⁸⁸ More seriously, the popular right-wing Polish journalist and science-fiction writer Rafal Ziemkiewicz called Jews ‘ruthless’ and the Holocaust ‘a myth’ in his book *Cham Niezbuntowany* (Rudeness Untouched), published in May 2020. Many human

385 Ofer Aderet, ‘The Polish police force had the key role in a Nazi final solution, explosive new research shows’, in *Haaretz*, June 12, 2020. <https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/.premium-MAGAZINE-polish-police-had-a-key-role-in-the-nazi-final-solution-explosive-research-shows-1.8914685> . Last accessed on February 23, 2021.

386 Stanley Bill, ‘Former Jewish museum director steps down after standoff with Polish culture ministry’, *The Notes from Poland*, February 11, 2020. <https://notesfrompoland.com/2020/02/11/former-jewish-museum-director-steps-down-after-standoff-with-polish-culture-ministry/?fbclid=IwAR3e3so2ta64NXnxgspm8mG7ii9rzsC23ELb3BIrRNRXwErtetJWE22cerw> . Last accessed on February 23, 2021.

387 Cnaan Liphshiz, ‘Polish politician who called Holocaust memorial a ‘scandal’ appointed education minister’, in Jewish Telegraphic Agency, October 9, 2020. <https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/polish-politician-who-called-holocaust-memorial-a-scandal-appointed-education-minister> . Last accessed on February 23, 2021.

388 Jolanta Kowalewska, ‘Prawicowy tygodnik tropi pochodzenie marszałka Tomasza Grodzkiego. “Jego fizis wskazuje, że to pewnie Żyd”’, in *Gazeta Wyborcza*, January 29, 2020. https://szczecin.wyborcza.pl/szczecin/7,34939,25646987,skrajnie-prawicowy-tygodnik-tropi-zydowskie-pochodzenie-marszalka.html?fbclid=IwAR3-JMK0BeZMVrLQaYSUWJ9aUITpvq97c_NyaAUBZdfSYhBiYMhymvRyW8. Last accessed on February 23, 2021.

rights organizations, including the Open Republic³⁸⁹ and the Never Again association, protested against the book.³⁹⁰

In sum, restitution and Holocaust were the main source of reported incidents of antisemitism and of borderline antisemitism in the Polish public sphere. Still, there were also other antisemitic pronouncements by public figures as well as vandalism of Jewish communal property. It is important to note, however, that such antisemitic actions and behaviours often drew harsh criticism from within the country.

Portugal / Ruth Calvão

What has changed in 2020

Prejudice or hatred violence already affects part of the Portuguese population, with repercussions not only on direct victims and their communities, but also on the whole of society. Hate speech is growing in Portugal, as can be seen in the results of the last presidential election (24/01/2021), in which the populist right-wing party “Chega” (Enough!) and its radical agenda came in third, only a few votes from second place.³⁹¹

The inclusion of Chega in the register of Portuguese political parties was approved by the Constitutional Court on 9 April 2019. Its current leader André Ventura was elected in the legislative elections of the same year.

Since the 1974 April Revolution, that put an end to 50 years of dictatorship, this is the first time that a radical party has been legalized and gained a seat in Parliament.

In July 2020, Chega joined the European group Identity and Democracy, which supported André Ventura's candidacy for president, with Marine Le Pen physically coming to Lisbon to participate in the campaign.

Chega gained strength in the elections for the Parliament of the autonomous region of Azores Archipelago (October 2020), when two deputies from the party were elected. Consequently, Chega was the decisive party for a democratic right-wing coalition that terminated 20 years of Socialist majority. Although the party stayed out of the regional

389 ‘Polish journalist calls Jews ‘ruthless’ and the Holocaust ‘myth’ in new book’, in Jewish News, <https://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/polish-journalist-calls-jews-ruthless-and-the-holocaust-a-myth-in-new-book/>. Last accessed on February 23, 2021; Hagay Hacoen, ‘Polish science fiction writer calls Israelis ‘killing machines’’, in The Jerusalem Post, June 9, 2020. <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/polish-science-fiction-writer-calls-israelis-killing-machines-630489> . Last accessed on February 23, 2021; ‘<http://www.otwarta.org/-w-sprawie-najnowszej-ksiazki-rafala-ziemkiewicz/>’ in Otwarta Rzeczpospolita, May 29, 2020. <http://www.otwarta.org/otwarta-rzeczpospolita-w-sprawie-najnowszej-ksiazki-rafala-ziemkiewicz/> . Last accessed on February 23, 2021.

390 Ben Cohen, ‘Polish Jews express support for Antisemitism campaigner targeted by far right’, in Algemeiner, June 16, 2020. <https://www.algemeiner.com/2020/06/16/polish-jews-express-support-for-antisemitism-campaigner-targeted-by-far-right/> . Last accessed on February 23, 2021;

³⁹¹ <https://www.euronews.com/2021/01/21/is-the-far-right-gaining-popularity-in-portugal>.

cabinet, it did enter into an agreement, giving its support in exchange for a series of demands. Many analysts regard this result as a “trial balloon” for the Portuguese parliamentary elections of 2023.³⁹²

**“ The party’s sudden rise is already sending shock waves through the Portuguese party system, sparking much debate on the reconfiguration of the right-wing political space”.*

*<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europpblog/2021/01/21/the-rise-of-chega-and-the-end-of-portuguese-exceptionalism>

<https://www.dn.pt/edicao-do-dia/17-nov-2020/psd-acordo-com-o-chega-nos-aco-eserve-de-balao-de-ensaio-para-2023-13041788.html>

Chega is currently enjoying the latent dissatisfaction of the Portuguese population with the politics of recent governments (both Socialist and Social Democrat), which is beginning to surface in votes. The countless cases of corruption that went unpunished, in which political figures from the ruling parties played a central role, have gained Chega a great deal of popular support and many votes, even from the radical left. Chega constantly claims to be the only party truly “outside” the system and opposing corruption. In populist speeches, rhetoric and slogans from the last presential elections, André Ventura’s has stated: “Although most Portuguese, more than 70%, are Europeans like me, about half of them believe, like Chega, that we are going in the wrong direction” (alluding to migration and closing the borders). “Chega are the only ones who speak for the majority of ‘normal and working Portuguese’. Only I will be the President of the ‘good Portuguese’s’, those who work and pay taxes”.³⁹³ These two quotes are used mainly against Portuguese gypsies and immigrants, suggesting that they live mainly on social security, at the expense of those who work.

In his public speeches the candidate frequently repeated that a right-wing alliance should be developed to the point where "we can save Europe" or that "those in Brussels who have betrayed the European dream, have lost the support of society."

Chega and the Anti-Semitic factor

So far, Chega's official political program and public speeches and campaigns have included no direct antisemitic references or public incidents. However, some of its supporters do express antisemitism on the Internet and social networks. Following are two legislative bills – one from Chega and the other from the Livre party, that should be heeded.

³⁹² <https://jornaleconomico.sapo.pt/noticias/andre-ventura-e-o-presidente-dos-portugueses-de-bem-matteo-salvini-expressa-apoio-ao-lider-do-chega-691770>.

³⁹³ <https://rr.sapo.pt/2020/12/03/politica/andre-ventura-comigo-nao-ha-a-historia-do-presidente-de-todos-os-portugueses/noticia/217082>; <https://www.noticiasmagazine.pt/2021/extrema-direita-a-via-rapida-do-descontentamento-ao-populismo/historias/258413>

1. The Chega Party submitted a bill to Parliament, proposing to outlaw the Moslem Halal ritual in Portugal. There was nothing in writing about Jewish Kashrut, but the bill has left the door open for its future inclusion.³⁹⁴

2- **18:12, 2 Out 2020 “On July 3 the Parliament decided to transport to the Pantheon the body of former Portuguese consul in Bordeaux who enabled thousands of Jews to flee to our country during World War II, was taken by Parliament, on the 3rd of July. The initiative was initially proposed by Joacine Katar Moreira when she was a deputy for Livre. Chega was the only party that abstained, by decision of André Ventura.

A statement posted on the Parliament's website emphasized that the objective was “to honor and perpetuate the memory of Aristides de Sousa Mendes, as a man who challenged fascist ideology, evoking his example in defending the values of freedom and human dignity and granting it Pantheon Honors” .³⁹⁵

Anti-Semitism 2020 - February 2021

According to the Portuguese Jewish communities in Lisbon, Porto, Chabad/Cascais Belmonte, and my own work, there were no recorded attacks on people, damage to property, theft, or physical violence.

I have no direct knowledge of any case of this nature apart from the following:

1. Two photos emailed by an Israeli living in Lisbon, of stickers found on his door last June with a flag symbol and the slogan 'Grande Lisboa – Anti Fascista (Big Lisbon - Anti-Fascist), from the Anti-Fascism Unity Movement (Frente Unitária Anti-Fascismo).³⁹⁶



³⁹⁴ <https://partidochega.pt/categorias/actividade-parlamentar>

<https://poligrafo.sapo.pt/fact-check/proposta-do-chega-replica-lei-da-alemanha-nazi-sobre-abate-religioso-de-animais>

³⁹⁵ <https://executivedigest.sapo.pt/chega-e-o-unico-partido-que-nao-integra-comissao-para-transladar-aristides-sousa-mendes-para-o-panteao>.

³⁹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/judiarialisboa>.

2. Vandalism at the Memorial for the Jewish Victims of Lisbon’s Massacre in 1506

October 1, 2020 - The monument to the massacre of thousands of Jews in Lisbon in 1506, located in Largo de São Domingos (next to Rossio) was again vandalized. This is what it looked like:³⁹⁷



Both cases bear the flag and symbol of the “Frente Unitária Anti-Fascismo” (Anti- Fascism Unity Front - FUA) which since December 2020 has brought together over 20 Left groups, mostly from the radical Left, and is now called Rede Unitária Antifascista (RUA).

³⁹⁷ <https://pic.twitter.com/6AH0V6rZ7G>;
<https://www.facebook.com/judiarialisboa/photos/pcb.381968276510367/381956456511549>.

(Anti-Fascist Unitary Network-RUA). Today this network includes about 75 organizations.³⁹⁸

The Anti-Fascist Unitary Network - RUA movement does not admit that its anti-Zionism is a qualified form of anti-Semitism. Consequently, they see it as legitimate, and part of the ideology of RUA, to fight Israel in all forms and defend Palestinians, even from the “false” Israeli Left, as expressed in this article by Berenice Bento, referring to FUA/RUA: *Today’s annexation is only possible because genocides like Ben Gurion’s have prepared the way. Ben Gurion did not respect the UN Resolution that determines the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homes and lands, as neither did any of the rulers who followed him. There is no contradiction between Ariel Sharon and Golda Meir.*³⁹⁹

The **Portuguese “bubble”** continued in 2020 in the face of an increasingly anti-Jewish Europe, but now there is more active hate speech on the Internet and social networks. Antisemitism was felt more in terms of verbal expressions of hate/racism, slogans, and cartoons in public media on the following platforms, listed in decreasing order:

- The worst by far was the internet.
- Media (excluding the internet)
- Political events
- Political discourse and political debate

Antisemitism and Covid-19

Ignorance is an enemy, and misinformation or fake news is the fuel of ignorance. There are no good extremisms. Both Portuguese groups, the extreme left (anti-Israel) and radical right (anti-Semitic), sat around the same bonfire when they brought to their respective networks the theme of the pandemic and, lately, the successful vaccination in Israel.

The theories of conspiracy and Holocaust denial flood the social networks and the internet, driving antisemitism around the world. Portugal was no exception, although, with relatively few manifestations compared to other European countries. The JWC reported a 30% increase in antisemitic insults on major social networks since November 2019, and a rise was also noted in Portugal.

Like in the 1930s, with their lies and hatred, Jews are the “scapegoat” blamed for all injustices and misfortunes, and the accusations on the Portuguese internet and social networks are remarkably similar in both form and content to those of old. Expressions like “Jews have a lot of influence in the business world” and “they dominate politics and the media” prevail, while Israelis are said to be the active force behind most wars and conflicts.

³⁹⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/Redeunitariantifascista>.

³⁹⁹ <https://alicenews.ces.uc.pt/?lang=1&id=30854>.

Traditional antisemitism, (with features of the Covid-19 pandemic)

One example was a sermon on Jan. 3, 2021, on RTP, Portugal's public broadcasting service:

"Going back 2000 years, the Jews are 'the darkness', 'the lie' and 'the evil', while Christians 'look up to Christ, searching for light, cure and God'. Today (alluding to the pandemic) the same is happening as when Jesus was born. The priest noted that those days were 'dark' because of the Jews' behavior and hatred for others. Similarly, today the light of Jesus, the only one recognized by 'God the Father', is needed to bring hope/strength to overcome our difficulties.⁴⁰⁰

For centuries anti-Semites have blamed Jews for global pandemics, so it is no surprise that conspiracy theories are being circulated, linking Jews and Israel with COVID-19. They combine several common antisemitic images, including "dirty Jews spreading infection" and "Jews getting rich by exploiting a defenseless public" with the theory of the "Zionist plot". Many of these posts come to Portugal from Brazil.

Some antisemitic messages claim that Jews, Zionists, or the State of Israel itself have created COVID-19 with the sinister purpose of profiting by developing an antidote. Last month this claim gained momentum mainly because of the success of Israel's vaccination program.

Even titles appearing in some mainstream papers and TV channels, often with clear double meaning, have incited a significant rise in abusive comments on Israel and the Jews. The mainstream media is now full of antisemitic expressions.

The titles and some of the contents look innocent, but the way they present Israel's success is suggestive, with words like "secret deals" "Israel is using its money and power to get vaccines", "Connection with Pfizer's CEO, himself a Jew" or with "Moderna's Israeli owner", etc. The ultimate feeling is that Israel is either "dishonest" in the way it got the vaccines, or even worse, it is getting stocks destined for others (in this case Europeans) because Israelis paid double. Many posts use very violent language.

1. TVI24 broadcast: Covid-19: ISRAEL'S SECRETS FOR SUCCESS IN VACCINATION "Proximity to Pfizer CEO, secret deals and pilot tests mark a vaccination campaign that is ahead of the rest of the world."⁴⁰¹

2. Another mention in Visão article: the "business price that Israel pays / power of money"; the exclusion of Palestinians "who are Israel's responsibility" and "the contract that trades patients' data for more vaccines".⁴⁰²

⁴⁰⁰ <https://www.rtp.pt/play/p6635/e515468/eucaristia-dominical>.

⁴⁰¹ <https://tvi24.iol.pt/internacional/netanyahu/covid-19-os-segredos-de-israel-para-o-sucesso-na-vacinacao>

⁴⁰² <https://visao.sapo.pt/atualidade/mundo/2021-01-27-como-israel-se-tornou-o-lider-mundial-da-vacinacao-contra-a-covid-19>

3. An article in the Público newspaper focuses mainly on the difference between Israel and Palestine in their access to vaccines, under the title: "The gap between access to vaccines in the world"⁴⁰³

4. Title: "Israel celebrates vaccination plan that ignores Palestinians". Article in the Expresso newspaper says that "Israel ignores the 5 million Palestinians living in its territory and under its responsibility."⁴⁰⁴

5. Rodrigo Sousa Castro, hero of the 1974 Portuguese Revolution, wrote in a post that the Jews "have the vaccines they wanted". "It is a kind of historical revenge," he says. Jewish associations have already reacted and attacked the captain of Abril, asking for consequences: "Hate speech and xenophobia are never indifferent and must not go unnoticed," says the Director of Lisbon's Israeli Community.⁴⁰⁵

Some reactions:

American Jewish Committee:

We are horrified by the outrageous antisemitic conspiracy theories shared by Rodrigo Sousa Castro, a hero of Portugal's 1974 revolution. We stand in solidarity with the Flag of the Portugal Jewish community and call on the Portuguese government to denounce his vile comments.

The newspapers mentioned above are top mainstream Portuguese publications. This theme is remarkably similar to those of the extreme Left calling Israel an apartheid state and claiming that Israel was "excluding people from being vaccinated based on discriminatory decisions and a clear violation of human rights."⁴⁰⁶

Cartoons- Vasco Gargalo 2020

Vasco Gargalo is a freelance Portuguese cartoonist, regularly publishing in the Sabado magazine, Correio da Manhã newspaper and Cartoon Movement. In 2020 he continued to publish anti-Semitic cartoons in "Sábado" and online platforms. Despite demands of various Jewish institutions that these publications terminate their cooperation with Gargalo. they continue to support the cartoonist and defend his "freedom of creative expression".

⁴⁰³ <https://www.publico.pt/2021/01/04/mundo/noticia/israel-palestina-sao-exemplo-fosso-acesso-vacinas-mundo-1945040>

⁴⁰⁴ <https://expresso.pt/coronavirus/2021-01-03-Covid-19.-Israel-celebra-plano-de-vacinacao-que-ignora-palestinianos>

⁴⁰⁵

https://twitter.com/IsraelinPT/status/1358542369365385223?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etwete%5Embed%7Ctwtterm%5E1358750150643101696%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es3_%ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fexpresso.pt%2Fpolitica%2F2021-02-08-Capitao-de-Abril-Sousa-Castro-arrasado-apos-comentario-sobre-judeus-no-Twitter.-Embaixador-chama-lhe-antisemita-primitivo

⁴⁰⁶ https://expresso.pt/politica/2021-02-08-Capitao-de-Abril-Sousa-Castro-arrasado-apos-comentario-sobre-judeus-no-Twitter.-Embaixador-chama-lhe-antisemita-primitivo?fbclid=IwAR2ExzvSojSPxWhk6RLfugQlGf_6yJkv_zVU6XnDqc3zG3QNemuOdFLwDW8

Many articles have been published about these cartoons, but the majority focused on Gargalo's right to "creativity and freedom of expression", regarding the cartoons not as a case of antisemitism but rather as criticism of Israel's policies. Gargalo himself expressed the same views in several interviews - that it was merely his creative way of expressing a "free from prejudice" opinion on Israeli policies.

Interview with Agência Lusa on 5/02/2020: "Cartoonist Vasco Gargalo says he is the target of death threats and criticism for cartoons about Israel.

Vasco Gargalo said that he has received "death threats and injuries from people in the Jewish community in Portugal and abroad" and that it is a "persecution to annihilate" his work.". Asserting that "he will fight for freedom of expression and freedom of the press", Vasco Gargalo said that he will report the case to the Cartooning for Peace Association, of which he is a member.⁴⁰⁷

B'nai B'rith, Int'l@BnaiBrith (The Global Voice of the Jewish community and a leader in advancing human rights, combating #antisemitism & providing humanitarian aid) announced on Feb 2, 2020: "We call for dismissal of cartoonist Vasco Gargalo for his anti-Semitic drawing in the Portuguese magazine Sabado. The magazine should also review editorial processes that allowed this offensive cartoon, depicting a black politician being "crucified" on a star of David, to run."⁴⁰⁸

Some of the cartoons published by Vasco Gargalo in Nov. 2019 and during 2020



⁴⁰⁷ <https://24.sapo.pt/atualidade/artigos/embaixador-de-israel-em-portugal-acusa-cartoonista-vasco-gargalo-de-antisemitismo>; <https://expresso.pt/opiniaio/2020-05-20-O-antisemitismo-a-solta>; <https://www.noticiasominuto.com/mundo/1413615/embaixador-israelita-pede-a-portugal-definicao-concreta-de-antisemitismo>; <https://mag.sapo.pt/showbiz/artigos/crematorio-cartoonista-vasco-gargalo-alvo-de-ameacas-e-criticas-por-cartoon-sobre-israel>; <https://www.publico.pt/2020/02/04/culturaipilon/noticia/cartoonista-vasco-gargalo-acusado-antisemitismo-comunidade-judaica-1902857>; <https://www.cmjornal.pt/tv-media/detalhe/cartoonista-portugues-vasco-gargalo-nao-me-revejo-em-nada-do-que-me-acusam>.

⁴⁰⁸ <https://twitter.com/BnaiBrith/status/1224098393976442881>.



Citizenship for descendants of Sephardic Jews

"THE JEWS ARE COMING!": ANTISEMITISM FOLLOWING THE PORTUGUESE CITIZENSHIP ACT⁴⁰⁹

Update – Feb. 5, 2021

New Nationality Portuguese Law. Lei Orgânica n.º 2/2020

Publicação/Publisher: Diário da República n.º 219/2020, Série I de 2020-11-10

409

https://enhumanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/humanities/kantor/PP_RC_16_112020.pdf; <https://observador.pt/opiniao/racism-or-historical-illiteracy-the-socialist-partys-proposed-change-to-the-portuguese-citizenship-law-for-sephardic-jews>.

05-02-2021⁴¹⁰

A few days from the three months legal deadline, the government's new regulations, regarding the acquisition of Portuguese nationality by the descendants of Sephardic Jews, have not yet been published. This Regulation of Portuguese Nationality aims to guarantee that, when applying for nationality, objective requirements for connection to Portugal are effectively fulfilled. It can therefore be predicted that changes in this matter will be implemented.

Feb. 5, 2021 No changes in the governmental site.⁴¹¹

Finally, some positive notes

Feb. 13 2020, POR LUSA: The Israeli ambassador in Lisbon, Raphael Camzu, today called on Portugal to go beyond "generic legislation against racism" and adopt a more concrete definition of anti-Semitism, in an evocative Holocaust ceremony in the Assembly of the Republic⁴¹²

Jan. 9, 2021- the Government's official website:

Recommendations for teaching about the Holocaust

The "Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust" have already been translated and sent to schools - a manual of high pedagogical and didactic value, which can be used by teachers and educators when teaching the theme of the Holocaust. This document is a practical tool, providing both historical and citizenship information, as well as a high-quality resource for use in the classroom and in other educational and training contexts, contributing to the creation of stimulating learning environments.

The Directorate General for Education is committed to translating this edition into Portuguese, following Portugal's participation, since December 2019, as a full member in the IHRA - International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, a forum that streamlines international cooperation to preserve memory and facts, combat anti-Semitism, prevent intolerance towards the other and prevent new genocides. This participation provided Portuguese teachers with an opportunity for knowledge and development in the preservation of Memory and Teaching of the Holocaust."⁴¹³

Jan. 12, 2021 – Article in the Público newspaper

⁴¹⁰ <https://dre.pt/web/guest/legislacao-consolidada/-/lc/107055837/202101190459/73438037/diploma/indice>

⁴¹¹ <https://dre.pt/web/guest/legislacao-consolidada/-/lc/107055837/202101190459/73438037/diploma/indice>

⁴¹² <https://www.noticiasaminuto.com/mundo/1413615/embaxador-israelita-pede-a-portugal-definicao-concreta-de-antisemitismo>

⁴¹³ <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc22/comunicacao/comunicado?i=recomendacoes-para-o-ensino-sobre-o-holocausto>

First Holocaust Museum in the Iberian Peninsula opens on the 20th in Porto -The Jewish Community of Porto (CJP) announced on Tuesday that the “first Holocaust Museum in the Iberian Peninsula will be inaugurated on the 20th, in the Campo Alegre area in Porto.

“According to the CJP, the museum “portrays Jewish life before the Holocaust, Nazism, Nazi expansion in Europe, ghettos, refugees, concentration camps (labor and extermination camps), the Final Solution, death marches, liberation, the Jewish population in the post-war period, the founding of the State of Israel, winning or starving, 'the just among the nations’”.

This new museum space will feature a reconstruction of the blocks at the Auschwitz concentration camp, as well as a names room, a memorial flame, cinema, conference room, study center, corridors with the complete narrative and, emulating the Museum in Washington D.C., photographs and screens showing real films from before, during and after the tragedy.”⁴¹⁴



South Africa/ David Sacks (SAJBD)

Overview

A total of 69 antisemitic incidents were logged by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies in the first eleven months of 2020. This was a steep rise from the 37 incidents recorded the previous year, but not far above the annual average of between 50 and 60 incidents that have been recorded in the country since the beginning of the century.

⁴¹⁴ <https://www.publico.pt/2021/01/12/local/noticia/museu-holocausto-peninsula-iberica-inaugurado-dia-20-porto-1945966>; <https://expresso.pt/cultura/2021-01-23-O-Porto-vai-ter-um-Museu-do-Holocausto>

Incidents recorded in 2020 comprised the following:

- Assault (2)
- Verbal abuse (27)
- Hate mail (28)
- Graffiti (4)
- Literature (3)
- Other/Unclassified (5)

The great majority of incidents occurred in either Johannesburg or Cape Town, which are collectively home to 90% of the SA Jewish community.

SELECT ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

a. Assault

Although not involving physical violence, the most serious one-on-one attack occurred at a pub in Parkhurst, Johannesburg in September, when a Jewish teenager with a female companion had a gun pointed at his head by “an Indian looking male who was with a tall skinny white male”. The suspect, on seeing the other’s Magen David, said “Jewboy, time for some pop shots, I am going to kill you because of that [pointing to Magen David] and rape your friend and her whore mother.”

b. Verbal Abuse

Under this category fall all cases of antisemitic remarks made in the hearing of a Jewish person, whether targeting that person directly or overheard by him/her. Examples of both types included the following:

- 24/7: During a home invasion, the burglars reportedly asked family what god they prayed to and then said “all Jews are rich and we hate the Jews”.
- 29/2: Three community members verbally abused by four drunk black males at Shell garage, 43 George Avenue Glensan. The slurs included "f**king Jews", "the chief rabbi can go kill himself" and "Jews should all die".
- 18/2: A Wits SAUJS committee member reported that during a Politics class, a student and EFF supporter Faizel Kgabedi Moema made various statements relating to “the Oppenheimers” buying off Mandela, the Rothschilds' control of global finances, “rich white Jews” and the like. There was at least one other occasion when the same student made similar remarks.
- Public altercation and war of words on the street between community member and demonstrators. At one point victim called a “f****G Jew”. The Cape Legal Sub Committee advised him to lay a charge at SAPS.

c. Hate Mail

Incidents classified as hate mail include offensive comments sent to Jewish recipients (whether in their individual capacity or to organizations) via postal mail, email, Twitter, Facebook, zoom bombing and comments posted on Jewish-headed websites.

Examples:

- 25/3: Multiple abusive messages sent to Cape Town community member by service provider claiming he had not been paid, including ‘You're a monster. Hilter should have killed more jews when he had the chance’ and ‘I have never had one good dealing with a Jew in all my years in business and relationships’.
- 20/9: Message sent to SAJBD Gauteng Council chair Prof Karen Milner in response to her laying a criminal charge against Jan Lamprecht for antisemitism on his site HistoryReviewed.com: ‘You are a hell fire example of why people hate you.....You scumbags can promote the murder of whites, help form groups like blm antifa etc that are terrorist outfits and then when anyone calls you out you use and pervert the law...’
- 8/10: Teenage community member was on a Discord group called "da untouchables extreme" and a user named Abdul Amori repeatedly said "kill all the Jews" and started asking other group members for their private information, adding that he wanted to kill them.

d. Graffiti

26/9: Young colored male filmed by security camera spray painting graffiti ‘F*ck da Jews’ on exit gate at Beyachad Jewish community center in Johannesburg.

e. Literature

The dissemination of antisemitic literature via credible public platforms or by public figures can sometimes be adjudged to constitute an ‘incident’. Examples in 2020 included:

- 2/2: A post entitled “Why are blacks not wealthy” and claiming to comprise “Excerpts from an interview with a Jewish leader about Blacks” appeared on the We Connect WhatsApp group. The anonymous writer used the fictional personality as a vehicle for expressing views on how Jews managed money and created the impression that Jews held black people in contempt (for example, “He kills his fellow blacks daily instead of wanting to see his fellow black do succeed”).
- A Jewish student at Wits reported that her Isizulu for beginners course workbook featured a stereotypically negative image associating Jews with money and avarice. The image, a cartoon, showed a man with dollar signs in his eyes obsequiously greeting two hard-eyed businessmen identifiable as Jewish by their yarmulkes and side curls. The course developers apologised after the Board brought this to their attention and will be reviewing the course material.

Responses to Antisemitism by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

The SAJBD monitors and responds to antisemitic incidents, working closely with the relevant judicial structures, human rights bodies, other communal bodies and international Jewish organizations. Where possible, it takes a restorative approach to justice, through dialogue and conciliation. Such an approach follows a process by which the offender acknowledges what he or she has done wrong and expresses genuine remorse. Several cases of antisemitic behavior were successfully resolved in this way during 2020. The most noteworthy was that concerning former Wits University Student Representative Council President Mcebo Dlamini. In December, Dlamini and the SAJBD engaged in mediation facilitated by the SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC). This was in response to comments made by Dlamini in 2015, in which he showed admiration for Adolf Hitler and propagated stereotypical antisemitic tropes. Following the meeting, Dlamini apologized for his comments and attended a facilitated educational engagement at the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre.

Another example of a successful restorative justice approach concerned a teenager targeted by multiple antisemitic and insulting comments on ‘#main-gang-chats’ discussion forum. The conversation thread included such comments as “F**ng retarded Jew”, “hitler must have missed you in the gas chambers” and “ya f**king jew, trying to jew me over”. The SAJBD engaged with the culprit and his father, after which the former posted an apology to the victims and underwent sensitivity training through the SA Holocaust & Genocide Foundation.

In more serious cases of antisemitic abuse, the SAJBD will take stronger action, including laying criminal charges. In October, in the first-ever criminal verdict in an antisemitism case in South Africa, Matome Letsoalo was found guilty of *crimen injuria* for his threatening and abusive tweets targeting the Jewish community. The SAJBD laid the charge in June 2018 for the following statements: “@SAJBD The #Holocaust Will be like a Picnic When we are done with all you Zionist Bastards. F*** All of You” and “@SAJBD Must get Decimated. We Can’t have Scandanavian Rats, Fake Jews, Zionist Bastards Running our Economy”. The Randburg Magistrates Court sentenced Letsoalo to three years’ imprisonment, suspended for five years. The magistrate stressed that his statements were in violation of the constitution and had become all too prevalent in South Africa. It was the responsibility of the courts to deal firmly with such behavior to send a strong message that it would not be tolerated, hence it had been decided to impose the maximum jail term allowed by a district court.

In July, the SAJBD laid a *crimen injuria* charge against Johannesburg-based white supremacist Jan Lamprecht, who over an extended period has used his online platforms to promote Nazi propaganda and disseminate extreme antisemitic and racist content. Examples include, “given what a race of two-faced, backstabbing fiends they are, I have made the argument that there is no such thing as a good Jew”, “They need to meet a new kind of white man, the kind they’ve not met since the time of Hitler”, “filthy little race of rats and pathological liars ... They dominate EVERYTHING”. In November, the Randburg

Magistrate Court issued an interim protection order against Lamprecht following an application by SAJBD Gauteng Council chairperson Prof Karen Milner, in whose name the charge was laid. Prof Milner was targeted by Lamprecht on his site, receiving hate mail as a result. In terms of the interim protection order, Lamprecht was interdicted from engaging in and attempting to engage in harassment of the complainant and required to delete all references to her on his websites and platforms. The case is scheduled to be heard on 16 March 2021.

A *crimen injuria* charge was also laid against Simone Kriel, a 28 year-old Pretoria woman, described in a media report as “Instagram influencer and fitness figure” who posted such comments on the social media platform as “The f***n Jews are greedy as f**k and they will wage war against countries and races, based on lies and deception to get what they want” and “It was the Jews that bombed, raped, sodomized and burned all people in Germany alive. Hitler innocent. Our history has been twisted to favor the Jews without question.”

In addition to these three criminal cases, the SAJBD is still awaiting the judgment in the matter of Bongani Masuku, International Relations Secretary of the Congress of SA Trade Unions (COSATU), which was heard in the Constitutional Court in August 2019. The case has its origins in inflammatory comments made by Masuku in 2009, where he incited violent reprisals against Jews who supported Israel. Its outcome will be pivotal in defining South Africa’s hate speech laws, but will depend on the outcome of the Jon Qwelane hate speech case heard in the Constitutional Court in September 2020. The SAJBD was *amicus curiae* in that case with the SA Holocaust and Genocide Foundation. Judgment is being awaited.

In September, finality was also reached regarding the SAJBD’s case against former COSATU Western Cape leader and ANC city councilor Tony Ehrenreich. After lengthy delays, a suitably worded apology for inciting violence against the SAJBD and others who express support for Israel was received from Ehrenreich. The case was based on a Facebook comment posted in August 2014 calling for revenge attacks against the SAJBD and other “Zionist supporters”. *Inter alia*, Ehrenreich wrote, “The time has come to say very clearly that if a woman or child is killed in Gaza, then the Jewish board of deputies, who are complicit, will feel the wrath of the People of SA with the age old biblical teaching of an eye for an eye”. The SAHRC found that the comments constituted hate speech and harassment and directed Ehrenreich to furnish the SAJBD with a written apology.

Switzerland

The Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities SIG registered 47 antisemitic incidents (excluding online ones) in 2020. These include 11 cases of verbal abuse, 15 cases of offensive graffiti and one case of damage to property. No physical attacks were reported. In addition, 485 online incidents (primarily via social media and newspaper commentary columns) were reported, while an unknown number went unreported.

The online incidents were divided into four categories: general antisemitism (196 incidents), Shoah denial or trivialization (25), antisemitism related to Israel (62) and contemporary antisemitic conspiracy theories (249). The latter are again on the rise – most recently in connection with the Corona pandemic.

A number of triggers leading to a surge in incidents were identified. On the international stage, these triggers were mostly events in or relating to the Middle East. In Switzerland, media reports about the “Trump plan” for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, the foundation against racism and antisemitism (GRA), the ZHAW study entitled “Erfahrungen und Wahrnehmungen von Antisemitismus unter Jüdinnen und Juden in der Schweiz” (experiences and perception of antisemitism among Jews in Switzerland) and the SIG’s antisemitism report, as well as a video contribution in “20 Minuten” on Jewish life in Zurich (cf. chapter 2.3), all led to an above-average number of antisemitic comments and posts. The most important trigger in 2020 was, however, undoubtedly the Corona pandemic. Unlike the above-mentioned triggers, the reactions here were not limited to several days, but spread over almost the entire year. The fact that 45% of all registered antisemitic conspiracy theory “contributions” were triggered by the Corona pandemic shows what an important role it played in 2020.

Only about 65% of the 2020 online incidents came from Twitter or Facebook compared to 90% in 2019. The reason is that, owing to the Corona pandemic, there were fewer newspaper articles on topics that would normally trigger antisemitic comments (Middle East conflict, Jewish life). This reduced the amount of antisemitic statements in articles published on Facebook or in newspapers’ commentary sections. A new factor in 2020 were the group chats on Telegram, a messenger service which accounted for almost one-third of the online incidents (cf. chapter 2.2).

Conspiracy theories as well as statements and images with antisemitic content were, for example, disseminated in Telegram’s “Corona rebels” environment. Between May and December 2020, 143 antisemitic incidents from seven different “Corona rebels” chats were registered. Analyses have shown that antisemitism is widespread among opponents of Corona measures in Switzerland, but, contrary to many other European countries and the US, does not seem to represent the attitude of the majority. The Corona conspiracy theories prevalent in Switzerland are clearly not as closely linked to antisemitic ideas. Nevertheless, the Corona pandemic as a trigger should not be underestimated.

A widespread and serious problem in connection with the “Corona rebels” scene is the frequently observed and inappropriate comparisons with the Nazi regime and the persecution and mass murder of Jews during the Holocaust. Images of yellow badges (“Judensterne”) with inscriptions like “ungeimpft” (unvaccinated) or “Maskenattest” (proof of mask) can be found on Telegram and at demonstrations. Members of groups opposing corona measures have stated that they feel “like Jews in the Second World

War”. Such comparisons are utterly baseless and inappropriate, yet they cannot be classified as antisemitic according to the IHRA definition of antisemitism, and therefore cannot be registered as cases of Holocaust trivialization. Although such comparisons in the given context may not be antisemitic, the fact that they are numerous, frequent and widespread leads to a dilution in the perception of Nazi-related events in the past, making them appear more harmless than they were in reality.

The gravest incidents in 2020 were

- In January, after an argument between two children, one child's father sent the other (non-Jewish) father a WhatsApp message in which he called him “sale juif” (dirty Jew).
- During a Zoom May 1 event organized by the Jusos (young social democrats) party of the Canton of Zurich, featuring a Jewish speaker, unknown participants displayed antisemitic caricatures and called “Sieg Heil” and “Tod den Juden” (death to Jews).
- In June, a pupil at a school said to a fellow-pupil: “We’re not sitting on the same bench as you, because we are Swiss, and you are the son of a Jew.”
- In July, at a tourist site, a tourist guide complained to her group about difficulties with Jewish guests, saying that they bring all their food from home, leave filth in public sanitary installations, bring no money for restaurants and rent entire hotels.
- In August, a sixth-grade schoolgirl announced in a playground that she, just like her father, finds Adolf Hitler cool. Looking at a Jewish girl, she laughed and said: “He killed all of you.”

Switzerland / Simon Erlanger

Antisemitism in Switzerland is on the rise. The number of recorded incidents remains high, as the two annual reports on Antisemitism for 2020 show. Not yet recorded in the 2020 reports were a series of serious anti-Jewish incidents documented since January 2021, which indicate the rising frequency of such occurrences. This trend may be attributed to the increasing popularity of conspiracy theories circulating on the social media due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing vaccination effort. In this Switzerland is part of a general global phenomenon.

Zoom Bombings

A new phenomenon observed during the last few months are the so-called “Zoom bombings”, in which online Jewish events or events with Jewish themes suffer antisemitic abuse and attacks by hackers or people who have registered for these events under pretense or false identities. Thus, at the beginning of January 2021, an online seminar of

the “Center for Jewish Studies” at the University of Basel was attacked by perpetrators who used aliases such as Rosenberg or Hitler. They poured abuse and insult on the seminar's participants and released videos of Hitler's speeches, SS parades and the like. After removing the troublemakers from the Zoom event the seminar was continued.

In a second case of “zoom bombing” a lecture on the medieval Jewish community of Zurich, organized by today's Reform Jewish Community in Zurich “Or Chadash”, was attacked. The event referred to the last medieval Rabbi of Zurich, the “Semak”, who was killed in the Black Death persecutions of 1349. The lecture had to be stopped, to be resumed at a later date under security precautions.

While the perpetrators usually seem to come from the extreme right, some also come from the left. Thus, at a virtual May 1 event organized by the Zurich Young Socialists, the Jewish activist and photographer Miklos Klaus Rozsa suffered antisemitic insults. In another case a young Jewish lawyer and journalist suffered antisemitic abuse by a politician of the Young Greens passing by in a car when he headed home from the synagogue. At first the local police refused to register his complaint, but ultimately legal procedures were initiated.

Antisemitism and the pandemic

Incidents like these seem to have increased in number since the beginning of the pandemic. Unfortunately, most still go unreported. Due to the Corona crisis, with most lectures, seminars and community events now delivered online, anti-Semites have the chance to easily disrupt Jewish events and spread their threats and messages of hate. In one incident, at an online lecture of the Zurich University of the Arts in April 2020, “Heil Hitler” and similar slurs were shouted. Police investigations pointed to the Winterthur neo-Nazi group “Eisenjugend”, which has now merged into a larger extremist faction called “Junge Tat”. At the beginning of January 2021, six people associated with “Junge Tat” were arrested. Only since the latest incidents have the organizers of online events started to take adequate protective measures against “zoom bombings” and intruding anti-Semites.

Two Reports

As noted above, two annual reports on antisemitism serve as the main sources for assessing the current situation in Switzerland. One, targeting the German-speaking public, is published jointly in Zurich by the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities (SIG) and the Foundation against Racism and Anti-Semitism (GRA). The other, published by the Geneva-based “Coordination Intercommunautaire Contre l’Antisemitisme et la Diffamation” (CICAD) is intended for the “Romandie”, the French-speaking part of Switzerland. While the organizations are increasingly coordinating their activities, they continue to publish their respective findings separately, using different methodologies.

Synagogues vandalized

As mentioned above, neither report takes into account the sharp rise in serious antisemitic incidents documented since the beginning of 2021, when three Swiss synagogues were attacked and vandalized. The incidents were concentrated in the French part of Switzerland, and the perpetrators have not yet been identified.

The series of events started in Lausanne on January 30, when unknown perpetrators deposited pork meat in front of the local synagogue. It continued in Geneva, when again pork meat was thrown against the main door of the central Synagogue on February 3. On February 18, the main entrance of the synagogue at Bienne was vandalized, with a Swastika and the words "Sieg Heil" and "Juden-Pack" carved into its door.

As mentioned above, the recent rise in antisemitic incidents has been attributed to the Corona pandemic, which has given anti-Jewish conspiracy theories a new popularity and even more circulation than in the already problematic previous years.

Thus, SIG and GRA write in their annual report, that the year-long pandemic has been a “trigger” for antisemitic behavior on the social media. All in all, the two organizations report 532 anti-Jewish incidents in German-speaking Switzerland alone. However, this is but a small rise from 523 in the year before. 47 incidents refer to slurs and attacks in the real world, including damage to property, verbal abuse and increasing displays of anti-Jewish graffiti. No physical attacks were recorded in 2020, but – as in previous years – this fact should be viewed with some suspicion. Due to methodological differences and deficiencies in the production of the reports, an unknown number of antisemitic incidents, including physical attacks, goes unreported, as the authors of the reports openly admit.

There is no doubt, however, that most recorded antisemitic incidents in 2020 occurred in the social media, where people critical of the anti-corona measures and the vaccination efforts meet and engage in antisemitic conspiracy theories. Almost a third of all online incidents recorded in the SIG/GRA report can be traced back to chats and forums of “Corona rebels” on messaging services such as “Telegram”, which include both left- and right-wing participants. SIG and GRA conclude that the participants in these forums are heterogeneous in their political views. Similarly, rightwing extremists are a minority at anti-corona demonstrations. However, the reports on antisemitism criticize slogans such as “vaccination liberates” or yellow “Jewish stars” labeled “unvaccinated”. While the use of Holocaust imagery at these demonstrations is not necessarily directed against Jews, SIG and GRA denounce the blatant instrumentalization of the Shoah by Corona rebels.

As for numbers, the CICAD observed 147 antisemitic acts in 2020, 141 of which are considered “worrying”. This means an increase of 41%. Three cases were considered severe, involving both verbal abuse and a physical attack. 36% of all recorded cases

mentioned a “Jewish World Conspiracy”. The main source in the Romandie is – according to CICAS – the extreme right. About half of the incidents occurred online.

Almost half the Jewish Population experienced Antisemitism

While the two reports place antisemitism mainly on the internet, in the physical world Swiss Jews feel increasing unease. In June 2020, the survey “Erfahrungen und Wahrnehmungen von Antisemitismus unter Judinnen und Juden in der Schweiz” by the School of Social Work at the Zurich University for Applied Sciences, concluded that up to 49.3 percent of Swiss Jews had experienced antisemitism - a finding not adequately reflected in either of the official antisemitism reports. 6.6 percent experienced damage to property and 3.5 percent witnessed or were victims of antisemitic assaults.

As noted in all reports issued in the past few years, there is still no new study on the prevalence of antisemitism in all its forms within the Swiss population. It also seems that no such study is planned for the near future. As a non-member of the EU, Switzerland was also not included in the 2018 “Second Survey on Discrimination and Hate Crime against Jews in the EU - Experiences and Perceptions of Antisemitism”.

Existing studies are older and also contradictory: In 2017 a general survey on coexistence, integration and prejudice, conducted by the Federal Bureau of Statistics (Bundesamt für Statistik) found 12% of the Swiss to be antisemitic. In contrast, in 2014 the “ADL Global 100” overview of worldwide antisemitism by the American Anti-Defamation League ADL found that 1.7 million Swiss citizens, about 26% of the population, harbored antisemitic attitudes. In order to get an adequate picture, a more localized study based on a larger sample should be conducted.

The only reliable sources on Swiss attitudes toward the Jews are outdated: In 2000 the “gfs” Research Institute in Berne found that 16% of the Swiss harbored intense antisemitic feelings. The 2000 findings were topped by a 2006 study by the University of Geneva’s Department of Sociology, which found 20% percent of the Swiss to be “affected by antisemitism.” The gfs Research Institute responded with a new study in 2007. While it found only 10% of respondents to be openly antisemitic, some 53% of respondents were highly critical of Israel. Since the early 2000s the Swiss population has grown through immigration by more than a million, and thus the older studies only have historical value.

IHRA Definition not yet fully accepted

While Switzerland is one of the 31 members of the IHRA, which in 2016 accepted the EU Working definition as binding, in 2020 the definition had still not been accepted fully by the Swiss parliament. The issue is still in the balance. In June 2019 the Upper Chamber, the Ständerat, accepted a resolution proposed by social-democratic MP Paul Rechsteiner, asking the government to prepare a report on the IHRA definition, which would then

hopefully be discussed and accepted by both houses of parliament. This has not happened yet.

Security finally settled

As reported in past years, since 2015 the Swiss Confederacy and cantons had refused to contribute to Jewish security, as they were in fact obliged to do by the Swiss constitution. Rising security costs have turned out to be a heavy burden for the Jewish communities. After years of controversy the issue was gradually resolved, with the Swiss Confederacy and some cantons such as Basel-Stadt and Zurich actually taking over security, thereby finally doing their duty under the constitution - to defend the Jewish inhabitants and citizens of Switzerland.

Challenges ahead

The major upcoming challenge for Swiss Jewry, once the pandemic has subsided, will be a possible attempt to prohibit the import of Kosher meat. While Shechita has been outlawed since 1893 (the ban was part of a backlash against the emancipation of Swiss Jews between 1866 and 1879, imposed on Switzerland by the US and France), so far the import of Kosher meat was always possible under a heavy quota and customs system. Now this might change, which would constitute an attack on the continuity of organized Jewish life in Switzerland.

United Kingdom / Elliott Cohen (CST)

CST recorded 1,668 antisemitic incidents in the UK in 2020, the third-highest total ever recorded in a single calendar year. This is a decrease of 8% from the 1,813 antisemitic incidents reported to CST in 2019, which remains the highest annual total.

The total reported in 2020, although lower than in 2019, sustains a pattern of historically high antisemitic incident figures in recent years, with more than 100 incidents recorded in 11 of the 12 months of 2020. By way of comparison, CST only recorded monthly totals surpassing 100 incidents on six occasions between January 2006 and March 2016.

The landscape of antisemitism in the UK in 2020, and the decrease in reported incidents, have been strongly influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic. The highest monthly totals in 2020 were January (188 incidents), February (140 incidents), June (178 incidents) and July (180 incidents). They correlate neatly with the periods in the year that lockdown measures were either not-yet-existent (pre-March) or most relaxed (in the case of the latter two).

Just as the pandemic has forced people to find new ways of communicating, so too it has compelled those who wish to spread anti-Jewish hate to be equally innovative. In 2020,

CST received 19 reports of educational, religious and social online video events hijacked with antisemitic content. This is an entirely new type of incident, informed by a sudden widespread reliance on such platforms, demonstrating the ability, opportunism and speed of antisemitic offenders to adapt to a new social reality. In April, CST provided public advice⁴¹⁵ to all Jewish communal organisations on how to use livestreaming services such as Zoom in as safe and secure a manner as possible.

The Covid-19 outbreak has not merely given rise to a new medium through which offenders express antisemitic sentiment; it has provided them with new strands of antisemitic discourse as well. In 2020, CST recorded 41 incidents that contained antisemitic rhetoric alongside reference to the pandemic. These range from conspiracy theories about Jewish involvement in creating and spreading Covid-19 or creating and spreading the myth of Covid-19 for various malevolent and financial purposes, to simply wishing and hoping that Jewish people catch the virus and die from it. In April, CST produced a Research Briefing titled *Coronavirus and the Plague of Antisemitism*⁴¹⁶, outlining antisemitic reactions to Covid-19.

The pandemic also affected where and how antisemitic incidents occurred. There were 53 incidents affecting Jewish schools, staff or students on or off school premises in 2020, compared to 122 in 2019. CST recorded 18 incidents that targeted synagogue congregants on their way to or from prayers, compared to 32 in 2019. Both reductions can be explained by the fact many synagogues and schools were closed or used in limited ways for much of 2020. By contrast, CST recorded 158 antisemitic incidents at people's homes in 2020, usually involving neighbours or housemates, compared to 118 in 2019.

CST recorded 100 violent antisemitic incidents in 2020, a 39% fall from 158 incidents involving violence in 2019. Ninety-seven of these violent incidents were in the category of Assault. CST classified three incidents as 'Extreme Violence', meaning they involved potential grievous bodily harm or a threat to life, compared to just one such incident in 2019.

One particularly violent incident took place in June when a rabbi was stabbed multiple times while standing in the street in Stoke Newington, North London. The victim was taken to hospital in a stable condition. A man was arrested at the scene and has been charged with attempted murder and possessing an offensive weapon.

There were 72 incidents of Damage & Desecration of Jewish property in 2020; 1,399 incidents of Abusive Behaviour, including verbal abuse, antisemitic graffiti,

⁴¹⁵ <https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/8/b/Guidance%20for%20secure%20livestreaming.pdf>

⁴¹⁶ <https://cst.org.uk/data/file/d/9/Coronavirus%20and%20the%20plague%20of%20antisemitism.1600689117.pdf>

antisemitic abuse via social media and one-off hate mail; 85 direct antisemitic threats; and 12 cases of mass-mailed antisemitic leaflets or emails. All these totals are lower than the comparable figures in the same categories in 2019.

Online antisemitic incidents decreased by 9%, from 700 in 2019 to 634 in 2020. Nevertheless, this is still the second-highest annual total of online incidents ever reported to CST, reflecting the growing role that online platforms play as a medium for transmitting hate, especially at a time when social distancing has made face-to-face contact less common.

Conspiracy theories were used in 332 (20%) of the 1,668 incidents reported in 2020. This is a fall from the 370 incidents in which conspiracy theories were present in 2019, when they were the most common single strand of discourse. From the 332 reported in 2020, 264 spoke of Jewish influence over global politics, media, finance and other walks of life; 21 aimed to spread falsehoods regarding religious rituals and practices; and 17 involved myths about the origins of Jewishness with the intention to undermine any notion of a modern Jewish identity.

One campaign of online antisemitism that attracted widespread attention in 2020 was the spate of antisemitic tweets posted by British grime artist Wiley in July. His posts drew on tropes about Jewish power and money while comparing Jews to the Ku Klux Klan. This appeared to encourage others to express their own antisemitism: CST recorded 23 incidents in which the offender either attempted to justify Wiley's antisemitic ideas or targeted those who spoke out against Wiley with further antisemitic abuse. As a result of Twitter's slow response to Wiley's hate speech, leading Jewish campaigners against antisemitism organised a 48-hour boycott of Twitter.⁴¹⁷ Using the hashtags #NoSafeSpaceForJewHate and #48HoursSilence, the campaign was backed by many public figures and various politicians.

CST produced a separate report titled *Campus Antisemitism in Britain 2018-20*.⁴¹⁸ It found 123 antisemitic incidents affecting Jewish students, academics and student bodies in 34 different towns and cities across the UK between 2018 and 2020. The report found there were 65 university incidents in 2019-2020, which is the highest total CST has ever recorded in a single academic year, despite the year being cut short as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The report shows that in some instances university staff, academics and students' union officers were themselves responsible for antisemitism on campus, and that university complaints processes are sometimes inadequate. The findings of the report prompted a special debate in the House of Lords in January 2021.

⁴¹⁷ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-53553573>

⁴¹⁸ <https://cst.org.uk/data/file/3/6/Antisemitism%20on%20University%20Campuses.1609855878.pdf>

The UK Government added three far-right groups to the list of proscribed terrorist groups in 2020. It followed warnings from the head of Counter Terrorism that far-right terrorism was the fastest growing terror threat in the UK. In February, Sonnenkrieg Division and System Resistance Network, an off-shoot from National Action (which was banned in December 2016) were added⁴¹⁹ to the list. In July, the UK banned the Feuerkrieg Division⁴²⁰, which is part of an international network of white supremacist groups that advocate the concept of ‘accelerationism’, the use of violence and terrorism to bring about a race war and the end of the current political system. They promote their ideology through social media platforms targeting young people across the world.

In April, the UK Government pledged⁴²¹ £14 million in grants to cover protective security for the Jewish community, bringing the total grant to £79.2 million since the scheme was introduced in 2015. CST manages the grant on behalf of the government and disburses the funds to pay for security guards at Jewish schools, synagogues and other communal buildings.

In October, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) released its findings into an investigation⁴²² (launched in May 2019) on antisemitism in the Labour Party under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn MP. As a result, the Labour Party was served with an unlawful act notice after the EHRC found that it was “responsible for unlawful acts of harassment and discrimination”. The investigation identified “serious failings in the Labour Party leadership in addressing antisemitism and an inadequate process for handling antisemitism complaints”. The Labour Party was responsible for three breaches of the Equality Act (2010) in relation to political interference in antisemitism complaints; failure to provide adequate training to those handling antisemitism complaints; and harassment. The EHRC wrote that there was a culture within the party “which, at best, did not do enough to prevent antisemitism and, at worst, could be seen to accept it”.

Numerous defendants received sentences in 2020 for various terrorism-related and other criminal offences that included antisemitic manifestations. In January, Luke Crompton pleaded guilty at Manchester Crown Court to encouraging terrorism and was sentenced to a two-year community order with a requirement of 30 rehabilitation days.⁴²³ Crompton

⁴¹⁹ https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-action-to-proscribe-right-wing-terrorist-groups?utm_source=74954129-ae62-44ce-9b78-f30b00ffe58b&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

⁴²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/far-right-terror-group-proscribed>

⁴²¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-grants-14-million-funding-for-security-at-jewish-institutions>

⁴²² <https://equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/investigation-antisemitism-labour-party-finds-unlawful-acts-discrimination-and>

⁴²³ <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/terror-attack-far-right-luke-crompton-jail-court-a9306866.html>

posted hundreds of messages against Jews, Muslims, black and gay people on the Russian social media site VK and sympathised with white supremacist views.

A boy (14 years old when the incident took place), who cannot be named for legal reasons, pleaded guilty at Highbury Corner Youth Court to racially and religiously aggravated common assault.⁴²⁴ In March 2018, the teenager set a Jewish man's hair on fire while riding on a bus. He asked the victim: "Are you Jewish? You can't be Jewish because you don't have horns. Do Jews keep money under their caps?" He also threatened to beat up the victim and smash his laptop. He was sentenced to a four-month rehabilitation order (uplifted from three months for the racial element), ordered to write a letter of apology to the victim and pay £100 compensation. He was also given an activity requirement of eight hours and will work with educational staff in behavioural sessions to combat racial discrimination.

In March, Adam Cassidy was found guilty⁴²⁵ at St Alban's Magistrates' Court of racially aggravated assault and use of an antisemitic slur after he launched an attack on a Jewish family in St Albans. Cassidy was filmed on a mobile phone kicking an advertising board towards the family, calling them "dirty Jews" three times and pushing their child's pram aggressively whilst the infant was inside. Cassidy was jailed for six weeks and would have been given a community order, but the racially aggravated element led to the sentence uplift.

In May, George Fowle pleaded guilty at Central Criminal Court London to collecting information likely to be useful to a person committing an act of terrorism.⁴²⁶ He was sentenced to 20 months in a Youth Offenders Institute, suspended for two years, and was ordered to perform 120 days of unpaid work and 60 days youth rehabilitation. Fowle had images of Hitler, Nazi emblems and antisemitic material, including the words: "We annihilated your kind once, we can do it again". He also collected smoke grenades and terrorist material, including a video of the 2019 Christchurch mosque massacres.

In June, five people were jailed⁴²⁷ at Birmingham Crown Court for membership of the banned neo-Nazi group National Action. Mark Jones was jailed for five years and six months, Garry Jack for four years and six months, Alice Cutter for three years, Connor Scothern for 18 months and Daniel Ward for three years. Cutter and Jones were obsessed with "violent ethnic cleansing", amassed an arsenal of weapons and exchanged racist and

⁴²⁴ <https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/crime/muswell-hill-teenager-set-jewish-man-s-hair-on-fire-3649646>

⁴²⁵ <https://www.stalbansreview.co.uk/news/18331520.racist-jailed-anti-semitic-abuse-jewish-family-st-albans/>

⁴²⁶ <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/white-supremacist-george-fowle-bomb-manuals-hitler-camp-america-a9522831.html>

⁴²⁷ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/updated-racist-couple-and-two-others-jailed-banned-hate-group-membership>

antisemitic messages. Jones posed for a photograph in Buchenwald concentration camp's former execution room on a trip to Germany in 2016, while performing a Nazi-style salute and holding a National Action flag. Cutter joked about using a Jew's head as a football and using chlorine gas on Jews.

In July, two boys, aged 15 and 16, were sentenced at Stratford Youth Court after they were convicted for a racially aggravated common assault on a rabbi in North London.⁴²⁸ In November 2019, the teenagers assaulted the rabbi, kicking him repeatedly and subjecting him to a barrage of antisemitic comments. The victim had his glasses knocked off and suffered an injured back and bleeding finger. The boys both received a 12-month Youth Rehabilitation Order, an electronically monitored curfew for 30 days, a £21 victim surcharge and were also ordered to take part in a ten-day Diversity Awareness Programme.

In August, Peter Cann pleaded guilty at York Magistrates' Court to a racially aggravated public order offence.⁴²⁹ In November 2019, Cann was drunk on a train after attending a football match in Leeds when he shouted antisemitic abuse at a woman and was abusive to other passengers when they defended her. Cann was jailed for 12 weeks, issued with a six-year football banning order and ordered to pay £500 compensation, a £120 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

In September, Paul Blaylock and Ian Routledge pleaded guilty at Carlisle Magistrates' Court to racially aggravated disorderly behaviour.⁴³⁰ In February, they were travelling on a train from Newcastle to Carlisle when they made abusive comments to a group of visibly Jewish people, including telling them to "go back to where they came from". Blaylock was fined £200 and Routledge £250, as well as costs and a victim surcharge. The fines were increased to take account of the racial element of the offences.

James Smith pleaded guilty at Lewes Crown Court to racially aggravated criminal damage and was jailed for four years. In January, Smith subjected his Jewish neighbour to antisemitic abuse and threats and smashed all his neighbour's windows with a metal pole.

Stephen Smith received a criminal caution after he admitted using antisemitic language to insult a Jewish student in a pub in Leeds in August.⁴³¹ Smith was told to attend related sessions to address his behaviour. Smith asked the student if she was Jewish before telling her: "should have f***ing gassed the lot of you".

⁴²⁸ <https://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/teenage-brothers-guilty-of-rabbi-attack/>

⁴²⁹ https://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teesside-news/drunk-footy-fan-66-hurled-18772062?utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=sharebar

⁴³⁰ <https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/jews-told-to-go-back-to-where-they-came-from-on-carlisle-train-1.506857>

⁴³¹ <https://www.uklfi.com/racist-ranter-receives-criminal-caution>

In October, Immanuel Oyewo pleaded guilty at the Central Criminal Court London to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and possession of ammunition and was jailed for five years.⁴³² In February, Oyewo drove to Stamford Hill, an area he knew was frequented by Orthodox Jews, who he thought had “funny hats and a funny hairstyle”. He chased an Orthodox Jewish man along the road and pointed a loaded airgun at his head, before he fled on a moped. The airgun was designed to shoot pellets but had been modified to fire live ammunition. However, it did not fire when the trigger was pulled as the pin had not been modified to strike the bullet correctly.

In November, Shehroz Iqbal was jailed at the Central Criminal Court London for terrorism charges relating to the dissemination of terrorist material and encouragement of terrorism.⁴³³ Iqbal was jailed for six years with a further three years to be served on licence and subject to a terrorism notification order for 15 years. Iqbal posted an Islamic State propaganda video on his Facebook page, and made and shared a video of himself in central London, recording the iconic locations around him, while saying “*attack, attack*”. Prior to his recent terrorism conviction, Iqbal was convicted three separate times for offences against London Jewish communities.⁴³⁴

Filip Golon Bednarczyk was jailed at the Central Criminal Court London for four years, with a further year on licence and subject to a 15-year notification requirement on release.⁴³⁵ He admitted possessing terrorist material and making or possessing an explosive under suspicious circumstances contrary to the Explosive Substance Act. Bednarczyk possessed bomb manuals, a two-kilo bag of sulphur powder and a blank-firing pistol. He admitted “right-wing sympathies” and researched guns and weapons. He had a copy of Christchurch shooter Brenton Tarrant's manifesto and shared memes supporting the attack. He wrote extremist online posts targeting Muslims, Jews and the gay community.

Teenager Paul Dunleavy was jailed for five-and-a-half years at Birmingham Crown Court for preparing acts of terrorism and collecting terrorism information.⁴³⁶ He researched how to convert a blank-firing gun into a lethal weapon and joined online the banned far-right group Feuerkrieg Division (FKD). He told the group he had the capability to source a blank firing firearm and convert it to a viable handgun. He took an online test in which he wrote that Jewish people “must be eradicated” and said he wanted to “go out there and provoke” a race war.

⁴³² <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8893847/Student-jailed-five-years-pointing-gun-Hasidic-Jewish-man-claiming-YouTube-prank.html>

⁴³³ <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/man-jailed-for-terrorism-offences/>

⁴³⁴ <https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/c/c/Shehroz%20Iqbal.pdf>

⁴³⁵ <https://news.met.police.uk/news/man-jailed-for-terrorism-offences-415894>

⁴³⁶ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-54843050>

Teenager Harry Vaughan pleaded guilty⁴³⁷ at Westminster youth court to possessing documents useful for terrorism, encouraging terrorism and possessing indecent images of children. In November, he was sentenced to two years' detention (suspended for two years) in a young offender institution. Vaughan published images on Fascist Forum and had a large amount of neo-Nazi, antisemitic, satanist and terrorist material, as well as some Islamic State propaganda. This included a document showing how to make C-4 and Semtex plastic explosives, along with other high explosives, and how to construct a homemade detonator.

In December, Luke Hunter was jailed for four years and two months after pleading guilty to seven charges of encouraging terrorism and disseminating terrorist publications.⁴³⁸ Hunter was an extreme right-wing propagandist whose online posts glorified terrorism, promoted killing techniques and encouraged the killing of Jews, non-white races and gay people. Hunter glorified far-right terrorists and had numerous white supremacist texts, manifestos, military training manuals, as well as guides on surveillance, guerrilla warfare, weapons and explosives. He kept a machete in his bedroom and a life-size dummy covered in stab marks.

USA / Aryeh Tuchman

Antisemitic trends in the United States in 2020 were fueled by the Covid-19 pandemic, the political turmoil surrounding the 2020 presidential election, and the social unrest touched off by the murder of George Floyd by police.

Antisemitism and the Coronavirus

As the coronavirus surged across the United States, antisemitic, xenophobic, and hateful messages and conspiracy theories proliferated rapidly online. Although Asian-Americans bore the brunt of online hate, antisemitic themes also emerged. From the first days of the coronavirus, anti-Semites accused Jews of making money off the virus: from the vaccine, by exploiting market volatility, or through loans. These messages were often accompanied by an image of the "[happy merchant](#),"⁴³⁹ an antisemitic drawing of a Jewish man with heavily stereotyped features. Others suggested that Jews were manipulating and profiting from fluctuations in the stock market, and are benefiting from the negative impacts of the coronavirus on the world.

Another prominent online theme claimed that Jews and/or Israel manufactured or spread the coronavirus to advance malicious international plots. In a January Telegram message,

⁴³⁷ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/grammar-schoolboy-sentenced-encouraging-far-right-terrorism-and-possessing-indecent-images>

⁴³⁸ <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/newcastle-man-sentenced-to-4-years-for-terrorism-offences/>

⁴³⁹ <https://www.adl.org/education/references/hate-symbols/the-happy-merchant>.

white supremacist and former Congressional candidate [Paul Nehlen](#)⁴⁴⁰ states that China was targeted by a Jewish bioweapon designed to assert control over that country. “According to our calculations, it sure looks like Israel has unleashed a bio weapon meant to teach you that they control your destiny as well. You gonna let those jealous, vindictive Jews [sic] get away with it?” In March, prominent anti-Semite David Duke used Twitter to suggest that if President Trump came down with the coronavirus, “Israel and the Global Zionist elite” may have been “up to their old tricks.” Not to be outdone, the Nation of Islam Research Group tweeted a message suggesting that Israel may have developed the coronavirus as a tool to conduct assassinations.

Some online rhetoric specifically targeted ultra-Orthodox Jews for the spread of the virus. Of particular concern is the fact that this rhetoric appeared on mainstream community Facebook groups that purport to discuss public policy issues, but instead quickly morph into forums that enable Jew hatred, both veiled and overt. Local elected and former elected officials have also participated in conversations on these public online communities, notwithstanding this hateful content, and thus have provided implicit permission or even support for discussions that can veer into antisemitism. In October, New York Mayor Bill De Blasio and Governor Andrew Cuomo [were accused](#)⁴⁴¹ of insensitively singling out ultra-Orthodox communities in their response to surges in coronavirus transmission.

More information on antisemitism and the Coronavirus may be found here:

- [Coronavirus Crisis Elevates Antisemitic, Racist Tropes | Anti-Defamation League \(adl.org\)](#)⁴⁴²
- [On Social Media, Haredi and Orthodox Jewish Communities are Scapegoated and Blamed for COVID-19 | Anti-Defamation League \(adl.org\)](#)⁴⁴³

Zoombombings

The dramatic increase in the use of remote video conferencing during the pandemic gave rise to a new manifestation of antisemitism: the disruption of video conferences and webinars with antisemitic rhetoric and images. Sometimes the perpetrators of these “zoombombings,” as they have come to be called, are hardcore anti-Semites or white supremacists, but other zoombombing incidents appear to have been conducted by

⁴⁴⁰ <https://www.adl.org/blog/congressional-candidate-paul-nehlen-spouts-racist-anti-semitic-rhetoric>.

⁴⁴¹ <https://www.newsweek.com/coronavirus-new-york-cuomo-de-blasio-anti-lockdown-protests-orthodox-jews-1538285>.

⁴⁴² <https://www.adl.org/blog/coronavirus-crisis-elevates-antisemitic-racist-tropes>.

⁴⁴³ <https://www.adl.org/blog/on-social-media-haredi-and-orthodox-jewish-communities-are-scapegoated-and-blamed-for-covid-19>.

individuals without a history of virulent antisemitism. There is evidence that some zoombombing attacks have been coordinated online, but others appear to have been opportunistic in nature.⁴⁴⁴

On March 24, 2020, a white supremacist interrupted a webinar about antisemitism hosted by a Massachusetts Jewish student group by pulling his shirt collar down to reveal a swastika tattoo on his chest. A day later, a similar incident occurred in California when someone disrupted an online class hosted by a JCC (Jewish Community Center); the perpetrator launched into a minutes-long, profanity-laced, antisemitic rant and removed his shirt to display a swastika tattoo on his chest. The Center on Extremism examined screenshots of the individual behind both incidents and believes him to be Andrew Alan Escher Auernheimer, a known white supremacist and hacker.

Antisemitic zoombombings occurred at least 198 times in 2020; at least 115 targeted online prayer and Shabbat services, Torah study sessions and Jewish school events. Zoombombers even struck an online Holocaust memorial program run by the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York in April to mark Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), when students and teachers learning about the experience of children during the Holocaust were exposed to profanity, pornography, swastikas and antisemitic slurs.

Unfortunately, zoom remains an easy target for haters and hooligans to spread fear and cause disruption. These incidents indicate the need for communities to not relax their vigilance about keeping their online spaces secure.

More information on zoombombings in 2020 may be found here: [What is "Zoombombing" and Who is Behind It? | Anti-Defamation League \(adl.org\)](https://www.adl.org/blog/what-is-zoombombing-and-who-is-behind-it)⁴⁴⁵

Black Lives Matter and Antisemitism

The May 2020 murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer sparked nationwide protests against police brutality and systemic racism. As the demonstrations spread to communities across the country, so too did disinformation about the protests and protesters. Some of those rumors alleged widespread antisemitism on the part of the protestors. In part these rumors stemmed from the conflation of the decentralized Black Lives Matter movement with the formally structured Movement for Black Lives, which included an anti-Israel plank in its platform in 2016.

One notable case of disinformation stemmed from events in the last weekend in May 2020, when some of the peaceful protests in Los Angeles, spurred by the murder of

⁴⁴⁴ Paraphrase of existing ADL language

⁴⁴⁵ <https://www.adl.org/blog/what-is-zoombombing-and-who-is-behind-it>.

George Floyd, [devolved into looting](#)⁴⁴⁶ and [property destruction](#).⁴⁴⁷ One area [particularly impacted by looting](#)⁴⁴⁸ was the Fairfax District, a historically Jewish neighborhood in Central Los Angeles. [ADL strongly condemned](#)⁴⁴⁹ these acts of vandalism and antisemitism, which included [graffiti at Congregation Beth Israel](#)⁴⁵⁰ and [damage to a number of Jewish-owned businesses](#).⁴⁵¹ However, in the days and weeks following the looting, some of the descriptions of the vandalism morphed into exaggerated or misleading allegations of targeted antisemitic violence, which in turn spread unnecessary fears online and within communities. Right-wing publications referred to the damage to Jewish-owned business as “Shavuot pogrom” or as “Kristallnacht 2020,” implying that isolated instances of vandalism amounted to a large-scale antisemitic attack.⁴⁵² StopAntisemitism.org [falsely reported](#)⁴⁵³ that graffiti in Beverly Hills read "KILL THE JEW," when it actually said "KILL THE RICH." Although the group posted a [correction](#)⁴⁵⁴ the next day, it did not delete the original post, which had already been shared hundreds of times. In an article disproving exaggerated claims about antisemitic violence during the Black Lives Matter protests, [The Forward](#)⁴⁵⁵ included an undated photograph of Los Angeles’ Baba Sale Congregation, defaced with “Free Palestine” graffiti. The image, which was also shared by social media users in the context of the protests, was actually from an unrelated [September 2019 vandalism incident](#)⁴⁵⁶ at the synagogue. Baba Sale was spray-painted with graffiti again during the May 2020 protests, however, the messages were mostly [anti-police and pro-BLM](#)⁴⁵⁷ in nature.

Another incorrect allegation of antisemitism on the part of Black Lives Matter activists accuses BLM of distributing an antisemitic flier. The flier reads, “Ending white privilege...intersects [sic] ending Jewish privilege,” and claims that Jewish Americans receive special privileges at leading universities. “Challenging White Privilege and Jewish Privilege is not anti semitic [sic]. It is not defamatory. It does not insult anyone. It is Social

⁴⁴⁶ <https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2020/05/30/hundreds-gather-in-fairfax-district-as-part-of-latest-protest-over-deadly-arrest-of-george-floyd/>.

⁴⁴⁷ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-05-30/a-night-of-vandalism-looting-and-despair-in-downtown-this-is-all-depressing>.

⁴⁴⁸ <https://www.jta.org/2020/06/02/united-states/los-angeles-jews-take-stock-after-george-floyd-protests-batter-local-institutions>.

⁴⁴⁹ https://twitter.com/LA_ADL/status/1266941223522037760.

⁴⁵⁰ <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/synagogue-vandalized-in-fairfax-district-amid-protests/2371400/>.

⁴⁵¹ <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/jewish-business-describe-vandalism-looting-of-businesses-in-la-630089>.

⁴⁵² Paraphrase of existing language

⁴⁵³ <https://twitter.com/StopAntisemites/status/1267278800750022656>.

⁴⁵⁴ <https://twitter.com/StopAntisemites/status/1267314705938472961>.

⁴⁵⁵ <https://forward.com/news/451590/kristalnacht-in-la-and-other-digital-lies/>.

⁴⁵⁶ https://jewishjournal.com/los_angeles/304267/baba-sale-congregation-vandalized-with-free-palestine-graffiti/.

⁴⁵⁷ <https://jewishjournal.com/news/california/316733/synagogue-reopenings-now-on-hold-after-protests/>.

Justice,” the flier says. It also includes the hashtags #BlackLivesMatter, #WeAreAllMuslim, and #WhitePrivilege.

The claim that Jews are able to manipulate institutions, including universities, to benefit themselves at the expense of non-Jews, is a classic antisemitic trope.

As of this writing, there is no indication that any Black Lives Matter activists have shared, printed or distributed these fliers during the current protests. Nevertheless, the fliers may have the effect of driving a wedge between Jews and Black Americans.

Speculation about this antisemitic flier comes at a time when other fliers promoting conspiracy theories are also circulating online, including [some alleging that George Soros](#)⁴⁵⁸ is involved in fomenting street violence.

Images of this flier have circulated online since at least as early as March 2017, when a [news report](#)⁴⁵⁹ reported that unknown perpetrators had distributed a physical flier at the University of Illinois at Chicago. At the time, a representative of Black Lives Matter condemned the flier, as well as several additional fliers bearing antisemitic messages and the #BlackLivesMatter hashtag.

Millions of Americans participated in protests following the death of George Floyd, and it is certain that some of them harbor antisemitic views. Moreover, the anti-Israel elements expressed by some in progressive movements for racial justice, including members of the Movement for Black Lives and formal chapters of the Black Lives Matter organization, are highly troubling. However, there is no evidence of widespread antisemitism in the larger, decentralized Black Lives Matter movement.

More information on allegations of antisemitism within the Black Lives Matter movement may be found here:

- [Disinformation: Exaggerated claims of targeted antisemitic violence in Los Angeles | Anti-Defamation League \(adl.org\)](#)⁴⁶⁰
- [Disinformation: Rumor about Black Lives Matter activists distributing an antisemitic flier | Anti-Defamation League \(adl.org\)](#)⁴⁶¹

⁴⁵⁸ <https://www.adl.org/blog/soros-conspiracy-theories-and-the-protests-a-gateway-to-antisemitism>.

⁴⁵⁹ https://chicagoist.com/2017/03/20/more-anti-semitic-flyers-found-on-u.php?fbclid=IwAR3NC_Sav-Jdol5VryBmHdFiHBK0KKqOFlyzAX8lh2CnKWW9nDdT1V70PZc.

⁴⁶⁰ <https://www.adl.org/disinformation-exaggerated-claims-of-targeted-antisemitic-violence-in-los-angeles>.

⁴⁶¹ <https://www.adl.org/disinformation-rumor-about-black-lives-matter-activists-distributing-an-antisemitic-flier>.

- [Pursuing Racial Justice, Fighting Antisemitism | by Jonathan Greenblatt | Medium](#)⁴⁶²

Anti-Zionist Activity

Although the majority of anti-Israel activism in the United States focuses on criticism of Israel's policies and should not be construed as antisemitic, a noteworthy element continues to demonize Zionism and Jewish supporters of Israel in a manner that demeans their Jewish faith. This most commonly occurs on college campuses and progressive spaces, where the drumbeat of anti-Zionist rhetoric makes many Jewish students feel excluded and unwelcome.

In 2020 some of the most public expressions of anti-Zionism took place in the context of Nakba Day (May 15), and during a two-week series of “Day of Rage” protests.

[Nakba](#)⁴⁶³ (“catastrophe” in Arabic) Day, held on May 15 each year, is marked by Palestinians and their supporters, including many anti-Israel activists, as a day to mourn the creation of the State of Israel and advocate for the [Right of Return](#)⁴⁶⁴ of Palestinian refugees. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, organizations and activists went virtual with events such as webinars featuring anti-Israel activists and academics, most of which ran from May 14 through May 21. In many instances, events surrounding the anniversary included speakers who equated Zionism with bigotry, proclaimed that Zionists cannot be Jewish and justified violence against Israelis. ADL does not oppose the commemoration of Nakba Day, but militant anti-Zionism can have an antisemitic impact on American Jews, many of whom incorporate support for Israel into their religious, social, or cultural identities.

Some of the most troubling rhetoric in connection with 2020 Nakba Day commemorations was expressed in online events organized by anti-Israel organizations such as [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) (JVP),⁴⁶⁵ the [Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions](#) (BDS) Movement,⁴⁶⁶ [Students for Justice in Palestine](#)⁴⁶⁷ (SJP) and the U.S. Palestinian Community Network (USPCN).⁴⁶⁸ During a webinar hosted by JVP and the BDS Movement on May 15, South African poet Allan Kolski Horwitz recited a poem venerating “bomb belts” and trucks of “militants” crossing the border into Israel to “explode.” During the same event, South African member of parliament Zwelivelile Mandela, a grandson of Nelson Mandela, stated that Israel “manipulates governments, economies and power.” During a webinar hosted by

⁴⁶² https://medium.com/@JONATHAN_G/pursuing-racial-justice-fighting-antisemitism-fd592d3e939e.

⁴⁶³ <https://www.adl.org/resources/glossary-terms/nakba>.

⁴⁶⁴ <https://www.adl.org/resources/glossary-terms/nakba>.

⁴⁶⁵ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/jewish-voice-for-peace>.

⁴⁶⁶ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/bds-the-global-campaign-to-delegitimize-israel>.

⁴⁶⁷ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/students-for-justice-in-palestine-sjp>.

⁴⁶⁸ Paraphrase of existing ADL language

SJP affiliate SUPER UW (University of Washington) and cosponsored by JVP on May 21, vehement anti-Israel activist Miko Peled claimed that “You cannot be a Zionist and pro-peace... There is no such thing because Zionism is a racist, brutal, violent, neofascist kind of [ideology](#).”⁴⁶⁹ On a webinar convened by the Museum of the Palestinian People in Washington DC, anti-Israel activist and Palestinian refugee Hassan Hammani said, “I think it's important for the young people to understand... what Zionism has done to [Judaism](#).”⁴⁷⁰ They have not only expropriated but they've actually corrupted it, changed it into a colonial power, a colonial religion.”

Day of Rage Protests: Anti-Israel groups held at least thirty-five rallies in cities across the U.S. in the first two weeks of July, 2020, ostensibly to express their opposition to the potential [annexation](#)⁴⁷¹ by the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of parts of the West Bank, which had been expected to be announced as early as July 1. Although many of the protestors limited their messaging to expressions of support for Palestinians and criticisms of Israeli policy, a large number of these events featured classic antisemitic tropes or hostile language demonizing Zionism, the movement for Jewish self-determination and statehood – an ideologically diverse movement supported by the vast majority of American Jews and Americans in general.

Most of these rallies were described by their organizers as being part of a “Day of Rage,” a term coined by anti-Israel activists around the world including in the Palestinian territories. Others were simply billed as anti-annexation events. About half the rallies included messaging that bizarrely blamed Israel for the militarization of American police and for racist police brutality in the United States. Several specifically attempted to implicate Israel in the murder of George Floyd, a Black man who was [killed by Minneapolis police](#),⁴⁷² although no evidence has been provided to substantiate this charge.

The July 1 rally in Brooklyn, New York, was noteworthy for its antisemitic elements and its references to terrorism. Activist Dequi Kioni Sadiki said that “European Jews...occupy, slaughter, and continue to force millions of Palestinians on to their killing fields called refugee [camps]...” At one point some people in the crowd chanted in Arabic, “Death to America, Death to Israel.” Another chant was, “Genocide in 48, We don’t want your two states.” A flag of the terrorist group PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) was carried by one demonstrator. One of the speakers glowingly described her interaction with convicted PFLP terrorist Leila Khaled. Another speaker said, “We don't want a fake Palestinian state that they give us while Israel still exists. The land that Israel exists on is still stolen. '48 lands are still stolen. Yaffa, Haifa, and Tel Aviv, originally named Tel Rabia,

⁴⁶⁹ <https://m.facebook.com/313569775372258/videos/183626499549469/>.

⁴⁷⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJeWcrQS8tg>.

⁴⁷¹ <https://www.adl.org/news/op-ed/the-adl-opposes-west-bank-annexation-because-we-are-zionists>.

⁴⁷² <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/08/us/george-floyd-body-camera-transcripts.html>.

was still stolen. We don't want to go back to our homes just in Gaza and the West Bank. We want all of it!"

At the July 1 rally in Worth, Illinois, Imam Tariq El-Amin of American Muslims for Palestine said that "Zionist knees are on our necks." At the same rally, Reverend Donald Wagner, National Program Director of Friends of Sabeel-North America, said, "Zionism is at the root of everything. The racist ideology and colonialism of Zionism is what is stealing the land, it is what's murdering Palestinians."

At the July 3 rally in North Bergen, New Jersey, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Chapter of the [Council on American Islamic Relations](#),⁴⁷³ Dr. Selaedin Maksut, said that "In order to defeat this evil that is Zionism, we must realize that the foot on the necks of the Black and Brown people of this nation is the same foot and the same knee that is choking the Palestinian people. Zionism is racism, and the same powers that oppress the ones here in America are the same powers that oppress the Palestinian people." Another unidentified speaker who claimed to work for American Muslims for Palestine unambiguously said that their opposition to Israel focuses not only on the occupied territories: "We know that when you say no to annexation, no to occupation, we're talking about all of historic Palestine. We're talking about the entire West Bank, we're talking about all the land. All the land from which our people were driven out."

More information on anti-Israel expressions in 2020 may be found here:

- [Numerous Nakba Day Commemorations Descend into Extremism and Antisemitism | Anti-Defamation League \(adl.org\)](#)⁴⁷⁴
- ["Day of Rage" Rallies Demonize Jews, Israel | Anti-Defamation League \(adl.org\)](#).⁴⁷⁵

The Nation of Islam

Antisemitism has stained the speeches and statements of Nation of Islam (NOI) leader Louis Farrakhan for decades. In 2020 Farrakhan gave three major addresses (on February 23, March 1, and July 4); together, the speeches were streamed millions of times on a variety of social media platforms, and included vile expressions of antisemitism, as well as homophobia, trans-phobia, and anti-white racism.⁴⁷⁶

On February 23, Farrakhan told the assembled in Detroit that their success hinges on the whims of Jews. "No black man becomes great in America without the help of the Jewish

⁴⁷³ <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/backgrounders/the-council-on-american-islamic-relations-cair>.

⁴⁷⁴ <https://www.adl.org/blog/numerous-nakba-day-commemorations-descend-into-extremism-and-antisemitism>.

⁴⁷⁵ <https://www.adl.org/blog/day-of-rage-rallies-demonize-jews-israel>.

⁴⁷⁶ Paraphrase of existing ADL language

people,” he said. “You don’t become wealthy in America without the help of white people — Jewish people.” Farrakhan also claimed, without proof, that the state of Israel had targeted the Nation of Islam for opposition. On March 1, he went on to claim that the spirit of opposition that ancient Jewish leaders felt toward Jesus is the same spirit that animates Jewish leaders today when they reject Farrakhan’s hateful message.

On July 4, 2020, Farrakhan delivered an address replete with antisemitic lies and stereotypes and called for his listeners to speak out against Jews. His speech reverberated in the ensuing days among celebrities and garnered over a million views on social media. During his July 4 address, Farrakhan repeated the false claim that Jews are enjoined by their religion to poison prophets and that Jews had “broken their covenant relationship with God.” He referred to Jews collectively as “Satan” and the “enemy of God,” and claimed that white people “are born with lie [sic] and murder in their nature.” He encouraged listeners to “fight Satan the arch deceiver [and] the imposter Jews who are worthy of the chastisement of God.”

The July 4 speech was viewed over 1.2 million times within the first two weeks on numerous YouTube channels. One of the YouTube channels that livestreamed the event was Revolt TV, a digital cable Network founded by Sean “P Diddy” Combs. (The video has since been removed.)

Combs, like other musicians, athletes and celebrities, continues to lend Farrakhan a measure of legitimacy by amplifying and supporting his well-established record of antisemitism and hate. According to the Nation of Islam newspaper The Final Call, several celebrities attended Farrakhan’s July 4 event, including Nick Cannon, Stephen Jackson, TI, 2Chainz, Rick Ross, Jay Electronica, Stephanie Mills and Syleena Johnson.

Farrakhan is not the only leader of NOI to spread antisemitism. Shortly after Farrakhan’s July 4 speech, NOI Student Minister Ishmael Muhammad, who is widely considered to be Louis Farrakhan’s second-in-command, took to the podium at the Nation of Islam’s Mosque Maryam to continue promoting the antisemitic conspiracies and vitriol that Farrakhan has been espousing for decades.

In his sermon, which was streamed live on YouTube and has been viewed more than 30,000 times as of July 15, Muhammad appeared determined to sow division between Jews and African Americans. Muhammad repeated in vivid detail the antisemitic canard that Jews were responsible for the transatlantic slave trade. ‘Jewish merchants owned, insured, and financed slave ships and outfitted them with chains and shackles,’ he said. ‘Jews were the slave auctioneers, the brokers, the wholesalers keeping the slave economy oiled with money... There were rabbis who owned, rented, and sold slaves and denounced abolitionists... and they sold to plantation masters everything from slaves, to drugs, to whips, shackles, and chains.

More information on antisemitism and the Nation of Islam in 2020 may be found here:

- [Antisemitism, Homophobia Promoted at Nation of Islam Celebration | Anti-Defamation League \(adl.org\)⁴⁷⁷](#)
- [Farrakhan Remains Most Popular Antisemite in America | Anti-Defamation League \(adl.org\)⁴⁷⁸](#)

QAnon

2020 marked a high-water mark for the QAnon movement, a loose collection of individuals united by their support for former president Donald Trump and their belief in a wide-reaching conspiracy theory alleging the existence of a secret cabal of globalist, Satan-worshiping child sex predators and cannibals. Although there is no evidence that antisemitic beliefs were common among QAnon supporters in 2020, the theory's structural resemblance to classic antisemitic conspiracy theories is striking, including the blood libel and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. The theory's demonization of "globalists" and repeated claims that the cabal at the heart of the conspiracy controls Hollywood, finance, and world governments, is evocative of antisemitic stereotypes which have dogged Jews through the modern era. QAnon adherents have been linked to acts of [murder](#),⁴⁷⁹ [violence](#),⁴⁸⁰ [kidnapping](#)⁴⁸¹ and public disturbance. In 2020, the novel coronavirus has provided additional fodder for QAnon followers, who have eagerly folded the pandemic into their profoundly paranoid worldview.

More information on QAnon may be found at:

- [QAnon \(adl.org\)⁴⁸²](#)
- [QAnon Conspiracies on Facebook Could Prompt Real-World Violence | Anti-Defamation League \(adl.org\)⁴⁸³](#)

Anti-Lockdown Protests

At nationwide rallies against policies aimed at curbing the spread of COVID-19, highly visible protesters are comparing government officials to Nazis and their policies to the Nazi persecution of Jews during World War II.

The tactic of employing Nazi- and Holocaust-related analogies is not new - it has been used by protesters and pundits for decades. But these analogies, laden as they are with

⁴⁷⁷ <https://www.adl.org/blog/antisemitism-homophobia-promoted-at-nation-of-islam-celebration>.

⁴⁷⁸ <https://www.adl.org/blog/farrakhan-remains-most-popular-antisemite-in-america>.

⁴⁷⁹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/06/nyregion/gambino-shooting-anthony-comello-qanon.html>.

⁴⁸⁰ <https://www.thedailybeast.com/qanon-disciple-allegedly-vandalized-catholic-church-with-crowbar>.

⁴⁸¹ <https://www.thedailybeast.com/qanon-mom-charged-with-kidnapping-her-kids?ref=author>.

⁴⁸² <https://www.adl.org/qanon>.

⁴⁸³ <https://www.adl.org/blog/qanon-conspiracies-on-facebook-could-prompt-real-world-violence>.

allusions to unqualified evil, tyranny and persecution, continue to provoke outrage. Often paired with graphic symbols associated with the Nazi regime, including swastikas or caricatures of Hitler, the ploy never fails to shock onlookers, intimidate targets, and, perhaps most importantly, attract media attention.

The use of Nazi and Holocaust analogies is offensive, even traumatizing, especially to the families of Jews who perished and to those who lost loved ones fighting the Nazis in World War II.

As a general rule, ADL condemns the use of Nazi and Holocaust analogies in debates over contemporary issues, including in the context of political protests like the anti-lockdown rallies. ADL has also been critical of the use of Holocaust analogies by elected officials, as we have seen recently in [Alaska](#),⁴⁸⁴ [New Mexico](#),⁴⁸⁵ [Ohio](#)⁴⁸⁶ and [Pennsylvania](#),⁴⁸⁷ among others.

Probably the most common type of Nazi analogy at these protests is the comparison of government officials to Hitler. This parallel has been drawn against governors in Michigan, California, and Illinois. These types of comparisons are widely and deeply offensive, but are not generally antisemitic.

Some of the most offensive Holocaust analogies directly invoke the horrors of Auschwitz, the Nazis' hybrid concentration and death camp where more than one million Jews and tens of thousands of others were killed between 1940 and 1945. The entry gates of the camp included the now-iconic sign, "Arbeit Macht Frei" ("Work sets you free"), which served as a hideously cynical message to doomed laborers. The use of this phrase during a political protest in Chicago, IL, on May 5, 2020, presumably referring to pandemic shelter-in-place requirements keeping employees from working, was an unconscionable desecration of Holocaust memory. Please note that reports of a similar sign being displayed at a [protest in Pittsburgh](#)⁴⁸⁸ were false.

In another example of an obscene Holocaust analogy, a protestor in Huntington Beach, CA, carried a sign with this overt reference to gassing Jews and the Nazi effort to annihilate all Jewish life in the Third Reich.

⁴⁸⁴ <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/498542-gop-alaska-legislator-apologizes-for-using-nazi-analogy-to-criticize>.

⁴⁸⁵ <https://www.kob.com/albuquerque-news/adl-condemns-new-mexico-mayors-quos-lsquotnazirsquot-remark-about-governor/5711389/>.

⁴⁸⁶ <https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/local/ohio/anti-defamation-league-criticizes-ohio-lawmaker-for-comparing-acton-comments-to-nazi-germany/95-dd631878-9011-49d1-aa4a-184d96db9c41>.

⁴⁸⁷ <https://triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheeny/pa-rep-frankel-horrified-by-dushs-comments-about-nazi-party/>.

⁴⁸⁸ <https://apnews.com/article/8845710091>.

- More information about anti-lockdown protests may found at [“Anti-Lockdown” Protesters Co-Opt Holocaust, Nazi Imagery | Anti-Defamation League \(adl.org\)](#)⁴⁸⁹

The Proud Boys

The Proud Boys, a right-wing extremist group with a long track record of violence, have carefully crafted a public image of an inclusive club for men of all races, backgrounds and sexual orientations who subscribe to the belief that western culture is superior to all others, and that anyone who “opposes” western culture is an enemy. The group has been remarkably successful at building that brand, and they became popular public allies and security providers for a host of right-wing and [conservative](#)⁴⁹⁰ activists and [politicians](#)⁴⁹¹ – even getting [a shout-out from former President Trump](#).⁴⁹² Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio seems to understand that expressing overt antisemitism or racism would not help them, and Tarrio’s continuing assurances of anti-racism as well as his own Latino background provide the Proud Boys with a ready way to defend themselves against charges of bigotry.

But the actions of the group’s members and even leadership have repeatedly belied the official party line.

In mid-December an image started circulating on social media. The image was taken in Washington, D.C. and featured a man standing alongside a group of Proud Boys and wearing a t-shirt emblazoned with the cryptic text “6MWE.” This code for “6 Million Wasn’t Enough” is a not-so-veiled reference to the Holocaust. The man, who has not yet been identified, also wore a Proud Boys baseball hat and the skull face mask popular among - but not exclusive to - right-wing subcultures like [accelerationists](#)⁴⁹³ and [boogaloo bois](#).⁴⁹⁴ The t-shirt featured the Proud Boys’ black-and-yellow color scheme and a black-and-yellow flag design, as well as the letters “RWDS” - which stand for “Right Wing Death Squad.” Given the ubiquity of these symbols and words within the Proud Boys organization, it is extremely likely that the man is a member of the group.

[At the December 12 pro-Trump rally in Washington, D.C.](#),⁴⁹⁵ a member of the Proud Boys attacked a counter-protester while someone simultaneously screamed, “Fucking Jew.” The incident was captured on video, which ADL has reviewed.

Brien James, Proud Boys chapter president in Indiana, is a [former neo-Nazi skinhead and founder of the ultra-violent Vinlanders Social Club](#).⁴⁹⁶ Another man who very briefly held

⁴⁸⁹ <https://www.adl.org/blog/anti-lockdown-protesters-co-opt-holocaust-nazi-imagery>.

⁴⁹⁰ <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/519238-gop-senate-candidate-lauren-witzke-defends-patriotic-masculinity-of>.

⁴⁹¹ <https://weartv.com/news/local/proud-boys-provide-security-at-pro-america-rally-in-milton>.

⁴⁹² <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/30/us/proud-boys-trump.html>.

⁴⁹³ <https://www.adl.org/blog/white-supremacists-embrace-accelerationism>.

⁴⁹⁴ <https://www.adl.org/boogaloo>.

⁴⁹⁵ <https://www.adl.org/blog/pro-trump-rallies-in-dc-attract-extremists-erupt-into-violence>.

⁴⁹⁶ <https://www.adl.org/blog/behind-the-american-guard-hardcore-white-supremacists>.

a leadership position in the Proud Boys [recently attempted to join neo-Nazi terror group The Base](#),⁴⁹⁷ and former Proud Boy Chris Hood currently runs the [neo-Nazi group NSC-131](#).⁴⁹⁸ Yet another member of the Proud Boys, Paul Skinner, is a former active member of the neo-Nazi [National Socialist Movement](#),⁴⁹⁹ according to documents obtained by ADL.

In the fall of 2020, [Kyle Chapman](#),⁵⁰⁰ a white supremacist and Proud Boy also known as Based Stickman, launched a coup attempt within the Proud Boys, announcing, “We will no longer cuck to the left by appointing token negroes as our leaders. We will no longer allow homosexuals or other ‘undesirables’ into our ranks. We will confront the Zionist criminals who wish to destroy our civilization. We recognize that the West was built by the White Race alone and we owe nothing to any other race.”

His attempted revolt, whether it was a trolling attempt or a sincere effort, failed spectacularly. But Chapman did receive significant support from people on Telegram claiming to be members of Proud Boys who said they would like to be more “open” about their white supremacist views.

More information on Proud Boys activity in 2020 may be found here: [Proud Boys’ Bigotry is on Full Display | Anti-Defamation League \(adl.org\)](#)⁵⁰¹

Goyim Defense League

The Goyim Defense League (GDL) is a small network of virulently antisemitic provocateurs led by Jon Minadeo II of Petaluma, California, which gained momentum in 2020. Minadeo, who has been active for several years, first posted his antisemitic stunts on platforms such as YouTube, DLive and BitChute. After being de-platformed in 2020, he and a partner launched GoyimTV, a video-streaming platform focused mainly on antisemitic content. Minadeo regularly uses the platform to post his podcasts and videos of his antisemitic exploits and homophobic rants. Over the course of 2020, other GDL devotees began to do the same.

GDL attracts a range of anti-Semites and white supremacists who are motivated and united by their hatred of Jews. The most zealous GDL actors are in California, Colorado, Florida and New York. They work alone, in small local cliques and occasionally travel across the country to work together in larger teams.

Though Minadeo’s podcasts are filled with racist slurs, white supremacist tropes and cries of “white power,” he insists he is not a white supremacist, and instead stresses the importance of all races uniting against the Jews. Minadeo began a December 2020

⁴⁹⁷ <https://www.vice.com/en/article/wx8xp4/a-proud-boys-lawyer-wanted-to-be-a-nazi-terrorist>.

⁴⁹⁸ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/nationalist-social-club-nsc>.

⁴⁹⁹ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/national-socialist-movement>.

⁵⁰⁰ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/from-alt-right-to-alt-lite-naming-the-hate>.

⁵⁰¹ <https://www.adl.org/blog/proud-boys-bigotry-is-on-full-display>.

podcast by shouting, “Alright! White power! Heil Hitler! Fuck these kikes! And a shout-out to all the goys out there of all colors and ethnicities that hate the Jew.”

Despite Minadeo’s disclaimers, white supremacists regularly appear in his online chats, on his podcasts and at real-world GDL street actions. On several occasions, white supremacists have participated in GDL activities in the Denver area. And, since November 2020, Cape Canaveral-based neo-Nazi Jason J. Brown has been leading GDL activities in Florida. Brown, who is originally from New Jersey, is also associated with the [New Jersey European Heritage Association \(NJEHA\)](#),⁵⁰² a small white supremacist group.

In November 2020, Brown and several other men associated with GDL hung a banner from a Florida overpass that read, “Holocaust denial illegal in 16+ countries WHY??? GoyimTV.” Afterwards, they met on a beach where they poured lighter fluid in the shape of a swastika and lit it on fire. They also burned an Israeli flag.

GDL’s overarching goal is to cast aspersions on Jews and spread antisemitic myths and conspiracy theories. This includes frequent references to Jews having undue power through their “control” of major institutions such as media networks, the economy or the government, or disparaging Jews as degenerates who molest children and advocate for pornography, abortion and homosexuality. GDL maintains that the Holocaust is a Jewish lie, and accounts of the Holocaust are merely propaganda or lies generated by Jews for their own benefit. Similarly, GDL says that Jews were responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attack on New York and that Israel intentionally targeted a U.S. warship at the height of the 1967 Six-Day War.

In addition to peddling antisemitic myths and conspiracy theories, GDL engages in a range of antisemitic stunts to troll or otherwise harass Jews, and to draw attention to themselves. GDL funds these activities through online solicitations and by selling merchandise in their online store. The site includes pro-GDL and GoyimTV hats and clothing, as well as t-shirts and stickers bearing antisemitic, anti-Israel, anti-left and homophobic messaging.

More information on the Goyim Defense League may be found here: [Goyim Defense League \(adl.org\)](#)⁵⁰³

White Supremacist Propaganda Campaigns

ADL’s [Center on Extremism \(COE\)](#)⁵⁰⁴ tracked a near-doubling of white supremacist propaganda efforts in 2020, which included the distribution of racist, antisemitic and anti-LGBTQ fliers, stickers, banners and posters. The 2020 data shows a huge increase of incidents from the previous year, with a total of 5,125 cases reported (averaging more

⁵⁰² <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/new-jersey-european-heritage-association-njeha>.

⁵⁰³ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/goyim-defense-league>.

⁵⁰⁴ <https://www.adl.org/who-we-are/our-organization/advocacy-centers/center-on-extremism>.

than 14 incidents per day), compared to 2,724 in 2019. This is the highest number of white supremacist propaganda incidents ADL has ever recorded.

283 incidents of white supremacist propaganda included antisemitic language or targeted Jewish institutions. This marks a 68 percent increase from the number of antisemitic propaganda distributions recorded in 2019. The top distributors of antisemitic propaganda in 2020 were [New Jersey European Heritage Association](#) (NJEHA),⁵⁰⁵ the [Nationalist Social Club](#),⁵⁰⁶ Folks Front, Hundred Handers, 14First and the now-defunct Moonkrieg Division; NJEHA was responsible for the most at 110 incidents. This marked increase in antisemitic propaganda is primarily attributable to the fact that NJEHA (well known for its antisemitic rhetoric) more than doubled its total propaganda distributions in 2020. The formation of new neo-Nazi groups like 14First, the Nationalist Social Club and Folks Front also contributed to this increase in incident numbers. While Patriot Front’s propaganda does not include antisemitic content, the group’s literature was used to target Jewish institutions in Oklahoma, Minnesota and California.

Some examples of antisemitic propaganda incidents include:

- June 2020: A bedsheet spray-painted with the message “KIKES LIE WHITES DIE 14/88” was left on the Holocaust memorial at a [Jewish Community Center in Tennessee](#).⁵⁰⁷
- September 2020: [The NSC posted fliers](#)⁵⁰⁸ outside a Texas Jewish Community Center that read: “110 and Never Again Jews have been expelled from 109 countries make America 110.”
- November 2020: The neo-Nazi group 14First left propaganda outside a [Washington synagogue](#).⁵⁰⁹

More information on antisemitic white supremacist propaganda campaigns in 2020 may be found here: [White Supremacist Propaganda Spikes in 2020 \(adl.org\)](#).⁵¹⁰

⁵⁰⁵ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/new-jersey-european-heritage-association-njeha>.

⁵⁰⁶ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/nationalist-social-club-nsc>.

⁵⁰⁷ <https://sjlimg.com/2020/06/15/nashville-holocaust-memorial-desecrated-with-antisemitic-messages/>.

⁵⁰⁸ <https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resource-knowledge-base/adl-heat-map?s=eyJhcmVhcyI6W3sic3RhdGUiOiJlUWCIslR5cGUiOiJzdGF0ZSJ9XSwiaWRlb2xvZ2llcyI6WyJSaWdodCBXaW5nIChXaGl0ZSBTdXBzZW1hY2lzdCkiXSwiaW5jaWRlbnRzIjpbIldoaXRlIFNlchJlbnWFjaXN0IFByb3BhZ2FuZGEiXSwieWVhcyI6WzIwMjAsMjAyMF0sInppcGNvZGVzIjpbXX0%253D>.

⁵⁰⁹ <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/times-watchdog/a-new-neo-nazi-group-in-spokane-harkens-back-to-era-of-virulent-extremism-in-the-northwest/>.

⁵¹⁰ <https://www.adl.org/white-supremacist-propaganda-spikes-2020>.

ARTICLES

European Union Activities in Combating Antisemitism in 2020/ Katharina von Schnurbein

Stepping up the fight against antisemitism

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has stepped up the fight against antisemitism and the support for Jewish life in Europe, and entrusted Vice-President for Promoting the European way of life, Margaritis Schinas, with this task. In her Statement before International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2021, President von der Leyen said: “We are determined to win this fight. Europe thrives when its Jewish community and other minorities can live in peace and harmony. This is why we will come forward with a strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life in Europe later this year.”⁵¹¹

EU strategy

Under the German EU Presidency in the second half of 2020, the fight against antisemitism was high on the agenda. On 2 December 2020 the “Council Declaration on mainstreaming the fight against antisemitism as an issue that crosscuts all policy areas”⁵¹² was adopted. Nevertheless, an upsurge of antisemitism, both online and offline⁵¹³, is taking place. Given the rise in antisemitic violence and hate crimes, the Commission will present a comprehensive strategy on combating antisemitism in the fourth quarter of 2021, to complement and support Member States’ efforts. To date, more than half of the EU Member States have adopted or are in the process of adopting self-standing strategies or specific actions to address antisemitism, as part of their general strategies on racism. 18 EU Member States have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)'s working definition of antisemitism.

New challenges

New challenges are arising for Jews in Europe. The COVID-19 crisis had a strong economic impact on Jewish communities. Antisemitism is on the rise in several EU Member States. Periods of lockdown may have initially led to fewer antisemitic hate crimes and incidents in public spaces, but we have seen a significant rise in antisemitic expressions and conspiracy theories, initially manifested online, that have taken to the streets and created a dangerous mixture of opposition to Covid-19 measures and age-old tropes of antisemitism.⁵¹⁴

511 Accessed on 4 March 2021, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_187.

512 Accessed on 3 March 2021, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/47065/st13637-en20.pdf>.

513 Accessed on 5 March 2021, <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/antisemitism-overview-2009-2019>

514 As shown in the 2020 World Jewish Congress Report on Antisemitic conspiracy myths. Accessed on 9 March 2021, <https://wjc-org-website.s3.amazonaws.com/horizon/assets/3yqx8bza/myths-r6-final.pdf>.

Awareness campaign addressing conspiracy myths

In response to the increase of COVID-19-related antisemitic conspiracy myths, the European Commission together with UNESCO, Twitter and the World Jewish Congress, engaged in a successful social media campaign, #ThinkBeforeSharing, in the summer of 2020. The aim of the campaign's messages was to educate the audience about the essence of conspiracy theories, and how to spot, counter, and debunk them.

Framework decision

The Commission called upon several Member States to fully transpose EU rules on combating racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law. The Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA criminalises public condoning, denying or grossly trivialising of the Holocaust.

Regulation on preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online

On 10 December 2020, the European Parliament and the Council reached a political agreement on the proposal for a Regulation on preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online. This Regulation will ensure that online platforms play a more active role in detecting terrorist content online and that such content is removed within a maximum of one hour. The agreement will also help to counter the spread of extremist ideologies online - a vital part of preventing attacks and addressing radicalisation. These rules are an essential part of the Commission's Counter-Terrorism Agenda.

Combating antisemitism online

With the Digital Services Act proposed in December 2020, the Commission lays out clear due-diligence obligations for online platforms, including notice-and-action procedures for illegal content, redress mechanisms, accountability measures, and obligatory cooperation with public authorities. The Act would also ensure greater transparency of how platforms moderate content, of advertising and of algorithmic processes.

The Code of Conduct on illegal hate speech online also remains crucial for combating online hate speech. It provides a robust response to illegal hate speech online, offering quick improvements while fully respecting fundamental rights and the right to freedom of expression. TikTok adopted the Code in September 2020. The last evaluation shows that on average the companies are now assessing 90% of flagged content within 24 hours and 71% of the content deemed illegal hate speech is removed. The 2018 European Commission Recommendation on measures to effectively tackle illegal content online highlights the importance of clearer notice-and-action procedures including transparency and feedback on users' notifications.

Holocaust Remembrance

To mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, President Ursula von der Leyen, together with Presidents of the European Parliament, David Sassoli, and the European Council, Charles Michel, attended the World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem in January 2020. In their joint statement, they said “Remembering the Shoah is not an end in itself. It is one cornerstone of European values. (...) We have a duty to stand shoulder to shoulder with Jewish communities as they feel again threatened across Europe - most recently in Halle, Germany. All EU Member States stand united in the determination that any form of racism, antisemitism and hatred have no place in Europe, and we will do whatever it takes to counter them.”⁵¹⁵

Before International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January 2021, the European Commission, together with UNESCO, the IHRA and the United Nations, launched a global campaign entitled #Protect the Facts. This initiative raises awareness of the importance of recognizing and countering Holocaust distortion, which may pave the way to Holocaust denial, antisemitism, conspiracy myths and dangerous forms of nationalism.

Fostering dialogue between state actors and Jewish communities

Following the Council Declaration on antisemitism⁵¹⁶ in December 2018, the Commission established a working group bringing together representatives of Member States with representatives from each national Jewish community. This setting allows for dialogue between the state authorities and the Jewish communities to combat antisemitism. On 17 June 2020 the working group discussed the use of the IHRA definition of antisemitism, data collection, training and support for victims of antisemitism, and on 8 December 2020 it focused on the development of national strategies and fighting antisemitic prejudices as part of civic orientation measures.⁵¹⁷

Handbook on the practical use of the IHRA definition of antisemitism

Together with the IHRA and with support from the German Presidency, the Commission published a Handbook for the practical use of the IHRA definition of antisemitism in January 2021⁵¹⁸. This Handbook provides national authorities, practitioners and civil society with guidance on how to use the IHRA definition of antisemitism in order to

515 Accessed on 5 March 2021, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_110.

516 Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe, 15213/18 (Brussels, December 6, 2018), accessed 3 March 2021, <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15213-2018-INIT/en/pdf>.

517 Accessed on 9 March 2021, https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-antisemitism/working-group-combating-antisemitism_en.

518 Accessed on 3 March 2021, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d3006107-519b-11eb-b59f-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

identify contemporary forms of antisemitism and thus counter manifestations more efficiently.

FRA Overview of antisemitic incidents (2020)

In support of evidence-based policymaking, the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) published in September 2020 an "Overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in the European Union 2009-2019"⁵¹⁹. The report shows that antisemitism is on the rise, with more than 3000 antisemitic incidents recorded across the EU in 2019 for a population that is smaller than 0.5 percent of the overall population. According to the 2018 FRA Survey⁵²⁰ on discrimination and hate crimes against Jews in the EU, 79% of the incidents are not reported. So, these figures are only the tip of the iceberg. The report also provides an overview of national action plans and other measures to prevent and combat antisemitism, as well as information on whether countries have adopted or endorsed the non-legally binding IHRA definition of antisemitism.

Ritual Slaughter

On 17 December 2020, the European Court of Justice, in a Preliminary ruling, upheld the 2017 decree of the Flemish Government to ban ritual slaughter without stunning. At the same time, it stressed that stricter national rules on ritual slaughter must be proportionate, adequately taking into account the freedom of religion and belief guaranteed by the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Commission fully understands the concerns of the Jewish and Muslim communities regarding this ruling. Jewish communities are and will always be welcome in Europe, and ensuring a future for Jewish life in Europe is an important aspect of the upcoming EU strategy on antisemitism.

A global threat

Antisemitism is not confined to Europe. The EU regularly engages with its international partners such as the UN, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the OSCE, to support Jewish communities globally, emphasize that antisemitism is a global threat and a human rights violation and create synergies in this fight. Antisemitism needs a holistic response, in which the European, international, national and local levels work hand in hand.

519 Accessed on 5 March 2021, <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/antisemitism-overview-2009-2019>.

520 Accessed on 9 March 2021, <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/experiences-and-perceptions-antisemitism-second-survey-discrimination-and-hate>.

A Survey of Antisemitic Activity and Trends on American Campuses in 2020 / Tammi Rossman-Benjamin

Overview

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic had a dramatic and unprecedented impact on higher education in America, forcing colleges and universities across the country to close down their physical campuses and rapidly shift classes and other campus activities to online platforms. Not surprisingly, these pandemic-driven changes to the configuration of campus space also affected the quantity and nature of campus antisemitism, both positively and negatively.

On the positive side, there was an approximately 50% decrease in the number of incidents that directly targeted Jewish students for harm, including acts of physical assault, bullying and vandalism. This was due to the fact that with students remote and off campus, the physical harassment, especially the coordinated campaigns of harassment of Jewish students by individual students and members of student groups was cut back considerably. In addition, given the pandemonium around the pandemic, other concerns, including health, safety, housing, online learning challenges, and economics, took priority for many students.

On the other hand, university administrators' attention was also elsewhere in 2020, which afforded highly motivated individuals the opportunity to exploit the situation and engage in antisemitic expression that often resulted in the harassment of Jewish students. During the early months of the pandemic, there were at least ten instances of antisemitic "Zoombombing" that featured classical antisemitic rhetoric and images and were, in most cases, perpetrated by individuals outside the university who had managed to hack into the meeting. For example, during Yeshiva University President Ari Berman's pre-Passover speech to the student body, numerous pictures of Nazis and other antisemitic images and rhetoric appeared on students' screens. At University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, three Zoom meetings attended by hundreds of students were disrupted by individuals who displayed swastikas, chanted "Heil Hitler" and shouted profanities. And at Oklahoma City University, a Zoom graduation ceremony was disrupted by a racial slur and a swastika, causing the ceremony to be prematurely terminated.¹

Although instances of classical antisemitic Zoombombing declined rapidly as universities put in place more robust cybersecurity measures, other forms of antisemitic expression, especially anti-Zionist rhetoric and BDS promotion from both students and faculty, continued apace in virtual campus spaces and at times crossed the line into the harassment of Jewish and pro-Israel students. For example, at San Francisco State University during a student government debate over a BDS resolution conducted via Zoom, an anti-Zionist university professor and other activists were able to 'helicopter' in to the meeting to shout "Death to Israel" and "Long Live the Intifada," causing student representatives to feel intimidated. And at Tufts University, during a Zoom meeting of the student judiciary committee devoted to discussing an anti-Israel referendum that had

been proposed by the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), a Jewish committee member was forcibly muted and prohibited from participating in the discussion for the entirety of the meeting because of his pro-Israel views.

Trends

Three antisemitic trends dominated U.S. campuses in 2020:

The first was continuing faculty abuse, specifically, anti-Zionist faculty who misused their university positions and funding to promote anti-Zionist propaganda and activism in their classrooms as well as on their university social media platforms. Faculty members also continued using university funding to host departmental events with anti-Zionist, BDS-promoting speakers. For example:

- Anti-Zionist faculty at San Francisco State University and the University of Hawaii attempted to host a departmentally sponsored “open classroom” Zoom event featuring convicted hijacker Leila Khaled, a prominent member of the U.S.-designated terrorist organization Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Although Zoom, Youtube and Facebook declined to host the event, citing violations of their policies, the SFSU president issued a statement supporting the academic freedom of university faculty to organize this and similar events.
- At New York University, in response to Zoom’s denial to host the Khaled event at SFSU, multiple academic departments sponsored an anti-Zionist event at which the faculty organizer urged everyone “to become a BDS signatory” and another NYU faculty member bragged about using every one of his classes to promote the liberation of Palestine. Despite the overall decrease of antisemitic activity in 2020, the number of incidents involving academic departments and individual faculty members increased.

The second trend was an increase in the reliance of anti-Zionist student groups on the concept of “intersectionality,” where the grievances of one group are opportunistically linked to the grievances of other more powerful groups. In a year of extraordinary social upheaval around issues of race and policing, anti-Zionist groups forged alliances with other minority groups on campus to ensure that their anti-Israel propaganda was promoted as part of more high-profile anti-racism campaigns. Of particular note is how the death of African-American George Floyd at the hands of police officers in May 2020 and the protests and riots it precipitated were exploited by the anti-Zionist organization Jewish Voice for Peace to promote “Deadly Exchange,”¹ their campaign falsely accusing Israel of training U.S. police officers in tactics of “discriminatory and repressive policing,” and led to an increase in the number of events that included the defamatory accusation promoted by the JVP’s campaign. For example:

- A petition was circulated throughout numerous campuses at the University of California making the erroneous claim that Israeli counterterrorism officers trained Minneapolis police officers, stating, “The knee-to-neck choke-hold that Chauvin used to murder George Floyd has been used and perfected to torture

Palestinians by Israeli occupation forces through 72 years of ethnic cleansing and dispossession,” and calling on the University of California to divest from “companies that profit off Israel’s colonial occupation of Palestine.”

- At Wellesley College, SJP banded together with the Native American Student Association and Wellesley 4 Black Students to release a “Coalition Statement” that included language demonizing Israel and calling for BDS amidst calls for “Decolonizing the College” and the “Abolition of Police.”
- At Tufts University, the student body voted on and passed an SJP-proposed referendum, “End the Deadly Exchange at Tufts,” which included demands for the university to apologize for sending the former Tufts police chief to a course “led by senior commanders in the Israel National Police, experts from Israel’s National Police, experts from Israel’s intelligence and security services, and the Israeli Defense Force”; to prohibit current Tufts police officers from participating in such courses; and to refuse to hire police officers who have attended them. SJP’s justification for the referendum included the claim that “safety on campus does not start with military trained police, especially not those trained in a country that is deeply rooted in apartheid and human-rights abuses”.

The third trend involved continuing attempts by anti-Zionist students and faculty to uncouple Zionism from Judaism in order to deflect accusations of antisemitism. A surge in these attempts began in 2019 and continued into 2020. An AMCHA Initiative study¹ comparing antisemitic activity in 2019 to 2018 found a 300% increase in rhetoric denying the relationship between anti-Zionism and antisemitism, which the study linked to significant increases in Jewish communal efforts to get universities and government agencies to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, which identifies anti-Zionism as antisemitic. The study also found that rhetoric denying a relationship between anti-Zionism and antisemitism was strongly associated with acts of anti-Zionist-motivated harassment of Jewish and pro-Israel students. For example:

- At the University of Southern California, SJP, Trojan Anti-Zionist Jewish Collective and the Black Student Assembly engaged in a sustained campaign of harassment to oust Jewish senators from student government because of their Zionist beliefs. All three student groups released statements advocating for the senators’ ousting that included the argument that anti-Zionism is not antisemitism.
- At Harvard University, in response to a Jewish Harvard Technology Review (HTR) board member raising concerns about antisemitism in the programming of an HTR-sponsored Racial Justice & Technology Fellowship, a petition was organized by the Palestine Solidarity Committee and signed by 25 student organizations demanding the HTRT adopt a “firmly anti-Zionist stance” as its “basic moral positioning.” In justification of their demand, the petitioners wrote, “Zionism is unquestionably a racist, sectarian, exclusionary, Jewish-supremacist political ideology that has dispossessed, displaced, and ethnically cleansed Indigenous

Palestinians from their lands for over three generations. **Zionism is not Judaism.** Opposing Zionism must be a central tenant in any anti-racism work."

Looking Forward

As of this writing, the pandemic is continuing to have an enormous impact on higher education in America. Many schools are still conducting all or the majority of their classes, meetings, and events online, and even after the pandemic is over it is likely that many will rely heavily on virtual platforms. The 2020 trends in antisemitic activity – faculty abuse, student group reliance on “intersectionality,” and uncoupling Zionism from Judaism - suggest that certain forms of antisemitism are easily adaptable to online platforms and will continue to negatively affect Jewish students, whether they find themselves on physical or virtual campuses.

BDS – Activities and Counter Measures / Giovanni Quer

Overview

During the year 2020, BDS activities were highly influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as by the political changes in the Middle East, including the growing public discourse on normalization following the Abraham Accords brokered by the U.S. between Israel, the Emirates and Bahrain.

A considerable decrease in divestment initiatives is to be noted. The publication of the UN blacklist of companies operating in the post-1967 territories in February 2020 did not escalate anti-Israel campaigns.

Despite the Coronavirus crisis, anti-Israel students’ activism and Palestinian boycott initiatives continued, designed to embed the boycott in the Palestinian national ethos. This trend is also reflected in the growing overlap between BDS and anti-normalization initiatives, which oppose cooperation with Israel and consider any connection to Israel to be a betrayal of the Palestinian cause. In this context, the major targets of cultural boycott campaigns were artists from the Arab world. This also triggered a debate on anti-normalization within the Arab community in Israel, in which voices emerged that oppose anti-Israel militancy.

The legal debate on the boycott of Israel intensified; its opposers charge it with antisemitism while its supporters consider it a form of free speech. In the U.S., anti-BDS legislation remains in vigour; whereas in Europe, the legislative-judicial divide on the BDS deepens, with a major ECHR (European Court of Human Rights) decision quashing French anti-BDS legislation, and a UK decision overturning an anti-BDS governmental policy.

Finally, the growing adoption of the 2016 IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) Working Definition of Antisemitism, which considerably spiked during 2020, will

substantially contribute to the fight against BDS and specifically against its antisemitic tropes. During the Coronavirus pandemic, new Israel-related antisemitic tropes emerged, also disseminated in BDS rhetoric. One such example is the false accusation of Israel deliberately infecting Palestinian prisoners with the COVID-19, which is a novel form of the ancient antisemitic trope that portrayed Jews as plague-spreaders.

Cultural Boycott

In 2020 few cultural events took place because of the pandemic, and anti-Israel campaigns diminished as a result. Apart from the usual annual call by LGBT groups to boycott the Tel Aviv film festival, the main anti-Israel campaigns targeted artists from the Arab world as well as joint Arab-Israeli initiatives as part of anti-normalization campaigns.

The call to oppose any form of cooperation with Israelis is deeply entrenched in certain social groups, which denounce initiatives aimed to support dialogue, claiming that they infringe upon allegedly existing anti-normalization codes. For instance, the BDS Women's Campaign denounced the meeting of the Peace Parliament group, comprising Israeli and Palestinian former policy- and law-makers, as a violation of "normalization rules", and also called on the PLO to take measures.⁵²¹

By censuring any form of joint effort of Israelis and Arabs, BDS activists show their intrinsic opposition to dialogue and peace, while demonstrating their staunch rejection of Israel. On April 6, The Gaza Youth Committee organized an online encounter between Israelis and Palestinians, which the BNC (Boycott National Committee) condemned as a form of normalization.⁵²² This event triggered a larger debate on normalization. A piece published on *al-Watan Voice* not only condemns the Gazan group, but also rejects any peace activity or efforts to advance Israeli-Palestinian communication, deemed as detrimental to Palestinian interests.⁵²³

In the new atmosphere created by Arab-Israeli normalization efforts, instances of cultural cooperation and encounters increased considerably. Similar initiatives have also existed in the past but had become increasingly clandestine because of the threats advanced by anti-normalization activists, including the inception of disciplinary procedures following

521 See, "The Women's Campaign To Boycott Israeli Goods Condemns The Tel Aviv Meeting," AlQuds.com, February 16, 2020. <http://www.alquds.com/articles/1581873077854946700/>. Accessed on June 12, 2020.

522 "The BDS Movement: What the 'Gaza Youth Committee' is doing amounts to blatant normalization practices and projects," Al Risalah, April 9, 2020; available at <https://alresalah.ws/post/216121/ما-بds-حركة-تقوم-بها-لجنة-شباب-غزة-بممارسات-ومشاريع-تطبيعية-فجة>. Accessed on June 12, 2020.

523 Ismail al-Othmani, "The 'Gaza Youth Committee' Between Crime of Communication and Attempts of Infiltration," Al-Watan Voice, May 31, 2020; available at <https://pulpit.alwatanvoice.com/articles/2020/05/31/523652.html>.

cooperation with Israel. Thus, it is clear how Arab-Israel normalization, dialogue, or co-existence are construed as unethical, illegitimate, or illegal.

For example: under the auspices of the Arab Council for Regional Integration, Tunisian singer Naaman Al-Shari and Israeli Ziv Yehezkel produced a video in which they sing together a song written by an anonymous Yemenite composer. Tunisian anti-normalization activists reacted by campaigning against Al-Shari, declaring that normalization is treason and asking the Music Syndicate to take measures against him.⁵²⁴ The same Music Syndicate had previously reprimanded musician Mohsen Sharif because of his numerous performances in Israel.⁵²⁵

In an even worse case, the mere encounter between one Arab and one Israeli was considered illegitimate. A picture of Egyptian actor Mohammed Ramadan with Israeli artist Omer Adam, taken in Dubai, circulated in the social media during the last week of November and sparked a heated debate over normalization. The Egyptian artist was sanctioned by the Federation of Artists' Syndicates. An article published on the BBC reviews the Egyptian press, largely criticizing the picture as a form of normalization and recalling the incompatibility of Zionism and Arab nations. Only one piece published in the Egyptian al-Wafd reminds its audience that before the Nasserist revolution, Egypt was a pluralistic society, contrary to the situation today.⁵²⁶

The newly established relations between Israel and some states in the region also encourages the rediscovery of Jewish history - especially of the communities that had lived in Arab and Muslim lands until the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, and their consequent expulsion. This trend, which translates into popular culture, is also targeted by boycott campaigns. In 2020, Saudi television featured the Ramadan series "Umm Haroun," about a Jewish woman living in the Gulf and compelled to leave in the aftermath of the establishment of Israel. Morocco's BDS group denounced the Saudi decision to broadcast the series as "treason" to the Palestinian cause and subjugation to US policies.⁵²⁷

524 Muhammad Mamry, "A Wave of Rage in Tunisia After a Duo with an Israeli Artist" Al-Araby al-Jadid, December 13, 2020; available at https://www.alaraby.co.uk/entertainment_media/-/موجة-من-الغضب-في-تونس-بعد-دويتو-مع-فنان-اسرائيلي. Accessed 15 December 2020.

525 Amal al-Hilali, "Final Expulsion: Tunisian Musicians' Syndicate Punishes Artist because of Israel" Al Jazeera, March 14, 2020; available at <https://www.aljazeera.net/news/arts/2019/3/14/-/طرد-نهائي-نقابة-الموسيقيين-المغرب-بسبب-اسرائيل>.

526 See, "Muhammad Ramadan: Pictures of Egyptian Actor with Israelis Raise Question about Benefits of 'Cultural Boycott'" BBC Arabic, November 27, 2020; available at <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/inthepress-55100597>. Accessed 15 December 2020.

527 See, "The Boycott Movement in Morocco Asks for Boycotting the Saudi Stations broadcasting the Normalization Series During Ramadan" Al-Quds Al-Arabi, May 2, 2020; available at <https://www.alquds.co.uk/بحر-كافة-مقاطعة-اسرائيل-في-المغرب-تطالب-بم/>.

Sports

Anti-Israel boycotts in the field of sports mainly targeted Israel-Arab matches. This trend confirms the growing overlap between BDS and anti-normalization. For instance, the cultural boycott campaign PACBI criticized the participation of an Israeli athlete in the cycling race hosted by the U.A.E. in February. PACBI activists deplored the participation of a “representative of the enemy Zionist entity” and condemned any related signs of normalization (including the playing of the Israeli national anthem at the ceremony).⁵²⁸

Boycott activists also turned against Arab athletes who participated in matches against Israel. In at least one case in Tunisia, criticism was expressed against anti-Israel activists and their methods. In January President Qais Saeed called for an investigation after journalists and bloggers condemned the visit of Israeli tennis player Aaron Cohen, who had participated in the International Youth Championship, as a form of normalization.⁵²⁹ Subsequently, on February 5, the national Tunisian tennis team won a match against the Israeli team at the World Cup in Finland, and the players of both teams gave a joint TV interview - which led to criticism of normalization. This was countered, in turn, by denunciation of anti-normalization logic: For example, Adel Chaouch of the Nidaa Tunis Movement, a secular liberal party, asked the President to withdraw the investigation, and stated that if one follows the boycott logic, one should withdraw from all international venues, including international organizations, because Israel is present in them.⁵³⁰

Legal arena

Anti-BDS legislation in the U.S. and anti-BDS declarations in Europe continue to increase, while American and European judicial stances on the BDS diverge.

528 “The ‘Palestinian Boycott Campaign’ Condemns the Participation of a Zionist Team in a Cycling Race in the Emirates,” Alquds News, 6 March 2020; available at <http://alqudsnews.net/post/150912/الحملة-الفلسطينية-للمقاطعة-تندد-بمشاركة-فريق-صهيوني-بسياق-درجات-هوائية-بالإمارات>.

529 See “The participation of an ‘Israeli’ tennis player in Tunisia raises controversy,” Al-Araby al-Jadid, January 28, 2020. <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/مشاركة-لاعب-تنس-إسرائيلي-في-تونس-تثير-جدلاً-واسعاً>

530 See, Monia Ghanmi, “Controversy over the participation of two Tunisian players in a match with two Israelis,” Al-Arabiya, February 6, 2020. <https://www.alarabiya.net/ar/north-africa/2020/02/06/تونس-جدل-حول-مشاركة-لاعبين-تونسنيين-بمباراة-مع-اسرائيل>

South Dakota,⁵³¹ Oklahoma,⁵³² and Missouri⁵³³ adopted anti-BDS legislation in 2020; in total, 33 states now have anti-BDS laws (with Utah, which adopted an anti-BDS law in 2021). As in other states, these laws prohibit corporations and individuals engaging in public contracts worth more than \$100,000 from participating in or promoting anti-Israel boycotts.

A number of decisions on cases challenging BDS legislation as unconstitutional confirm the trend of previous years, whereby judges prefer to refrain from tackling the focal issue: Is the anti-Israel boycott covered by freedom of expression? Instead, they rule on other grounds in favor of the current legislation.

In Arizona, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals (Federal) vacated the injunction of the District Court of Arizona, which had suspended the application of the anti-BDS law (House Bill 2617) on grounds of violation of the First Amendment. The original case (*Jordhal v. Brnovich*) was filed by Mikkel Jordhal, who provided legal services to inmates of the Coconino County Jail District and was prevented by the Bill from signing contracts with the Jail District since he engages in boycotts against Israel. In April 2019, Arizona amended the Bill, and now it is applicable only to public contracts of at least 100,000 USD. The Court of Appeals found that the law does not apply to the plaintiff, whose contract amounts to 18,000 USD, and therefore vacated the injunction and ordered the District Court to dismiss the claims.⁵³⁴

In Texas, the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit declared the case of *Bahia Amawi v. Ken Paxton* moot. The plaintiff is a speech therapist who claimed that her First Amendment freedom of speech was infringed by state law requiring public contractors to

531 South Dakota's governor signed Executive Order 2020-01 prohibiting public agencies to sign contracts worth at least 100,000.00 USD with supporters of anti-Israel BDS, also imposing certification requirements. <https://sdsos.gov/general-information/executive-actions/executive-orders/assets/2020-01.PDF>.

532 Oklahoma passed a law declaring Israel "a prominent trading partner," and stating that "the state, and those companies that do business by and through the state, in the interest of the state's economic policy, should not boycott trade with Israel." Moreover, it declares that "Companies that refuse to deal with United States trade partners such as Israel make discriminatory decisions on the basis of national origin" (section 1 A). The law also establishes that "The state shall not adopt a procurement, investment or other policy that has the effect of inducing or requiring a person to boycott the government of Israel or its instrumentalities, or to boycott a person doing business in Israel or territories under its jurisdiction, when such boycott is on the basis of such person's location in such places" (Section 1 C). As common ground with other state laws, this law limits the prohibition of boycott to contracts of more than 100,000 USD (Section 1, article 3). The law was passed at the House of Representatives on March 2, 2020 and at the Senate on May 15, 2020. See, HB3967, <http://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=HB3967>.

533 Missouri passed the anti-BDS "Anti-Discrimination Against Israel Act" that like other legislations prohibits public bodies from entering into a contract of at least \$100,000 with entities that boycott Israel. The law was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives in May and adopted by the Governor on July 13, 2020. See, https://www.senate.mo.gov/20info/BTS_Web/Actions.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=26838160.

534 <https://www.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/israelboycottlaw.pdf>.

refrain from engaging in BDS. As a BDS activist, the plaintiff claimed unjustified restriction of constitutional rights, but after the case was adjudicated, the state modified the law, so that it no longer applies to the plaintiff as a sole proprietor.⁵³⁵ The decision, however, does not rule on the merit of the constitutionality of the law.⁵³⁶

In another case in Maryland, while refraining from ruling on the unconstitutionality of the executive order, the judge also stated that boycotts on the basis of nationality are discriminatory and that contracting parties that engage in such boycotts would make the state connivant in discriminatory practices.

District Court Judge Catherine Blake rejected a lawsuit filed by software engineer Saqib Ali together with CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations) claiming that Executive Order 01.01.2017.25 of October 23, 2017, titled “Prohibiting Discriminatory Boycotts of Israel in State Procurement”, adopted by then Governor Harry Logan, impinges on the right to free speech protected by the First Amendment, inasmuch as it obliges state contractors to refrain from engaging in boycotts. The judge ruled that the plaintiff did not show evidence of violation of a direct injury to his constitutional rights, first because he had not entered into a contract with the state, and secondly because the Executive Order would not prohibit contractors from pursuing boycotts as private individuals, but only bans boycotts in the framework of the state contract: “prohibits state agencies from contracting with an entity engaging in a boycott of Israel in its business decisions” (p. 11).⁵³⁷

At least two more lawsuits were filed against anti-BDS legislations, claiming First Amendment violations. In Texas, Haseeb Abdullah, former prosecutor in Travis County, filed a lawsuit against Attorney General Ken Paxton, following the decision of Employees Retirement System of Texas to withdraw its investment from Norwegian company DNB ASA – which boycotts Israel and thereby contravenes the anti-BDS law of Texas. Represented by the Constitutional Law Center for Muslims, Abdullah argued that the law is unconstitutional because it violates free speech, and that the fund's fiduciary duty is to pursue the best interest of the investors.⁵³⁸

535 Bahia Amawi v. Ken Paxton, Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, case n. 19-50384, April 27, 2020; available at <http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/19/19-50384-CV0.pdf>.

536 Cameron Langford, “Fifth Circuit Throws Out Challenge to Texas Ban on Boycotting Israel” Court House News, April 27, 2020; available at <https://www.courthousenews.com/fifth-circuit-throws-out-challenge-to-texas-ban-on-boycotting-israel/>.

537 See, Saqib Ali v. Laurence Hogan et al. Civil Action No. CCB-19-78 of October 26, 2020; available at <https://www.mdd.uscourts.gov/recent-opinions>.

538 Katie Hall, “Former Travis County employee sues Ken Paxton, challenging anti-Israel boycott law,” Austin American-Statement, December 24, 2020; available at <https://www.statesman.com/story/news/2020/12/24/former-travis-county-worker-sues-ken-paxton-challenges-anti-israel-boycott-law/4039691001/>.

In Arkansas, the Arkansas Times is appealing the 2019 decision of District Judge Brian S. Miller of the Eastern District Court for Arkansas, who ruled in favor of the State, maintaining Act 710, Arkansas anti-boycott law, claiming that boycotts are not protected by the First Amendment. The decision was appealed and on January 15, the panel of the 8th Circuit Court held the first hearing, with ACLU's Brian Hauss defending the newspaper, arguing that the economic interests behind the law cannot restrict the right to politically motivated boycotts.⁵³⁹

In Europe, Austria, Spain, and Norway took major decisions against anti-Israel boycott and divestment.

The Austrian Parliament passed a resolution titled "Condemnation of Antisemitism and of the BDS Movement" which condemns all forms of antisemitism including those directed at Israel. The resolution urges the government to adopt a plan for combating antisemitism and stopping funding for BDS organizations and other groups that pursue similar goals of boycotting Israeli products, companies, artists, scientists, and sportspersons.⁵⁴⁰ On May 5, the Parliament of the Federal State Styria also passed resolution n. 63, parliamentary session XVIII, condemning all forms of antisemitism and urging the local government not to fund organizations supporting BDS.⁵⁴¹

In Spain, on June 12, the Parliament of the Balearian Islands (*Parlament de les Illes Balears*) approved a law "concerning racist and antisemitic practices". The law adopts the general definition of antisemitism included in the IHRA Working Definition; condemns all forms of antisemitism including BDS; and bans official support to BDS-related organizations (economic or logistic).⁵⁴² In a number of decisions, Spanish Courts have confirmed the steady jurisprudence of rejecting local authorities' boycott policies on grounds of unconstitutionality: first, by adopting BDS by-laws, they legislate on matters over which, according to the constitution, they have no jurisdiction; secondly, such policies violate the constitutional principle of non-discrimination.⁵⁴³

539 Joe Harris, "Eighth Circuit Hears Fight Over Arkansas Anti-Boycott Law" Court House News Service, January, 15, 2020, <https://www.courthousenews.com/eighth-circuit-hears-fight-over-arkansas-anti-boycott-law/>.

540 Resolution of the National Parliament of February 27, 2020, "Verurteilung von Antisemitismus und der BDS-Bewegung" available at https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXVII/E/E_00012/index.shtml. Accessed on August 31, 2020.

541 See, Available at <https://pallast2.stmk.gv.at/pallast-p/pub/document?ref=6e086858-107b-4a44-88d1-d6b2c7220bc9&dswid=3078>.

542 See, <http://www.parlamentib.es/webdocs/NoticiaPIB.aspx?id=3302>.

543 See, for instance, the decisions in Cantabria and Catalonia. The administrative tribunal Contencioso Administrativo número 1 de Santander annulled the resolution for the boycott of Israel adopted by the Ayuntamiento de Santa Cruz de Bezana in 2017. In 2013 the Catalan municipality Molins de Rei adopted a BDS by-law. On this legal basis, the municipality denied the Israeli water polo team the participation in a match in 2018. The court "Tribunal de Contencioso Administrativo 16" in Barcelona found that the by-law

Following the decision of the European Court of Justice on labelling products from post-1967 territories, four Norwegian representatives of the Socialist Left Party (Petter Eide, Audun Lysbakken, Arne Nævra and Solfrid Lerbrekk) advanced a proposition to adopt a similar policy in Norway. The proposition was discussed by the Parliament on May 12 and rejected.⁵⁴⁴

A major decision by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled in favor of the BDS as protected by political freedom recognized by the European Charter. The ECHR declared France's actions against BDS activists as unlawfully restricting freedoms guaranteed under ECHR. The case originated from decisions of French courts to convict a group of activists of the "Collectif Palestine 68" for demonstrating twice in a supermarket, in 2009 and 2010, against the purchase of Israeli products. The French courts had found that the activists had incited to discrimination. In both French cases the ECHR ruled that the activists' actions were protected by freedom of expression because, even though they had encouraged differential treatment of certain products, they had done so in a way that aimed to arouse debate among supermarket customers over a matter of public interest. Without questioning the French law that prohibits economic discrimination, the Court found that the French ruling had applied this law in an unjustified manner, whereby the actions of the originally convicted activists are classifiable as "political and militant expression", part of "political discourse or matters of general interest" (p. 78).⁵⁴⁵ Yet, the Court did not consider the discriminatory practices of the BDS and its language.

Following this decision, the French Ministry of Justice issued a dispatch on October 20, 2020, DP/2020/0065/A4BIS, titled "relative à la répression des appels discriminatoires au boycott des produits israéliens." The dispatch clarifies that the ECHR does not impede states from restricting the liberty of expression, if said restriction is justified by democratic principles, such as the prohibition of discrimination. It also underlines that the Court found in this specific case that the restriction was not justifiable because there was no specific analysis by the judge of the acts that could be definable as discriminatory. Therefore, it calls upon judges to apply more specification in their decisions on similar cases and also refer to extra-legal sources for characterizing acts as discriminatory.⁵⁴⁶

At the international level, one major initiative was taken by the U.N. Human Rights Office in February: the long-awaited publication of the database of 112 companies to be divested on grounds of involvement in activities raising "human rights concerns" in post-

leads to discrimination and therefore it is unconstitutional. The lawsuits were promoted by the Spanish group ACOM: www.a-com.es.

544 See, <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Saker/Sak/?p=77970&target=case-status>.

545 Baldassi et al. v. France, Ruling 15271/16, European Court of Human Rights, June 11, 2020; available at <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/fre#%7B%22itemid%22:%5B%22001-202756%22%5D%7D>.

546 The dispatch is available at <https://www.actu-juridique.fr/app/uploads/2020/11/Depeche-relative-au-boycott-des-produits-israeliens.pdf>.

1967 territories. According to the document, such activities include (par. 6): construction and expansion of settlements; providing services to residents of settlements; security services in the territories; use of natural resources; "Captivity of the Palestinian financial and economic markets"; and "practices that disadvantage Palestinian enterprises" (par. 6, letter "i").⁵⁴⁷ Moreover, divestment is "irrespective of such business enterprises' physical presence" (par. 18).

While it is not clear how the presence or operation of such businesses negatively affect Palestinians, the definition is so wide that it may virtually include any Israeli or international business directly or indirectly involved with the settlements. Furthermore, it is unclear how the de-listing procedure works. Despite the report's reference to the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the move is highly political, since such a database does not exist for other regions characterized by conflict and sovereignty dispute. Finally, the document assumes that all types of business are detrimental to the Palestinians, without considering the possibility of Israeli-Palestinian cooperation on the ground. Many of the listed companies, like AirBnB and Expedia, have been targeted by BDS campaigns in the past. Food-store chains, as well as restaurant or cafés chains were also included in the list.

Anti-BDS Initiatives and Debate

Several initiatives aiming to counter BDS activists and rhetoric were advanced, especially in Germany, where commissioners appointed to combat antisemitism work at both the federal and federate levels to prevent anti-Israel events that have antisemitic content.

The most intriguing phenomenon is the debate revolving around the anti-Israel boycott that developed in the Arab world in the wake of the normalization process between Arab states and Israel. As mentioned above, in the Tunisian sports boycott case, the anti-Israel boycott has become an increasing concern for Arab citizens of Israel who work in public frameworks and have consequently become an easy target for anti-Israel zealots.

The Palestinian-Israeli writer Boulos Jawad rejects the BDS's condemnations of Arab citizens of Israel, suggesting that the call for boycott is detrimental to their struggle for equality "Should Arab judges resign?" he asked in January, "or should Arab physicians refuse to participate in international delegations just because they are Israeli citizens and work in Israel?"⁵⁴⁸

547 See, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, "UN rights office issues report on business activities related to settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" News and Events, February 12, 2020. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25542&LangID=E>.

548 Boulos Jawad, "The Arabs in Israel and the Impossible Boycott," Al-Quds al-Araby, January 9, 2020, available at <https://www.alquds.co.uk/العرب-في-اسرائيل-والمقاطعة-المستحيلة/>.

In May Jawad published another piece, this time against criticisms of Israeli Palestinians employed by the Arabic-language radio station “Makan.” Specifically, he deplored the condemnation of the TV program “al-balad be-kheir” which features satirical content on Israel and its Palestinian society and has even parodied the BDS itself. Jawad refers to the BDS48 campaign against this program, as well as the campaign against the participation of Arab actors in the Israeli TV series Fauda. While defending their right to free expression, the writer criticizes the boycott groups for opposing dialogue.⁵⁴⁹

The BDS campaigns that promote anti-normalization reveal their real goal, which is impeding the dialogue with Israelis. In this fashion, such anti-Israeli initiatives adversely affect Arabs who wish to conduct dialogue with Israelis, who happen to spend time with Israelis in a professional context, or who happen to be Israeli citizens.

In light of the growing interest among the Arab public in Israeli culture and the re-discovery of Jewish history in the Middle East, several initiatives have been launched to establish and further dialogue between Arabs and Israelis. France and the U.S. have advanced initiatives aiming to protect people from anti-normalization campaigns. A group of 85 French leaders issued a declaration on May 10 requiring French and European governments and diplomatic services to “offer international protection to the members of the Arab Council for Regional Integration and, more generally, to the Arabs of the Middle East and North Africa who call for peace and dialogue with Israelis.”⁵⁵⁰ On August 10, U.S. Senators Rob Portman and Cory Booker introduced a bill that would mandate the Secretary of State to include in the human rights reports “instances of Arab government retribution toward citizens and residents who engage in people-to-people relations with Israelis.”⁵⁵¹

Antisemitism On the Dark Web: Conspiracies, Communities and Actions / Lev Topor

The dark web (specifically TOR)⁵⁵², which was originally launched about two decades ago by the United States (U.S.) as an intelligence and human rights project, has significantly morphed into a problematic and troublesome platform in 2020.⁵⁵³ Nowadays, in the digital domain, it serves as an anonymous platform on which criminals, terrorists,

549 Boulos Jawad, “Normalization, Fauda and Makan” Al-Quds al-Arabi, May 14, 2020; available at <https://www.alquds.co.uk/تطبيع-وفوضى-ومكان/>.

550 See, <https://english.thearabCouncil.org/articles/the-arab-council-acknowledges-and-responds-to-a-landmark-initiative-by-85-french-legislators-politicians-and-civic-leaders-to-protect-arab-peace-activists-from-retribution>.

551 See, <https://www.portman.senate.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/Arab%20Govt%20bill.pdf>.

552 TOR – The Onion Route. <https://www.torproject.org>.

553 Topor, Lev. “Dark Hatred: Antisemitism on the Dark Web.” Journal of Contemporary Antisemitism 2, no. 2 (2019), 25-42. <https://doi.org/10.26613/jca/2.2.31>.

pedophiles and racists thrive, with no proper regulation or treatment in sight for the latter. Since crime, terrorism and pedophilia reach victims in a ‘real’ manner, they are occasionally dealt with by law and intelligence agencies worldwide.⁵⁵⁴ However, antisemitism on the dark web is underregulated since it is mostly expressed as extreme ideological manifestations, anti-Jewish and other racist slurs and defamations.

Indeed, dark web white supremacy and extreme Jihadi ideologies and communities do serve as a radicalizing-agent, pushing extremists into crime and terror.⁵⁵⁵ However, in the current state of affairs, these are treated, in legal terms, as acts of terrorism or crime, disregarding the racist propaganda that serves as a cognitive infrastructure – the background which led people into committing the acts in the first place.

Now, in 2020 and onwards, radicals and anti-Semites use the dark web, as well as other anonymous or encrypted platforms (such as encrypted messaging applications; Signal, Telegram, Threema, and others), to hide from regulation and monitoring by governments and technology companies. They hide since their manifestations and incitements are often deleted and users are banned.⁵⁵⁶ They hide on platforms like the dark web in order to recruit like-minded activists, radicalize others through spread of propaganda which would have been otherwise deleted on the regular web. They also raise funds and plan their attacks.⁵⁵⁷

On the TOR platform, as on other types of dark webs, antisemitism thrives. Anti-Semites publish their ideologies such as white supremacy in personal blogs, in forums and boards, in encrypted or anonymous chat rooms, in file-sharing websites which host banned material, conspiracy theories, like *The Protocols of The Elders of Zion*, *The Turner Diaries*, Hitler’s *Mein Kampf* and more.⁵⁵⁸ White supremacy dark web users call for action as well. They call for a “race war” in an attempt to prevent their alleged “white genocide.” Others target Jews, Muslims, African Americans and others, *doxxing* and marking targets for all other extremists – in a call to harass and bully online and in the ‘real’ world.⁵⁵⁹ In other examples, anonymous radicals call for mass shootings and murders, inspiring each other with entire fan pages for convicted murderers like Brenton Tarrant, the Christchurch Mosque killer.

554 Topor, Lev. "Dark and deep webs-liberty or abuse." *International Journal of Cyber Warfare and Terrorism* (IJCWT)9, no. 2 (2019): 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.4018/IJCWT.2019040101>.

555 Weimann, Gabriel. "Going Darker? The Challenge of Dark Net Terrorism." Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, DC, USA (2018). https://cyber.haifa.ac.il/images/Publications/darkweb_Gabriel%20Weimann.pdf.

556 Bogage, Jacob and Scott, Eugene. "Twitter permanently bans former KKK leader David Duke." *Washington Post*, 31 January 2020. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2020/07/31/twitter-david-duke-ban/>.

557 Weimann. "Going Darker? The Challenge of Dark Net Terrorism."

558 Topor. "Dark Hatred: Antisemitism on the Dark Web."

559 Faruqi, Osama and Mann, Alex. "‘We’re watching you’: Why doxxing is the new weapon of choice for cyber bullies and trolls." *ABC News*, 21 February 2020. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-22/doxxing-the-new-weapon-of-choice-for-trolls/10833428>.

For instance, in Figure 1 an anonymous user posted the personal information of Jews and Afro-Americans, including full names, phone numbers, email addresses, home addresses, places of work and even details of other family members. As a British Jewish man recalled to me in an interview – the only solution is to move, change workplaces, transfer his children to other schools and even change occupation. He told me that intruders came to his house in greater London and vandalized it. Since the police could only detain the intruders but could not find or delete the source of exposed information, it was like putting a band aid on a bullet hole – a temporary solution, until the next dark web user sees the doxxing post.⁵⁶⁰

All of these dark web sites, chats and hosted material can be classified into three main spheres of actions or measures anti-Semites take while using and hiding on the dark web. First, they spread traditional and contemporary conspiracy theories about Jewish power, financial greed, media control and more. For instance, as with other pandemics in history, Jews were accused of the coronavirus as well.⁵⁶¹ It goes without saying that white supremacists also spread anti-Black, anti-Muslim and other types of racist and xenophobic material. Additionally, extreme Jihadists spread anti-American, anti-Western and anti-Judo-Christian propaganda.

Second, anti-Semites manage their own communities with platforms or websites like *NeuChan*, *Neinchan*, *Anon.Café*, *8Kun*, *Ni-Chan*, *End-Chan* and many other anonymous and hidden websites. In 2019 and 2020 these websites changed domain names, among other things, several times, keeping regulators and search engines even further away. Anti-Semites use their communities to spread propaganda, plan events and even attacks, doxx targets and raise funds (mostly using cryptocurrency). For instance, in Figure 2 an anonymous user posted his recommended reading list of fascist and Nazi material.

Third, anti-Semites call for actions – apart from directing others to harass and at times attack victims of doxxing, they highlight and praise terrorists and criminals. They also incite and call for their community members to go out and kill Jews, Muslims, immigrants and even policemen and women which, as many anti-Semites argue, are a part of the (((system)))⁵⁶² controlled by Jews (Figures 3). In another example, an anonymous user called for the extermination of Jews, a post which would have been deleted altogether on Facebook or Twitter. Yet, this post has been online for several years now, for anyone to see. In one comment on this page another user wrote: “I am starting to admire what Hitler did” (Figure 4).

560 An interview with a British Jewish man was conducted in September 2018 in an undisclosed location near London. The details, including the identity of the interviewee, is known to the Department of Political Studies in the Bar Ilan University, Israel.

561 Topor, Lev. “COVID-19: Blaming the Jews for the Plague, Again.” *Fathom* (March 2020).
<https://fathomjournal.org/covid-19-blaming-the-jews-for-the-plague-again/>.

562 ((Echoes))) – Online users use triple brackets around a name or any other word to identify it as Jewish. For a brief explanation see Williams, Zoe. “(((Echoes))) : beating the far-right, two triple-brackets at a time.” *Guardian*, 12 June 2016.
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/shortcuts/2016/jun/12/echoes-beating-the-far-right-two-triple-brackets-at-a-time>.

Putting an end to these trends and examples is complex - direct correlations between radical propaganda on the dark web and mass shootings in reality are hard to prove, both in terms of cyber-forensics and in legal terms. The dark web hosts anti-Semitic and racist materials which have now become the breeding ground for terrorists like Norwegian mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik, New Zealand’s Brenton Tarrant, American Patrick Crusius or even ISIS-led attacks. Dark web anti-Semites go underground in order to avoid social persecution and legal prosecution. Interestingly, the dark web enables hatred and conspiracy to spread globally – creating a globalized network of anti-Semites, from Norway to New Zealand, from the United States to Germany or Russia. From 2020 and on, the racist nationalists are not at all nationalists but globalists.

With no significant measures to tackle the problem in sight, antisemitism will continue to thrive on the dark web and on unmonitored regular platforms. Unfortunately, in the current state of affairs, it is only a matter of time until the next terrorist will consume ‘inspiring’ material, will be endorsed by other radical community members and will act against society. Indeed, the next terrorist will be convicted, but not before his mass shootings and murders are live-streamed on Facebook, archived for all to see on the dark web, and to inspire the next one in line.⁵⁶³

Figure 1: Doxing – Personal information published online in order to mark potential targets and direct other radicals. Details are blurred to prevent further information leaks.

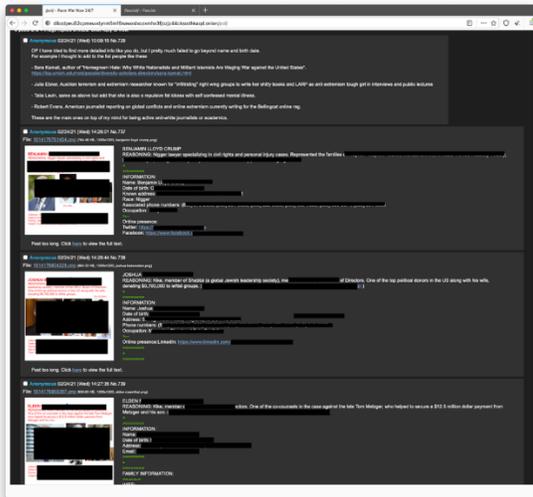
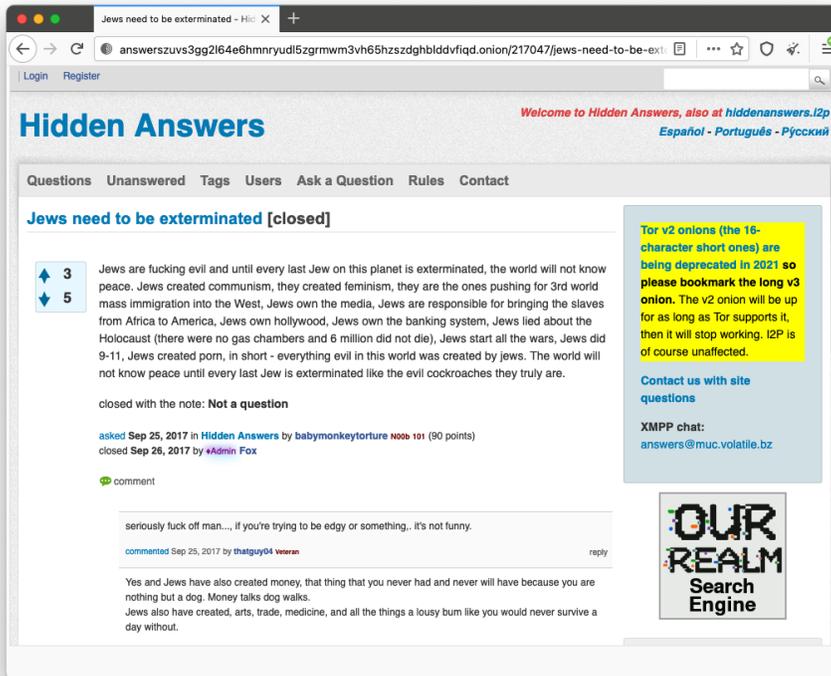


Figure 2: “Basic Reading List” including Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*.

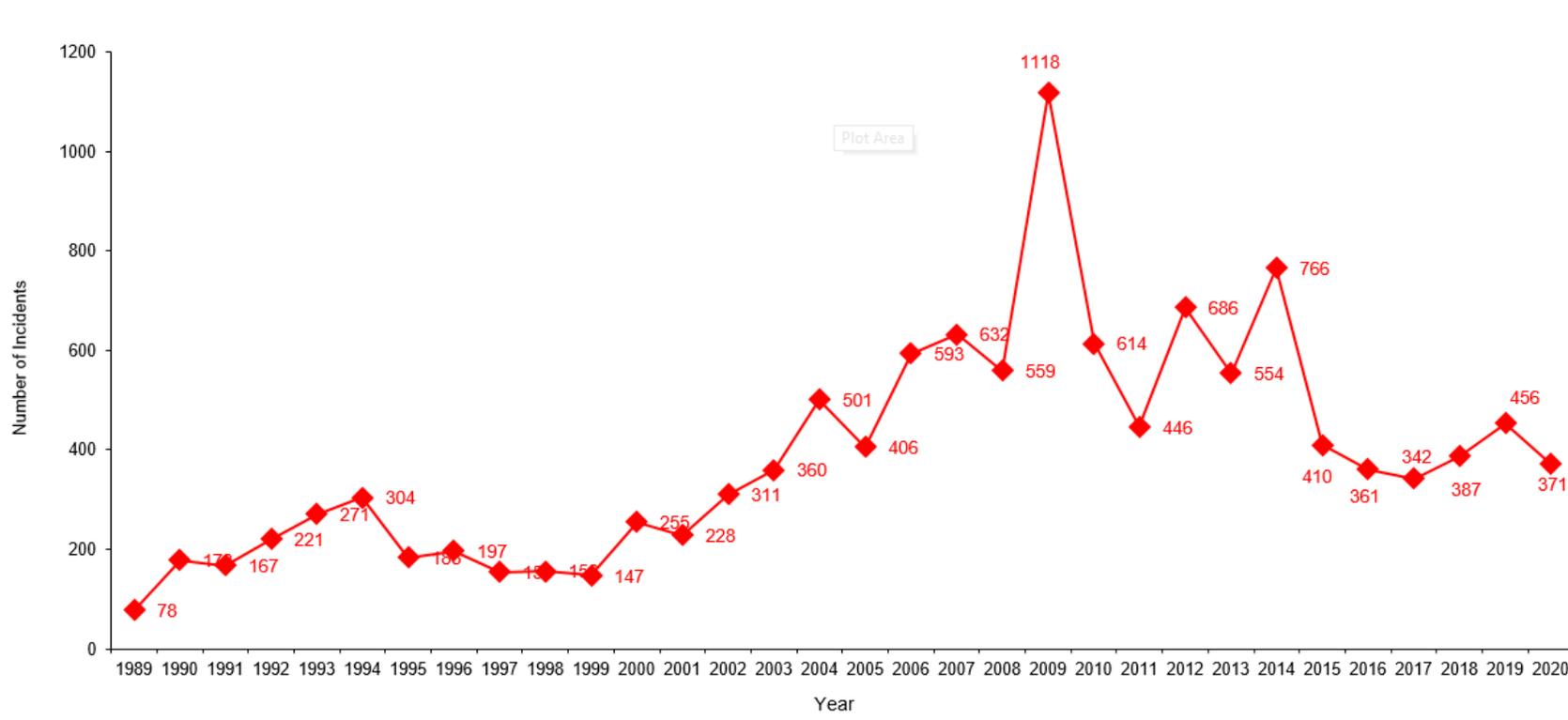
563 Ravndal, Jacob A. “The Dark Web Enabled the Christchurch Killer.” *Foreign Policy*, 16 March 2019. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/03/16/the-dark-web-enabled-the-christchurch-killer-extreme-right-terrorism-white-nationalism-anders-breivik/>.

Figure 4: "Jews need to be exterminated" post on *Hidden Answers*



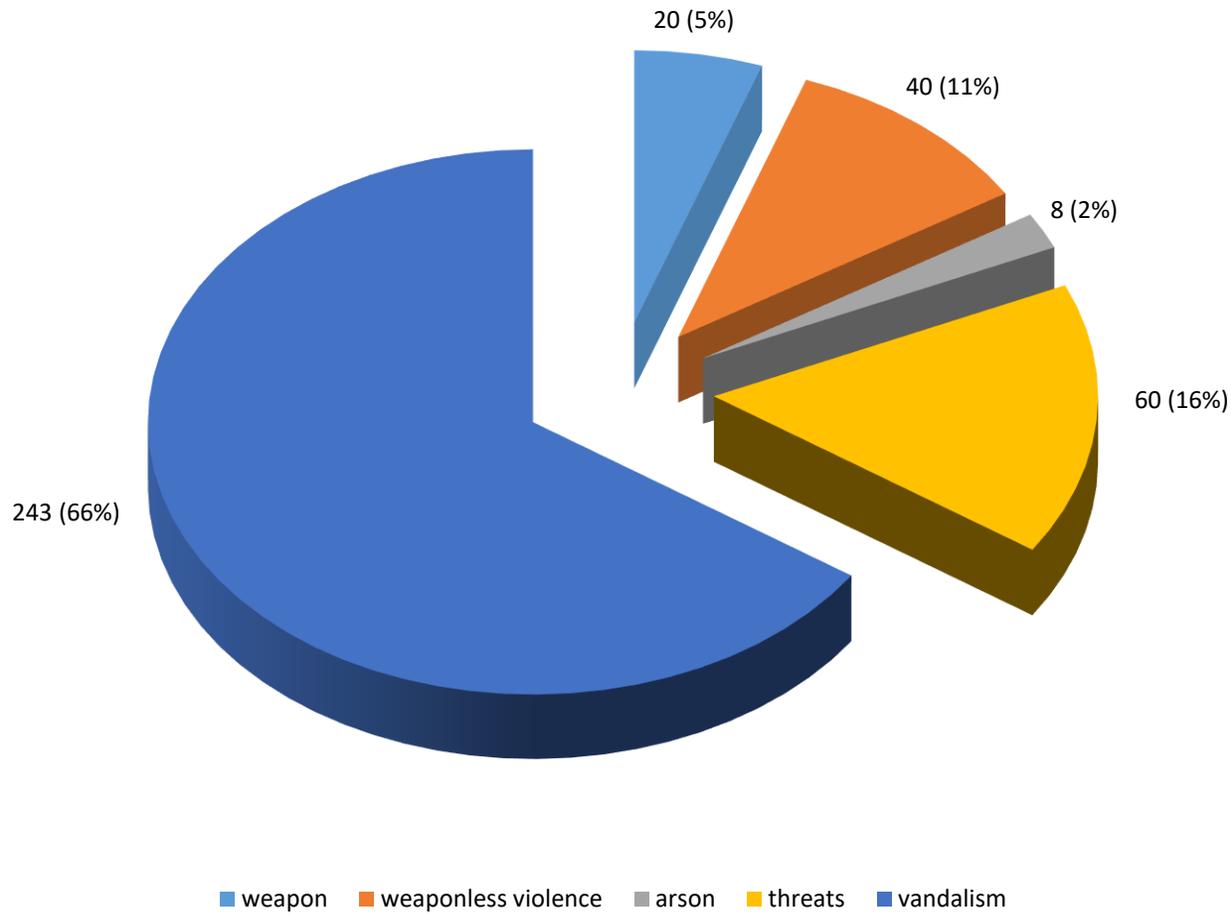
GRAPHS & CARICATURES

Major Violent Incidents Worldwide 1989 - 2020⁵⁶⁴

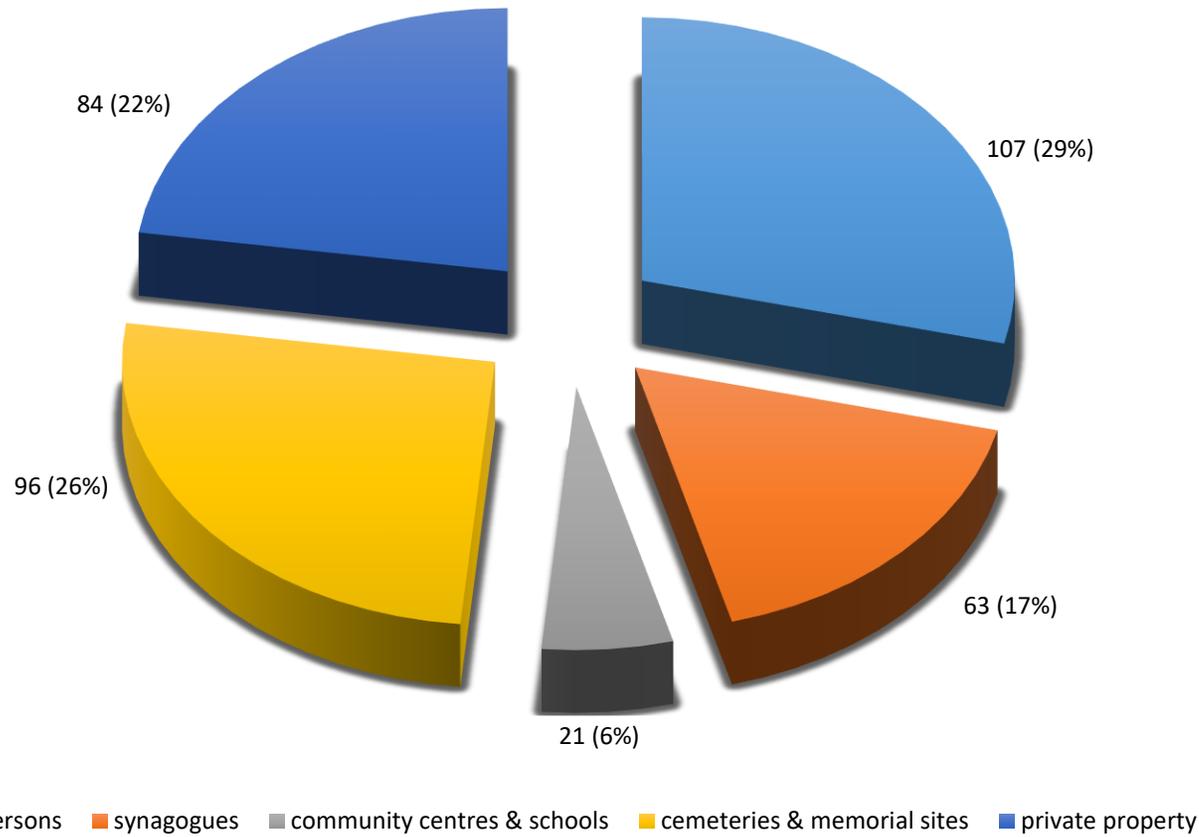


564 Statistics – Dr. Haim Fireberg (2021). The graphs in this section refer to acts of violence, vandalism and desecration acts perpetrated directly against Jewish individuals, synagogues and community centers and against Jewish private property worldwide during 2020. The figures are based on the Kantor Database for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism (usually accumulated from open sources and contributor special reports) and reports of the Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism. It should be emphasized that the graphs reflect only major violent incidents (such as arson, weapon attacks, weaponless attacks, serious threats, and vandalism or desecration).

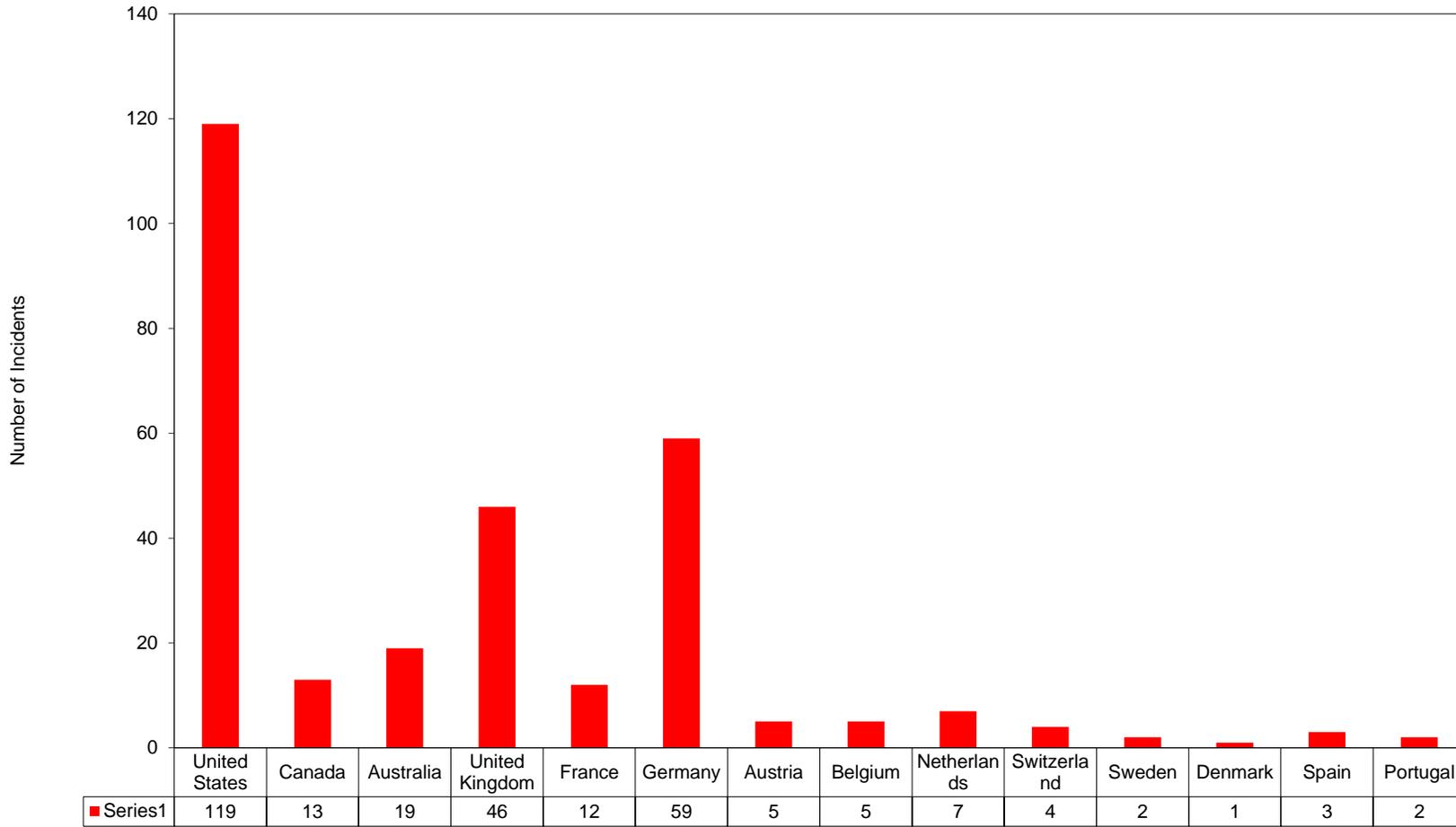
Major Violent Incidents Worldwide in 2020 Breakdown by Modus Operandi



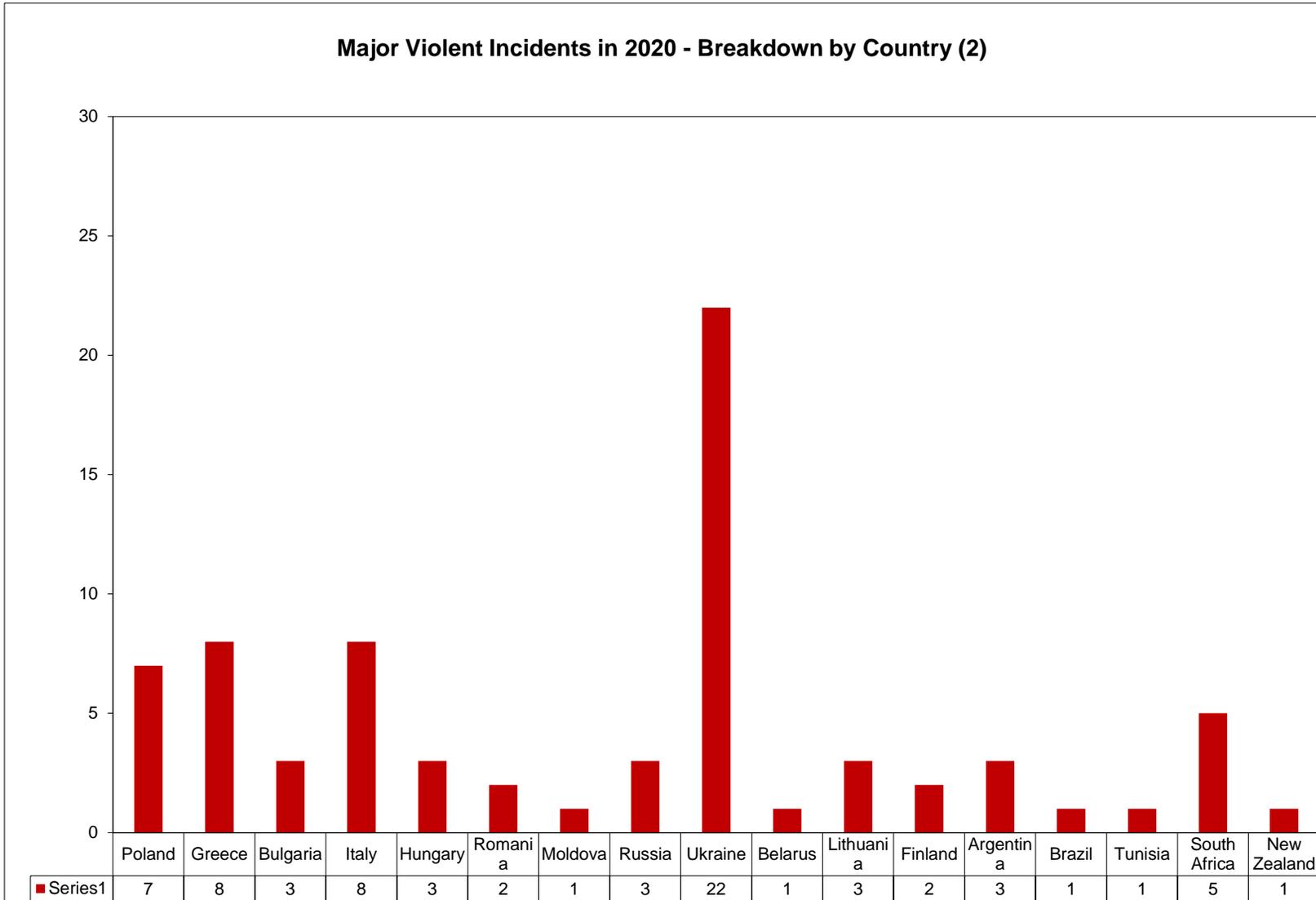
Major Violent Incidents Worldwide in 2020 Breakdown by Target



Major Violent Incidents in 2020 - Breakdown by Country (1)



Major Violent Incidents in 2020 - Breakdown by Country (2)



Caricatures and Illustrations



https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https://kis.gr/en/files/teaser10-11%2520MAKELEIO%2520BOURLAS.jpg&imgrefurl=https://kis.gr/en/index.php?option%3Dcom_content%26view%3Darticle%26id%3D911:antisemitic-front-page-title-of-the-newspaper-makeleio-reactions-b&tbnid=p7E0cmqUzg82WM&vet=1&docid=BuoVGUxsCAtWIM&w=1920&h=1080&source=sh/x/im



The 20 April-posted cartoon by Jordanian Twitter activist, Qutayba Abu Hammad



<https://twitter.com/LatuffCartoons/status/1246118343075155970/photo/1>.





<https://www.adl.org/blog/coronavirus-crisis-elevates-antisemitic-racist-tropes>.

From Twitter in February and March 2020.



former French health minister Agnes Buzyn, who is Jewish, pouring poison into a well. On twitter.

<https://www.franceinter.fr/caricatures-complot-liste-de-noms-le-coronavirusengendre-des-attaques-antisemites-sur-le-web>.



<https://jcpa.org/has-the-coronavirus-infected-israelophobes/>



Figure 5. <https://www.facebook.com/CanaryMission/videos/262468158196528/?t=1>



Figure 9. A German demonstrator wearing a yellow star with the word 'unvaccinated' replacing 'Jew'



Figure 10. The entrance to Auschwitz with the words "Vaccination liberates" instead of "Work liberates"



Exposing and combatting antisemitism.
Australian Jewish Association  AJA

Figure 11. A picture posted in the social media, including the expression Holocough as well as incitement to infect Jews with the coronavirus



Figure 12. A cartoon showing an Israeli soldier and American policeman supporting each other as they kneel on a Palestinian and a black man, choking them (Al-Hayat al-Jadida screenshot).

סגר עם מקלדת: האנטישמיות בעולם בשנת 2020 – שנת הקורונה

Lockdown with Keyboards: Antisemitism Worldwide 2020 – the Corona Year

סיכום:

המציאות בימי הקורונה הכתיבה את אופייה ואת ממדיה של האנטישמיות בשנת 2020, שנה שהייתה מתוחה וסוערת בעולם כולו. דעות קדומות, אמונות טפלות, פחדים קמאיים ותיאוריות הזויות צפו ועלו על פני השטח. ביטויי האנטישמיות, המילוליים וחזותיים, היו קשים ומקוממים.

- האשמת יהודים וישראלים ביצירתו ובהפצתו של וירוס הקורונה, Judeovirus, הייתה המוטיב המרכזי בביטויי האנטישמיים, והיא נובעת מפחד עמוק מפני דמות היהודי/הישראלית כמפיץ מחלות בעבר ובהווה. איראן הקדישה אמצעים להפצת ההאשמה.

- הסגר בארצות השונות הפחית את אפשרויות המפגש בין יהודים לבין חורשי רעתם, ומספר האירועים האלימים ירד בשנת 2020 מ-456 ל-371, מספר שאפיין את השנים 2016-2018. איש לא נרצח השנה בשל יהדותו, אם כי התקפות פיזיות יכלו להיגמר באבדות בנפש. ברוב הארצות חלה ירידה במספר של המקרים האלימים, בתקיפת אנשים ורכושם, באיומים ובהצתות, אך רמת הוונדליזם כלפי רכוש ומוסדות יהודיים נשארה כמקודם.

באוקראינה נרשמה עלייה במקרים האלימים לעומת השנה שעברה. באוסטרליה, בריטניה ובייחוד בצרפת ובקנדה, נרשמה ירידה. בגרמניה ובארה"ב נמשכות מגמות מדאיגות: בגרמניה חלה עלייה במספר הכולל של האירועים, ההתנגדות לחיסונים מעלה השוואות לתקופת השואה, ונמשכים חילולי אנדרטאות ובתי קברות. בארה"ב חלה עלייה בפעילות האנטישמית ברשת, ואירועים מרכזיים כמו רצח ג'ורג' פלויד על ידי שוטר, תנועת ה-Black Lives Matter - BLM, פעילות האנטיפה (Antifa) והבחירות לנשיאות העלו תיאוריות קונספירציה וזאת בצד פעילות גוברת של אנשי העליונות הלבנה ותנועת ה-QAnon.

- המתנגדים לחיסונים, בארץ ובחו"ל, משווים את מציאות הקורונה לזו של תקופת השואה, עקב התחושה שהם נרדפים כמו היהודים של אז, עד כדי השוואת אלברט בורלא מנכ"ל חברת פיזר ליוזף מנגלה.

- הסגר הגביר את הפעילות במרשתת על כול סוגיה, והיו לכך השלכות על אופייה של האנטישמיות: ההגבלות שהוטלו על חברות השרתים הגדולות כמו טוויטר ופייסבוק, וההתחייבויות שהן לקחו על עצמן, להסיר ביטויי שנאה, גזענות ואנטישמיות, הביאו לתחילתה של ירידה במספר הביטויים האנטישמיים ברשתות הגלויות. ואולם הביטויים נעשו מאשימים יותר ובוטים יותר, גם האנטישמיים וגם האנטי-ציוניים, עקב התפשטות המגפה והחורבן הכלכלי שהמיטה.

- קבוצות קיצוניות, בייחוד קבוצות ימניות, כמו חסידי העליונות הלבנה וניאו-נאצים, עזבו את הרשתות החברתיות הגלויות, וירדו לרשת שהתפתחה מאוד בשנה החולפת, והיא הרשת האפלה, שאין עליה פיקוח והגבלות. שם הן מפעילות באין מפריע אתרים משלהן שקשה מאוד לעקוב אחריהם. כלומר - חלה ירידה במספרי ההתבטאויות ברשתות הגלויות, אך במקביל חלה התחזקות של הפעילות ברשת האפלה.

- תופעה נוספת שנולדה במציאות הקורונה היא ה-zoom bombing: השימוש בזום הפך לאמצעי קשר יעיל ונפוץ, שגם בו אפשר לפגוע - יחידים וקבוצות קיצוניות קטנות פורצים לכינוסים של בתי כנסת, מרכזים קהילתיים וסטודנטים יהודיים באוניברסיטאות, אינם מאפשרים את המשכם, ובמקומם הם מציגים את ביטויי השנאה שלהם. תופעה זו קשה לכימות.

- בתקופת המשבר הכלכלי שגרמה הקורונה איבדה תנועת ה-BDS הרבה מיכולתה לפגוע כלכלית בישראל ובמפעלים יהודיים. היא מפנה את מרצה ללוחמה משפטית, Lawfare, ולתמיכה במאבק הפלשתינאי נגד הסכמי אברהם ונגד שיתוף פעולה תרבותי ערבי-ישראלי.

- בחודשי הקיץ נחלשה ההאשמה של יהודים וישראלים בהפצת הקורונה, והיא התחזקה שוב בסתיו, עם הופעת החיסונים. בין לבין התרחשו אירועים בולטים נוספים, כמו רצח ג'ורג' פלויד, תנועת ה-Black Lives Matter וקביעת בית הדין לצדק של האיחוד האירופי בלוקסמבורג שמותר למדינות לאסור את השחיטה הכשרה, שחיזקו ביטויים והתקפות אנטישמיות.

עם זאת אפשר להצביע על הישגים חשובים במאבק באנטישמיות, כמו מינוי שליחים מיוחדים (special envoys) בארצות ובמוסדות נוספים, אימוץ גובר של הגדרת העבודה של האנטישמיות, הקצאת תקציבים לביטחון הקהילות והגברת ההגבלות על הרשתות החברתיות. מרכז קנטור ממפה את אימוץ הגדרת העבודה של האנטישמיות בעולם ואת הוויכוח הסוער סביבה.

פירוט

- **האשמת יהודים וישראלים ביצירתו ובהפצתו של וירוס הקורונה – Judeovirus** היא האשמה חמורה יותר מהאשמות קודמות ומגוונות שהופנו כלפי יהודים במהלך ההיסטוריה: המגפה של ימינו נתפסת כשואה של ימינו, אסון גלובלי והרסני, שהביא כבר למותם של למעלה מ-2.5 מיליון נפש ולחורבן כלכלי עצום. לפני כשנה, בפברואר 2020, החלה מגפת הקורונה להתפשט בעולם, ומיד אחר כך החלה לעלות ההאשמה שיהודים וישראלים הם שפיתחו את הנגיף והם המפיצים אותו בעולם; הם שימצאו תרופה למחלה וחסיון מפניה; או- אז ימכרו אותם לכול העולם החולה, ויגרפו רווח עצום. במהלך החודשים הבאים עשתה לה עלילה זו כנפיים, הגיעה אלינו מעשרות ארצות, והתבטאה במלל תוקפני ובשלל קריקטורות ארסיות. היא נשמעה לא רק בחוגים קיצוניים כמו חסידי העליונות הלבנה, נוצרים אולטרה-שמרנים ואצל המאשימים הקבועים, כמו איראן, תורכיה והרשות הפלשתינאית, אלא התפשטה לאוכלוסייה שאינה מזוהה פוליטית או אידיאולוגית.⁵⁶⁵ משפחת רוטשילד ואיל ההון ג'ורג' סורוס, שהואשם קודם לכן בהבאת המהגרים לאירופה, חוזרים ונזכרים כשותפים לתעשיית התרופות העולמית המממנים את התפשטות הנגיף ועתידים להתעשר ממנה עוד יותר, ויהודים חרדים מואשמים בשל התחלואה הגבוהה בקרבם ואי-הציות לתקנות ולהגבלות.⁵⁶⁶

בעוד שבארה"ב, למשל, ההאשמות מופנות בעיקר כלפי יהודים בכלל ויהודים חרדים בפרט, הרי שבמזרח התיכון ההאשמות מופנות כלפי ישראל, הציונות והמוסד, כאחראים למצב. איראן סייעה להתפשטות ההאשמה: בדרום אמריקה למשל, יש לה רשתות טלוויזיה ורדיו כמו Hispan TV, שמאשימות את ישראל,⁵⁶⁷ וברשת הטוויטר הגיע מסע תעמולה, ככול הנראה איראני, שבמרכזו השוואת ישראל לנגיף, למיליוני משתמשים: עלי חמינאי, המנהיג העליון של איראן, מנצל את חשבון הטוויטר שלו לקריאה מתמדת לטרור נגד ישראל ולהשמדתה, ולהשוואתה לנגיף הקורונה.⁵⁶⁸ בתעמולה האיסלאמיסטית בכלל מתוארת מדינת ישראל כנגיף המסוכן ביותר לאנושות, והוא מכונה Covid-

565 [https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperon%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20\(1\).pdf](https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperon%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20(1).pdf).

566 <https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/.premium-soros-conspiracy-theories-play-prominent-in-attacks-against-u-s-jewish-politicians-1.9212170>.

567 [https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperon%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20\(1\).pdf](https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperon%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20(1).pdf).

568 https://www.gov.il/he/Departments/General/report_anti240121.

1948, שנת הקמתה של המדינה. חיילי צה"ל מואשמים בהפצת הנגיף ברשות הפלשתינאים, וסוהרים – בהזרקת הנגיף לאסירים בבתי כלא ישראליים.⁵⁶⁹

היהודי/ישראלי כמפיץ מחלות: האמירה המקובלת, שממילא מאשימים יהודים בכול צרה תחת השמש אין די בה במקרה זה. פחד עמוק מפני דמות היהודי/ישראלי כמפיץ מחלות בעבר ובהווה, הוא שעומד בבסיס ההאשמה, פחד מפני מחלה לא ידועה, מתפשטת, שיש בה מסתורין אפל, והוא מעלה את הדעות הקדומות, האמונות התפלות והרגשות הקמאיים, כפי שהעלו השחפת והצרעת כשלא היה להן מרפא. לאורך ההיסטוריה נתפס היהודי כמפיץ מחלות, מאז גורשו שבטי ישראל ממצריים כביכול משום שלקו בצרעת, הדביקו את סביבתם ולכן בודדו אותם בארץ גושן, ממנה גורשו אחר כך; בימי הביניים התווספה ההאשמה בהרעלת הבארות בזמן המגפה השחורה באמצע המאה ה-14, וגם במהלכה חיפשו אשמים באסון הכבד; יהודים שימשו כרופאים בחצרותיהם של מלכים ונסיכים, ואגדות רבות הן הד לפחד מפני כוחם וידיעותיהם; בארה"ב הואשמו יהודים בסוף המאה ה-19 בהפצת טיפוס וחולירע; הנאצים היו אחוזי פחד אובססיבי מפני יהודים כמפיצי מחלות, והם תוארו כחולדות, עכברים וכינים, לא כמשל אלא בפועל ממש – גרמנים נהגו לפתוח דלת בגטאות בבעיטת מגף על הידית, כדי שלא לגעת בה - והתעמולה שלהם פשטה ברחבי אירופה. כך גם התעמולה שליוותה את ההכנות למשפט הרופאים שזים סטלין בשלהי ימיו. הביטוי *Judeovirus*,⁵⁷⁰ שהתווסף השנה ללקסיקון, מתמצת את הפחד הזה, ואת הופעתה המחודשת של הדמות הזו.⁵⁷¹

- מספרים ומגמות: ההגבלות שהוטלו עקב הקורונה שינו את הפעילות האנטישמית: יהודים, כיתר האוכלוסיות, ופעילים אנטישמיים בכלל זה, לא נמצאו במרחב הציבורי כמקודם. מוסדות קהילתיים רבים נסגרו, תלמידי בתי הספר נשארו בבתיהם, ואכן איש לא נרצח השנה על רקע יהדותו, ומספר הפגיעות הפיזיות באנשים ירד מקרוב ל-170 בשנת 2019 ל-107 ב-2020. גם הפגיעה ברכוש פרטי ירדה מ-130 מקרים ל-84, משום שאנשים נמצאו לרוב בבתיהם. לעומת זאת עלה מספר חילולי בתי הקברות והשחתת האנדרטאות לשואה ואחרות בעולם כולו, מ-77 ל-96, כי אלה נמצאים במרחב לא מוגן, וגם מספר בתי הכנסת שנפגעו עלה מ-53 ל-63, שכן הם עומדים סגורים, טרף קל.⁵⁷²

בארה"ב ניכרת מגמת עליה במספרי המקרים האלימים מזה כמה שנים, עד ל-119 השנה (לעומת 99 ב-2017 למשל), וגם בגרמניה הייתה עלייה בכלל המקרים, מ-2032 מקרים בסך הכול בשנת 2019 ל-2275 ב-2020, ובהם 59 מקרי אלימות. בשתי הארצות מהווים מקרי הוונדליזם את הרוב.⁵⁷³ ירידה משמעותית נרשמה באוסטרליה, אנגליה וביחוד בצרפת, שם הודיעו משרד הפנים והקהילה היהודית על ירידה של 50% במקרים מכול הסוגים, בגלל הסגר ההדוק, וכך גם בקנדה, שם ירד מספר המקרים האילמים לפחות ממחצית.⁵⁷⁴ עיקר המקרים מתרחשים בשש הארצות בהן חיות קהילות יהודיות גדולות, והן ארה"ב, קנדה, הממלכה המאוחדת, אוסטרליה, צרפת וגרמניה, ואילו ביתר ארצות העולם, למעט אוקראינה, המספרים הם חד-ספריים.

- אנטישמיות במרשתת: כיוון שהמרחב הציבורי נסגר בתקופת הקורונה ואנשים מבליים בבתיהם מול המחשבים, התחזקה מאוד הפעילות ברשתות החברתיות, ופעילות אנטישמית בכללה, והיא התאפיינה בתוקפנות ובאלימות מילולית. ארצות הסתגרו בתוך גבולותיהן, כניסה ויציאה ומעברי גבולות הוגבלו מאוד, ולפיכך השיח על ההגירה והמהגרים, שהיה מרכזי מאוד בשנים קודמות התחלף בשיח על הקורונה, ומשבר הכלכלי וחיפוש אחרי האחראים למצב. כיוון שהזום נעשה אמצעי מרכזי ונפוץ להתקשרות בין אנשים, התפתחה תופעת ה-zoom bombing, והיא התפרצות בריונית לאירוע וירטואלי

569 [https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperson%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20\(1\).pdf](https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperson%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20(1).pdf).

570 <https://twitter.com/hashtag/judeovirus>.

571 https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/PP_DP_260720.pdf.

572 See attached graphs, compiled by Dr. Haim Fireberg.

573 See report on Germany by Ms. Sarah Rembiszewski herein.

574 See report by the SPCJ on France herein.

שמקיימים בתי כנסת, קהילות וסטודנטים יהודים, כדי למנוע את המשכו, לנצל את הבמה ולהציג צלבי קרס, מצגות משלהם, נאומים של נציגיהם ועוד.⁵⁷⁵

מערכת הניטור של משרד התפוצות זיהתה בשנת 2020 למעלה ממיליון פוסטים אנטישמיים באנגלית, ועוד כמיליון בשפות אחרות, הכולל כחצי מיליון בערבית ורבע מיליון בצרפתית. זוהי ירידה של כ-50% לעומת שנת 2018, והיא הושגה על ידי פניות לחברות המדיה המובילות ולהסכמים עמן. ואולם אליה וקוץ בה: הידיעה שקיימים הסכמים עם הרשתות המובילות הביאה להתחזקותה של הרשת שמתחתינה, הרשת האפלה. ניתוח התכנים מראה שברשתות הגלויות כ-70% עוסקים באנטישמיות חדשה, וכרבע באנטישמיות קלאסית, בעוד שברשת האפלה המצב הפוך: כ-70% עוסקים באנטישמיות קלאסית, וכ-20% באנטישמיות חדשה.⁵⁷⁶ יתכן שהעיסוק ברשתות הגלויות באנטישמיות החדשה, הכוללת תיאורים של ישראל בנימות אנטישמיות, דגש על קונספירציות ציוניות והתייחסויות ל-BDS, נראה למשתמשים, בייחוד באנגליה ובארה"ב, פוליטי יותר, לא אנטישמי בעצם, ולכן לגיטימי יותר מאשר עיסוק באנטישמיות קלאסית, ובוודאי בטיפוח האידיאולוגיה הנאצית ובהכחשת השואה ועיוותה, שהתחזקו בשנה האחרונה.

- הרשת האפלה וקבוצות קיצוניות בארה"ב: בשנת 2020 חלה כאמור התקדמות בחקיקה, הגבלות והסכמים בין גופי מעקב בינלאומיים הממונים על מאבק באנטישמיות לבין הרשתות הגדולות, בייחוד בעולם המערבי. ארצות שאינן חלק ממנו, כמו רוסיה, סין, איראן וחלק מארצות ערב, אינן מחויבות להם, ויש להן פלטפורמות משלהן. ההגבלות גרמו לכך שקבוצות קיצוניות עזבו את השרתים הגלויים, וירדו לרשת המכונה הרשת האפלה או האלטרנטיבית, שבה אין פיקוח ואין הגבלות.⁵⁷⁷ שורה של אתרים מארחת קבוצות אלה, והם משנים שמות ואופני כניסה כדי שלא ייחשפו: 8 CHAN הפכה למשל ל-KUN8, שם מזוינים אנשי ימין קיצוני זה את זה בחומר לרוחם, כמו **יומני טרנר**, רומן דיסטופי המתאר מאבק גזעני אלים בארה"ב שמוביל להשמדת כול מי שאינו לבן בעולם בכלל. ה-FBI הגדיר את הרומן כתנ"ך של הימין הגזעני: מבצעי הפיגועים ליד סן-דייגו, בכריסט צ'רץ' בניו זילנד וגם בהאלה ובווינה השנה קיבלו השראה מן הספר, וברשת הם קיבלו קשרים ואימון לקראת מעשיהם.⁵⁷⁸ שם מתבצעות גם עסקאות הנוגעות לנשק, סחר בנשים, פדופיליה, פורנוגרפיה ועוד. גם ברשת האפלה יש לאיראן תחנה, Press TV, המפיצה את מסריה גם בגלוי.⁵⁷⁹

אחת הדוגמאות הבולטות להתבססותן של קבוצות קיצוניות ברשת האפלה היא תנועת ה-QAnon שהחלה ב-2016, גדלה בהדרגה וקנתה לה ב-2020 ציבור תומכים רחב מן הצפוי. תנועה קיצונית זו, שהוגדרה על ידי ה-Department of Homeland Security כמקור פוטנציאלי לטרורизם מבית,⁵⁸⁰ מתבססת על תיאורית קונספירציה הזויה, לפיה קיים CABAL, גוף של מעריצי השטן, שהם פדופילים, סוחרים סחר בינלאומי בילדים ואף אוכלים אותם (!). לפי כמה כלי תקשורת בארה"ב התנועה זוכה למיליוני עוקבים ומעריצים, משום שהיא מעמידה תמונה של מאבק קוסמי, בין הכת הזו החותרת לשליטה בעולם מזה, באמצעות הדמוקרטים, שהם אויביהם המוצהרים, וכן השחורים והיהודים, לבין הפטריוטים האמתיים, שהם תומכי טראמפ ומגיניו של הבסיס עליו נבנתה לדעתם ארה"ב.⁵⁸¹

כמה מדובריה הטיפו לפני הבחירות לנשיאות לאלימות אם מתנגדיהם השנואים ינצחו, ואכן אנשים שנמנים על תנועה זו בלטו בהתקפה על הקפיטול. גם אם לא היהודים הם בראש רשימתם, אלא כול

575 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/20/style/zoombombing-zoom-trolling.html>.

576 https://www.gov.il/he/Departments/General/report_anti240121.

576 [https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperson%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20\(1\).pdf](https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Humanities/TAU%20Spokesperson%20-%20Summary%20Coronavirus-based%20Antisemitism%20(1).pdf).

577 See report by Dr. Lev Topor on Antisemitism on the Dark Web: Conspiracies, Communities and Actions herein.

578 <https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Turner-Diaries>.

579 <https://www.presstv.com/>.

580 <https://www.hsd.org/c/conspiracy-theory-trends-qanon/>.

581 <https://www.vox.com/2020/10/9/21504910/qanon-conspiracy-theory-facebook-ban-trump>.

מי שאינו מתאים להשקפת העולם שלהם, המוטיבים הידועים ניכרים, והם רצח ילדים ושימוש בגופותיהם, וזוהי למעשה צורה נוספת של עלילת הדם, וחתירה מאחורי הקלעים לשלטון עולמי – CABAL הוא מונח המשמש בתיאוריות אנטישמיות ואחרות כמקבילה לגוף אפל, סודי ובעל כוחות להרע. אחרי ההתקפה היה ברשתות הלא-מפוקחות גל של התבטאויות אנטישמיות ואנטי-ציוניות קיצוניות, שכלל איומי מוות וקריאה לעכברים היהודים ה---ם לעזוב את "ארצנו", וקריאה לציונים לדעת שהם, הפטריוטים, לא ירשו בשום פנים השתלטות עוינת על הבית הלבן.⁵⁸² ראשי התיבות ZOG, כינוי גנאי ידוע של הימין הקיצוני בארה"ב, שפרושו - Zionist Occupation Government, כלומר – ציונים שהשתלטו על ממשלת ארה"ב ומנהלים אותה, חזרו לשימוש בתנועת ה-QAnon.⁵⁸³

- ההתנגדות לחיסונים והשואה, בארץ ובחו"ל: היות והמגפה נתפסת כאסון נורא, היא מושווית לאסון הנורא ביותר שאירע עד כה, השואה. השואה רווחת במיוחד בקרב המתנגדים לחיסונים, המשווים את ההגבלות והסגר שנועדים לצמצם את התפשטות המגפה למדיניות המשטר הנאצי, ומאשימים את הממסד והממשלות בארצות השונות בהפעלת אמצעי כפייה: הסגר מושווה לכליאה בגטאות ובמחנות, החיסונים הם בגדר ניסויים רפואיים, תעודה המקנה זכויות לאחר חיסונים היא סלקציה, מתנגדי החיסונים נרדפים כמו יהודים – אלה ואלה אינם רצויים - על שער אושוויץ יש לכתוב: החיסון משחרר, וכך הלאה. בגרמניה, שבה ההתנגדות לחיסונים חזקה במיוחד, מפגינים יצאו לרחובות כשעל בגדיהם טלאי צהוב ובמרכזו כתוב "לא מחוסן" במקום המילה יהודי, וקראו לקנצלרית מרקל נאצית.⁵⁸⁴ ההתנגדות לחיסונים יוצרת מתח חברתי ופוליטי, גם משום שהיא באה מקבוצות שממילא נאבקות בממסד או שאינן מכירות בו, כמו החרדים בישראל, או מאנשים המגדירים עצמם חריגים שאינם הולכים בתלם, וביניהם בולטים אנשי שמאל. כך גם קבוצות ימין קיצוניות מתומכי הנשיא לשעבר טראמפ בארה"ב. המילה "אושוויץ" הופיעה על חולצה שחורה שלבש אחד המסתערים על הקפיטול, והיא, ולצידה שמו של יוזף מנגלה ועוד מופיעים בשלל של פוסטרים, כרזות, קריקטורות ואיורים, בארץ ובחו"ל: פרופ' גליה רהב כונתה נאצית, ועיתון ביוון פרסם את תמונתו של אלברט בורלא, יהודי מיוון ובנם של ניצולים, שהוא המנכ"ל של חברת פיזור, לצד זו של מנגלה.⁵⁸⁵ הופעת החיסונים, ומבצע ההתחסנות בישראל, המסתייע בישראלים וביהודים העומדים בראש החברות המייצרות אותם, כמו טל זקס, מנהל המחקר הרפואי של חברת מודרנה, חיזקו את הגישה המאשימה - הנה ישראלים ויהודים עושים יד אחת, כדי שישראל תהיה הראשונה להבריא, ויתר ארצות העולם צריכות להתחנן ולעמוד בתור לפני יהודים.

- השפעתם של אירועים בולטים: בקיץ נראה היה שגל ההאשמות נחלש, והן הופיעו בתדירות נמוכה יותר, ובחגי תשרי נעדרו ההתפרצויות האלימות המסורתיות. ההאשמות התחדשו בסתיו, עם הופעת החיסונים ועד אז לא נעלמו אלא התחלפו באחרות: מיד אחרי רצח ג'ורג' פלויד בידי שוטר במאי במיניאפוליס שינו ההאשמות כלפי יהודים וישראלים, כיחידים וכקולקטיב, את תוכנו, מיום אחד למשנהו: ראשית, סוחר העבדים שהביאו מאות אלפים מילידי אפריקה לארצות הברית, היו כביכול יהודים, שנחשבו אז ונחשבים היום ל"פריבילגיים", כלומר בעלי זכויות יתר, מקורבים לשלטון, נהנים כלכלית מן הקשר אתו ומחזיקים בתפקידי מפתח. כך נוצרה המשכיות בין דימוי היהודי במאות קודמות ליהודי של ימינו. האשמה זו, שאין לה שום ביסוס היסטורי, העמידה ניגוד בין הציבור האפרו-אמריקני לבין הקהילה היהודית, ניגוד הסותר את השתתפותם של מנהיגים וצעירים יהודים רבים במאבקם של האפרו-אמריקנים להשגת שוויון זכויות אזרחי.⁵⁸⁶ ולא זו בלבד, אלא שבתנועת ה-Black Lives Matter, שהתפתחה אחרי הרצח והייתה לא אלימה במקורה ונתמכה על ידי הקהילה היהודית, הופיעו צדדים אנטישמיים. אלה התבטאו בהפגנות ובסיסמאות, כמו אלה שאירעו בפריז ביוני, שבהן השתלבו גם הפגנות פרו-פלשתינאיות, ובהתפרצויות מתמשכות של ונדליזם בארה"ב כלפי רכוש יהודי

582 https://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/news/local_news/ohio-leaders-groups-react-to-protester-s-anti-semitic-sign/article_184d17b0-8304-11ea-ab52-b31d5703d75d.html;

<https://www.ecaj.org.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/ECAJ-Antisemitism-Report-2020.pdf>.

583 <https://www.adl.org/education/references/hate-symbols/zog>.

584 <https://www.dw.com/en/maltese-envoy-quits-after-calling-merkel-a-nazi/a-53387702>.

585 See report by Michal Navoth on Greece herein.

586 <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/jews-and-the-african-slave-trade/>.

וכללי.⁵⁸⁷ שנית, תוך זמן קצר פשטה ידיעה, המבוססת כביכול על עובדות, שמשטרת ישראל אימנה בעבר ומאמנת גם היום שוטרים אמריקניים, ודוחפת אותם לאכזריות ולגזענות. כך הפך שיתוף הפעולה בנושאי טרור ומודיעין למקור של העברה כביכול של תכונותיהם המכוערות של הישראלים/היהודים למשטרת ארה"ב, ולהצבעה על כוחם ויכולתם להשפיע על גופים גדולים מהם בהרבה. ושלישית, מיד הועלתה גם ההשוואה בין פלשתינאים לשחורים בארה"ב, כאילו שני הציבורים האלה סובלים מנחת ידם של ישראל ושל יהודים התומכים בה, והברית ההדוקה שבין ישראל לבין הממשל האמריקני היא המאפשרת דיכוי כפול ודומה זה.

תנועת האנטיפה - Antifa - משתלבת בתמונה שלעיל: תנועה זו, המורכבת מקבוצות ורשתות שונות, ראשיתה בשנות השלושים, אז חרטה על דגלה התנגדות פעילה ואף אלימה נגד הימין הקיצוני, הפשיזם והגזענות על כול צורותיהם.⁵⁸⁸ היום פעילה המרכזיים מתאפיינים בשנאת המערב, הממשל והמשטרות, ובייחוד בהתנגדות לקפיטליזם, ומתוקף היותם אנשי שמאל קיצוני הם מתעבים את ישראל, ומשתתפים בשריפת דגל המדינה ובהתקפות על סטודנטים בקמפוסים, שם הם קוראים ל"ידה-ציוניזציה". הם שותפים לפעילות ה-BLM, נמצאים בין מובילי ה-BDS, ותומכים בטרור פלשתינאי.

בדצמבר, לקראת סופה של השנה, עלתה פרשה נוספת, והיא החלטת בית הדין לצדק של האיחוד האירופי ממקום מושבו בלוקסמבורג כי מותר לארצות לאסור **שחיטה כשרה** וחלל, השחיטה המוסלמית. זמן קצר לפני כן, בספטמבר, הודיע אותו בית דין שהוא מחויב להגנה על חופש שיאפשר ליהודים ולמוסלמים לחיות על פי המנהגים שקובעת דתם, ומועצת האיחוד האירופי פרסמה בנובמבר הצהרה ארוכה ואפילו מרגשת בגנותה של האנטישמיות.⁵⁸⁹ ואולם הצהרות חשובות אלה עומדות בסתירה לדמות היהודי שמציבה האפשרות לאסור על השחיטה: שוב עולה תכונת האכזריות כביכול, הטבועה ביהודים, מורשת התנ"ך והאל הקנא והנוקם המצווה על יד קשה, והפעם כלפי בעלי חיים חסרי ישע. אכזריות זו הולכת יד ביד עם תכונה נוספת, והיא הנוקשות והדבקות בהלכות בנות אלפי שנים, שמזמן הגיעה העת לשנותן ולהתגמש, להיות חלק מן העולם המודרני, שבו היחס כלפי בעלי חיים הוא אמת מידה לערכים ולחמלה. ההיפוך המאפיין את האנטישמיות מתגלה גם כאן: בימי הביניים האשימו יהודים שיש להם קרבה מיוחדת, ואפילו יחסים אינטימיים עם חזירים; שימוש בדם אסור, כי "הדם הוא הנפש", אבל עלילת הדם נמשכה עד המאה העשרים; והשחיטה הכשרה הוקעה ציבורית כפגיעה בחייה מבלי שהציבור האירופי יידע בעצם את פרטיה. אחת התמונות המזעזעות שנקבעה בזיכרון הציבורי הגרמני היא הצילום בסרט מבית מדרשו של גבלס, "היהודי הנצחי", שבו צועדת שורת יהודים עבדקנים עם סכינים שלופות בידיהם, וחיוך זדוני על פניהם, הפרה נשחטת, והיא מפרפרת זמן רב, מתבוססת בדמה הקולח על הרצפה, עד שהיא משיבה את נפשה.⁵⁹⁰ לא רק גרמנים ראו סרט זה, שהפך להתגלמות האכזריות היהודית כלפי בעלי חיים – הוא הופץ, כמו יתר מרכיבי התעמולה הנאצית, ברחבי אירופה. כך שהאיסור על השחיטה הכשרה אולי אינו אנטישמי בפני עצמו אך הוא מחזק דמות יהודי שלילית.

פעילות ה-BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) הושפעה הן מן הקורונה והן מן השינויים הפוליטיים במזרח התיכון, וקודם כול מן הנורמליזציה בין ישראל לכמה מארצות ערב וחתימת הסכמי אברהם בחסותה של ארצות הברית. השפעת הקורונה וההאטה בכלכלה בכלל ניכרה בירידה משמעותית ביוזמות הכלכליות נגד ישראל, וגם פרסומה של רשימה שחורה בארה"ב, של חברות הפועלות מעבר לקו הירוק, לא הגדיל את מספרן.⁵⁹¹ לעומת זאת נמשכה למרות משבר הקורונה התמיכה בפעילות של סטודנטים אנטי ישראלים וביוזמות חרם פלשתינאיות. התמיכה בפלשתינאים, הרואים עצמם נפגעים מהסכמי אברהם הביאה להתנגדות של תנועת ה-BDS לנורמליזציה, התנגדות העומדת

587 <https://www.afr.com/world/europe/why-black-lives-matter-protests-are-a-catalyst-for-anti-semitism-20200623-p555ch>.

588 <https://www.wsj.com/articles/q-a-what-is-antifa-11598985917>.

589 <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2020-12/cp200163en.pdf>;
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/47065/st13637-en20.pdf>.

590 <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/der-ewige-jude>.

591 See report by Dr. Giovanni Quer on BDS herein.

בסתירה להצהרות של דובריה על רצונם בשלום ורווחה במזרח התיכון. במסגרת זו מופנית עיקר הפעילות להטלת חרם תרבותי נגד אמנים ערביים המופיעים בישראל או יחד עם אמנים ישראלים, והחרם גרר ויכוח סוער, בעד ונגד, המתנהל במגזר הערבי.⁵⁹² הוויכוח על חרם משפטי על ישראל התחזק, אלה שבעדו מצהירים שהם חסידי חופש הביטוי ואלה שנגדו טוענים שהוא נגוע באנטישמיות. בארה"ב חקיקה נגד ה-BDS היא בעלת תוקף במדינות שאימצו אותה, והתנועה הוכרזה כאנטישמית גם על ידי שר החוץ פומפיו, בעוד שבאירופה נחלקות הדעות: ה-European Court of Human Right הפך על פיה חקיקה שהתקבלה בצרפת נגד ה-BDS, וגם באנגליה ביטל בית משפט החלטה שהתקבלה לפי מדיניות ממשלתית המתנגדת ל-BDS, ואילו בגרמניה תקפה החלטתו של הבונדסטאג מ-2019 שהארגומנטציה והשיטות של ה-BDS הן אנטישמיות, וכך גם באוסטריה.⁵⁹³

- בגרמניה ניכר פער בין מאמצי הממשלה ואגפיה השונים להיאבק באנטישמיות, לבין המציאות בשטח: בשנת 2020 נרשמה עלייה בכלל המקרים, מ-2032 ב-2019 ל-2275, עלייה של 11% והמספר הגבוה ביותר מאז 2001. מתוכם נרשמו 410 בברלין במחצית הראשונה של השנה. המספר האמתי הוא ככל הנראה גבוה בהרבה, שכן לפי הסקרים כ-80% מן המקרים אינן מדווחים (במדינות האיחוד האירופי כ-75% בממוצע אינם מדווחים), וממילא מספר המעצרים נמוך מאוד, וכמעט אין נענשים. מספרם של הפעילים המוסלמים הרדיקלים גדל, וכך גם מספרם של פעילי הימין הקיצוני, שעלה ב-87000 ככול הנראה בשנה שחלפה. מספר גדל והולך של פעילים אלה מצטרף לשורות הצבא והמשטרה, הם אוספים נשק ומתאמנים ליום בו יפילו את הממשלה. לפי דו"חות המשטרה 90% מן האירועים בוצעו על ידי הימין הקיצוני, ואולם אומדן זה זכה, כמו גם בשנה שעברה לביקורת קשה, משום ששוב הומעט מאוד חלקם של המוסלמים הרדיקלים.⁵⁹⁴

השחתת האנדרטאות, בייחוד לזכר השואה, כולל אבני הנגף - Stolpersteine נמשכה בשנת 2020, וכך גם חילול בתי קברות; נרשמו מקרים רבים של Zoombombing; ההתנגדות לחיסונים ולהגבלות עקב הקורונה התבטאה בהפגנות שבועיות שנמשכו במשך כמה חודשים, ובהן השתתף מגוון של אנשים ולא דווקא אנשי ימין קיצוני ונשמעו ביטויים קיצוניים המשווים את המצב לימי השואה; גם בגרמניה ובאוסטריה ניכרה ירידה לרשת האפלה עקב האיסור על הכחשת השואה ועל תמיכה בנאציזם, וכן עקב איסורים ועונשים שהטיל הבונדסטאג על טוויטר ועל פייסבוק, ותנועת ה-QAnon זוכה לתמיכה ולאהדה. נמשכת, ואולי מתגברת, העייפות מעיסוק בשואה, מגמה שאושרה בסקר מקיף שנערך ביום השואה הבינלאומי.⁵⁹⁵ התגברה לאחרונה גם ההתנגדות להגדרת העבודה של האנטישמיות, בייחוד מצד הטוענים שהיא חוסמת ביקורת על ישראל, מגמה שהשתקפה בוויכוח ציבורי סוער סביב השקפותיו של הפילוסוף מקמרון, אכילה מבמבה (Achille Mbembe).

מול כול זאת מונו כמה עשרות נציבים וממונים על מאבק באנטישמיות במקומות ובמוסדות שונים, הוגדל התקציב לאמצעי ביטחון לקהילות ולחינוך נגד גזענות ואנטישמיות, חקיקה בנושאים אלה בגרמניה היא מן המפורטות בעולם, הבונדסטאג מקדיש דיונים מעמיקים לתנועת ה-BDS ולהגבלות על הרשתות החברתיות, יש ניסיון לעקוב אחרי הימין הקיצוני, בייחוד בשורות הצבא והמשטרה עד כדי פירוק יחידת קומנדו, ומתבצעים חיפושי נשק. אנגלה מרקל אמרה שאנטישמיות היא בושה, ושהיא חשה בושה עמוקה לנוכח עלייתה של האנטישמיות, שנעשית יותר ויותר נוכחת וחסרת מעצורים.

הישגים במאבק באנטישמיות:

בצד כול האמור לעיל, נרשמו גם השנה, כמו בשנתיים הקודמות, הישגים מעוררי תקווה במאבק באנטישמיות.

592 Ibid.

593 <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-middle-east-55000041>; <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-bds-israel-idUSKCN1SN204>.

594 <https://www.jpost.com/bds-threat/antisemitic-crimes-increase-in-germany-police-report-658941>.

595 https://www.deutschlandfunkkultur.de/studie-zu-70-jahre-nach-auschwitz-junge-deutsche-sind-des.1278.de.html?dram:article_id=310367.

ראשית, נוספו עוד ממונים (special envoys) על המאבק באנטישמיות בכמה ארצות, כמו הולנד, רומניה וקנדה, הממונה מטעם מחלקת מדינה של ארה"ב הועלה לדרגת שגריר, ומזכ"ל האו"ם אנטוניו גוטרש מינה את מיגל מורטינוס להיות UN focal point – מרכז לפניות מטעם האו"ם.⁵⁹⁶

הפרלמנט האוסטרי קיבל במרץ החלטה שנתמכה על ידי כול המפלגות, כולל הימין והשמאל הקיצוניים, החלטה שכונתה היסטורית, להיאבק באנטישמיות, ואכן שרה בכירה (Karoline Endtstadler) מונתה להוביל תכנית אסטרטגית מקיפה למאבק באנטישמיות, שמאמץ רב הושקע בהכנתה, והוקצב סכום שנתי קבוע לביטחון הקהילות. תנועת ה-BDS הוכרזה לאנטישמית, וביוני הוצא חיזבאללה מחוץ לחוק, בעקבות החלטה נוספת של הפרלמנט.⁵⁹⁷

שנית, **הגדרת העבודה של האנטישמיות** אומצה בשנת 2020 במספר הולך ועולה של ארצות, אוניברסיטאות, קבוצות ספורט, עיריות ומועצות מקומיות, ומגמה זו נמשכת גם השנה. מרכז קנטור עוסק עכשיו במיפוי של אימוץ ההגדרה בעולם, והמספר הכולל הוא למעלה מ-450. לאחרונה אימצה בחריין את ההגדרה, והחשוב ביותר: מועצת האימאמים הגלובלית אימצה את ההגדרה בעקבות חתימת הסכמי אברהם.⁵⁹⁸ האיחוד האירופי פרסם חוברת מפורטת הממליצה על שימוש נכון ומקיף בהגדרה, כחלק מהחלטה כוללת יותר להכיר במאבק באנטישמיות כסעיף בתכניותיו המדיניות.⁵⁹⁹

ככול שאימוץ ההגדרה מתקדם, והיא הופכת לאמירה ערכית, להצהרה על התייצבות לצד הנאבקים באנטישמיות ובעולות אחרות, כך מתגברת הביקורת עליה וההתנגדות לשימוש בה. המתנגדים העיקריים הם אינטלקטואלים ואנשי אקדמיה, בייחוד מבין התומכים בזכויות הפלשתינאים, ועיקר טענותיהם הוא שההגדרה מהווה פגיעה בחופש הדיבור ובזכות הפלשתינאים להגדרה עצמית, ושארבע הנקודות בהגדרה, האומרות מתי אנטי-ציונות היא בעצם אנטישמיות, הופכות כול ביקורת על ישראל לאנטישמיות. טענות אלה אין להן בסיס שכן ההגדרה היא non-legally binding, היא בגדר המלצה ולא חלק מחקיקה, ומשום שזכותו של העם היהודי להגדרה עצמית אינה מונעת זכות כזו מן הציבור הפלשתינאי. ההגדרה גם אומרת בפירוש שביקורת על ישראל ככול ביקורת על מדינה דמוקרטית, אינה יכולה להיחשב לאנטישמית.⁶⁰⁰ אחד מצעדיו הראשונים של הנשיא ג'ו ביידן היה אימוץ חס וחד משמעי של ההגדרה אך לא עיגונה בחוק,⁶⁰¹ ויתכן שיוון היא הארץ הראשונה, ולפי שעה היחידה, שהקימה ועדה בין-משרדית כדי להציע מסגרת חוקית לשימוש בהגדרה בחינוך, במערכת המשפט ובמשל.⁶⁰² חוקרי מרכז קנטור סבורים שהשימוש בהגדרה כפי שהיא והסיוע שהיא נותנת בתחומים שונים, כמו זיהוי מקרים, הדרכת שוטרים, חומר לוואי בבתי משפט ודיונים בשאלות עקרוניות הנערכים בפרלמנטים ובאוניברסיטאות לפני האימוץ, תועלתו עולה על זו שתצמח מעיגונה בחוק ומהפיכתה לאמצעי כפוי.

שלישית, **הקצאת תקציבים להגנה על קהילות**: מושל ניו יורק, אנדרו קואומו (Cuomo), הנשיא לשעבר דונאלד טראמפ, משרד הפנים הגרמני, מדינת זאקסן-אנהאלט (Sachsen-Anhalt) שבה נכללת העיר

596 <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/united-nations-appoints-first-un-focal-point-to-monitor-antisemitism-636863>.

597 <https://www.austria.org/the-latest/2020/2/28/austrian-parliament-presents-resolution-proposal-condemning-anti-semitism-and-the-bds-movement>.

598 <https://eurojewcong.org/news/news-and-views/global-imams-council-adopts-ihra-definition-of-antisemitism/>.

599 https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Hanbook%20practical%20use%20of%20the%20Ihra.pdf.

600 <https://www.haaretz.co.il/opinions/letters/.premium-1.9480441>;
<https://www.haaretz.co.il/opinions/letters/.premium-1.8973295>.

601 <https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/1612302208-biden-administration-embraces-and-champions-ihra-definition-of-anti-semitism>.

602 See report by Michal Navoth on Greece herein.

האלה, ממשלת אוסטריה – כולם הודיעו על הגדלת תקציבים קודמים או הקצאת סכומים חדשים להגנה על הקהילות ולפיתוח אמצעים לביטחון.⁶⁰³

רביעית, **הוראה וחיים יהודיים**: מרוקו הודיעה שתכלול בספרי הלימוד פרקים על ההיסטוריה והתרבות של יהודי מרוקו.⁶⁰⁴ גרמניה הכריזה על שורת אירועים שיצינו בשנת 2021 את 1700 השנים של חיים יהודיים בגרמניה, והם יכללו מאבק באנטישמיות.⁶⁰⁵ הנשיא לשעבר טראמפ אישר חוק חינוך בנושא השואה: "The Never Again Education Act" המסמך את מוזיאון השואה בווינגטון לקדם את הוראת השואה ואת המודעות כלפיה.⁶⁰⁶ מועצת אירופה רואה באנטישמיות "התקפה על ערכים אירופיים" ומצביעה על הצורך להיאבק בה בצורה נחרצת.⁶⁰⁷ באוקטובר נפגש שר החוץ של אבו דאבי עם שר החוץ גבי אשכנזי באנדרטה לזכר השואה בברלין, ויחד הכריזו: Never again.⁶⁰⁸ נשיאת ה-European Commission (Ursula von der Leyen) החליטה להגביר את המאבק באנטישמיות ואת התמיכה בחיים יהודיים, ומינתה את סגנה (Margaritis Schinas) לטפל בכך.⁶⁰⁹

כמו כן, בשנים האחרונות התקדמו המגעים בין גופים כמו האיחוד האירופי ומשרדי החוץ והתפוצות בישראל, עם החברות המפעילות את **הרשתות החברתיות**, וחלקן התחייב לשנות את מדיניותן בכול הנוגע להסרת תוכן אנטישמי מיד לאחר שנודע להן עליו. כך למשל התחייבה פייסבוק לשינוי מדיניות, מיד לאחר שקיבלה פנייה משותפת של כ-150 ארגונים – מרכז קנטור היה שותף למכתב גלוי לעיתונות שליווה את הפנייה אל מרק צוקרברג.⁶¹⁰ חלה התקדמות בפיתוח כלים המאפשרים לזהות את השיח האנטישמי ברשת, וזאת על סמך הגדרת העבודה. משרד התפוצות פיתח מערכת בשם Antisemitic Cyber Monitoring System, המזהה את הביטויים האנטישמיים בכמה שפות בכמה רשתות, ובשנת 2020 החלה לעקוב גם אחרי אתרים ברשת האפלה, שהגישה אליהם קשה יותר. ואולם למרות הצהרות חוזרות ונשנות של ראשי השרתים הגדולים, עוד רחוקה הדרך: בישיבה של ועדת העלייה והקליטה של הכנסת בראשותו של דויד ביטן זועזעו המשתתפים לשמוע מנציגת טוויטר בארץ שהם אינם חוסמים את חשבון הטוויטר של עלי חמינאי משום שדבריו – על השמדת ישראל, יש לזכור – הם בגדר התנצחות מילולית בתחום מדיניות החוץ,⁶¹¹ ומנכ"ל טוויטר הודיע בשימוע בקונגרס האמריקני כי הכחשת השואה אינה מוגדרת כמידע אסור. אינטרסים כלכליים, בורות של דורות צעירים ביחס לאנטישמיות, לשואה ולמציאות במזרח התיכון, רצון לפנות לקהל רחב וליצור נראות של החברות, כול אלה הם עדיין גורמים המונעים התקדמות של ממש בהסרת התכנים האנטישמיים מן הרשתות הגלויות.

איך תיראה שנת 2021 במבט לאחור - האם תרד רמת הביטויים האנטישמיים, כאשר תירגע המגפה, והעולם ישוב לתיקונו, או שמא תעלה רמת האלימות כיוון ששוב ייצאו כולם אל המרחב הציבורי

603 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/austrian-government-triples-security-funding-for-local-jewish-community/>; <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/germany-pledges-extra-26-million-for-jewish-security-642842>.

604 <https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/.premium-moroccan-schools-teach-jewish-history-in-groundbreaking-first-1.9360358>.

605 <https://berlinspectator.com/2021/02/21/germany-celebrates-1700-years-of-jewish-life-on-its-territory-1/>.

606 <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr943>.

607 <https://www.worldjewishcongress.org/en/news/eu-calls-antisemitism-incompatible-with-values-demands-national-strategies-from-member-countries-12-3-2020>.

608 <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-israel-gulf-germany/uae-minister-vows-never-again-in-berlin-holocaust-memorial-visit-together-with-israeli-counterpart-idUKKBN26R2HG?edition-redirect=in>.

609 https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?newsletter_service_id=1955&newsletter_issue_id=27770&pdf=true&fullDate=Sun%2012%20Jan%202020&lang=default.

610 <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/coalition-of-more-than-120-ngos-calls-on-facebook-to-create-a-comprehensive-hate-speech-policy-on-anti-semitism-301108674.html>.

611 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/twitter-tells-mks-khameneis-eliminate-israel-posts-dont-violate-its-rules/>; <https://www.timesofisrael.com/twitter-ceo-suggests-holocaust-denial-not-banned-on-platform-in-senate-grilling/>.

וייפגשו בו? קשה לדעת, ובינתיים צריך להמשיך במלאכת המעקב, הניתוח והבאת הממצאים לרשות הרבים, בראייה רחבה - יש עוד נאשמים בסצנה הזו, כמו הסינים ומזרח אסיאתים בכלל, מהגרים וזרים, ואפילו ביל גייטס ואנטנות הדור החמישי, ויש עוד קבוצות מיעוטים המופלות לרעה, שאתן אפשר לעשות יד אחת, ולהיאבק יחד למען עולם טוב יותר.

The working definition of antisemitism

In the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration that states: “With humanity still scarred by antisemitism and xenophobia the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils” the committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial called the IHRA Plenary in Budapest 2015 to adopt the following working definition of antisemitism.

On 26 May 2016, the Plenary in Bucharest decided to:

Adopt the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism: “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).

- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.