

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY  אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities



Moshe Kantor Database for the Study of Contemporary
Antisemitism and Racism

Antisemitism Worldwide 2014

General Analysis
Draft



European Jewish Congress

Ze'ev Vered Desk for the Study of Tolerance and Intolerance in the Middle
East, Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism
and Racism

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This brochure is dedicated to the memory of those murdered at the Jewish Museum in Brussels, at the Charlie Hebdo offices and the HyperCasher in Paris, and at the synagogue in Copenhagen, 2014-2015.

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The Kantor Center team would like to express its deep gratitude to all contributors.

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Hebrew Overview

Additional annual reports for 2014 on Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland are *available at* the Kantor Center website: <http://kantorcenter.tau.ac.il/>. The Canada data in this report is not yet complete.

Overview of Antisemitic Manifestations Worldwide 2014

The year 2014 has been one of the worst years in the last decade, 2004-2014, in fact, it was the second worst year after 2009. Troubling and even alarming reports kept coming in from many countries, especially from Western Europe and North America, monitoring hundreds and sometimes over a thousand antisemitic manifestations and incidents of various types per country. The tendencies that characterized this difficult year, in which violent, verbal and visual expressions of antisemitism abounded, continued in the beginning of 2015, with increasing murderous and other attacks.

The overall feeling among many Jewish people is one of living in an intensifying anti-Jewish environment that has become not only insulting and threatening, but outright dangerous, and that they are facing an explosion of hatred towards them as individuals, their communities, and Israel, as a Jewish state. Comparisons to the 1930s are rampant, because Jews realized, especially in Europe that there are no more taboos and restrictions when it comes to antisemitic manifestations, and certainly no proportion between the unfolding events and the actual number of Jews in their respective communities and their real impact on the societies they live in; or between the intensive debate on Israel's role in the Middle East and the lack of such a debate when it comes to other Middle Eastern conflicts. Jewish community leaders and heads of organizations feel that they are put to test, because of the question hovering over the heads of the Jewish communities: What future is there for communities and individuals, especially in Europe. The issue is not only a matter of having more security means provided by the respective states, but rather of the ability to lead full Jewish life in Europe, especially under heavy police and even army protection, and the necessity to add self-defense to the communities' agenda.

Numbers of Antisemitic Incidents: It should be emphasized that the numbers mentioned here are the result of the monitoring and analysis system developed by the Kantor Center team that has been working together on these issues for more than twenty years. Reports about thousands of incidents worldwide, suspected as antisemitic, reached us during 2014, from a variety of sources: open sources, namely materials to be found on the web and other media channels; police, enforcement and judicial agencies; embassies; Jewish communities and their monitoring data; and a net of expert colleagues and volunteers, most of whom have been cooperating with us for many a year. 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, and whether they are counted without either exaggerating or diminishing the severity of the situation. These specific criteria and the pinpointing of violent incidents are the basic reason for the differences between the numbers released by the various communities and institutes reports and surveys and the numbers offered here.

During 2014 the Kantor Center registered 766 violent antisemitic acts perpetrated with or without weapons and by arson, vandalism or direct threats against Jewish persons or institutions such as synagogues, community centers, schools, cemeteries and monuments as well as private property. These 766 cases mark a sharp increase of 38% compared to 2013, in which 554 violent incidents were registered. In this regard 2014 has been the second worst year of the decade, coming next after 2009, with an increase of about 40% higher than the average numbers registered between the years 2004-2014.

The categorization of violent activities reflect a most troubling situation: The number of attacks on Jews and their property and institutions with weapons, that amounted to 68

cases, has more than doubled in comparison to 2013, in addition to 101 cases of weaponless violence. The number of arson cases has more than tripled in comparison to the previous year, and there were 412 incidents of vandalism. More than 306 people were targets of attacks, an increase of no less than 66% in comparison to 2013; the 114 attacks of synagogues marked an increase of 70%; and as many as 57 community centers and schools, 118 cemeteries and memorial sites as well as 171 private properties were targeted.

The highest number of violent cases was registered in France, for a number of consecutive years now: 164 compared to 141 in 2013. There was a sharp rise in violent incidents in the UK (141 compared to 95), in Australia (30 compared to 11), Germany (76 compared to 36, more than double), Austria (9 compared to 4), Italy (23 compared to 12, again more than double), Sweden (17 compared to 3!), Belgium (30 compared to 11) and South Africa (14 compared to 1). The situation in Eastern Europe is different: In the Ukraine (28 compared to 23), Hungary (15 compared to 14), and in Russia and Romania numbers even slightly decreased.

Most communities, experts and agencies, try to monitor not only the violent cases (as the Kantor Center does), but rather all manifestations of antisemitism in their various forms, including the verbal and the visual, and the results are no less troubling: overall cases in France rose from 423 to 851 (threats for instance, were doubled, 610 compared to 318); in Australia 312 compared to 231; in Germany 1076 compared to 788; in Belgium there was a rise of 60%; in Austria the numbers doubled, from 137 to 255. In the UK 1168 incidents – the highest annual total number ever- were registered across the country, more than twice the number of 535 incidents in 2013, and this is just a list of major cases.

Having referred to the violent cases and to the number of overall cases of every type as provided by the communities, it should still be emphasized that the visual expressions, such as caricatures disseminated in the media and through the social nets, TV series and comics, and the verbal expressions, such as insults, abusive language and behavior, slogans and swastika, threats and harassments and the like, occur far more often than could be quantified, and that most of them are not reported to any type of authorities. Thus, manifestations of antisemitism are no longer random experiences, but seem to have become almost daily phenomena, seen and felt on every sphere of life, from politics and economy to popular culture and education.

A number of reasons and developments could account for this situation:

Operation Protective Edge in Gaza, in July and August 2014. Still, the first half of 2014 had already proved to be a very difficult period for Jews as individuals and as members of communities, way before the summer months and the high increase of incidents that occurred during the Operation. Therefore one should look deeper for reasons, some of which are connected to the Operation, especially the **Demonstrations**: Hundreds of demonstrations, organized primarily by extreme leftists and anti-Israeli radical Muslims, took place mainly in Western and central Europe – in Germany, most notably, and to a lesser extent in North and Latin America. Some of them turned violent; in most of them banners and posters carried abusive slogans, comparing Israel and its Jewish supporters to Nazis and blaming them and Israeli soldiers for every evil on earth. It is the present crisis of values, that characterizes contemporary western societies, coupled with profound ignorance that drives confused youngsters to look for easy to

catch black and white symbols. Struggling against a symbol of evil is a noble deed any liberal minded person should wish to be engaged in, however it is questionable whether many of those who joined the anti-Israeli rallies actually know where Gaza is placed on the map, or what the history and the present of the Middle East are, who the Nazis were, or what happened during the Holocaust.

The Return of Classic Antisemitism. A host of **ugly caricatures**, published in the various media channels, complemented the demonstrations, serving as a vehicle for visualizing the symbols of good and evil, culprits and victims, often showing Jews and Israelis in the same known *Der Stürmer* fashion: cruel, blood thirsty, killing children with a sneering smile under a crooked nose. The caricatures reflect one more development: the return of classic antisemitism, that has not been noticed for years, and now gains increasing ground, if not instead of anti-Zionism and anti-Israelism then at least alongside them.

The visual imagery is often imbued with blood that serves as a major theme, and the image of the Jew that sheds it is frightening, and sort of eternal, because it did not change since at least medieval times. Officially demonstrations were against Israel and against the operation in Gaza, but marchers chanted "Jews to the Gas" and "death to the Jews". Synagogues were targeted, not Israeli embassies; and the question is whether the return of classic antisemitism that brings forth religious elements, is a result of the increasing religious nature of the Muslim struggle, a struggle for identity and for Islamic world dominance.

Biased western and Muslim media enhanced stereotypes of classic old antisemitism, when it transmitted a certain Jewish-Israeli image. There was no way the western media consumer could avoid horror photos from the Gaza conflict, while he was getting no background information, or a word about how citizens, including children, were used to shield Hamas members, or any mentioning of the on-going aggression against Israeli citizens. Thus the media, bringing almost exclusively horror photos, first and foremost of wounded and dead Palestinian children, re-animated traditional child murderer stereotypes.

Cruelty on the Rise. The ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) phenomenon, and the bloody character of events unfolding in the Middle East and North Africa since the so-called "Arab Spring", have raised the level of cruelty to hitherto unknown new heights. Having their dark charm, cruelty and violence attract, especially the younger audiences, and are being constantly instilled into western culture.

The Gap Between Responses of European Leaders and Officials, and the Public at Large. When Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu called upon the Jews to leave Europe because "Israel is your home" and Europe proves dangerous, European leaders and heads of states, reacted, making ardent promises for more security and more means for safekeeping Jewish life in Europe, and expressing solidarity, describing the Jewish communities as part and parcel of Europe. There are more efforts than in previous years, of organizations and governmental agencies, or at least suggestions, to legislate against antisemitism and Holocaust Denial, and at least to implement existing laws, to discuss definitions of antisemitism and racism, to commemorate the Holocaust and to offer recommendations to the administrations. Also, self-resignations and firing of officials and position holders who expressed gross antisemitism in public still holds. And there was an

impressive number of "Silver Lining" parades, to express solidarity with the Jewish citizens, most notably in the Scandinavian countries, and of Kippah walks.

The problem we would like to pin point is that these efforts, as genuine as they may be, and financed by governmental budgets in most western countries, have no meeting point with the street, or rather with the forces working against them: the far right, the extreme left, radical Islamists and politically non-identified publics. Indeed, the ADL global attitude survey, published in May 2014, perhaps the largest ever conducted included 53,000 participants in 102 countries and territories. The analysis showed that a quarter of those telephonically interviewed (representing approximately 1.1 billion adults worldwide), harbor deep seated antisemitic stereotypes.

We, the Kantor Center team, cannot close this report without strongly protesting against recent incidents in Israel. Vandalism against holy places of non-Jews, whether Christian or Muslim or any other denomination, 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 their holy places, and requires the same strict legislation and punishment that is demanded against perpetrators of antisemitic incidents.

Antisemitic Manifestations Worldwide 2014 – Tendencies and Incidents

The year 2014 has been one of the worst years in the last decade, 2004-2014, in fact, it was the second worst year after 2009. Troubling and even alarming reports kept coming in from many countries, especially from Western Europe and North America, monitoring hundreds and sometimes over a thousand antisemitic manifestations and incidents of various types, per country. The tendencies that characterized this difficult year, in which violent, verbal and visual expressions of antisemitism abounded, continued into the beginning of 2015, with increasing murderous and other attacks.

The overall feeling among vast parts of the Jewish population is one of living in an intensifying anti-Jewish environment that has become not only insulting and threatening, but outright dangerous. Comparisons to the 1930s are rampant, because of the prevailing feeling among Jews, especially in Europe is that there are no more taboos and restrictions when it comes to antisemitic manifestations directed against Jews, and certainly no proportion between the unfolding events and the actual number of Jews in their respective communities and their real impact on the societies they live in; or between the intensive debate on Israel's role in the Middle East and the lack of such a debate when it comes to other Middle Eastern conflicts. Therefore Jews feel that they are facing an explosion of hatred towards them as individuals, their communities, and Israel, as a Jewish state. Jewish community leaders and heads of organizations feel that they are put to test, because of the question hovering over the heads of the Jewish communities: What future is there for communities and individuals, especially in Europe. Taking into consideration the increase in numbers and the intensification of the severe nature of antisemitic events, doubts have intensified. The issue is not only a matter of having more security means provided by the respective states, but rather of the ability to lead full Jewish life in Europe, especially under heavy police and even army protection, and the necessity to add self-defense to the communities' agenda.

Let us therefore first take a look at the numbers of violent incidents, then at some developments that occurred along 2014 and enhanced anxiety among Jews, and try to pinpoint the reasons behind the current situation.

Numbers of Antisemitic incidents: It should be emphasized that the numbers mentioned here are the result of the monitoring and analysis system developed by the Kantor Center team that has been working together on these issues for more than twenty years. Reports about thousands of incidents worldwide, suspected as antisemitic, reached us during 2014, from a variety of sources: open sources, namely materials to be found on the web and other media channels; police, enforcement and judicial agencies; embassies; Jewish communities and their monitoring data; and a net of expert colleagues and volunteers, most of whom have been cooperating with us for many a year. 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, and whether they are counted without either exaggerating or diminishing the severity of the situation. These specific criteria are the basic reason for the differences between the numbers released in the various countries and institutes reports and surveys (hereafter, following the General Analysis) and the numbers offered here.

A particular question, tragic in nature, arose in the wake of the murderous attacks that took place in recent years in Toulouse, in Brussels, Paris and Copenhagen: does one

count each attack as one event, no matter how many were killed during a specific incident, or is the murder of each person considered as an event in itself? Opinions differ, and our decision has been to consider each of the cases as one event, because they were perpetrated by the same murderous hand at the same time and place.

During 2014 the Kantor Center registered 766 violent antisemitic acts perpetrated with or without weapons and by arson, vandalism or direct threats against Jewish persons or institutions such as synagogues, community centers, schools, cemeteries and monuments as well as private property. These 766 cases mark a sharp increase of 38% compared to 2013, in which 554 violent incidents were registered. In this regard 2014 has been the second worst year of the decade, coming next after 2009, with an increase of about 40% higher than the average numbers registered between the years 2004-2014.

The categorization of violent activities reflect a most troubling situation: The number of attacks on Jews and their property and institutions with weapons, that amounted to 68 cases, has more than doubled in comparison to 2013, in addition to 101 cases of weaponless violence. The number of arson cases has more than tripled in comparison to the previous year, and there were 412 incidents of vandalism. More than 306 people were targets of attacks, an increase of no less than 66% in comparison to 2013; the 114 attacks of synagogues marked an increase of 70%; and as many as 57 community centers and schools, 118 cemeteries and memorial sites as well as 171 private properties were targeted.

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Most communities, experts and agencies, try to monitor not only the violent cases (as the Kantor Center does), but rather all manifestations of antisemitism in their various forms, including the verbal and the visual, and the results are no less troubling: overall cases in France rose from 423 to 851 (threats for instance, were doubled, 610 compared to 318); in Australia 312 compared to 231; in Germany 1076 compared to 788; in Belgium there was a rise of 60%; in Austria the numbers doubled, from 137 to 255. In the UK 1168 incidents – the highest annual total number ever- were registered across the country, more than twice the number of 535 incidents in 2013, – and the list could be continued along the same line.

Having referred to the violent cases and to the overall cases of every type, it should still be emphasized that the visual expressions, such as caricatures disseminated in the media and through the social nets, TV series and comics, and the verbal expressions, such as insults, abusive language and behavior, slogans and swastika, threats and harassments and the like, occur far more often than could be quantified. Moreover, the extensive FRA (Fundamental Rights Agency) survey, the results of which were released in November 2013, clearly showed that 76% of the Jews who experienced antisemitic attacks of any kind, did not report or file a complaint – especially regarding the non-violent cases – to

any local authorities. In other words, it became increasingly obvious through 2014, especially according to the country reports, that most of the antisemitic non-violent manifestations had not been registered, despite the fact that they are having a large impact on the increasingly anti-Jewish atmosphere, infiltration from the extreme left and right, and the radical Islamic fringes, into the center stage and the mainstream. Thus, manifestations of antisemitism are no longer incidental, but seem to have become an almost daily phenomenon, that is seen and felt on every sphere of life, from politics and economy to popular culture and education.

Two more points regarding numbers: they should be taken in proportion to the number of cases perpetrated against other minorities. In Russia, for instance, or in Slovakia, proportionally, many more racial and xenophobic attacks were registered than the ones against Jews. Also, one could assume that antisemitic activities are in numeric proportion to the number of Jews living in a given community, but this is not the case. In France for instance, the Jewish population constitutes just 1% of the population, whereas 51% of the racist violence targeted them in 2014. Possibly this can be explained by the fact that communities such as the ultra-orthodox one in Belgium, are more visible, and perhaps Jews are more at the center of public attention..

Reasons and Developments

The first obvious reason and easy explanation for the soared number of worldwide antisemitic manifestations, and anti-Israeli activities and expressions containing antisemitic motifs, is **Operation Protective Edge in Gaza**, in July and August 2014. Yet an analysis of the events during, and for a while in the wake of, the operation, shows a much more complex scenario, and points at deeper reasons.

The first half of 2014 had already proved to be a difficult period for Jews as individuals and as members of communities, way before the summer months and the high increase of incidents that occurred during the Operation. Also, a comparison between antisemitic cases and atmosphere following the two operations, Cast Lead at the beginning of 2009 and Protective Edge, shows that the later lasted for 50 days, while Cast Lead lasted for three weeks and less Palestinians were killed. Yet the number of violent antisemitic incidents during 2009, Cast lead included, was 1120, while during 2014, Protective Edge included, it was 766. In other words, had the 2014 operation been the primary reason, the number of antisemitic violent incidents should have been twice as high, so one should look elsewhere for the reasons that motivated the flood of antisemitic incidents of all types.

Behind the Demonstrations: A phenomenon that accompanied 2014 in general, and the summer months in particular, was the hundreds of demonstrations, mainly in Western and central Europe – in Germany, most notably, and to a lesser extent in North and Latin America. Some of them turned violent; in most of them banners and posters carried abusive slogans, comparing Israel and its Jewish supporters to Nazis and blaming them and Israeli soldiers for every evil on earth. It seems that the organizers of these demonstrations aimed at using them as a political tool, and a close look at the participants showed a heavy Muslim presence, and a high presence of European local youngsters, not only from the extreme right or the extreme left, but from the public at large. The social nets brought them out to the streets, ever faster with everyone having a cell phone. The street has become a center of activity, and people came not because they have gathered first-hand information, analyzed the developments in the Middle East, and thereby

decided that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the main source of trouble in the world. Moreover, the vast majority of demonstrators who keep comparing Israel and Jews to Nazis have no clear idea who exactly the Nazis were or what actually happened during World War II.

It is the present crisis of values, that characterizes contemporary western societies, coupled with profound ignorance that drives confused youngsters to look for easy to catch black and white symbols. Struggling against a symbol of evil is a noble deed any liberal minded person should wish to be engaged in, however it is questionable whether many of those who joined the anti-Israeli rallies actually know where Gaza is placed on the map, or what the history of the Middle East is, or what happened during the Holocaust. The unfolding tragedy in Syria, for instance, that took so far the lives of more than 200,000 people and turned millions into refugees, or the daily many casualties in Iraq with dozens exploding with each booby trap do not serve as a symbol and therefore are not in the center of attention and did not bring demonstrators into the streets.

Much as in 2009, the demonstrations started immediately after the operation started, the organizers not even waiting to see any results they could refer to, and the banners and slogans that were identical in many of the demonstrations, seem to have been prepared beforehand, waiting for the right moment to be picked up. Perhaps as the operation weeks passed, the slogans turned a bit milder than when the demonstrations started, because authorities took steps to ban and mitigate extremist protesters, and they feared to be prosecuted.

The Return of Classic Antisemitism. A host of **ugly caricatures**, published in the various media channels (please see the Kantor Center database and website), complemented the demonstrations, serving as a vehicle for visualizing the symbols of good and evil, culprits and victims, often showing Jews and Israelis in the same known *Der Stürmer* fashion: cruel, blood thirsty, killing children with a sneering smile under a crooked nose. Much as the demonstrations, the caricatures were a political tool, aiming at the de-legitimization of Israel as a Jewish state, and its supporters. Yet the caricatures reflect one more development, that had been already noticed in recent years, and came more forcefully to the fore in 2014: the return of classic antisemitism, that has not been noticed for years, and now gains increasing ground, if not instead of anti-Zionism and anti-Israelism then at least alongside them. The caricatures not only reflect, but in their turn enhance classic antisemitism, as they keep depicting the ugliest possible image of Jews and Israelis alike, no distinction made anymore.

The long known arsenal of accusations, that begins with Christ killers, continues with child murderers, and reaches a peak with conspiracy theories in the letter and spirit of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, has been put to use again, even in secular places such as university campuses. The visual imagery is often imbued with blood that serves as a major theme, and the image of the Jew that sheds it is frightening, and sort of eternal, because it did not change since at least medieval times. Officially demonstrations were against Israel and against the operation in Gaza, but marchers chanted "Jews to the Gas" and "death to the Jews". In other words, the context of radical anti-Israel protests has often prepared the grounds for anti-Jewish hatred dressed up as "legitimate criticism" of Israel. It is not about Israeli policies when slogans related to the Holocaust are directed against Jews and inscribed on Jewish sites, so it seems that more often than not, it is rather a pretext than the reason for expressing that hatred. Synagogues were targeted, not

Israeli embassies; and the question is whether the return of classic antisemitism that brings forth religious elements, is a result of the increasing religious nature of the Muslim struggle, a struggle for identity and for Islamic world dominance.

Biased western and Muslim media enhanced stereotypes of classic old antisemitism, when it transmitted a certain Jewish-Israeli image. There was no way the western media consumer could avoid horror photos from the Gaza conflict, while he was getting no background information, or a word about how citizens, including children, were used to shield Hamas members, or any mentioning of the on-going aggression against Israeli citizens. Thus the media, bringing almost exclusively horror photos, first and foremost of wounded and dead Palestinian children, re-animated traditional child murderer stereotypes.

Cruelty on the Rise. The ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) phenomenon, and the bloody character of events unfolding in the Middle East and North Africa since the so-called "Arab Spring", have raised the level of cruelty to hitherto unknown new heights. Having their dark charm, cruelty and violence attract, especially the younger audiences, and are being constantly instilled into western culture. Thousands of youngsters, including girls 15 years old, leave their homes in the western world and flock to Syria and Iraq to join ISIS and be trained there. Hundreds go back to their original countries, waiting for an order to perpetrate a murderous act, or look for an opportunity on their own initiative. This tendency goes hand in hand with the recent "Lone Wolf" phenomenon - perpetrators who act independently, inspired by extremist preachers and apocalyptic ideologies, and wish to be part of them and of their realization. And thus they may perpetrate an attack on Jews and others, who are either non-believers or hold more moderate Muslim beliefs, and the attack is performed spontaneously and not only upon preplanned orders and schemes. It is no wonder then that the perpetrators of the murders in 2014-2015 were connected to Muslim extremist organizations, ISIS included, or at least inspired by them.

One should add that the Muslim population in Europe and North America keeps growing steadily, second and third generations already born, and in some cases it seems that the better the younger generations are integrated into society, the higher the risk of radicalization, rather than the other way round. The more their numbers grow, and the deeper the adoption of western technology, the more the radicals among them are able to improve preparations for demonstrations and use of the media.

The Gap Between Responses of European Leaders and Officials, and the Public at Large. When Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu called upon the Jews to leave Europe because "Israel is your home" and Europe proves dangerous, European leaders and heads of states, reacted, making ardent promises for more security and more means for safekeeping Jewish life in Europe, and expressing solidarity, describing the Jewish communities as part and parcel of Europe. Most notable was the joint declaration, made on July 22, 2014 by the German, French and Italian ministers of foreign affairs, condemning the attacks on Jews, and the antisemitism in whatever form and the nature of the demonstrations. "Nothing", they said, "including the dramatic military confrontation in Gaza, justifies such action here in Europe". So were the words of Manuel Valls, Prime minister of France, who decided to ban demonstrations and a decision taken by the Berlin authorities to ban protesters from chanting "Jews to the Gas" (in Berlin, of all places!) Speaking forcefully on a number of occasions, Valls, was at his best on January 13, after the Charlie Hebdo and the HyperCasher murders: "when the Jews of France are attacked,

France is attacked", he said, "the conscience of humanity is attacked." He clearly admitted that a new form of antisemitism is plaguing France, coming "from immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa, who have turned anger about Gaza into something very dangerous [...] Israel and Palestine are but a pretext".

There are more efforts than in previous years, of organizations and governmental agencies, or at least suggestions, to legislate against antisemitism and Holocaust Denial, and at least to implement existing laws, to discuss definitions of antisemitism and racism, to commemorate the Holocaust and to offer recommendations to the administrations. Hearings in the US Congress' sub committees took place; a new committee to investigate the situation was appointed in Germany; and first ever sessions on antisemitism were initiated in the EU and the UN. Members of the European council wish to return to the Common Framework Decision, taken in 2008, the essence of which is obliging the member states to better monitor and report antisemitism, and to have more effective legislation, against xenophobia and racism in every respect. A further tendency is to unite under one umbrella the many organizations and bodies dealing with antisemitism and racism, a move that would certainly improve the struggle against them. Also, self-resignations and firing of officials and position holders who expressed gross antisemitism in public still holds.

There was an impressive number of "Silver Lining" parades, to express solidarity with the Jewish citizens, most notably in the Scandinavian countries, and of Kippah walks, such as in Malmo, where the Jewish community shrank dramatically, and circles of people holding hands around synagogues in Oslo and Brussels.

The problem we would like to pinpoint is that these efforts, as genuine as they may be, and financed by governmental budgets in most western countries, have no meeting point with the street, or rather with the forces working against them: the far right, the extreme left, radical Islamists and politically non-identified publics. It is as if there are two parallel lines, each going its own direction: the governmental efforts to tackle antisemitism and contain it, knowing full well that riots or violence against Jews may be a first step towards losing control over the public order (as it has already happened in Paris and in Stockholm); and the groups that use antisemitism as a political tool, as a means to foster a certain identity, or vent out grievances and aggression.

One should add the impact of the Vox Populi, the voice of the popular opinion, that is not necessarily organized according to political divisions, and is often expressed in the sphere of popular culture, which attract thousands, such as the French comedian Dieudonne M'bala M'bala, the Russian band "the Gaza Girls", who call openly to kill all the Jews, or soccer fields to schoolyards. There is widespread latent antisemitism which has the potential to create an anti-Jewish atmosphere that may turn easily violent. Following the murder in the Brussels Jewish Museum in May, Belgian and other officials protested, expressed sympathy and promised more security to Jewish institutions, but a short time later a Jewish school bus was stoned in Antwerpen, and following the Charlie Hebdo and HyperCasher murders, questions were posted on the social nets, as to why should the state invest so much in the security of Jews, while forgetting the needs of others.

Is it possible then that the many events that took place worldwide on the International Holocaust Memorial Day, January 27, 2015, in the UN, in Auschwitz, in Prague, organized by governments, with the presence of heads of states and chairpersons of

parliaments, are a reaction to the rising antisemitism in 2014 and the beginning of 2015, a sort of compensation for the current troubles, and not just commemorations of the past?

One of the most notable efforts to at least properly monitor antisemitism is a long line of surveys and reports, financed and prepared by communities, NGO's, government agencies and Jewish organizations. Our team has counted close to twenty, carried out during 2014 (please see our database for details). The ADL global attitude survey, published in May 2014, is the largest among them, and perhaps even the largest ever conducted; it included 53,000 participants in 102 countries and territories. The participants were faced with 11 questions, all concerning attitudes towards Jews, and those affirming six of them were labeled holding antisemitic opinions. The ADL's analysis showed that a quarter of those telephonically interviewed (representing approximately 1.1 billion adults worldwide), harbor deep seated antisemitic stereotypes: an amazing rate of 70% of those considered antisemitic admitted they have never even met a Jew, and 35% have never heard of the Holocaust. There is a significant discrepancy between the overall findings of the Jewish communities and of police and governmental agencies, and the outcome of this survey. The most antisemitic regions according to the ADL are the Middle East and North Africa (what about their anti-Zionist obsession?), Eastern Europe comes next (but numbers of violence cases there are lower than in Western Europe?), and Sweden comes last on the list (despite the diminishing of its Jewish population?), yet one should bear in mind that this is an attitude survey, not a monitoring of overall manifestations, and as such it reinforces the conclusion that old classic antisemitism, that knows no specific boundaries, is in center stage.

Let us conclude with two remarks: the first concerns the claim made by a number of Jewish leaders and activists during 2014, that they, and the Jewish communities worldwide, are witnessing a return of the 1930s, thereby saying that recent years are the worst since the Nazi regime assumed power. And as we all know, the 1930's were followed, God forbid, by the 1940's, in which the Holocaust occurred. This claim certainly reflects the genuine feeling with which we opened, that old antisemitism and its modern form of anti-Israel obsession have established themselves comfortably in the midst of western societies and that a latent antisemitic atmosphere has paved the way to violence - atmosphere and violence are feeding on each other.

Still, and with all due respect, the 2010s are not the 1930s: first, because then antisemitism was state orchestrated, substantial means were allocated and wide scope plans prepared to have it spread from Germany to other countries, as a preparation for the world war. Today we see antisemitism planned and spread, with financial means and devoted activists acting from below, but, as we have shown here, governments invest time and means to tackle it and suppress it. Second, because we - the generations living today **know** what happened some 70 and 80 years ago, and this awareness makes a major difference: once a public retains the memory of a historical event, it is bound to watch for new ominous developments and signs, to try and unite efforts and ranks, and to forcefully sound the alarm. And third, of course, the state of Israel offers, if not full security then at least a warm welcome and full Jewish life to all Jews.

The second concerns anti non-Jews vandalism here in Israel: We, the Kantor Center team, cannot close this report without strongly protesting against recent incidents in Israel. vandalism against holy places of non-Jews, whether Christian or Muslim or any other denomination, 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 their holy places, and requires the same strict legislation and punishment that is demanded against perpetrators of antisemitic incidents.

Post-Soviet Region in 2014 / Irena Cantorovich

As in previous years, the region continues to be characterized by "classic" antisemitism: antisemitic propaganda together with desecration of Jewish facilities and a relatively small amount of physical violence against Jews. Unlike Western Europe, in the post-Soviet region the Israeli-Arab conflict has not triggered an increase in antisemitic incidents. An ongoing event which had some impact on antisemitism in part of this region, was the crisis between Russia and Ukraine, which led to a military conflict in eastern Ukraine.. All sides participating in the conflict made extensive use of the Jewish issue: each side accused (and in 2015 continues to accuse) the other of antisemitism and deliberately harming the Jews. The use of antisemitism triggered a phenomenon of "provocative antisemitism" – antisemitic incidents aiming to discredit the other side.

Russia

The only attack on a Jewish person in Russia took place on the night of 2 December 2014, when three assailants severely beat Shlomo Romanovskii, a Belarusian citizen studying at the Torat Haim Yeshiva near Moscow, while on his way to the Yeshiva. According to Romanovskii, the attackers beat him in the face with their fists while speaking among themselves not in Russian. According to Borukh Gorin, spokesperson of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Russia (FEOR), this was apparently the first antisemitic incident in Russia perpetrated by foreigners. However, a report published by an expert group of the Jewish community in Russia, under the guidance of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress in February 2015, claimed that this incident was a robbery. Unfortunately, we will not know the real motive behind the attack unless the perpetrators are caught. In addition to this violent incident, there were cases of desecration of Jewish facilities such as community centers, synagogues and Holocaust memorials around the country.

The growing control on the media in Russia did not prevent it from becoming a platform for antisemitic propaganda. In 2014, the channels of the state broadcasting company VGTRK, the NTV channel and state channels in English such as RT, became the main disseminators of antisemitic and anti-Israeli rhetoric. A very popular subject was the alleged Jewish nationality of those who oppose the current regime. The printed media discussed at length the loyalty of the Jews to Russia, their alleged main role in the events in Ukraine, their wealth, etc. The popular newspaper *Komsomolskaia Pravda* continued to lead this trend, which began in 2013, in addition to providing a permanent stage to the journalist Israel Shamir, who is known for his antisemitic and anti-Israeli views.

Most of the antisemitic propaganda in Russia during 2014 revolved around the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, after the pro-Russian president of Ukraine Victor Yanukovich was overthrown in February 2014. Before he was deposed, the Russian media stressed the alleged Jewish nationality of the leaders of the protest, and after a new president was elected, they stressed his alleged Jewish nationality, while calling upon world Jewry to save the Jews in Ukraine from the Ukrainian fascists. The biggest scapegoat of Russia became the Jewish governor of the Dnepropetrovsk District in Ukraine, Igor Kolomoyskii, who said in the past that Putin was a schizophrenic. The Russian media discussed Kolomoyskii's Jewish nationality and his activity in the local Jewish community at length. World Jewry was called upon to condemn Kolomoyskii for

his anti-Russian views, lest he be seen as additional proof of the disloyalty of the Jews to Russia "which was the only one that saved them from the Nazis".

The use of the Holocaust became a very common motif in the anti-Ukrainian propaganda in Russia. It is claimed that the new regime in Ukraine is based on the legacy of those who collaborated with the Nazis during World War II, and that the Jewish supporters of this new regime have apparently forgotten what the nationalist Ukrainians did to their ancestors during the Holocaust. However, at the same time, Russia maintains its refusal to recognize the uniqueness of the Holocaust and declare an official Holocaust Memorial Day. Moreover, state television provided a platform to people who blame the Jews for the Holocaust. For example, on 23 February, during a program on TV channel "Russiia 24", which belongs to the above mentioned state broadcasting company VGTRK, Alexander Prokhanov, a well-known publicist with pro-Palestinian and antisemitic views, verbally attacked the European and Russian Jewish organizations for their support of the anti-Russian riots in Ukraine. Prokhanov wondered, among other things, why the Jews do not realize that by doing so they are "bringing a second Holocaust" upon themselves. The hostess Evelina Zakamskaia then added that "they had brought on themselves the first Holocaust as well".

There was no significant change in the struggle against antisemitism in Russia. The law enforcement agencies continued to concentrate on "minor" antisemitic manifestations such as talkbacks on the Internet or uploading antisemitic material on social networks (usually punished with fines, community services or suspended sentences), while more severe antisemitic incidents received almost no attention.

Ukraine

In 2014, Ukraine experienced a severe upheaval (that has not yet ended) which is very significant for its political future. The wave of protests, which began in November 2013 due to the president's refusal to sign a cooperation agreement with the EU, caused the removal of the pro-Russian president and his supporters. This resulted in a conflict with Russia, the annexation of the Crimean peninsula to Russia and violent clashes in the eastern parts of Ukraine where most of the Russian-speaking citizens live.

Several leaders of the Ukrainian nationalist organizations, and the Right Sector¹ in particular, denied the accusations against them and condemned the phenomenon of antisemitism. In addition, we must note in this context that the extreme right wing does not enjoy a lot of support by Ukrainians. For example, in the presidential elections (25 May 2014) the Jewish candidate Vadim Rabinovich received more votes than the two right-wing candidates combined: Dmitrii Yarosh (Right Sector) and Oleg Tiagnybok (Svoboda). During the elections to parliament in October, the Right Sector and Svoboda did not even pass the required electoral threshold. At the same time, a dozen extreme right activists were able to enter the parliament as singles.

Unlike previous election campaigns, antisemitism almost did not exist during the campaigns in 2014. However, the alleged Jewish nationality of key figures such as the elected President Petro Poroshenko and Prime Minister Arsenii Yatseniuk, was discussed

¹ Right Sector - a political party and paramilitary collective of several organizations. Many of its members are known for their extreme-right and antisemitic views. First emerged in November 2013 at the EuroMaidan protests in Kiev.

at length. The appointment of the Jew Vladimir Groisman as speaker of parliament in December even resulted in mass protests against the "regime of Yids and Khazars".

Despite the antisemitic and neo-Nazi image of the new regime in Ukraine (fostered mainly by Russia and pro-Russians in Ukraine), there was no significant increase in the scope of antisemitic incidents during 2014 in Ukraine. As in previous years, the main targets of antisemitic incidents were Jewish institutions and Holocaust memorials. In some cases, the same facility was desecrated several times, such as Jewish facilities in Nikolaev and the *Babi Yar* Holocaust memorial near Kiev.

A new phenomenon in Ukraine is what researchers of antisemitism in this region call "provocative antisemitism": antisemitic incidents in which the motive behind them can be either pure antisemitism or an attempt to prove that the other side in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict is antisemitic or at least is not able to protect the Jews. "Provocative antisemitism" was most probably behind attacks against Jews in Kiev in January, February and March; distribution of leaflets, allegedly by pro-Russian separatists calling Donetsk Jews to register in April; desecration of Jewish institutions in Odessa in May; etc.

Other Countries

A few antisemitic incidents took place in other post-Soviet countries. In Belarus, on 22 April, during his annual speech to the Belarusian people, President Alexander Lukashenko said that Belarus must use the opportunity when Russians and Ukrainians are very interested in the country's resorts, in order to enrich the state treasury, which is possible because "we have more than enough Jewish blood within us". There were also several cases of desecration of Holocaust memorials (Orsha), synagogue and Jewish center (twice in Gomel), Jewish signs (during Minorities Festival in Grodno).

In late January 2014, Vyacheslav Balakchi, a former worker at the Customs Services in Moldova, posted on his Facebook page a call to "bring Hitler back to Moldova at least for one month". Several organizations, such as the Association of Former Ghetto and Concentration Camps Inmates and the Association of Veterans of the Afghanistan War, condemned this post and demanded that Balakchi be put on trial. On 20 March, the ancient Jewish cemetery in Lipkani was set on fire. In July, it was announced that Paul Goma, a French philosopher of Romanian-Moldavian origin, who received Moldavian citizenship in 2013 and is known as a Holocaust denier, was nominated as a candidate for the National Prize of the Republic of Moldova by the Moldova Academy of Sciences.

In Latvia, on 11 October, despite numerous protests by Jewish organizations, a musical about Herbert Cukurs² was performed in Liepāja, attended by about 100 people. Outside the hall, there was a demonstration, which included throwing dolls with red stains on the pavement so that people would have to step on them if they wanted to pass by. The idea of this act was to demonstrate Cukurs' favorite habit of throwing Jewish babies in the air and shooting them. Juris Jupe, the actor who played the part of Cukurs in the musical, said in an interview that there is no proof that Cukurs had actually done such things. The musical's producer, Juris Millers, said that Cukurs is a historical figure and wondered why a musical about the Argentinean dictator Peron was permissible, but a musical about

² Cukurs Herbert (1900-1965) - A Latvian pilot and a national hero before World War II. During the Holocaust he collaborated with the Nazis and became known as the "executioner of the Riga ghetto". He was killed by the Israeli Mossad in 1965 and buried in Montevideo.

Cukurs should be forbidden. According to him, the reason is the "Jewish issue" which is "very controversial since there is information according to which Cukurs saved four Jews". Millers also said that his job is to present facts and not be a judge.

Operation Protective Edge

Operation Protective Edge in the summer of 2014 did not trigger any major violent antisemitic incidents in the area.

The coverage in the Russian media was one-sided, i.e. pro-Palestinian. For example, on 20 July *Pravda* newspaper published an article titled "Israel Began an Ethnic Cleansing on the Outskirts of Gaza" (no author) about Operation Protective Edge. The article described at length the large number of Palestinian dead and injured civilians, in comparison to the relatively small number of Israeli casualties - soldiers. On 20 July, the youth movement of the Communist Party published on its website an announcement condemning Operation Protective Edge. According to the announcement, "the large number of victims among the most vulnerable populations, including elderly, women and children, is due to the fact that the Israeli Air Force chooses as its targets only peaceful facilities". In addition, "the International Union of Communist Youth Organizations, together with the progressive and anti-imperialist youth of the world, will continue to fight for the liberation of Palestine from Israeli occupation, which is supported by global financial capital". On 23 July (English version published on 25 July), the Muftis' Council of Russia published on its website a condemnation of the "atrocities perpetrated by Israel in Gaza". The condemnation also blamed Israel of killing "year after year" women, old people and children who "want to visit al-Aqsa or other mosques and holy sites". According to the Council, Western media is helping to conceal Israel's crimes in its attempt at "blowing off steam from its deflationary economy". On 25 July, during a round table in Makhachkala (capital of the Republic of Dagestan) about the situation in Gaza, sponsored by the Mufti of Republic of Dagestan, Akhmadkhazhi Abdulayev, the participants condemned Israel's activity against Hamas during Operation Protective Edge and called to organize pickets and raise money for the people in Gaza. Abakar Abakarov, a local activist, condemned the international media for silencing the "horrors in Gaza" while blaming Russia for crimes in Ukraine. Timur Kushaev, a human rights activist from the Kabardino-Balkar Republic, said that Israel was established as a result of the biggest forgery in the history of humanity – the Holocaust.

On 1 August, the State TV channel "Russia 24" broadcast an interview with Rajab Safarov, head of the Center for Contemporary Iranian Studies in Russia, about the Operation. He accused Israel and the Jews of committing war crimes and mass murder. In addition, he said that they are also responsible for the Malaysian plane crash in Ukraine (17 July 2014) in an attempt to damage the political interests of Russia in the world. On 6 August, a demonstration of about 200 people (including children) took place in Moscow against Operation Protective Edge. Participants held posters with slogans such as "Stop the occupation, free Palestine" (with a red Star of David and blood); "Zionism is the common enemy of Russia and Palestine"; "stop the genocide of the Palestinian people" (with a photo of a bleeding child); "be careful – enemies of humanity" (with a photo of Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, US President Barak Obama and Governor of Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, Igor Kolomoiskii – each with a swastika on his forehead); "Israeli targets" (with photos of bleeding children). The demonstration was also attended by Geydar Dzhemal, founder and chairperson of the Islamic Committee of Russia, the above mentioned Alexander Prokhanov and Israel Shamir, former vice-speaker of the

State Duma, Sergeii Baburin, among others - all known for their antisemitic and anti-Israeli views.

On 21 September, during the 6th conference of the Spiritual Board of Muslims of European Russia, Mufti Sheikh Ravil Gainutdin, chairperson of the Board, condemned the activity of Israel and the IDF against the Palestinians during the Operation and compared it to the crimes of the Nazis during the Holocaust. In response, Andreii Glotser, the spokesperson of Russia's Chief Rabbi Berl Lazar, said "it is shameful that such authority in the Muslim community [...] allow themselves to be drawn into the political game of extremists".

In late July 2014, a Lithuanian company named "Vilnius Apartments" published on its Facebook page an announcement stating that it is going to stop providing real estate services to Israeli citizens "because of the crimes that Israel is perpetrating in Gaza". According to Faina Kuklianskii, head of the Jewish Community, it is possible that this was a provocation by "extremist Islamic elements". The address of the company, which appeared on the page, is of a building used by the Vilnius Ghetto Council during World War II and there is no company of that name at that address in the present. The Facebook account was later deleted.

On 4 August 2014, Tursunbay Bakir-uulu (Ar-Namys, a pro-Russian, conservative party), a member of the Kyrgyzstan Parliament held a press conference about the "genocide perpetrated by Israel in Palestine". During the press conference, he tore the flag of Israel into pieces and said he will give them to the members of the "Committee for Support of Palestine's Inhabitants" which he established, so that the members "will be able to use it comfortably in the toilets". In response, the leader of the party and former Prime Minister Felix Kulov said that he does not recommend using the pieces for this purpose because one can injure himself by the edges of the Star of David. Israel's Embassy in Kazakhstan, which is also responsible for Kyrgyzstan, sent a letter of protest to the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry. In late August, the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry answered that Bakir-uulu's personal views do not represent the country's policy.

Charlie Hebdo, January 2015

The antisemitic wave in France at the beginning of 2015 had not triggered any violent antisemitic incidents in the post-Soviet region. On 7 January 2015, during an interview to the news website islamnews.ru, retired General Leonid Ivashov, president of The Academy of Geopolitical Problems in Russia, blamed Israel and the US for organizing and perpetrating the terrorist attack at the Charlie Hebdo. According to him, the attack was part of a war by the US and Israel against the Islamic culture in the Middle East and the Slavic culture in Ukraine. European countries began to move away from the alliance with the US and Israel and the latter had to do something in order to strengthen their hatred towards Islam.

Latin America and Spain / Lidia Lerner

Argentina

As in the past, antisemitism in Argentina in 2014 consisted 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.

Developments in the Middle East have a strong impact on antisemitism in Argentina. Therefore, although no significant increase of violence was recorded, there was a significant increase in antisemitic complaints linked to events in Gaza, or the so-called "new antisemitism", during 2014, especially following Operation Protective Edge in June.

On 29 July, the DAIA issued a press release expressing the deep concern of the Argentinean Jewish community and denouncing the serious episodes of incitement to hatred against Jews, antisemitic attacks and manifestations taking place in Buenos Aires and other localities of the country following events in Gaza. According to DAIA: graffiti, threats to Jewish entities, Judeophobic expression in the media and the web, aggressions against members of the Jewish community and proliferation of confused and tendentious information generated a wave of antisemitism in the country.

2014 also saw a continuation of the rise in antisemitism in the web, which represents the medium through which the largest percentage of anti-Jewish events are recorded, particularly through the use of forums in mass media for the expression of discriminatory slogans. One example: the webpage "I was told by a Jew", accumulating over 1500 "likes" and containing insulting stereotypes of Jews and the Jewish community was closed by Facebook after complaints by the Web Observatory of the Latin-American Jewish Congress. After its closure, a new page, by the name "I was told by a Hebrew", took its place.

The second most common form of antisemitism in Argentina is graffiti. Antisemitic signs were found on the walls of the Tefila L'Moisés Central Synagogue and the Jewish Association Center in the city of Basavilbaso (27 June); on the walls of the Mendoza Jewish Cultural Center (16 July); in the central square of Rio Cuarto, Cordoba (23 July); swastikas and graffiti accusing Israel of genocide were painted on various locations in the city of Córdoba (in the beginning of September); swastikas over the Star of David and antisemitic phrases were painted in the area known as El Palomar, in Urquiza Park in the city of Paraná (October); antisemitic and anti-Israeli graffiti were also found in different locations in Buenos Aires, including a Star of David with the number 666 (which symbolizes the anti-Christ), which was painted on a synagogue in the neighborhood of Villa Crespo; "support Gaza and destruction of Israel" on a wall near a public school; signs asking for the destruction of Israel because of the "Zionist massacre" in Gaza, near a university. On 18 December, swastikas and Nazi symbols were engraved in the offices of the Argentinean Zionist Labor Party Avoda.

The Jewish community's opposition to the Argentinean-Iranian agreement to set up an international truth commission into the 1994 bombing of the Jewish community center

led to friction with President Cristina Kirchner's government. In her address to the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September, the Argentinean president criticized her country's Jewish leaders for not supporting the pact with Iran. According to Kirchner, "When we signed the agreement it seemed that the internal and external demons were unleashed. Jewish institutions that had accompanied us turned against us. When we decided to cooperate they accused us of complicity with the State of Iran". Her statements were strongly condemned by the DAIA and Jewish community. Opposition members of Congress also denounced the statements "for their antisemitic character and their falseness and ignorance".

On 14 January 2014, the DAIA (political representation of the Argentinean Jewish community) condemned posters signed by FECOBA, (Federation of Business and Industry of Buenos Aires) stigmatizing businessman Eduardo Elsztein and accusing him of usury. According to secretary general Jorge Knoblovits, the mention of Elsztein by name, making him personally responsible for "usury" and the inflationary process has an "antisemitic whiff".

On 11 June 2014, Bandera Vecinal (Local Flag), an ultranationalist organization led by Alejandro Biondini, an accused neo-Nazi, was granted juridical status as a registered political party by Buenos Aires Judge Ariel Lijo. According to the DAIA, Biondini "has publicly and repeatedly supported the figure of Adolf Hitler and Nazism. DAIA reiterates its position to not legitimize as a political party those who justify hatred and encouraging violence against the Jewish community and others in our country." The DAIA also announced it would challenge the decision in court. On 29 June, the Buenos Aires Senate approved a declaration denouncing the decision.

In a video called "Alert! World Zionist Danger!" posted on You Tube on August 7, and in his program "Second Republic" transmitted by TLV1 on 6 August, political analyst Adrian Salbuchi warns of "the problematics of Zionism and Judaism". He states that "Jewish communities have been persecuted throughout the centuries (...) either most of humanity is suffering from a psychological pathology called antisemitism, or there is a social behavior among Zionist leadership and some representatives of Judaism that makes them subject to expulsion from the societies that had once hosted them". Salbuchi then revives the allegations of "a second Zionist State to be established in Argentine Patagonia". He urges Argentine Jews to "disassociate" themselves from a list of so-called Zionist agent Jewish communal organizations, warning otherwise, that they should "not complain if there are reactions".

The allegation of a Jewish plan to conquer Patagonia (so called "Andinia Plan") was repeated in other opportunities and on 22 December, posters appeared in the town of El Bolsón (Rio Negro) and in Bariloche (major tourist spot in Patagonia), calling for a "Boycott Against Israeli Military Tourism". They were signed by the Palestine Solidarity Committee in Argentine Patagonia. Peso bills were also found defaced with scrawls reading "Jews out of Patagonia". On 17 November, there was a bomb threat in a Jewish owned Patagonian hostel in Lago Puelo, Chubut, where Israeli tourists lodge.

Other significant incidents:

- On 2 October, Yom Kippur eve, the Headquarters of the Hebraica Society in Buenos Aires was evacuated, following a bomb threat posted on Facebook and an alert received from Interpol of a possible attack.
- On 7 December, about a dozen graves were desecrated in the Jewish cemetery of Santiago del Estero.
- The Secretariat of Culture of the Municipality of Vicente López included Eva Braun, Adolf Hitler's lover, in a list of women honored during the month of March as the most important women in history. Following an outcry by leaders of the Jewish Community and the Peronist party, the Mayor of Vicente López, declared that her inclusion was a "disagreeable error", apologized to the community in general and women in particular, and promised the list would be altered.
- On 27 November, 2014, Guillermo Zysman, a well-known Jewish journalist from the city of Rosario, received antisemitic text messages while conducting his radio program.
- The president of the Educational Department of the Argentinean sports club River Plate, Carlos Jara, made a series of antisemitic comments on his personal Twitter account. "Their soldiers are the ones to die, but they kill civilians ... is it fair? They were MURDERERS ... the Jewish people were never victims." "From murderer King David, they always made themselves into victims, Always".

In addition there were cases of classic, traditional anti-Semitism such as an article, posted on 23 December in Radio Cristiandad, a traditionalist Catholic anti-modernist right-wing site opposing the reforms of the Vatican II council, which attacked the bishop of San Luis for meeting with the Jewish community and participating in their rituals in a sign of ecumenism. According to the article: "We know that the Jews killed Christ, which was not only a historical event perpetrated by some people centuries ago, but in all those who participate in the Judaic doctrines those prophetic words of the wicked Pharisee are fulfilled: 'his blood be on us and on our children'"; "Catholics and Jews do not worship the same Supreme Being, because while some worship the one true trinitarian God, the others have, as he reproached Jesus, the devil as father". Photos of the bishop serving food in a Passover dinner and lighting Hannukah candles were posted.

Brazil (based on a report by Louiz Nazario)

During the Gaza War, antisemitism in Brazil intensified as never before, under the thinly disguised form of anti-Zionism, particularly among left-wing activists and the far-left. In various manifestations of the Partido Socialista dos Trabalhadores Unificado - PSTU [Unified Socialist Workers Party], Partido Comunista do Brasil - PC do B - [Communist Party of Brazil] and Partido Socialismo e Liberdade - PSOL [Socialism and Freedom Party] some of its leaders called openly for "the end of the State of Israel".

The situation was aggravated by a diplomatic incident between Brazil and Israel. At the height of the war in Gaza on 24 July, 2014, the Minister of external relations of

Brazil summoned the Brazilian Ambassador in Tel Aviv for consultations in protest against the Israeli attacks, considered “out of proportion” by President Dilma Rousseff. Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor retaliated by calling Brazil a "diplomatic dwarf" and sneering at Brazil's World Cup loss: "This is not football. In football, when a game ends in a draw, you think it is proportional, but when it finishes 7-1 it's disproportionate. Sorry to say, but it is not so in real life and under international law".

There were public anti-Zionist manifestations and acts of solidarity in different cities. In Sao Paulo, the main public library, the Mario de Andrade Library, in "solidarity with the numerous civilian casualties during the latest clash between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian people living in the Gaza Strip", lit up its façade during the month of August with the colors of the Palestinian flag. 55 of 86 artists participating in the 31st International Biennial of Sao Paulo, demanded the removal of the logo of the Consulate of Israel from the Biennale and the return of Israeli sponsorship.

The Jewish Federation of the State of Rio de Janeiro (FIERJ) filed a complaint against Cyro Garcia, PSTU federal candidate for Congress who, in his electoral propaganda on 19 August, called for the end of Israel. A criminal complaint was also filed against Ana Amelia Mello Franco, for numerous offensive manifestations, discriminatory and incitement of hatred against the Jews in Facebook.

There were several incidents of Holocaust banalization:

- In September 2014, after protests by parents and pupils, Andrews College in Rio de Janeiro cancelled a question in a geography test comparing Jews to Nazis. The text included a cartoon showing a Nazi officer standing above a Jew with a yellow star next to an Israeli soldier standing above an Arab, with the words “Who are worse? Nazis or Jews? “. The school fired the teacher and apologized to parents and pupils stressing that this isolated incident does not reflect Andrews College and its values.
- 'Adolf Hitler' was acquitted of all charges in a “trial” that took place as part of a history lesson held every year in a school in the town of Mogi da Cruzes (Sao Paulo). The jury of seven decided by five votes to two, that the dictator was innocent.
- New neo-Nazi pages were opened daily on Facebook and YouTube. One example: The Nova Direita Cultural (Cultural New Right) translated a homophobic and antisemitic caricature of French caricaturist Joe Lecorbeau parodying the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to the memorial of Holocaust victims in Toulouse: “Holocaust by sodomy.”

Chile

The most notable incident which took place in Chile in 2014 was the opening of the Augusto Pinochet Nazi Art School on 28 March, which promotes Nazi ideology, in the Archipelago of Chiloé, in southern Chile. Its objective is "the organizational strengthening of the political right". Posters promoting the school included a swastika.

The event was condemned by members of the Jewish community, residents of the area and members of Parliament, including right wing parties, who declared they would act to prevent the school from functioning.

The war in Gaza led to articles and posters condemning Israel and comparing it to Nazi Germany. On 11 July, the Chilean monthly *El Ciudadano* published a caricature titled "Mediatic Manipulation" depicting a group of foreign TV cameramen filming a crying Israeli baby while ignoring a group of Palestinian children lying dead and dismembered on the other side. In Santiago, posters were hung depicting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and an Israeli flag with a swastika inside the Star of David. The poster read: "There is a criminal of Palestinian children on the loose. Wanted for genocide and crimes against the Palestinian people".

Mexico / Renee Dayan Shabott

The Jewish community numbers about 43,000 out of a total population of more than 118 million. Most Jews live in the capital Mexico City and its suburbs, while the rest are located in the cities of Guadalajara, Monterrey, Tijuana and Cancun.

Jewish immigrants to Mexico formed communities according to their place of origin, a way of life that has persisted until today. All the communities, together with the Jewish Sports Center, are represented in the Jewish Central Committee of Mexico (JCCM). *Tribuna Israelita*, a public opinion and analysis agency, promotes an ongoing dialogue with opinion leaders and implements joint projects with various national organizations.

High enrollment in Jewish day schools (more than 90 percent) and a very low rate of intermarriage (6 percent) characterize the community, which has a wide range of welfare, religious and educational services. A variety of periodicals published monthly reflect the various political, cultural and ideological tendencies in the community.

Although Antisemitism it is not a constant trend in Mexico, as a result of national and international dynamics, and influences, it has always been present in Mexican society. There are no overtly Antisemitic radio stations, newspapers or television broadcasters; however, the dynamic of the Israeli-Arab conflict, has had a major impact on the mass media. Anti-Israel positions in the media are frequently mixed with common Antisemitic stereotypes. Moreover, left-wing demonization of Israel is often linked to traditional anti-Americanism.

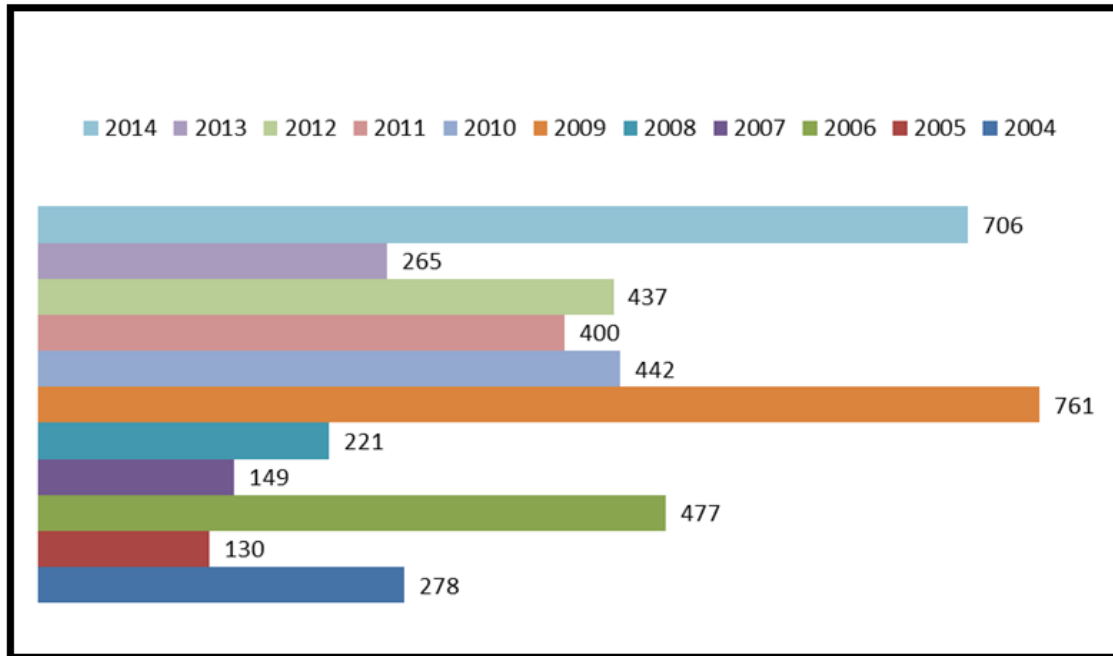
Written Media

Reports about Israel occupied a disproportionate amount of international news space in the Mexican media. Most coverage of the conflict is superficial and sensationalist, with Israel, and by extension, the Jews, being discredited. Such expressions come especially from left wing intellectual and academic circles and they include caricatures, accusations, identification of Jews with Israelis and the comparison of Israelis to Nazis.

Even though most of the informative articles were unbiased/impartial, many of the headlines and photographs were sensationalistic. During this period, many journalists

who have no experience on the subject and usually do not approach Middle Eastern topics wrote about the IDF operation, with lack of information and prejudice attitude.

During 2014 a total of 708 negative articles were published in the Mexican written media. Of those, 418 were published during the Operation Protective Edge.



Negative Arguments about Israel During Operation Protective Edge

1. Israel is an expansionist, terrorist and militaristic country that commits a Holocaust and genocide of the Palestinian people and should be judge for war criminals.
2. Palestinian fight to defend their country and to achieve their human rights. The Israeli occupation and the Palestinian suffering is the origin of all the conflicts in the Middle East. The only solution is the establishment of a Palestinian state.
3. Jews don't learn from history: the victims turned into murderers. Israelis are the new Nazis
4. Israel has immunity because United States, Europe and the United Nations have a special relation and double standards regarding Israel.
5. Lack of proportion in strength between Israel and Palestinians.
6. Unacceptable explanation of Israel when it says that its actions are to defend its citizens. The truth is the Israeli objective is occupation, isolation and "punishment" to the Palestinian unity government.

Do not kill my children! Don't pay attention, is the new Antisemitic discourse. They became executioners. (Milenio) La Jordana



Social Media

As it was the case of the written media, during 2014 the Antisemitic and anti-Zionists incidents increased in a great extent during Operation Protective Edge. During this period, two Antisemitic Facebook pages under the name “Jews out of Mexico” and “Jews Assassins” were opened, and closed thanks to the intervention of Tribuna Israelita.

The comments on the Internet (tweets and offensive messages in Jewish sites) increased: For example, On August 2 "Jorge Negrete" (najazapimametiln3@hotmail.com) sent through the "contact us" section of the website of Tribuna Israelita, the following offensive message: Congratulations, disgusting cowards, genocides, children killers. Now I see that Hitler was not so bad, he was a necessary evil and if he had succeeded he would have avoided an evil worse than the toilet paper called Israel. Dirty people, and you ask why the world hates you.

As an answer of a tweet by Tribuna Israelita explaining that Israel destroyed 32 tunnels, an Antisemitic tweet was posted by Antonio de la Serna saying: *@Tribuna_ISR Jews son of a bitch; @Tribuna_ISR Hitler was right. He wasn't Antisemmitic, AntiJews, Israel terrorist and genocides.*

In response to a photo gallery entitled: “Crowds around the world demand to stop the attacks against Gaza”, published on August 9th on the newspaper “La Jornada”, the following Antisemitic and anti-Zionist posts were published: Daide Caffaratti: If God exists he will not bless Israel, people of murderers. Eduardo Karnstedt Hernandez: You lie, the Holocaust didn't exist. Hitler was right. MalHer Damian: Jews are the cancer of the world.

Incidents

As in previous times of crisis in Israel, the Operation Protective Edge that took place in the summer of 2014 triggered a wave of Antisemitic and anti-Zionist demonstrations. Most expressions appeared in the written and electronic media, as well as in social networks.

	Before and after Protective Edge	Protective Edge	Total
Incidents			
Graffiti	3	1	4
Verbal aggression	3		3
Messages on Jewish webpages	4		4
Offensive e-mails		1	1
Total	10	2	12
Incidents in mass media			
Internet	2	2	4
Responses to articles in electronic media	8	2	10
Radio		1	1
Total	10	5	15
Antisemitic Propaganda			
Events, demonstrations, conferences	3		3

Books, flyers	4		4
Total	7		7
Support for the Palestinians /vs Israel			
Events	6	11	17
Demonstrations		22	22
Statements by intellectuals and politicians		8	8
Total	6	41	47
TOTAL	33	48	81

On January 21 an abandoned car with graffiti and swastikas was found near the Jewish Sport Center.

On October 10, after an evicting order by the Government against the illegal occupation of a lawn situated in a highly Jewish populated area, some neighbors put two banners which said: Jews out of our country.

From January 25 to 4 February, regarding the addition of the word “Antisemitism” to the anti-discrimination law, Alfredo Jalife tweeted and retweeted the following posts: Nobody discriminates more in Mexico than the extreme right “Jewish” sector (whatever that means). The Jews are the most racists in the world. I don’t understand why they want to protect them.

On March 14, Guillermo Maxwell shared in the Facebook page of the Jewish radio program “El Aleph”, pictures of people with banners that said: “Jewish terrorists go to Israel, Peña Nieto (President) and Mancera (Mexico City’s major) Jews”; Palestine and Mexico are victims of the Jewish terrorism and Jews go Home, among others.

During this period Pro-Palestinian 48 incidents (demonstrations, lectures, etc.) took place in Mexico City as well as in other states:

On July 11, a yellow Magen David with a swastica en the middle as well as flyers explaining the philosophy of the Raelian Movement.

Strategies of the Jewish Community

In order to combat Antisemitism, promote a positive image of Judaism, the Jewish Community in Mexico and Israel, the Jewish Community in Mexico, through Tribuna Israelita, implemented a series of programs:

1. Monitored both written and electronic media.
2. Made special analysis regarding the media coverage of relevant events and incidents.
3. Maintained a state of the art public relations strategy, which included periodic reunions with directors, editors, information chiefs and journalists of the most important mass communication media as well as with national opinion leaders and representatives of other religious groups, academics and different NGOs.
4. Together with the Central Committee of the Jewish Community in Mexico, implemented media strategies and meetings with national officials.
5. Maintained a registry of anti-Semitic incidents at a national level. The Mexican Government had an objective position regarding the conflict.
6. Organized informative sessions for various community groups, including, students, leaders, and people in general, regarding topics of interest and

provided information services for people, both within and outside the Jewish community.

7. Edited and emailed to approximately 12,000 persons (including community members as well as journalists and non-Jews who requested it) a weekly newsletter as well as special communications in specific occasions.
8. Had presence in social network, through Facebook, Twitter and the web.
9. Participated in the International Book Fair in Guadalajara, one of the most important editorial events in Latin America.
10. Sponsored a visit to Israel of deputies members of the Mexico-Israel Friendship Group.

Uruguay

Operation Protective Edge led to an unprecedented wave of antisemitic events in Uruguay during 2014.

Following a series of statements he made referring to the conflict between Israel and Hamas during Operation Protective Edge, Uruguayan president José Mujica was accused of antisemitism. On 5 August, Mujica accused Israel of committing genocide. He said he "admires the vicissitudes of the Jewish people" and that "nobody can accuse me of antisemitism, or anything like that", but there is a "fanaticism" in Israel. During a meeting with local mayors on 8 August, he declared that he has "the strongest sympathy" with Judaism and as proof he has "three Jewish ministers in the government." However, he warned, the Israeli military action may bring forth "things like the Amia".

It should be noted that the wave of antisemitism was publicly denounced by public figures and the media. On 7 August, the Uruguayan Senate voted unanimously to denounce "the expressions of intolerance, racism, xenophobia, incitement to hatred, scorn and all other forms of discrimination against Jews that have appeared in the form of graffiti in the streets, on building fronts and on roads in our country." The senate also called for the complete cessation of violence and the creation of permanent peaceful mechanisms for solving the present conflict in the Middle East. In September 2014, the rectors of several Uruguayan universities (UTECH, the Business University, the University of Montevideo, ORT University of Uruguay and the Catholic University of Uruguay) issued a declaration against all forms of discrimination and racism, following the recent acts of racism which took place in the country. Although the document denounces racism in general, the rectors told the media that the motive for the declaration were the antisemitic manifestations which took place in Uruguay during the last month, following the last Israel-Palestinian conflict.

According to an article published in the newspaper El Observador on 9 August, sociologists fear the Israeli attacks on Gaza might lead to "expressions of repudiation in the Uruguayan society towards a community integrated in the country". According to sociologist Federico Irazabal, there is in Uruguay a "high component of antisemitism which is socially accepted, but is not explicit. In general, Uruguayans refer to Jews in a respectful way". The Israeli attacks cause the hidden antisemitism to come out and equate Israel with all Jews. In a commentary published in the Uruguayan newspaper El Pais on 12 September, "Ariel from Montevideo" stated that not one of the presidential candidates of the four parties represented in the Uruguayan

parliament believes Israel to be a genocidal country or Gaza a concentration camp. However, the antisemitic acts which took place in the country during the last two months have not disappeared following the ceasefire between Israel and Gaza. For instance: the publication of a meeting between presidential candidate Tabaré Vázquez and the president of the Central Jewish Committee Sergio Gorzy was followed by dozens of antisemitic comments. To ignore it would be an error and would open the door to such manifestations.

Another significant incident which took place during the year was the statement by a future candidate for the House of Representatives from the Nationalist Party of Uruguay, Claudia Conde, who claimed on 24 October that Jews and Armenians should be imposed with a special tax, since these minorities, in contrast to all others, are the richest.

The most serious event took place on 9 December, when the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry protested to the Iranian embassy because one of its diplomats, Sanat Gol Ahmad, was photographed in November near the former embassy of Israel at the same time as an empty briefcase was found in the area. Sanat Gol left Uruguay two days before the protest was issued. The president of the Central Jewish Committee of Uruguay, Sergio Gorzy, stated that the Uruguayan Jewish community is in a "state of alert" and they are taking appropriate measures with in coordination with the government. On 8 January, an explosive device was discovered near the new Israeli embassy. Even though the device was far from the building, officials believe it was an attempt to harm the embassy or explore its security preparedness. Following these events, the Uruguayan government ordered special protection for the Jewish community.

Venezuela

Although there was a decrease in antisemitic events in Venezuela during the first half of 2014, the media (including articles, radio and television) continued to disseminate negative propaganda against Israel, Zionism and the Jewish people, aimed at the delegitimization of the State of Israel, which was depicted as the center of all misfortunes that occur in the world and the creator of atrocities and evil against humanity. It should be noted that certain arguments and analyses appeared simultaneously and in the same way, even using similar language, as if following the same script.

There were articles denying Israel's right to exist, accusing it of robbing and colonizing ancient Palestinian lands. Others equated Zionism with Nazism, claiming that Jews, who suffered the horrors of the Holocaust, now do the same to the Palestinians. Jews were accused of intending to Judaize Jerusalem and destroy the Dome of the Rock.

According to some articles, Jews and/or Zionism control the world economy through a few families, such as the Rothschilds and the Bilderberg group. Venezuela itself is being attacked by international Zionism.

Israel and the Mossad are accused of conspiring together with former Colombian President Álvaro Uribe to invade Venezuela through paramilitary forces, or to appropriate Venezuela's wealth, and even initiating the protests which began in

February. Leader of the opposition Henrique Capriles was again accused of being a pawn of universal Zionism.

In July, August and the first half of September, following Operation Protective Edge that pitted Israel against Hamas, antisemitic events in Venezuela exponentially increased, especially those promoted by the Government, through ministries, and the National Assembly. President Maduro himself uttered virulently antisemitic expressions. For example: on 11 July he noted that the concept of the "corrupt business military leadership of Israel is one of extermination ... that is why they do not mind killing children, women, innocent men. Their war is to exterminate the Palestinian people so they will disappear from the face of the earth ... This is a war of financial power, military, media of world capitalism to seize the land of Palestine and exterminate the Palestinian people ". Even more serious, for the first time, Maduro called on the Jewish community; in a televised government event in western Venezuela, to "Let the voice of the Jewish people to rise to repudiate this slaughter against the Palestinian people in Gaza ... ". On 21 July Maduro told reporters: "World leaders are right to compare it to the massacre of the Jewish people at the hands of the intolerant right whose top leader was Hitler. The European intolerant right pursued Jews for a century or more and applauded crimes against the Jewish people in Poland, Hungary, when they conquered parts of Russia (...) and said it was in legitimate defense of Hitler. They say the same today, (about) the murder of children ".

On 23 July Maduro said: "The government of Israel has turned the Gaza Strip into a large Auschwitz, a big concentration camp." In a PSUV Congress which took place on 31 July Maduro called on all Venezuelans to participate in a march in solidarity with the Palestinian people, noted that it was a war based on the supposed religious superiority of the Israeli elite, and called "on the Jewish people in the name of God to raise their voices... to stop this slaughter, stop this war of extermination". During an act which took place on 22 August 2014, in honor of a mission carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza, Maduro called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a "modern Herod" and accused him of wanting to kill Palestinian children in order to "exterminate" the Palestinian people.

One of the most outspoken and "imaginative" spokesmen during this period was Adel El Zabayar (congressman for the ruling PSUV party), who disseminated an elaborated theory according to which "the Zionists financed Hitler" and allied with the Nazis to massacre the Jews who rejected the Zionist ideology, and that's why during the Holocaust no Zionist leader was killed. In an interview aired on 14 November on the Hezbollah channel Al Manar, El Zabayar claimed that the crisis engulfing the Middle East is due to a "Zionist conspiracy." Through his Twitter account, Adel El Zabayar promoted a series of photos of bombed villages, dead children, women crying, etc., accusing Israel of crimes against the people of Gaza. In reality, most of the pictures were images of the suffering of the Syrian people following the civil war in that country.

During all this period, the State and government linked media regularly published and broadcast messages of hatred against the State of Israel, Zionism and the Jewish people. Antisemitic and anti-Zionist graffiti was painted in different locations of Caracas, culminating in an extremely antisemitic painting on the AIV del Este Synagogue in the neighborhood of Los Palos Grandes on 30 December.

Spain

In June 2014 the Spanish government approved a draft bill proposing to grant citizenship to descendants of Spanish (Sephardic) Jews who were exiled 500 years ago. This law demonstrates the ambivalent attitude of the country to Jews. On the one hand, there is a great interest among Spaniards about Jews and Spain's Jewish roots. On the other hand, the rate of antisemitism in Spain is one of the highest in Europe, comprising not only of new antisemitism or anti-Zionism, but also classic and traditional antisemitism. According to an article by Jonathan S. Tobin, the willingness to invoke traditional stereotypes of Jew-hatred as well as echoes of the Holocaust illustrates not only how deeply entrenched such attitudes are in European culture, but the way Israel has become a stand-in for traditional antisemitism. Most Spaniards have had little or no contact with Jews, yet many of them seem to have retained the remnants of the vicious antisemitic attitudes that led to the expulsion even all these centuries late (Commentary on 20 May, 2014).

An example of the remnants of traditional antisemitism: 18 on April, the Spanish daily ABC published in its Easter online edition an article called "Death on the Cross – Beyond Jesus", on the lives of Christian martyrs. In the article it recounted the legend of Domingo de Val, a blood libel telling the story of a little boy ritually murdered in the XIII century by the Jews.

During the war in Gaza, some of the anti-Israel rhetoric in Spain was so virulent that it crossed the line into antisemitism. For example: on 24 July, 2014, the newspaper El Mundo published an article titled "The Chosen?" by author Antonio Gala claiming "the Jewish People could have done much good for humanity", but "disgust those who they live with". According to Gala, it is as though they were not made to coexist. Now it is Gaza's turn to suffer their abuses in Gaza. It is not strange that they have been so frequently expelled, what is surprising, is that they persist. He claims not to be a racist, but "either they are not good, or someone is poisoning them".

On 24 July, 2014, hundreds demonstrated in front of the Israeli Embassy in Madrid protesting against what they called "the genocide" in Gaza and yelling slogans such as: "Israel murderer", "Zionist state, terrorist state" and "How many more will you kill". Manifestations also took place in Barcelona and other cities.

In August 2014, the Iman of the locality of Azuqueca De Henares, near Madrid, gave an antisemitic sermon calling Jews "traitors, murderers and aggressive" and praying to Allah to destroy every last one of them. He accused Jews of corruption and of murdering God's prophets.

There were several incidents comparing Israel to the Nazis: On 21 July, El Mundo published an essay entitled, "From the Nazi to the Zionist Holocaust," in which Najib Abu-Warda, a Palestinian professor of international relations at the Complutense University of Madrid, accuses Israel, "70 years after the Nazi genocide against the Jews", of "committing crimes of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, aggression and state-sponsored terrorism." On 7 August, El Periodico published a caricature by Ferreres showing Gaza in ruins with the caption: "Gaza. Open air museum of the Palestinian Holocaust" and a stereotypic orthodox Jew saying: "You have no right to use the word Holocaust. That's our registered trademark." In an open letter called "Genocide" and published in several newspapers, actor Javier Bardem

called the war in Gaza a war of occupation and extermination and stated that he could not understand such barbarism which "the horrible antecedents of the Jewish people make even more cruelly incomprehensible". According to Bardem, being Jewish is not the same as being Zionist, which is as absurd as saying being German makes one close to Nazism. The letter was cosigned by Bardem's wife Penelope Cruz, film director Pedro Almodovar and other members of the Spanish film industry.

Other serious incidents:

- The defeat of the Real Madrid basketball team at the hands of the Maccabi Tel Aviv team in the Euroleague championship game on 18 May led to a rash of antisemitic messages posted on social web sites; nearly 18,000 offensive messages appeared on Twitter, such as 'Jews to the oven' or 'Jews to the showers'.
- In a TV report broadcast on 12 June concerning the proposal to grant Spanish nationality to Sephardic Jews, the municipal archivist of Toledo, Manuel García, "explained" the reasons for the persecution of Jews throughout history, comparing it to the treatment of Palestinians in Israel.
- Spanish fashion giant Zara pulled a children's shirt from its stores after customers complained that the striped pajama top with a yellow star resembled Holocaust prison garb. It should be noted that in 2007 the company was forced to withdraw a handbag after complaints that it was embroidered with symbols that resemble swastikas. In October, Spanish retailer Mango was also forced to apologize for selling a shirt decorated in lightning bolts that resemble the insignia worn by the SS and Hitler youths in Nazi Germany.

Scandinavia / Dr. Mikael Shainkman

Scandinavia experienced an increase in the number of antisemitic attacks in the second half of 2014, in the wake of Operation Protective Edge. This increase was noted in all three Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

Operation Protective Edge

The general atmosphere in Scandinavia was decidedly anti-Israeli during the summer's protracted military operation against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. July 12 2014, Stefan Löfven, leader of the Social Democratic party in Sweden commented on Operation Protective Edge on Facebook. Löfven, who won the September elections and became PM, wrote that he wished both sides would stop fighting, that Israel must conform to international law, but at the same time has the right to defend itself in accordance with that law. Within hours the post was inundated with criticism and insults. Several dozen comments were clearly antisemitic, calling for the killing of Jews, for a new Hitler, praising Hitler and accusing Löfven of being Jewish, or being bought by "the Jews." The Swedish national news agency TT wrote that Löfven had made a "controversial" statement and that it had met with massive criticism. This reporting was in turn criticized on 15 July by several papers, since TT didn't mention the antisemitic content of the "criticism." Löfven himself commented, expressing worry about the "hate and antisemitism" fuelling many of the comments. The Facebook post was removed when it became apparent that it couldn't be properly edited and monitored to keep away hate

speech. On 21 July 2014, Löfven published a new statement in which he condemned Israel. On 30 July 2014, famous Swedish musician and socialist activist Michael Wiehe published a post on Facebook about Operation Protective Edge. Although the post was very critical of Israel, it was not antisemitic, but many of the comments left by others were antisemitic, as documented and published by the Swedish Committee against Antisemitism on 2 August. The comments included Holocaust denial, charges that Israel is the new Nazi Germany, that the Jews control the world etc. Wiehe did not comment on this content.

Several Swedish candidates from various Swedish political parties, including mainstream parties with representation in the Riksdag, made antisemitic statements during the military action. On 5 August 2014, Petronella Petersson, third on the Center Party south-east region list for the parliamentary elections in September 2014, wrote on Facebook as a comment on Protective Edge, that despite the Holocaust, which she described as "disgusting," "one must still be able to criticize the Jews for not mixing with other people. That kind of stuff always leads to conflicts." The statement met with furious internal criticism in the party, and the next day, 6 August, Petersson announced that she was quitting the party. August 5 2014, Birgitta Hansson, a local Green Party politician in the metropolitan Stockholm area, Sweden, wrote on Facebook that the world doesn't react to Israel's actions (during operation Protective Edge) "because Jews are so influential in big companies, the US administration etc." She also accused Israel of being worse than Nazi Germany and conducting planned ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. On 13 August she had to resign from the party. The previous day, 12 August, the Green Party announced that it would start an initiative to work against racism and intolerance among its members. In July 2014, Jerker Nordlund, the party's second name on the election lists in Herrljunga County, wrote in a Facebook post that Israel was "a mental sickness" and called for a global war against Israel. On 5 August 2014, Omar Omeirat, Social-Democratic candidate for the local council in Filipstad (Sweden) wrote on Facebook that Palestinians in Gaza were being slaughtered by "the Jewish pigs." Local representatives for the Social-Democratic party reacted very strongly, and even though Omeirat apologized, he was forced to leave the party.

On 19 July 2014, the paper *The Local* in Copenhagen (Denmark) published an article about an increase in antisemitic incidents in Denmark. The Jewish Community in Denmark (Det Jødiske Samfund) reported 15 antisemitic incidents in July 2014, and only 3 in the first six months of 2014. Most of the incidents entailed threatening messages via email or Facebook but in one case a man wearing the Star of David around his neck was spat on and his assailant attempted to rip his necklace off.

On 19 October 2014, Norwegian paper *Aftenposten* interviewed Ervin Kohn, head of the Jewish Community in Oslo. The interview was done against the background of an ADL study showing that 15% of Norwegians harbor antisemitic attitudes – more than any other Scandinavian country. Kohn was pessimistic, noting that the pressure on the 1,300 Jews in Norway has increased. He pointed out that "Jew" (together with "fag" and "whore") has become the most common curse word in Norwegian schools.

The number of incidents was up also in Sweden following Operation Protective Edge. The situation was especially serious in the country's third largest city, Malmö. According to police figures, there were 137 complaints of antisemitic incidents in Malmö 2013-4. None of them led to a conviction. There are approximately 700 Jews in the Jewish

community in the city. On 24 June 2014, the Swedish Committee against Antisemitism published an assessment by Samuel Lindelöf, a high-school student in Malmö, Sweden. He wrote that the political parties in the city, especially the Social Democrats, who are in power, must do more to counteract antisemitism in the city. As long as they don't do so, they leave the floor open to SD that spreads its racist explanation that it's all because of the Muslims, without presenting any possible solution to the problem. On 4 August 2014, the Swedish tabloid Expressen published an editorial about the rising number of manifestations of antisemitism in Sweden in the summer of 2014, and especially in Malmö. The paper called it a shame for Sweden, and described attacks on Jews as an attack on the country as a whole.

The Jewish community in Malmö is still shrinking. It is now reaching critically low levels, with as few as 700 members – as opposed to more than a thousand a decade ago. The diminishing Jewish community is not, however, primarily a result of antisemitism in the city. More likely than not, the community can no longer provide all the services people need in order to live a full Jewish life in terms of minyanim, education etc. So those members who are religious or wish to bring up their children in a strong Jewish environment move, leaving the elderly and the less committed.

Those who move, move to bigger Jewish communities such as Stockholm, London or Israel. Although journalists and researchers have looked, so far no one has been able to find anyone who left Malmö due to antisemitism. Antisemitism is a constantly present unpleasantness, but does not seem to be the reason for the depletion of the local Jewish community. Malmö Jews mostly move to Stockholm, where street antisemitism is prevalent in more or less equal measure, meaning that it is always recommended that men not wear a kippah or other Jewish symbols in public for fear of harassment. This is the situation all over Scandinavia, and has been for more than a decade; nonetheless Malmö is the only community that is shrinking so dramatically.

Examples of Vandalism and Attacks

Several attacks against Jews were reported in Scandinavia in 2014. Most of them occurred in Malmö, Sweden. Habad Rabbi Shneur Kesselman submitted almost half of the complaints of antisemitic attacks to the Malmö police in 2014. Unlike most Jews in Malmö, Rabbi Kesselman doesn't hide the fact that he's Jewish and his black robe, hat and beard make him stand out in the city. For example, on 2 August, when local rabbi Shneur Kesselman and another member of the Jewish community were on the way home from the synagogue in Malmö (Sweden), someone threw a bottle at him from a passing car. The people in the car shouted "Fucking Jews!" at the two men. The bottle hit the wall next to them and shattered. The rabbi was escorted home, since he had been the subject of a similar attack with someone throwing things at him from a passing car while he was walking to the synagogue the same day. Kesselman isn't the only rabbi who was threatened in 2014. On 20 November 2014, the paper Goteborgs-Posten in Gothenburg (Sweden) revealed that the city's rabbi had received death threats via email. The threats have been reported to the police. The man behind the threats is known and has sent threats to the Jewish community previously. Goran Larsson, professor of Religious Studies at Gotheburg University characterized the email as reflecting a classic antisemitic worldview, calling the incident "grave".

Despite the increase in complaints about antisemitic incidents to the police, few of these hate crimes are investigated. A noticeable exception, that even led to a conviction, came

on 5 April 2014, when a 27-year-old man in the Stockholm area was convicted for sending death threats with antisemitic content to two MPs from the Sweden Democrats, Thoralf Alfsson and Kent Ekeröth. The man wrote to Alfsson, calling him “disgusting Jew” and threatened to grind him down and feed him to dogs and pigs. He had written death threats to Ekeröth as well. The man admitted the threats. He justified the threats with the MPs’ hostile attitude to Islam.

There are also several reports of vandalism where the motive was antisemitic. Individual Jews have been targeted at their homes, especially in Sweden. On 21 January 2014, the CFCA published tweets by a woman in Malmö, Sweden, who has been documenting antisemitic graffiti on her front door. The police’s response was that they can do nothing except collect the complaints. On 23 January 2014, a woman living in the southern provincial town of Finnsång, Sweden, came home to find her front door vandalized. Someone had sprayed a Star of David on in and the word “Get lost”. Someone had also attacked the door with an axe. The axe was still stuck in the door, and the police expressed hope that a technical investigation would yield evidence. On 1 September 2014, a Jewish man in Stockholm, Sweden, discovered that someone had vandalized his car the previous night. All windows were smashed and a laminated card with a swastika had been placed under the windshield wiper. His was the only car vandalized in the parking lot.

Community property was also targeted for antisemitic vandalism. For example, one incident, on 18 February involved someone throwing rocks at a window of the synagogue in Malmö, Sweden. The rocks made holes in the exterior pane of glass, but did not manage to damage the bullet-proof glass within. The police have no clues as to the identity of the perpetrator. On 24 June 2014, it was discovered that someone had thrown rocks through the windows of the synagogue in Norrköping, Sweden. The vandalism had taken place sometime between 20 and 24 June. This was the second time in a short period that such an attack took place in Norrköping, but the police denied seeing any indications that this might be a hate crime. On 31 July 2014 members of the Jewish community in Malmö, Sweden, discovered that during the night someone had smashed three windows in the synagogue. It was the third instance of vandalism at the site in 2014. Fred Kahn, chairman of the community, connected the incident to the situation in Gaza.

Schools were not spared from antisemitic vandalism, either. As one example, on 10 March 2014, antisemitic graffiti was discovered at the entrance to the school Vasa Real in Stockholm, Sweden. 3 of the 32 classes at the school belong to the Stockholm Jewish junior high school. Someone had daubed a swastika, the neo-Nazi code 1488 and “Jewish pigs” on the wall and front door of the school. The incident was reported to the police. The following day, members of the Liberal Party youth movement staged a counter-demonstration, covering the defaced wall and doors with hearts. On 4 April 2014, the Swedish Committee against Antisemitism arranged a demonstration in Vasaparken, a park in central Stockholm, not far from Vasa Real. The purpose was to express support with the Jewish community after the vandalism of the school, as well as protest against racism, neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism. On 24 August 2014, the Jewish private school in Copenhagen, Denmark, Carolineskolen, sent out a letter to its pupils ahead of the new academic year. In the letter, the school management presents new rules about carrying symbols that are identifiable as Jewish, forbidding pupils from leaving the school premises with such symbols, for instance a kippah, visible. This rule will apply whether the pupils leave the premises alone or as part of an organized school outing. The new rule

is a consequence of the rising number of antisemitic attacks following Operation Protective Edge.

Debates, Politics and Elections

Generally speaking, there isn't much antisemitism in the mainstream public discourse in Scandinavia. It is mostly found in the fringes of the debate, within various extremist milieus: extreme leftwing, rightwing or Islamist discourses. However, sometimes it does surface beyond the fringes. Indeed, there are examples of antisemitic expressions and statements from a multitude of political parties in 2014. Some of them were expressed by politicians belonging to parties whose platforms aren't extreme. These politicians were, as a rule, expelled after their antisemitic sentiments were revealed. On 28 February 2014, the anti-racist Swedish paper Expo reported that the local branch of the Left Party in Tranemo invited Holocaust denier Carl Norberg to give a lecture at a party function. Norberg has repeatedly published antisemitic, conspiratorial and Holocaust denying material. After Expo's report, the lecture was cancelled. On 4 April 2014, a 34-year-old member of the neo-Nazi Swedish Resistance Movement was put on trial for spreading antisemitic messages on Twitter. On 4 October 2013 he wrote "Death to Zion. Long live Golden Dawn!" September 11 2013 he published an antisemitic caricature. The man denied the charges, claiming that the caricature didn't depict a Jew and that other people had access to his Twitter account and could have published the image. In the past, he has been convicted of harassment of the leftwing politician Daniel Riazat and he has also been convicted of assault, threats and carrying an illegal weapon. On 22 August 2014, the anti-racist Swedish paper Expo revealed that a local politician and candidate in the September 2014 elections for the Sweden Democrats in south-Swedish Hög, Ibb Malmgren, has repeatedly written antisemitic and racist posts on a neo-Nazi webpage. Malmgren has written that Jews can only survive as parasites on others, that they are disgusting and – unlike Aryans – have no honor or sense of loyalty. He has also denied the Holocaust and propagated for the establishment of concentration camps for people who commit crimes "against the Nordic race." Malmgren himself denies that he was behind the posts, despite technical evidence. The party has decided not to act, since he denies involvement. On 5 September 2014, Swedish daily Metro reported that Dayana Jadarian, politician and candidate in the parliamentary elections on September 14 for the Center Party, posted a YouTube video with David Duke on her Facebook wall. In the video, Duke claims that Judaism teaches hatred of non-Jews, and that the Jews control Hollywood and the US government. When asked about the video, Jadarian rejected the notion that it was antisemitic. The Center Party decided not to act against her. On 13 December 2014 Norwegian national security service (PST) raided an extreme right wing group in Rogaland. During the operation, police seized drugs, propaganda material and a variety of weapons. Some of the seized weapons had the logo of the extreme right organization Motstandsbevegelsen ("The Resistance Movement"). The organization is connected to the Swedish Resistance Movement (SMR), led by the convicted murderer Klas Lund.

Examples of extreme leftwing antisemitism were also to be found in the Swedish rap scene. In March 2014, the Swedish Committee against Antisemitism published a survey by Charlotte Wiberg about anti-Semitism in Swedish rap music. The survey focused on Ken Ring and Dani M. For example: in his song "Agenda," Dani M raps about a secret gang driven by greed, that thinks it's above the law and that has caused every war in history. Without mentioning Jews, he echoes the thinking of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. Ken Ring has been more explicit, calling another rapper, Petter, "a damn fucking

Jew.” In his song “A Free Palestine” Ken Ring raps about never abandoning the struggle and keep on fighting until “we” get “as rich as all the Jews.” In his song “Embrace Them” he raps that the US is controlled by a few Jews and that George W Bush should have his White House in Israel. In a comment, Ken Ring denied being an antisemite and claimed he was the victim of a media campaign.

Beside the extreme left wing and neo-Nazi groups, the biggest body of political extremism in Scandinavia is represented by 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. In 2014 they maintained their positions or advanced in elections. In Sweden, the previously shunned Sweden Democrats who gained their first seats in the Swedish parliament in 2010 with roughly 5% of the votes, had a strong showing in both the EU-Parliament elections and the Swedish general elections in 2014. The party received 13% of the votes in the general elections, becoming the third largest party in the Riksdag. On 14 December 2014, Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter published an interview with Bjorn Soder, Sweden Democrats party secretary and third speaker of the Swedish Parliament. In it, Soder said that immigrants should be encouraged to go back to their countries of origin and that Sami (Scandinavian indigenous inhabitants) and Jews aren't Swedes and can't belong to the nation as long as they don't give up their minority identity – but they should be allowed to live in the country. In Denmark, the Danish People's Party became the largest party in the elections to the EU Parliament, and polls show that the party would grow considerably if elections were held to the Danish parliament today.

The Social-Democratic party that leads the current Danish government is weak in the polls. The Norwegian Progress Party received 16.3% of the votes in the Norwegian parliamentary elections in 2013, 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 right wing party controls ministries in Scandinavia. The Progress Party is nonetheless supportive of Israel, as is the Conservative party, which now holds the Norwegian premiership. On 20 January 2014, Ynet published an assessment about a shift in Norwegian policy toward Israel. Norway has long been known as one of Israel's harshest critics, and several organizations in Norway have called for or initiated boycotts against Israel. The center-right government that came to power in Norway in late 2013 is promoting cooperation with Israel, signaling that isolation and boycott won't lead to peace.

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 Defense League (NDL) and Swedish Defense League (SDL). These organizations have a strong presence online, but usually fail to attract more than a handful of followers at demonstrations. In 2014, the German PEGIDA-movement began to gain supporters in Scandinavia too, especially in Denmark and Sweden and first efforts were made to establish PEGIDA-organizations in Scandinavia. It is reasonable to assume, however, that there is considerable overlap in the people involved in all these organizations.

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 regarding a Jewish world conspiracy, Jewish control of the banks/media/Hollywood/the US administration or Holocaust denial.

Unlike the populist extreme right, antisemitism is rife and prevalent within the ideological extreme right, a milieu dominated by neo-Nazi groups. Within the ideological extreme right, the neo-Nazi Swedish Resistance Movement (SMR) continued to step up its activities in 2014 in preparation for the general elections of 2014 in Sweden. Nonetheless, the ideological extreme right didn't do well in the September general elections. They lost nearly all the seats in the local councils they had held since the 2010 elections. No neo-Nazi party had any seats to lose in parliament.

Besides extreme left wing and right wing extremism, antisemitism is also found in extreme Islamist circles and among some people with roots in the Middle East. On 12 January 2014, following the death of Israeli former PM Ariel Sharon, the spokesperson of the mosque in Örebro, Sweden, Aisar Al Shawabkeh published a status on Facebook. Al Shawabkeh claimed that Sharon once, in order to celebrate his birthday, gave orders to Israeli soldiers to catch and slaughter Palestinian children and then prepare a meal from their blood. When Al Shawabkeh was criticized for the status, he said that he had just repeated a story he had been told as a child by people who knew the victims. He added that he “maybe should have expressed himself differently,” but claimed not to know of the antisemitic myth of Jews killing non-Jewish children and consuming their blood. On 14 January, the tabloid Expressen published an article connecting Aisar Al Shawabkeh's statements with widespread antisemitism in the Middle East. The mosque didn't want to comment on his claims or his stepping down, since “he was attacked in the media and feels bad.” On 18 July 2014, Abu Bilal Ismail, imam at a mosque in Aarhus (Denmark) spoke at a mosque in Berlin (Germany) and called on God to “destroy the Zionist Jews.” He added “count them and kill them to the very last one. Don't spare a single one of them,” and “bring torment upon them.” The sermon was filmed and uploaded to YouTube. Furthermore, local police in Aarhus suspects that 22 young men have left Denmark to participate in jihad in Syria after being encouraged to do so at Ismail's mosque.

Positive Developments

Despite the increase in antisemitic incidents in 2014, the year also brings a silver lining. That silver lining is that the problem of antisemitism is being increasingly noticed in Scandinavia. As late as a few years ago, it was considered a non-problem in public discourse, and among leftists it was even nearly axiomatically rejected as a Zionist tactic to deflect criticism of Israel. Today, however, there is an increasing awareness of antisemitism in Scandinavia. On 11 August 2014, Danish radio journalist Asger Juhl put on a kippah and walked through Copenhagen to see what would happen. Juhl isn't Jewish and wanted to know if reports of rising antisemitism had any truth to them. Juhl related to the paper Berlingske Tidende that he was harassed and threatened. Already after five minutes he was surrounded by a group of ten or so men of Middle Eastern origin. The only way he escaped being beaten up was by admitting that he wasn't Jewish, but a reporter. The men also demanded that he donate money to Hamas in order to let him go.

Also the trend of the so-called "Kippah Walks", or "Kippah Marches" has continued in Scandinavia in 2014. This year, three major walks were organized, one in Copenhagen, one in Malmö and one in Stockholm. The walks and marches were a show of support for

the local Jewish communities in the face of rising antisemitism following Operation Protective Edge.

The Arab World / Dr. Esther Webman

The year 2014 witnessed an increase in antisemitic manifestations, especially since the middle of the year following the kidnapping and murder of three teenagers at the bus/hitch-hiking stop at Alon Shvut in Gush Etzion on June 12; Operation Protective Edge between July 8 and August 26; and the terror attack at the Kehilat Bnei Torah synagogue, in the Har Nof neighborhood of Jerusalem on November 18. This review deals with these three events in three distinct areas: Arab countries and North Africa, Turkey and Iran. Blaming Israel and the Jews for causing all the ills of the world, especially in the Arab and Muslim world, while using the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, the blood libel and Nazi imagery continued unabated. Since the outbreak of the "Arab Spring" in 2011, another dominant phenomenon of the antisemitic discourse was the usage of the term "Jew" as a curse directed at Arabs and Muslims from rival camps to prove their evil. Confirmation of the rising antisemitism was the Anti-Defamation League's largest-ever worldwide survey of antisemitic attitudes held in the beginning of May, which included 53,000 people who were surveyed in 102 countries and territories representing 88 percent of the world's adult population. According to the survey, about 49 percent of Muslims worldwide and 74 percent in the Middle East and North Africa harbor antisemitic views while the West Bank and Gaza ranked at the first place with 93 percent.

The Kidnapping and Murder of Three Teenagers and its Aftermath

On June 12, 2014, three Israeli teenagers, Naftali Fraenkel, Gilad Shaer and Eyal Yifrah, were kidnapped and murdered by two Hamas terrorists and after 18 days their bodies were found not far from where they were kidnapped. The kidnapping and murder were followed by harsh Israeli measures against Hamas in the West Bank. In response, Hamas opened rocket fire on Israel, leading to an Israeli military action in Gaza, known as Operation Protective Edge, which lasted from July 8 to August 26. As a result, antisemitic incidents increased as well as racial incidents and 'Price Tag' actions by Israeli citizens, which included the murder and burning alive of Palestinian teenager Muhammad Abu Khudayr by three Israelis on July 2. This aroused unrest among Palestinians in Jerusalem and bitter reactions, which invoked comparisons with the Holocaust and Nazi deeds. In discussing the situation, at a meeting of the Palestinian leadership held on July 9, PA chairman Mahmud 'Abbas wondered "shall we recall Auschwitz?". In his daily column in *al-Hayat* on July 5, Jihad al-Khazin claimed that Israel's PM, Benjamin Netanyahu, is a war criminal who seeks to kill all Palestinians, and since he does not have gas chambers like the Nazis, he performs a gradual ethnic cleansing. Another aspect was the blood libel, as journalist Wisam 'Afifa pointed out in his editorial in Hamas's daily *al-Risalah* on July 3, in which he claimed that the murder reminds him of the Jewish ritual of mixing human blood in baking their matzos in Passover. On July 12 in *al-Hayat al-Jadida*, columnist Yahya Rabah invoked the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, contending that they teach Jews that their God wants "Matzah made from the blood of our children."

The murder and burning of Abu Khudayr was also depicted in numerous caricatures in the Arab media, in two main categories: comparing it to the burning in the Holocaust and

presenting the Jews as bloodthirsty. PA's semi-official daily *al-Hayat al-Jadida*, for instance, published a caricature on July 6, in which two fires were burning, one symbolizing the Holocaust and the other Jerusalem. The Jerusalem fire was ignited by an orthodox Jew and a child was in it. On July 3, PA daily *al-Ayyam* published, a caricature titled "Blood revenge?!!", depicting a Jew with bat wings firing a submachine gun.

Operation Protective Edge

In response to Operation Protective Edge, Israel was compared throughout the Arab media to the Nazis and was accused of implementing their crimes. For example, on July 9, PA President Mahmud 'Abbas accused Israel of committing genocide against the Palestinians, and in his speech to the UN General Assembly on September 26, he described Israel as the "apex of human evil" and declared that Israel should pay the price for its war crimes. Usama al-Qawasmī, Fatah's spokesman, said on July 20 that the criminal Israeli government surpassed the Nazis with their genocide against the Palestinians and Khalid Mash'al, head of Hamas' political arm, also argued that Israel is "replicating what Hitler did years ago" and perpetrating a Holocaust, in his interview with the Turkish news agency on August 21. On July 15, Jihad al-Khazin wrote that the Israeli enemy is the new Nazi wearing Nazi victims' clothes and in another comparison of Israel to the Nazis, activists from the Palestinian Popular Resistance Committees wore striped clothes in Ramallah and Beit Lehem symbolizing the Nazi Jewish victims, claiming that Israel is committing war crimes like the Nazis. On July 17, Egyptian daily *al-Tahrir* published a photographic report on "Israel and Nazi Germany - two sides of the same coin" in which it presented images of Nazi brutality facing Jews and Israeli brutality against Palestinians.

The blood libel arose in an interview aired on the Lebanese Al-Quds TV channel, in which Hamas official Usama Hamdan stated that the Jewish ritual of slaughtering Christians in order to mix their blood in their holy matzos is a fact. The Israeli addiction to the killing of women and children, he added, is rooted in the historical Zionist and Jewish mentality. A similar remark was made in a Friday sermon by Jordanian Senate Member and former minister, Shaykh Bassan 'Ammush, in which he accused Jews of slaughtering children as a form of worship. Qatari Shaykh Tariq al-Hawwas called upon God to demonstrate His might and kill the Jews "to the very last one... [and] freeze the blood in their veins". In addition to such statements and articles, Arab and Muslim clerics throughout the world prayed and called for the annihilation of Jews. Such was Berlin's Imam Abu Bilal Ismail's statement, describing the Jews as slayers of prophets who conspired against the people in Gaza and calling Allah to destroy "the Zionist Jews". The Simon Wiesenthal Center protested to the Mayor of Berlin over failure to take action against the Imam. Nonetheless, there were voices critical to Hamas' behavior and intransigence which wrought disaster on the people of Gaza.

In response to the **terror attack at the Kehilat Bnei Torah synagogue at Jerusalem** on November 18, in which four worshippers were killed, numerous reactions were heard throughout the Arab media. Some condemned the attack, for example PA Chairman Mahmud 'Abbas, who said on November 18 in Lebanese al-Quds TV that attacks on civilians are not acceptable. Hassan al-Batal referred to the attack in his article in Palestinian daily *al-Ayyam* on November 19, as a dangerous and illegitimate act. In contrast 'Adli Sadiq in his column in daily *al-Hayat al-Jadida* on November 19, justified the attack, stating that the murderers are not evil like those they killed and described the Rabbis as "wearing the robes of Satan".

According to the Israeli blog Shawarma News, book fairs held in April in Iraq, Kuwait, PA and Abu Dhabi featured numerous antisemitic books from various publishers which included different versions of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, Holocaust conspiracy theories, *Mein Kampf* and books regarding the Talmud. CairoDar, the "education and knowledge" online portal of Egyptian privately-owned daily, *al-Youm al-Sabi*, also published in April and May several antisemitic articles presenting the content of the book and the malicious intentions of the Jews. In another case British Islamist Refi Shafi, known as Abu Rumaysah, accused the Jews of being corrupted and corrupters by nature, invoked the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and also encouraged listeners to look to it as proof of a worldwide Jewish conspiracy, citing Hitler as the only person who was aware of this evil doctrine and did something to stop it. Other conspiracy accusations were included in an article published by As'ad al-'Azzuni in the Jordanian site jo24.net on March 25. 'Azzuni, a Jordanian columnist known for his viral antisemitism, accused Israel of sending wild pigs and white mice to Jordan in order to ruin its fields, and claimed that Israel aims to sabotage Jordan's agriculture and ultimately the economy of all the Arab states that have a peace treaty with it. Another common argument often heard was blaming ISIS of being a Jewish group and its leader a Jew and a Mossad agent. According to the Egyptian website al-Fagr, the Secretary-General of the Union of Sufis in Egypt, 'Abdallah al-Nasir Hilmy, claimed on July 1, that this is the reason why ISIS refused to engage in killing Jews and only kill Muslims. On September 9, Iraqi al-Iraqiyya TV aired a promo to a new series in which the devil and a Jewish woman gave birth to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Iran

In the wake of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27, *al-Hayat* published an editorial, examining the positive developments in the Arab world regarding the Holocaust, and particularly in Iran since the election of Hassan Rouhani as the new president. The internal disagreements between the Iranian president, who is considered moderate, and the conservative Supreme Leader, 'Ali Khamenei, are also reflected on the issue of antisemitism, with the clear distinction between Israel as the Zionist enemy and the Jews as a religious minority who deserve respect. Iran's Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, referred to the Holocaust as a "barbaric tragedy that should not happen again" at the Munich Security Conference, on February 3, and pointed out that the Iranians have nothing against the Jews. On May 6, Zarif refuted what he termed as the Zionists' allegations regarding Iran's Holocaust denial and asserted that Iran will not allow the Zionist propaganda machine to invent lies. Khamenei, in contrast, delivered a speech on the occasion of the Persian New Year in Mashhad on March 21, in which he questioned the Holocaust and argued that no one dares to talk about it because western countries limit the freedom of speech and draw red lines concerning it. On July 20 and 21, Khamenei's bureau posted numerous tweets, in which Israel was described as a cancerous tumor, a fake regime and a fake nation. On July 23, two days before Quds Day, he called for the annihilation of Israel, stressing that he is not referring to the Jews. Few days later he posted a message on his official Facebook page titled "why should & how can Israel be eliminated?". Iran held an international Gaza cartoon exhibit from August 12 - 28, at the Palestine Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran. The exhibit included about 100 cartoons invoking classic antisemitic themes such as the depiction of Israel and Israelis as blood-sucking insects or animals attacking Palestinian children. Iran also announced an International Cartoon and Caricature contest "From Adolf Netanyahu to Benjamin Hitler," that will award prizes for the best depiction of Israel's military offensive against Hamas targets in Gaza. The cartoon section theme focuses on four categories:

"silence of media and international Associations, Genocide and Killing Baby in Gaza, Treason and Accompany of Arab League, and the Great Satan (USA)." The caricature section theme refers to ten leaders: Adolf Netanyahu!; Benjamin Hitler!; Shimon Peres; Ehud Olmert; Barack Obama; Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa (King of Bahrain); Francois Hollande; David Cameron; and Angela Merkel (<http://www.irancartoon.com/international-gaza-cartoon-caricature-contest-2014/#>). It is important to note that the Jewish community in Iran admitted that they feel more secure under President Rouhani, as reported in *Haaretz* on November 27.

Turkey

The antisemitic atmosphere that emerged in Turkey since the establishment in 2002 of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) government headed by Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has increased over 2014. On February 10, Arutz Sheva published an email by a Turkish Jewish businessman who was insulted and attacked along with his partner in the northwestern Turkish town of Babaeski. The two came into a restaurant and the owner refused to serve them food, and attempted to attack them with a doner kebab blade, while cursing the Jews. Following the Soma coalmine accident in May, in which 301 miners were killed, Turkey's Prime Minister Erdoğan yelled an anti-Jewish slur at a Turkish protester, referring to him as an "Israeli sperm" – apparently a popular slur which can be understood in different ways. In response to Operation Protective Edge, Erdoğan accused Israel of committing systematic genocide against the Palestinians, and of being a terrorist state, surpassing Hitler's barbarism. Although Erdoğan clarified that his criticism relates only to Israel and not to the Jews of Turkey, the Jewish community felt uncomfortable. Former Foreign Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, and Ankara's Mayor, Melih Gökçek, also accused Israel of crimes against humanity describing Israel's deeds as despicable murders that are 100 times more murderous than Hitler. In addition, violent demonstrations broke out on July 17 against the Israeli embassy in Ankara and its consulate in Istanbul, during which demonstrators threw rocks, broke windows and hoisted the Palestinian flag. Other antisemitic incidents included an attack on Israeli soccer players by Turkish pro-Palestinian protesters during a football match in Austria; a warning from the head of the IHH, Bulent Yildirim, who was also behind the Mavi Marmara Flotilla in June 2010, that Turkish Jews will pay dearly for Israel's actions; and a sign on a shop in central Istanbul, featuring a photo of an Israeli tank and saying: "Jew dogs are not permitted entry". The governor of the Turkish city Edirne, Dursun Sahin, threatened on November 21 to turn a century-old synagogue into a museum as punishment for Israel's alleged actions against the Al-Aqsa Mosque. After a harsh criticism against his statement, Sahin apologized and expressed deep sadness that his words were distorted.

The situation of the remaining Jews in the Arab countries continues to be problematic. On April 30, Beit El synagogue in Sfax, Tunisia, was ransacked by unidentified individuals who littered the floor with prayer books and Jewish prayer shawls (tallitot). The synagogue was damaged also in August 2011 and December 2012.

In response to Operation Protective Edge, the Rabbi of the Jewish community in Casablanca, Rabbi Moshe Ohayon, was beaten near a synagogue after the evening services. According to the Rabbi, the assailant said during the attack that this is a "revenge for what the Jews are doing in Gaza". On July 18 the Jewish community in Sana'a, Yemen, received warnings to leave the area as soon as possible before the invasion of the Houthi, the rebel tribe in the north that was advancing toward the capital.

On November 23, the Facebook page "Tmanyik Algerien", Algerian humor, published a photo of two young men desecrating a Jewish grave by opening the coffin, standing on the corpse and taking a photo. The picture appeared with a caption "the Jewish cemetery of Annaba".

Opposing Antisemitism

Nevertheless, it should be noted that despite the spread of antisemitism, there are also other voices condemning the phenomenon and fighting it. For example, in June an event titled "national meeting on tolerance towards a national strategy to promote tolerance" was held in Rabat, Morocco, in order to discuss all forms of discrimination including antisemitism and ways to combat them. In the same month, fifteen Turkish academics participated in a seminar about teaching the Holocaust which was held in the Yad Vashem International School. In response to the rising antisemitism in Turkey, The Radical Democrat - a group believing in equality, freedom for justice, organized in November a "Say stop to antisemitism" protest. Sinem Tezyapar, a columnist, peace activist and an executive producer at a Turkish TV network, contended that antisemitism creates an impression in world public opinion. Tezyapar published an article in February in *al-Quds al-'Arabi*, urging Muslim leaders to stop using antisemitic slogans, either for political reasons or out of ignorance. Kuwaiti columnist Nasir Badr al-Aydan published an article in daily *al-Rai* in September calling to recognize the important role of the Jews in Kuwait's history and highlighting their contribution in the fields of trade, arts and science.

Greece / Michal Navoth

Operation Protective Edge

Operation Protective Edge (8 July 2014 – 26 August 2014) did not trigger violent events against Jewish targets and individuals. The initially strong anti-Israel manifestation, mainly expressed in the mass media, has gradually turned into antisemitism. Some articles of the Greek press blamed the Jews in Greece for not denouncing "the genocide of the Palestinian people". The widely circulated daily newspaper ELEFTHEROTYPIA wrote on 5 August 2014: "[t]he silence of the Greek Jews over the Palestinian genocide is loud [...] and those who are not silent, they speak of anti-Semitism that exists in Greece as well [...] So, if they consider us to be antisemites because we denounce their crimes and stand by the side of their innocent victims, well, then yes, we are!"³

Other articles justified antisemitic events in Europe by that time as a punishment for the "Zionists' crimes." As for the Jewish community's reaction, the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece (KIS) was criticized for its announcement of 16 July 2014 on the situation in the Middle East. On 17 July 2014 the headline of the weekly newspaper ELEFTHEROS KOSMOS was: "220 dead in Gaza! Yet, KIS issued an announcement condemning the Palestinians!"⁴ Several Greek 'journalists' did not hesitate to compare the Israelis to the Nazis and Gaza to Auschwitz. The same comparison was also the theme of a play improvised in front of the Holocaust Monument of Thessaloniki in 28 July 2014.

³ The Central Board of the Jewish Communities in Greece, *Memo*, 9 September 2014.

⁴ *Id.*

In addition to the mainstream press and the news broadcasts, antisemitic expressions were prevalent on the social media, which was used even by academia's people. A professor of the Aristoteleion University of Thessaloniki posted an antisemitic comment on an on line academic dialogue platform reading "Gaza slaughter made by dirty soaps." A letter of protest was sent by KIS to the University Dean, who immediately responded condemning the event and promised to take a tough stance. In September 2014, the professor sent a letter of apologies which was posted on line by the university and was excluded from its on line dialogue platform.

There was a wave of anti-Israel protests in major Greek cities: Athens, where two separate demonstrations took place in 17 July 2014 in front of the Israeli Embassy, Thessaloniki, Volos and others. Banners described Israel as a "terrorist State" and called Israel to "stop the genocide of the Palestinian people". The demonstrations were organized by parties of the left, among them the left wing Syriza. On 22 July 2014 a demonstration in front of the EU premises in Athens was headed by Syriza 's leader, Alexis Tsipras. Tsipras, who was sworn in as Greek prime minister in January 2015 was wearing the Palestinian scarf around his neck. While marching in Athens Tsipras said: "[s]eeing Israel killing children in Palestine is unacceptable. We should ... [express] our solidarity to the Palestinian people".⁵

Graffiti reading "Israel – USA, You have no excuse", with the letter 'S' depicted as aswastika, was drawn on buildings in Athens, near the US Embassy in August 2014. The graffiti was obviated following the intervention of KIS with the Municipality of Athens.

The name of Golden Dawn, Greek extreme right wing political party and arguably Europe's strongest neo-Nazi party, was not mentioned in relation to the above events. This coincides with the pattern of antisemitism that characterized Europe in July-August 2014. In his recent article concerning the Gaza, Hamas and Antisemitism, Prof. Robert S. Wistrich expounded Palestinian demonstrations in Europe during Protective Edge that swiftly spilled over into crude antisemitism. He claimed: "[t]his has nothing to do with any traditional far-right or neo-Nazi agitation, which was conspicuous by its relative absence or low profile."⁶

Incidents of Vandalism, Abusive Behavior and Violent Assaults⁷

With the exception of the graffiti drawn in August 2014 such incidents did not parallel with the operation in Gaza. Throughout 2014 their number increased in comparison to the previous year and exceeded the number of incidents in 2012-2013 combined.

On 30 May 2014, the Jewish cemetery in Thessaloniki was vandalized. Damages were limited to a few broken plant vases and marble tomb decorations. Both the local Jewish Community KIS issued condemnation and protest announcements.

⁵ *Analysis: The victory of Syriza in Greece is bad news for Israel*, THE JERUSALEMPOST, 26 JANUARY 2015, [HTTP://WWW.JPOST.COM/INTERNATIONAL/ANALYSIS-THE-VICTORY-OF-SYRIZA-IN-GREECE-IS-BAD-NEWS-FOR-ISRAEL-388960](http://www.jpost.com/International/Analysis-The-Victory-of-Syriza-in-Greece-is-Bad-News-for-Israel-388960)

⁶ Robert S. Wistrich, *Gaza, Hamas, and the Return of Antisemitism*, 8 ISR. J. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS 35, 42 (2014).

⁷ The Central Board of the Jewish Communities in Greece, *2014 Anti-Semitism in Greece*, December 2014.

On 27 June 2014, vandals desecrated the Holocaust Monument in Athens using threatening and antisemitic graffiti. The police immediately arrived at the site and started investigation. Apart from Jewish reactions, condemnation statements were issued by the Deputy Prime Minister of Greece and Minister for Foreign Affairs and the General Secretary for Religions of the Ministry of Education.

On 1 September, 2014 six youngsters were apprehended after having entered the Jewish cemetery in Ioannina and before succeeding to cause any damage. Police filed a report and the Jewish Community's representatives were called in. No charges were made against the youngsters.

On 7 September, 2014 the façade of the surrounding wall of the Jewish cemetery of Larissa, next to its main gate, was desecrated with Swastikas and "Heil Hitler" graffiti.

On 20 October 2014 graffiti reading "Jews murderers" and "Smash the Jews" appeared on the road leading from the city of Volos to the hill of Goritsa. The local authorities immediately erased it.

On 30 October 2014 the Athens Holocaust Memorial was desecrated for the second time with the logo of an extreme nationalist and antisemitic organization known as the Unaligned Meander Nationalists (Greek abbreviation: AME). The Greek Government and the political parties issued announcements of strong condemnation of that act. AME, who describes the Golden Dawn as "moderates", vandalized the Holocaust Monument on the island of Rhodes in October 2012.

On 12 December 2014 assailants opened fire on the Israeli Embassy in Athens, but no injuries or damage were reported. A month and a half later a far-left Group of Popular Rebels claimed responsibility of the shooting.

On 23 December, 2014, the Jewish cemetery in Larissa was desecrated for the second time in 2014 with swastikas, threats such as "six million more", and antisemitic phrases, like "Juden raus", similar to those used by the Nazis to exterminate the Jews of Europe. The graffiti was signed by "Larissa Skins". KIS and the Jewish Community of Larissa denounced the vandal act.

Greek MPs' attitude⁸

In an interview with Australia's "60 Minutes newsmagazine", which aired on 10 April 2014, GD MP Ilias Panagiotaros praised Hitler saying he had a "great personality", was prepared to do the dirty work and did what had to be done.

The Greek newspaper KATHIMERINI released in its Sunday edition of 21 September 2014 a video clip showing GD deputy leader Christos Pappas instructing two children how to give the Nazi salute and chant "Heil Hitler."

GD MP Artemis Mathaiopoulos in his speech of 13 November 2014, during a session in the parliament accused the "Zionist lobby" and the "German loan sharks" of being responsible for the prosecution of his party.

⁸Ibid.

In a TV interview on 15 December 2014 the leader of the right wing party “Independent Greeks”, Panos Kammenos, who was appointed the defense minister of Greece in January 2015, stated that the Greek Jews don’t pay taxes. That comment was denied publicly by a government official, who called it “conspiracy theories, lies and slander.”⁹ KIS issued a statement in response, saying it “categorically refutes” Kammenos’ remark.

Reaction of the Jewish Community and the Greek authorities

Whereas KIS' announcement on the situation in the Middle East of July 2014 was criticized in the mainstream press, in response to some of the other antisemitic events KIS' condemnation not only drew condemnation of Greek government, but also prompted an active response of the authorities in charge,

Golden Dawn

As part of the crackdown on the GD, which was launched on October 2013, an extensive investigation started in January 2014 and completed in September 2014. Having their parliamentary immunity lifted, all 16 GD MPS were charged of membership in a criminal organization, in addition to some other criminal charges. Also accused are around 50 party's members. Some of the members and MPs, including the party leader Nikos Michaloliakos, are behind bar awaiting trial, which is scheduled to begin on 20 April 2015. To be sure, the new antiracism bill under the general title “Fight against Xenophobia”, which was voted on 9 September 2014 by the Greek Parliament and include harsher penalties for inciting racial violence and Holocaust denial, can not be applied to the trial because it cannot be applied retroactively.

Despite the crackdown and the unprecedented parliamentary actions taken against the party, GD remains steadily the third largest party in the polls (the latest is of October 2014).

January 2015

Although the month of January 2015 was a most difficult one, no violent events occurred in Greece. Yet, January is noteworthy in respect to the general elections that took place in 25 January 2015 in that country. Syriza received 36.3% of the votes and Tsipras was able to form a coalition within 24 hours of the elections with a right wing party, the Independent Greeks that garnered 4.7% of the votes. Coming in second is the conservative New Democracy party of outgoing Prime Minister Antonis Samaras.¹⁰ Worse still is that jail fails to deter. GD came third in with 6.3 percent of the vote. That translated into 17 parliamentary seats. Thirteen of the lawmakers were re-elected among them the party's seniors, Michaloliakos, Pappas and the party spokesman Ilias Kasidiaris.¹¹

It is too early to speak about the stability of the left-right coalition. Although the two parties share a common agenda to reject the imposed austerity measures, they are apart on most other issues. Even considering the taxes statement, the newly elected defense

⁹ JTA, *Politician who said Jews don't pay tax appointed as Greece's defense chief*, HAARETZ, 29 January 2015, <http://www.haaretz.com/jewish-world/jewish-world-news/1.639763>.

¹⁰ Arye Mekel, *The New Greek Government: Israel has Reason for Concern*, BESA CENTER PERSPECTIVES PAPER No. 283 (2015).

¹¹ Reuters, *Golden Dawn leader and MPs to stand trial, Greek court officials say*, THE GUARDIAN, 4 February, 2015 <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/04/golden-dawn-leader-mps-trial-greek-court> ; *Judges' report on Golden Dawn case expected next week*, EKATHIMERINI.COM, 30 JANUARY 2015, http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/_w_articles_ws1_1_30/01/2015_546716.

minister, who in his previous capacities favored close military cooperation. with Israel (which became closer in recent years), is still likely to be more pro-Israel than the Syriza lawmakers, Some of them participated in protests against Israel, with some even participating in the flotillas to Gaza in 2010.

The independent Greeks, like the GD, frequently blame outsiders for Greeks' economic woes, making them scapegoats for politicians. In that respect the two parties differ from Syriza. Moreover, Syriza emphasizes that it is a staunch critic of the neo-Nazi party, GD. If so, it is to be seen whether the new government will follow the hard line and governmental crackdown.

Syriza always takes pain to stress that they are not antisemitic, just "anti-Zionist". Such a statement should cause concern not only for Israel, but for the Jews in Greece as well. What has become evident is that the antisemitic events of summer 2014 blurred the distinction between State of Israel as a Jewish state and Jews as such.

Germany 2014 / Sarah Rembiszewski

- If an arson attack on a synagogue is not considered to be antisemitic - after three Palestinians firebombed the synagogue of Wuppertal (29 July 2014), the judge let them off with just arson charges because they intended to 'bring attention to the Gaza conflict', suggesting that it may be kind of legitimate protest,

- if a judge does allow calling somebody "a fiery antisemite" only if he "talks, with conviction, in an antisemitic way and does not condemn the Third Reich and cannot view the period 1933-1945 as separate from the background of history", like Munich regional judge, Petra Grönke-Müller, thus suggesting indirectly that German antisemitism was limited to the Nazi period of 1933-1945 (Trial *Elsässer vs Ditfurth*, October 8, 2014; Munich State Court),

- or if a prosecutor's office dropped investigations into chants heard at an anti-Israel demonstration on grounds that chants such as „death, death Israel“ and " children murderer Israel“ didn't constitute hate speech, since they were directed against a country and not against a specific group of people within Germany¹², then something is profoundly wrong in the understanding of antisemitic incidents in Germany, and not only there. This lack of knowledge, sensibility or courage to call an assault on a Jew or Jewish institution an antisemitic event, may have dangerous consequences, especially in the context of ever- increasing violence against the Jewish community in Germany, where for the first time the appeal to "Gas the Jews" was openly yelled during anti-Israel demonstrations. Also, in view of the violent climate of Islamist terror in Europe, this seems to be a dramatic development.

¹² It must be mentioned that half a year after violent anti-Israel demonstrations in Essen, German Judge Gauri Sastry convicted 24-year-old Taylan Can for incitement against an ethnic minority. Can was prosecuted for his use of the term "Zionist" as incitement against a minority. Judge Sastry "'Zionist' is the language of anti-Semites, the code for 'Jew.'" <http://www.timesofisrael.com/german-judge-rules-anti-zionism-is-code-for-anti-semitism/>.

In an interview on 22 July 2014 with Carolina Ambrosi in the German weekly *Die Zeit*, Prof. Wolfgang Benz said that, notwithstanding the attacks on Jews and Jewish sites during the Israel Operation in Gaza, antisemitism has not increased in Germany. Benz referred to the statement of Dieter Graumann, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, about antisemitic incidents in Germany during protests against the Gaza War. Graumann warned that “we are currently experiencing, in this country, an explosion of evil and violent hatred of Jews, which shocks and dismays all of us” and called for “clear and loud condemnation” from German political leaders. According to Benz, however, criticism of Israeli policy is not the same as antisemitism and “all scientific findings show that antisemitism is in this country for decades a fairly constant size. Only about five percent of the population has strong resentment that you can refer to them as antisemites”.

Due to different perceptions of antisemitism and the dimensions of the phenomenon, and in order to better understand and fight antisemitic manifestations, the German government named a new commission of experts on antisemitism. However the commission was sharply criticized for not including Jewish experts, a fact which Julius Schoeps, of the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European-Jewish Studies called “a unique scandal”, while Anetta Kahane, of the Amadeu Antonio Foundation Against Anti-Semitism, argued that “Nobody would even think of creating a conference on hatred of Islam without Muslims or a round table on the discrimination of women without women.”

Officially, 108 Jewish communities in Germany have a total membership of ca 105,000 (to December 2013.) This number does not include another 100,000 non-affiliated citizens of Jewish faith. Most of the 200,000 Jews living in Germany are of eastern-European origin.

Although antisemitic sentiments on the whole did not increase from the already high number of 20% since 1945, antisemitic incidents and manifestations of all kinds, verbal and physical, rose sharply during and after the Operation Protective Edge, in the summer of 2014. Many Jewish citizens report an ever-increasing sense of insecurity, which may be explained in part by the violence they face, the Islamist terror they are threatened with¹³ and by the fact that radical anti-Zionism has infiltrated the mainstream discourse, thus becoming “*gesellschaftsfähig*” – socially acceptable (or accepted). More than one in four respondents in a recent poll equate the Jewish state's treatment of Palestinians with Nazi persecution of Jews during World War Two, according to the findings of the study,¹⁴ “Fragile Center - Hostile Conditions”.¹⁵ The proportion of people who approve of xenophobic ideas has sunk from 25 percent to 7.5 and acceptance of antisemitic statements among respondents has also dropped significantly, from 8.6 to 3.2 percent. This positive development is mainly due to “the massive amount of educational work having an effect,” according to Andreas Zick, director of studies at the Institute for *Interdisciplinary Conflict and Violence Research* at the University of Bielefeld, adding

¹³ New protocols of security measures by the Berlin police include sending the magazine “Jewish Berlin” in an unmarked envelope. The Berlin Jewish community spokesman Ilan Kiesling explained that, “Despite considerably higher costs, the community’s executive board decided to send the community magazine in a neutral envelope, in order to reduce the hostility toward our more than 10,000 members. Many community members were thinking about cancelling their subscription.” <http://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/German-Jews-hide-Jewish-magazine-for-fear-of-anti-Semitic-attacks-391680>.

¹⁴ http://www.fes-gegen-rechtsextremismus.de/pdf_14/FragileMitte-FeindseligeZustaende.pdf.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

that "norms are fragile, and there's a strong polarization between clear agreement with - and clear rejection of - statements hostile to particular groups".¹⁶

However, the follow-up interviews which were done in September, after Operation Protective Edge, showed noticeably more agreement with negative statements such as, "Jews have too much influence in Germany" and "The Jews bear part of the responsibility for their persecution." The findings further showed that people with a closed right-wing extremist worldview are more likely to resort to violence than previously.

Notwithstanding the outcome of polls and interviews, the reality on the ground, in the streets showed a frightening picture, especially in the second half of the year. The number of incidents sharply increased and so did the violence and brutality of the physical as well as verbal manifestations in Germany. When analyzing the tendencies of antisemitism, one cannot ignore the fact that without an ever-rising atmosphere of legitimization of the radical anti-Zionist narrative and its acceptability in mainstream Europe, such a drastic rise as that seen during the summer months would not have been possible.

During the first 6 months of 2014 the official numbers of antisemitic criminal acts showed a positive tendency, that of decreasing numbers¹⁷. This tendency was to change in July and continue until the end of the year 2014. On the whole there has been a rise in antisemitic incidents, from 788 in 2013 to 864 (1076 according to yet unpublished numbers)¹⁸ in 2014. This number includes violent attacks, which have decreased, according to the numbers of the German Ministry of Interior, from 32 in 2013 to 25 in 2014.¹⁹ But these decreasing numbers do not realistically convey the exceptionally severe quality of verbal and physical violence facing Jews in Germany, which has considerably increased the concern not only of the Jewish community but also of the law enforcement authorities, who had to intensify security for schools, synagogues and other Jewish sites.

However, these are not the only arenas of antisemitic manifestations.

As has been observed for years, anti-Jewish feelings are ever increasingly "let out" online in the mostly secure surroundings of the cyberspace; according to the findings of Berlin-based linguistics professor Monika Schwarz-Friesel, who observed during the

¹⁶According to the new study 18% of Germans think that Jews are responsible for their persecution because of their behavior. The survey was published on Tuesday in Bielefeld, by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence (ICG) at the University of Bielefeld.

15% of respondents believe that Jews have too much influence in Germany. Among respondents over the age of 60, this figure was 23%. More than half of respondents (55 percent) are angry that Germans are still accused of crimes against the Jews. 49 percent are "tired of hearing over and over again on German crimes against the Jews."

The researchers further said that the demonstrations against the war in Gaza last summer "frighteningly revived antisemitism". According to the study 28% "can understand why people do not like the Jews, considering Israel's policy".

Comparative criticism between the Nazis and Israel is also most common: 40% speak of "a war of extermination against the Palestinians" and for 27% "Israeli policy toward the Palestinians is not different from what the Nazis did to the Jews in the Third Reich". The study examined, for the past 12 years, the hatred for certain population groups in Germany. To this end, they researched 500 German. http://www.fes-gegen-rechtsextremismus.de/pdf_14/141120presse-handout.pdf.

¹⁷ http://www.petrapau.de/18_bundestag/index.htm.

¹⁸ <http://www.zeit.de/news/2015-02/25/extremismus-stiftung-mehr-antisemitische-straftaten-2014-25205206>

¹⁹ Ibid http://www.petrapau.de/18_bundestag/index.htm

second half of 2014 a “massive flood”, an explosion of antisemitic comments on the web, “falling back on old stereotypes,” with phrases such as “usurer”, “child murderer” and “global conspiracy” are being used again in reference to Jewish people.”. What's happening at the moment is exceeding everything we have seen in the last few years – both quantitatively and qualitatively,” and what you see is the surfacing of a deeply rooted resentment of Jews” the researcher explained.²⁰

Due to the severity of the radical antisemitic manifestations, which seemed to have surprised European leaders, on 22 July 2014, the Ministers of Foreign affairs of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier, France, Laurent Fabius, and Italy, Federica Mogherini, released a joint declaration in Brussels, which read as follows:

"Antisemitic incitement and hostility against Jews, attacks on people of Jewish faith and synagogues have no place in our societies..... Nothing, including the dramatic military confrontation in Gaza, justifies such action here in Europe. We will do everything in our countries together and ensure that all our citizens can continue to live unmolested by antisemitic hostility in peace and security."

According to Dr. Dieter Graumann, President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, the tense atmosphere did not come out of nowhere. The conflict in Gaza cannot be seen as the cause of the insecurity many of the Jews in Germany feel due to this unprecedented rise in violent antisemitic acts, not only in Germany but in many of their neighboring countries.

“I am convinced that anyone who becomes antisemitic because of Israel has always been antisemitic and uses the current controversy only as an excuse. The word “Jew” has been used as an insult in German schoolyards for many years – very often by young Muslims.” Germany has the largest Muslim population in Western Europe, after France. Approximately 3.0 to 3.5 million Muslims live in Germany, and 80% of them do not have German citizenship; 608,000 are German citizens.¹, 100,000 of them are German converts to Islam. 70% of the Muslim population is of Turkish origin. Ca 44.000 are classified by the authorities as Islamists.

During the months of July-August and also in the aftermath of Operation Protective Edge, anti-Israel demonstrations received a momentum which shocked the political establishment, especially because of the fact that the violent anti-Jewish atmosphere, coupled with radical anti-Israel hatred, revealed antisemitic rhetoric never before heard in the streets of Germany after WWII. In July 2014, there were 5 reported incidents of violent physical assaults with antisemitic motivation, against persons in Wuppertal, Berlin, (twice) Hannover and Goettingen. During the same month, synagogues were desecrated and attacked in Dresden, Frankfurt, Gelsenkirchen, Marmen and Wuppertal, accompanying anti-Israel demonstrations with antisemitic incidents, whether verbal or physical, that took place in 23 towns all over Germany. Demonstrators in Dortmund and Frankfurt chanted, “ Hamas, Hamas; Jews to the gas!” and Pro-Gaza protesters on Kurfürstendamm, Berlin, yelled, “Jews, Jews, cowardly swine.” In Berlin police banned protestors from using the rallying cry "Jews to the Gas" and charges were filed against the sermon by a radical imam calling on worshippers at Berlin's Al-Nur mosque to

²⁰http://www.linguistik.tu-berlin.de/menue/mitarbeiterinnen/professorinnen/monika_schwarz-friesel/forschungsprojekte/

murder "Zionist Jews. In Dortmund, Frankfurt and Gelsenkirchen, anti-Israel protesters chanted, " Hamas Hamas Juden ins gas!" (" Hamas Hamas Jews to the gas!"); demonstrators in Essen shouted, "*Scheiss Juden!*" ("Jewish shit"). The protestors are largely young, both immigrants and native Germans, many of Middle Eastern origin and of all ideological colors.

During July-August, cemeteries were desecrated in Staakow, Aachen, Sondershausen and Gröbzig.

Two months later, in view of the worsening of the situation for the Jewish community and the high level of violence, Chancellor Angela Merkel, President Joachim Gauck as well as high-ranking religious and political leaders participated in a "Stand-Up: Jew-Hatred-Never Again!" rally organized on 14 September by the Central Council of Jews in Germany in the heart of Berlin's government district, the Brandenburg Tor, near the national Holocaust memorial. Chancellor Merkel declared that "It is our national and civic duty to fight antisemitism". But the crowd, of ca 6000-8000 that gathered there, organized by the Central Council of the Jewish Communities in Germany, was far from representative of the *Mehrheitsgesellschaft*; instead, it mainly represented the worried members of the Jewish communities, who were hoping in vain for an act of solidarity from the civil society that failed to join them, out of apathy, ignorance or underestimating the phenomenon. ". At the time of the rally, antisemitic smearings were reported from several sites in Berlin-Tiergarten, such as "Scheis Jude Baby Killa" (org. orthography) on the Haydn-Mozart-Beethoven monument and "Juden Raus" on public signs.

Again, a fact which has been observed in many western European countries is the discrepancy between official declarations of the representatives of the government and the behavior of the civil society. As early as July, during the heights of antisemitic manifestations, German president Joachim Gauck had asked for more civil courage (*Zivilcourage*) to fight this dangerous phenomenon, which Chancellor Angela Merkel had called an attack on freedom and tolerance.

Although criminal acts with extreme right wing background show a decrease, 10,541 acts compared to 11,761 in 2013, and the same trend also can be observed in violent incidents, which decreased from 574 in 2013 to 496 in 2014, there has been a significant rise in attacks on foreigners, including several arson attacks.

Due to the national debate about Islamist terror groups, as well as a sharp increase in the numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers arriving in Germany, xenophobic offenses have been on the rise throughout the country in 2014, according to Federal Criminal Police Office chief Holger Muench. The Office for the Defense of the Constitution, counts 22,000 far-right extremists, among them 25% neo-Nazi. Almost half of these extremists are considered to be ready to use violence.

PEGIDA, a protest movement of "Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the Occident", which was founded in October 2014 in Dresden by Lutz Bachmann, draws tens of thousands of people to their Monday demonstrations in many German cities, in what has been called the biggest anti-immigrant protests since the country's unification. The movement is supported by football hooligans and neo-Nazis. Josef Schuster, head of the Central Council, warns that the fear of Islamist terror is being "instrumentalized" to mobilize the masses, who are being indoctrinated with hatred. Several antisemitic manifestations were observed during these demos. Despite attempts to distance itself from affiliations with far-right groups, PEGIDA has previously joined forces with neo-Nazi elements. In Germany; its founder Lutz Bachmann resigned in January 2015 after it

emerged that he had posted a photograph of himself as Hitler on his Facebook page with the caption: "He's back".

Hungary, Romania and Slovakia / Dr. Raphael Vago

Hungary

The most complex and contradictory developments in Europe during 2014 took place in Hungary, which by the beginning of 2015 continued to reflect the deep divisions in Hungarian political life, between the center-right FIDESZ, the extremist right wing Jobbik and the liberal-left, over Hungary's past: the need to face the fate of its almost 600,000 Jews who perished in the Holocaust and evaluate the inter-war and war time Horthy regime. 2014 saw the intensification of debates and differences of opinion accompanying the events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary. In fact 2014 became a test case for the delicate balance and relationship between various parts of Hungarian society, the media and the political spectrum. The year 2014, which was designated by the Hungarian government and the Jewish community for a series of events and activities in Hungary and abroad, became the focal point of strong differences of opinion not only concerning the politics of memory in today's Hungary, but also the rise of antisemitism, and the government's handling of those issues. In the context of the widening gulf in the public and political discourse, yet another front was opened, with the deep differences between the Jewish community leadership and the government. Several forums of high level dialogues took place and their format continues in 2015 in an effort to the cancel the boycott and refusal by the Jewish community to participate in some major projects and plans during 2015, including rejection of approved grants for various activities planned for 2014.

In the words of Rabbi Schlomo Koves, Jews can now feel antisemitism in the street, although physical attacks on Jews are rare. Acts of vandalism against Jewish targets continue, the most notable one in March 2015 when 20 graves were vandalized in the town of Gyongyos, including the scattering of human remains, which was described by the head of the small local Jewish community as "unprecedented", and by Prime Minister Orbán, as a "barbaric deed". (see The Times of Israel, 23 March 2015)

Public opinion surveys on the level of antisemitism are usually disputed and debated, questioning the methods of research, the samples and the questions – in Hungary and elsewhere. Perhaps as a characteristic attitude to the various approaches and often the media's need to generalize, one Hungarian newspaper referred in its headline to one such sample of 1200 persons, as "Last year the Hungarian was an antisemite as he was in 2013" (see Nepszava, 26 March, 2015) – describing the results which indicated a certain trend towards more extremist antisemitic attitudes.

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 and emphasize Hungary's alleged loss of sovereignty in March 1944, during the German occupation, in an attempt to relativize Hungary's role in the destruction of its Jewry.

This aspect was highlighted by an ongoing public debate and demonstrations focusing on a controversial statue erected in July 2014 on Freedom Square in Budapest, never yet officially inaugurated; it depicts Germany's imperial eagle striking down on archangel Gabriel, Hungary's guardian angel, symbolizing Hungary's innocence versus Nazi aggression, in commemoration of 19 March 1944, the date of the Nazi occupation of Hungary. On the other hand, continuing opposition to the statue, among others in the form of a counter-exhibit "Living Memorial" reflects the attitudes of wide segments of the Hungarian public, not only Jews, that the statue deflects Hungary's responsibility for the Holocaust.

Another major bone of contention is the major project on the "House of Fates", a planned educational center which became the focus of ongoing debates claiming that the project's aims are not clear, that the voice of the Jewish community and its major organization, MAZSIHISZ's, has not been taken into consideration and has not been sufficiently involved in the plans. (see numerous references in Hungarian Spectator, Galamus Csoport, HVG, 168Ora, Elet es Irodalom, Nepszabadsag and other Hungarian media outlets)

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 a feeling by the Hungarian government that Hungary is unjustly being criticized, have also affected and strained relations between the Hungarian government and the major Jewish organization in Hungary, MAZSIHISZ, as well as 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; this step was also backed by Jewish organizations abroad, and, as Rabbi Andrew Baker, the American Jewish Committee's Director of International Affairs stated: "the efforts of the Hungarian government to rewrite history are absolutely traumatic". (JTA, 11 February 2014, Haaretz, February 2014) In this spirit, the leading historian of the Holocaust in Hungary, and Holocaust survivor, Randolph L. Braham, returned a prestigious state award to the Hungarian government in protest of the rewriting of history in Hungary. (see AP, 26 January 2014)

The political polarization in Hungary is 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, as noted by sources within and outside of Hungary. Headlines, such as "Is Hungary Sliding Back to Nazi-Era Anti-Semitism?" (cnnnews, 19 March 2014) must be of concern to the government, the opposition and civil society.

It must be emphasized that the Hungarian government, through its representatives and diplomats abroad, such as in Israel, have actively participated in all events commemorating the tragedy of Hungarian Jewry, and have spoken of Hungary's role, responsibility and "shameful" role in the Holocaust, as Prime Minister Orban expressed it in January 2015 on the occasion of the International Holocaust Day. (see AFP, January 2015). Hungary's ambassador to Israel, Nagy Andor who represented Hungary in numerous public and academic events in Israel, during 2014 expressed in clear terms Hungary's assumption of responsibility for its role in the Holocaust, and

in opposing any forms of antisemitism. In the past few years criticism has been leveled against Hungary, claiming that the government often speaks in two voices – one at home, not blocking, even promoting historical revisionism, while acting abroad with a continuing commitment to take responsibility for Hungary's role in the Holocaust of its Jewry.

Having become the chair for the next year of IHRA – the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, in March 2015, Hungary will have to prove its commitments to the memory of the Holocaust and to combating all forms of racism and anti-Semitism.

During the "Protective Edge" operation in Gaza in summer 2014, there were small scale anti-Israeli demonstrations with the participation of Palestinians along with extremist politicians from Jobbik. Signs and slogans such as: "Zionist murderers", "Terrorist Israel" abounded. (see, Free Hungary. 17 July, 2014) The leader of Jobbik, Gabor Vona spoke out against the "baby murderer Israeli state". (see freehungary.hu 25 July, 2014)

Thousands participated at a major interfaith rally at the main Budapest synagogue with the participation of Israel's Ambassador, Ilan Mor, while a counterdemonstration was held by Jobbik. (see JTA, 29 July, 2014) The numerous extremist sites, as kuruc.info – from within and outside of Hungary continued their vicious antisemitic and anti-Roma propaganda.

However, an interesting trend could be observed by the end of 2014, namely a slow process of internal divisions and new voices from Jobbik, as the Party leader, Gabor Vona, struck a more moderate tone, even showing understanding towards the pain of all victims of suffering. While it is too early to evaluate whether this change of tone, is tactical or of a more strategic nature, it does reflect Vona's view that by reducing the antisemitic and anti-Roma racist attitudes, Jobbik can penetrate deeper into further segments of Hungarian society. (see Hungarian Spectrum, March 2015)

There is no doubt that Hungary remains high on the map of antisemitic alerts among European countries. Much of the present trends in antisemitism are directly related to the ongoing process of trying to establish a national narrative on Hungary's past in the inter-War and during the Second World War, as well as its role in the Hungarian Holocaust. It seems clear that just as 2014 was a year of major tests – with the events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary, so 2015 will also be judged by the government's record in combating racism and antisemitism.

Romania

Antisemitism in Romania is characterized by a relatively few violent incidents, sporadic cases of vandalism against Jewish targets such as cemeteries and synagogues, but a continuing trend justifying Romania's wartime regime of Antonescu, revival of groups and movements spreading the ideas of the pro-Nazi Iron Guard, and various forms of Holocaust denial. As Romania's then President Basescu 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 2014, leaders of the Jewish community and Romania's leadership stressed Romania's recognition of the Holocaust and the need to teach the legacy of Holocaust and combat antisemitism.

The effectiveness of rapid and strong responses to antisemitic events was proved by the protests of MCA Romania,(The Center for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism) a major monitoring and activist organization, the leadership of the Federation of the Jewish Communities led by Dr. Aurel Vainer, who frequently raises issues on antisemitism and historical revisionism in the Romanian Parliament, where he is a member, and by the Elie Wiesel Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania which is also very active in responding and acting against any form of racism, antisemitism and Holocaust denial.

In June 2014 the governments of Romania and Israel held the second round of intergovernmental consultations. The Romanian government delegation was led by Prime Minister Victor Ponta (see Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 24 June 2014), who declared in an interview to the Jerusalem Post (25 June 2014) that there is no antisemitism in Romania. Similarly, in numerous public and academic events, the Ambassador of Romania to Israel, Andrea Pastarnac has emphasized Romania's recognition of its responsibility for the Holocaust, in promoting Holocaust education and combating antisemitism. Romania is already planning several major events in anticipation of 2016, when it will assume the yearly chairmanship of IHRA- the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Events linked to the past and current trends continue to figure in Romania's public and political scene. In December 2014, Romania's Ambassador to Armenia, Sorin Vasile was recalled over an antisemitic joke using Jewish stereotypes and homophobic statements, at a speech at the American University in Erevan. A complaint about his speech was initiated by MCA Romania. (See, JTA/The Times of Israel, 10 December 2014)

A major scandal erupted when Romania's President, Klaus Johannis decorated Octav Bojza, an anti-Communist political activist and President of the Association of Former Political Prisoners in Romania, who has been accused by MCA Romania of praising "fascists who murdered Jews during the Holocaust".(see, "Romanian watchdog group protests honoring fascist sympathizer", JTA, 23 January 2015) Following the criticism, Bojza told the Adevarul daily that he was "not antisemitic" and that he "rejects extremism of any sort".

The printed and electronic media often publish facts and details about the history of the Holocaust in Romania, such as in item in Ziare.com , whose title gives the essence of the article, "Jews in Transnistria – when the Romanians were their butchers" (see Ziare com. 30 January 2014)

The continuing forms of Holocaust denial, the myth of the Red Holocaust caused by the Jewish communists, figure frequently in the Iron Guard's internet publications, such as "Cuvantul Legionar". An article in "Revista 22 " (15 May 2014) called attention to the numerous antisemitic publications and web sites, which should not exist in a normal country which is a member of the EU; the author, Anca Manolescu

presented some quotations from such sites, including allegations that "Nazi Germany was provoked by the Jewish mafia", and reference to "the Zionist paranoia called Holocaust".

During Operation Protective Edge in the summer of 2014, there were no significant anti-Israeli expressions or demonstrations, aside from the extremist web sites.

Slovakia

The activities and impact of extremist groups or persons must often be seen on a larger perspective which would enable to evaluate ongoing trends on a longer time framework. Such an approach should be applied in evaluating the fluctuations in the influence and presence of extremism in Slovakia.

As it was noted in Anti-Semitism Worldwide 2013, 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 and 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% of the votes".(Daily Stormer, 24 November 2013) This electoral victory was significant, as in the last two parliamentary elections the People's Party-Our Slovakia gained only a 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 was the possibility of a growing impact of right-wing extremism in Slovak mainstream politics, by the election of an extremist politician as regional governor, impact on regional politics, that, like the Hungarian Jobbik, indicates signs of growing extremism among Slovak voters; at the EU level – there is yet another indication of the strengthening of extremist parties and movements, not on the fringes of political life, but enjoying wider support from frustrated elements in society.

During the period under review - from late 2013 to spring 2015, Kotleba's activities in the Banska-Bystrica region focused on divisive local issues – local scandals, facing charges of financial irregularities, anti-EU, anti-US statements, but generally he has refrained from voicing extremist ideas, while never backtracking from his original ideas. Thus, his influence may, in the long run, become a danger to democratic stability, as an extremist politician riding high on the wave of xenophobia and historical revisionism may gradually gain more respectability and acceptance not only by fringe groups, but by more mainstream segments of public opinion, as a "normal politician".

The attempts to rehabilitate Tiso and his wartime regime are a constant feature of Slovak antisemitism and historical revisionism, as noted in the past researches of Pavol Mestan, the Director of the Museum of Jewish Culture in Bratislava (see *Antisemitism 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 wartime Nazi allied puppet state led by Jozef Tiso. A march by neo-Nazis took place in March 2014, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the "independent" Slovak State was as usual countered by a demonstration and supported by Bratislava's mayor. (*Slovak Spectator*, 17 March 2014) A similar demonstration in March 2015 in Bratislava did not result in clashes between the extremists commemorating the wartime Fascist state and an anti-fascist counter demonstration, as the two groups were separated by the police. (*Slovak Spectator*, 16 March 2015) The counter-protest was organized by the "Bratislava without Nazis Initiative".

Antisemitic rhetoric, also among Catholic priests continued. A Slovak priest, Emil Floris said, in a mass in Cadca, Northern Slovakia, that the Jews are to blame for their Holocaust, and the same may happen to the Romanies (Gypsies). In his speech, the cleric not only used antisemitic clichés but warned that because of the behavior of the Roma – "who abuse system and the charity of the people", the same may happen to them. The speech of the Catholic priest was condemned among others, by Lucia Kollarova, the spokeswoman of for the Jewish Religious Communities in Slovakia. (see *Prague Post*, 16 September 2014)

It should be noted that extremism in Slovakia focuses on the one hand on historical revisionism, defending the record of the fascist puppet Slovak state led by Jozef Tiso, and discrimination against the Roma population.

The Slovak government and society is continuing to cope with the country's role in the Holocaust of Slovak Jewry. In a meeting marking the 73rd anniversary of the introduction of anti-Jewish legislation, Prime Minister Robert Fico apologized for Slovakia's actions during the Holocaust and spoke on the "mad ideas of fascism". (see *Prague Post*, 10 September 2014) Those deeds, declared Fico, bring everlasting shame on those who participated in them. At the same time, they are a strong warning against it ever happening again". The meeting was attended by President Andrej Kiska and Pavel Paska, the Speaker of the Parliament.

According to the official Slovak viewpoint, "while the amount of racially motivated crime is in decline, extremists are adopting increasingly sophisticated ways of spreading their message online". (see, *Government taking note of online extremism in Slovak Spectator*, 21 March 2015) Racist discrimination and spread of hatred is shifting from the street to the virtual domain, according to the official view. The number of extremist crimes is decreasing; in 2014 police reported 40 crimes, compared to 54 such crimes reported in 2013. (ibid)

As in other former communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe, there were no significant anti-Israeli, antisemitic events related to Operation Protective Edge in summer 2014.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Miroslav Lajcak visited Israel in November 2014, and in his talks with Israeli Foreign Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, both sides confirmed the "excellent level of bilateral relations".

Australia / Jeremy Jones

Significant themes during the period in review included: firstly, the spread of antisemitism from the extreme margins of Australian society into mainstream discourse; and secondly, the increasingly open antisemitism associated with polemical attacks against Israel as part of the fallout of the Israel-Gaza war.

While ever antisemitism has been confined to the fringes of society, that is, to the far Right and far Left of politics, and to bigoted religious extremists within Christianity or Islam, the situation for Jews has been manageable. Antisemitism will never disappear or be destroyed. The best that can be achieved is that society as a whole deems antisemitism, and other forms of racism, to be socially unacceptable and not to be tolerated, and to be actively countered. Such an atmosphere gives Jew-haters very little breathing space from which to launch their hate propaganda and activities. The danger arises when antisemitism moves from the margins into the mainstream of society.

The mainstreaming of antisemitism was most vividly seen in the conventional media in three particular instances – the Peter Goers article in the *Sunday Mail* of Adelaide, the grossly antisemitic comments posted (and left unmoderated for up to five weeks) on the ABC *Four Corners* Facebook pages following its airing of the documentary “Stone Cold Justice”, and the Le Lievre cartoon in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. When major media outlets, including the national broadcaster, are prepared to publish or host unsubstantiated claims and irrational bias, that is combined with outright demonising of Jews, then a signal is sent that antisemitism is acceptable and even respectable, and Jew-haters feel emboldened to promote their views and to act on them.

The ABC was of particular concern, especially in its hosting of virulently antisemitic comments posted on its Facebook pages, many of which were only removed after five weeks following complaints from the ECAJ. The posted comments were in response to the Four Corners program, “Stone Cold Justice”, with its uninvestigated and unsubstantiated allegations that Jewish soldiers crucify Palestinian boys, and other equally absurd, pernicious and inflammatory claims tinged with classical antisemitic tropes.

Amid much media fanfare, Australia’s former Foreign Minister, Bob Carr, launched his autobiography, *Diary of a Foreign Minister*, in which he gave great emphasis to, and condemned, what he called the "very unhealthy level" of influence of the ‘Melbourne Israeli lobby’ on Australian politics and foreign policy. As Carr relentlessly promoted his book, these claims played in all sections of the media for many days, and were cited as an endorsement of its views by a neo-Nazi group in antisemitic flyers that were letterboxed in Sydney’s eastern suburbs.

Less prominent, but equally pernicious, were the comments of former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser in an interview on ABC Radio, which singled out Australian Jews for criticism, allegedly for dual loyalties. However, Fraser could not explain why advocacy by Jewish Australians in support of Israel is in any way different from Greek Australians, for example, seeking to influence Australian foreign policy on Cyprus, or Turkish

Australians on non-recognition of the Armenian genocide; or Palestinians on Israel. These kinds of comments from former 7 political leaders tend to legitimate, license and elicit grossly antisemitic comments in the media and online about supposed Jewish influence and control, and antisemitic conspiracy theories echoing *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

Secondly, the Israel-Gaza war produced mass protests in Australia, and the world, condemning Israel. There is a correlation between the intensity of conflict involving Israel and the level of antisemitism recorded in the western world, of which Australia is part. As observed in the 2010 report *Antisemitism Worldwide*, prepared by the Tel Aviv University based Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism, ‘since Jews and Israelis are often conflated into a single collective, events in the Middle East often provoke anti-Jewish groups and individuals into perpetrating hostile activities against local Jews’: Stephen Roth Institute, *Antisemitism Worldwide 2010 General Analysis* (European Jewish Congress), p. 1.

Although a direct, statistically reliable pattern is yet to emerge, the correlation between antisemitic incidents in Australia and major violent international incidents involving (or perceived to involve) Israel, particularly since 2005, was noted and graphed in the November 2011 *Gen08 Report on Antisemitism* (Gen08 Report No 4) at pp. 9-11. For the purposes of this report, these protests were significant, but not because of the views they expressed about the war which, whether well or poorly founded, were a legitimate part of discourse in a democracy. Rather, their significance lay in the antisemitism that was exhibited through slogans and images on placards and banners, and through comments, images and links on the Facebook events pages of the protests. A predominant theme was the equating of Israel with Nazi Germany, the Jewish Star of David with the Nazi swastika, and Zionism with Nazism.

At any given protest in Sydney, the majority of placards had either overt or subtle antisemitic themes.

There were very few public condemnations of the antisemitism of the protesters. Instead, the media and political focus was on the Islamist nature of the protests, especially in Sydney, as exhibited by the proliferation of Hezbollah and jihadi flags. Despite the media condemnation of the presence of these flags, the fact that such flags are freely flown in abundance on the main streets of Australian cities, suggests a deterioration in political sensibilities within certain segments of Australian society which might in time bear adversely upon the Jewish community.

A couple of other matters need to be briefly mentioned here. The invasion of a school bus in Sydney in August by a group of drunken louts, and the threats and intimidation they directed at young Jewish children on board, had a major impact. In the immediate aftermath, Jewish parents were quoted in the media as being afraid to send their children to school. When Jewish children are under attack, as they undoubtedly were in this instance, this indicates a depth of antisemitism that must ring alarm bells. It was heartening to see that this horrific incident was condemned by many outside the Jewish community.

Brendon O’Connell was released from prison in January; he remains unrepentant, and gives voice to his antisemitism on his new website and in more videos. Charges of

antisemitism within the anti-Israel movement have forced the movement to respond, but the predominant response to date has been denial and an unwillingness to face up to unpleasant truths about why the line their movement takes attracts such a large volume of raw hatred of Jews.

The author of this Report, in an article published last December, foreshadowed the year that followed:

Jews in Australia, as elsewhere around the world, worship, study, and work, under the protection of high fences, armed guards, and other security apparatus. This is due to physical attacks over the last three decades, and continuing threats. It will remain the case for the foreseeable future.

Violence does not occur in a vacuum. It is words, when given free reign, which create a poisonous atmosphere for those targeted by racism. It is words that incite hatred and violence.

For a diverse society, such as Australia's, to be harmonious, it is imperative that all Australians, regardless of race or religion, are able to live without harassment and hatred, without vilification and violence. Antisemitism is pervasive and pernicious. It targets Jews but continues to be a destructive force to all others in its reach. Countering antisemitic and other racist expressions is therefore in everyone's interests.²¹

That sums up the overall phenomenon of antisemitism in Australia during the year in review.

In terms of antisemitic incidents involving physical attacks and threats, which is a more narrow focus, details, tables and analysis are provided in Chapter 2, “Antisemitic Incidents”. The year in review began with a vicious physical assault in Bondi against five Jews walking home on the Sabbath, and ended with the fallout from the Israel-Gaza war and neo-Nazi leaflets being letterboxed on the Jewish New Year in Sydney suburbs with a high percentage of Jewish residents. These events bookended a year of heightened antisemitic activity in Australia in comparison to the previous year.

Overall, the number of reports of antisemitic incidents logged by the Jewish community roof bodies in each State and the ACT, the Community Security Groups, and the ECAJ, increased from 231 in 2013 to **312 in 2014**, an annual increase of 35.06%. Other organisations and individuals also received reports of incidents that may or may not have been passed on to the Jewish State roof bodies, the Community Security Groups, or to ECAJ, and it is known anecdotally that many other incidents, especially of casual anti-Jewish racism, are not formally reported at all.

France / Jean Yves Camus

The terrorist attacks in Paris, which hit the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo on 7 January 2015, followed by an attack on a kosher supermarket two days later, have to be viewed in the broader context of an unprecedented level of anti-Jewish violence that was documented during the previous year. Many pro-Palestine demonstrations that vilified Israel during the fighting in Gaza were tainted by crude antisemitism in the disguise of Islamist or Far-Left “anti-Zionism”. While the extreme right party

²¹ <http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=15786>,

Front National, polled 25% in the European elections of May 2014, and still promotes legislation that would considerably and negatively affect Jewish communities here, it is not involved into antisemitic violence. The extra-parliamentary extreme right is marginal. It maintains its traditional prejudices against the Jews and Israel and seems to find a common working ground with the proponents of the antisemitic conspiracy theories such as those of the infamous comedian Dieudonné M'Bala M'Bala, who is popular among second or third generation immigrants and part of the “anti-system”, alternative left.

The Statistics

According to the statistics of the Conseil représentatif des institutions juives de France (CRIF), which are consistent with those of the French authorities, the number of antisemitic incidents reached 851, compared to 423 in the preceding year. This represents 51% of the hate violence against minorities, whereas the Jews account for less than 1% of the overall population of 66 million. CRIF rightfully explains that the 30% rise of “Racist” incidents in France during 2014 is in fact exclusively due to the rise of antisemitism: violence and threats directed at other ethnic/religious groups such as the Arab-Muslim and black people, have decreased by 5%. There exist no reliable figures for what the Muslim organizations call “Islamophobia”, a broad term which can include criticism of Islam, which is totally legal in the context of French secularism. However the *Observatoire national contre l'islamophobie*, set up by the umbrella organization of Islam in France (the Conseil français du culte musulman, CFCM), filed complaints with the police for 130 incidents. As a matter of record, the same institution reports that there are between 2500 and 3,000 mosques in the country, whereas an estimated 300 synagogues are active.

The Jewish community is estimated at roughly half a million people. According to Erik Cohen's survey of the Jewish population in France²², 50% of those live in the Paris area, which include part of what is mistakenly known as the “banlieues”, that is, decayed suburbs where those with low-incomes, including immigrants, live. Cohen notes other large communities, numbering between 20,000 and 50,000, in and around Marseille, Nice, Lyon and Strasbourg, but the Jews in those areas represent only 8,72%; 6,68%; 4,08 and 3,80 of the overall population, respectively. This demographic distribution almost exactly matches the figures of antisemitic incidents, 384 of which took place in the greater Paris area (including the two cities of Sarcelles and Créteil), while 42 occurred in the Marseille area; 32 on the Riviera (Nice area), 68 in the Lyon area (including the city of Villeurbanne, a stronghold of the Jewish community) and 17 in Strasbourg. Toulouse, where the Ozar Hatorah killing took place in 2012, was also badly hit, as there were 34 incidents against the 20,000 strong Jewish community.

Nature of the Incidents

Not only the number, but also the nature of the incidents shows that the situation is deteriorating. In 2014, there were 241 violent acts, compared to 105 in the previous year. The number of threats has risen from 318 to 610. In 2014, the number of acts of vandalism/defacement of property rose to an unprecedented height, with an all-time record of 126. Physical assault also rose to an all-time high since 2008, with 108

²² Cohen, *The Jews of France at the turn of the Third Millenium. A Sociological and Cultural analysis*. The Rappaport Center for Assimilation Research, Bar Ilan University.

actions. The highest number of incidents (62) was in July and those were linked to the demonstrations against Israeli military actions in Gaza. Nevertheless, in those months when no exceptional strife occurred in the Middle-East, over 10 incidents took place.

The most serious incidents in 2014 were:

- 13 July: A mob of several hundred leaves a pro-Gaza demonstration in Paris and tries to attack those who were attending a rally in support of Israel at the synagogue on rue de la Roquette. 5 Jews were hurt. The attackers clashed with members of the Jewish Defense League (JDL), which was mistakenly held responsible for the incident.
- 20 July: Both a pro-Palestine and a JDL rally are banned in Sarcelles. The pro-Palestine demonstrators burn several Jewish shops to the ground.
- 1 December: Three young males of West African and North African origin break into the home of a Jewish family in Créteil and steal valuables and money. One of them rapes the family's son's girlfriend. They are quickly arrested and admit that this was a premeditated burglary, with the victims selected on the basis of their religion and the assumption that "Jews have money".

Although the attack took place in Brussels, Belgium, it is to be noted that the terrorist who shot and killed two Israeli citizens at the Jewish Museum there on 24 May was a French national. Mehdi Nemmouche (b.1985) was arrested in Marseille a few days later, and it is believed that he planned to carry on another attack, possibly on a Jewish target.

The Perpetrators

The perpetrators of terrorist attacks that are carried out in the name of the global Jihad are acting on behalf of either Al Qaeda or ISIS. An estimated one thousand French nationals are known to have either flown to Syria in order to fight with Al Nosra Front or ISIS, or to be part of cells which recruit and support them. However, attacks targeting the army, the police and government buildings are on the rise; although they do not target the Jews, they are proof that people of Muslim background, who are not specifically observant and who are not linked to any terrorist cell, are ready to commit "lone wolf" actions, such as those in the cities of Joué-lès-Tours, Dijon et Nantes in December 2014. One specific concern which the French Government is now trying to deal with is the increasing number of prison inmates who are detained because of their radical Islamist activity and are trying to attract fellow inmates, jailed for petty crime, into the Jihad. The Intelligence Agency keeps track of 152 inmates who are considered "dangerous" and "proselytizing".

It is to be remembered that France is a secular country where the Constitution does not recognize minorities as such and where it is prohibited by law to register one's ethnic or religious affiliation. Therefore it is difficult to know the number of Muslims (estimated at between 4 and 6 million), or even the religious/ethnic background of the perpetrators of antisemitic incidents. On 14 November 2014 the think-tank Fondation pour l'innovation politique (Fondapol, close to the Right UMP

party) published a survey of anti-Jewish prejudices²³ which stirred controversy because of its findings.

Radical Muslim Organizations Involved in “Anti-Zionist” Activity

Apart from individuals who are acting on their own behalf and do not have a grassroots following, such as the imam of Drancy, Hassan Chalghoumi, and to a lesser extent the chairman of the CFCM, Dalil Boubakeur, the Muslim organizations in France are either unwilling or unable to speak out against the outbursts of antisemitism which are now a common occurrence during the pro-Palestine demonstrations and events. The Union des organisations islamiques de France (UOIF), which is aligned with the Muslim Brotherhood, continued to invite controversial scholars such as Tariq Ramadan, his more radical brother Hani and Imam Hassan Iquioussen, to its annual conference in Le Bourget. The April 2014 conference took place after the mobilization of the Catholic Traditionalists, the Conservative Right and the extreme right, including FN, against same-sex marriage (which was voted on by Parliament in 2013) and the gender theory, taking up to 400,000 people to the streets. Ludovine de la Rochère, the head of the pro-life, anti-gay movement, was invited to the UOIF conference. Even more controversial was the invitation to Farida Belghoul, a close associate of Alain Soral in his campaign against teaching gender theory in public schools and a strident opponent of the Jewish organizations since she left the anti-Racist “SOS Racisme” movement in 1983, on the grounds that it was a puppet of the Israeli-controlled Union of Jewish Students”(UEJF).

The Anti-Zionist Radical Left

The line between anti-Zionism and antisemitism can be drawn quite clearly, with regard to the attitudes of both the Radical Left and Right. We consider that the criticism of the policies of Israel as a state is legitimate, as long as:

- One recognizes the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign state within borders that are to be agreed upon and alongside a Palestinian state to be created
- One recognizes the right of the Jews of the Diaspora to come and live in Israel
- The State of Israel is not equated with Nazi Germany and its actions and policies are not equated with a so-called “genocide” of the Palestinians.
- The opposition to Israel as a state and Zionism as an ideology does not make use of the antisemitic conspiracy theories of Jewish and/or Israeli world domination

In line with this definition, the overwhelming majority of the French radical left parties and groups do not support an antisemitic agenda. This is the case of the Front de Gauche (an alliance of the Communist Party and Syriza or Podemos-like Parti de Gauche), which stands for the Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 boundaries and the right of the Palestinians to return.

However, such parties have constantly equated the Israeli policy towards the Palestinian and Arab-Israeli with “apartheid” and they are promoting the boycott of Israeli goods and institutions by taking part into the “Boycott, Désinvestissement,

²³ Dominique Reynié: *L'antisémitisme dans l'opinion publique française : nouveaux éclairages*. Link : <http://www.fondapol.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/CONF2press-Antisemitisme-DOC-6-web11h51.pdf>

Sanctions” (BDS) campaign. The boycott of Israel is illegal under French legislation. However law suits filed against boycotters have resulted in contradictory decisions in the French courts, some of which have fined the defendants, while others have been acquitted. Apart from the Front de Gauche, the main Leftist signatories of the BDS appeal are the Trotskyite Nouveau Parti Anticapitaliste (NPA), the Parti des Indigènes de la République (PIR), which claims that France remains a colonialist country in the way it is dealing with its citizens of immigrant origin and several anarchist organizations. The campaign relies on a coalition of the Radical Left with the major immigrant associations from the Maghreb, the radical pro-Palestine organizations (International Solidarity Movement, the grassroots Comités Palestine, CAPJPO-Europalentine and Génération Palestine) and the representatives of political Islam who follow the Swiss theologian Tariq Ramadan (Collectif des Musulmans de France) or the late Sheikh Abdessalam Yassine’s Moroccan party Justice and Spirituality. The major pro-Palestine organization in France, Association France-Palestine Solidarité (AFPS) is an observer in the BDS campaign. It is traditionally aligned with the Alternative left and its charter promotes “the creation of an independent, sovereign and viable Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital”. The fact that its leadership stands for a two-state solution as well, as its secularism has resulted in a segment of the pro-Palestine movement taking a more radical stand, promoting a “multi-ethnic, pluri-religious State” and supporting the armed “Resistance”, even when it comes from such Islamist groups as Hamas.

ISM, Génération Palestine and CAPJPO are the groups which are the closest to Hamas. Hamas itself has a French-speaking website: <http://french.palinfo.com/site/pages>. During the banned demonstrations which took place in Paris in July 2014, a new movement called Gaza Firm emerged, which numbered around 50 activists and was involved in the most serious incidents. It seems to be a coalition of black supremacists, radical Muslims and followers of the extreme right thinker Alain Soral (see below).

The Front National

The FN is a legal political party which polled a record 24.8% in the May election to the EU Parliament. It was founded in 1972 as an umbrella organization for all factions of the traditional extreme right, which, after 1945, was confined to political impotency and factionalism. Its chairman, Jean-Marie Le Pen (now Honorary Chairman and MEP), made a name for himself with his blatant trivialization of the Shoah and his antagonism towards the Jews. He was replaced in 2011 by his daughter Marine (b.1968), who set a goal of making FN a coalition partner in government or the overall winner in a Presidential election. This made it necessary that the party distance itself from, and eventually fire, the openly Neo-Fascist, anti-Jewish militants and Holocaust-deniers who are still within its ranks. Before the March 2014 city council elections, when FN won 11 mayoralities and city council 1500 seats, the party suspended, and in several cases fired, a dozen candidates who were found to have used racist and/or anti-Jewish language in public or on the internet. In June 2014 Jean-Marie Le Pen, who had just been reelected a member of the European Parliament, made another antisemitic slur, claiming he was eager to “put into the furnace”, the Jewish singer Patrick Bruel and several other artists who oppose his party. It is clear that Marine Le Pen used a much different language than

her father, aged 87, when speaking about the Jews and Israel. She is neither antisemitic nor a Holocaust-denier and focuses her attacks on that part of the Muslim community which she says does not want to adapt to French culture. The party favors a two-state solution in the Middle-East and Aymeric Chauprade, an MEP and foreign policy advisor to M. Le Pen, wrote a manifesto in August 2014 which asked the extreme right to break with antisemitic conspiracy theories and rabid opposition to Israel²⁴. Chauprade, who considers Hamas and ISIS to be a deadly threat to Western civilization, opposed the resolution of the French Parliament which asked the Government to recognize the State of Palestine. One of the two MPs for the party, Marion Maréchal, abstained and her colleague Gilbert Collard, voted against.

It would be wrong to think, however, that FN has become acceptable for the Jews. On one hand, the party platform still calls for a ban on halal and kosher ritual slaughter, as well as on wearing the kippa in public space. On the other hand, Chauprade's manifesto was criticized by Marine Le Pen and was not officially endorsed by the leadership, when FN held its convention in Lyon (30 November). One of the key reasons for this refusal, and later for Chauprade being deprived of his position in the party leadership, seem to be the influence of former radical activists from the Groupe Union Défense (GUD), a Neo-Fascist student movement, on the top leadership of FN. Marine Le Pen has placed some of the FN's funding, as well as its public relations, in the hands of a handful of her friends who were involved in GUD and are now providing their expertise to the party without holding any official position. Frédéric Chatillon, Axel Loustau and Philippe Péninque are the most influential of those. In the 1990s Chatillon was the national leader of GUD and had the movement adopt a stridently anti-Zionist line with the motto “ (In Paris like in Gaza, Intifada”).

The Extra-Parliamentary Extreme Right

This segment of the political spectrum is marginal. Ten slates from the Parti de la France (PDF) led by Carl Lang, contested 2014 elections to the City Councils and won two council seats in small cities. In Vénissieux near Lyon (60,000 inhabitants), the Neo-Fascist slate received 10% on the second ballot. It was led by Yvan Benedetti and Alexandre Gabriac, the former leaders of the Oeuvre française and Jeunesses nationalistes, which had been banned in 2013. Those movements have an antisemitic agenda and remain active despite of the ban. Their leaders are now facing prosecution for operating an illegal group. The same people operate two antisemitic websites: <http://la-flamme.fr> and <http://www.jeune-nation.com>. The weekly magazine Rivarol, which was first published in 1951 and is available at newsstands, supports the same views. Most of the antisemitic publications and groups have now migrated to the Internet and Facebook, which makes it difficult to assess their real strength and influence. The most hateful anti-Jewish propaganda comes from individuals who have made a name for themselves through self-edited books or through their blogs. The most prominent such activists are Hervé Ryssen (<https://herveryssen.wordpress.com>); Boris Le Lay (<http://breizatao.com>); Florian Rouanet (<https://florianrouanet.wordpress.com>) and Daniel Conversano (<http://metatv.org/daniel-conversano-le-fascisme-a-letat-brut>). All of them are dedicated neo-Nazis with a Stürmer-like, pathological hatred of the Jews.

²⁴ <http://blog.realpolitik.tv/blog-chauprade/israel/>.

In 2014, the radical extreme right was held responsible for a few antisemitic incidents:

- In December a member of the neo-Nazi fringe group Mouvement populaire pour une nouvelle aurore (MPNA, a name reminiscent of the Greek Golden Dawn) was arrested in La Grande-Motte in Southern France, after he posted a message on Facebook which suggested the synagogue should be set afire
- On 18 July in Lyon, a banner with the slogan “Israel assassin” (Israel kills) was deployed on a synagogue by GUD activists.
- On 25 February in Paris, the “Jour de colère” (Day of Wrath”) is convened by the radical fringe of the anti-Gay marriage movement. With 20,000 people on the streets, the march federated all those on the extreme right who wanted to show their rabid hostility to the Socialist Government and especially to the then Minister of the Interior Manuel Valls, whom they believe is the spearhead of the “Jewish lobby”. The demonstration brought together all the shades of the extreme right as well as followers of Dieudonné and Alain Soral, who marched shouting: “Juif, la France n’est pas à toi” (Jew, France is not yours)

Several concerts were held by the two major skinhead movements in France: the Hammerskins (13 December in Eastern France, close to the German border) and Blood and Honour (19 April near the French- German-Swiss border). Antisemitic songs and denial of the Holocaust are routine at those events.

The Dieudonné- Soral network:

The controversial comedian Dieudonné M’Bala M’Bala, whose father comes from Cameroon, is the central figure of a cult-like network of antisemites that is active both in public life and on the Internet. As a comedian who began on the alternative left side of the political spectrum, Dieudonné can draw crowds of 5,000 to each of his shows, which mostly focus on the trivialization of the Holocaust, blatant antisemitism in the disguise of “Anti-Zionism” and antisemitic slurs targeting Jewish personalities. Since 2003, Dieudonné has become (in)famous for the 8 trials he stood for libel and antisemitism. He was convicted and sentenced each time to either heavy fines (which he never paid) or to suspended sentences. The core of his ideology is that colored people were the victims of genocide when slavery was still in force and that the magnitude of this genocide far exceeds that of the Shoah. Then he explains that the reason why the Shoah receives recognition, why slavery is still downplayed is because of the “Zionist” grip on politics, the economy and the media. From then on, he developed his ideology through his videos on You Tube, his performances and the websites which support him (the official one is: <http://www.dieudosphere.com>. See also the popular <http://quenelplus.com>). Some of his videos have had 1 million viewers and his websites rank within the top 500 of the French web. In his videos, he exposes his fight “against the system” (meaning the entire political spectrum, except the extreme right), which he pretends is controlled by the Jews. He is also a staunch supporter of Iran and last traveled there on 10 February 2015 in order to meet with former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Dieudonné has invented a gesture that has become a code for his followers: the “quenelle”. It consists of extending one’s arm towards the ground while putting the hand of the other arm on the elbow. Some have contended that this mimics an inverted Nazi salute (with the arm extended downwards and not upwards) but it can also be interpreted as meaning “f... the system”. It has become quite popular, if not fashionable, among youngsters and those who believe in conspiracy theories, especially the urban youth of immigrant descent.

On 27 December 2014, Minister Manuel Valls decided to ban Dieudonné's public performances because of their antisemitic content. This resulted in a decree taken on 6 January 2015, to the effect that State authorities should ban those shows when they thought they could result in a breach of law (incitement to racial hatred), in violent clashes outside of the venues. Several shows were then prohibited and Dieudonné went to court. Later in the month, the highest French administrative court, the Conseil d'Etat, upheld the administrative decision to ban his show. Under French legislation the Mayors, or the *Préfets* (who represent the State in the *départements*, the intermediate level of administration), can enact a ban if they suspect a venue or demonstration is an immediate and serious risk to law and order. Since 2014, the attitude of the local authorities and that of the administrative courts towards Dieudonné have varied according to the local circumstances, with freedom of speech being the rule, but with stricter control over what is said during the show, so that judiciary action can be taken even where there is no ban on it.

Dieudonné is only one half of the antisemitic conspiracy-theory ring that today brings together such strange bedfellows as hardcore "anti-Imperialist activists, the radical extreme right and black supremacists from Nation of Islam, who have served as stewards for Dieudonné. The other prominent figure is Alain Soral, a former Communist Party rank and file member, novelist, former advisor to Jean-Marie Le Pen. After breaking away from FN in 2007, they launched Egalité et Réconciliation (<http://www.egaliteetreconciliation.fr>), a group that seeks to build a bridge between the "Conservative values on moral issues and the social values of the Left". In 2014 Dieudonné and Soral announced they would launch a political party under the name Réconciliation Nationale. So far, it has not materialized. However Soral's videos and his anti-American, anti-Globalization book *Comprendre l'Empire* (2011), have reached a wide audience of several hundred thousand viewers and up to 50,000 readers respectively.

United Kingdom / Mike Whine

In 2014, 1168 antisemitic incidents were recorded by CST, making it the worst year on record for antisemitic incidents.

The total was more than double the 535 incidents recorded in 2013, and was a 25 per cent increase on the previous high of 931 incidents recorded in 2009.

The single biggest contributing factor to the high number was antisemitic reactions to the conflict in Israel and Gaza. During July, the first four weeks of Operation Protective Edge, 314 incidents were recorded, a rise of over 400 per cent from the 59 incidents recorded in July 2013, and the highest monthly total ever recorded. During August, 229 incidents were recorded compared with 48 incidents in August 2013.

The combined total of 543 incidents for the two summer months represent an increase of 407 per cent over the 107 incidents during the same period in 2013, and was more than the whole of 2013, when 533 incidents were recorded.

During the first half of the year, the level of incidents was already substantially higher than in 2013, although there was no specific trigger. Between January and June, CST

recorded 307 incidents, a 38 per cent jump over the 223 incidents recorded during the first half of 2013. Although this period preceded Operation Protective Edge, a comparison can be made with the January 2009 Operation Cast Lead, the previous Israel incursion into Gaza, when the antisemitic reaction resulted in 629 antisemitic incidents being recorded during the first six months of 2009.

It is likely that the increase in the number of incidents between January and June reflects a genuine increase in the number of incidents that are taking place, or a further improvement in the reporting of incidents to CST and the Police by members of the Jewish community and the wider public, or a combination of these two factors.

Across the two months of July and August, 29 incidents (5 per cent) involved assaults, though none was serious or life threatening. 24 per cent of incidents involved threats or abusive messages on social media.

257 of the 543 incidents recorded in July and August involved direct reference to the hostilities in Israel and Gaza, but 171 incidents recorded in those two months involved the use of language or imagery relating to the Holocaust, of which 43 showed evidence of far right political motivation or beliefs. More commonly, reference to Hitler or the Holocaust was used to taunt or offend Jews, often in relation to events in Israel or Gaza, such as the twitter hashtag #HitlerWasRight.

Also of note is that a substantial number of incidents were clustered between 28th July, when the al Shifa hospital in Gaza was reported to have been hit during the fighting in Gaza, and the 4th August, the day after a UN School was reported to have been bombed. In between, on 30th July, the UNWRA school in Gaza was hit, leading to 19 fatalities.

The increase in antisemitic incidents in 2014 was common throughout the UK, but was more pronounced in Greater London than in Greater Manchester. In the former, CST recorded 583 incidents in 2014 compared to 246 during 2013, an increase of 137 per cent. In the latter, CST recorded 309 antisemitic incidents in 2014 compared to 173 in 2013, an increase of 79 per cent. Beyond these two largest communities, CST recorded 276 incidents in 89 locations around the UK in 2014, compared to 112 incidents from 50 different locations in 2013. It is likely however that there is significant under reporting of antisemitic incidents. Both the 2013 survey of Jewish experiences and perceptions of antisemitism in the EU, published by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), and the annual Crime Survey for England and Wales, published by the Home Office, note that significant numbers of victims do not report hate crimes to the police or other agencies, such as CST.

During 2014, there were 81 violent antisemitic assaults, including one incident categorised as Extreme Violence, an increase of 17 per cent over the 69 incidents recorded in 2013. Incidents of Damage and Desecration of Jewish property increased by 65 per cent over the 49 incidents reported in 2013. This was the highest number of incidents recorded by CST in this category since 2010, when 83 such incidents were recorded.

There were 884 incidents of Abusive Behaviour recorded in 2014, an increase of 136 per cent over the 374 incidents recorded in this category in 2013, and the highest total ever recorded in this category. This category includes verbal abuse, hate mail, antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property and antisemitic content on social media.

There were 92 incidents reported to CST in the category of Threats, an increase of 142 per cent over the 138 incidents recorded in 2013. 30 incidents were recorded in the category of Literature, which comprises mass-produced antisemitic mailings and emails, rather than individual hate mail, compared with five such incidents in 2013.

CST received a physical description of the incident offenders in 340, or 29 per cent, of the 1168 antisemitic incidents recorded in 2014. Of these, 148 offenders (44 per cent) were described as 'White-Northern European'; 5 offenders (1 per cent) were described as 'White-South European'; 26 offenders (8 per cent) were described as 'Black'; 127 offenders (37 per cent) were described as 'South Asian', and 34 offenders (10 per cent) were described as 'Arab or North African'.

In 2014, the College of Policing, the professional body which advises Britain's police forces on strategy and professional standards, published guidance on Tackling Hate Crime. The chapter on antisemitic hate crime uses the Working Definition on Antisemitism originally published by the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, since replaced by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) as a guide to much contemporary antisemitism, although it is stressed that it does not have the force of law nor does it replace the definition on hate crime employed by the criminal justice system.

Also in 2014, the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR), who directed the research for the FRA Survey on Discrimination and hate crime against Jews in EU Member States, published a further analysis on Perceptions and experiences of antisemitism among Jews in the United Kingdom, using the FRA survey data from 2012, some of which had not previously been published. In their findings, JPR reported that a clear majority of respondents (close to 70 per cent) indicated that antisemitism had increased in the last five years, and over a quarter said it had increased a lot. They pointed to the internet and the media as the two most problematic arenas, with over a third suggesting that it is a 'very big problem'. Between 35 and forty per cent considered antisemitism in political life a problem, with about 10 per cent considering it 'a very big problem'. Putting these perceptions in context, it is important to note that the proportion of respondents who thought the state of the economy and unemployment were big or very big problems (90 to 100 per cent) was nearly twice as high as the number of respondents who thought that antisemitism was a big or very big problem.

Putting the data into another comparative context indicates that Jews in the UK who believe antisemitism to be a problem (48 per cent) is the lowest relative to all the other EU Member States in the FRA comparison. At the same time, most feel a strong sense of belonging to the UK.

Among the notable incidents occurring during the year, one involved Ian Campbell, a north London resident, who hurled antisemitic abuse at Jewish passengers on a bus on which he was also travelling. In October, he was sentenced to 16 week's imprisonment.

A Spurs footballer, Benoit Assou-Ekotto, was banned for three Premier League games and fined £50,000 in September for quenele tweets in a gesture of support for Nicholas Anelka who was sacked by his club in 2013 for a similar gesture. In February, the French

activist Dieudonne M'Bala M'Bala, who invented the quenelle, was banned from visiting the UK.

Two 13 year old boys who had vandalised graves at the Jewish cemetery in Blackley near Manchester in June, were convicted in October at a local youth court and banned from going near any cemeteries.

In January, the Prime Minister, launched a Holocaust Commission tasked with building a lasting memorial to avoid the “real danger” of future generations forgetting what took place. The Commission, staffed by civil servants and representatives of Jewish community bodies, including the Chief Rabbi, is due to report its findings in time for the 70th anniversary of the British liberation of Bergen-Belsen in April 2015.

The All Party Parliamentary Group against Antisemitism commissioned a Parliamentary Inquiry into the antisemitism emanating from the Operation Protective Edge, which reported early in the new-year. Additionally, and to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism, the government published a final report on its work across all government departments to combat antisemitism.

United States / ADL Audit

The total number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States increased by 21 percent in 2014 in a year marked by a violent anti-Semitic shooting attack targeting Jewish community buildings in Kansas and anti-Jewish expressions linked to the war in Gaza.

The Anti-Defamation League’s (ADL) Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents, issued today, counted a total of **912 anti-Semitic incidents** across the U.S. during the 2014 calendar year. This represents a **21 percent increase** from the 751 incidents reported during the same period in 2013, and is the first time in nearly a decade of declines where the overall number of incidents has substantially risen.

“While the overall number of anti-Semitic incidents remains lower than we have seen historically, the fact remains that 2014 was a particularly violent year for Jews both overseas and in the United States,” said Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director. “The fatal shootings in Overland Park, Kansas at a Jewish community center building and senior residence by a white supremacist whose goal was to “kill Jews” and other violent episodes were tragic reminders that lethal anti-Semitism continues to pose a threat to American Jews and larger society as well.”

Despite the increase in incidents, the total number of anti-Semitic acts still represents one of the lowest totals of anti-Semitic acts reported by ADL since it started keeping records in 1979. Still, the Audit has also identified new trends in anti-Semitic incidents, including the phenomenon of hacking attacks on community and synagogue websites by overseas hackers, which multiplied in 2014.

The 2014 calendar year was marked by several violent episodes – most notably, the shooting attack at two Jewish institutional buildings in Overland Park, Kansas carried out by a white supremacist who admitted in a jailhouse interview that he wanted to target and kill Jews. It was the first time a Jewish institution has been singled out by a lone-wolf-

style gunman since the 2009 shooting at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

The ADL Audit cited a marked increase in anti-Semitic incidents during the 50 days of conflict between Hamas and Israel beginning with air raids on July 7 and into the subsequent ground invasion in Gaza to root out Hamas rockets and tunnels. Anti-Semitism manifested on the fringe of anti-Israel movements during and after Israel's Operation Protective Edge as Jewish individuals and institutions became the targets of anti-Semitic rhetoric and acts of vandalism.

The annual ADL Audit encompasses 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.

In 2014, anti-Semitic incidents were reported in a total of 38 states and the District of Columbia. Those incidents are categorized in the ADL Audit as follows:

- Assaults: 36 incidents in 2014, compared with 31 in 2013;
- Vandalism: 363 incidents in 2014, compared with 315 in 2013;
- Harassment, threats and events: 513 incidents in 2014, compared with 405 in 2013.

“The reported increase in U.S. anti-Semitic incidents coincided with a huge upsurge in anti-Semitic attacks in Europe and elsewhere around the globe,” said Barry Curtiss-Lusher, ADL National Chair. “A number of Jewish communities, including those in France, Great Britain and Austria reported a doubling of anti-Semitic incidents over the previous year due to the conflict between Israel and Hamas. While the Jewish community here did not experience anything like the attacks overseas, the Gaza war did have an impact in terms of creating a momentary spike in incidents in the U.S.”

The Numbers: State-by-State

Continuing a consistent trend for many years, the states with the highest totals of anti-Semitic incidents were those with large Jewish populations. Once again, New York and California topped the list:

- **New York State**, with 231 incidents in 2014, up from 203 in 2013;
- **California**, with 184 incidents, up from 143;
- **New Jersey**, with 107 incidents, up from 78;
- **Florida**, with 70 incidents, up from 68;
- **Pennsylvania**, with 48 incidents, up from 43
- **Massachusetts**, with 47 incidents, up from 46.

The complete list of state-by-state figures is available on the Anti-Defamation League's website: <http://www.adl.org/>.

Anti-Semitic Activity during the Gaza War

Jewish individuals and institutions in the U.S. became targets of anti-Semitism during the Gaza war. There were 139 anti-Semitic incidents recorded in July, a substantial increase from the 54 incidents in July 2013. There were another 116 reported incidents in August, up from the 56 in August 2013. And there were 92 anti-Semitic incidents reported in September, up from 58 incidents in September 2013.

While the ADL Audit does not include criticism of Israel or Zionism, such reports are included when they cross the line from legitimate criticism to anti-Semitism by invoking classic anti-Jewish stereotypes or inappropriate Nazi imagery and/or analogies.

Public expressions of anti-Israel sentiments that demonize Jews or create an atmosphere of fear or intimidation by targeting Jewish individuals or institutions in the U.S. are counted. Such anti-Semitism was evident at many of the anti-Israel demonstrations held in cities throughout the U.S. Here are some examples of incidents linked to the Gaza conflict:

- Lowell, Massachusetts: A synagogue was vandalized with the words “Free Palestine” and “God Bless Gaza” spray painted in red on white marble. (July)
- Malibu, California: Phrases such as “Jews=Killers” and “Jews are Killing Innocent Children” were found near the entrance to a Jewish summer camp. (July)
- Boca Raton, Florida: A doctor asked if his patient was Jewish. She answered yes. The doctor responded by saying that the Jews “killed Jesus” and that current events in Israel were the result of the Jews killing Jesus. (July)
- Chicago, Illinois: Anti-Semitic leaflets, which threatened violence if Israel did not pull out of Gaza, were left on cars in a predominantly Orthodox Jewish neighborhood. (July)
- North Miami Beach: A synagogue was spray painted with swastikas and the word “Hamas” on its front entrance. (July)
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin: An anti-Israel rally outside of a synagogue chanted slogans such as “Jews and Nazis are the same; only difference is the name!” and “Hey Yid, go home!” Some protesters also threw coins at the feet of people approaching the synagogue. (July)
- Potomac, Maryland: A man received a call at 3:00 AM during which the caller threatened his life if he did not remove the Israeli flag outside his business and made a number of anti-Semitic comments. The caller called again moments later and continued the anti-Semitic rant. (August)

The ADL Audit reported an uptick in the number of online attacks by foreign hackers targeting the websites of synagogues and other Jewish organizations.

“Jewish websites in the U.S. have become a common target for hacker groups in the Arab and Muslim world,” said Mr. Curtiss-Lusher. “While past hacking efforts against Jewish institutions have mainly focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the more recent attacks are being carried out in the name of the Islamic State.”

The following is a list of selected incidents in 2014 where Jewish institutions in the U.S. were targeted by hackers or other institutions were targeted with anti-Semitic messaging:

- Albany, New York: A Jewish high school had its homepage hacked to display threatening anti-Israel messaging along with a Palestinian flag. (February)
- Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Georgia: The Moroccan Ghosts, a politically motivated hacker group that targets the websites of Jewish institutions in the United States, defaced the websites of four Jewish institutions belonging to the Union for Reform Judaism. The hackers defaced the websites with an image of an individual wrapped in a Palestinian flag and a statement saying, “When injustice becomes law ... Resistance becomes a duty.” A statement boasting about this latest cyber-attack on the Moroccan Ghosts Facebook page read: “Hacking 4 formal Zionist temples in America or in more accurate words...dirty places to conspire and plot against Palestine.” (May)
- Plantation, Florida: As Jews were celebrating the holiday of Sukkot, a hacker group calling itself “Team System Dz” attacked a temple website, redirecting visitors to a page with messages expressing support for the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.
- California, Oregon, Utah, Missouri, Massachusetts: The hacker group AnonGhost claimed responsibility for the hacking of several American universities’ websites. The hackings redirected website visitors either to pages playing a recording of the Quran and featuring a message in English that starts with the statement, “Death to All Jews... Viva Hamas, Qassam” or to a page featuring anti-Israel images and playing a song with the lyrics, “Teach the son of the Jewish woman how many times we will conquer him.” (December)

General anti-Jewish expressions on the Internet, while possibly playing a role in fomenting real-world anti-Semitism, are not counted for the purposes of the Audit unless they target a specific individual or institution.

“We know that online hate remains a serious problem, particularly on social media, where anti-Semitic hashtags such as “#HitlerWasRight” and other offensive messages became trends during the last year,” said Mr. Foxman.” We have challenged Internet and social media providers to address this issue head on, and will continue to work with our partners in the industry to help them adopt community standards that will shut down hateful, racist and offensive speech before it goes viral.”

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.

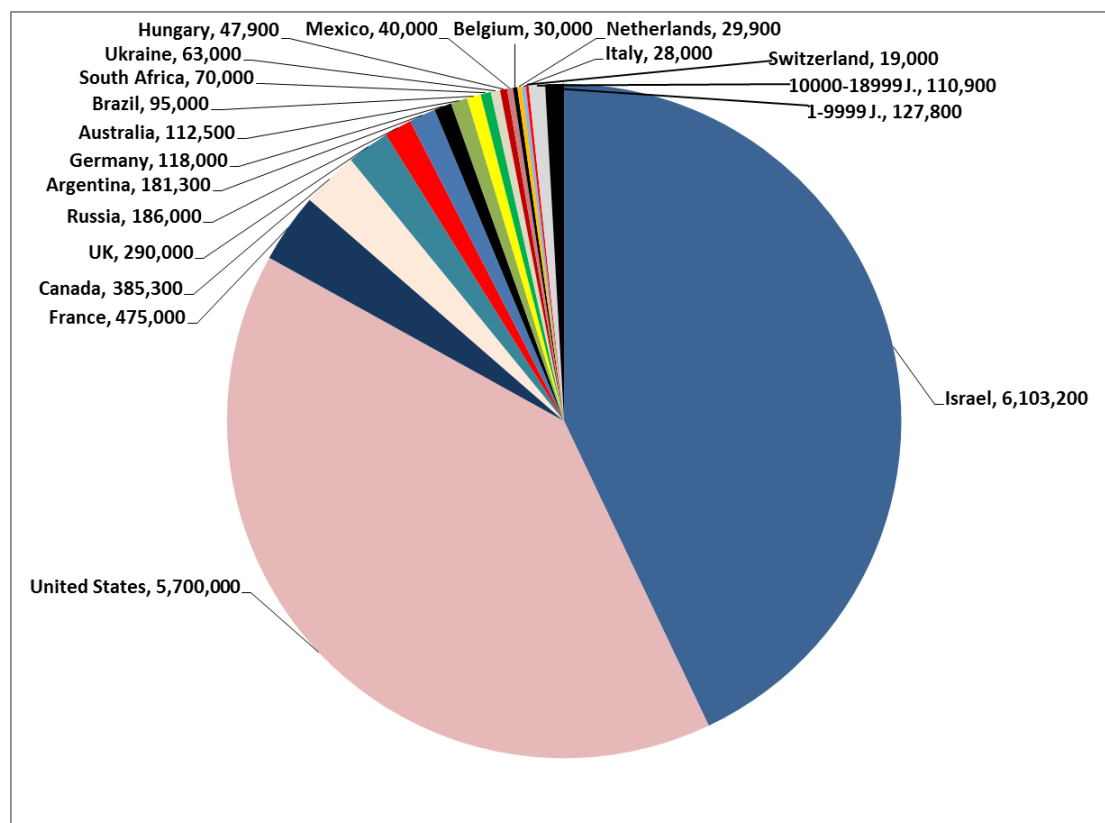
However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.

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– Largest Core Jewish Populations, 2014 / Prof. Sergio DellaPergola²⁵



Appendix B - Largest core Jewish populations, 2014

This has occurred through daily, minor, slow and diverse changes affecting human birth and death, geographical mobility, and the willingness of millions of persons to identify with a Jewish collective concept—no matter how specified in its details. At the same time, Israel’s Jewish population faces a significant demographic challenge with its gradually diminishing majority status vis-à-vis the Palestinian Arab population that lives in the same territory between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River.

Israel’s current Jewish population growth—although slower than during the 1990s—reflects a continuing substantial natural increase generated by a combination of relatively high fertility (3.0 children per Jewish woman on average in 2012) and a young age composition (27 % under age 15 and only 12 % age 65 and over as of 2012). These two drivers of demographic growth—above-replacement fertility and a balanced age composition—do not simultaneously exist among any other Jewish population worldwide, namely the US. Other than a few cases of growth due to international migration (for example, Canada, the US in the recent past, Australia, and until recently, Germany), the number of Jews in Diaspora countries tended to diminish at varying rates. The causes for these decreases are low Jewish birth rates, an increasingly elderly age composition, and a dubious balance between persons who join Judaism (*accessions*) and those who partly or completely drop their Jewish identity (*secessions*).

All this holds true regarding the *core* Jewish population, which does *not* include non-Jewish members of Jewish households, Jews who also hold another religious identification, persons of Jewish ancestry who profess another monotheistic religion, other non-Jews of Jewish ancestry, other non-Jews with family connections to Jews, and other non-Jews who may be interested in Jewish matters. Starting from the core Jewish population estimate of 14,212,800 in 2014, if we add persons who state they are partly Jewish and non-Jews who have Jewish parents, an *extended* global aggregate population estimate of 17,236,850 is obtained. By adding non-Jewish members of Jewish households, the *enlarged* estimate grows to 20,109,400. Finally, under the comprehensive three-generation and lateral provisions of Israel’s *Law of Return*, the total Jewish and non-Jewish eligible population can be roughly estimated at 22,921,500. The US holds a significantly larger *enlarged* Jewish population aggregate than Israel—roughly ten million compared to 6,451,100, respectively.

²⁵ DellaPergola, S. (2014), World Jewish Population, 2014

Appendix C - Estimated core Jewish Population, by Continents and Major Geographic Regions, 2013 and 2014 / Prof. Sergio DellaPergola^a

Region	2013			2014		Percentage change 2013-2014	Jews per 1,000 total population in 2014 ^a
	Original Number	Revised ^b		Number	Percent ^c		
		Number	Percent ^c				
World total	13,854,800	14,119,400	100.0	14,212,800	100.0	0.66	1.99
Diaspora	7,840,500	8,119,800	57.5	8,109,600	57.1	-0.13	1.14
Israel ^d	6,014,300	5,999,600	42.5	6,103,200	42.9	1.73	750.29
America total	6,189,900	6,467,900	45.8	6,468,800	45.5	0.01	6.75
North ^e	5,805,000	6,083,000	43.1	6,085,300	42.8	0.04	17.31
Central, Caribbean	56,900	56,900	0.4	56,900	0.4	0.00	0.28
South	328,000	328,000	2.3	326,600	2.3	-0.43	0.81
Europe total	1,416,400	1,417,700	10.0	1,407,200	9.9	-0.74	1.72
European Union ^f	1,105,700	1,106,900	7.8	1,103,300	7.8	-0.33	2.18
FSU ^g	270,300	270,300	1.9	263,700	1.9	-2.44	1.30
Other West	19,300	21,100	0.1	20,900	0.1	-0.95	1.52
Balkans ^f	21,100	19,400	0.1	19,300	0.1	-0.52	0.20
Asia total	6,053,700	6,039,000	42.8	6,142,000	43.2	1.71	1.45
Israel ^d	6,014,300	5,999,600	42.5	6,103,200	42.9	1.73	750.29
FSU ^e	19,600	19,600	0.1	19,100	0.1	-2.55	0.23
Other	19,800	19,800	0.1	19,700	0.1	-0.51	0.00
Africa total	74,700	74,700	0.5	74,700	0.5	0.00	0.07
Northern ^h	3,500	3,500	0.0	3,500	0.0	0.00	0.01
Sub-Saharan ⁱ	71,200	71,200	0.5	71,200	0.5	0.00	0.09
Oceania^j	120,100	120,100	0.9	120,100	0.8	0.00	3.16

a Jewish population: January 1. Total population: mid-year estimates, 2013. Source: Population Reference Bureau 2013.

b Based on updated or corrected information.

c Minor discrepancies due to rounding.

d Includes Jewish residents in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights.

e US and Canada.

f Including the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania).

g Asian regions of Russian Federation and Turkey included in Europe. Excluding the Baltic countries.

h Including Ethiopia.

i Including South Africa and Zimbabwe.

j Including Australia and New Zealand.

Appendix D: World Core Jewish Population Estimates: Original and Revised, 1945-2014 / Prof. Sergio DellaPergola

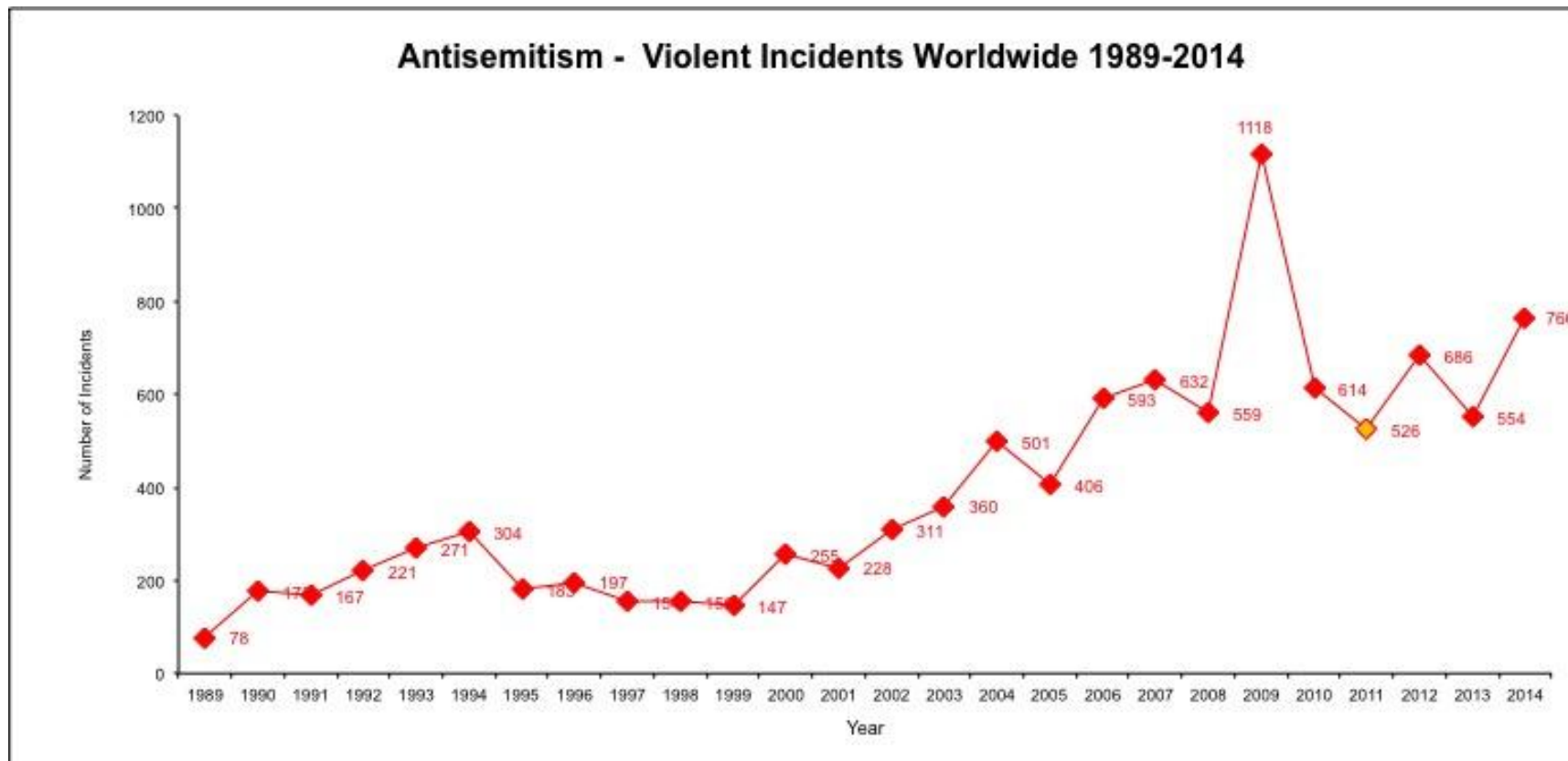
Year	World Jewish population			World total population		Jews per 1,000 total population
	Original estimate ^a	Revised estimate ^b	Annual percentage change ^c	Total (millions) ^d	Annual percentage change	
1945, May 1	11,000,000	11,000,000		2,315		4.75
1950, Jan. 1	11,303,400	11,297,000	0.57	2,526	1.76	4.47
1960, Jan. 1	12,792,800	12,079,000	0.67	3,026	1.82	3.99
1970, Jan. 1	13,950,900	12,585,000	0.41	3,691	2.01	3.41
1980, Jan. 1	14,527,100	12,819,000	0.18	4,449	1.81	2.88
1990, Jan. 1	12,810,300	12,868,000	0.04	5,321	1.74	2.42
2000, Jan. 1	13,191,500	13,150,000	0.22	6,127	1.42	2.15
2005, Jan. 1	13,034,100	13,460,000	0.47	6,514	1.23	2.07
2010, Jan. 1	13,428,300	13,854,000	0.58	6,916	1.20	2.00
2011, Jan. 1	13,657,800	13,925,000	0.51	6,998	1.19	1.99
2012, Jan. 1	13,746,100	14,011,000	0.62	7,080	1.17	1.98
2013, Jan. 1	13,854,800	14,119,400	0.77	7,162	1.16	1.97
2014, Jan. 1	14,212,800		0.66	7,243	1.13	1.96

a As published in *American Jewish Year Book*, various years. Some estimates reported here as of January 1 were originally published as of December 31 of previous year.

b Based on updated or corrected information. Original estimates for 1990 and after, and all revised estimates: The A. Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

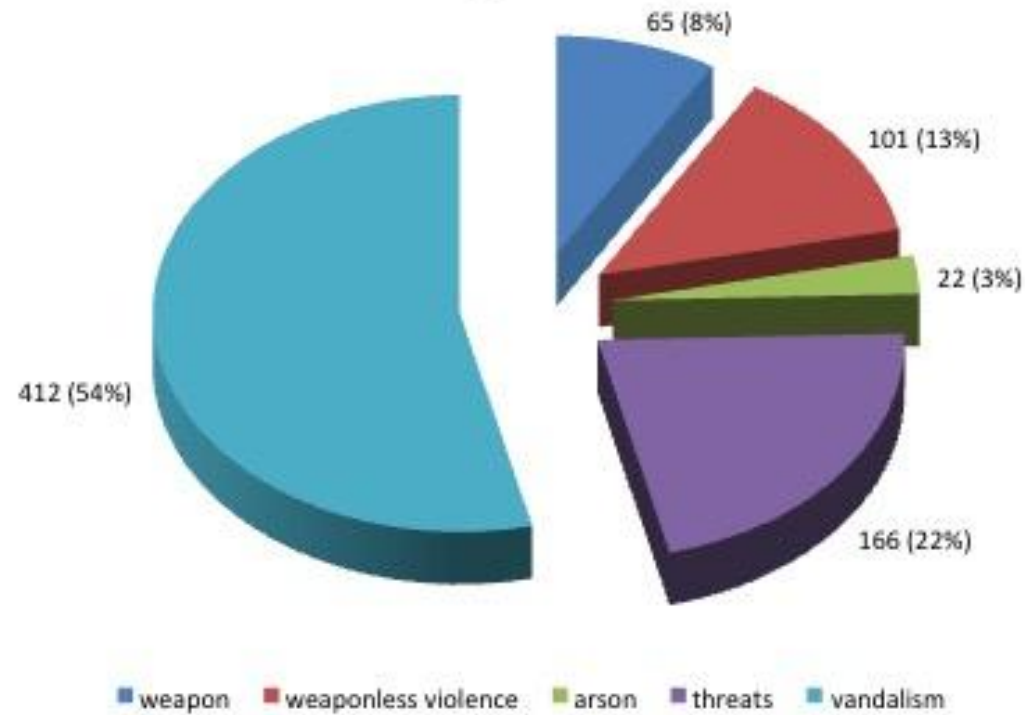
c Based on revised estimates, besides latest year.

d Mid-year estimates. Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division 2013.

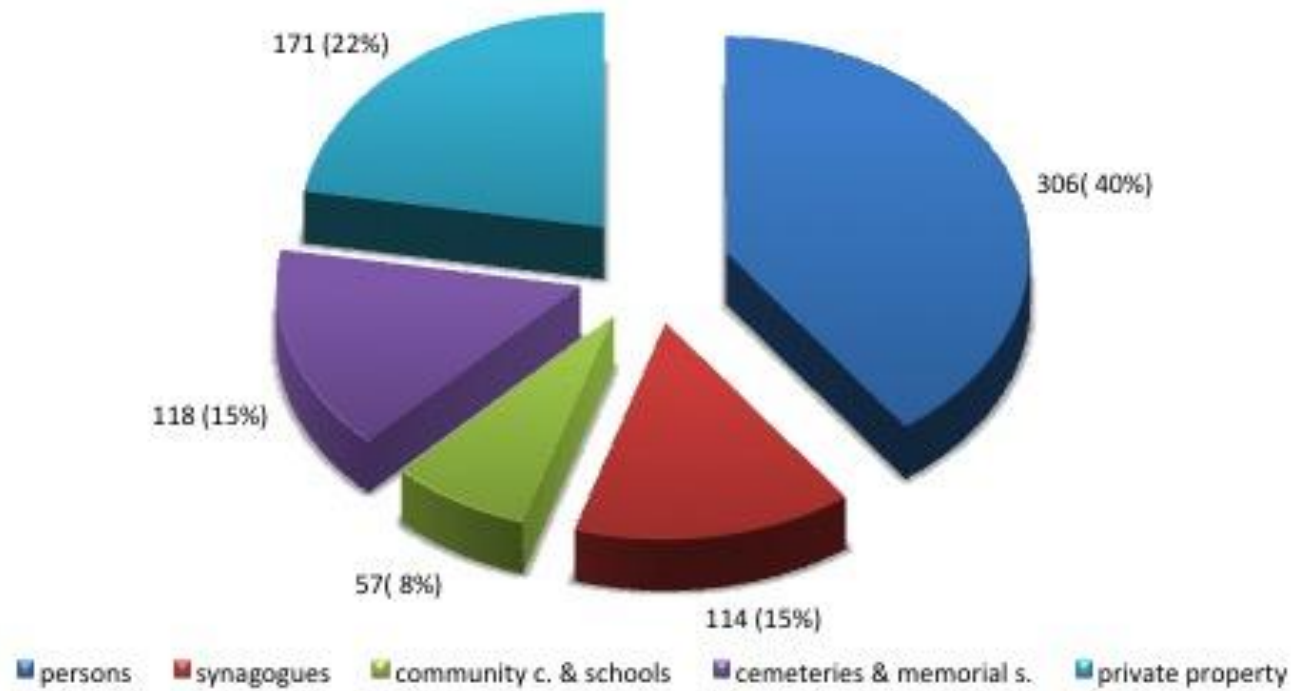


²⁶ Statistics – **Dr. Haim Fireberg (2015)**. The graphs in this section refer to acts of violence and vandalism perpetrated against Jewish individuals and Jewish private and community property worldwide during 2014. The figures are based on the Kantor database for the study of contemporary antisemitism 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). The data on Canada is not yet complete.

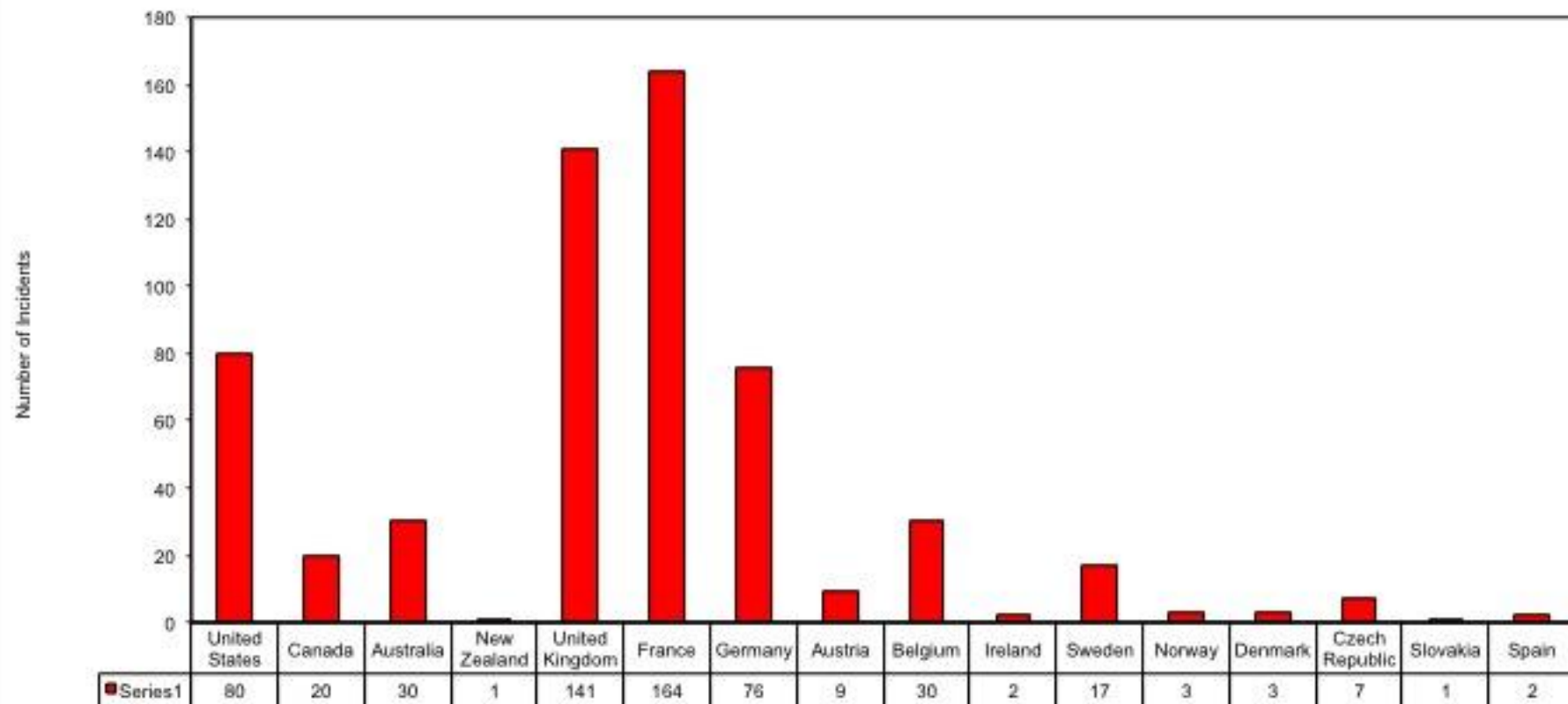
Violent Incidents Worldwide in 2014 Breakdown by Modus Operandi



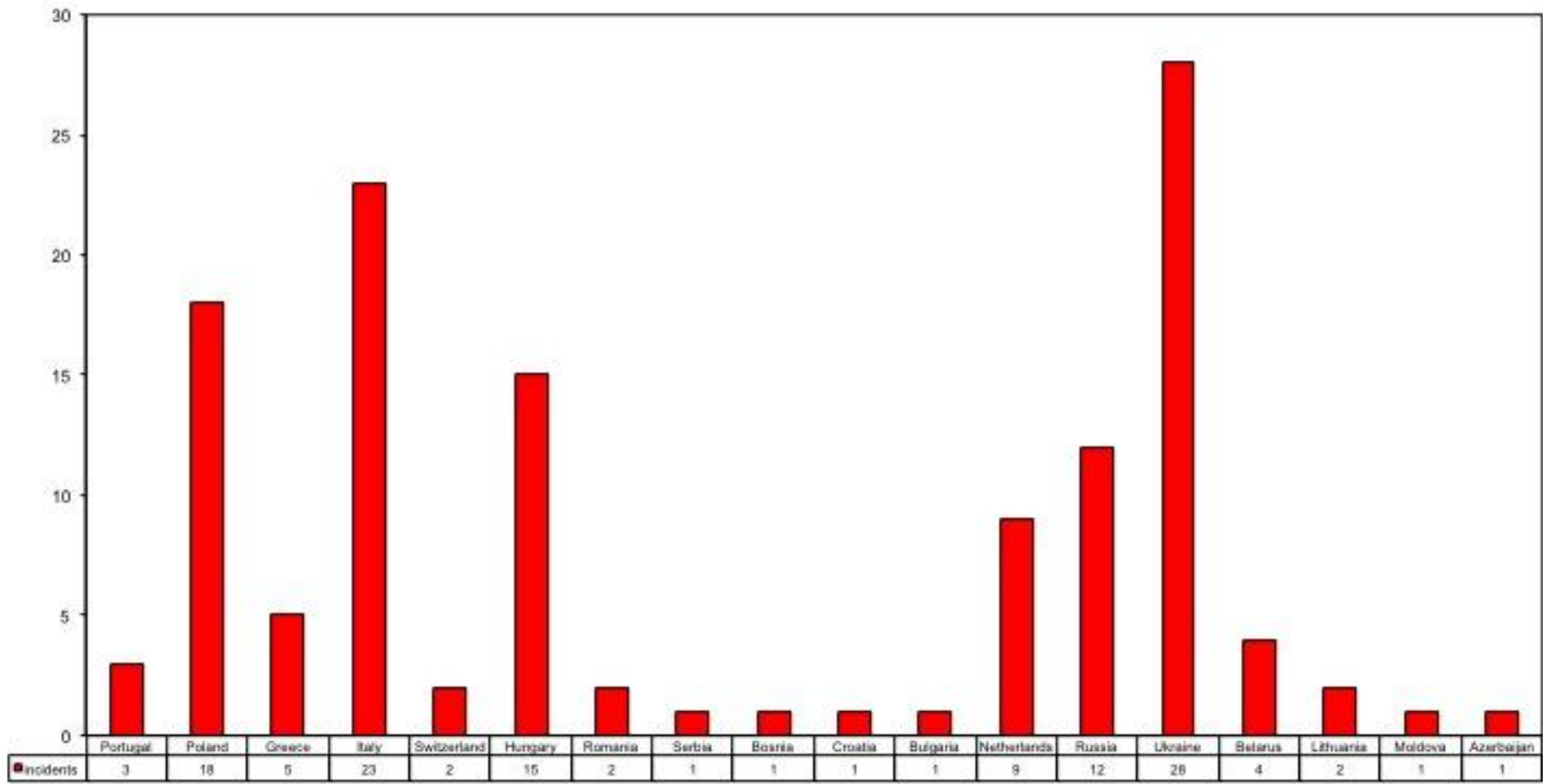
Violent Incidents Worldwide in 2014 Breakdown by Target



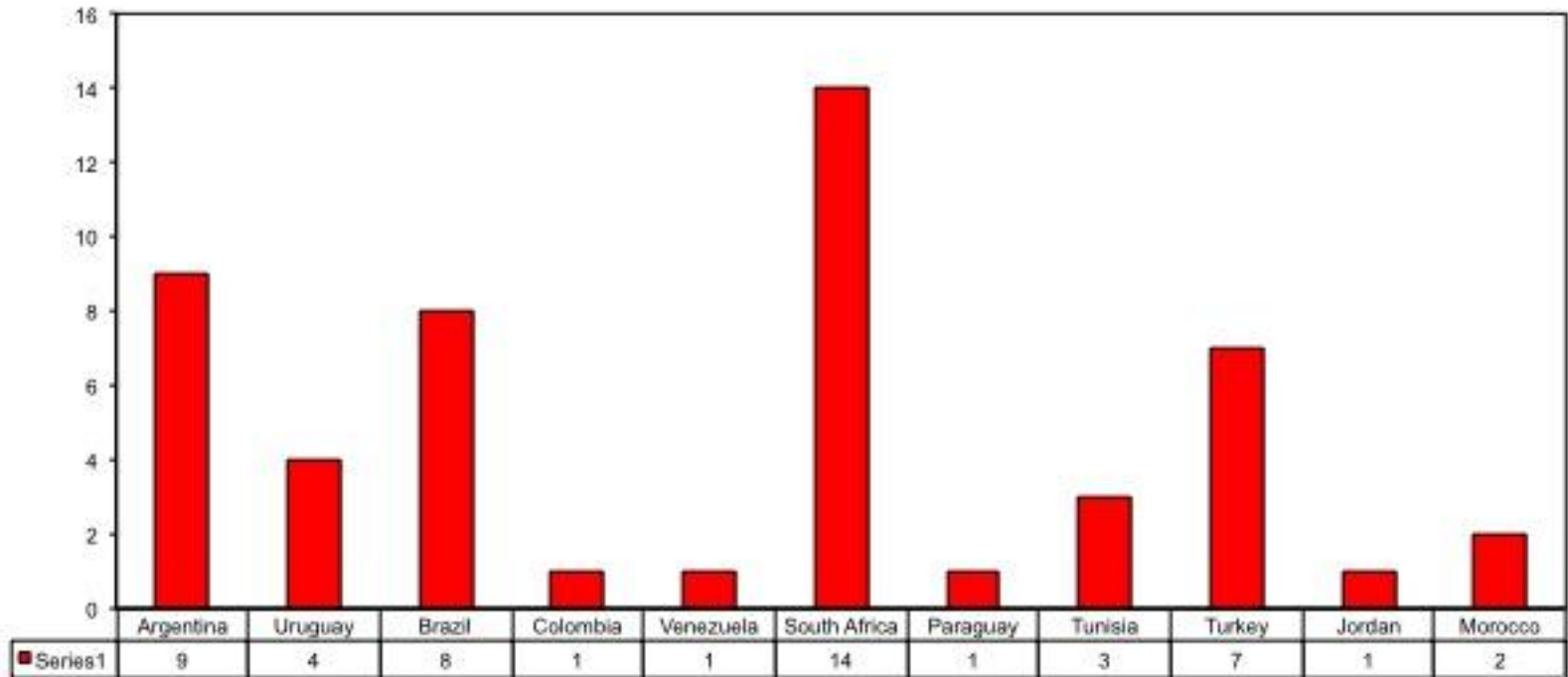
Violent Incidents in 2014 - Breakdown by Country (1)



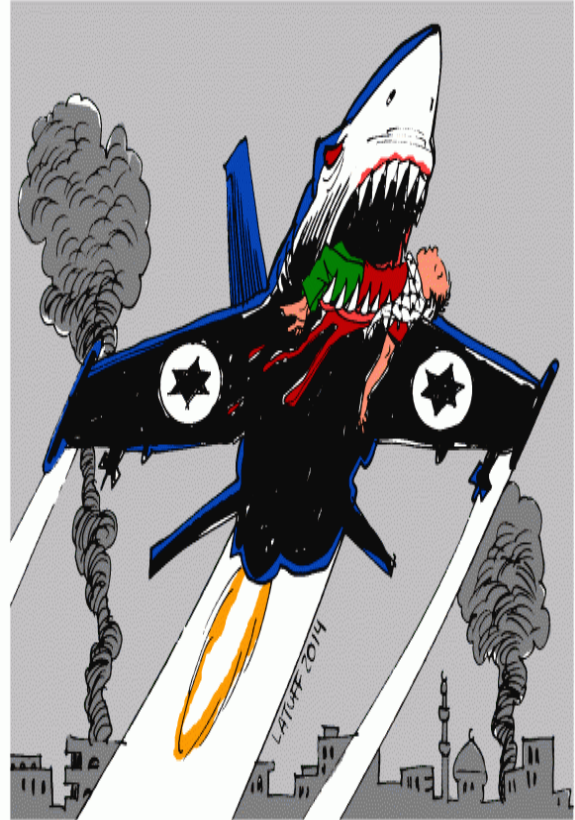
Violent Incidents in 2014 - Breakdown by Country (2)

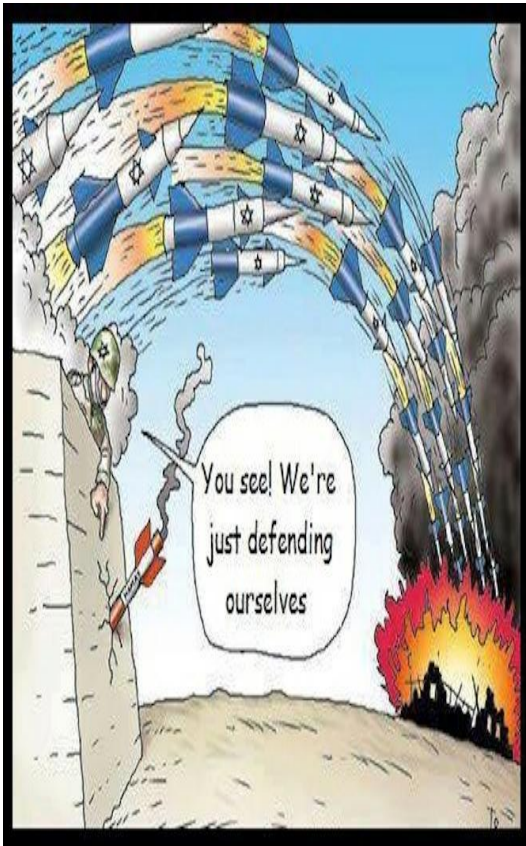


Violent Incidents in 2014 - Breakdown by Country (3)



*Compilation of Caricatures Published in Various
Newspapers during 2014*







SOURCES

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Above Left: <http://www.politicalcartoons.com/cartoon/189fbc7-59c0-4c63-a9c6-cdbd171d6586.html>

Above Right: <http://latuffcartoons.wordpress.com/2014/07/12/4-cartoons-about-israel-massacre-in-gaza-please-retweet-gazaunderattack/>

Down Left: <http://latuffcartoons.wordpress.com/2014/07/12/4-cartoons-about-israel-massacre-in-gaza-please-retweet-gazaunderattack/>

Down Right: http://www.toonpool.com/artists/ismail%20dogan_4928

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Above Left: http://www.toonpool.com/artists/ismail%20dogan_4928

Above Right: <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-7jj6qyfZIwY/U8RwiM1MRI/AAAAAAAAABwA/reILCYY9Ktw/s1600/jul+14+aleqt.jpg>

Down Left: <http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-tJkhMUt2OFk/U7m2FMXTToI/AAAAAAAAABm4/IPRtAFKSyQI/s1600/jul+5+asdaa.jpg>

Down Right: <http://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/staat-und-recht/gastbeitrag-der-ungleiche-krieg-13084728-b1.html>

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Up: Allgemeiner.com, Saturday, November 29th 2014 (not available online)

Down Left: <http://www.abna.ir/english/service/cartoon/archive/2014/07/12/623378/story.html>

Down Right: <https://twitter.com/senateur61/status/495949098852581377>

תקציר

שנת 2014 הייתה אחת השנים הגרועות בעשור האחרון, 2004-2014, ורק שנת 2009 הייתה גרועה ממנה. דיווחים מדאיגים ומתריעים המשיכו ובאו מארצות רבות, במיוחד ממערב אירופה ומצפון אמריקה. בכל אחד מהם תועדו מאות ולעתים אף למעלה מאלף אירועים אנטישמיים מסוגים שונים. המגמות שאפיינו שנה קשה זו, שבה התרבו מעשים אלימים, וביטויים מילוליים וחזותיים של אנטישמיות, המשיכו גם בתחילת שנת 2015, בה התרבו גם מקרי רצח והתקפות אחרות.

התחושה הכללית של יהודים רבים היא של חיים בסביבה שבה מתחזקת אוירה אנטי-יהודית, שאינה מעליבה ומאיימת בלבד, אלא מסוכנת ממש, שהם עומדים בפני התפרצות של שנאה כלפיהם כיחידים, כלפי קהילותיהם וכלפי ישראל כמדינה יהודית. השוואות לשנות השלושים של המאה שעברה נשמעות חדשות לבקרים, כי יהודים, במיוחד באירופה, נכחו לדעת שאין יותר איסורים או הגבלות על ביטויים אנטישמיים, וכן שאין פרופרציה בין ביטויים ואירועים אלה לבין מספרם הממשי של היהודים בקהילות השונות והשפעתם על החברות שבהן הם חיים. וכן גם שאין יחס בין העמדתה המתמדת של ישראל ומקומה במזרח התיכון במרכז הדיון הציבורי לבין העדרו של דיון כזה בייחס לעימותים אחרים באזור.

מנהיגים יהודיים, ראשי קהילות וארגונים חשים שזוהי שעת מבחן, במיוחד עקב השאלה המרחפת מעל ראשיהן של הקהילות: איזה עתיד מחכה להן. הנושא אינו רק השגתם של יותר אמצעי ביטחון שהמדינה תספק, אלא גם היכולת לחיות חיים יהודיים מלאים באירופה, תחת אבטחה כבדה של משטרה ואפילו צבא, והצורך להוסיף הגנה עצמית לסדר יומן של הקהילות.

מספרים של אירועים אנטישמיים: המספרים המובאים להלן הם תוצאה של שיטת המעקב והניתוח שפותחה על-ידי צוות מרכז קנטור, העובד יחד כבר למעלה מעשרים שנה. דו"חות על אלפי מקרים ברחבי העולם, החשודים כאנטישמיים, הגיעו אלינו במהלך שנת 2014, ממגוון מקורות: מקורות פתוחים, כלומר החומר שאפשר למצוא ברשת ובאמצעי תקשורת אחרים; גופי שיפוט, אכיפה ושיטור; קהילות יהודיות ואנשי המעקב שלהן; שגרירויות; ורשת מתנדבים ועמיתים, שהתמחו בנושא ורובם עובדים אתנו שכם אל שכם במשך שנים רבות. אותם אלפי מקרים נותחו בקפדנות לפי קני מידה מסוימים, כדי לבחון שהאירוע היה באמת אנטישמי ושהאירועים נספרו ללא הגזמה מזה וללא המעטה בערכם מזה. אמות מידה אלה וההתמקדות באירועים אלימים בלבד הם הסיבה לשוני במספר האירועים האנטישמיים המוצגים כאן בדו"ח השנתי שלנו לבין המספרים שהובאו בדו"חות של גופים בארצות השונות.

במהלך שנת 2014 נרשמו במרכז קנטור 766 אירועים אנטישמיים אלימים, שנעשו בשימוש בכלי נשק או בלעדיהם וכן על-ידי הצתה, ונדליזם, או איומים ישירים. כל אלה כוונו נגד יהודים ומוסדות, כגון בתי כנסת, מרכזים קהילתיים, בתי ספר, בתי קברות ואנדרטאות, וכן גם רכוש פרטי. המספרים מצביעים על עלייה חדה של 38 אחוזים בהשוואה לשנת 2013, בה נרשמו 554 מקרי אלימות. לפיכך, שנת 2014 הייתה השנה הגרועה ביותר בעשור, שנייה לשנת 2009 בלבד, ומספר האירועים האלימים שאירעו בה מציבים אותה כ-40 אחוזים מעל הממוצע של העשור.

מבט על סוגי האלימות משקף מצב מדאיג ביותר: מספר ההתקפות על יהודים, מוסדותיהם ורכושם, שבוצעו בעזרת נשק, כ-68 מקרים, הוכפל בהשוואה לשנת 2013. על כך יש להוסיף 101 מקרי אלימות ללא נשק. מקרי ההצתה שולשו בהשוואה לשנה הקודמת, והיו 412 מקרים של ונדליזם. למעלה מ-306 בני אדם היוו מטרה להתקפות, עלייה של לא פחות מ-66 אחוזים בהשוואה לשנת 2013. הפגיעות בבתי כנסת, 114 במספר, מצביעות על עלייה של 70 אחוזים. כ-57 מרכזים

קהילתיים ובתי ספר נפגעו, 118 בתי קברות ואתרי זיכרון, וכן נמנו 171 מקרים של פגיעה ברכוש פרטי.

מספר המקרים האלימים הגבוה ביותר בשנת 2014 נרשם בצרפת, וזה המצב במשך כמה שנים רצופות: נרשמו 164 מקרים בהשוואה ל-141 בשנת 2013. נרשמה גם עלייה חדה במספר המקרים האלימים בבריטניה (141 לעומת 95), באוסטרליה (30 לעומת 11), בגרמניה (76 לעומת 36, יותר מכפול), בשבדיה (17 לעומת 3), בבלגיה (30 לעומת 11), ובדרום אפריקה (14 לעומת 1). במזרח אירופה המצב שונה: באוקראינה נרשמו 28 מקרי אלימות לעומת 23 בשנת 2013; בהונגריה 15 לעומת 14; וברוסיה וברומניה המספרים אף ירדו מעט.

ברוב הקהילות מנסים מומחים וגופים שונים לעקוב לא רק אחרי מספריהם של המקרים האלימים (כפי שעושה מרכז קנטור), אלא גם לתעד את כלל הביטויים האנטישמיים בצורותיהם השונות, כולל גם התבטאויות ואיומים ישירים ברשתות חברתיות ובמיילים שדווחו על ידי אנשי הקהילות, והתוצאות אינן מדאיגות פחות: לפי דיווחי הקהילות והמומחים עלה מספרם של כלל הביטויים בצרפת מ-423 ל-851 (איומים, למשל, הוכפלו: 610 לעומת 318); באוסטרליה היו 312 מקרים בהשוואה ל-231; בגרמניה 1076 בהשוואה ל-788. בבלגיה הייתה עלייה של 60 אחוזים; באוסטריה כמעט הוכפל מספר המקרים מ-137 ל-255. בבריטניה היו 1168 מקרים, וזהו המספר הגבוה ביותר מאז שהחל מעקב מסודר, והוא גבוה כפליים מאשר 535 המקרים שנרשמו בשנת 2013. ואלה רק מספר דוגמאות בולטות.

אלה הם המספרים של כלל המקרים שנקבו בהם הקהילות, ובכל זאת נוסף ונדגיש שהביטויים החזותיים, כמו קריקטורות המופצות בתקשורת וברשתות החברתיות, סדרות טלוויזיה וקומיקס, וביטויים מילוליים, כגון עלבונות, לשון והתנהגות פוגעניות, סיסמאות וצלבי קרס, איומים והצקות, קורים הרבה יותר מכפי שאפשר לכמת, ורובם המכריע אינו מדווח לשום רשות. אם כך, הביטויים האנטישמיים כבר אינם חוויה מקרית עבור יהודים, אלא הפכו לתופעה יומיומית, המורגשת בכל תחומי החיים, מפוליטיקה וכלכלה לתרבות פופולרית ולחינוך.

סיבות והתפתחויות: ראשון ברשימה הוא **מבצע "צוק איתן"** בעזה שארך כחמישים יום (מראשית יולי ועד שלהי אוגוסט 2014). אולם, יש לזכור שהמחצית הראשונה של שנת 2014 כבר הייתה מרובת אירועים כלפי יהודים כיחידים וכקהילות, חודשים לפני חודשי הקיץ והעלייה הגדולה במספר המקרים במהלך המבצע. לפיכך, יש לבחון גם סיבות נוספות שחלקן קשור למבצע, כמו האופן בו אורגנו **ההפגנות** נגד ישראל ותומכיה היהודיים, על ידי אנשי שמאל קיצוני ומוסלמים רדיקליים אנטי-ישראליים. מאות הפגנות התקיימו במהלך המבצע, במערב אירופה ובמרכזה, רבות מהן בגרמניה, ופחות בצפון אמריקה ובאמריקה הלטינית. חלק מהן עבר לפסים אלימים; בכולן נישאו שלטים וסיסמאות פוגעניים, שכללו בעיקר השוואה בין ישראל כמדינה יהודית ותומכיה בקהילות היהודיות לבין הנאצים, והאשמה שלהם ושל חיילי צה"ל בכל רע תחת השמש.

משבר הערכים המאפיין את החברה המערבית בימינו, המלווה בבורות עמוקה, דוחף צעירים מבולבלים לחפש סמלים קלים לקליטה, המחלקים את העולם לשחור וללבן. מאבק נגד סמל של רוע הוא מעשה אצילי, שכל אדם ליברלי צריך להיות מעורב בו, אלא שהשאלה היא כמה מן המצטרפים להפגנות האנטי-ישראליות אכן יודעים היכן עזה על המפה, מהי ההיסטוריה של המזרח התיכון ומה קורה בו בהווה, מי היו בעצם הנאצים ומה קרה בתקופת השואה.

שובה של האנטישמיות הקלאסית: מאות רבות של קריקטורות מכוערות, שפורסמו בערוצי התקשורת השונים, השלימו את ההפגנות, כיוון שהן שימשו ערוץ להפיכת סמלי הטוב והרע, והחלוקה לאשמים ולקורבנות, למוחשיים, והציגו לרוב יהודים וישראלים כפי ש"דר שטירמר", עיתונה של

המפלגה הנאצית, הציג אותם: אכזריים, צמאי דם, רוצחי ילדים כשחיך לועג מתחת לאפם העקום. הקריקטורות שיקפו התפתחות נוספת: שובה של האנטישמיות הקלאסית, שכמעט ונעלמה מן הנוף וחזרה בשנים האחרונות, אם לא במקום אנטי-ציונות ואנטי-ישראליות כי אז לפחות לצדן.

הדימוי החזותי בקריקטורות אלה משתמש בדם כנושא מרכזי, ודמות היהודי השופכת אותו היא כמעט נצחית, שכן היא נמשכת לפחות מאז ימי הביניים. באופן מוצהר ההפגנות היו נגד ישראל ונגד המבצע בעזה, וכך גם הקריקטורות, אבל הצועדים צעקו "היהודים לגז" ו"מוות ליהודים". בתי כנסת הותקפו, לא שגרירות של ישראל. ולפיכך, השאלה היא האם שובה של האנטישמיות הקלאסית המביא עמו אלמנטים דתיים, הוא תוצאה של האופי הדתי, שנושא לאחורונה יותר ויותר המאבק המוסלמי, לזהות ולשלוטן.

אמצעי תקשורת שונים במערב ובעולם המוסלמי חיזקו סטריאוטיפים קלאסיים עתיקי יומין, כאשר העבירו שוב ושוב את הדימוי האכזרי של יהודים וישראלים. צרכן התקשורת המערבי לא יכול היה שלא לצפות שוב ושוב בצילומים מן העימות בעזה, מבלי שיינתן לו גם מידע על הרקע למתרחש, כמו האופן שבו השתמשו אנשי החמאס באזרחים, וילדים בכלל זה, כדי להגן על עצמם, או על ההתקפות הבלתי פוסקות שלהם על אזרחים ישראלים במשך שנים. וכך, כשהיא משדרת שוב ושוב צילומים של ילדים פלשתינאים פצועים או הרוגים, הפיחה התקשורת רוח מחודשת בדימוי של היהודים כרוצחי ילדים.

עלייה באכזריות: התנהלותו של ארגון המדינה האסלמית, דאע"ש, ואופים האלים של אירועים וארגונים נוספים במזרח התיכון מאז "האביב הערבי" כביכול, העלו את רף האכזריות לגבהים שלא נודעו עד כה. לאלומות ולאכזריות יש קסם אפל המושך אליו קהל צעיר, ואלה מגיעים מרחבי העולם למזרח התיכון, סופגים אותם, וחוזרים, רבים מהם לאירופה, עם המטען הזה.

הפער בין תגובותיהם של המנהיגים ובעלי תפקידים אירופיים לבין הציבור הרחב: כאשר ראש ממשלת ישראל בנימין נתניהו קרא ליהודי אירופה לעזוב אותה מפני שהם אינם בטוחים בה יותר ומפני שישראל היא ביתם, הבטיחו מנהיגים אירופאיים יותר אבטחה ויותר אמצעים לקיום חיים יהודיים באירופה, הביעו סולידריות ותיארו את הקהילות היהודיות כחלק בלתי נפרד מן היבשת. יש יותר מאמצים בשנים האחרונות מצד ארגונים ממשלתיים ואזרחיים להציע חקיקה נוספת נגד אנטישמיות ונגד הכחשת שואה, לדון מחדש בהגדרות של גזענות ואנטישמיות, לקיים טקסים לזכר השואה ולשלוח המלצות לגופי ממשל. פיטורין והתפטרות של בעלי תפקידים שהתבטאו באופן אנטישמי בוטה מוסיפים על תמונה זו, וכך גם שורה מרשימה של "חוטי כסף", כינוי לתהלוכות המביעות סולידריות עם אזרחים יהודים, ו"מצעדי כיפה", הנערכים בעיקר בארצות סקנדינביה.

הבעיה היא שמאמצים אלה, כנים ככל שיהיו, הממומנים בתקציבים ממשלתיים ברוב הארצות המערביות, אינם משפיעים על הרחוב ועל הכוחות הפועלים בו בכיוון הפוך: ימין ושמאל קיצוניים, איסלם רדיקלי, וקבוצות שאינן מזוהות פוליטית. ואכן, סקר דעת קהל שפרסמה הליגה נגד השמחה במאי 2014, שהוא המקיף בסוגו וכלל 53,000 נשאלים ב-102 מדינות, הראה שרבע מהם, המייצגים 1.1 מיליארד מבוגרים ברחבי העולם, החזיקו בדעות אנטישמיות מושרשות היטב.

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אנו, צוות מרכז קנטור, איננו יכולים לסיים ניתוח מצב זה מבלי למחות בתוקף נגד ונדליזם המתקיים בישראל, נגד מקומות קדושים לנוצרים, למוסלמים ולכל בעלי אמונה אחרת, כולל ריסוס צלבי קרס ושימוש בלשון פוגענית כלפי קודשיהם. מעשים אלה זיהים לדעתנו לפגיעה ביהודים ובקדוש להם ברחבי העולם ויש לתבוע הטלת אותם עונשים על מבצעייהם.

הפקולטה למדעי הרוח ע"ש לסטר וסאלי אנטין



מאגר המידע לחקר האנטישמיות והגזענות בימינו ע"ש משה קנטור

אנטישמיות בעולם

2014

טיוטה



היחידה לחקר סובלנות ואי סובלנות במזרח התיכון ע"ש זאב ורד, המכון לחקר האנטישמיות והגזענות בימינו ע"ש סטפן רוט