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Moshe Kantor Database for the Study of Contemporary  
Antisemitism and Racism

# Antisemitism Worldwide 2013

General Analysis  
Draft



European Jewish Congress

Zeev Vered Desk for the Study of Tolerance and Intolerance in  
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Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism

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## **Overview of Main Trends**

The year 2013 was a difficult one in the perspective of the last decade (2004-2014), because antisemitism continued to infiltrate into the mainstream from the extreme left and right fringes, and its manifestations are no longer incidental, but rather have become an almost daily phenomenon. Troubling and persistent reports from many countries, especially from Europe and North America, point to hundreds of antisemitic manifestations and incidents per country annually. They reinforce an overall feeling among Jews that they are living in an increasingly anti-Jewish atmosphere, both as individuals and as communities.

The major conclusion of the analysis that follows, supported by both community reports and independent surveys by non-Jewish sources, is that antisemitism is on the rise – a feeling among Jews based on the growing intensity of and increase in visual and verbal expressions, insults, abusive language and behavior, threats and harassments, and not necessarily on an increase in the number of *violent* incidents, (although in some countries manifestations of violent antisemitic are on the rise, or have become more extreme). It should be kept in mind that countless antisemitic incidents are not reflected in the data, because most Jews who experienced an antisemitic verbal or physical attack do not report them to local authorities; thus the situation is worse than the situation reported by monitoring agencies and communities.

The year 2013 witnessed 554 registered violent antisemitic acts perpetrated with weapons or without, by arson, vandalism or direct threats against Jewish persons or institutions such as synagogues, community centers, schools, cemeteries, monuments as well as private property. Compared to 2012, which witnessed an exceptionally sharp rise to 686 registered violent incidents, the combined number of incidents of physical violence, direct threats, and major acts of vandalism dropped in 2013 by 19 percent to 554 – close to the annual average (550 cases) over the last decade for recorded cases of violence annually in most years, a level which is quite high compared to the preceding decade (1994 to 2004) when the number of incidents averaged between 150 to 200 cases annually. In other words, the drop in 2013 was compared to an exceptional year in which incidents spiked. It should also be noted that the number of direct attacks against persons are steadily increasing, mostly committed randomly with bare hands or a near-at-hand instrument.

Our findings worldwide show the following: Among all registered cases there were 25 attacks with weapons (4 percent), 98 cases of weaponless violence (18 percent), 9 cases of arsons (2 percent), 89 direct threats (16 percent), and 333 incidents of vandalism (60 percent). The targets of such incidents were 185 persons (34 percent), 67 synagogues (12 percent), 52 community centers and schools (9 percent), 90 cemeteries and memorial sites (16 percent), and 160 private properties (29 percent). The highest number of events occurred in France: 116, (compared to 200 in 2012, following the 2012 attack in Toulouse on a Jewish school, and 114 in 2011). A rise in violent cases was recorded in the UK (95 cases in 2013 compared to 84 in 2012) and in Canada (83 compared to 74); Germany (36 compared to 23); the Ukraine (23 compared to 15); Russia (15 compared to 11) and Hungary (14 compared to 12). In Poland and Italy a decline was registered in antisemitic incidents. In Australia such incidents dropped to 17 cases compared to 53 in 2012, but the overall number, of

antisemitic incidents rose by 21 percent and is the second highest on record: 657 incidents. Overall numbers have increased three-fold in Canada over 10 years, and seven-fold in France over the span of 13 years.

The scope of antisemitic activity should be taken in proportion to those perpetrated against other minorities. One could assume that the scope of antisemitic activity would be in proportion to the number of Jews in a given community, but this is not the case. In the UK, for example, many thousands of racist and xenophobic events are registered per year, among them several hundreds against Jews, and the Jews in France constitute one percent of the population, while 40 percent of all racist violence in 2012 targeted Jews, and there are antisemitic manifestations in countries where no Jews reside.

A phenomenon that has quickly spread from France to other countries in Europe during the last weeks of 2013 is a modified version of the *Sieg Heil* salute: holding the palm of your right hand outstretched, at a 45 degree angle towards the ground, while touching or gripping your right shoulder with your left hand). The brain child of a controversial French comedian Dieudonne M'bala M'bala called 'the quenelle', the gesture has become a popular avenue for expressing negative feelings towards Jews that has gained hundreds of thousands of 'likes' in the social media, group photos, and selfies. The gesture has been adopted by people from various circles – mostly youngsters who probably are not affiliated with identifiable organizations, who perform and record the gesture – most often in close proximity to Jewish sites such as synagogues, cemeteries, street signs in Jewish quarters, and especially near commemoration sites and Holocaust monuments (the most bold faced, standing in front of the infamous entrance gate to Auschwitz).

In the beginning of November 2013 the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), a research branch of the European Union (EU), published the findings of a wide-scope survey on reactions and perceptions among European Jews regarding antisemitism. The survey was conducted among six thousand Jews in eight countries where approximately one million Jews who constitute 90 percent of the Jewish population of the European Union reside: Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Sweden, and the UK. The findings are disconcerting: A staggering majority of 77 percent do not report to any authority harassments, insults, and threats they experienced; 23 percent do not take part in events or frequent Jewish institutes, so as not to put themselves in harm's way; 38 percent do not leave home wearing any signification that could identify them as Jews (such as a *kippah* or Star of David); 33 percent fear they could fall prey to an antisemitic attack; 29 percent consider emigration as an option; 66 percent define antisemitism as a problem that has an impact on their lives; and 76 percent stated that antisemitism has become more severe during the last five years.

During the year preceding the survey, 25 percent of the respondents personally experienced an incident that included a verbal insult, and almost half were worried about the possibility of falling prey to an insult or harassment in the coming year. The countries in which the situation and sense of vulnerability seems to be the worst were Hungary, France, and Belgium, followed, respectively, by Sweden, Italy, Germany, UK and Latvia, where the situation is less severe. About 80 percent of the participants in Hungary considered extreme right circles as the main source of threat;

over 60 percent in Italy pointed to the left; 73 percent in France and 60 percent in Belgium blamed radical Moslems, while antisemitism originating in the church and in Christianity in general, was last on the list.

A few weeks after publication of the survey, the FRA removed from their website without notice, the Working Definition of Antisemitism (WDA), which has been internationally-used since early 2005, claiming the Working Definition was never formally adopted by the EU, and when the site was remodeled, it was removed along with other "non-papers" (a discussion document with no official status). The expression "non-paper" could be an insult, because the WDA was the result of a joint worldwide effort by scholars and representatives of organizations dealing with antisemitism and other forms of discrimination and racism; its formulation and acceptance was considered an international achievement, because it provided law enforcement authorities with tools to identify antisemitism, and other forms of racism as well, and enabled them to prosecute perpetrators. The WDA includes a number of clauses that pinpoint certain cases of anti-Zionism and hostile attitudes towards the State of Israel as antisemitism, especially when Nazi-like attributes are attributed to Israel, or the Jewish state is negatively singled-out. (See the WDA in Appendix A).

Apparently, there was no linkage between removing the WDA and the anti-Zionist and anti-Israeli inflammatory discourse that has accompanied growing antisemitic sentiment. Nevertheless, the removal of the WDA generated demands to reinstate it, in order to continue profiting from its use, and because once the WDA was rejected – even if on mere ‘technical grounds’ – the rejection indirectly legitimized negative attitudes towards Israel and its Jewish supporters. We, the Kantor Center team, strongly urge bodies other than the FRA to continue to disseminate and use the Working Definition.

Demands that arose in 2012 and continued in 2013, calling for prohibition of *Shechita* (kosher slaughtering) of animals and Jewish circumcision rites have generated but one more debate. Animal rights organizations claim Jewish *kashrut* practices are cruel and cause suffering – even framing them ‘as a Holocaust’ while children's rights organizations claim that circumcision is traumatic and a form of mutilation that is detrimental to the child (despite its documented health advantages), and should be performed only with the child's consent. These opinions imply indirectly that age-old Jewish religious practices are cruel and inconsiderate, unsuitable in the modern world. Ostensibly relevant and ‘enlightened’ arguments against ritual slaughtering and circumcision that may well serve traditional antisemitic stereotypes, have been quickly adopted by antisemites and racists to accuse Jews of cruelty to animals and brand them and Moslems as child molesters. The circumcision issue could be understood as a veiled attempt to force Jews to leave Europe, since while one can import kosher meat, but Jews cannot forgo traditional circumcision.

Use of the Internet and social networking to disseminate direct or indirect antisemitic messages has increased considerably, compared to 2012. A staggering 90 percent of Jews surveyed by the FRA have been confronted by antisemitic activities on the Internet. About 75 percent replied that they regard online antisemitism as an immediate problem in their countries of residence - whatever the means (Internet sites, Youtube videos, chats, or blogs). Since the self-image of youngsters today hinges so heavily on what is transmitted via social media, the impact of such

offensive assaults on young targets is amplified compared to older Jewish audiences. Not only insults, but also conspiracy theories of a hallucinatory nature are rampant on the Internet.

The year 2013 witnessed a long series of bloody confrontations within and among the Arab and Moslem countries in the Middle East, some linked, others irrespective of the "Arab Spring", in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Egypt. One could expect that anti-Zionism would lose momentum, because there is no proportion between the nature and product of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the results of recent events in the Middle East. However, data gathered in western countries show no such reassessment or reduction in hostile sentiment. On the contrary: one may define the anti-Zionism that permeates leftist circles as part of a fixed worldview of individuals and groups as a *cultural code* that enables those propagating it to deny that their views reflect antisemitic overtones. This cultural trend is labeled "Antisemitism Denial" by researchers today, parallel to Holocaust Denial.

Finally, two conclusions: There is a growing discrepancy between official policies in most western countries that support commemorating the Holocaust, condemning any form of antisemitism, and promoting legislation against antisemitism and Holocaust denial, and the *vox populi*, that is popular opinion in such countries that surfaced, for instance, during the kosher slaughtering and circumcision debates, and intensified when Jewish property looted by the Nazis reappears as a national issue. A significant number of politicians, leaders, and officials who expressed antisemitic opinions, slurs and the like in public (at least 15 during 2013), were forced to resign, or did so on their own accord.

One more conclusion comes up forcefully: Anti-Zionism, which is rampant in the west, cannot explain the present level of antisemitism, nor can it be explained by the rise of right-wing extremist parties (each having its own wider agenda), or by the economic crisis of 2008 (which is no longer 'news'). No Middle East event tied to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict occurred in 2013, nor can elevated data of antisemitic incidents in this year be attributed to hate-generated hordes of admirers sparked by the attack on the Toulouse Jewish school in March 2012. In short, what we witness in 2013 is 'net antisemitism' *per se*.

We cannot close without strongly condemning recent incidents in Israel of vandalism against Christian or Moslem holy places, or other acts causing damage to property and smearing or spray-painting Swastikas and abusive language on walls. Such manifestations are tantamount to what we see abroad against Jews, and require the same strict condemnation, legislation and punishment.

## **Antisemitic Manifestations Worldwide 2013 - Tendencies and Incidents**

The year 2013 was one of the difficult years in the last decade, 2004-2014, according to troubling reports coming in from many countries, especially from Europe and North America, regarding hundreds, and sometimes over a thousand antisemitic manifestations and incidents per country. They reinforced an overall feeling among Jews that they are living in an increasingly anti-Jewish atmosphere, both as individuals and as communities. One of the main examples is France. The community president, Roger Cukierman, openly declared in December in a ceremony marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the CRIF, the central council of French Jews that the Jews in France live in a bad atmosphere, and that recurring incidents against them insult and hurt them.

The major conclusion of the following analysis is that the feeling of Jews that antisemitism is worsening and on the rise, originates in the intensity of, and increase in visual and verbal expressions, insults, abusive language and behavior, threats and harassments and not necessarily in an increase in the number of violent incidents, although in some countries violent antisemitic manifestations are on the rise, or have become more extreme. Moreover, it has become increasingly clear that most of the antisemitic incidents are not registered, despite the fact that they are finding their way into the center stage, and that Jews are witnessing a growing globalization of antisemitism. .

Let us therefore first take a look at the numbers of violent and non-violent incidents and then at a number of developments that occurred along 2013 and towards the end of year, and enhanced anxiety among Jews. The results of a wide scope survey – that will be referred to later in detail – published in November 2013 by the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), a research branch of the European Union, among Jews in eight EU countries, reflect a serious problem: Most of the Jews who experienced an antisemitic verbal or physical attack, did not report it to local authorities. In other words, the situation of antisemitism in 2013 cannot be fully documented, and it is worse than the numbers monitoring agencies and communities show. Moreover, a statement repeatedly appearing in the country reports is that antisemitism has already infiltrated into the mainstream from the extreme right and the left fringes, and its manifestations are not incidental but rather became an almost daily phenomenon, including especially popular music and standup performances. No Middle Eastern event, involving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, that could trigger a wave of violent antisemitism has occurred along the year, no murder generated hordes of admirers as it happened after the Toulouse March 2012 murders, so one has to look for reasons emanating from within the countries and societies.

### **Numbers of Violent and Verbal Anti-Semitic Acts**

First we would like to emphasize that the numbers offered here are the result of the monitoring and analysis system developed by the Moshe Kantor database team that has been working together on these issues for more than twenty years. Reports about a few thousands of incidents worldwide, suspected as anti-Semitic, reached us during 2013, from a variety of sources: open sources, namely materials to be found on



the web and other media channels; the police, enforcement and judicial agencies; embassies; Jewish communities and their formal audits; and a net of expert colleagues and volunteers who are cooperating with us. The thousands of reported cases were carefully analyzed according to specific criteria, the essence of which is whether the case or incident is indeed antisemitic, perpetrated as a result of antisemitic motives and intentions, and whether they were counted without either exaggerating, or diminishing, the severity of the situation.

According to these criteria the year 2013 witnessed 554 registered violent antisemitic acts, perpetrated with weapons or without, by arson, vandalism and direct threats, against persons, synagogues, community centers and schools, cemeteries, monuments and private property. Still, the full numbers are actually higher, according to both the FRA survey, and the country reports: both leaders of communities and individuals are reluctant to disclose details. Many of those who were targeted in their working place would not file a complaint, for fear of losing their jobs. The estimation of the Bnai Brith audit in Canada, for instance, is that only 10 to 30 percent of the cases are recorded.

Compared to 2012, in which an exceptionally sharp rise to 686 registered violent cases took place, the combined numbers of incidents of physical violence, direct threats and major acts of vandalism dropped in 2013 by 19% to 554. But compared to the numbers registered during the last decade, since 2004, this is an average number: about 550 recorded cases of violence annually in most of the years, quite a high number, certainly when compared the former decade, 1994 to 2004, when the average numbers were between 150 to 200. It should also be noted that a more comprehensive picture is the result of more advanced monitoring systems and higher awareness, that develop along the years (see Appendix C). In other words, the numbers dropped compared to an exceptional year, not to an average one. It should also be noted that the numbers of direct attacks against persons are steadily increasing – in the US they rose in proportion to other forms of violence – mostly perpetrated randomly with bare hands or an easily found instrument.

Our findings show the following: Among the registered cases there were 25 attacks with weapons (4%), 98 cases of weaponless violence (18%), 9 arsons (2%), 89 direct threats (16%), and 333 incidents of vandalism (60%). These were targeted against 185 persons (34%), 67 synagogues (12%), 52 community centers and schools (9%), 90 cemeteries and memorial sites (16%) and 160 private properties (29%). The highest number comes from France: 116, compared to 200 in 2012, following the Toulouse murders, and 114 in 2011; also, a rise in violent cases has been noted in the UK, 95 cases compared to 84 in 2012, and in Canada, 83 compared to 74; in Germany: 36 compared to 23; 23 in the Ukraine, compared to 15; 15 cases in Russia (11 in 2012), and 14 in Hungary (12 in 2012). In Poland and Italy a decline has been registered, as well as in Australia (17 compared to 53 in 2012, but the overall number, of all cases, rose 21 percent and is the second highest on record - 657). Overall numbers have increased three-fold in Canada over the past ten 10 years, and seven-fold in France over 13 years.

Numbers of anti-Semitic activities should be taken in proportion to those perpetrated against other minorities: in the UK, for instance, many thousands of racist and xenophobic events are registered per year, among them some hundreds against

Jews. One could assume that the anti-Semitic activities are in proportion to the number of Jews in a given community, but the Jews in France, for instance, constitute 1% of the population, while 40% of the racist violence targeted Jews in 2013. Possibly, this 1% has more visibility and is more at the center of public attention than other minorities, as are other Jewish communities as well.

### **The Reversed *Sieg Heil* Salute**

A phenomenon that spread from France to other countries in Europe during the last weeks of 2013 is the Quenelle, the reversed "*Sieg Heil*" salute. Much as the forbidden Swastika was replaced in the 1990s by other symbols with a similar format, the Nazi Hitler salute was recently replaced by a reversed movement of the hands: right arm stretched along the body and the left hand pointing at the right shoulder, with stretched fingers. The Quenelle, the brain child of the controversial French comedian Dieudonne M'bala M'bala, was originally used as a protest against the French establishment, and then turned into an antisemitic manifestation, which spread, in a matter of weeks, on the web with hundreds of thousands of "like"s, in the social media, group photos and selfies. Such vigorous dissemination could not have been imagined before the appearance of social networks. It is performed by people from various circles, mostly youngsters who probably are not affiliated with identifiable organizations. The number of Moslems and blacks among them is unclear, and it is assumed that it turned into an identification sign for members of extreme right organizations and their supporters. It is intentionally performed and recorded on the spot, most often close to Jewish sites, such as synagogues, cemeteries, street signs in Jewish quarters, and especially near commemoration sites and Holocaust monuments. For example while standing in front of the infamous entrance gate to Auschwitz, or on the Holocaust monument in the heart of Berlin (by French Holocaust denier Alan Soral).

This cannot be considered an innocent movement performed by youngsters just for fun. It is performed on purpose near Jewish sites, as an imitation of its initiator, Dieudonne, who expresses openly and unequivocally his virulent antisemitic views, and had been even fined seven times in recent years for making them public. Dieudonne claims that the commemoration of the Holocaust is actually "Pornography of the Memory", and he repeatedly questioned the existence of gas chambers. He also established an anti-Zionist party and tried to run it for the European Parliament. Governments and Parliaments enhance legislation as a tool against extremist tendencies, and the question is whether a way to forbid the Quenelle and enforce the restriction to prevent its further spreading could at all be effective. The French Interior Minister Manuel Valls (now the Prime Minister) tried, towards the end of the year, to find legal solutions, but it seems to be difficult to connect the gesture with hate speech and Holocaust denial. One way to overcome this obstacle is to rephrase penal codes articles that prohibit incitement through the use of Nazi symbols or symbols of outlawed organizations, and already include prohibition of the use of manners of greetings and symbols that are very similar to the Nazi one. An example of such an article is 86A of the German penal code

## The FRA Survey

In the beginning of November 2013 the FRA, a body in charge of establishing infrastructures for the treatment of minorities basic problems, published the findings of a wide scope survey on the reactions and perceptions of Jews in eight EU countries regarding antisemitism. Since their publication these findings are at the center of public attention and debate. The survey was conducted during two months in 2012 (in the wake of the Toulouse murders in March that year and the wave of virulent antisemitic attacks that followed in France), among 6000 Jews in countries where about a million Jews that constitute 90 percent of the EU Jewish population: Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Sweden and the UK.

The findings are disconcerting: 23 percent do not take part in events or frequent Jewish institutes, so as not to be hurt on their way; 38 percent do not leave home carrying signs identifying them as Jews, such as a *kippah* or a Star of David; and a staggering majority of 77 percent do not report to any authority about harassments, insults and threats they experienced, out of their conviction that their complaints would not be taken care of and the perpetrators would not be identified and caught; 33 percent fear they would fall prey to an antisemitic attack; 29 percent consider emigration as an option; 66 percent define antisemitism as a problem that has an impact on their lives; and 76 percent stated that antisemitism has become more severe during the last five years.

During the year before the survey, twenty five percent of the participants experienced an incident that included a verbal insult, and almost half were worried about the possibility of falling prey to an insult or harassment in the coming year. The countries in which the situation seems to be the worst were Hungary, France and Belgium. In Italy and Germany the situation is less severe, as well as in the UK and Latvia. Though the Jewish community in the UK emerged as one with fewer problems than in other EU states, some of the results are not that far apart: For example, 20 percent in the UK noted that they frequently avoided areas where they did not feel safe compared with 27 percent of all participants. About 80 percent of the participants in Hungary considered the extreme right circles as the main source of threat; over 60 percent in Italy pointed at the left; 73 percent in France and 60 percent in Belgium blamed radical Moslems, while antisemitism originating in the church, and in Christianity in general, was last on the list. It should be taken into consideration that the results reflect the political and cultural climate in every given country.

The situation worries non-Jewish organizations as well, because an increase in antisemitism is most often part of an overall increase in racial violence against foreigners and ethnic minorities, and leads to public disorder. In Australia, for instance, Jews were brutally attacked in October on Bondy Beach in Sydney on a Shabbat eve, a rare case in an otherwise well-organized country, where the level of violence decreased in 2012. They were attacked by a group consisting mostly of minors, who had already been detained in the past for attacking Asian immigrants.

The *New York Times*, one of the leading newspapers worldwide, announced in mid-December its intention to hold another survey among Jews in Hungary to document their feelings regarding antisemitism, and that a questionnaire has already

been sent out. This implies that even the comprehensive FRA survey was perhaps not sufficient for assessing the situation there, and the issue should be further explored as seriously as possible.

### **Removing the Working Definition of Antisemitism from the FRA's Website**

A few weeks after the publication of the survey, the FRA removed the Working Definition of Antisemitism (WDA) from their website, which has been internationally used since early 2005, after it was formulated and accepted by the EU member states. A query regarding the reasons for this move, raised in the European Parliament, was answered after a lengthy delay (on 25 March, 2014) by the European Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, Dr. Viviane Reding, who claimed that the definition has never been a binding document, nor has it become a formal EU document. The FRA, which is an autonomous body, she said, decided in an entirely independent manner to add it to its site, and when the site was remodeled, it removed it with other "non-papers". The FRA collects material on antisemitism from various bodies, and hence does not need a definition of its own. In addition, the FRA team stated that they are not dealing with any definitions, or looking for them, in principle, regardless of the minority involved. Indeed, they did not even offer to have a renewed discussion of the definition that could perhaps have improved it and made it then become a formal binding document.

Removing the definition from the FRA's website was quite a surprise. The definition was the result of a joint worldwide effort of scholars and representatives of organizations dealing with antisemitism and other forms of discrimination and racism, and was considered an international achievement. It could pave the way for the formulation of other definitions which are sorely needed, such as a definition of racism, or of anti-Roma and Islamophobic attitudes. The WDA has been accepted – though indeed not formally adopted – and recommended for nine years by parliaments and courts of justice, and was in use both in the US and in Europe, for instance by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), because it provided law enforcement authorities with tools to identify antisemitism and enabled them to punish its perpetrators.

The definition includes a number of clauses that pin point certain cases of anti-Zionism and hostile attitudes towards the State of Israel as antisemitism, especially when it is compared to Nazi Germany or negatively singled out. (See the WDA as Appendix A). These clauses generated harsh criticism in recent years, and a number of court cases in the UK and the US. Apparently, there was no connection between removing the WDA and the anti-Zionist and anti-Israeli inflammatory discourse, which is often reflected in antisemitic expressions, and increases in parallel to the strengthening of an antisemitic atmosphere. Still, the removal of the WDA generated demands to re-instate it, since the technical reasoning given by the FRA was certainly not satisfying. The FRA act contributed to the feelings among Jews that they are recently facing actions which combine both antisemitism and anti-Zionism, and are directed towards them as individuals and communities. They also felt that once the WDA was rejected – even if technically – the rejection indirectly legitimized negative attitudes Israel and towards their support of Israel as a Jewish state.

There might be a solution to the situation that was created with the erasure of the definition: The FRA survey showed that those interviewed considered some cases of delegitimization of Israel as antisemitism. Moreover, they saw this antisemitic delegitimization in itself as an encouragement to further an antisemitic atmosphere, and traced a connection between the negative attitudes towards Israel and the rise in antisemitic expressions. Having said that, it is still possible that the FRA survey offers a possibility to redefine types of antisemitism, because the participants actually defined what they experienced or perceived. They in fact divided the activities targeted against them into five categories that are perpetrated in the public domain and five others in the private one. Activities in the public domain included: antisemitic graffiti; vandalism directed at all kinds of Jewish sites and property; and antisemitism in the political arena, in the media and the internet. In the private domain they spelled: harassments; insults; abusive language and behavior; threats; and vandalism directed at private property. If one adds to this list the assumption that delegitimization of Israel is antisemitic in certain cases, one might conclude that the practical experiences of the interviewed Jews made them offer a kind of a definition, that draws its validity from the survey initiated and carried out by a non-Jewish official body and the in-depth summary it offered.

Whether the FRA survey may be the harbinger of a new definition or not, we, the Kantor Center team, urge bodies other than the FRA to go on disseminating and using the former WDA.

### **Relations between Violence and Atmosphere**

In former reports we stated that violent incidents of various types, such as vandalism directed against communal and private property or attacks on persons, could be monitored provided that those attacked reported to a civil or Jewish body. We also stated clearly that as far as we can assess, not all those attacked file a complaint, and therefore the actual number of violent incidents is higher than the one we indicate each year. It is clear as well, that one cannot count or assess the number of insults, harassments, threats and bullying, because these are only seldom reported in an orderly manner to Jewish organizations, to NGOs engaged in a struggle against racism or to the local authorities. The FRA survey findings show clearly that a staggering percent of the participants – 77 percent, that is three quarters - do not bother to report on such incidents. This is an especially troubling rate, since it means that monitoring bodies, including us, are aware of only a fraction of the overall picture. Moreover, monitoring agencies and institutes can perhaps record most of the major cases of violence and vandalism, because these are more often reported since those attacked need the help of the bodies in charge. But if the majority of those included in the survey are very worried, and they do not report their experiences, this means that they are worried not only or necessarily because of the violent cases. The main development they face is the insecure atmosphere created by the insults, threats and harassments, which recently increased, and it keeps changing the point of view of the Jews on the state and society they live in.

This explains the intensity of Jewish reactions to the demands that came up in 2012 and continued in 2013, to prohibit *Shechita* (Kosher slaughtering) and circumcision. Jews interpreted these demands as yet another attack on generation-old

traditions, although these are also Moslem practices, and as an attempt to force them to leave Europe. One can import Kosher meat, but cannot do without traditional circumcision if one wants to continue the Jewish heritage. The public debate around these issues generated public reactions that are not necessarily connected to antisemitic motives, but rather to cultural and social developments. Animal rights organizations claimed that the *Shechita* is cruel and causes suffering – it was even described as a Holocaust, and children's rights organizations claimed that circumcision causes damage, and should be performed only under the child's consent. These opinions are politically correct and reflect the campaigns for a better society, but at the same time they indirectly imply that Jewish religious practices are cruel and inconsiderate, that they are thousands of years old, and that the Jews have not yet found the way to be more flexible and to adapt to the modern world. Jews feel that these accusations are leveled at them while ignoring well-established facts, such as the advantages of circumcision, and therefore insult was added upon injury. Seemingly relevant arguments against *Shechita* and circumcision, serving traditional antisemitic stereotypes, were quickly taken up by antisemites and racists to accuse Jews (and Moslems) of child molestation and cruelty against animals.

### **The Internet and Social Networks**

The use of the internet and social networking to disseminate direct or indirect antisemitic messages has increased considerably in comparison to 2012. As time passes these nets are gaining more and more power and enable quick access to ever growing publics which the sites builders try to mobilize for their social and political aims. A staggering 90 percent of those surveyed by the FRA were confronted with antisemitic activities on the Internet. Dieudonné's Facebook page, for instance, has amassed in France about 400,000 readers and tens of thousands of admirers follow his Facebook pages and try to emulate him. It has become quite clear that a small number of events, once given the web platform, can reverberate many times over, as if they were many indeed, thus creating a feeling of a looming threat. About 75 percent of the participants in the FRA survey answered that they regard online antisemitism as an immediate problem in their countries, whether by means of internet sites, Youtube videos, chats or blogs. A similar percentage of participants noted that online antisemitism has increased during the last five years. They are very concerned mainly by offenses directed personally at Jewish correspondents whether by Email, SMS or text messages, and the younger the recipients of such offenses are, the more they take them seriously, given the fact that the self-image of youngsters is today largely dependent on what is transmitted in the social media.

Verbal expressions on the net are very difficult to combat, because they are so easily produced and disseminated. This year, a Moslem radical identified as Malik Naram circulated on Youtube a short video of just a few minutes in which he published an unequivocal open call, both in Arabic and in French, to fulfill without any delay what he considers the religious commandment to kill all Jews wherever they are. The circulation of this video on the internet continued unhindered for quite some time and was removed only after enough complaints were mobilized to withdraw it. However, as far as we know, the man has not yet been sued for incitement to genocide. This is one more indication that red lines that had been

considered a taboo during the first decades after World War II are now trespassed openly.

In some countries the social networks as well as the general media continue to spread conspiracy theories that are sometimes quite hallucinatory. In Chile and Argentina, for example, news were disseminated repeatedly claiming that thousands of Israeli soldiers disguised as travelers in civilian clothes, are actually engaged in mapping the south of Chile as part of the implementation of Plan Andinia, the essence of which is the alleged coming up occupation of Patagonia for the establishment of a new Jewish state (on January 7<sup>th</sup>, for instance, by the political analyst Adrian Salbuchi). According to another blog (November 15, by Eladio Fernandez), businessman Eduardo Elsztain has bought Patagonia from Argentina's president in exchange for covering Argentina's debts to the World Bank. In Venezuela, Israel and Zionism have been blamed for the poisoning of Hugo Chavez, much as Yasser Arafat (president Nicolas Maduro, in a speech on March 50). A pro-government site, Aporrea, claimed on 23 August that it has uncovered an Israeli conspiracy to launch an attack on Syria, as a result of which a third World War will break out and Israel will end up attacking its economic, industrial and military competitors, namely China and Russia, no less. The Nation of Islam operating in the USA excels in producing amazing conspiracy theories. One of its latest ideas was a recommendation to its surfers to check their one dollar bills and find out that a Star of David is hiding on their backs.

Conspiracy theories thrive outside the net as well. In Russia Jews are blamed for all the country's troubles, and not the least for its economic situation. Thus, depending on the political view of the writer, either the members of the opposition or Putin's followers are accused of selling themselves for Jewish money. Even in Kyrgyzstan, where like in other central Asian countries Jewish and Zionist matters are of little interest, Jews are blamed for being the cause of the economic and social problems. In the Ukraine, US Jewry is accused of encouraging the Soviets in 1944 to expel the Tatars out of the Crimean peninsula in order to establish there a Jewish republic; and a demand was made that President Obama compensate the Tatar people for this crime.

In Italy about one hundred internet sites carrying antisemitic characteristics have been listed. These sites are accompanied by chat forums and blogs and are disseminated in the major social networks. Well-known sites, such as Holywar.org or Stormfront, continue their activities. In Canada, internet harassment plays a considerable role and half of the respondents of a local Jewish survey answered that most of the hate speech occurrences that they have met were on the net.

### **Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism**

Since Operation Pillar of Defence that took place in November 2012, there has been no military confrontation between Israel and the Palestinians. On the other hand, 2013 witnessed a long line of confrontations within and among the Arab and Moslem countries in the Middle East, with and without being connected to the "Arab Spring": The cruel attacks that have caused a large number of casualties in Syria, and the wave of millions of refugees fleeing the country; the ongoing killings in Iraq; bloody demonstrations in Egypt and the battles in the Sinai and in Yemen, and more. In a

conference held in Oxford in October, most participants agreed with the assumption that anti-Zionism would decrease, first and foremost in western countries, because there is no proportion between the terrible results of recent events in the Middle East in general, and the nature and results of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But the material gathered from western countries does not indicate a decrease in anti-Zionist propaganda and expressions. On the contrary: one may define the anti-Zionism that is prevalent among leftist circles and has become already part of a fixed worldview of individuals and groups, as a **cultural code**, that enables those propagating it to deny that it is expressed in antisemitic overtones. Such denial is called by researchers today **Antisemitism Denial**, an expression parallel to Holocaust Denial.

Anti-Zionism as a cultural code, and the denial of antisemitism can be best exemplified by the Ronnie Fraser case against the UCU (University and College Union), which started in Autumn 2012, continued along 2013, and has not been resolved yet. Fraser claimed that the UCU had allowed the campaign to boycott Israel to bring antisemitism into its ranks, and hence a culture of "institutional anti-Semitism" had developed, against him and many other Jewish members, who were intimidated and bullied up to a point of leaving the Union. Dozens of witnesses described in court the toxic atmosphere they increasingly worked in. For instance, when Fraser claimed that the Gaza blockade was not an absolute one, he was compared by another member to the Nazis in Theresienstadt, yet the UCU decided that there was nothing inappropriate about this comment. Judge Snelson's verdict in November 2013 was a slap in the face for Fraser and for the UCU Jewish members: It was stated that Fraser got an entirely appropriate treatment, that there was no antisemitism to be found in the UCU's conduct, and that in fact Fraser made "an impermissible attempt to achieve a political end by litigious means." It should be emphasized that a vast majority of UCU members passed a motion repudiating the Working Definition of Antisemitism already in 2011, thus paving the way to deny the antisemitic factor in their attitudes to Israel. Fraser now faces a demand to pay an enormous sum of more than half a million pounds costs, if the court decides that his appeal was in the first place "misconceived or otherwise unreasonable" (see David Hirsh in Engage, 18 April, 2014).

A comparison between Western countries and Eastern Europe shows that anti-Zionist propaganda and expressions, and the attitudes towards the state of Israel are less widespread in the public discourse in the Former Soviet Union. There, and especially in Russia and the Ukraine, antisemitic propaganda and views of officials publicized in the media, and physical damage perpetrated in Jewish sites, continue to be part of public life and of the challenges that the local communities have to face, but they do not include the harsh debates regarding Israel and its policies that are so common in the west.

**Final notes:** Antisemitism is indeed entering the mainstream, and is becoming increasingly common as part of everyday life. Moreover, there is a growing discrepancy between official policy in most western countries of commemorating the Holocaust, condemning any form of antisemitism, and even promote legislation against antisemitism and Holocaust Denial, and the Vox Populi, that is the voice of the popular opinion, that becomes stronger in certain cases. This has been demonstrated during the *Shechita* and circumcision debates, and intensifies when the



Jewish property looted by the Nazis reappears as a national issue. Still, antisemitism publicly and grossly expressed has not yet become the bon tone, and legislation against antisemitism and Holocaust denial is gaining ground: A significant number of politicians, leaders and officials (at least 15 were counted during 2013), who expressed antisemitic opinions, slurs or otherwise in public were forced to resign, or did so on their own accord. Among the many examples are the following cases: the Belgian parliamentarian Laurent Louise was kicked out of his party (a center right party) because of performing the Quenelle while accusing Zionism for the Holocaust. In November, a Catholic Dutch TV commentator had to apologize for broadcasting a song accusing Jews for the murder of Jesus. And a French lawyer, who claimed that a Jew cannot be a fair Judge, lost his job in October.

One conclusion comes up forcefully: Anti-Zionism, which is rampant in the west, cannot explain the present level of antisemitism, nor can it be explained by the rise of right wing extremist parties, that have each its own wider agenda, and the economic crisis is here since 2008 and is not news anymore. What we are witnessing in 2013 is antisemitism neto, per se, as we have lamentably pointed out last year as well.

We cannot close without strongly protesting against recent incidents in Israel: vandalism against holy places of non-Jews, whether Christians or Moslems or any other, causing damage to their property in whatever form, smearing Swastikas and abusive language over their walls, is tantamount to what we see abroad against Jews, and requires the same strict legislation and punishment.

## **CIS and the Baltic States - Irena Cantorovich**

Generally, during 2013 there was a continuation of the trends recorded in the previous year in the post-Soviet region. However, an increase in the severity of violent incidents was noted in some post-Soviet countries. Jewish institutions and facilities continued to be the main targets of the antisemitic incidents along with an increase in antisemitic propaganda. Anti-Israeli propaganda was a minor phenomenon in public discourse in this region, unlike the Western countries.

### **Russia**

In Russia, 2013 was characterized by ethnic tensions between Russians and people of Asian and Caucasian descent, culminating in anti-Caucasian riots in the Biriulevo suburb of Moscow, started after a man of Azeri descent killed a local resident. From the Jewish perspective, 2013 was characterized by an increase in antisemitic propaganda and a relatively low number of attacks against people and community facilities. However, we must consider the possibility that not all violent incidents were reported to authorities and/or publicized in the media. One reason for under-reporting of incidents by individual victims or the community may be a reluctance to risk damaging the already fragile relations with the local population.

The Jews are blamed for the country's problems, including the economic situation. Sometimes the accusations against the Jews are self-contradictory. For example, from the one hand the Jews are blamed for stirring up the Bolshevik revolution and overthrowing the Tsarist regime. On the other hand, they are blamed for the fall of the Soviet Union and overthrowing the Communist regime about 70 years later. Another self-contradictory claim of anti-Jewish propagandists is that most of the anti-Putin opposition is composed of Jews, while simultaneously blaming the Putin regime for selling itself to Jewish capital. In April 2013, Parliament Deputy Irina Yarovaya blamed TV host Vladimir Pozner of opposing the Putin regime simply because he was Jewish. At the same time, nationalistic elements within the opposition blame the regime for "bowing to the Jewish capital", especially during parades on 1 May (workers' day) and 4 November (Day of National Unity).

The Moscow municipality elections were also accompanied by antisemitic propaganda, directed mainly against the oppositional candidate Aleksei Navalny. He was criticized both for being a representative of the Jewish circles wishing to damage Russia, and for being an antisemite and Holocaust denier. Both accusations were baseless. Antisemitic propaganda is distributed not only by marginal radical groups, but also by members of the official political parties. During the first half of the year the St. Petersburg municipality announced its intention to buy antisemitic publications, claiming they were not banned. Only public protest prevented the implementation of this intention. In addition, for the first time a statement with antisemitic undertones was made by the highest figure in the country: in June 2013, President Vladimir Putin said that 85 percent of the Soviet government had been Jews, who harmed not only people from their own religion, but people of all religions in Russia.

In 2013, there was an increased tendency of blaming the Jews for crimes committed by the Soviet regime. For example, on 12 February the Russian television broadcasted a movie about the deportation of Tatars from the Crimea peninsula by order from Stalin in 1944. According to the movie, the real reason behind the deportation was attempts made by Jewish international organizations to gain hold of the land and establish a Jewish republic within the territory.

In 2013 antisemitic discourse became part of the mainstream, mass media especially, when the *Komsomolskaia Pravda* newspaper published many antisemitic articles. On 6 March newspaper's reporter, Uliana Skoibeda, attacked in an article the Israeli-Russian author Dina Rubina by claiming she could not take part in composing the "Total Dictation" (a state test of Russian language fluency) because she was not Russian. On 13 May, as a response to Vladimir Guzman, a Jewish opposition activist, who compared SMERSH (an umbrella name for three counter-intelligence agencies in the Red Army formed during World War II) and the Gestapo, Skoibeda attacked in an article the opposition by saying that if it had not been for the Soviets, the Germans would have succeeded in making lampshades from the opposition's ancestors and implied their Jewish origin. On 12 September, in another article, she wrote that most supporters of the government's opposition were Russian-hating Jews.

The newspaper published many articles by Israel Shamir, a publicist with Israeli and Swedish citizenship, known for his extreme anti-Israeli and antisemitic views. In his articles, Shamir regularly lashes out at the state of Israel and compares it to Nazi Germany. In addition, after the Biriulevo riots (mentioned above) he published on 15 October an article blaming the Jews and Germans for trying to damage the relationship between Russians and Caucasians. This newspaper continued to publish antisemitic articles in early 2014, containing a variety of accusations against the Jews, from disloyalty to Russia to the murder of US President Kennedy.

Another important issue in Russia is the attitude toward the Holocaust. While Russia blames the Baltic States for being Nazi sympathizers and denying the Holocaust, Russia itself exhibits the trend of not recognizing the uniqueness of the Holocaust and continuing to treat it as a part of the general suffering of the Russian people during World War II. The authorities continued consistently to oppose any official marking of a Holocaust memorial day. The authorities of Rostov-on Don, who ordered to replace the text on a memorial plaque honoring 27 thousand local Jews who were murdered in August 1942, continued to oppose any mention of the victims' ethnicity since claiming they were from different origins and religions. Moreover, in April they even refused to place a memorial plaque in an alternative location for the memory of Holocaust victims.

This attitude towards the Holocaust continued in early 2014 as well. For example, during a TV interview on 23 February 2014, Alexander Prokhanov, a well-known publicist holding anti-Israeli and antisemitic views, attacked the leadership of Jewish organizations for supporting "the antisemites who came to power in Ukraine" just like the Jews in Germany supported the Nazis in 1933. He wondered why they were acting in this way since their actions would bring about a "second Holocaust". TV host Evelina Zakamskaia responded that in the same way they had brought upon themselves the first Holocaust.

A minor change in the attitude toward the Nazi era occurred in 2014 when in April a bill against approval of Nazi crimes and rehabilitation of Nazism was passed in the first reading. The bill also prohibits public distribution of false documents about the behavior of the countries in the anti-Hitlerism coalition. This means, for example, that if the bill will become a law, no one will be able to criticize the behavior of the Red Army during the war. Another problematic aspect of the bill is that there is no mention of Holocaust denial in it. That is, Russia still does not recognize the uniqueness of the Holocaust.

There were no significant changes in the struggle against antisemitism in Russia. Law enforcement agencies continued to concentrate on "minor" antisemitic manifestations such as talkbacks on the Internet or uploading antisemitic materials on social networks, while more severe antisemitic incidents received little attention. For example, every year antisemitic publications are publicly displayed and sold during international book-exhibitions, ignoring complaints made during previous years. The law enforcement agencies' lack of reaction was especially noticeable in the case of Vladimir Zhirinovskii, the leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDPR). After the failure of a member of his party in the elections to the position of Moscow's mayor in September 2013, Zhirinovskii made anti-opposition and antisemitic statements. The authorities did not react. On the other hand, when he called to limit the rights of people of Caucasian origin, his statements were condemned by Islamic organizations and President Putin.

Since the beginning of the protests in Ukraine in late November 2013, and especially after the overthrow of President Viktor Yanukovich in late February 2014, both the Russian media and Russia's leaders have been making special efforts to warn the world from the alleged strengthening of the nationalistic forces in Ukraine as well as the antisemitic atmosphere in this country. President Putin, for example, blamed the new Ukrainian leadership for inciting racism, nationalism and antisemitism.

## **Ukraine**

During 2013, similar to previous years, in Ukraine antisemitic incidents included attacks against Jewish community facilities, such as desecration of Holocaust memorials, Jewish tombs, Jewish community centers, etc.

In the field of antisemitic propaganda, the Svoboda Party continued to draw most of the attention. Even though its leader Oleg Tiagnybok repeatedly denied accusations of his party's antisemitism, Svoboda members continued to make public antisemitic statements. In January 2013, Tiagnybok himself claimed that the Jews automatically dismiss anyone they do not like as an antisemite. In September 2013, Svoboda supporters harassed passers-by in Kiev, including Israelis and Jews, for allegedly harming young Ukrainian girls.

Besides Svoboda, antisemitism was perpetrated by Russian nationalistic elements, operating in Ukraine. In Sevastopol, for instance, Russians have been opposing the establishment of a *Chabad* synagogue, accompanying their campaign with antisemitic propaganda. Their actions reached a peak in November when a pig's head was thrown at the place to deter Jews from building a synagogue there.

Similarly to Russia, in Ukraine too antisemitic references were made to the deportation of Tatars from the Crimea Peninsula in 1944. On 10 April, the Newspaper *2000*, one of the most popular in the country, published an article by the above-mentioned Israel Shamir. In the article, he blames US Jews for persuading the Soviet authorities to deport the Tatars and establish a Jewish republic in the Crimea. The same accusation was repeated in a public letter to US President Obama in October, by veterans of Milliy Firqa, the Tatar national movement (in opposition to the official Tatar leadership), demanding to compensate the Tatars for the crimes of US Jews.

As in every year, in 2013 too antisemitism played an important role in the political arena in Ukraine. There is an ongoing attempt to emphasize Svoboda's antisemitic views, even beyond its real scope. Several provocations with antisemitic undertones took place, attempting to incriminate Svoboda, but as investigations showed - not perpetrated by it. For example, in March antisemitic leaflets were distributed in Kiev allegedly signed by the party; people wearing T-shirts with the inscription "beat the yids" and Svoboda's symbol were demonstrated in Cherkassy in April; distribution of antisemitic materials allegedly signed by Svoboda in May, etc. On 19 March, Ukraine's Prime Minister, Nikolaii Azarov, even made a point of stressing Svoboda's antisemitic views during his meeting with Wendy Sherman, US Under Secretary for Political Affairs.

The opposition, in its turn, is willing to ignore antisemitic views as long as it serves its political interests against President Yanukovich. In early January 2013, during a trial of three young people for damaging the president's portrait, opposition representatives described the perpetrators as activists who opposed the president's regime while completely ignoring the fact that the same people were also involved in several attacks against the synagogue in Sumy.

During 2013 there were also several antisemitic incidents during football games, such as shouting antisemitic insults during matches in Lvov in February and March. One anti-Israeli event took place on 21 September in Mariupol when Israeli and American flags were set on fire, accompanied by antisemitic slurs as a protest against the war in Syria.

The antisemitism issue in Ukraine became also part of the anti-regime wave of protests, which started in November 2013 and received the title Euro-Maydan Protests, especially since extremist movements such as Svoboda, TRYZUB and Patriots of Ukraine were among the initiators of the protests. Some of the extremist movements united into a new organization titled "The Right Sector".

President Yanukovich's supporters expressed antisemitic views as well. For instance, antisemitic materials, blaming Jews for overpowering Ukraine, appeared in a social network associated with the BERKUT elite police unit, known for its brutality in dispersing the anti-Yanukovich demonstrations. Three opposition leaders, Vitalii Klichko, Oleg Tyagnybok and Arsenii Yatsenyuk, were accused of being "under cover Jews" (in fact, only Klichko's grandmother was Jewish and he never hid this fact).

In early January 2014 two violent antisemitic incidents took place near a synagogue at the Podol neighborhood in Kiev: two religious Jews were attacked

within one week. In another incident, a synagogue worker was asked by a group of unknown persons whether he is a Jew. The worker attacked them and they fled. The pattern of the attacks, and their proximity in time, raised the suspicion that all of them were orchestrated provocations made by elements interested in presenting antisemitism as an increasing phenomenon in the country. Law enforcement agencies' refusal to investigate the incidents and classify them as assaults motivated by ethnic hatred aroused the suspicion that these were provocations initiated by the authorities wishing to present the protesters in a negative light.

These assumptions are supported also by the fact that since Yanukovich was overthrown in February 2014, the new authorities have been trying to disclaim accusations of antisemitism made against them. The new country leaders, law enforcement agencies and the initiators of the demonstrations have stressed the fact that they were not antisemites and would do their best to prevent antisemitic incidents.

Responses to antisemitic incidents are almost non-existent in Ukraine, except for a few cases when police opened an investigation. The police of Cherkassy refused to investigate the event with the "beat the yids" T-shirts mentioned above, claiming it was not an antisemitic incident because the word "yid" had been written incorrectly. At the same time, there was at least one antisemitic incident in which, according to the victim, policemen were involved: according to Dmitrii Flekman (28), a Jewish businessman from Lvov, he was arrested on 1 October 2013 by two policemen who treated him brutally and stole his belongings. They demanded \$10,000, otherwise they would find drugs at his home. When they understood he was Jewish they beat him again, shouting antisemitic insults and demanded the code of his bank account. One of the policemen said he would "do what Hitler did", opened his pants and urinated on him. Then he was told to remain on the floor because "stinking Jews are not allowed to sit on chairs". Later the policemen made him write a statement that he had no complaints against them and released him. On the next day Flekman filed a complaint at the prosecutor's office.

## **Belarus**

In 2013 the scope of antisemitic incidents in Belarus was very small and only very few cases were recorded, including desecration of Jewish memorials and cemeteries. The authorities have not been acting to prevent antisemitic incidents even after being approached by Jewish organizations asking for their help. For example, the authorities of Mogilev refused to erase antisemitic graffiti painted in several locations in the city, even though the leadership of the local Jewish community filed an official request.

## **Moldova**

In Moldova too only a few antisemitic incidents were recorded – desecrations of cemeteries and Holocaust memorials. There is an increase in the public discourse about World War II and Romania's part in it, especially concerning the implementation of the "Final Solution". The tendency to deny the role of the Romanian people and authorities in the extermination of Jews is being expressed in

removing any mention of the Holocaust from school textbooks and attempts to present a picture, according to which the Jews were not persecuted and executed, but rather left Moldova. Both extremist circles and the authorities express this idea.

In 2013 Paul Goma, a French author of Moldavian origin, who is known for his antisemitic and Holocaust denying views, was nominated for a prize from the National Writers Union of Moldova. In 2013 he also received Moldavian citizenship in spite of protests by local and foreign Jewish organizations. The tendency to describe Romania as the only victim of the Soviet and Nazi occupations reached a peak in October, when Moldova's president Nikolai Timofti, while handing archival materials to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, compared the Holocaust with the Soviet occupation.

### **Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia**

In these countries, there was a small number of antisemitic incidents during 2013, mostly desecrations of Holocaust memorials, Jewish graves and Jewish community facilities. The authorities investigated such incidents and, in some cases, were even successful in catching the perpetrators. In September, for example, a group of youngsters was detained under suspicion for planning anti-Russian provocations on Victory Day (9 May) as well as for painting antisemitic graffiti a few weeks earlier.

In addition, the public discourse on the role of the locals in World War II in general, and in the extermination of the Jews in particular, continued. In March 2013 president of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė, called to allow the yearly nationalists' marches because the demands to stop them are bringing it to the front of the public discourse. The judicial system in Latvia did even more – it scolded the municipality of Riga for forbidding the yearly march of legionnaires on 16 March and demanded that the municipality apologize to the veterans of the local SS units.

The attempt to equate between the Holocaust and the Soviet occupation continued as well. In late March 2013, during the opening of an exhibition in honor of Anne Frank, the Estonian Minister of Education and Science, Jaak Aviksoo, compared between the Holocaust and the persecution of the Estonian people during the Soviet occupation. In October 2013, the university of Tallinn held an international conference titled "Holocaust Memory and the Soviet Past: Transitional Remembering in Post-Soviet Eastern Europe". The conference, held with the support of the European Union, focused on comparing the suffering of the Jews during the Holocaust to the suffering of the Estonians under Soviet rule.

### **Caucasia & Central Asia**

A very low level of antisemitism has consistently been recorded in those areas; and 2013 continues this trend. Nevertheless, we must mention two disconcerting tendencies:

1. Extremist Islamic organizations have been repeatedly attempting to use antisemitic and anti-Israeli motives in their protests against the local governments.

So far the authorities have been very successful in preventing and/or stopping such attempts.

2. In Kyrgyzstan, for the fourth year in a row, antisemitic propaganda was used in order to blame the Jews for all economic and social problems the country has been facing since the former President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was overthrown in April 2010. However, in 2013 a decrease in this tendency was observed, especially in the number of antisemitic articles in local newspapers.

## **Latin America and Spain - Lidia Lerner**

### **Argentina**

Antisemitism in Argentina consists of both the classic, traditional form, which originates mainly from the right, conservative wing, and new antisemitism, often disguised as anti-Zionism, originating from the left and pro-Islamic circles. 2013 saw a continuation of the rise in antisemitism in the web, which, together with graffiti, consists of the most common forms of antisemitism in Argentina.

During the year, antisemitic graffiti was painted on the walls of a house in San Juan whose owners had Jewish sounding names (April); in front of synagogue Beith-lacov in Villa Clara in the province of Entre Rios (July 25), and a Jewish Temple in Libertad Street (August 9); and on several walls in the city of Maipu in the province of Mendoza (one of the signs there said: "Democracy is Jewish, only National-Socialism will save the fatherland").

One of the most serious antisemitic events in 2003 took place on November 12, when a group of Fundamentalist Christians disrupted a Jewish-Christian ceremony commemorating Kristallnacht at the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Cathedral. The fundamentalists, identified as a mix of antisemitic youth and ultra-conservative followers of the Society of St. Pius X, a breakaway Catholic group, prayed loudly and distributed brochures against "the presence of fake gods at our main Cathedral." The incident was condemned by members of the government and legislature, as well as human rights and Christian organizations.

The widespread opposition to the Argentinean-Iranian agreement to set up an international truth commission into the 1994 bombing of the Jewish community building led to accusations that Israel and Zionism were attempting to dictate Argentinean politics and laws. Accusations that Israel and/or Jewish bankers were involved in the attack were also repeated. In February, Alberto Nisman, special prosecutor in charge of the bombing investigation, received a virulent antisemitic e-mail ordering him to stop the investigation and threatening to kill him and his daughters. On June 8, Juan Gabriel Labaké, defence attorney for some of the accused in connection with the bombing, published an article on an Islamic website "explaining" the differences between Zionism and Judaism, and claiming the two organizations of Argentinean Jews, AMIA and DAIA, are totally dependent on the State of Israel and on Zionism, and serve them.

There were several reports of antisemitism in schools and among youth:

- In June, the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Police disbanded a nazi group originating in the town of Moron. The group had hacked the Scouts' website in order to recruit supporters, and published an antisemitic blog.



- A 15 year old schoolboy from Rosario was suspended on August for writing on his class blackboard: "Less Jews, more soap". He was also ordered to do research on the antisemitic background of the phrase.
- On September 1 it was reported that a 13 year old boy was being abused by other children in his school in Tierra del Fuego (where there are few Jews and he was apparently the only one in the school).
- On October 7, a 13 year old Israeli born boy was attacked by two other children in the center of the town of Allen (Province of Rio Negro). The children mocked him for his accent, and when he told them he was Jewish they beat him up with a stick and threw a brick at his face breaking his nose.

Further events:

- There were several cases of sale of Nazi paraphernalia.
- In May, Sarita Alperovich, daughter of the Governor of Tucuman and the Provisional President of the Argentinean Senate (who have both in the past also been victims of antisemitism), received antisemitic messages through her account in Facebook.
- On March 13, an anonymous telephone call was received warning that a bomb had been planted in a Jewish pre-school. On August 5, a bomb threat was received in the Joseph Caro Institute.
- During a demonstration by a pro-Palestinian group against the appearance of the Israeli Philharmonic, which took place on August 28, antisemitic cries were uttered.
- On September 2, an act took place in the mosque of At-Tahuid in Buenos Aires, commemorating Al Quds Day, with the participation of Argentinean political leaders connected to the government. During the act Muslim leader Sheikh Abdul Karim Paz called for the destruction of the State of Israel and Social movement leader Luis D'Elia claimed the Argentinean media was led by Zionism and called for the establishment of only one state and one people in Palestine.

In the web, there was a revival of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, led by the so-called Andinia Plan (an alleged Jewish plan to conquer the Patagonia region on the border of Argentina and Chile in order to establish a Jewish State). On January 7, political analyst Adrian Salbuchi published an article on the website of the Russian TV Channel in Spanish claiming that the "Owners of World Power" in general, and "International Zionism", in particular, are working to create a second Jewish state in the Argentinean-Chilean Patagonia with the assistance of corrupt governments. He specifically names the Chilean Minister of Defence, Rodrigo Hinzpeter, who is Jewish, and, he claimed, "intimately connected to the State of Israel and the American Jewish Committee". According to an article published in his blog by Eladio Fernandez on November 15, Argentinean President Cristina Kirchner sold the Patagonia to businessman Eduardo Elztain, "president of the world Jewish community", in return for cancelation of the Argentinean debt to the World Bank.

## **Brazil**

On 3 January, the Brazilian Caricaturist Carlos Latuff published a series of cartoons claiming antisemitism is being manipulated by the Israeli lobby for political purposes. One of the cartoons depicted a goose named "Antisemitism" laying golden eggs under the label "property of Israeli lobby". In the same month, Luiz Vinicius Consenzo, the administrator of a community of neo-Nazis on the Brazilian social network Orku, was convicted of a racist crime and sentenced to 35 months in jail for giving Jewish students a Nazi salute and exposing his swastika tattoo. Orku, committed the act in front of a Jewish community center, the Clube Israelita Brasileiro, at a party held on 3 December, 2010 by Jewish students from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

In November, the popular Brazilian actress Tata Werneck apologized for comments she made about Jews on a national talk show. Asked what she would do if a gay friend was being bullied at school, Werneck said she would divert the bully's attention to any Jewish classmate.

## **Chile**

In Chile there were two significant incidents during 2013:

- In May the TV station Chilevision dismissed humorist Elías Escobedo following a joke "uttered" by his marionette "Murdock Lizard" in the program "Make me Laugh": "What is the Jews' fault that they burn better than wood?". The National Council of Television received almost 300 complaints, including one by the Commission of Human Rights of the Chilean Senate, and it announced it would formulate charges against Chilevision and the program.
- In an interview aired on Chilean Controversia TV on October 18, 2013, Senator Eugenio Tuma (PPD senator of Palestinian descent), chairman of the Chilean Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, claimed there was an agreement between the Chilean authorities and the State of Israel and thousands of Israeli soldiers "dressed as civilians are in southern Chile mapping out the region" (see also paragraph on Argentina - Andinia Plan).

In an interview on Radio Jai which took place on December 30, 2013, Marcelo Isaacson, executive director of the Jewish community of Chile, spoke about the sale of antisemitic books openly in the center of Santiago. He denounced the fact that in Chile it is no crime to sell such material.

## **Colombia**

According to an article by Ricardo Angoso published in the Spanish weekly Cambio 16 on 28 September, Colombia has become the principal editorial base and disseminator of National-Socialist ideas in Latin America. There are two principal National-Socialist groups in the country: the National Socialist Union of Colombia (UNSC), led by Richard Stalin Weich, and "Third Force". These groups are antisemitic despite the fact that there are almost no Jews living in Colombia.

## **Mexico**

At the beginning of the year, there was a wave of anti-Semitic expressions in the social networks, including phrases like "I burn like a Jew" (the sixth most popular hashtag phrase among Mexican Twitter users, according to Twed.it, a website which measures the popularity of hashtags), jokes about gas chambers, turning Jews into soap, etc. One Tweet had attached to it a picture of dead Jews at a Nazi concentration camp juxtaposed with the game of Twister, in which participants' limbs are entangled on a large board.

During a pro-Palestinian act organized by the Human Rights postgraduate program of the Autonomous University of the City of Mexico on January 24, 2013, one of the speakers, Raquel Rodríguez, gave a virulently antisemitic speech denying the Holocaust. According to her, if six million had died, we would be lucky because there would be no Jews in the world. During the inauguration by Shimon Peres of the Israeli pavilion in the International Book Fair which took place in Guadalajara in December, there was an anti-Zionist manifestation by some 30 persons. According to the press the demonstrators were paid \$15 for their participation. Another manifestation took place on the last day of the fair.

## **Peru**

Peru has a small Jewish community numbering approximately 3000 members. Antisemitism is not considered a serious problem, and it originates mainly from right-wing groups. The principal incidents recorded in 2013:

- An alleged Peruvian 'Nazi' by the name of Steve Michael Harris has become the new "meme" (a concept or idea that spreads very quickly via the Internet) of the social web. He portrays swastikas in his twitter, describes himself as a Peruvian of German blood, and declares: "I hate Chilindios and fat people. I have money". He attacks colored people, latinos, and the poor. His account has 4600 followers.
- On May 27, Luis Ramírez Flores, member of the municipal council of the district of Shilcayo, called out to Jaime Bustamante Jhonson, legal adviser to the municipality, "sit down, Jew". According to Bustamante, the incident is an act of racial and religious discrimination as typified under the Penal Code.
- In June, Eliane Karp, wife of former Peruvian president Alejandro Toledo who was under investigation for corruption, claimed she was persecuted for being Jewish. According to her, she suffered from antisemitism throughout the presidency of her husband.
- On July 7, Peruvian Renan Americo Hidalgo San Martin, who describes himself as "student and investigator of the Theory of the Conspiracy against Latin America", published in his blog "Despierta Pueblo Peruano", an extremely antisemitic article on the "200 years old conspiracy of the Jewish Masonry against Peru and South America".

## **Uruguay**

In July, the Jewish Central Committee of Uruguay held a series of meetings with leaders of Uruguay's political parties in order to warn them of what it describes as a "revival of Nazi expressions" all over the world. According to Roberto Cyjon, president of the Committee, In Uruguay there is also a revival of Nazi and antisemitic expressions, including threats and graffiti.

## **Venezuela**

As in the past few years, antisemitism in Venezuela in 2013 was characterized mainly by antisemitic manifestations in the media, both governmental /semi-governmental, and private. In most cases it was disguised as anti-Zionism. As in the past, national and international events, in the Middle East and in other regions, served as opportunities for such manifestations.

In January the Argentinean news website Analisis 24 reported that the Venezuelan intelligence agency SEBIN was spying on the Venezuelan Jewish Community and collecting information on prominent Venezuelan Jews. The article led to accusations that the Mossad and CIA have been operating for years in Venezuela, provoking coups and simulating attacks such as the 2009 attack on a synagogue in Caracas in order to blame President Chavez (Ivana Cardinale, Aporrea, March 30).

The death of President Hugo Chavez on March 5, led to conspiracy theories blaming Israel and Zionism for his death. There were articles blaming Israel for the deaths or illnesses of many of Latin America's leaders, such as Omar Torrijos of Panama, Néstor and Cristina Kirchner of Argentina, Lula of Brazil, Fernando Lugo (Paraguay) (see for example Javier Del Valle Monagas Maita blog, March 2013). Even President Nicolás Maduro, Chavez' successor, repeated the accusation that Chavez was poisoned, "such as happened with Yasser Arafat". There were also warnings that Zionism might also make an attempt on Maduro's life in order to bring Henrique Capriles Radonsky, "a Zionist Jew who receives orders from international Zionism", to power and thus get hold of Venezuela's oil and other resources (Ensartaos, May 5).

As in the year before, there was a blatant utilization of the origins of the opposition presidential candidate, Henrique Capriles Radonski (a Catholic, member of a wealthy family of Jewish descent), as an electoral tool. The presidential campaign following Chavez's death led to a defamation campaign and there appeared new articles describing Capriles as a Zionist agent wanting to end the Bolivarian revolution. On April 3, for instance, Bernardo Hernández Muñoz claimed, in the semi-official news site Aporrea, that Capriles "has in his ascendancy multimillionaire Sephardic Jews linked to Israeli Zionism, and in his genes all the evil of Anas and Caifas, victimizers of Jesus...the millenary rapacity of his race, the same which copied the Jewish Holocaust and now applies it...to the Palestinian people". Nicolas Maduros' narrow victory over Capriles, and the violent demonstrations which took place in its wake, led to a defamation campaign comparing the opposition to Nazis. According to Maduro, the opposition is "worse than the Nazis of World War II who killed the Jews". During his inauguration speech Maduro compared the opposition's election campaign to the campaign justifying the Jewish Holocaust.

Referring to Latin American Jewish Congress director Claudio Epelman's declaration that the growing ties between Iran and Latin-American countries lead to a rise in antisemitism in the region, Maduro denied there was antisemitism in Venezuela. According to him, Maduro himself had Jewish roots and so did several of the country's founders. He compared the Jewish Holocaust to the indigenous holocaust carried out by the European invaders. At the same time, he maintained that to criticize the State of Israel is not antisemitism, and accused the "repressive State of Israel" of sequestering the "noble" Jewish people.

The events in Syria and Egypt served as opportunities for blaming Zionism. On 23 August, for instance, *Aporrea* published an article by Castor Diaz allegedly exposing a conspiracy by the "Nazi-Zionist" government of Israel to attack Syria in order to bring about a third world war, and thus pave the way for a conspiracy against its rivals in the world of economy, industry and military power - China and Russia. He warned that this might bring about the end of the human race.

In August, the weekly *Kikiriki* published a two part, extremely racist and antisemitic article on "The History of the Arrival of the Jews to the American Continent". The article is full of classic antisemitic stereotypes, and accuses Jews, inter alia, of financing the Inquisition and Hitler. Another article full of classic anti-Semitic stereotypes was published in *Aporrea* on September 21 by Rubén Ramos. According to Ramos: "wars, terrorism, genocides, magnicides, destruction, hunger" are decided by the interests of the "Zionist-imperial elites of world power", and there is a "crusade of ethnic-religious cleansing to make Judaism the great universal religion" and create the Kingdom of Israel.

## **Spain**

According to the annual Raxen (RACism and XENophobia Network) Report, there are racist groups in all autonomous communities in Spain, including over 1,500 xenophobic websites, dozens of neo-fascist concerts and over 10,000 ultras (fanatic sport fans influenced by extreme political ideologies or views on racism) and neo-Nazis. Isaac Querub, president of the Federation of Spanish Jewish Communities, declared on 9 November, that Spain was not an antisemitic country, but he lamented the existence of prejudices, stereotypes and verbal and written aggressions, which are disseminated mainly through social networks and internet forums.

Despite its past, the extreme right has not succeeded in gaining significant support in Spain in the last few years as it has in other parts of Europe. However, there have been cases of right-wing extremism, as well as leftist. For example:

- On October 5, Spanish neo-Nazi groups gathered in Malaga, outside the Greek Consulate, to protest the detention in Greece of the leaders of the 'Golden Dawn' group. The gathering was attended by some 20 Nazis, who protested against what they saw as continuing persecution against 'nationalists'. On November 4, a group of 10-15 persons carrying ultra right symbols and claiming to be members of the "Golden Dawn", erupted into the Faculty of History of the Complutense University of Madrid, yelling proclamations, tearing signs and confronting some of the students.
- In July, the Spanish National Police arrested a resident of Sabadell, accused of publishing a blog disseminating antisemitic and xenophobic ideas and

possessing an arsenal of weapons. In October, three leaders of a Nazi group the Asociación Frente Joven Obrero (Young Labor Front Association) , vinculated to the neo-Nazi party Alianza Nacional in Barcelona, were sentenced to two and a half years in prison and a fine of 1,620 euros for incitement to hatred and discrimination and disseminating Nazi ideology on and through the internet.

- A concert scheduled in August by the group Amusic Skazz Band in Manresa was cancelled following threats and a campaign against two band members accused of being "racists" and "Zionists" for having assisted an act commemorating Israel's anniversary. According to candidate of the pro-independent Catalan party CUP (Candidatura d'Unitat Popular), David Vitali, "if they do not permit Nazis in our spaces, we should not allow Zionists. I see no difference".

#### Classic antisemitism:

- On 14 May, the local newspaper Diario de Almeria published an article by Trino Tortosa claiming the roots of the present world economic crisis lay in the "fathers of world economy", twelve "mega-wealthy" Jews who in 1913 created the US Federal Reserve. According to Tortosa, Jews are characterized by their great astuteness for business and their spirit of unity despite the distance between them.
- On 15 November, the newspaper El Mundo published a column by Antonio Gala, claiming Jews are "more a race than a people". Under the guise of criticizing the Israeli government, he compared them to the Nazis. According to him, the Jewish intelligence is recognizable, "but also its erratic proceeding, except to survive at any cost...like Nazism proper".
- Referring to the acquisition of shares by George Soros and Bill Gates in the Spanish construction company FCC, owned by Esther Koplowitz, on December 28 the news-site Vozpopuli published an article by Manuel L. Torrents called "The Philantropic (and Jewish) Lobby Erupts into FCC to Support its Owner", Torrents claims that the three of them have a common, "Semitic" background. According to him the Jewish lobby has always enjoyed something "between a mythic and cursed aura...Nobody knows it, nobody ostensibly belongs to it, but it must exist, otherwise they would not talk about it so much". No other people are thought to be able to accumulate global wealth.

#### Other significant events:

- In the military fair held in Casa de Campo in Madrid on June 27-29 with the participation of the Ministry of Defense, numerous objects said to have belonged to Jews deported to Nazi extermination camps were sold, as well as Nazi propaganda objects. On September 28, the Principe de Asturias public school in Quijorna, Madrid, held a market where they sold, among other objects, banners with swastikas and patches with the emblem of the SS - the skull.
- On 14 August, huge neo-Nazi graffiti, including a picture of Hitler and the phrase "Adolph Hitler was right" was painted in the bull-ring in the municipality of Pinto in Madrid.

- On 23 September, a sign saying "I hate Jews" was painted on a plaque put up by Keren Kayemet Le Israel commemorating fallen firemen in the village of Horta de Sant Joan.

On 22 January, 2013, during an act in Parliament in honor of International Holocaust Memorial Day, the Spanish Minister of Justice announced that Spain would reform its Penal Code to penalize antisemitism. On September 11, 2013, the Spanish center-right party Partido Popular presented an amendment to the Organic Law for the Improvement of the Quality of Education to include an article on the establishment of Holocaust studies during the different stages of basic education.

## **Scandinavia - Mikael Shinkman**

The Jewish populations in all Scandinavian countries are slowly decreasing, partly due to a high median, a low level of commitment to Jewish religious life and a high level of exogamy. Those Jews who do value a religious lifestyle and endogamy, tend to leave Scandinavia for the UK, the US or Israel, where the Jewish communities are larger. Even though antisemitism may be a contributing factor in some cases of Jewish emigration, as was assessed by the chairman of the Copenhagen Jewish community Finn Schwarz in an interview in Jyllands-Posten October 1, there is no evidence suggesting that it would be the dominant factor. In other words, if the Jewish communities had been larger and could offer a richer and more varied Jewish life, Scandinavian Jews would probably not move – at least not to the UK where the levels of antisemitism are comparable to the ones in Scandinavia.

### **Antisemitism**

Most antisemitic incidents that occur in Scandinavia are unplanned, spur of the moment attacks or harassment of Jews identified as such by strangers passing them by in the street or some other public space. This sort of incidents has traditionally largely gone unreported, and therefore it has always been difficult to know how common they are. Additionally, on the request of their community leaders, Scandinavian Jews take great care to disguise their Jewish identity in public exactly in order to avoid this kind of unpleasant incidents. Therefore, Scandinavian Jews make sure not to wear kippot, Jewish symbols or clothes with Hebrew text in public. A report published 2013 by the FRA, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, showed that 49 percent of the Jews in Sweden don't wear Jewish symbols, like a *kippah* or Star of David pendant, or even avoid going to Jewish community centers, synagogues or cemeteries for fear of antisemitic incidents. The EU average is 20 percent, according to the report.

There are a rising number of incidents reported in Sweden, especially in the country's third largest city Malmö with some 300,000 inhabitants and 700 Jews. In 2010 and 2011 together, 44 antisemitic incidents were reported, but in 2012 alone that number was 60 and in the first half of 2013, there were 35 reports of antisemitic incidents in Malmö. Most likely, however, this is the effect of an increased willingness to report such incidents and not an actual increase in incidents. This

interpretation is based on improved community efforts and routines for reporting antisemitic incidents, as well as changing attitudes on the political level in the city, making combating anti-Semitism more of a priority in the city. For instance, the previous Mayor, Ilmar Reepalu, who was infamous for his way of belittling the problem of antisemitism or even blaming the Jews themselves for the problem, resigned on 1 July. As late as 20 June, local newspaper *Sydsvenskan* revealed that the City of Malmö had refused to report an employee to the police for antisemitic hate crimes. Even though the City had him fired, it refused to launch a complaint or to reveal his identity.

An example of changing attitudes and growing awareness of the problem of antisemitism can be seen in the so-called *kippah* walks that have been arranged in Sweden since 2011, when it started in Malmö. On 18 May, the president of Swedish Committee against Antisemitism, Willy Silberstein, and journalist Sofia Nerbrand arranged a *kippah* walk in Malmö. It was a protest against antisemitism in the city and some 300 people, mostly non-Jews, participated. The *kippah* walk took place during the week the Eurovision Song Contest was held in the city. The police did not allow the *kippah* walk's regular route, since the Swedish Palestine Network was demonstrating against the Israeli participation in ESC along that route.

Also in other Scandinavian countries, there were responses to antisemitism. On 28 January, the Danish daily *Politiken* published a statement from a principal of one of the seven schools in Nørrebro, a part of Copenhagen with a large proportion of inhabitants born outside of Denmark. Principal Lise Egholm warned Jewish parents against sending their children to her or any of the other schools in Nørrebro due to several recent cases of harassments against Jewish pupils by Muslim pupils. Egholm said that it's unacceptable that Jewish children must leave the area schools, but added that she had a responsibility for her pupils and must take reality into account. The article led to a solidarity manifestation on 23 February. Then, dozens of demonstrators gathered outside the school in protest of the harassment of Jewish pupils. Demonstrators held up signs reading "Today we are all Jews."

In Finland, businessman and owner of a supermarket chain Juha Kärkkäinen was fined €45,000 on 22 October for "inciting hatred against an ethnic group" in articles published in the free magazine *Magneetti Media* distributed to over 360,000 homes by his supermarket chain. The court also ordered him to take down the offensive articles from *Magneetti Media*'s website. The paper has published a string of articles with anti-Semitic content, including an article based on *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* in 2013. The article with the Protocols was taken from *Radio Islam*, the well known anti-Semitic website run by Ahmed Rami. The paper has also published articles by former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke and Ted Pike, an anti-Semitic pastor from Oregon, USA.

The relatively low Scandinavian number of antisemitic incidents in 2013 can probably be linked to the relative quiet in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the less prominent place this conflict has received in the media and public discourse in Scandinavia in 2013. The anti-Israeli demonstrations that were legion in the last few years have been few virtually non-existent. There is, however, no reason to assume that this is a sign of a weakening of anti-Zionist or anti-Israeli sentiments in Scandinavia – just the absence of trigger events. With all likelihood, a new military



operation or war between Israel and the Palestinians or someone else in the region would probably cause the same old anti-Zionist sentiments to resurface. Experience shows that as soon as the situation between Israel and the Palestinians, or some of the Arab neighbor states, turn violent, the number of antisemitic incidents increase in Scandinavia – as well as in the rest of the world – as the local Scandinavian Jews are forced to serve as scapegoats within reach for anger and frustration at Israel.

Despite the lull, Israel remains a sensitive topic in Scandinavian political discourse, and some people blur the line between Israel and Jews in general. For instance, 16 November, Trond Andresen, professor at NTNU University in Trondheim, Norway, said to a student paper that he boycotted the university's Kristallnacht commemoration because it “served Israeli propaganda”. He added that there is no problem of antisemitism today, and that non-Zionists should stop talk about it since it only serves Israel’s interests. November 19, university spokesperson Jan Erik Kaaro distanced himself from Andresen’s statement, stressing it was not university opinion. In 2009 and 2011, Andresen, a longstanding member of the communist party RV/Rødt, tried to get the NTNU to adopt a policy of complete boycott of Israel.

### **Extremists: Populists, Neo-Nazis and Islamists**

Rightwing extremist elements have advanced their positions in Scandinavia in 2013. This holds true for the populist as well as the ideological extreme right. The populist extreme right, primarily embodied in populist parties such as the Progress Party in Norway, the Sweden Democrats and the Danish People’s Party, have held their positions or advanced in polls. In Sweden, the previously shunned Sweden Democrats have been securely positioned as the third largest party in the polls throughout the year, with some 10 percent of the voters’ support (the party has 5 percent of the seats in the Riksdag since the 2010 elections). On 9 September, the Progress Party received 16.3 percent of the votes in the Norwegian parliamentary elections, and is now a member of the rightwing coalition government with seven portfolios, including finance, justice and oil. This is the first time since the end of the War that an extreme rightwing party controls ministries in Scandinavia.

Another branch of the populist extreme right are various counter-jihad and anti-Islam movements, such as Stop the Islamization of Norway (SIAN), Stop the Islamization of Denmark (SIAD), Danish Defence League (DDL), Norwegian Defence League (NDL) and Swedish Defence League (SDL). These organizations have a strong presence online, but usually fail to attract more than a handful of followers to demonstrations. On 25 May, the Norwegian Defence League demonstrated in Trondheim. The demonstration attracted less than ten participants, four speakers and five listeners. More than 50 counter-demonstrators attacked the NDL-demonstration and drowned out their speakers with noise. On 20 July, an anti-Islam demonstration organized by SIAN (Stop the Islamization of Norway) in Furuset only drew nine participants. Some 75 counter-demonstrators drowned out the speech given by SIAN leader Arne Turmyr. On 23 March, Swedish Defence League demonstrated in Malmö in southern Sweden. Counter-demonstrators clashed with police before the SDL demonstration. Only some twenty SDL supporters participated,

whereas the counter-demonstration had almost 600 participants. Some 100 policemen were at the scene.

One of NDL's online activities 2013 was the February 27<sup>th</sup> publication of a list of organizations and companies run or owned by Muslims in Norway. The list contains hundreds of entries. Another important forum for populist rightwing extremists is various alternative news sites, such as Fria Tider (Free Times), Vaken (Awake) and Avpixlat (De-Pixled). Avpixlat is one of the four most visited Swedish websites, with hundreds of thousands of visits per year, more than most Swedish online newspapers and TV-channels. The site has a certain number of commentators in Norwegian and Danish as well, indicating that its readership is not limited to Sweden. The site publishes news about problems surrounding immigration and multiculturalism, things it claims the main media hushes up. In the beginning of December, several high-ranking members of the Sweden Democrats were caught posting highly inflammatory and racist comments on the site, urging Muslims to kill each other, propagating letting refugee children starve to death rather than letting them into Sweden and comparing immigrants to locusts and pests.

These sites are openly critical to immigration, calling themselves “pro-Swedish”, and the talkbacks and comments are frequently racist. There are, however, relatively few examples of specifically antisemitic content. Even though the discourse on the populist extreme right isn't particularly antisemitic (as opposed to xenophobic, racist and anti-Muslim), individual members of populist parties and groups in all Scandinavian countries are from time to time caught making antisemitic statements, usually in the form of Holocaust denial or regarding a Jewish world conspiracy.

As opposed to the populist extreme right, antisemitism is rife and prevalent within the ideological extreme right, a milieu dominated by neo-Nazi groups. The Swedish anti-racist NGO EXPO publishes an annual report on the racist extreme right in Sweden, and its 2013 report shows an increase in activity in this milieu. They report 2,333 activities in 2013, an increase with 28 percent since 2012 and the highest number since the first annual report in 2008. This can partly be explained by increased political activity in preparation of the elections in 2014. Most activities concern spreading propaganda: 1,884 activities, compared to 1,351 in 2012. The number of demonstrations and manifestations also increased to 224 from 179. At the same time, the number of known racist rightwing extremist organizations has decreased since 2008 from more than 40 to 12 in 2013. Those 12 are, however, more active and better organized. Two organizations are responsible for the increase: The Swedish Resistance Movement (SMR) and Swedes' Party (SvP). Other organizations were Nordic Youth, the Union for National Youth, Nordic National Socialists and the National Democrats. These six made up 95.5 per cent of all incidents.

Some of the activities reported led to violent incidents. For example, on 24 May, about 50 SMR activists went to the Stockholm suburb of Storvreten to “quench” unrest among the immigrant population there. Clashes ensued. On 12 July, 2013 members of the Swedes Party (SP) attacked leftwing activists in Halmstad with knives and an axe. The Leftwing activists had come to sabotage a demonstration arranged by SP. Fifteen people were involved in the incident. One person was taken to hospital for treatment of cuts. On 10 August, a man in Uppsala, Sweden, had to be hospitalized after being attacked by neo-Nazis who were trying to film protestors at a

neo-Nazi event. On 14 September, the Swedes' Party organized a demonstration in central Stockholm together with participation also from SMR and the National Democrats. The demonstration drew some 180 participants, and several times more counter-demonstrations. The counter-demonstrators tried to interfere in the demonstration and threw objects at the neo-Nazis, who answered by attacking and throwing objects back. On 5 October, an exhibition at a shopping mall in central Stockholm highlighting the dire situation of refugees, was attacked with a smoke grenade. Before the attack, activists handed out propaganda leaflets for SMR. On 9 November, SMR activists demonstrated at the Greek embassy protesting the Greek government crackdown on Golden Dawn. At the end of the demonstration, that took place on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kristallnacht, the SMR activists attacked counter demonstrators, one of whom had to be hospitalized. On 15 December, 2013, some fifty members of SMR attacked a peaceful protest against neo-Nazi graffiti in a Stockholm suburb. The ten policemen at the scene could not protect the demonstrators. Two were stabbed and one of them hospitalized.

There has also been some neo-Nazi activity in the other Scandinavian countries. On 31 January, 2013, three well-known neo-Nazis tried to interrupt the launching of a book on the Finnish extreme right at Jyväskylä city library. The three, armed with knives and bottles, tried to enter the hall where the authors Li Andersson and Mikael Brunila spoke to an audience of some 100 people. They were stopped by a security guard who was injured and had to be taken to hospital. The three men were later arrested. They belong to the Finnish Resistance Movement, a branch of the Swedish SMR. On 1 March, Finnish police informed the Jewish community that one of the men arrested in Jyväskylä had gathered information about Finnish Jews. A USB-stick containing information and photos, mostly about young Jews, were found at his home when police was investigating the January 31<sup>st</sup> attack. One neo-Nazi demonstration was also held on 10 March in Trondheim, Norway. Almost all the demonstrators arrested at that event were Swedish supporters, once again confirming that the Swedish neo-Nazi movements are the motor that propels the Scandinavian ideological extreme right as a whole.

A third kind of extremism, and one where antisemitism is frequently encountered, is the Islamist discourse. There are several hundred thousand Muslims in Scandinavia. In such a large group of people, there are bound to be some that hold extremist views, and in later years the media has been keener on reporting about them and exposing their extremist positions. Especially misogynic and homophobic statements are reported and condemned in Scandinavian media, but also examples of antisemitism are sometimes criticized.

On 17 January, the Norwegian daily Dagsavisen published an interview with Nehmat Ali Shah, imam at the Central Jamaat-e Ahl-e Sunnat Mosque in Oslo and the mosque's president Ghulam Sarwar. In the interview, the two men claim that the negative media coverage of Muslims they think exists in Norway is because the Jews control Norwegian media. On 19 May, a clip with Fahad Qureshi, founder of Islam Net in Norway was published online. The clip shows Qureshi at a meeting claiming that "all normal Muslims" think homosexuals and women who have extra-marital sex should be stoned to death. The audience expressed approval. Fahad Qureshi founded Islam Net in 2008 when he was a student. Islam Net is a Muslim organization aiming to spread Islam in Norway, especially among young people. On 26 August, Danish

Islamist extremist Abu Khatab published a clip on Youtube where he threatened to kill a number of Danes: the president of the anti-Islam Association for Free Press (Trykkefrihedselskabet) Lars Hedegaard, the cartoonist Kurt Westergaard who drew cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad, former secret service agent Morten Storm, NATO General Secretary and former Danish PM Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the former Islamist imam Ahmed Akkari who now works to counter extreme Islam in Denmark and the politician Naser Khader. At the end of the clip, their photos are placed on a wall and shot. Several of these individuals have been threatened before. On 19 May, Mahmoud Aldebe, former representative for the Swedish Center Party, wrote in the Swedish Arabic news site Arabnyheter. In the article he claims that Muslims who want to advance in the political system in Sweden must first “deny their convictions, for instance the hatred against Zionism and to accept homosexuality.” Aldebe writes that this is because the Swedish political parties “have decided to follow the international Zionism in order to marginalize and divide the interests of the Muslim minority.” This wasn’t the first time Aldebe wrote anti-Semitic texts for Arabnyheter, which also has published texts by Israel Shamir and Holocaust-denier Lasse Wilhelmsson. Aldebe was forced to leave the Center Party due to his views on women and homosexuality. Aldebe has also been the spokesman for Sweden’s Muslim Union in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## **Arab Countries - Esther Webman**

The volume of antisemitic articles in the Arab press continued to diminish, particularly during the first half of 2013, although as we have indicated in our previous reports there was no change in the negative image of the Jews, Zionism and Israel since the outbreak of the "Arab Spring" revolutions in 2011. The political and the military upheavals and the unrelenting struggle between the nationalist and the Islamist forces averted the public attention from the Palestinian issue as well as from the Jews and Israel, but it seems that with the removal of the Islamist Egyptian president Muhammad Mursi in the beginning of July by the military, one can discern a gradual surge in antisemitic manifestations. Popular antisemitic perceptions have struck roots in Arab societies, and the tendency to blame Israel and the Jews for all their troubles continued unabated in public statements, TV programs, and the internet. A blend of Islamic anti-Jewish motifs, the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, the blood libel and Nazi images are part and parcel of Arab discourse and way of thinking.

In response to Mursi's removal by the Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces, ‘Abd al-Fatah al-Sisi, pro-Mursi demonstrators in Egypt and East Jerusalem carried an antisemitic banner with the pictures of Sisi and Hitler, blaming the Jews for standing behind the coup. Comparing their deeds, the banner, which was spread on various Facebook pages and blogs in Arabic, stated: "Big difference between Hitler and al-Sisi, Hitler killed the Jews for his own people... [while] al-Sisi killed his own people for the Jews."

Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Erdogan, as well allegedly traced Israel's hands behind the violent suppression of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt in July. According to one of his aids, an internet video, in which Israeli Justice Minister, Tzipi Livni, and the French-Jewish philosopher, Bernard-Henri Levi, were expressing opposition to the Muslim Brotherhood's rule in Egypt at a news conference at Tel-

Aviv University in June 2011, was the evidence. Erdogan's remarks, made on August 20, were strongly condemned by the White House and were criticized by publicists for reflecting a broader phenomenon of antisemitism in today's Turkey. (Al-Monitor, August 22)

Early Islamic historical relations and sources were used frequently by Islamist preachers. They were the inspiration of an Egyptian TV series titled Khaybar broadcast on the eve of Ramadan on 7 July. Recreating the battle between Muslims and Jews in Khaybar in 629, it allegedly meant to show "the truth about the Jews and about making agreements with them," and its main conclusion as the screenwriter, Yusri al-Jundi, asserted was that "these people have not changed a bit and the only language they understood was the language of force." The drama also invoked several antisemitic remarks by its actors on the allegedly inherent traits of the Jews: "Jews are people with no moral values", "slayers of prophets", who think only about "accumulating money". (al-Jazeera, July 4 - <http://primage.tau.ac.il/asm/000250584.pdf>; Ynet News, July 11 - <http://primage.tau.ac.il/asm/000250585.pdf> ; Memri, clip 3902 ) "Since the inception of Islam 1,400 years ago, we have been suffering from Jewish and Zionist interference in Muslim affairs," summed up Shaykh of al-Azhar Ahmad al-Tayyib the relations with the Jews, in an interview aired on Egyptian TV on 25 October, 2013. The Jews, he said, are arrogant and consider themselves the Chosen People, practicing a hierarchy among people, according to the Torah. Therefore, "these practices and beliefs have made people, even non-Muslims, hate them." (MEMRI, November 28, dispatch 5538)

The accusation of the alleged Jewish interference in Arab and Muslim affairs and the usage of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* as the ultimate proof of Jewish mechanization had been a recurring theme, employed by all political streams. Jordanian Journalist, Asad al-'Azuni, for example, accused in an article titled "the Boston Explosions – Look for Jews," in al-Hiwar al-Mutamaddin website on April 17, the Jews and the "American right" as being behind the attack in the Boston Marathon two days earlier, which left 3 people dead and close to 200 injured, just as they were behind the 9/11 attack. Framing his comments in a broader context, 'Azuni also claimed that the Jews plotted with the Nazis to occupy Palestine and loot Germany. In a similar vein, Syrian official daily *al-Thawra*, published an article by Amin Sharabih in May 5, in which he claimed that Zionism, inspired by the Protocols, aims at taking over the world through igniting wars and conflicts, and promoting killings and destruction under the guise of democracy, freedom and peace. Therefore, Sharabih explained, the bloodshed in Syria is, in fact, the outcome of the battle between the Syrian resistance and Zionism. The "Jewish snake," which controls the Western countries and weakens them as it is instructed by the Protocols, threatens the Syrian regime, asserted Shabali Badir on 1 May, in the Syrian General Organization of Radio and TV magazine. (<http://primage.tau.ac.il/asm/000244902.pdf>)

Israel was even accused by Kevin Barrett, Veterans Today's editor, a conspiracy theory website on September 16, of stealing the Nile, as part of the Zionist plan to "steal all the land between the Nile and the Euphrates" and to control Egypt as a province of "Greater Israel. Barrett also raised another theme which seems to gain popularity – the Jew as a metaphor of evil. Hence, there were several instances in

which adversaries were accused of being Jews. Al-Sisi, he said, is concealing his Jewish identity and Israeli connections from the Egyptian people.

The Muslim Brothers were also compared with the Jews for having their own protocols. In an article on 1 August, in daily opposition paper *al-Wafd* newspaper, Majdi Salama claimed that Mursi was implementing the Protocols and operating in favor of Israel and world Zionism as he strived to enslave Egypt to the World Bank and spread chaos. Like the Protocols, **the blood libel** was also invoked. Jordanian columnist, Nawwaf al-Zaru, who frequently makes antisemitic remarks, wondered in Jordanian daily *al-'Arab al-Yawm* on 26 March, during U.S. President Barack Obama's visit to Israel, if he was aware of the fact that Jews use Christian blood in the Passover Matzos. Al-Zaru's article was posted in the Arabic section of Miftah.org, the website of the Palestinian NGO, which drew harsh Israeli and Jewish criticism. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the founder of the website, apologized for its publication and removed it, condemning the phenomena of blood libels in general and explaining that it was a mistake made by a junior staff member. Two venomous articles on the alleged Jewish use of human blood in religious rituals were published on April 30, in Egyptian daily *Misr al-Jadida*. One of them by Palestinian writer Minat al-Sayyid contended that "Jews haven't forgotten their blood habits," they slaughter Palestinians and "eat food that is made of [their] blood and cooked with the flames of [their] suffering." The second article by 'Amru 'Abd al-Rahman, titled "When the Jews Drank Blood of Egyptians on Passover," referred to the Jewish community in Egypt and attributed the stories on their rituals in Passover and Purim to their Egyptian neighbors. 'Abd al-Rahman explained that the holidays of these "vampires" require human blood of non-Jewish victims, Christian or Muslim, less than ten year-old, whose "blood is extracted with sharp needles...that ensures [their] painful agony."

Following the publication in November of the Swiss investigation report on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat death prompted PA Minister of Religious Affairs, Mahmud al-Habash, in a sermon broadcast on PA TV on November 8, to accuse the Jews of poisoning him, as they did to Prophet Muhammad. A week later senior PA and Fatah leader Jibril Rajub added that the US was involved in Arafat's death in 2004 as they gave the green light to Israeli PM Ariel Sharon. This accusation was also expressed in an episode of the PA TV children's program, "The Best Home," aired on November 16. "The Jews poisoned him and I hate them very much", said a young girl. (*Al-Rai al-Youm*, 7 November; PMW, 12 November, 2013 - <http://primage.tau.ac.il/asm/000249549.pdf>).

International Holocaust Remembrance Day serves as an occasion to refer to the Holocaust in the press and in the social networks, revealing a blend of denial and ignorance. Fathi Shihab al-Din, head of the committee of culture in the Egyptian parliament, argued on 27 January, in an interview to American Fox News that the Holocaust is a hoax cooked up by the United States intelligence. Shihab al-Din explained that "the myth" was invented in order to destroy the image of Germany and to justify the use of the atomic bombs by the US. He was also quoted as saying that the 6 million Jews who were murdered in World War II simply moved to the U.S. In a TV show aired on al-Manar TV on 17 February, Hasan Juni, an international law professor at the Lebanese University, accused Zionism of collaborating with the Nazia. He argued that the Zionists, who helped Hitler rise to power, reached an agreement with him, according to which he will spare the wealthy and educated Jews,

but will execute the poor ones, the leftists, and the communists. In contradiction to this statement, he referred to the Holocaust as the "so-called Holocaust." (Memri, February 17, 2013, clip 3754 - <http://primage.tau.ac.il/asm/000243598.pdf>)

A street survey in Cairo conducted in May by an Egyptian young student about the Holocaust revealed the prevalent ignorance about it. He asked passers-by whether they have heard the word "Holocaust," and what they know about it. Most of the interviewees had not heard of the word at all; some had heard and generally knew that it referred to something that happened during the Second World War in connection with the Jews. One of the interviewed knew what it was but added that there is a controversy about the numbers: "There are disputes regarding the figures. Some say three million Jews were killed, and others say it was one million. Some question whether it occurred." (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jwmw6fkzPtw>)

The election of Hassan Rouhani as president in Iran in June, aroused great expectations for a change of attitude toward the West and particularly the U.S. Indeed, Rouhani who is considered much more pleasant and moderate than his predecessor Mahmud Ahmadinejad, greeted the Jewish community on the occasion of the High Holidays, and in an interview to CNN on 24 September, he condemned the Holocaust and described it as reprehensible and condemnable crime. However, Fars, the Iranian news agency, accused CNN of fabricating portions of Rouhani's interview, saying that "he had not used the word Holocaust or characterized the Nazi mass murder as 'reprehensible'," but suggested that historians should be left to judge historical events. Abraham Foxman, ADL National Director, on the other hand considered Rouhani's statement as a "more subtle form of Holocaust revisionism." (Al-Monitor Iran Pulse, 28 September, 2013- <http://primage.tau.ac.il/asm/000247969.pdf>). The Iranian double speak about the Holocaust, reflecting the existing split in Iranian society between conservatives and reformists, came again to the fore when Iran's Foreign Minister, Javad Zarif, posted a Facebook status and tweeted on 5 September, a condemnation of the Nazi massacre of the Jews while simultaneously condemning the Zionists' massacre of the Palestinians, and claiming that "Iran never denied the Holocaust." In response, regime officials pointed out that the policy of denying the Holocaust has not changed and called upon him to apologize. (18 September, 2013, Special Dispatch No. 5450)

As we have always pointed out any report on antisemitism would be missing if it does not expose the counter reactions among Arab writers and Muslim religious leaders. Despite the tribulations of Arab and Muslim societies, the voices against the spreading phenomenon of antisemitism are increasing. At a time of high tension between France's Muslim and Jewish communities, thirty French Imams visited on 4 February, the Holocaust Memorial at Drancy near Paris. The visit, a first such event in France, was headed by Drancy's Imam, Hassan Shalghumi, who is labeled by his detractors France's "Imam for the Jews." Jewish-French writer Marek Halter who jointly organized the visit with Shalghumi, explained that this act is "a big deal for them [the Imams]... they know that they will be subjected to insults on the internet for coming here today." This event followed a previous visit held by sixteen Imams led by Shalghumi to Israel in November 2012, which included a visit to the Holocaust Memorial Yad Vashem. It is part of an effort to improve Muslim-Jewish relations in France and alter the misconceptions about the Holocaust as well as Islam. (France 24, 5 February, 2013 - <http://primage.tau.ac.il/asm/000243837.pdf>) Similarly, on the

occasion of Israeli Holocaust Remembrance Day, a group of eight Palestinians visited Yad Vashem Museum in Jerusalem on 3 April. The visit was organized by the Israeli-Palestinian organization "Combatants for Peace," which strives to promote an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. The participants called upon Palestinians to take part in such visits in order to understand the fears of the Jewish people and to find common ground with them. Two of the participants, Ahmad al-Ja'afari and Bassam 'Aramin, criticized the frequently made comparison between the Holocaust and the occupation, arguing that it is a big mistake to compare such different cases. (*Al-Quds*, April 4, 2013).

On 26 November, Mohammed Dajani Daoudi, head of the American Studies Program at al-Quds University in Jerusalem and founder of the Wasatia movement of moderate Islam, criticized in an article posted on Firka Forum, a blog that reviews the Arab world, the absence of Holocaust education in the Arab world, and especially in Palestine. He claimed that the Holocaust is completely ignored in the educational system; politically, it is perceived as "Zionist propaganda to generate sympathy for the Jewish cause;" religiously, radicals advocate a clash between Islam and Judaism /Christianity; and psychologically, it is difficult to be educated about the suffering of their "perpetrator." Yet, due to the importance of Holocaust education, the approach should be teaching creative and critical thinking, moderation and lessons from other genocides in modern history. (Sharnoff's Global Views, 21 November, 2013 - <http://primage.tau.ac.il/asm/000249738.pdf>)

In September, Yad Vashem recognized an Egyptian physician, Muhammad Helmy, as "Righteous among Nations", the first Arab to receive this honor. Helmy hid Anna Boros, a family friend, and provided her family with medical care. When Nazi interrogators discovered it, he moved her to hide in Frieda Szturmann's house, who also received the honor. Unfortunately, Helmy's family in Egypt refused to receive this recognition. (*Washington Post*, 28 September, 2013). In mid-December, a conference commemorating the effects of the Holocaust on Tunisian Jews was held in Tunis, being among the first events focusing on the Holocaust in an Arab country. It was set to memorialize the 5,000 Jews subjected to forced labor in Tunisia during the Nazi occupation in the first six months of 1943. It also raised the issue of Muslims who saved Jews during the period. Yamina Thabet, said that the conference's aim was "to prevent amnesia and to ensure that something as terrible as the Holocaust should never happen again." (JTA, December 15, 2013 - <http://www.jta.org/2013/12/15/news-opinion/world/holocaust-conference-in-tunisia-to-commemorate-forced-labor-deportations>)

Harsh criticism of antisemitism was also voiced by several writers. For example, Dr. Yusuf al-Hadhiri, a columnist for the Yemeni paper *Aden al-Ghad*, on May 27, denounced the custom of calling Jews "descendants of apes and pigs", claiming that in the Prophet's biography and Islamic traditions (hadith) there is not a single mention of the Jews being the descendants of apes and pigs. Turkish political and religious commentator and a peace activist, Sinem Tezyapar, called upon "the Muslim world" in an article published by the *Jerusalem Post* on September 3, to stop accusing the Jews for every failure in the Middle East, arguing that using Israel as the scapegoat of every single evil in the world has become a trend. This trend, she said, is part of traditional Jew-hatred, accompanied by beliefs in conspiracy theories. A Muslim scholar from Gatestone Institute, Ali Salim, also issued a similar call in an



article published on September 16, whereas Egyptian novelist Yusuf Zeidan criticized in an interview on CBC TV on December 30, the Arab politicians for their hypocrisy. They curse Israel to gain popularity but when they come to power, they have no problem dealing with it. Antisemitism has become a common phenomenon, he complained, calling to reconsider notions regarding the Jewish question, since Muslims shares their traditions with Jews and Christians. (Memri, 30 December, 2013, Clip No. 4097).

## **Greece - Michal Navoth**

The report provides an overview of antisemitism in Greece in 2013. The antisemitic events should be considered against the major trend that characterizes Greece since the second half of 2012 and its influence on 2013 is of increasing concern. On 17 June, 2012 eighteen members of the Chryssi Avgghi (Golden Dawn, hereinafter: GD) were sworn into the Greek parliament. In so doing, it has arguably become not only the most extreme right wing political party to have won parliamentary seats in Europe in the last years, but also among the most extreme to have entered a European national legislature since-Nazi era Germany.

Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras described GD as "a right-wing extremist, one might say fascist, neo-Nazi party". Its popularity has surged ever since and almost throughout the entire period (i.e., till the end of December 2013) is considered as Greece's third-largest party. No other party has managed to captivate the growing levels of despair of the population at the debt stricken country as effectively as the GD had capitalized on the country's economic plight. Although, following the crackdown (*infra*) in October 2013 the party took a dive in its soaring popularity, by the end of November 2013 it recovered some of those losses.

Emboldened by its success, the neo Nazi party became even more visible on 2013. Even if the party is not a member of the governing coalition, it can support and have an impact on the government, normalising racist and antisemitic speech along the way, pushing its views into mainstream policies.

GD lawmakers have frequently used undisguised antisemitic rhetoric inside the Greek Parliament which sometimes seemed more like a parliament in Hitler's Germany than in a European country in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

On 7 February GD MP Ioannis Lagos submitted an interpellation to the Greek Parliament questioning the country marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January and the teaching of Holocaust in Greek schools. In mid May 2013 GD lawmaker Papas re-affirmed his admiration for Hitler and national socialism during a session of the Greek Parliament. Later in the same week Greece's parliament ejected a GD lawmaker and shouts of 'Hail Hitler' were heard in the chamber. On 6 June, GD MP and spokesman Ilias Kasidiaris sparked controversy in Parliament after suggesting he is a Holocaust denier. Kasidiaris was not the only one. GD leader Nikos Michaloliakos, had publicly and repeatedly denied the Holocaust in Spring 2012, a few weeks before the elections.

2013 was a difficult year of in the perspective of grossly insulting rhetoric in parliament and aggressive posturing in the public life. In July 2013 GD played the

Horst Wessel Lied, the anthem of the German Nazi party, during a charity food handout attended by more than 2,000 (after checking recipients' identity cards to insure that non-Greeks were excluded), thus serving GD agenda and a racist propaganda. It is apparent that today GD does not even attempt to camouflage its ideology.

Swastikas and other fascist symbols became increasingly popular along with GD growing political grip. On 4 August, the photos of Kasidiaris' swastika tattoo was published in Sunday issue of Greece's largest selling newspaper, *Poto Thema*. Another GD MP Panayiotis Iliopoulos, said he "didn't know anything about Hitler" and that he chose to have the words "*Sieg Heil*" tattooed on his right arm because he liked the fonts.

On 17 September, the fatal stabbing near Athens of an anti-fascist musician, Pavlos Fyssas, by a man who confessed to be an active supporter of the GD served as a wake up call for the Greek authorities. Unlike the past, when members of the party were behind numerous attacks against immigrants and their crimes remained unpunished, the murder in September 2013 triggered massive reactions from the Government and all political parties. Although GD denies any involvement with case, the Minister for Public Order, Nikos Dendias, claimed that the murder of Fyssas was the first time that a clear chain of command could be drawn to top levels of the GD.

On September 28-29, GD leader Michaloliakos, five leading lawmakers of his party and 26 party activists were arrested by the counter-terrorist police unit, following order by Supreme Court deputy prosecutor, whose investigation resulted in a detailed report documenting that GD is a criminal organization operating according to the "Fuehrer principle". According to the police, in the homes of MPs arrested, they uncovered swastika flags and photos of Adolf Hitler. In his testimony, a former GD member said: "GD recruits were put through ideological training and brainwashing by being forced to buy copies of Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, Josef Goebbels' diary and *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* to "learn who the enemy is: Jews, Zionists..."

The corroboration that GD is not only a criminal organization (accusations also included illegal gun possession and money laundering), but also a Neo Nazi one, with Antisemitism as a key element in its ideology, is doubly worrisome.

Michaloliakos, who was taken into custody in handcuffs, was ordered by a judge to be held in prison until his trial. He was charged with several felonies, including the forming of a criminal organization. Other lawmakers were released on bail (that move seen as surprising given the severity of the charges, but government officials stressed the political importance of undertaking judicial action against them) A few of the MPs will stand trial for a number of criminal charges after the lifting of parliamentary immunity, which was voted by the Parliament on 16 October.

Another parliamentary measure aiming at marginalizing the party was a new law that allows an indefinite funding freeze for parties whose leadership is accused of involvement in a criminal group or terrorism. On 22 October, the Greek parliament has voted overwhelmingly to suspend state funding for the GD.

A poll published on 4 October, found the party had reduced almost half of its support since its leader and lawmakers were arrested. The poll conducted in two rounds, on 25 September and September 30 - October 3, found support for GD stood at 8.5 percent, down from 14.5 percent in July 2013. However, according to a more recent poll as of the end of November 2013, GD would probably pick up 10 percent of the vote. To be sure, the findings of all the survey companies are indicative of the same trend; GD remains the third most popular party in spite of Fyssas' murder and subsequent unprecedented judicial crackdown.

As for the GD leadership - they pursue a policy of blaming “the others” “those responsible” and thus use openly antisemitic rhetoric: “Jews and Zionists are behind the political persecution of the Golden Dawn. PM and the Greek Government are puppets in the hands of Zionism and Israel, serving foreign interests”. Similarly, in December 2013, on the occasion of the European Jewish Congress (EJC) visit to Athens, which concluded with the presentation of Prime Minister Samaras with a symbolic award for his firm stance to combat Neo Nazism, GD posted an article on the party’s website entitled “[i]n the aftermath of the illegal political prosecution, the reward came: The European Jewish Congress awarded Samaras”

Is it possible to ban the GD? No. the Greek legislation does not include such a provision. Law experts in Greece agree that in a democracy parties and ideologies (no matter how extreme) can not be banned. The Central Board of Jewish Communities (KIS) is of the opinion that it is appropriate to keep asking for the banning of GD, to motivate reaction of the authorities. The way to react is to reinforce legislation or to amend the Antiracist legislation.

By the end of May a rift in Greece's coalition on the voting of the new draft Antiracism law was widened as most parties tabled their own version of a draft law. All drafts endorse the main European guidelines, including punishment of Holocaust denial. GD submitted a draft law “to combat racism against Greeks” that provides severe punishment for immigrants who attack Greeks. From June, following Greece’s latest political convulsions, to October 2013, the new Justice Minister Athanasiou (from the New Democracy party) had “frozen” the issue and the procedure required to pass the parliament’s vote was suspended. Subsequent to the arrest and prosecution of the GD leadership, the Government was committed to study all drafts and present a final combining version of the draft law.

On 20 November, a new draft was submitted to parliament. It amends the 927/1979 and merges the previous legislative proposals of the coalition government parties. It also provides for increased penalties for those who publicly encourage or cause hate or violence against individuals or a group of individuals on the basis of, inter alia, their race, religion, ethnic or national origin. Likewise, the draft law punishes public denial or appraisal of crimes of genocides, war crimes, crimes against humanity, the Holocaust and Nazi crimes when this behaviour is against a group of people defined on the basis of, inter alia, their race, religion, national origin. On 28 November the competent parliamentary committee began processing the draft law before parliamentary discussion for vote. As of the end of December 2013, no further legislative developments took place. In the end of November 2013, by articles in its paper and through web post, the GD accused the Government of having presented a draft “ordered by the Jews” which punishes the denial of the “so called Holocaust of

the Jews” and makes no mention of the genocide of the Armenians and the genocide of the Greeks by the Turks. In light of the above policy promoted by the GD, such a response should not surprise us.

## **Germany - Sarah Rembiszewski**

Germany is the only European country with a growing Jewish population. The official Jewish establishment is made of 108 Jewish congregations with a total of about 118,000 members. But the number of unaffiliated Jewish citizens in Germany, the "enlarged Jewish population" is given with 250.000.

According to a government sponsored study, 20% of Germans harbor antisemitic attitudes. This does not come as a surprise and has been a known fact for decades. However this time, the German Bundestag got involved and signaled the government's recognition of antisemitism and approved in June 2013 a resolution vowing to combat antisemitism and support Jewish life in Germany. (The resolution also emphasized the special relationship between Germany and Israel and pointed out that the solidarity with Israel is essential in German politics).

The official findings for the year 2013 showed that while the number of overall antisemitic crimes decreased from 865 (or 1065) in 2012 to 788, violence against Jews was on the rise, notably from 27 violent incidents in 2012 to 32 in 2013. It must be mentioned that the number of unreported cases is much higher and that even those that are reported are not always classified by the police authorities as hate crimes, motivated by antisemitism.

The vast majority of the officially registered crimes against Jews and Jewish institutions were carried out by people with an extreme right-wing background, i.e. about 753 cases, among them 29 violent incidents.

Notwithstanding the decrease in the overall numbers, the perceptions of Jews in Germany are one of discomfort and often fear. (see FRA report in General Analysis). The reason seems to lie in the fact that antisemitic - insults, name-calling and defamation - no longer belong exclusively to a fringe cultural pattern, but have entered the mainstream discourse, becoming a daily phenomenon. To understand the seriousness of the phenomenon one has to see these developments on the background and in the context of an ever widening anti-Israel/ anti-Zionist public consensus (see general analysis). Reinforced was the public discourse on antisemitism - and/or antisemitic public discourse – by the continuing debates on the anti-Israel poem of Guenther Grass as well as the debates on circumcision and ritual slaughter, the *shechita* (see general analysis of 2012 and 2013) .

Although antisemitic tendencies can be found amongst all groups, there are different causalities at work. The findings of a study by the University of Bielefeld, based on evidence gathered over 10 years, showed that while for young Germans without immigrant background, the German past especially the Holocaust plays an important role in their attitudes towards Jews, Muslim youngsters mention the Middle East conflict as a reason of their hatred to Jews and immigrants from Russia and Eastern Europe, express more traditional types of antisemitic attitudes.

It might not be surprising to learn that 63 percent of those polled in the FRA report on Jewish perception on antisemitism, avoid wearing, carrying or displaying anything that might suggest they are Jews and 25 percent said they have considered emigrating in the last five years because of a feeling of insecurity. This feeling is reflected in the fact that, like in most Western European countries, synagogues, community centers, and Jewish schools must be placed under police protection. (see previous report)

On 9 October, Petra Pau, vice-president of the German Bundestag and member of the Die Linke, released a statement according to which the Federal Government announced that between 2008 and 2012, 82 assaults on synagogues were registered throughout Germany. The findings of the Kantor Center Database, have been showing for years that attacks and desecrations of Jewish sites i.e. synagogues, cemeteries and Holocaust memorials (including Stolpersteine) are being reported on a weekly basis.

According to Prof. Stefanie Springorum who directs the Center for Research on Antisemitism at the Technical University of Berlin, antisemitism is deeply rooted in German society and Berlin Rabbi Daniel Alter, the envoy for antisemitism of the Berlin community, (who was himself victim of a violent antisemitic attack in August 2012), added that "you can find it [anti-Semitism] at all levels of society". A similar idea was expressed by the Bamberg Archbishop Ludwig Schick who warned of "an unremarkable everyday antisemitism which is a latent danger, even if it does not necessarily lead to violence." "Who is silent about Jewish jokes is complicit," said the bishop. Anti-Jewish attitudes are no longer to be found preeminently far away from the public eye, but are shown "openly, bolder and less hidden."

This fact is supported by one of the results of a study - headed by Prof. Monika Schwarz-Friesel, Technical University of Berlin - of 14,000 antisemitic hate messages, letters and emails addressed to the Israeli embassy in Berlin and to Germany's Central Council of Jews, namely that an increasing number of writers do no longer hide behind anonymity. Friesel's team further concluded, contrary to their assumptions, that 60 percent of the hate messages were sent by educated Germans, including university professors and priests, and that only 3 percent came from right-wing extremists. There were no significant differences between right-wing extremists' letters and those of the educated mainstream, "the difference is only in the style and the rhetoric, but the ideas are the same."

Most antisemitic incidents are being perpetrated by extreme right-wingers and neo-Nazis, whose potential for using violence has concerned law and order authorities for decades in Germany. These groups are recruiting new members inter alia among the martial art's fans and competitors through methodological infiltration of an increasing number of neo-Nazi members into the free fighting community. The same

modus operandi can be observed for the army where neo-Nazis not only recruit potential new members, but also ameliorate their fighting skills and enjoy easy access to weapon training. Three hundred far-right extremists and fifty Islamists were reported serving in the Bundeswehr (German army) according to the German Military Counter Intelligence Service (MAD) – a special branch of the secret services dedicated to protecting the army.

An example of countering internationalized neo-Nazi terror activities can be seen when on 17 July, police and anti-terrorism units raided eleven homes, offices and prison cells in Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, in a joint operation targeting a suspected international neo-Nazi cell. Six neo-Nazis, and accomplices, are suspected of planning bomb attacks to overthrow the German political system. The plot was named "Werwolf," in memory of the Nazi "Werwolf" plan, a commando force to launch attacks behind enemy lines.

Holocaust memorials, Jewish cemeteries and synagogues continued to be desecrated and vandalized all over Germany. At the same time however outrage and sharp criticism from the population and political establishment followed these acts of violent anti-Semitic hatred. Often, like after the March 9th event when people unknown desecrated the memorial stones (*Stolpersteine*) in Friedenau and Schoeneberg, inhabitants organized a cleansing action in response.

The following two incidents illustrate assaults on Jews:

On 1 June, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Gurewitz was attacked in the KOMM shopping center, Offenbach, by a group of young men who pushed him as they yelled "shitty Jew". In a comment published on the German website 'Hagalil.com' in which he describes the incident, Gurewitz says that verbal antisemitic insults directed at him and his sons were an everyday phenomenon in Offenbach.

On 13 March, a transsexual man was verbally attacked with antisemitic and homophobic slurs in Berlin-Schöneberg. According to the report of the 30-year-old Lithuanian, he had been praying quietly in Hebrew in the street when two Arabic speaking 17 or 18-year-olds called him a "Gay Jewish pig" ("Schwule Judensau"), hustled him on the ground and robbed him.

The publication of two antisemitic cartoons in mainstream papers caused a wave of criticism and a debate on the use of antisemitic stereotypes in caricatures. On 5 August, the German daily *Stuttgarter Zeitung* published a caricature by "Luff" (Rolf Henn) of Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, showing him poisoning the "dove of the Middle East peace". The caricature prompted many protests by those who considered it to represent an antisemitic stereotype. The caption of the caricature was a famous line of Jewish-Austrian-American satirist Georg Kreisler's song "*Taubenvergiften im Park*" (Poisoning Pigeons in the Park). The daughter of the late Kreisler (1922-2011) strongly protested that her father's song was used as a caption of an antisemitic cartoon.

On 21 February, 2014, the German newspaper "*Süddeutsche Zeitung*" (SZ) published a caricature of Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg showing him as an octopus with a big hooked nose trying to control the internet. The drawing was

sharply criticized, inter alia by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre (SWC) in Jerusalem, for the use of typical antisemitic stereotypes recalling Nazi imagery. According to the SWC the caricature of Zuckerberg is very similar to a Nazi caricature from 1938 depicting Winston Churchill as an octopus clasping the world. The caricaturist Burkhard Mohr apologized for causing offence and explained he hadn't been aware of the parallels to the antisemitic representation done by the Nazis.

Hundreds of initiatives are fighting racism and antisemitism all over Germany. Among them also sports' – specifically soccer organizations who do have to counter the phenomenon of antisemitic hooliganism in the stadiums. Also, on Holocaust Memorial Day January 27, 2013, the German Football League, German Football Association and the Nie Wieder (Never Again) campaign arranged a range of memorial events honoring Jewish players, coaches and supporter of various German football clubs who were killed in the Holocaust or who had to go into exile during the Nazi years.

## **Raphael Vago – Hungary, Romania and Slovakia**

### **Hungary**

The most complex and contradictory developments in Europe during 2013 took place in Hungary, which by the beginning of 2014 seemed as a prologue to the intensification of debates and differences of opinion with the events commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary. The year 2014 was also designated by the Hungarian government for a series of events and activities, which became the focal point of strong differences of opinion not only concerning the politics of memory in today's Hungary but also focusing on the rise of anti-Semitism.

In the words of Rabbi Schlomo Koves, Jews can now feel anti-Semitism in the street, although physical attacks on Jews are rare. (see CBN News, 19 March, 2014) Among the more significant events was the nailing of bars of soap to the fence of the Szeged synagogue (see, Reuters 1 October, 2013). While the number of incidents is not on the rise, the main danger in Hungary is the attempt to "whitewash" the antisemitic past, rehabilitate aspects of the Horthy era, emphasize Hungary's alleged loss of sovereignty in March 1944, with the German occupation, thus as attempt to relativize Hungary's role in the destruction of its Jewry.

The antisemitic, anti-Roma outbursts of the right-wing extremist party, *Jobbik*, the continuing flourishing of antisemitism and Holocaust denial in extremist websites, have become a standard feature of present day Hungary. The major questions being asked in the context of antisemitism in Hungary is how much the ruling *Fidesz* party, facing national elections in April 2014 is doing in order to combat such phenomena.

*Jobbik* does not try to hide its true face. During an anti-Israeli demonstration in front of the Israeli Embassy in November 2012, the party leader, Gabor Vona said that "Israel operates the world's largest concentration camp", ( *Jobbik.com*, 22 November, 2012). It should not then serve as a surprise that *Jobbik* is expanding its ties with Iran,

and Iranian delegation was hosted by *Jobbik*, clearly an alliance between antisemites from Hungary and Iran. (Times of Israel, 11 March, 2013)

Extremist sites, such as Kuruc.info (complicated legal moves to ban it have failed as it uses US servers), openly uses Holocaust denial material, such as a cynical item that a list of children found alive with the liberation of Auschwitz by the Red Army in January 1945, shows that strangely the Nazis "have forgotten to gas them". (Kuruc.info, 14 December, 2013).

The government has faced growing criticism from local and foreign factors for its policies. The President of the European Jewish Congress, Dr. Moshe Kantor "has identified Hungary as experiencing the most worrying racist and antisemitic trends in Europe". (See [www.europjewcong.org](http://www.europjewcong.org), 8 April, 2013). Likewise, at the plenary assembly of the World Jewish Congress in Budapest, while Prime Minister Orban strongly condemned all manifestations of antisemitism, WJC President Ron Lauder criticized the government for ignoring the ultra-nationalist *Jobbik*. (See for example, JTA, 6 May, 2013)

At a major conference on "Jewish Life and Anti-Semitism in Contemporary Europe" organized by the Tom Lantos Institute in 1-2 October 2013 in the Hungarian Parliament, with the participation of Israel's Minister of Finance, Yair Lapid, leading Hungarian politicians, such as Deputy Prime Minister, Tibor Navracsics and Foreign Minister, Janos Martonyi, reiterated Hungary's responsibility for the Holocaust of Hungary's Jewry, and the determination of the government to combat antisemitism. (For the major speeches see, the Tom Lantos Institute's site, "Hungary Pledges to crack down on anti-Semitism, Reuters, 1 October, 2013)

Yet, the disturbing signs in 2013 were very evident. The continuing rehabilitation and events concerning antisemitic writers, intellectuals – as Cecile Tormay, Jozsef Nyiro, Albert Wass – have caused public outrage and reaction, by the attempts to include such "iconic" figures in the school curriculums, naming of streets on their name by local authorities, and erecting busts and memorial sites. (for an extensive English language coverage see, The Hungarian Spectrum) . In the case of naming a street in Budapest after Cecile Tormay, a Mussolini fan, who passed away in 1937, the plan was cancelled after public outrage. (See, Hungary drops plan to name street after anti-Semitic author Cecile Tormay, The Guardian, 7 October, 2013) Jozsef Nyiro, writer, who adored Hitler's regime, and was member of the Arrow Cross parliament to the end of its activities in late 1944. These attempts to the rehabilitation and growing cult of antisemitic persons and ideas for the dark past, should be seen on the background of the growing Horthy era cult. While, one may classify such trends as being an important part of debates on the interpretation or re-interpretation of the past, they have to be seen in the light of the crisis that Hungary is undergoing both internally and in its international position. (See also, Israel Hayom, 29 November, 2013).

The nationalist wave riding high on the effects of the economic crisis, criticism leveled by factors in the US, EU against the *Fidesz* government, and at the same time a feeling by the Hungarian government that Hungary is unjustly being criticized, has also affected and strained relations between the Hungarian government and the major



Jewish organization in Hungary, MAZSIHISZ, and between world Jewish organizations abroad.

The tensions reached a new high with the decision of MAZSIHISZ to boycott the government organized and supported Holocaust commemoration events and activities, a step supported also by Jewish organizations abroad, and as Rabbi Andrew Baker, the American Jewish Committee's Director of International Affairs said in a statement "the efforts of the Hungarian government to rewrite history are absolutely traumatic". (JTA, February 11, 2014, Haaretz, February 2014) Likewise, the leading historian of the Holocaust in Hungary, and Holocaust survivor, Randolph L. Braham, returned a high state award to Hungary in protest to the rewriting of history in Hungary. (see AP, 26 January, 2014)

The political polarization in Hungary is being reflected in the major issues related to the past and present of Hungarian antisemitism and Hungary's role in the destruction of its Jewry. There is no doubt that the Hungarian government is and should be sensitive to the rise of antisemitism, noted by factors inside and outside Hungary. Headlines, such as "Hungary Sliding Back to Nazi-Era Anti-Semitism?" (cnnnews, March 19, 2014) , must worry both the government, the opposition and civil society.

## **Romania**

The main features of antisemitism in Romania are characterized by relatively few violent incidents, sporadic cases of vandalism against Jewish targets as cemeteries, synagogues, but a continuing trend of justifying Romania's war time regime of Antonescu, revival of groups, movements spreading the ideas of the pro-Nazi Iron Guard, and various forms of Holocaust denial. Antisemitic slogans, as "death to the Jews" appeared on the fence of the Jewish cemetery in Timisoara in March 2013. As Romania's President Basescu has emphasized during his visit in Israel in January 2014, "Romania has come a long way on Holocaust remembrance, but denial persists". (JTA, 20 January, 2014)

On the commemoration of Holocaust Day in Romania in October 2013, leaders of the Jewish community and Romania's leadership stressed Romania's recognition of the Holocaust and the need to educate the legacy of Holocaust and to combat anti-Semitism.

Among the more significant events and trends was the uproar caused by an anti-Semitic Christmas carol broadcast on a local government-owned TVR3 channel in December 2013. The song indirectly justified the Holocaust, the burning of Jews. The event also draw international attention (see SpiegelOnline, 12 December, 2013) as well as swift local condemnation. (JTA reporting on the 5 December broadcast. Romania's Foreign Minister, Titus Corlețean harshly condemned the event. Protests were launched by MCA Romania, the major body to monitor and combat anti-Semitism in Romania. The Romanian media amply covered the event.

The effectiveness of rapid and strong responses to events was proven by the protests of MCA Romania and other public and media outlets, with the attempt to appoint as judge to the Constitutional Court, Lucian Bolcas, who was a former vice-

president and MP for years of the anti-Semitic Greater Romania Party, and who, in the words of Maximilian Marc Katz, national director of MCA Romania, "has shown full commitment to the anti-Semitic and racist views" of Vadim Tudor (former leader of the GRP). (See EJP, 1 January, 2014) It seemed that the leadership of the Federation of Jewish Communities issued a milder protest. In the face of growing protests, the appointment was cancelled. The Elie Wiesel Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania is also very active in responding and acting against any forms of racism, anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial.

The continuing forms of Holocaust denial are clearly expressed in the blogs and articles of Ion Coja, a well-known figure of denial. On 5 September, he wrote that "unfortunately it is still necessary to repeat dozens and hundreds of times again, that in Romania, including in Transnistria there were no "death camps", there are no traces of an anti-Jewish Holocaust....There were death camps in Romania after 1945, where Jews entered mostly as investigators ...." Thus, repeating the well known motif of the "Red Holocaust" caused by the Jews.

One of the right-wing formations, supporting the legacy of the Iron Guard, is "The New Right" movement, which seems to gain more and more adherents, among the younger generation. The Wiesel Institute launched complaints to the judicial system in August 2013, complaining on a summer camp in paramilitary style organized by the New Right Association (*Noua Dreapta*) and also against racist and nationalist declarations made by the leader of the Hungarian extremist *Jobbik* party, Gabor Vona in speeches to the Hungarian minority in Romania.

In late November 2013, *Noua Dreapta* organized a march near Bucharest on the memory of Corneliu Codreanu, the leader of the "Iron Guard", such yearly marches are held without any interference by the authorities. (FrontPress, 1 December, 2013)

## **Slovakia**

The most significant development in 2013 in Slovakia was the election in November of Marian Kotleba, the former head of a banned neo-Nazi Party, Slovak Togetherness, currently the leader of the People's Party – Our Slovakia, as Governor of the Banska Bystrica region, (see, Martin Ehl, The Triumph of Extremism in Slovakia, Transitions Online, 26 November, 2013) Extremist sites celebrated the event, hailing it as a "monumental victory for the European people as a whole, and Slovakia in particular...the hardcore nationalist Marian Kotleba won 55.5 percent of the votes".(Daily Stormer, 24 November, 2013) This electoral victory was significant as in the last two parliamentary elections the Peoples' Party-Our Slovakia gained only marginal number of votes, while the increase in regional support raised the alarm among civil society in Slovakia. While direct antisemitic remarks were few, Kotleba's movement openly praises the war-time regime of Tiso, and challenges the idea that Tiso's regime bore responsibility for the country's crimes against Jews during the Holocaust. Observers have noted the increased influence in the movement of some elements from the Catholic Church. (Transitions Online, 25 November, 2013) The movement is openly racist against the Roma- a major social and political issue in Slovakia, as in Hungary. The party platform refers to the "need to ensure safety in the surroundings of Roma settlements and to fight "unfair favoritism of Gypsy parasites".( Open Society Foundations, 4 December, 2013) The major significance of the regional victory in the Banska Bystrica region is the growing impact of right-wing

extremism in Slovak mainstream politics, by electing an extremist politician as regional governor, impact on regional politics, that along the Hungarian *Jobbik*, there are signs of growing extremism among Slovak voters, and on the EU level – yet another indication for the strengthening of extremist parties and movements, not on the fringes of political life, but enjoying wider support from frustrated elements in society. The attempts to rehabilitate Tiso and his war-time regime are a constant feature of Slovak anti-Semitism and historical revisionism as noted in the researches of Pavol Mestan. (see *Anti-Semitism Worldwide of the past two decades*).

A yearly test for the impact of revisionist ideas is the yearly march in Bratislava commemorating the March 1939 foundation of the war-time Nazi allied puppet state led by Jozef Tiso. The 2013 March of some 200 neo-fascist and Nazi elements was countered by a demonstration opposing it, led by Bratislava's mayor. In spite of the counter demonstration, the event took place. (see, *Slovakia: MP's, Mayor Bratislava unable to block neo-Nazi march, Romea/cz. 16 March, 2013*) A similar march by neo-Nazis took place in March 2014, commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "independent" Slovak State was also countered by a demonstration and supported by Bratislava's mayor. (*The Slovak Spectator, 17 March, 2014*)

Neo-Nazi skinheads attacked in October 2013 a bar in the town of Nitra owned by an activist of a movement against racism and frequented by youth active against racism. (*Romea/cz, January 29,2014*). After vandals destroyed 35 graves in the Jewish cemetery in Kosice, in April 2012, there were no reports of desecration of Jewish sites in 2013.

## **Australia - Jeremy Jones**

During the twelve months ending September 30, 2013, 657 reports were recorded of incidents defined by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (now the Australian Human Rights Commission) as "racist violence" against Jewish Australians. These incidents included physical assault, vandalism – including through arson attacks – threatening telephone calls, hate mail, graffiti, leaflets, posters and abusive and intimidating electronic mail. This was a twenty one percent increase over the previous twelve-month period, and sixty-nine percent above the average of the previous 23 years. It was the second highest tally on record, although **the more serious, physical attacks were at the lowest rate in eight years.**

Regarding the data in this section, it is important to note that incidents of suspicious behaviour around Jewish institutions, which do not directly relate to a physical manifestation of harassment or vandalism, while obviously important, do not appear in the database as they do not constitute racist violence. Telephone calls, letters, email or graffiti which consist of criticisms of Israel or of political stances of the Jewish community which do not include specifically antisemitic comments are also excluded, even though there is a realistic prospect that a proportion of these are motivated by antisemitism. It should also be noted that a number of activities associated with the movement to boycott Israel, Israelis or supporters of Israel have taken place which are arguably in and of themselves antisemitic but they are not included in this section of the report.

Due to the complexities involved in categorising this activity an assault on a Jewish person who is not identifiably Jewish, and which does not include any reference to the person being Jewish, would not be included. The bias is in favour of exclusion rather than inclusion, which limits the ability for distortions to appear in the statistics over time and also protects the integrity of the data base.

The context in which antisemitic violence, vandalism and harassment took place in Australia was one in which a number of issues relating to the Jewish community, and antisemitism, were matters of public discussion. These included the following, listed chronologically, during the period in review: Fredrick Toben loses defamation case taken against Jeremy Jones, broadly relating to discussion of Dr Toben's dissemination of material found to be unlawful due to its content relating to Jews (Oct. 2012); the annual gathering of far right-wing groups at the Sydney Forum (Oct. 2012); the participation of known extreme right-wing antisemites at the Gaza Solidarity Rally Sydney (Nov. 2012); cartoonist Leunig's defence of Nazi/Jewish comparisons (Dec. 2012); With the initial calling of the 2013 Federal Election on the Jewish Holy Day of Yom Kippur, Jews were accused of "whinging" for raising this as a concern (Jan. 2013); The tragic story of Ben Zygier, an Australia/Israeli dual citizen who died in an Israeli prison, was used as a pretext by antisemites to accuse Jews in Australia of disloyalty (Feb. 2013); Call to "eliminate" Jews in song, in Arabic, on ABC Radio (Feb. 2013); The promotion of far left elements of Shlomo Sand's denial of Jewish peoplehood (Feb. 2013); Active promotion by extreme left-wing groups of the slur that Israel practices Apartheid (Feb. 2013); the appointment of a Jewish Australian, Mark Dreyfus, as Attorney General (Feb. 2013); Claims in "New Age" journal "Hard Evidence" that Jews were responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attacks (Mar-April 2013); Presence of Greek "Golden Dawn" in Melbourne and Sydney (Mar 2013); A Sydney lecture by anti-Jewish Muslim preacher Musa Cerantonio lecture (Mar 2013); A sermon, promoted on social media, given by an Adelaide Muslim cleric, attacking Hindus and Jews (March 2013); The Arrest of Nazi War Criminals (eg in Germany in May 2013); A speech in the NSW Parliament by an upper house ALP MP in which he rationalised extreme anti-Israel prejudice (May 2013); the broad public support by Australian politicians for the London Declaration opposing antisemitism (May 2013); Antisemitism in the newspaper of the Australian national University's religion series (May 2013); On-going boycotts of Max Brenner coffee/chocolate outlets (May 2013); Islamic Bookstore in Sydney (Al-Risalah) gaining international attention for promotion of extremist literature (June 2013); Al Quds Day, in Sydney and Melbourne, scene of anti-Semitism on Social media and at rallies (August 2013); Former Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer's inclusion of anti-Jewish slurs in a book about his time as Australia's Ambassador to the Holy See (August 2013); The election of Tony Abbott as Prime Minister, according to some Muslim and far-right wing commentators the result of Jewish power (Sept. 2013)

### **Reports for the Year 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013**

**The total for reports of all incidents was twenty percent above the previous average.** Many of the reports were of threats and abuse, primarily by email, rather than physical attacks on person or property, but the reports reveal that hundreds of Jewish individuals and organisations were targeted, some repeatedly, by persons seeking to intimidate or harass them.

**Incidents of assault, arson attacks, face-to-face harassment and vandalism which are broadly defined as "attacks" were recorded at eighteen percent above the average of twenty four years, but at the lowest rate in eight years.** Threats, conveyed through the telephone, mail, leaflets, posters or e-mail, were recorded at a rate sixty percent above the previous average and at the second highest total recorded. ECAJ Antisemitism Report 2013 – Chapter 2 Incidents

It is not possible to give a comprehensive analysis of the motivation for most of these incidents. Nearly all of the attacks have been carried out anonymously with the perpetrators never identified and while Jews are clearly identified as targets, the reasons for this generally are not specified. While public matters with which the Australian Jewish community is identified in the public mind (e.g. advocacy of cultural diversity or events in the Middle East) appear as rationalisations in some of the hate mail or threatening telephone calls received by individual Jews and Jewish organisations, the number of reports of incidents in which the motivation is clearly expressed remained low.

The effect of incidents of antisemitism on the quality of life of individual members of the Australian Jewish community should never be minimised. The psychological impact on members of communities affected directly by harassment and intimidation can be serious, particularly as many of the threats have been directed against individual Jewish Australians in their homes, including survivors of the Nazi Holocaust.

## **Canada - Anita Bromberg**

According to the 2013 *Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents*, the findings for 2013 are as follows: Canada-wide, 1276 incidents were recorded in the. This represents a 5.3 percent decrease from the 1345 incidents recorded for the year 2012. While incidents of harassment decreased by 13.9 percent (down from 1013 in 2012 to 872 in 2013), vandalism increased by 21.6 percent (up from 319 in 2012 to 388 in 2013). Cases of violence also rose by 7.7 percent (from 13 to 14).

As has been reported from all countries, monitoring antisemitic activities, it is the numbers are only representing the events reported and the Canadian findings show that there is every reason to suspect that many have chosen not to report incidents especially where a clear remedy is not in place.

### Key findings

- Antisemitic Incidents decreased by 5.3 percent Canada-wide;
- Cases of Vandalism rose by 21.8 percent while violence increased by one incident and harassment cases dropped by 13.9 percent;
- Incidents of antisemitism were recorded across the country with regional variations;
- Despite the small drop, antisemitism shows a consistent presence in Canada when taking a 10-year view;
- Hatred continues to invade the daily life of Canadian Jewry, at home, work and at school.

The Overall Picture: In 2013, the League for Human Rights documented 1274 antisemitic incidents across Canada, representing a decrease of 5.4 percent over the 1345 incidents recorded in 2011. An additional 308 cases were investigated but not included in the database as they could not be independently corroborated or did not meet the League's definitions of antisemitism (see Appendix)

The 1274 incidents recorded in 2013 across Canada were broken down into 872 cases of harassment, 388 cases of vandalism and 14 cases of violence. Harassment continued to be show the highest level of activity. The nature of these incidents varied but it should be noted less they be dismissed as trivial annoyance that 113 of the 872 cases classified as harassment involved explicit threats of violence or harm against individuals, families, businesses or institutions.

The 872 incidents of harassment represented a drop of 13.9 percent from the 2012 recorded levels. This certainly reflects the impact statements collected concerning a reluctance to report. This was particularly notable in Quebec where harassment reports were down by 50 percent. Yet a survey of internet sites with antisemitic content with a connection to Quebec are readily found for example.

Vandalism incidents rose from 319 cases in 2012 to 388 in 2013 – a 21.6 percent increase across Canada. There were 434 reported incidents involving web-based hate activity. This is a drop from the 521 incidents reported in 2012 and the 528 in 2011. About half of these incidents involved the use of social media applications including Facebook and Twitter. There were also incidents involving new application such as the Iphone which utilized antisemitic imagery. A drop in this type of incidents cannot reflect a drop in hate on the internet but again more a reluctance to report due to the perception of a lack of remedies and the rhetoric of free speech.

Incidents of Holocaust denial sustained the high rate noted in 2012. The Audit recorded 199 cases involving Holocaust denial, similar to the 197 in 2012 compared to only 111 in 2011.

## **France - Ron Azogui**

SPCJ publishes statistics and analyses on Antisemitism in France in 2013. Antisemitic acts perpetrated on French soil are recorded by SPCJ in close collaboration with the Interior Ministry. The expected decrease in antisemitic acts after the outstanding figures of 2012 did not take place as significantly and as legitimately hoped. The high level of antisemitic threads creates a hostile environment in which anti-Jewish statements are more common and encourage - in the short or long term - moving into action. We can easily measure how this climate goes beyond the current quantitative report. The number of antisemitic websites, blogs, forums, and emails develops exponentially online and has yet to be recorded.

Since the year 2000 - and for 14 consecutive years - the number of antisemitic acts in France has been very high. Since 2000, the number of recorded antisemitic act is about seven times higher than numbers recorded in the 1990s. During this period, six people were murdered because they were Jewish, including three young children.

Antisemitism in France cannot be considered anymore as a temporary situation associated with the situation in the Middle East; it is a structural problem that has not been fought as such and has not been halted yet.

### **Racism and Antisemitism: "less than 1 percent get 40 percent"**

Forty percent of racist violence perpetrated in France in 2013 targeted Jews. However, Jews represent less than 1 percent of the French population. This means that less than 1 percent of the population is the target of 40 percent of racist physical attacks committed in France. This year again, the French cities of Paris, Marseilles, Lyons, Toulouse, Sarcelles, Strasbourg, and Nice witnessed the highest numbers of antisemitic acts. This retrospective - including antisemitic facts and trends of the last fourteen years - demonstrate that antisemitic violence has settled and is anchored in society. But the aggravating factor is that French Jews feel isolated in their fight against Antisemitism. Aren't the values that are attacked by this scourge those of a whole nation?

The fight against Antisemitism takes place in courthouses, which is quite natural since these acts are first and foremost crimes. However, this is not enough when we fight to cure society from an illness. It is indispensable to implement a plan across Ministries, with important resources, particularly for the creation and support of prevention programs in schools. We call for an individual and collective mobilization, so that every one, every day, when witnessing an act or a situation deteriorating. If Antisemitism is everyone's problem, then everybody must fight it.

### **United Kingdom - Mike Whine**

A number of 529 antisemitic incidents was recorded by CST in 2013, an 18 percent decrease from the 649 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2012 and the lowest annual total recorded by CST since 2005.<sup>1</sup> The highest ever annual total recorded by CST was in 2009, when 931 antisemitic incidents were recorded.

There has been no change in CST's recording systems or patterns of incident reporting to explain this fall, which is most likely to reflect a genuine decrease in the number of antisemitic incidents that took place in the United Kingdom during 2013, when compared to 2012. The previous year had seen two 'trigger events' that caused the number of recorded incidents to temporarily increase, or 'spike'. These were the shooting of three Jewish children and a teacher at a Jewish school in Toulouse, France, in March 2012, and an escalation in fighting between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and southern Israel in November 2012. There were no such spikes in 2013, which is the most obvious explanation for the overall decrease in incidents.

It is likely that there is significant underreporting of antisemitic incidents to both CST and the Police, and that the number of antisemitic incidents that took place is significantly higher than the number recorded in this report. A 2013 survey of Jewish experiences and perceptions of antisemitism in the EU found that 72 percent of British Jews who had experienced antisemitic harassment over the previous five years had not reported it to the Police or to any other organisation; 57 percent of

British Jews who had experienced antisemitic violence or the threat of violence had not reported it; and 46 percent of British Jews who had suffered antisemitic vandalism to their home or car had not reported it. The same survey also found that, over the previous 12 months, 21 percent of British Jews had suffered antisemitic harassment, 3 percent had suffered antisemitic violence or the threat of violence and 2 percent had experienced antisemitic vandalism to their home or car. Similarly, the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates that around 40 percent of all hate crimes come to the attention of the Police.<sup>4</sup>

There were 69 violent antisemitic assaults reported to CST in 2013, the same number as was recorded in 2012. This is the lowest number of violent antisemitic assaults reported to CST since 2003, when 54 assaults were recorded.

The 69 violent antisemitic incidents did not include any incidents categorised as Extreme Violence, meaning incidents that involved grievous bodily harm (GBH) or a threat to life. CST recorded two incidents of Extreme Violence in 2012 and two in 2011.

Incidents of Damage and Desecration to Jewish property fell by 8 percent, from 53 incidents in 2012 to 49 incidents in 2013. This is the lowest number of incidents recorded by CST in this category since 2005, when 48 such incidents were recorded. There were 368 incidents of Abusive Behaviour recorded by CST in 2013, a fall of 23 percent from the 476 incidents of this type recorded in 2012. This is the lowest total recorded in this category since 2008, when 317 such incidents were recorded. This category includes verbal abuse, hate mail and antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property.

There were 38 incidents reported to CST in the category of Threats in 2013, which includes direct threats to people or property rather than more general abuse. This is one fewer than the 39 incidents recorded by CST in this category in 2012.

There were 5 incidents recorded in the category of Literature in 2013, which comprises mass-produced antisemitic mailings and emails rather than individual hate mail. This is a 58 percent decrease from the 12 incidents of this type recorded in 2012.

The most common single type of incident in 2013 involved verbal abuse randomly directed at visibly Jewish people in public. In 185 incidents, the victims were ordinary Jewish people, male or female, attacked or abused while going about their daily business in public places. In 89 of these incidents, the victims were visibly Jewish, usually due to their religious or traditional clothing, school uniform or jewelry bearing Jewish symbols. A total of 266 incidents overall involved verbal antisemitic abuse.

Thirty one antisemitic incidents in 2013 targeted synagogues, and a further twenty six incidents targeted synagogue congregants on their way to or from prayers, compared to 43 and 41 incidents respectively in 2012.

In 59 incidents, the victims were Jewish community organisations, communal events, community leaders or other high-profile individuals, compared to 46 such incidents in 2012.

In nine antisemitic incidents, the victims were Jewish students, academics or other student bodies, a fall of 73 percent from the 33 campus-related incidents in



2012. Of the 9 incidents of this type recorded in 2013, 6 took place on campus, while there were 3 incidents which affected students, academics or student bodies off campus. None of the 6 incidents that took place on campus were in the category of Assault, while three involved the use of social media and three involved antisemitic graffiti, stickers or daubings.

Thirty two incidents targeted Jewish schools, schoolchildren or teachers in 2013, compared to 55 incidents relating to schools and schoolchildren in 2012 and 54 in 2011. Of the 32 incidents of this type recorded in 2013, 13 affected Jewish schoolchildren on their journeys to or from school; 13 took place at the premises of Jewish faith schools; and 6 involved Jewish children or teachers at non-faith schools.

There were 129 antisemitic incidents which showed far right, anti-Israel or Islamist beliefs or motivations in 2013, making up 24 percent of the overall total of 529 antisemitic incidents, compared to 197 incidents showing such ideas or motivations (30 percent) in 2012. Of the 129 antisemitic incidents in 2013 showing ideological motivation or beliefs as well as antisemitism, 87 showed far right motivation or beliefs; 37 showed anti-Israel motivation or beliefs; and 5 showed Islamist motivation or beliefs.

CST received a physical description of the incident offender in 146, or 28 percent, of the 529 antisemitic incidents recorded during 2013. Of these, 86 offenders (59 percent) were described as 'White - North European'; 4 offenders (3 percent) were described as 'White - South European'; 11 offenders (8 percent) were described as 'Black'; 37 offenders (25 percent) were described as 'South Asian'; and 8 offenders (5 percent) were described as 'Arab or North African'.

There is no clear correlation between the ethnicity of incident offenders and the antisemitic language they use; contemporary antisemitic incident offenders will select from a range of Jewish-related subjects, using, for example, insults related to the Holocaust or Israel, for language or imagery with which to abuse, insult or threaten their Jewish victims.

A number of 174 of the 529 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST nationally came via incident exchange programmes with the Police in Manchester and London, which allow for the systematic sharing of antisemitic incident reports between CST and the Police, so that both organisations have sight of incidents that had not otherwise been reported to them. The incident reports are fully anonymised to comply with data protection requirements. A further 10 antisemitic incidents were reported to CST by the Police in other parts of the UK on an ad hoc basis. In total, Police forces provided reports of 184 antisemitic incidents, or 35 percent of the total number of incidents recorded by CST. A total of 309 incidents, or 58 percent, were reported directly to CST by the victims of, or witnesses to, antisemitic incidents, or by a friend or family member of an incident victim or witness. Thirty incidents were reported by CST staff or volunteers, or by the security officers at Jewish buildings and organisations. Two antisemitic incidents were recorded by CST during 2013 on the basis of media reports.

CST recorded 86 antisemitic incidents that involved the use of internet-based social media in 2013 (16 percent of the overall total of 529 incidents), compared to 81 in 2012 and just 12 in 2011. This reflects the growing relevance of social media as a place where Jews encounter antisemitism and the ease with which it can be reported from there directly to CST online, rather than being an absolute measure of the amount of antisemitism on social media platforms. Of the 86 antisemitic incidents of this type recorded in 2013, 81 were in the category of Abusive Behaviour and 4 were in the category of Threats. One incident that involved the use of social media also involved a violent assault, and was recorded in that category. CST does not proactively 'trawl' social media platforms to look for incidents of this type and will only record incidents that take place on social media if the offender is based in the United Kingdom, or if the incident involves the direct antisemitic targeting of a UK-based victim.

In addition to the 529 antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2013, a further 465 reports of potential incidents were received by CST but not included in the total number of antisemitic incidents as there was no evidence of antisemitic motivation, targeting or content.

The 465 potential incidents reported to CST that were not included in the annual total included 248 cases of potential Information Collection and Suspicious Behaviour at Jewish locations. These included 48 incidents of photography or videoing of Jewish buildings, while in 30 cases suspicious people tried to gain entry to Jewish premises. These types of incidents are not categorised as antisemitic by CST as it is often not possible to determine their motivation, and many are likely to have innocent explanations. However, identifying and preventing the potential hostile reconnaissance of Jewish buildings or other potential terrorist targets is an important part of reducing the possibility of future terrorist attacks.

In total, there were 994 incidents, including antisemitic incidents and those of a non-antisemitic security-related nature, which required a response from CST staff and volunteers during 2013.

## **USA - Jason Turetsky and Oren Segal**

The total number of antisemitic incidents in the United States fell by 19 percent in 2013, continuing a decade-long downward slide and marking one of the lowest levels of incidents reported by the Anti-Defamation League since it started keeping records in 1979. ADL's annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, released today, reported a total of 751 incidents across the U.S. during the 2013 calendar year, representing a 19 percent decline from the 927 incidents reported during the same period in 2012. In 2013, antisemitic incidents were reported in 41 states and the District of Columbia.

“In the last decade we have witnessed a significant and encouraging decline in the number and intensity of antisemitic acts in America,” said Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director. “The falling number of incidents targeting Jews is another indication of just how far we have come in finding full acceptance in society, and it is a reflection of how much progress our country has made in shunning bigotry and hatred.”

The annual ADL Audit includes incidents of assault, vandalism and harassment targeting Jews and Jewish property and institutions and includes both criminal and non-criminal incidents reported to ADL's 27 regional offices across the country and to law enforcement. While the total number of antisemitic incidents declined overall, one dark spot in the numbers was a significant increase in violent antisemitic assaults. The Audit recorded a total of 31 antisemitic assaults on Jewish individuals or those perceived as Jewish in 2013, up from 17 in 2012. The reported assaults included: An unprovoked attack on a 24-year-old Jewish man wearing a yarmulke by four men in Brooklyn, NY; an assault of a 12-year-old Jewish girl who had a bottle thrown at her by a group of girls, including one who yelled, "You dirty Jew"; and the attack of a Jewish man in Los Angeles, CA, who was surrounded by five male suspects who yelled "Heil Hitler!" before striking him. None of the assaults was life threatening or required hospitalization.

"The high number of violent in-your-face assaults is a sobering reminder that, despite the overall decline in antisemitic incidents, there is still a subset of Americans who are deeply infected with antisemitism and who feel emboldened enough to act out their bigotry," said Mr. Foxman. "Such incidents are often among the most traumatic for individuals as they involve person-on-person violence."

The number of anti-Semitic incidents in New York State fell by 18 percent in 2013, according to newly issued statistics from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). ADL's annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents counted a total of 203 incidents statewide in 2013 – a decrease from 248 incidents in 2012. (<http://newyork.adl.org/news/new-york-state-experiences-18-percent-decline-in-anti-semitic-incidents-in-2013/>)

## APPENDIX A - WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

The purpose of this document is to provide a practical guide for identifying incidents, collecting data, and supporting the implementation and enforcement of legislation dealing with antisemitism.

Working definition: 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.

In addition, such manifestations could also target the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. 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.

Examples of the ways in which antisemitism manifests itself with regard to the state of Israel taking into account the overall context could include:

- 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.

However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.

**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.

## APPENDIX B – TABLES OF JEWISH POPULATION<sup>1</sup>

<b>Table 1</b> <b>Estimated Core Jewish Population, by Continents</b> <b>and Major Geographical Regions, 2010 And 2012 <sup>a</sup></b>							
Region	2010			2012		Percentage Change 2010-2012	Jews per 1,000 Total Population in 2012
	Original	Revised <sup>b</sup>		Number	Percent <sup>c</sup>		
	Number	Number	Percent <sup>c</sup>				
<b>World total</b>	13,428,300	13,577,400	100.0	13,746,100	100.0	1.2	1.94
Diaspora	7,724,600	7,873,700	58.0	7,845,000	57.1	-0.4	1.12
Israel <sup>d</sup>	5,703,700	5,703,700	42.0	5,901,100	42.9	3.5	752.93
<b>America, Total</b>	6,039,600	6,187,100	45.6	6,183,200	45.0	-0.1	6.56
North <sup>e</sup>	5,650,000	5,800,000	42.7	5,800,000	42.2	0.0	16.75
Central, Caribbean	54,500	54,500	0.4	54,200	0.4	-0.6	0.27
South	335,100	332,600	2.4	329,000	2.4	-1.1	0.83
<b>Europe, Total</b>	1,455,900	1,453,100	10.7	1,426,900	10.4	-1.8	1.75
European Union <sup>f</sup>	1,118,000	1,118,400	8.2	1,109,400	8.1	-0.8	2.21
Former USSR <sup>g</sup>	297,100	293,900	2.2	276,900	2.0	-5.8	1.37
Other West	19,400	19,400	0.1	19,400	0.1	0.0	1.45
Balkans <sup>g</sup>	21,400	21,400	0.2	21,200	0.2	-0.9	0.22
<b>Asia, Total</b>	5,741,500	5,745,900	42.3	5,941,100	43.2	3.4	1.43
Israel <sup>d</sup>	5,703,700	5,703,700	42.0	5,901,100	42.9	3.5	752.93
Former USSR <sup>g</sup>	18,600	22,000	0.2	20,000	0.1	-9.1	0.25
Other	19,200	20,200	0.1	20,000	0.1	-1.0	0.00
<b>Africa, Total</b>	76,200	76,200	0.6	75,300	0.5	-1.2	0.00
Northern <sup>h</sup>	3,900	3,900	0.0	3,600	0.0	-7.7	0.01
Sub-Saharan <sup>i</sup>	72,300	72,300	0.5	71,700	0.5	-0.8	0.10
<b>Oceania <sup>j</sup></b>	115,100	115,100	0.8	119,600	0.9	3.9	3.23

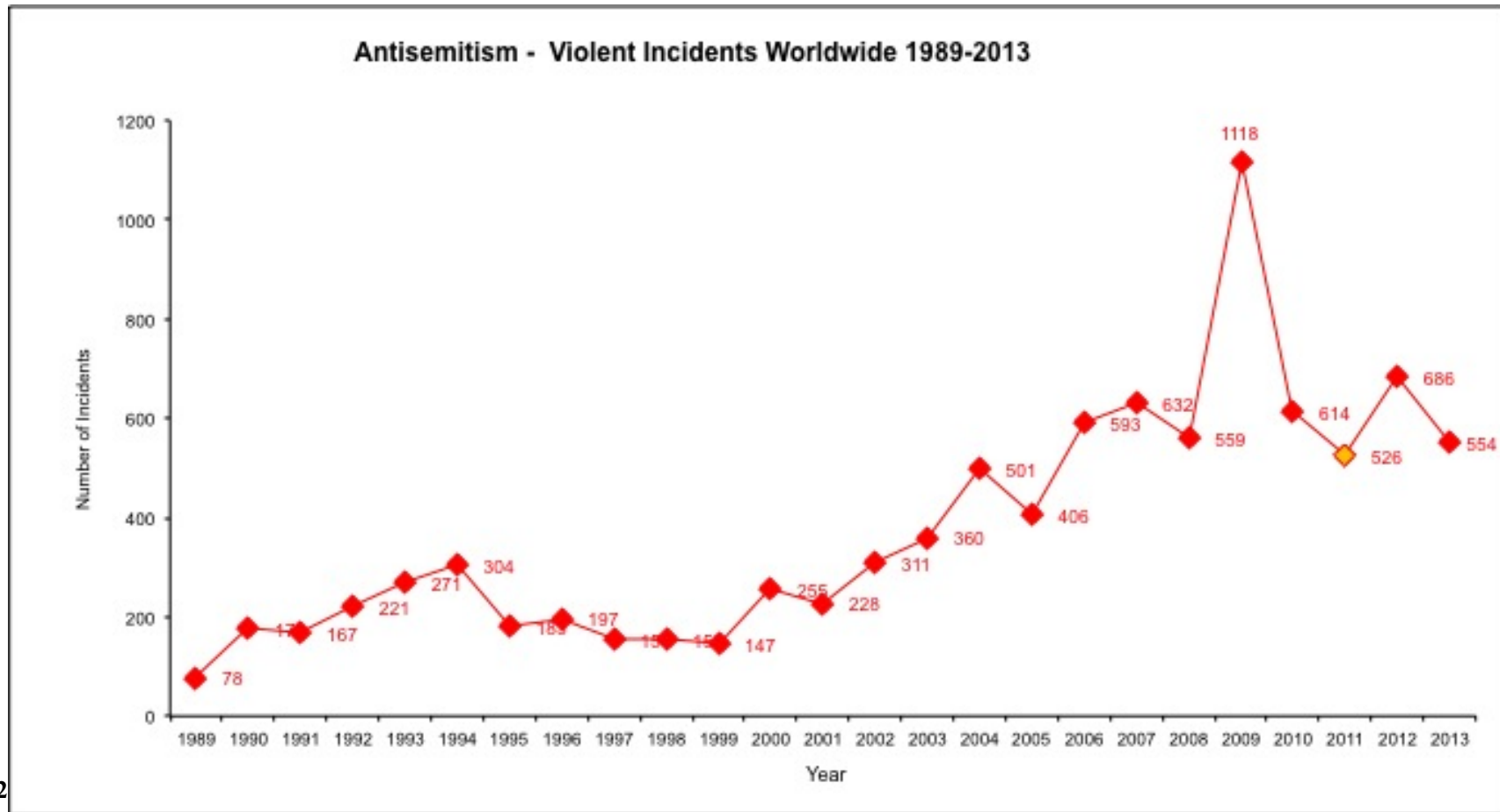
a January 1.  
b Based on updated or corrected information.  
c Minor discrepancies due to rounding.  
d Israel's Jewish population includes residents in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights. The respective total population includes non-Jews in Israel, including East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, but does not include Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. The latter are included in Other Asia in the calculation of Jews per 1,000 Total Population in 2012.  
e United States and Canada.  
f Including Baltic republics.  
g Asian regions of the FSU and Turkey included in Europe; excluding the Baltic republics.  
h Including Ethiopia.  
i Including South Africa, Zimbabwe.  
j Including Australia, New Zealand.

<sup>1</sup> Reference: Prof. Sergio DellaPergola, American Jewish Yearbook 2012, University of Connecticut

**Table 3**  
**Countries with Largest Core Jewish Populations, 1/1/2012**

Rank	Country	Jewish Population	Percent of Total Jewish Population			
			In the World		In the Diaspora	
			%	Cumulative %	%	Cumulative %
1	Israel <sup>a</sup>	5,901,100	42.9	42.9	NA	NA
2	United States	5,425,000	39.5	82.4	69.2	69.2
3	France	480,000	3.5	85.9	6.1	75.3
4	Canada	375,000	2.7	88.6	4.8	80.1
5	United Kingdom	291,000	2.1	90.7	3.7	83.8
6	Russian Federation	194,000	1.4	92.1	2.5	86.2
7	Argentina	181,800	1.3	93.5	2.3	88.6
8	Germany	119,000	0.9	94.3	1.5	90.1
9	Australia	112,000	0.8	95.1	1.4	91.5
10	Brazil	95,300	0.7	95.8	1.2	92.7
11	Ukraine	70,200	0.5	96.8	0.9	94.5
12	South Africa	67,000	0.5	96.3	0.9	93.6
13	Hungary	48,200	0.4	97.2	0.6	95.1
14	Mexico	39,200	0.3	97.5	0.5	95.6
15	Belgium	30,000	0.2	97.7	0.4	96.0
16	Netherlands	29,900	0.2	97.9	0.4	96.3
17	Italy	28,200	0.2	98.1	0.4	96.7
18	Chile	20,500	0.2	98.1	0.2	96.9

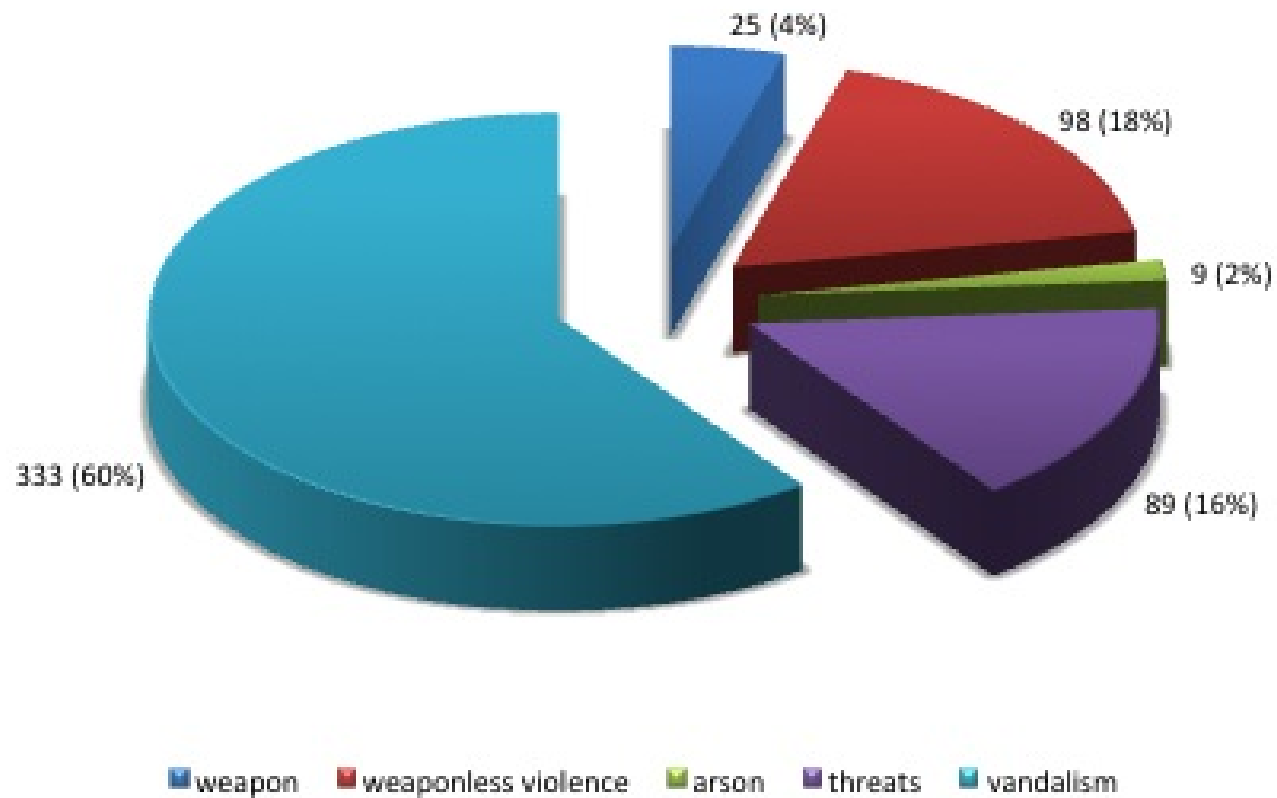
<sup>a</sup> Includes Jewish residents in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights.



2

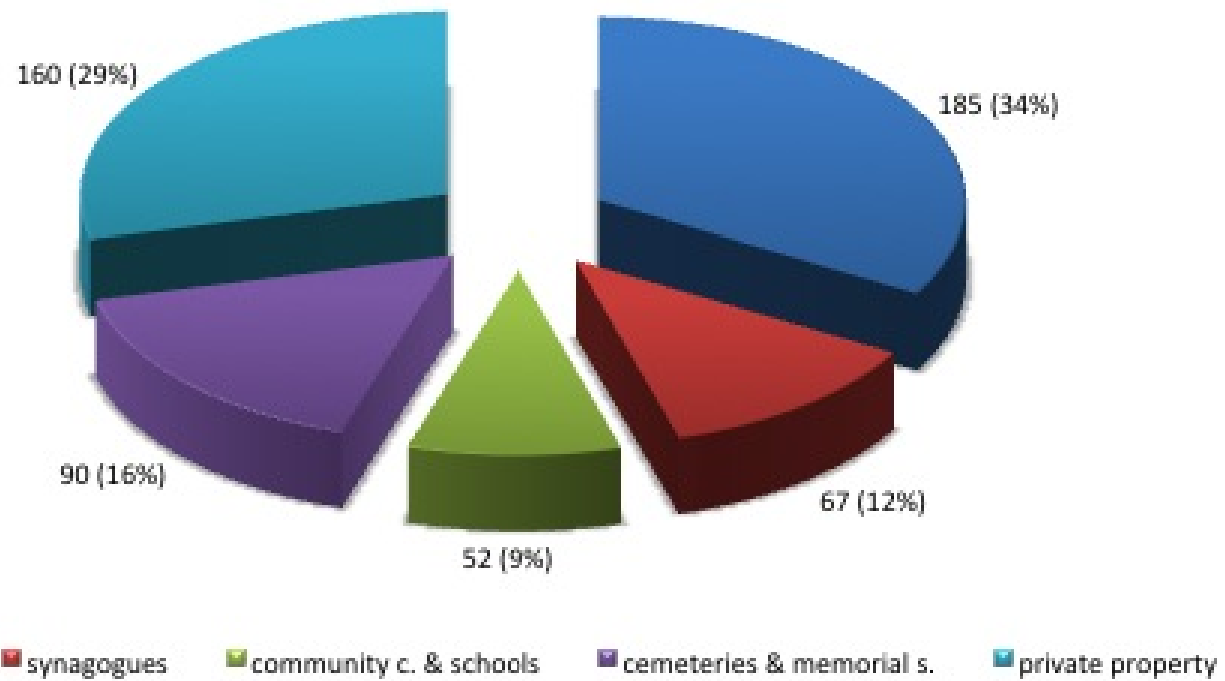
<sup>2</sup> The graphs in this section refer to acts of violence and vandalism perpetrated against Jewish individuals and Jewish private and community property worldwide during 2013. The figures are based on the Kantor Database for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism and reports of the Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism. It should be stressed that the graphs reflect only major violent incidents (such as arson, weapon attacks, weaponless attacks, serious harassment, and vandalism or desecration).

### Violent Incidents Worldwide in 2013 - Breakdown by Modus Operandi

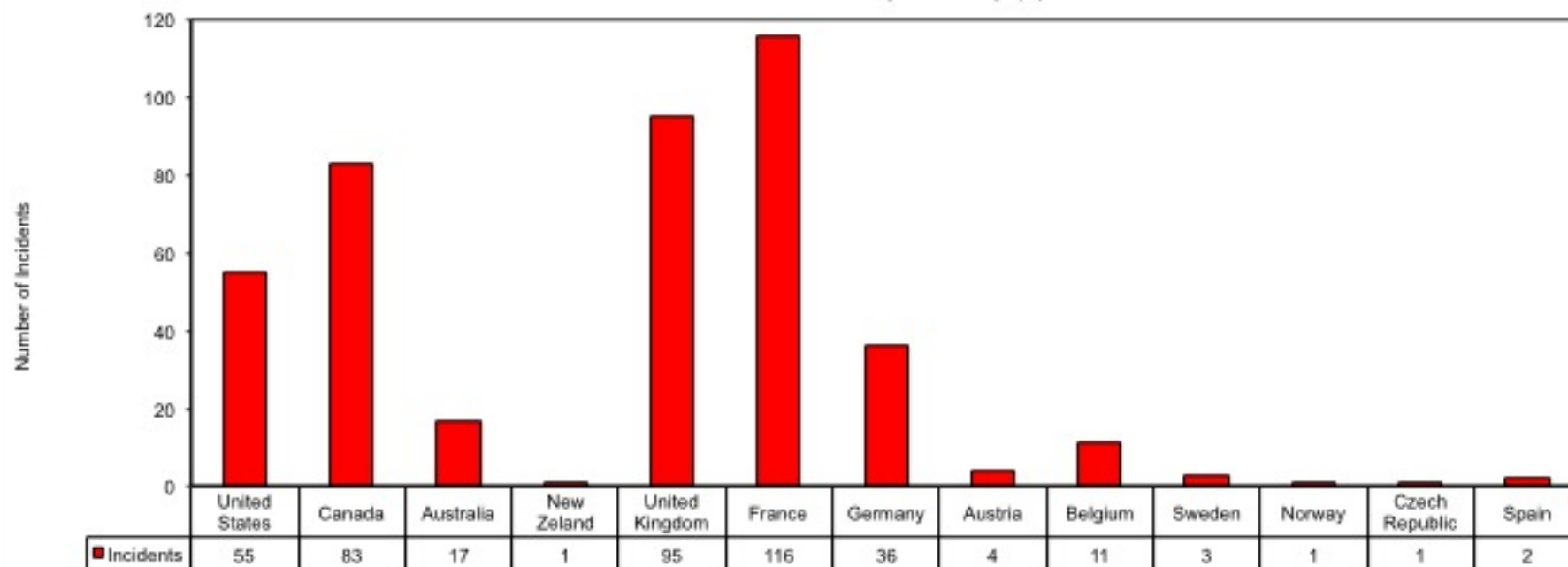




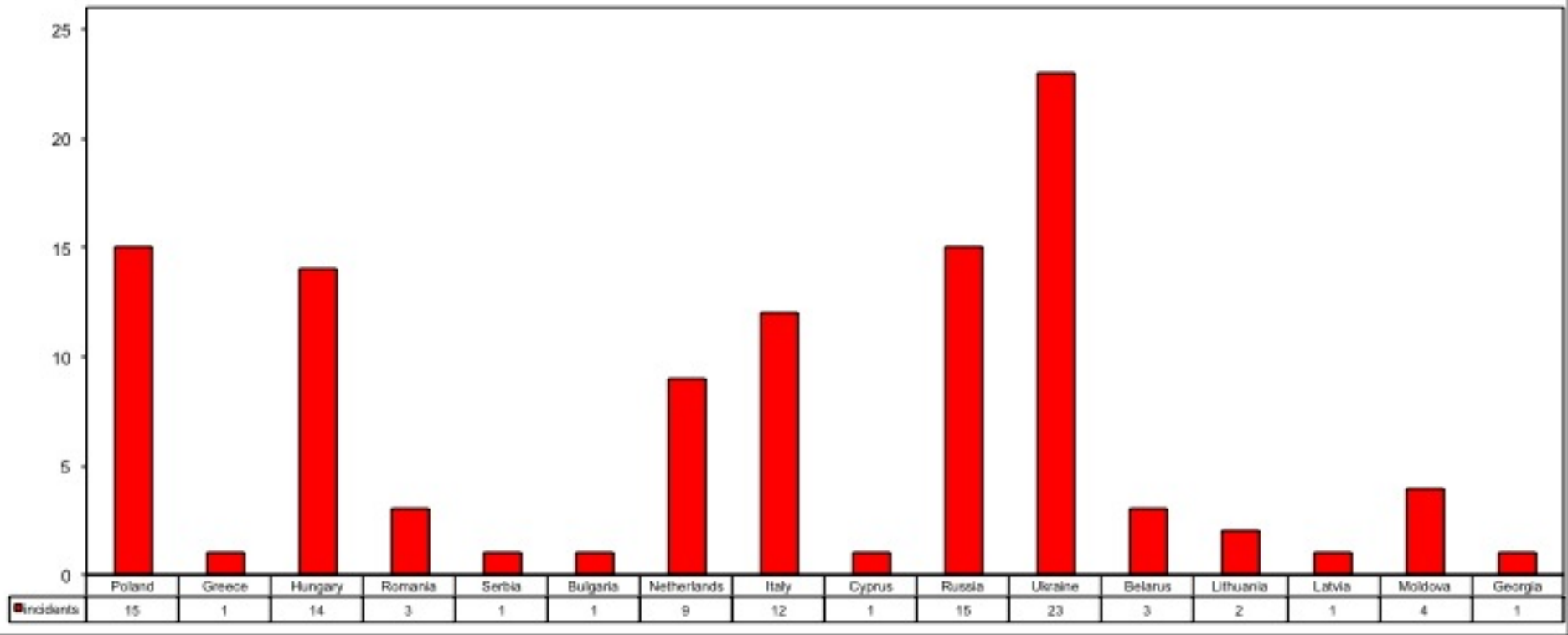
### Violent Incidents Worldwide in 2013 - Breakdown by Target



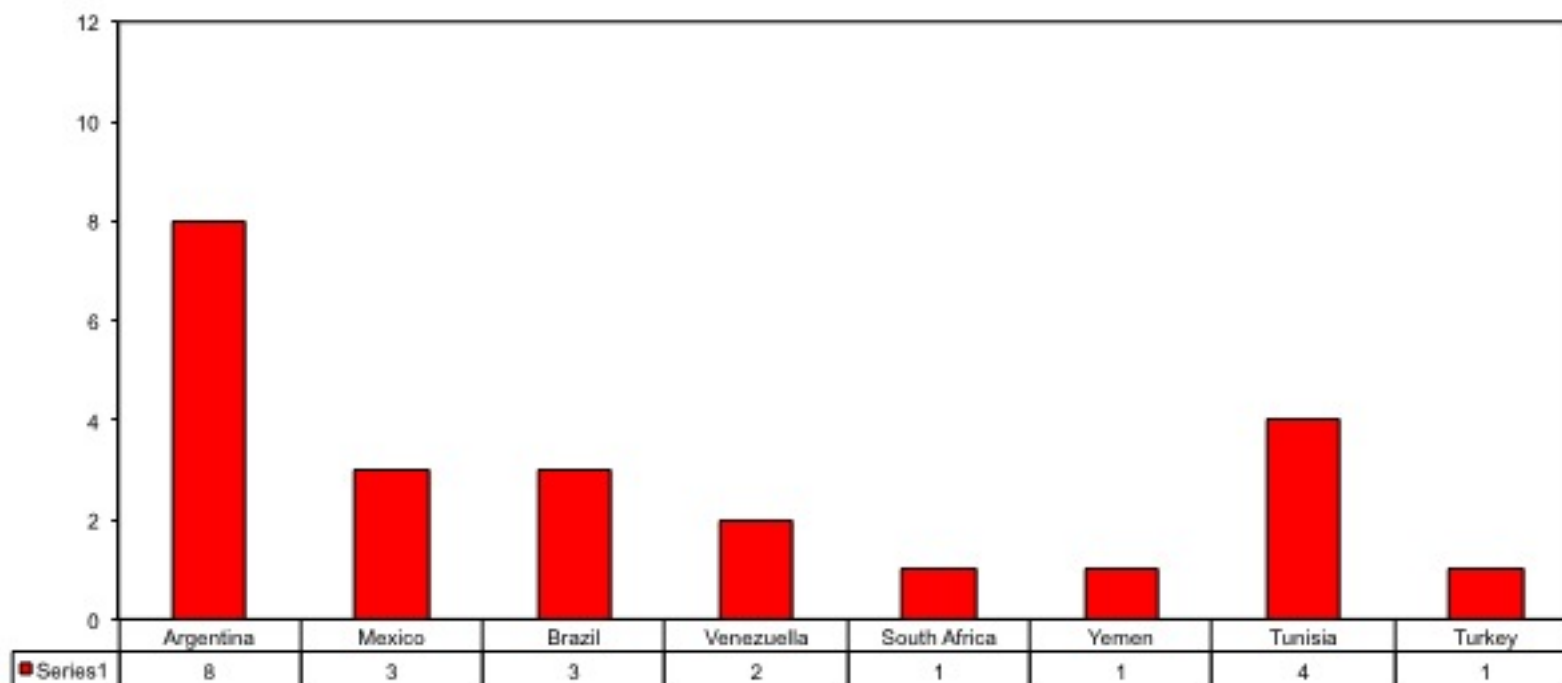
Violent Incidents in 2013 - Breakdown by Country (1)



Violent Incidents in 2013 - Breakdown by Country (2)



Violent Incidents in 2013 - Breakdown by Country (3)



## האנטישמיות בעולם בשנת

2013

שנת 2013 הייתה אחת השנים הקשות בעשור האחרון, משום שהאנטישמיות חודרת יותר ויותר מן השוליים הקיצוניים מימין ומשמאל אל מרכז החברה, והאירועים האנטישמיים הפכו למעשה לתופעה יומיומית. במהלך השנה הצטברו והלכו דיווחים רבים ומטרידים שהגיעו מרחבי העולם ובייחוד מאירופה וצפון-אמריקה, שהגיעו למאות רבות בכל ארץ, על אירועים אנטישמיים לסוגיהם. גם תגובות של יהודים מעידות על תחושה כללית שהאווירה האנטי-יהודית התגברה והחריפה, כלפי יחידים וקהילות כאחת.

המסקנה העיקרית שאליה הגענו במחקרנו ולאחר בחינת דו"חות של קהילות וחומר ממקורות ומסקרים לא-יהודיים עצמאיים, היא שתחושתם המתחזקת של יהודים, שאכן מסתמנת מגמת עלייה והחמרה, מקורה בעיקר בחומרתם של הביטויים המילוליים והחזותיים, העלבונות, ההצקות והאיומים היוצרים אווירה מכבידה והולכת, ולא דווקא במספרי האירועים האלימים, וזה למרות שהם עלו או החמירו בכמה ארצות. יתרה מזו, יהודים אינם מדווחים על רוב האירועים האנטישמיים, ויש להניח כי המצב גרוע, אם כן, יותר מכפי שקהילות וגופי מעקב עצמאיים מתארים אותו.

בשנת 2013 נרשמו 554 אירועי אנטישמיות אלימים, שבוצעו תוך שימוש בנשק או בלעדיו, הצתה, ונדליזם ואיומים ישירים נגד בני אדם, בתי כנסת, מרכזים קהילתיים, בתי ספר, בתי קברות, אנדרטאות ורכוש פרטי. לעומת שנת 2012 שבה נרשמה עלייה חדה במיוחד במספר האירועים האלימים שמנו 686, הייתה בשנת 2013 ירידה של 19% במקרים אלה. עדיין זהו מספר גבוה יחסית, בוודאי בהשוואה לעשור הקודם, 1994-2004, שבו עמד מספר האירועים האלימים על 150-200 לשנה בעולם. כמו כן, מספר האירועים האלימים ירד ב-2013 יחסית לשנה חריגה אך לא יחסית לשנה ממוצעת בעשור האחרון, 2004-2014. יש לציין שמספר ההתקפות הישירות על בני אדם נמצא בעלייה מתמדת: בארצות הברית, למשל, עלה שיעורם יחסית לסוגי אלימות אחרים. רובם מבוצעים באקראי ללא נשק או באמצעות כלי מזדמן.

ממצאינו מצביעים על הנתונים הבאים: 25 התקפות בנשק (4%), 98 מקרי אלימות ללא נשק (18%), 9 הצתות (2%), 89 מקרים של איומים ישירים (16%) ו-333 מקרים של ונדליזם (60%). ההתקפות כווננו כלפי 185 בני אדם (34%), 67 בתי כנסת (12%), 52 מרכזים קהילתיים ובתי ספר (9%), 90 בתי קברות ואתרי זיכרון (16%), ו-160 נכסים פרטיים (29%). מספר האירועים הגבוה ביותר מגיע מצרפת – 116, בהשוואה ל-200 ב-2012 בעקבות מעשי הרצח בטולוז, ו-114 ב-2011. הייתה עלייה במקרי אלימות בבריטניה: 95 מקרים לעומת 84 ב-2012, וכן בקנדה: 83 לעומת 74; בגרמניה: 36

לעומת 23; באוקראינה 23 לעומת 15; ברוסיה: 15 לעומת 11; ובהונגריה 14 לעומת 12. בפולין ובאיטליה נרשמה ירידה במקרי האלימות, וכך גם בארה"ב, מ-99 מקרים ל-55. גם באוסטרליה ירד מספר המקרים האלימים ל-17 לעומת 53 ב-2012, אך מספר האירועים הכללי שם עלה ב-21% ל-657, וזהו המספר השני בגובהו מאז החל שם רישום האירועים. בקנדה עלה מספר האירועים בעשור האחרון פי שלושה, ובצרפת עלה המספר פי שבעה מאז 2000.

יש להבין את מספרי האירועים האנטישמיים בהשוואה לפגיעות גם במיעוטים אחרים. אפשר היה להניח שמספר האירועים האלימים יהיה יחסי למספר היהודים בקהילות השונות. כך למשל בבריטניה נרשמים מדי שנה אלפים רבים של אירועים על רקע של גזענות וקסנופוביה, ושיעור הפגיעה ביהודים הוא אם כן נמוך, אך בצרפת למשל שבה היהודים מהווים אחוז אחד מן האוכלוסייה, כווננו כלפיהם 40% מן ההתקפות הגזעניות בשנת 2013.

תופעה שפשטה במהירות בשבועות האחרונים של שנת 2013 מצרפת לארצות נוספות באירופה ובעולם, וממחישה את העוצמה של הרשתות החברתיות בהפצת שנאה, היא **תופעת "מועל היד ההפוך"**. מועל היד הנאצי, ה"זיג הייל", הוחלף בהצדעה בנוסח חדש בתנועת ידיים הפוכה הנקראת QUENELLE, מבית היוצר של הבדרן הצרפתי השנוי במחלוקת, דיידונה, (DIEUDONNE), שעיקרה יד ימין פשוטה בחוזקה כלפי מטה, ויד שמאל מונחת בכיוון כתף ימין, באצבעות מתוחות. הצדעה זו פשטה מייד במרשתת במאות אלפי "לייקים", תמונות קבוצתיות ובפועל ממש. היא נעשית בהתרסה, ליד אתרים יהודיים כמו בתי כנסת, בתי קברות, שלטי רחובות בשכונות יהודיות, בייחוד ליד אתרי הנצחה ואנדרטאות לשואה, ואפילו מול שער הכניסה הידוע לאושוויץ, על ידי צעירים בעיקר, שרובם אינו משתייך ככל הנראה לארגונים מזוהים, אך היא יכולה להוות מעין תעודת זהות של החברים בארגונים ימניים קיצוניים ושל תומכיהם.

בתחילת נובמבר 2013 פרסמה ה-FRA (FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AGENCY), סוכנות שהיא זרוע המחקר של האיחוד האירופאי בנושאי זכויות אדם, סקר מקיף, **שעניינו תגובותיהם ותחושותיהם של יהודים בשמונה ארצות החברות** באיחוד האירופי ביחס לאנטישמיות. הסקר הקיף קרוב ל-6000 יהודים, בארצות שבהן מתגוררים כמיליון יהודים, המהווים 90 אחוזים מכלל יהדות אירופה: בלגיה, צרפת, גרמניה, הונגריה, איטליה, לטביה, שבדיה ובריטניה. התמונה העולה מתוכו מדאיגה מאד: הרוב המכריע - 77% - אינו מדווח לשום ארגון, יהודי או מקומי, על אירועים אנטישמיים שהוא חווה. כ-23% אינם משתתפים באירועים או הולכים למוסדות יהודיים שמא ייפגעו בדרך, 38% אינם יוצאים מן הבית עם סימנים מזהים כמו כיפה או מגן דוד. 33% מן הנשאלים חוששים ליפול קורבן להתקפה אנטישמית, ו-29% בממוצע שוקלים להגר

מאמצים. 66% מהמשיבים רואים באנטישמיות בעיה המשפיעה על חייהם, ו-76% ציינו שהאנטישמיות החמירה במהלך חמש השנים האחרונות.

כרבע מן המשתתפים בסקר חוו במהלך השנה שלפניו תקרית שכללה גם עלבון מילולי, וכמעט מחצית מודאגים מן האפשרות שיפלו קורבן לעלבון או להטרדה בשנה הבאה. בבלגיה דיווחו 88% על עלייה באנטישמיות, ובהונגריה ובצרפת הדיווחים גבוהים עוד יותר. בשבדיה, איטליה וגרמניה המצב חמור מעט פחות, וכך גם בבריטניה ובלטביה. בהונגריה סברו 80% מן הנשאלים שמקור הרעה הוא בימין הקיצוני; מעל 60% הצביעו באיטליה על השמאל; 73% בצרפת ו-60% בבלגיה האשימו את המוסלמים הרדיקלים, ואנטישמיות ממקורות נוצריים הייתה אחרונה ברשימה.

שבועות ספורים לאחר פרסום הסקר, הסירה אותה סוכנות עצמה, ה-FRA, מן האתר שלה, את הגדרת העבודה של אנטישמיות שהייתה בשימוש בינלאומי מאז תחילת שנת 2005. הסיבה הרשמית שניתנה לכך היא שהגדרה זו מעולם לא הפכה למסמך מחייב של האיחוד האירופי, והוסרה מן האתר בזמן בדיקת בית שניערך בו, יחד עם עוד NON PAPERS, כינוי למסמכים בלתי רשמיים שנועדו כמצע לדיון. ניסוח זה יכול להתקבל כעלבון להגדרה, שנוסחה במאמץ משותף של חוקרים וארגונים, כולל מן האיחוד האירופי, ונחשבה להישג בינלאומי, משום שהיא סיפקה כלי יעיל לזיהוי ולהענשה של אנטישמיות, ושל אירועים גזעניים אחרים על ידי רשויות של אכיפת חוק.

בהגדרה זו ישנם כמה סעיפים המזהים אנטי-ציונות ויחס כלפי מדינת ישראל כאנטישמיות במקרים מסוימים ובייחוד כאשר ישראל מושווית לגרמניה הנאצית וכאשר היא מופלית לרעה (ראו נספח). סעיפים אלה זכו בשנים האחרונות לביקורת חריפה, ולהעמדתה של ההגדרה במרכזם של דיונים בבתי משפט באנגליה ובארצות הברית, שבמהלכם הובעו דעות אנטי-ציוניות מובהקות. ככל הנראה אין קשר בין הסרת ההגדרה לבין ההתלהמות האנטי-ציונית והאנטי-ישראלית המתחזקת אף היא, בעקבותיה במערב, במקביל להחמרה באווירה האנטישמית, והיא מתבטאת בביטויים אנטישמיים. אך צעד זה פרושו מתן לגיטימציה לדעות שליליות כלפי ישראל וכלפי תומכיה מבין היהודים בתפוצות, גם אם מקורו, כפי שהוסבר, בסיבות טכניות. אנו, צוות החוקרים במרכז קנטור ממליצים להמשיך להפיץ את ההגדרה כפי שהיא ולהשתמש בה כמקודם.

בשנת 2013 נשמעו דרישות בארצות שונות שהחלו לעלות בשנה שלפני כן, לאסור על **השחיטה הכשרה וברית המילה**, והן נתפסו כניסיון לדחוק את רגליהם של יהודים ממקומות מושבם, שהרי אי אפשר להמשיך חיים יהודיים בלי ברית מילה – בשר כשר אפשר לייבא. ארגוני צער בעלי חיים טענו שהשחיטה הכשרה אינה הומאנית דיה, והיא אפילו הושוותה לשואה, וארגונים של הגנה על זכויות הילד טענו שאפשר למול אדם רק

בהסכמתו, ושהמנהג גורם נזק לתינוקות. דעות כאלה הן ביטוי של תקינות פוליטית ושל מאבק על חברה צודקת ומתוקנת, אך בה בעת הן אומרות שהמנהגים היהודיים האלה הם אכזריים ובלתי מתחשבים בחלשים, שהם נוצרו לפני אלפי שנים ומאז היהודים טרם התאימו את עצמם לעולם המודרני. אנטישמים ואיסלמופובים לא איחרו להיתפס בנימוקים אלה המחזקים סטראוטיפים גזעניים, ולהאשים יהודים ומוסלמים כאחד בפגיעה אכזרית בילדים ובחיות.

כל מה שנכתב בדו"ח המגמות בשנה שעברה, שנת 2012, על כוחו של האינטרנט ובעיקר כוחן של הרשתות החברתיות בהפצת שנאה, מחוויר לעומת תפוצתו ונגישותו במהלך השנה החולפת, ולעומת יכולתו הגוברת לחולל אירועים על ידי גיוס המונים בקלות ובמהירות בזירה הציבורית-פוליטית, והפיכתו לאמצעי התקשורת הנוגע לחייהם, ואפילו מנהל את חייהם, של מאות מיליוני אנשים. שיעור שיא של 90% מן הנשאלים בסקר ה-FRA נתקלו בפעילות אנטישמית במרשתת. כ-75% השיבו שהם רואים באנטישמיות המקוונת, זו שהם נתקלים בה בסרטוני ה-Youtube, ברשתות החברתיות, בצ'טים ובבלוגים, בעיה הקיימת ומתגברת בארצם. ככל שהנמענים צעירים יותר הם חשים את הפגיעה ביתר שאת, שהרי היום התדמית העצמית של נוער נקבעת במסגרות האלה. הרשתות החברתיות והכלליות גם ממשיכות ומפיצות תיאוריות קונספירציה, שהן הזוויות ממש, ביחס ליהודים.

השנה האחרונה התאפיינה בשורה של עימותים אלימים בתוך ובין הארצות הערביות והמוסלמיות במזרח התיכון, עם ובלי קשר ל"אביב הערבי": אפשר היה לצפות שהאנטי-ציונות תפחת, וקודם כל בארצות המערב, מפני שאין שום פרופורציה בין הנעשה במזרח התיכון בכלל, בתוצאות כה קשות, לבין תוצאותיו ואופיו של העימות בין ישראל לפלשתינאים. ואולם החומר שנאסף, בעיקר מארצות המערב ופחות ממזרח אירופה, אינו מצביע על הפחתה בתעמולה ובביטויים האנטי-ציוניים. להפך: אפשר להגדיר היום את האנטי-ציונות הרווחת בעיקר בשמאל, שנעשתה כבר לחלק מהשקפת העולם הקבועה של יחידים וקבוצות בתוכו, כקוד תרבותי, המאפשר למפיצים אותו להכחיש שהוא מובע בנימות אנטישמיות. הכחשה זו נקראת היום בפי חוקרים **הכחשת אנטישמיות**, ANTISEMITISM DENIAL, על משקל הכחשת השואה.

ושתיה מסקנות לסיום: האחת, במרבית מדינות המערב קיים פער הולך וגדל בין המדיניות הרשמית המקדמת אירועי זיכרון לשואה, גינוי של האנטישמיות וחקיקה נגד אנטישמיות והכחשת שואה, לבין הקול העממי שבא לידי ביטוי בחיי היומיום, ומתעצם גם בדיונים על השחיטה הכשרה וברית המילה לדוגמה, או כאשר עולה על סדר היום שאלת החזרת הרכוש היהודי שנשדד בידי הנאצים. ובכל זאת, אנטישמיות גסה המובעת באופן פומבי על ידי בעלי תפקידים עדיין אינה מקובלת. מספר גדול של פוליטיקאים, מנהיגים ופקידי



ממשל (נספרו לפחות 15 מקרים במהלך 2013) שהביעו דעות אנטישמיות וביטויים מעליבים פוטרו או נאלצו להתפטר.

מסקנה נוספת עולה באופן בולט: אנטי-ציונות, הגוברת במערב, אינה מספקת הסבר מלא לעליית האנטישמיות היום. גם עליית מפלגות הימין הקיצוני, שלכל אחת מהן יש סדר יום רחב יותר, אינה מהווה הסבר, והמשבר הכלכלי שנמשך מאז 2008 אינו בגדר חידוש. במהלך 2013 לא קרה שום אירוע הנוגע לסכסוך הישראלי-פלשתינאי שהיה בו כדי להצית גל אנטישמיות, וגם לא מקרה רצח שהביא בעקבותיו גל של מעריצים כפי שקרה אחרי הרצח בטולוז במרץ 2012. העובדה שבמהלך העשור האחרון מספר האירועים האלימים הוא גבוה מאשר בעשור שלפניו, ואינו יורד מתחת למספר מסוים יכולה להצביע על כך שהתופעה האנטישמית היום אינה תלויה באירועים חיצוניים. מכל אלה עולה שאנו עדים בשנת 2013 לאנטישמיות לשמה, אנטישמיות נטו.

לא נוכל לסיים מבלי למחות בתקיפות נגד אירועים שקרו לאחרונה בישראל: אין להבדיל בין ונדליזם נגד מקומות מקודשים ללא יהודים, נוצרים או מוסלמים, גרימת נזק לרכושם, צלבי קרס ולשון פוגענית על קירות בתיהם לבין התקפות דומות כנגד יהודים בחוץ לארץ. אנו תובעים חקיקה, אכיפה וענישה של מעשים כאלה, כאן כמו שם.

הפקולטה למדעי הרוח ע"ש לסטר וסאלי אנטין



מאגר המידע לחקר האנטישמיות והגזענות בימינו ע"ש משה קנטור

## אנטישמיות בעולם

2013

נתונים והערכות  
טיוטה



הקונגרס היהודי האירופי

היחידה לחקר סובלנות ואי סובלנות במזרח התיכון ע"ש זאב ורד, המכון לחקר

האנטישמיות והגזענות בימינו ע"ש סטפן רוט