



ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית
WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION



Ministry for Diaspora Affairs
and Combating Antisemitism



הסוכנות היהודית
לארץ ישראל
THE JEWISH AGENCY
FOR ISRAEL

ed: Minister he... crisis
g over antisemitism
n schools

on police report
rise in antisemitic hate
surge Hamas onslaught

Force admits surge in incidents of Jew hatred
the increased presence of officers' in UK capital; Islamic
crimes also up

By APP and TOI STAFF
21 October 2023, 6:23 am

Man arrested in
antisemitic attac
outside George
synagogue



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ANTISEMITISM IN 2023

Summary Report | January 2024

Submitted to the Government of Israel in Commemoration of
the International Holocaust Remembrance Day
With special reference to the "Swords of Iron" War

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EDUCATION ANTISEMITISM

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At least 10,000 protesters rally under
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Germany'

Ugly rise in antisemit Hamas attack on Isra roots in American h

*The antisemitism story of 2023 isn't about
freedom, it's about meanness and distrust
social media.*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction by the Minister for Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism.....	4
Introduction by the Head of Department for Combating Antisemitism.....	6
Introduction by the Chairman of the Jewish Agency	8
Introduction by the Chairman of the World Zionist Organization	9
Main Activities to Combat Antisemitism - Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism	11
Main Activities to Combat Antisemitism - The World Zionist Organization's Department for Combating Antisemitism and Promoting Community Resilience ...	13
Main Activities to Combat Antisemitism - The Jewish Agency	15
Executive Summary	17
2023 in Numbers.....	21
Antisemitism Heat Map	24
10 most Prominent Antisemitic Incidents in 2023	26
Antisemitism Online	29
The Glass Half Full	32
United States of America.....	38
Human Rights Advocacy as a Shroud for Antisemitism	45
Israel's Accusation of Genocide Based on Post-Holocaust Treaty.....	51
The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism	52
Antisemitism on Campuses	56
The Palestinian Arena	61
Observations By the Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism.....	71
Germany.....	73
United Kingdom.....	78
France.....	83
Australia.....	89
South Africa.....	92
Canada	95
Former Soviet Union (FSU).....	99
The Arab and Muslim World	102
Observations By the Commissioner for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism of the Organization of American States (OAS).....	108
Latin America	109
Summary	115
Recommendations	118



Introduction by the Minister for Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism

Amichai Chikli

In November 1975, the United Nations General Assembly convened to adopt one of the most ignominious resolutions in its history, which determined that “Zionism is a form of racism and racist discrimination.” Facing the parties to this decision, spearheaded by the Arab states and the Soviet Union, then-Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Haim Herzog delivered an unforgettable speech that has been etched in the national consciousness:

“This night, thirty-seven years ago, has gone down in history as the Kristallnacht, or the ‘Night of Broken Glass’. This was the night of 10 November 1938 when Hitler’s Nazi stormtroopers launched a coordinated attack on the Jewish community in Germany, burnt the synagogues in all the cities, and made bonfires in the streets of the Holy Books and the Scrolls of the Holy Laws and the Bible. It was the night when Jewish homes were attacked and heads of families were taken away, many of them never to return... It was the night which led eventually to the crematoria and the gas chambers... the night which led to the most terrifying holocaust in the history of man.

It is indeed fitting, that this discussion... born of a deep, pervading feeling of antisemitism, should come up for debate on this day which recalls one of the tragic days in one of the darkest periods of history. It is indeed fitting that the United Nations, which began its life as an anti-Nazi Alliance, should, thirty years later, find itself on its way to becoming the world center of antisemitism...”

It has been nearly fifty years since that formative speech was delivered; and yet, regarding the hatred of Israel, little has changed; and, if we examine the present, we see that conditions have even deteriorated.

The ‘Auschwitz extension’ – as Jewish philosopher Alain Finkielkraut defines the weakening of antisemitism during those decades following the events of the Holocaust, their scope, and the extent of their horror – is over. The memory of the Holocaust has faded, been distorted and falsified, its teachings forgotten, and a new generation has risen who neither knows nor has heard of Auschwitz.

We recently received shocking evidence of the condition’s severity from the revolting hearing of three heads of the world’s leading academic institutions – Harvard, Penn State, and MIT – whose stuttered silence when faced with the question, “Does calling for the genocide of Jews violate the ethical code of conduct” at their respective universities, gave a conceptual affirmation for a second Holocaust.

Since the nineteen thirties, when the Nazi theories of race paved the way to a catastrophe, the Jewish nation has not experienced such intensity of hate. Today, it is an obsessive hate towards Israel that is resurfacing that same road.

Demonization, delegitimization, and double standards – the three D’s determined by Nathan Sharansky, characterize the old-new hate that aims to deny the Jewish people its right to self-determination and present Zionism – one of the most astonishing and rightful national movements of the modern era – as a “racist colonial enterprise”.

With every military conflagration between Israel and the terrorist organizations in Lebanon, Gaza, and Judea & Samaria, the flames of antisemitism reignite but these have achieved unprecedented record highs since the events of October 7th and the war that resulted.



A deep understanding of antisemitism, as a phenomenon that mutates and adapts to new realities, is a requirement for effectively dealing with it. The report before you serves as a heat-map of antisemitic incidents and events that are aimed at de-legitimizing the State of Israel throughout the world. It focuses on the most significant generators of hate, headed by the Palestinian Authority, which somehow finds a way to combine religious, racist, and political antisemitism in its propaganda.

It is essential reading!

Israel's eternity will not lie

Amichai Chikli

Minister for Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism



Introduction by the Head of Department for Combating Antisemitism

Raheli Baratz-Rix

Hatred of Jews is not a new phenomenon; it exists and has existed throughout Jewish and Israeli history. Each time, it changes its form, its language, its place – but it is always there. This hate and burning animosity against the Jewish religion most probably began with “every son that is born ye shall cast into the river” (Exodus 1:22), continuing its way through King Balak and the book of Esther, “And the letters were sent by posts into all the king’s provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish all Jews, both young and old, little children and women” (Esther 3:13), where the term ‘Jew’ appears for the first time, before making more appearances in Hadrian’s decrees, the pogroms of Kishinev, and the rise of Hitler; but it doesn’t end there.

The events of October 7th have proven that human evil knows no bounds – the slaughter and murder of babies, women, the elderly, and men in their homes, simply because of their Judaism, a hatred that can neither be understood nor rationalized.

It is not limited to Israel. With the outbreak of the Iron Swords war, we have been witnessing with growing intensity the reemergence of antisemitism, which is characterized by distinct anti-Zionism and anti-Israeli sentiments. I see a concerning escalation in online rhetoric and antisemitic incidents in its many expressions. When around the world, stages are given over to the perpetuation of antisemitic ideologies, space is created where hate based on religious or ethnic hate becomes the norm.

At present, Israel faces a vicious battlefield of murderers who are trying to eradicate its identity, its values, and its principles. At the same time, another front is being attacked – the one against Jews worldwide who are being persecuted for their religion. 2023 was the year in which the highest number of Jews were murdered due to antisemitism, compared to previous decades.

The Jews are always to blame! It is always easy to point the finger of blame in their direction. This past year, a worrying trend has emerged of identical interests being shared by two extremist groups. On the one hand, we have the progressive left, which is mobilizing its forces for rallies that are organized by civil organizations associated with the Red-Green Alliance, while the other hand finds radical right-wing groups – right-wing extremist activists who protest in cities and on social media using hate slogans against Jews and the State of Israel.

The confluence of interests between the two extremist groups against a common denominator called “The Jew” represents a clear threat to Jewish communities in the Diaspora and its implications may – in the very near future – impact the State of Israel.

And yet, in spite of this all and despite it today, after 2,000 years of exile, while there are still many who impugn the State of Israel, the People of Israel have a State – a sovereign Jewish democratic state with a strong army that bravely faces the challenges it encounters. The realization of the Zionist dream stands steadier than ever, like a candle’s light, and it will continue to unite, accept, acknowledge, and embrace every Jew, no matter who.



It is for this reason that I have chosen to quote Rabbi Akiva's response to his detractors, namely that it is Jewish identity and the Bible that provide the strength to respond to the challenges faced by the Jewish nation. Today, he stands alongside six million prosecutors and a thousand four hundred more of his descendants who maintain that flame of unique complexion that is the State of Israel – a Jewish democratic state that embraces the Jews of the Diaspora.

Raheli Baratz-Rix

The Head of Department for Combating Antisemitism and Enhancing Resilience
The World Zionist Organization

Joint Chairman of the Task Force for Combatting Antisemitism,
the Jewish Agency for Israel



Introduction by the Chairman of the Jewish Agency

Gen (res) **Doron Almog**

Members of the Jewish Nation,

The murderous attack by Hamas on October 7th coincided with – I regret to say – a revival of antisemitism throughout the world. Manifestations of antisemitism, combined with a hatred for the State of Israel have spewed, not only in places that are prone to violence, but in many countries that have engraved upon their flags the ideals of human rights, the opposition to discrimination and racism, and the concept of “never again” to another Holocaust.

What stands out in particular is the silence and disregard of many towards the atrocities that were perpetrated by an organization that calls for the annihilation of Jews, wherever they are. The silence of international women’s organizations in the face of horrendous bodily crimes committed by Hamas against young girls and women, the silence of the United Nations and its institutions regarding the torture and murder of Israelis – children in particular, the silence of world leaders, even as some erstwhile friends found the courage to express much needed encouragement and consolation.

We all remain astonished at the stammered responses of the university presidents at Harvard, Penn, and MIT, who couldn’t find it within themselves to unequivocally and clearly condemn those who – within the sanctified walls of their own institutions – call for a genocide. It would appear that we have stepped back to the early days of the previous century – a period when Jew hatred ran rampant within the campuses of America’s elite universities.

Clearly, the road to ending antisemitism is a long one. It requires the uniting of many different forces to win this battle. But we cannot give up the fight.

The report before you details the many manifestations of antisemitism throughout the world in 2023, a year that ended in a horrendous loss of life, the lives of Jews who were murdered for their religion and their attempt – our attempt – to build a national homeland and safe-haven for the Jewish people here, in the Land of Israel.

We will never give up on this dream. We will continue to fight against the hatred of Israel and the hatred of Jews in all its forms

Am Yisrael Hai!

Doron Almog, Gen. (res.)

Chairman of the Board
The Jewish Agency



Introduction by the Chairman of the World Zionist Organization

Yaakov Hagoel

For the past several years, the annual report on antisemitic events has constituted a review and snapshots of antisemitic trends and events that have taken place in the past year around the world. The report, whose publication coincides with the International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust, sheds light on the struggles of Jewish communities with antisemitic expressions and attacks, identifies the processes that constitute antisemitism, and reaches the highest levels of decision-making in Israel and around the world.

The murderous attack of October 7th and the reactions against Jews worldwide in response to a war that was forced upon us, marks a sharp swing in the severity and character of the events. The attack and war that was launched that day was not directed merely against Israel, but against the Jewish nation as a whole.

The murder of citizens in their beds, the burning of entire families in their homes, beheadings, rape, dismembering, the torture of babies and the elderly, and the kidnapping of hundreds into Gaza constitute a shattering of all previous antisemitic constraints hitherto experienced. This war, into which we were forced by these deeds, is accompanied by dreadful abuses against Jews in the Diaspora, frenzied incitement in the media, and a sharp increase by hundreds of percent in antisemitic incidents around the world. The year 2023 requires a reassessment of our approach towards antisemitism and its sources, both in Israel and in the Diaspora.

In 1968, the Palestinian covenant was formulated by the executive committee of the PLO, its aim – a call for the use of armed conflict against the Zionist Entity and against Jews. "Zionism," it reads, "is a global imperialist movement... fanatical racist in its being, aggressive, expansionist, and colonial in its goals; it is fascist-Nazi in its means..." This fundamental ideology was further solidified by the 1974 "Plan in Stages" – documents that the Palestinian Authority considers its canon, alongside the establishment of Palestinian terrorist factions.

For years, our Palestinian neighbors, alongside these terrorist organizations, have been waging a psychological war against the State of Israel and the Jewish nation. Blatantly antisemitic television programs, the glorification of terrorists and the idea of a Jewish genocide as a religious edict, incendiary schoolbooks, and the support of suicide bombings – all these are just a few of the tools used by this well-oiled machine whose primary objective is the elimination of the State of Israel and destruction of Jews worldwide.

Apart from the atrocities we were exposed to on October 7th, we are forced to deal with world leaders encouraging these people to continue massacring us and denying the events of October. We must deal with huge demonstrations against Jews in many countries, and with grave fear for the lives and safety of Jewish students on campuses around the world. Furthermore, war has become a brutal tool of incitement against the State of Israel for the "crimes" it allegedly commits against the Palestinian people.

As "modern" antisemitism reemerges around the world, an old-new narrative reappears – one that accuses the Jews of killing Jesus. The internet and social networks continue to lead and promote the spread of lies, distortion of facts, calls for violence against Jews and the sharing of hashtags such as #HitlerWasRight, #deathtoisrael, etc.

The trending bias in the world media against our soldiers and against the war on terror continues to fuel this spirit of hatred. A failed launch by the terrorists themselves that directly hit a hospital in Gaza continues to be presented to the world as a massacre perpetrated by the Jews. In Gaza, official UN organizations provide full support to terrorist activities. UNRWA's collaboration with Hamas, while turning a blind eye to the cynical use of schools, hospitals, and UN facilities, screams to the skies – but not to the enlightened world.

This annual antisemitism trends report, presented to you today, demonstrates, as mentioned, the serious worsening of antisemitic attacks and expressions – a trend that demands a renewed mobilization, a combination of forces, and a common fight against the stricken evil that has accompanied us since we were a nation.

2023 will be remembered as the peak year of global antisemitism. The World Zionist Organization will continue to be at the forefront of the fight against antisemitism and will work for a drastic alteration of these strident trends while taking a zero-tolerance approach towards antisemitic incitement, threats, attacks, and expressions against the Jews of the Diaspora and against the State of Israel.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the head of the Department for Combating Antisemitism and Diaspora Community Resilience in the World Zionist Organization, Racheli Bartz-Rix, the Minister of the Diaspora, Amichai Shikli, and the staff of his office for producing this important report.

In the name of our continued existence, may we unite around our common values. For, only together will we win.

Yaakov Hagoel

Chairman of the World Zionist Organization



Main Activities to Combat Antisemitism - Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism

2023 signaled a significant expansion of the ministry's activities regarding the battle against antisemitism. At a symbolic level, in February, the term "combating antisemitism" was added to the ministry's official title – among others – in order to stress the importance of this assignment and the ministry's activities in this regard. Additionally, the ministry assumed responsibility for countering attempts to delegitimize Israel, recognizing that most antisemitism around the world today is directed against Israel. Below are some of the principal activities that the ministry has promoted over the past year to combat antisemitism.

- **Daily monitoring of antisemitic incidents and formulating a real-time snapshot of global levels of antisemitism in the world** – this depiction expressed itself in the Ministry's online platform (CFCA),¹ which is the largest database for antisemitic incidents in the world. Since the beginning of the war daily reports have been distributed in several languages to Jewish communities and government ministries around the world. The reports include prominent events, steps taken by governments to eradicate antisemitism, and updates on significant anti-Israel protests.
- **Distribution of concrete alerts** regarding plans to harm Jews and Israelis to the relevant authorities in Israel and abroad, based upon which severe actions have been taken against perpetrators of antisemitism.
- **Establishment of a National Situation Room to combat online antisemitism** – whose aim is to serve as a conclave for governmental ministries, Jewish communities and NGOs that are active in combating online antisemitism in various geographic arenas. The situation room will operate a hotline for civilians, organizations, and Jewish communities worldwide to report antisemitic incidents. It will generate concrete alerts for plans to harm Jews and Israelis in the Diaspora and will act in a focused manner to remove online antisemitic content. In relation to this, during the past year, the Ministry has been
- working in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice to remove prominent antisemitic content online, and – among others – distributed a call-to-action to individuals and communities, requesting they report such content to the Ministry with the aim of expunging such content.
- **Over 150 non-Jewish security personnel from over ten countries were trained at a unique seminar in Israel. These personnel serve in key positions and are responsible for the security of Jewish communities in the diaspora, with the aim of strengthening their ability to fight manifestations of antisemitism in their countries.** Throughout the war, these trainees have been briefed online to empower their active response to existing threats.
- **Hundreds of public Jewish facilities that are susceptible to special threats have been secured** – as part of a project in collaboration with the Jewish Agency. This partnership has also resulted in the augmentation of the JReady platform, whose aim is to assist communities in the Diaspora to plan and deal with emergencies and disasters by, inter alia, accessing and adapting Israeli capabilities to the communities. The creation and training of security personnel in specific communities that have been experiencing significant challenges rooted in antisemitism is part of this effort.

1 CFCA – The Coordination Forum for Combating Antisemitism. <https://antisemitism.org.il>

- Specific work plans have been formulated with Jewish communities that are experiencing a considerable increase in antisemitism, in order to provide a holistic response to the existing challenges. The plans include activities on university campuses, public schools, and social network platforms, as well as, media initiatives – all in conjunction with diverse local groups.
- **Teachers, students, and Jewish school professionals in the Diaspora are being trained to bolster their mental and community resilience against the background of increasing antisemitism.**
- **Financial assistance has been provided to dozens of civil society organizations,** which are active in the fight against antisemitism resulting from the war – this employing the Voices of Israel platform.
- **A joint forum to coordinate the battle against antisemitism has been established with the participation of the Government of Israel and other national institutions** – The forum is a joint think-tank tasked with assessing the situation, planning responses, and assessing the effectiveness of the procedures and the agencies dealing with the fight

against antisemitism. Members include representatives from the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Education, Social Equality, and Immigration & Absorption, as well as from the National Security Council, the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency, and Yad Vashem.

- **Three government decisions have been implemented** – the first is to commemorate Jews who have lost their lives because of their religion in hostile actions motivated by antisemitism in the Diaspora, the second is promoting the adoption of the working definition for Holocaust Distortion and Denial, as defined by the International Alliance for the Preservation of the Memory of the Holocaust (IHRA), and the third is filmed documentation of testimonies from Holocaust survivors in Israel and abroad.
- **Distribution of testimonies of Holocaust survivors to youth around the world** – The Ministry operates in conjunction with Yad Vashem to make accessible – through digital channels, social media, and other formats – the testimonies of survivors who directly or indirectly experienced the events of October 7th and to bring their unique stories to young audiences in places where there has recently been a significant increase in antisemitism.



Training course for senior security officers from around the world (courtesy: IMI Academy)



Main Activities to Combat Antisemitism - The World Zionist Organization's Department for Combating Antisemitism and Promoting Community Resilience

In 2023, the World Zionist Organization (WZO), through its Department for Combating Antisemitism and Promoting Community Resilience, continued raising awareness of antisemitism around the world and strengthening the resilience of Jewish communities in the Diaspora. Throughout this year, the department continued documenting and collating antisemitic incidents that were publicized in several languages with the aim of creating a global snapshot and deriving relevant educational materials, accordingly.

- Upon the outbreak of the Iron Swords war, the WZO launched a joint operation with HP to distribute photographs of abductees among all Zionist Federations around the world, to be displayed globally.
- **Antisemitism and Culture –**
The department sent delegations to several European destinations that presented the theme, the disappearance of Jewish cultures in the shadow of the antisemitism that flourished in those countries throughout the previous century.
- The department aims to propagate the battle against antisemitism among non-Jewish audiences. As part of these activities, a **delegation of Evangelist priests arrived from Latin America** to get better acquainted with the State of Israel. The last delegation arrived from Chile following the events of October 7th and toured Kibbutz Kfar Aza and Ofakim, Jerusalem, and the North. At the conclusion of the visit, the priests said that it was "Israel's right and duty to defend itself" – a declaration that won the support of about 2,000 other priests and religious leaders. **A delegation of Mexican educators** arrived in June after visiting Germany and Poland.
- **Seminars for youth movement alumni from around the world** on the topic of the challenges of battling antisemitism and practical tools for coping were delivered to youth movement alumni from Latin America's 'Southern Cone', including Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay, as well as another seminar for the 'Northern Area. Additional seminars were conducted on community resilience and dealing with antisemitism in the community.
- **A conference marking the eightieth anniversary of the liberation of Tunisia from German occupation and the end of the war in North Africa** took place under the leadership of Prof. Haim Saadon of the Yad Itzhak Ben-Zvi Institute and supported by the Department for Combating Antisemitism.
- **Seminars on Community Resilience –** Seminars on community resilience and dealing with rising antisemitism, including LIMUD FSU conferences were held around the world, stressing the strengthening of Jewish identity and the fight against antisemitism in the post-Soviet states.
- **The book, Grandfather's Goal**, which was published last year by the department, mediates the topic of antisemitism and principles of inclusion, diversity, and acceptance. The values detailed in the book are universal and express a need to accept each person for who they are, stressing the damage of boycotting in children's groups – this against the background of the Second World War and the Holocaust.



Department Activities following the October 7th Massacre

- **YOU ARE NEXT!** A global campaign was published under the title 'You Are Next!'. Dozens of graphics were distributed through social networks, as well as informational video clips highlighting the double standard towards Israel – an expression of antisemitism.
- **FAQs** – Educational booklets in English, Spanish, and French were distributed that include answers to central questions that have arisen during the war against terrorist organizations, which have led to a rise in antisemitism based on ignorance. This activity was undertaken in cooperation with the International Legal Forum and included animated videos that explain the events of the massacre and the reasons for engaging in a war.
- **Monitoring antisemitic content on the internet** – During the war, ties with the Fighting Online Antisemitism (FOA) movement have been deepened, resulting in 50 online seminars in Hebrew, English, German, and Spanish that provided practical

tools for monitoring incitement online. At present, over 3,000 individuals have taken part in these seminars, in cooperation with the World Zionist Organization and the FOA.

- **Let there be light** – To commemorate 85 years since Kristallnacht and one month since the October 7th massacre, the department, in partnership with spiritual services called upon all communities around the world to light their synagogues on the night between November 9th and 10th, to pray for the return of the abductees and IDF soldiers, and to raise awareness of rising antisemitism around the world.
- **WE CAN'T STOP DANCING BUT WE CAN STOP ANTISEMITISM** – As part of the Maccabi Pan America events, the World Zionist Organization created an activities complex for empowerment activities and education regarding the relationship with Israel and increasing awareness of the war. Participants received bracelets with the inscription, "WE CAN'T STOP DANCING, BUT WE CAN STOP ANTISEMITISM".



from top right - CW: Youth seminar on battling antisemitism; School principals' delegation from Mexico; Culture & Antisemitism - (commemoration service in Greece); LIMUD convention for strengthening Jewish Identity and Zionism - New York (photo credits: WZO)



Main Activities to Combat Antisemitism - The Jewish Agency

2023 will be remembered as a year in which antisemitic incidents achieved new heights never before witnessed since various community institutions and law enforcement agencies began systematically tracking these events. The already concerning numbers dramatically increased immediately after the Hamas terror attack on October 7th. The thin line dividing opposition to Israeli policies, on one hand, and antisemitism, on the other – already a cloudy one – was entirely erased under a torrent of hate speech and slogans, violent demonstrations, physical attacks, destruction of property and insults, threats, and political machinations.

Jewish Agency shlichim – emissaries, who live amongst the members of the myriad of Jewish Communities around the world, found themselves subject to those same outrages as were being launched against other community institutions. Jewish Agency shlichim organize events to foster solidarity and support, educate, and hold meetings to bolster community resilience, often utilizing our ground-breaking JReady platform.

The Jewish Agency employs 70 representatives on US campuses and an additional 16 in other places around the world. These representatives spearhead initiatives to battle antisemitic and anti-Israel movements and other elements that promote boycotts and exclusion towards Israel on campus, often aimed specifically at Jews. Each campus is fundamentally different from the other, and some of them present unique challenges, especially considering that these are the cultivation grounds of their countries' future leadership. Thus, the activities of Jewish organizations on campus, including those of Jewish Agency emissaries, is vital in the ideological struggle for the souls of tomorrow's leaders.

The Jewish Agency's Security Fund is an important activity that was launched in March 2012, following the murderous terrorist attack in Toulouse, France. To date, the fund has helped set up protection for communities in 84 countries in Europe and around the world. Budgeted so far at about 90 million Israeli Shekels, the fund has installed security cameras, armored doors, and more in schools,



Top right - CW: Jewish Agency emissaries; Jewish community reps at the Hague with photos of abductees; Jewish Agency Chairman Gen (res) Doron Almog with JA emissaries from abroad; Summer camp in the US (photo credits: Jewish Agency & Yoav dudkevitch)

synagogues, and other Jewish institutions. In light of the recent rise in antisemitic events, the fund recently announced an increase of 8 million shekels for emergency funding.

One may only hope that in the coming year, these disturbing trends will decline, and that Jewish Agency Shlichim will once again be able to devote themselves, less to the ugly phenomenon of antisemitism that has arisen in so many places, and more with education and unity.




Executive Summary

2023 began with a gradual increase in antisemitic incidents of up to 10%, compared to 2022. This trend was maintained for the first nine months of the year (January-September). However, the events of October 7th and the war that ensued saw a dramatic increase in levels of antisemitism around the world, which resulted in all-time highs. The number of antisemitic incidents for the period between October and December increased six-fold, compared to the previous nine-month period. On a yearly basis, 2023 ended with a 235% increase in antisemitic incidents, compared to 2022, with 43% of monitored events occurring in the USA and 35% in Europe. This past year, violent antisemitic incidents sharply increased by 33%, compared to 2022, with 48% of these related to the Iron Swords war. Here, 46% of all antisemitic incidents took place in the USA, followed by Britain (16%), Germany (9%), France (6%), Canada (6%), Australia (2.5%).

The increase in antisemitism since October 7th is also reflected in the online sphere. A survey of select social media platforms indicates that **between October and December 2023, online antisemitic discourse increased by 264%, compared to the preceding three-month period**, with a more focused examination of the 17-day periods preceding and following October 7th showing a 400% increase. These results are considerably higher than any reported for previous military conflicts. Additionally, **a 1,200% increase was recorded for posts containing violent antisemitic content that call for violence against Jews, Israelis, and Zionists, with 79% of these published in Arabic.** Similarly to 2022, **most online antisemitic content belongs to the “new antisemitism” category**, which is aimed against the State of Israel and deals predominantly with the Israel-Palestine conflict, its sources primarily from within

Palestinian, pro-Palestinian, and progressive circles. In this regard, **this form of antisemitism during the Iron Swords war has represented a much wider segment of general online antisemitism (74.1%)** compared to the rest of the year (58.8%) and to 2022 (68%). In addition, against the backdrop of the war, **antisemitic discourse that denies and distorts the Holocaust** has also increased. Geographically, most discourse emanates from the USA, France, Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, South Africa, Argentina and Spain.

 **The USA** has seen the continuation of a sharp and steady increase in antisemitic incidents of the past five years, with the months following October 7th displaying a 337% increase compared to the same period in 2022. Moreover, the highest number of antisemitic incidents was recorded for a two-month period ever since documentation began


(1979). This includes the murder of a Jewish protester expressing support for Israel by a pro-Palestinian protester, over 200 protests in which antisemitic and anti-Zionist expressions were recorded or that included support for terror, a 1,000% increase in the number of online antisemitic posts, and a 540% increase in fake bomb threats against Jewish institutions and synagogues. It also includes a 700% increase in antisemitic incidents on campuses, which continue to be an insecure environment for Jewish students. This trend was highlighted by the testimonies of three presidents of the largest universities in the USA, according to whom calls for a genocide of Jews do not necessarily constitute a violation of university ethical rules.




Regarding the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism – the most essential, accepted, and effective internationally accepted tool for identifying and marking antisemitic expressions – by year's end, 1,216 entities of different kinds had either adopted or ratified the definition. In 2023, 97 additional entities joined, with over a third (38.1%) in North America – especially the US. This represents a 6.6% increase compared to adoptions registered in 2022. In addition, three new countries adopted the definition – Latvia, Croatia, and Panama, bringing the total to 45 different countries. Alongside these, 47 non-federal governmental also adopted the definition (514 in total), including 4 US states, eight institutes of higher learning (345 in total), and 37 organizations (bringing the total to 312 organizations – 254 public and 58 private).


In the Palestinian Arena, the Palestinian society's reaction in general and that of the Palestinian Authority in particular to the events of October 7th illustrated this past year the extent of Palestinian antisemitism, which calls for the destruction of the State of Israel, promotes demonization of Jews, and advocates for their murder simply because they are Jews. These are not isolated calls of hate, as many prefer to think, but an extremist antisemitic ideology that is systematically disseminated utilizing political and religious notions that are deeply integrated into the Palestinian national identity. This includes the Palestinian education system in general and Palestinian textbooks in particular, which play a crucial role in shaping the Palestinian national identity that considers the struggle and the hatred of Jews as a core element of the Palestinian experience. In addition, against the background of October 7th, the connection between terror and incitement by the UN's Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) became especially prominent. In the schools under its auspices – from which shooting incidents against Israeli citizens took place the teachers it employs – promote antisemitic subject matter and its alumni –took part in the massacre, and its media publications.

In France, since October 7th, about 1,800 antisemitic incidents were reported, more than four times the number reported in the whole of 2022. These incidents included the stabbing of a Jewish woman upon whose home the attackers drew a swastika, attacks on youths in the streets, the burning of doors to homes of Jews, and their marking with Stars of David in Paris and the periphery. The source of most antisemitism in the country continues to be second and third-generation immigrants from Islamic countries. Moreover, the antisemitism here is influenced by the social polarization in France between extreme left and right, as by the growing cooperation between radical Islam elements and the extreme left. These trends resulted, in a 430% rise in requests to immigrate to Israel by Jews since the start of the war.

 **In the United Kingdom**, since October 7th, has registered the highest number of incidents since documentation began in 1984 and a 512% increase relative to the same period in 2022 – this as local police admit to a 1,000% increase in offenses of an antisemitic nature during the first month of the war. Against this background, published surveys reveal that half of British Jews have considered leaving the country, 60% have themselves been targeted by antisemitic incidents since the start of the war, and about half have not felt safe in British streets since October 7th.

 **In Germany**, since October 7th, has registered on average 29 antisemitic incidents per day, this, compared to seven in 2022 (a 32% increase). Consequently, about 80% of Jewish communities in the country report that they feel unsafe, and that the primary threat is from Turkish and Arab immigrants, as well as left-wing circles in the country. The rise in levels of antisemitism expresses itself in hate slogans displayed in public places, antisemitic declarations at universities, damage to Jewish memorial sites, marking of synagogues with Stars of David, and – in more extreme cases – violence. In one case reported during the war, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a Jewish community center.


 **In Canada**, Data published by Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver police, along with independent data indicate a 200-800% increase in levels of antisemitism recorded since October 7th compared to the same period last year. These include two arson attempts against Jewish institutions, shots fired at Jewish schools, and the apprehension of a young Muslim suspected of planning an attack on a local Jewish community center.

 **Latin America** also recorded a dramatic increase in levels of antisemitism since October 7th. Argentina, in the months following the outbreak of war, recorded an almost 100% increase relative to the first ten months of the year. Brazil recorded a 961% increase in




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antisemitic events since the war began compared to the same period last year, and a Hezbollah terror cell was apprehended before perpetrating an attack against Israeli and Jewish targets in the country. Chile saw antisemitic incidents occur at universities and synagogues. Colombia's president expressed hostile antisemitic sentiments towards Israel, and swastikas were sprayed over the Israeli embassy's walls in Bogota. Antisemitic incidents in Bolivia included the severing of relations with Israel – the first country to do so – as the war broke out.

 **The Muslim Arab world** this past year saw two serious terror attacks against Israeli and Jewish targets, in which a total of nine people lost their lives, including five Jews – in Egypt and in Tunisia. In general, the characteristics of antisemitic activities in the region related to October 7th resemble those of previous military rounds between Israel and Hamas. These include mass rallies, support of Palestinians in public spaces (e.g. soccer stadiums) statements by senior officials, a meteoric rise in online hate discourse (302%) and over traditional media channels, and all alongside some physical attacks on Jews and Jewish sites. What distinguishes the situation this time is the scope of activities – not its characteristics or results.

 **In South Africa**, about 200 antisemitic events were reported during the past year, more than two-thirds of them occurring post October 7th. This represents a 186% increase over the same period last year. These include mass rallies that highlighted antisemitic slogans and calls to close the Israeli embassy in the country alongside attacks and threats against the local Jewish community, boycott campaigns against local businesses owned by Jews, and more. In this respect, the actions of the South African government speak volumes. These include appealing to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) demanding an investigation of Israel's war crimes during the ongoing Iron Swords war, and its threat that South African citizens who enlist in the IDF may be subject to prosecution in the country due to their alleged violation of international law.

 **In Australia**, where antisemitism is on a constant rise, recorded over 660 antisemitic incidents since October 7th, representing a 738% increase over the same period last year. These include – among others – anti-Israel protests that included calls to harm Jews and destroy Israel, threats against Jewish institutions and Jews, verbal abuse, pasting posters on Israeli restaurants, promoting boycotts of Jewish-owned businesses and Israeli products, and more.

 **In the former USSR Countries**, anti-Israel and Jewish-related motifs, which were very prevalent in the distant past of the Soviet period, and which seemed to have been forgotten during the past three decades, have returned quite voluminously since the outbreak

of war. The highest rate of increase in antisemitism over the past year in general and related to the war in particular has emanated from Russia, Belarus, Armenia, and the Central Asian Republics, with Ukraine exhibiting a considerable decrease in antisemitism.

In addition to the above, this past year – and especially since October 7th – has seen **non-governmental organizations – that ostensibly aim to promote human rights** and which are generously financed by governments and philanthropical funds – promoting antisemitism and dehumanizing Jews. Some of these organizations have denied the events of October 7th and some have gone so far as to justify them, falsely blaming Israel, reminiscent of modern-day medieval blood libels, denying and distorting the Holocaust, and trying to compare Israel's policies to those of the Nazis.

Alongside this, the past year has seen **several initiatives to combat antisemitism**. These include the publishing of three national plans, huge budgets allocated to securing the safety of Jewish communities, legislation that forbids and/or limits pro-Palestinian rallies, the de-legitimization and de-funding of organizations that promote antisemitism, the governmental appointment of special envoys to battle antisemitism, and steps to regulate and enforce the prevention of hate speech online.

However, and as is reflected in this report, the path is still long, especially in light of the dramatic increase in levels of antisemitism that has been witnessed since October 7th – a trend that shows no sign of abating in 2024.

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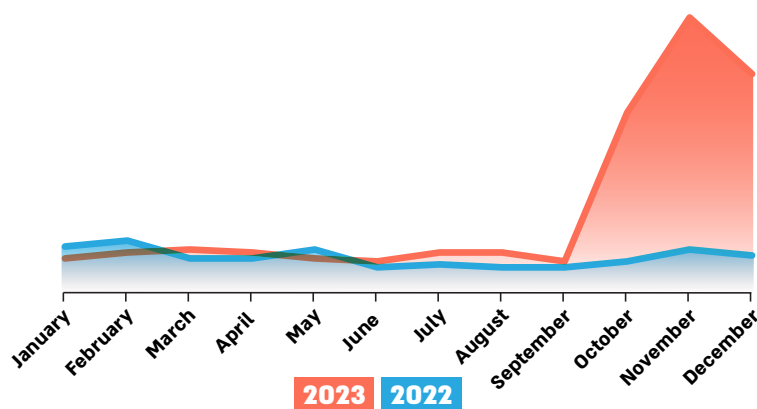
2023 in Numbers

The Ministry for Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism' Coordination Forum (CFCA)¹ and the World Zionist Organization's Department for Combating Antisemitism and Enhancing Community Resilience regularly monitor antisemitic incidents around the world. Together, they form an infrastructure that serves as a global database and an important tool in the fight to eradicate this dangerous phenomenon. The information presented in this chapter represents an average of data collated during the past year by both departments and indicates similar trends. It should be stated that the data is based on events that were either reported or monitored by the World Zionist Organization and the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism or were reported in the world media. Also, please note that, at the time of this report's publication, not all final summarizing annual reports of organizations and communities were submitted, and – consequently – absolute and final numbers for antisemitic incidents recorded in 2023 are expected to rise. However, it is safe to assume that the trends derived from existing data will endure.

Generally, **2023 began with a moderate increase in recorded antisemitic incidents of up to 10%, relative to 2022.** This trend was maintained for the first nine months of the year (January-September). However, the events of October 7th, and as the resulting war intensified, a dramatic increase in global antisemitic levels was registered,

with **October-December showing a six-fold jump in antisemitic incidents compared to the events recorded during the January-September period.**

An inclusive annual examination shows that **2023 ended with a 235% increase in antisemitic incidents compared to 2022.**



1 CFCA – The Coordination Forum for Combating Antisemitism. <https://t.ly/Yw0dO>

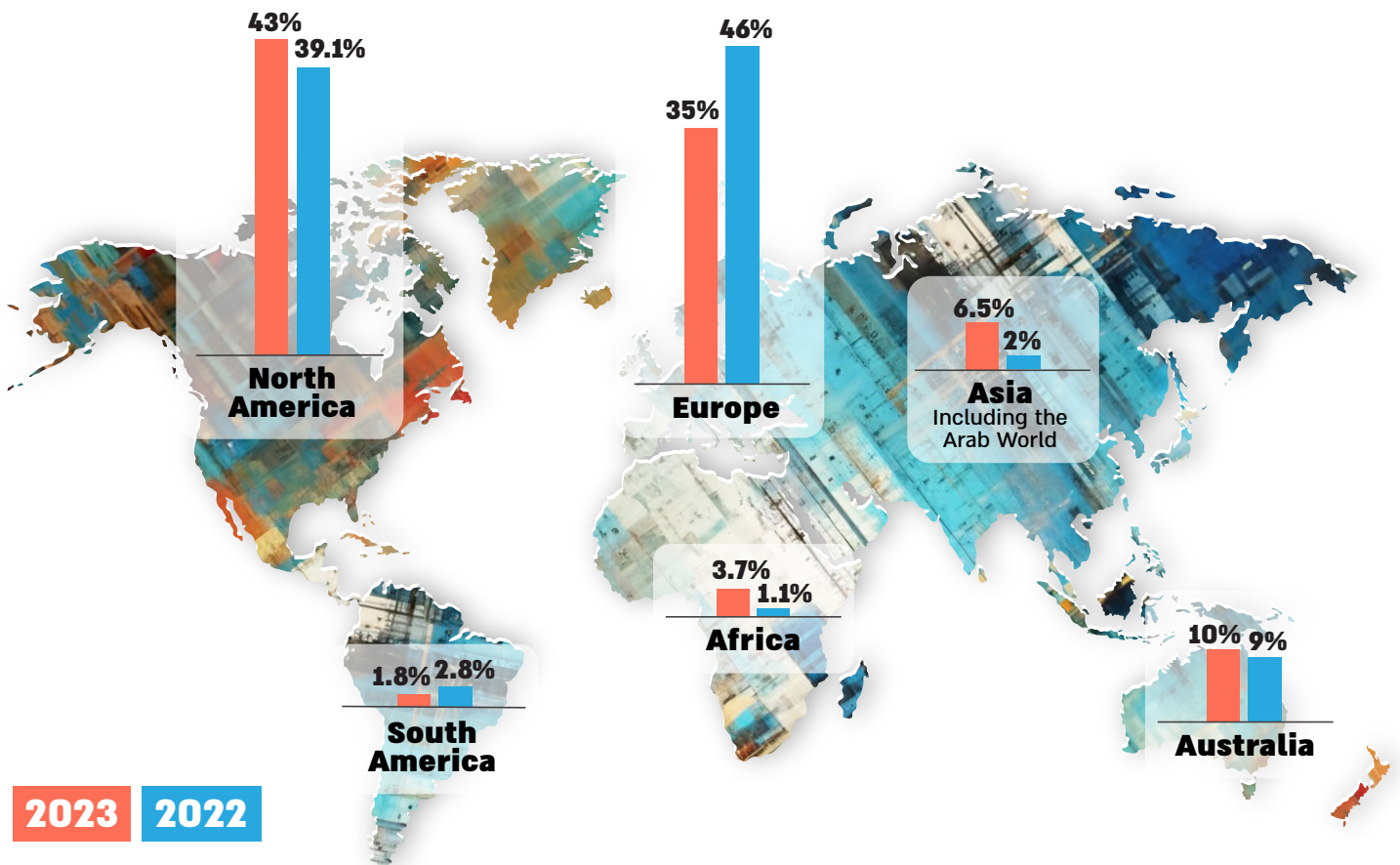


Geographical cross-section

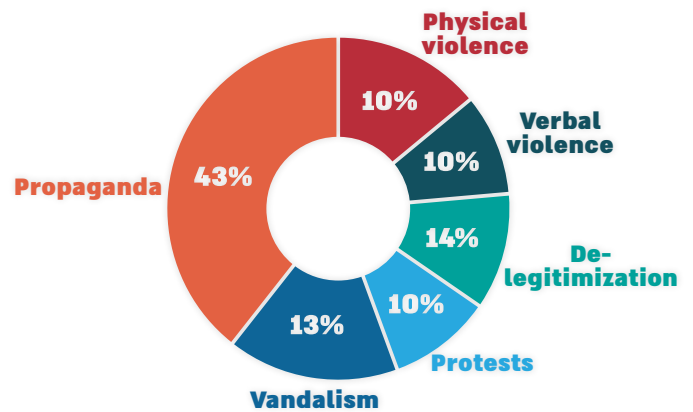
Antisemitic incidents continued to appear throughout the world in 2023, with a geographical cross-section of all monitored incidents displaying a **greater increase in the number of incidents in North America compared to Europe**. this change may be explained by the increased reports in the media dealing with the topic or by the public discourse in the US (see below). Consequently, 43% of antisemitic incidents monitored took place in North America, in general, and the USA, in particular. This considerable increase was also reflected in Canada, Australia, and Asia.

Notably, the decreased relative percentage of antisemitic events in Europe does not signify a decrease in reported incidents on the continent, but rather a more dramatic intensification in other parts of the world, or – alternatively – under-reporting of antisemitic events that occurred there, with the leading European countries in antisemitic incidents in 2023 being France, Britain, Germany, and Sweden.

Distribution of Events in a geographical cross-section



The total of incidents monitored were divided into six categories: **physical violence** (including shootings and physical assaults), **verbal violence** (including cursing, letters of an antisemitic nature), **propaganda** (such as displaying posters in the streets, distributing antisemitic leaflets and antisemitic media statements), **demonstrations, vandalism** (such as desecration of cemeteries, burning of Jewish public buildings, etc.), and **delegitimization** (such as antisemitic events directly relating to the State of Israel).



Antisemitic Propaganda

Antisemitic propaganda incidents represent the leading category of antisemitic incidents this past year (43%). Notably, 48% of these occurred in the USA, with France far behind at 7%, Germany (7%), Britain (5.5%), and Italy (5.5%).

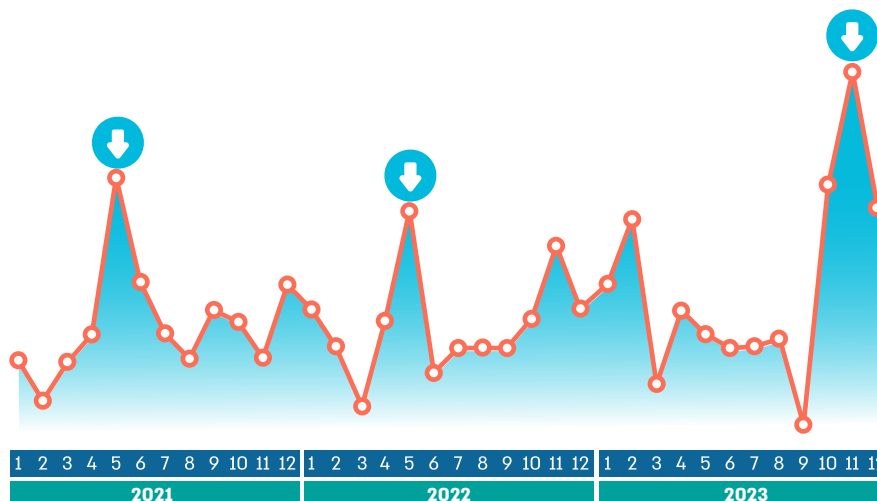


Assaults

Violent antisemitic incidents this past year comprised about 10% of all incidents reported. **Compared to 2022, 2023 saw a sharp 33% increase in violent antisemitic incidents.** Additionally, about 48% of violent antisemitic

incidents this past year were registered during the October-December period, with November being the most violent, after which a certain decrease in numbers occurred. A comparison of countries shows that **46% of violent antisemitic incidents occurred in the USA**, followed by Britain (16%), Germany (9%), France (6%), Canada (6%), Australia (2.5%), and the rest (12%). A division by countries also shows a significant increase in the amount of violent antisemitic incidents, compared to 2022. For example, in Great Britain there was an increase of 43%, in Germany 116%, and in France 66%.

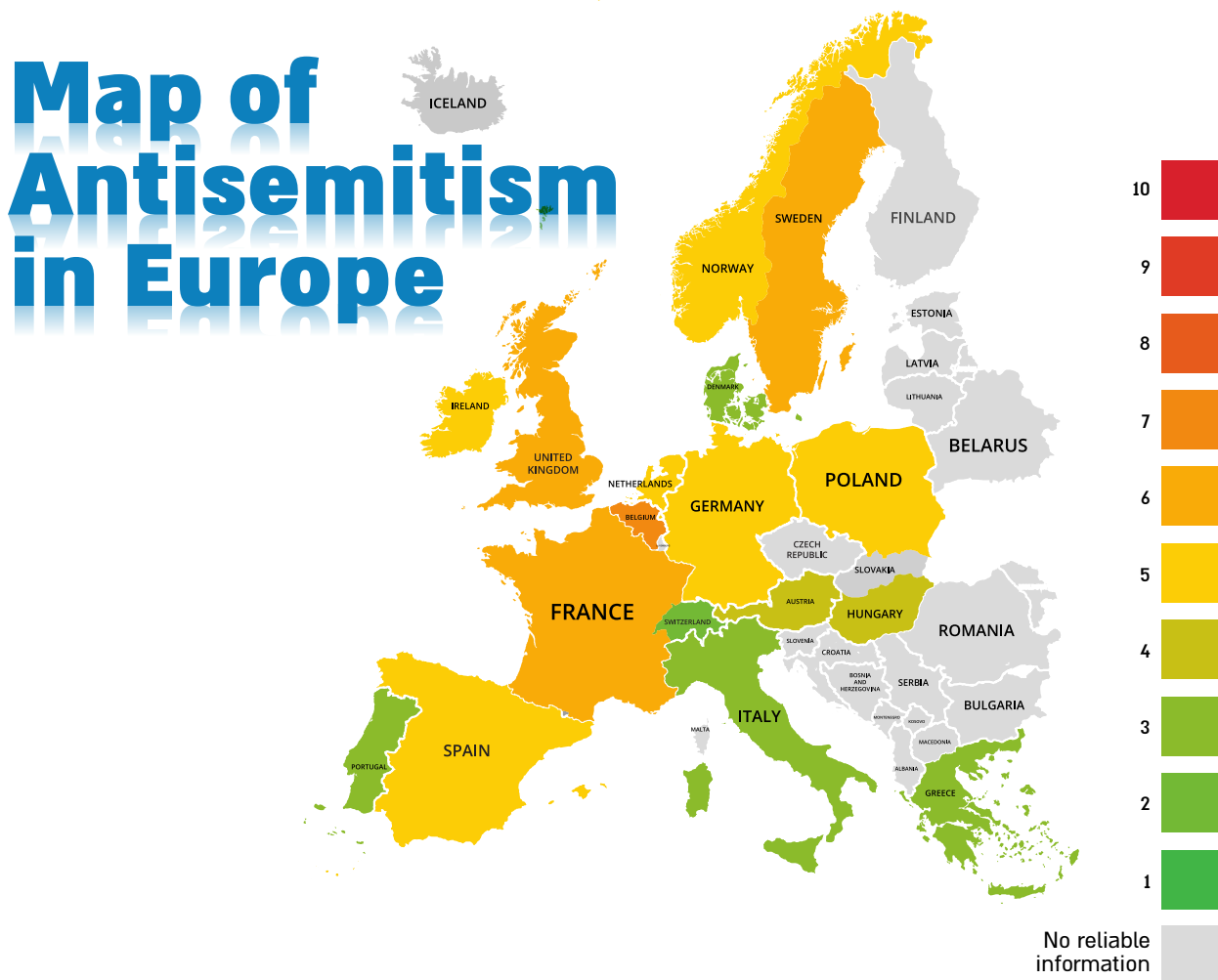
The table below shows a rising trend that relates the level of violent antisemitic incidents around the world to military conflicts, with 2021 showing an increase in May (during the Guardian of the Walls operation) and again the following May (Operation Breakwater).



Antisemitism Heat Map

2023 began with a moderate but steady increase in the scope of antisemitism compared to 2022, and some places even reported a relative decline. However, beginning October 7th, there was a fundamental change in the distribution of antisemitism around the world. Though this distribution differed in its characteristics across countries and regions, most incidents were characterized by common elements such as physical injuries, demonstrators chanting antisemitic slogans, Holocaust denial and its contempt, and local vandalism.

The global antisemitism index is based on several key parameters. These include the number of antisemitic events that have occurred, their severity and intensity, public opinion polls, and interviews that have taken place in order to form a snapshot of the situation regarding local attitudes. Additionally, the index takes into account actions taken by the local government to prevent antisemitic incidents and to ensure the viability of the Jewish communities, among other factors. Based on the various parameters, the countries were divided into color categories, which express the level of antisemitism in each area.



Map of Antisemitism in Latin America



10 most Prominent Antisemitic Incidents in 2023



1. Jew murdered during a pro-Israel demonstration by a pro-Palestinian protester

On November 5th, Paul Kessler, a 69-year-old Jew was murdered in a Los Angeles suburb while demonstrating at a pro-Israel rally, which was blocked off by pro-Palestinian protesters. During the attack, a pro-Palestinian protester punched Kessler in the head, killing him. About two weeks later, Louis Abdelfattah Elnaji, a lecturer at a local university was accused of Kessler's murder.¹



The Times of Israel: Paul Kessler on November 5, 2023. (Courtesy; used in accordance with clause 27a of the copyright law)



2. Three Israeli tourists murdered in Alexandria

On October 10th, the day after the Hamas attack in Israel, an Egyptian policeman shot at a group of Israeli tourists in the city of Alexandria, after recognizing them as Israelis. Alon Shamli, Amnon Bezalel and Hagi Efrat, as well as a local tour guide were murdered during the attack.²



3. Five people murdered, including two Jews during a terror attack that took place near a synagogue in Tunisia during Lag Ba'Omer celebrations

The attack, which took place during the annual Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai celebration, resulted in the deaths of five people, among them two Jews – Ben Hadad and Aviel Alilash Hadad – as well as three local security guards, before the perpetrator was eliminated by local police.³



4. Presidents of prominent universities in the USA claim that calls for Jewish genocide of Jews does not run contrary to their rules of conduct

On December 5th, the deans of Harvard, MIT, and the University of Pennsylvania failed to provide direct positive responses to the question, whether calls for the extermination of a nation directed at Jews constitute a violation of the rules of conduct at their universities. The question was posed by Republican congresswoman, Alice Stefanik during a high-profile hearing in the Congressional Education Committee on the rise of antisemitism on campuses in the USA. Claiming that it would be necessary to refer to the "context" of the calls, the responses of the three university presidents received sharp and widespread criticism, with many calling for their resignations. Several days later, the president of the University of Pennsylvania, Liz Magill, announced that she would be resigning from her post,⁴ and a month later the president of Harvard also resigned.⁵



5. Jewish and Israeli passengers attacked at Makhachkala airport in the Dagestan province of Russia

Jewish and Israeli passengers arriving from Tel Aviv were attacked by hundreds of local Muslims, after landing at Makhachkala airport, in the Dagestan province of Russia on November 29th. The attackers burst into the airport, chanting "Allahu Akbar" and began searching for Israelis and Jews with the aim of harming them. The event ended several hours later, after Russian forces took over the airport. 20 local residents were injured, two of them in critical condition.⁶



6. Shooting attacks on Jewish schools in Canada

On November 9th and 12th, three incidents took place at Jewish schools in Montreal. These happened before an attack involving a Molotov cocktail that was thrown at the entrance to the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in the city on November 8th. No casualties were reported.⁷



7. A Jewish woman was stabbed in her home in France, and a swastika was sprayed on her door

A Jewish woman in her thirties was attacked in her home in the city of Lyon on December 4th. The assailant stabbed his victim repeatedly when she opened her door, injuring her lightly, then painted a swastika on the door and fled. It should be noted that a mezuzah was installed on the doorpost of the woman's home.⁸



Swastika painted on Jewish woman's door in France (Social Networks, used in accordance with clause 27a of the copyright law)



8. Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas claims that Hitler did not exterminate the Jews due their religion, but because of their social role and their preoccupation with money and usury

On September 5th, the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas delivered a speech to Fatah's Revolutionary Council in Ramallah, during which he claimed that "Hitler did not destroy the Jews because of their religion," but, according to him, "because of their social role and their preoccupation with money and usury." It should be noted that this is not the first time that Abbas has made antisemitic statements, nor distorted the Holocaust. In the days after the speech,

the USA, Germany, France, Great Britain, the European Union and other parties condemned Abbas' antisemitic rhetoric, with the mayor of Paris rescinding his Grand Vermeil medal – the city's highest medal of honor.⁹



9. Armenian synagogue burned, alongside arson attacks on other synagogues during the 'Iron Swords' war

A local militant group set fire to the Mordechai the Prophet synagogue in Yerevan, on October 2nd and November 14th. The attacks were broadcast on social media alongside justifying statements and other threats.¹⁰ It should be emphasized that additional arson attacks have been instigated against synagogues around the world since the outbreak of the war. On October 18th, in Germany, unidentified suspect threw two Molotov cocktails at a synagogue in Berlin. In Spain, a synagogue was attacked in the city of Melilla on October 18th by a mob waving Palestinian flags. Additionally, synagogues have been vandalized against the backdrop of the war even in places where antisemitic incidents are not routinely reported, such as Porto (Portugal) and Padua (Italy).



10. British singer Roger Waters sports Nazi uniform at Berlin concert and compares the murder of Anne Frank to deceased Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Aqla

In May 2023, one of the most prominent antisemites of our time, former Pink Floyd bassist/vocalist Roger Waters came onstage wearing an SS uniform during a concert tour in Berlin. His background video images displayed human-like pigs and businessmen “pulling the strings” on the central screen throughout the performance. The name of Anne Frank, who was murdered by the Nazis in Bergen-Belsen, was projected alongside other people who were allegedly killed by various authorities and regimes, including Palestinian journalist, Shirin Abu Aqla, who was hit during a shootout between IDF forces and terrorists in Jenin.¹¹



Roger Waters in Berlin (X-twitter Israel Foreign Ministry @IsraelMFA May 24, 2023)

Remarks

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- 4 Pandolfo, C., and Sabes, A. December 9, 2023. UPenn President Liz Magill steps down after controversial testimony on antisemitism. Fox News. Retrieved from: <https://t.ly/HiSaa>.
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- 11 Joffe, T. May 24, 2023. Roger Waters dresses up as SS officer, compares Anne Frank to Abu Akleh. The Jerusalem Post. Retrieved from: <https://t.ly/VYKJM>.



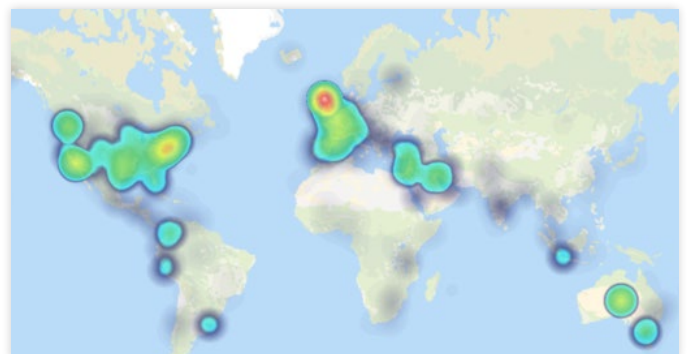
Antisemitism Online

The meteoric rise in antisemitism recorded throughout the world following October 7th was faithfully reflected in the online sphere. Interestingly, the increase in online posts containing antisemitic content was much higher than the number of users distributing these posts, which indicates a much higher level of involvement among those users who distribute antisemitic content in general. The leading cities for online antisemitic discourse related to the war are Paris, New York, Los Angeles, Washington, and Chicago.

A more focused examination that compares the 17-day period prior to October 7th and the 17-day period that followed shows a **400% increase**. It should be noted that **these figures are much higher compared to other periods accompanying previous military operations**, such as Guardians of the Walls, during which online antisemitism increased by about 230%, and Black Belt, which generated a 30% increase. A report published by the Fighting Online Antisemitism (FOA) movement and the World Zionist Organization indicates that during the war's first month (October 7th-11th) antisemitic content increased threefold, compared to the same period the previous year.¹

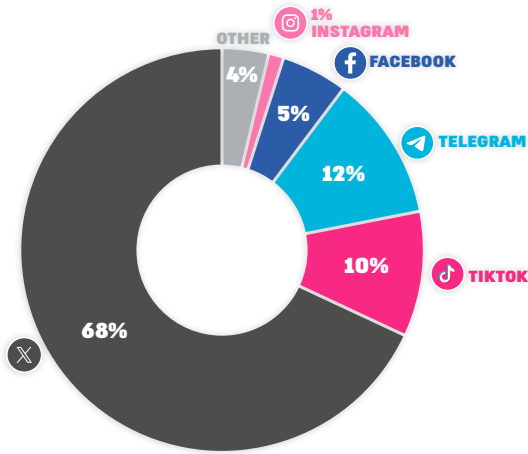
Furthermore, it should be noted that **December registered a comparative easing in online antisemitic discourse, with the pinnacle having been reached in November**.

Additionally, a survey of the major social networks by the Ministry for Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism from mid-November till the end of December, which included a sampling of 30,000 posts containing antisemitic content found that **68% of antisemitic content was distributed**



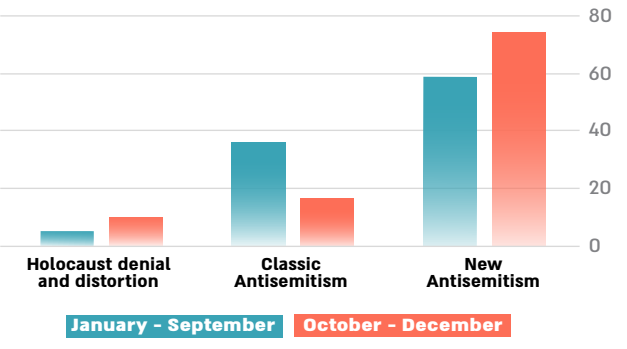
on X, 12% on Telegram, 10% on TikTok, and 5% on Facebook. Similar findings were the result of research by the Fight Online Antisemitism movement and the World Zionist Organization.²

At the same time, the Iron Swords war saw a **1,200% increase in posts that included violent antisemitic content that calls for violence against Jews, Israelis, and Zionists, with 79% of this content published in Arabic.** Within this context, antisemitic content was particularly violent in Cairo, Amman, New York, Paris, Washington, Algiers, Alexandria, and Los Angeles. In general, antisemitic content in Arabic is considerably more violent than that in other languages.



Also, as in 2022, most **online antisemitic discourse in 2023 can be classified as new antisemitism**, which is aimed at the State of Israel, deals more closely with the Israel-Palestine conflict, and whose sources are mainly Palestinian, pro-Palestinian, and progressive circles. **Alongside the Iron Swords war, this form of antisemitism occupied a much larger wedge of the general online antisemitic discourse (74.1%)** compared to the rest of the year (58.8%) and to 2022 (68%). This trend finds greater expression in German (82%), Spanish (93.1%), and Arabic (89.2%). And yet, throughout this past year, this sub-category presented a decrease, especially in Britain and the USA. Additionally, BDS against the background of the war **also saw a considerable increase within the general antisemitic discourse, which included denial and distortion of the Holocaust (9% of all online antisemitic discourse)**, compared to the rest of the year (5.4% and 2022 (6%), most prominently in Australia and – language-wise – in French, Russian, and Spanish. This increase came at the expense of expressions

Comparison of main categories Iron Swowrds war relative to rest-of-year



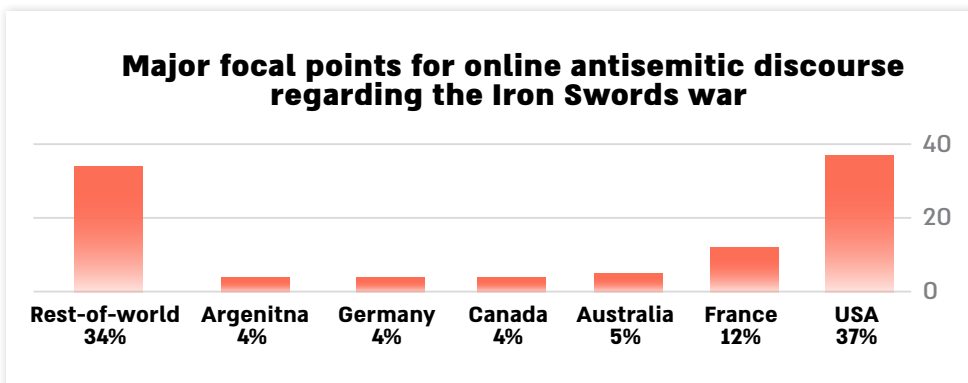
of “classic” antisemitism, which accounts for 16%, compared with the rest of the year (35.8%) and 2022 (26%).

Furthermore, the war saw a considerable increase in online antisemitism whose main centers of discourse being in the **USA, France, Australia, Britain, Canada, Germany, South Africa, Argentina, and Spain.**

A survey in the US by the Anti-Defamation League regarding posts on X between September 30th and October 13th (one week before and after October 7th) **found a 919% increase in the number of antisemitic posts.**³ A related survey of American citizens found that **surfing the TikTok platform for at least 30 minutes a day increases the chances of the surfers entertaining antisemitic sentiments by 17%, compared to 6% for Instagram and 2% for X.**⁴

Another trend registered against the background of the war is **the sharply increased legitimizing of antisemitic expressions, which before October 7th had been confined to the margins of discourse.** Moreover, a

Major focal points for online antisemitic discourse regarding the Iron Swords war



launch point was observed for antisemitic content promoted by users identified with moderate right-wing circles, who tend to spread content labeled as classic antisemitism, and users identified with moderate left-wing circles, who tend to spread content labeled as new antisemitism. Accordingly, moderate right-wing circles have begun producing more material related to Zionists, not only Jews, while left-wing circles have begun adopting elements of classic antisemitism, such as the killers of Christ, who they classify as Palestinian.

Among Muslim users in the online sphere, a considerable increase in attempts to compare the State of Israel and its activities with the Nazi regime and its activities has been observed (as

has, indeed the increased use of the term Nazi in Arabic – نازي). Generally, there has been an increase in the use of the #ZioNazi hashtag, as well as pictures of Hitler and expressions of his glorification. Below, some examples from X.⁵

Online uses of terms meant to demean Jews have also increased alongside the war, including Goyim and Khazar in English, Sayanim in French, and term distortions, such as J3ws, aimed at eluding automated and manual regulation by the media platforms that have been tasked with removing such material.



Source: X (Twitter), القَائِدُ عَبدُاللهِ, @alqaeed36
October 18, 2023



Source: X (Twitter), Dr Loubna M Kassem, @DrKasse1
December 16, 2023

Remarks

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The Glass Half Full

Key Activities in the Fight Against Global Antisemitism

Despite the distressing increase in the number of antisemitic incidents this past year, several new initiatives and measures have been introduced into the battle against antisemitism, this alongside continued implementation of existing programs that have been active for several years. National plans to fight antisemitism have been published, laws have been legislated that improve the legal framework for fighting the scourge, impressive budgets have been earmarked for reinforcing the security of Jewish communities, commissioners to fight antisemitism have been appointed by some countries and centers have been established and significant statements have been heard from world leaders. This chapter summarizes some of these key activities.

 **In the United States, the upsetting increase in antisemitic incidents recently has led the American government to act vigorously in this matter.** Apart from the Senate's appointment of Deborah Lipstadt in March 2022 as the State Department's Special Envoy on Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism, that same year, the White House announced the establishment of a special team tasked with formulating a strategy to combat antisemitism.¹ A year later, in May 2023, the Biden administration distributed the first-ever US National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, describing it as "the most ambitious and comprehensive US government-led effort to fight antisemitism in American history."² This 60-page plan is comprised of four sections (pillars) and details over 100 calls to action for Congress, local and federal governments, technological platforms, civil society circles, and religious leaders – all this

aimed at eradicating the phenomenon of antisemitism. The four pillars are: (1) "Increasing awareness and understanding of Antisemitism, including its threat to America, and broader appreciation of Jewish American heritage," (2) "Improving safety and security for Jewish communities," including the creation of a task force for improving and simplifying data collation on antisemitic incidents and its reporting mechanism, (3) "Reversing the normalization of antisemitism" on social networks, upon whom the administration calls to adopt actions to reduce the phenomenon, and (4) "Building cross-community solidarity and collective action to counter hate". The plan also includes the establishment of the first research center to educate about the Holocaust in the USA, to be created within the US Holocaust Museum by 2024, and a plan for government action to counter antisemitism in schools and



campuses – all this attached to a clear timetable. Some caveats and shortcomings are obvious, chief among them the absence of formal adoption of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism – the most globally held definition of the phenomenon. Moreover, some commentators claim that referring to Jews as one more minority may devalue the term “antisemitism” due to its contextual reference to other minority groups in the US.

In direct consequence of the plan, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul in September announced a state-wide battle on antisemitism³, including the creation of a New York State center against hatred in education and an annual conference to fight hate, create a safe and inclusive environment, and focus on the eradication of antisemitism. Additionally, based on the plan, eight federal agencies clarified for the first time in writing that section 6 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbids “certain forms of antisemitic discrimination and Islamophobia and related forms of bias and discrimination in federally financed programs and activities.” These protections provide authorities with tools to restrain discrimination based on common ancestry or ethnic identity and enable better protection of the civil rights of all Americans.⁴

Likewise, in February, Brown University President Christina Paxson, denounced antisemitism and boycotts against any country at a conference, objected to the use of donations as a tool to promote political agendas, and called for the definition of the gray area between criticizing Israeli policies that does not constitute antisemitism and anti-Israel expressions that reflect and normalize alleged anti-Jewish antisemitism.⁵ In March, Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes was removed from the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Maryland for promoting “hateful racist rhetoric”.⁶ In April, Anthony Joseph Hammer, a promoter of neo-Nazi ideologies, was sentenced to two years in a federal prison for sending threats to the Anti-Defamation League in the USA.⁷ In

May, the Virginia Senate adopted the IHRA's definition of antisemitism as did Arkansas, Missouri, North Dakota, and Colorado, this year.⁸ In July, students from Xavier University, Louisiana won a national prize for a project against antisemitism called “Still We R.O.S.E.” – a reaction to the continuing string of public antisemitic comments made by rapper Kanye West in October 2022 that aims to educate New Orleans residents about Black and Jewish history.⁹ In October, against the background of the events of October 7th, **the USC's Shoah Foundation** began documenting testimony of the Hamas terror attack survivors, which are to form a section in the general documentation of antisemitic incidents that occurred after 1945.¹⁰



In Canada, the local government has for years been actively fighting antisemitism, discrimination, and hate, while promoting education and research on the topic alongside the preservation of the memory of the Holocaust – this with the understanding that antisemitism is not merely a problem of Jewish communities. Accordingly, in May, the province of Newfoundland and Labrador adopted the IHRA's working definition of antisemitism.¹¹ In addition, a speech by the Egyptian sheik, Nashat Ahmed to the Canadian Muslim Association was canceled. Sheik Ahmed regularly refers to Jews as “evil animals” and “the worst living creatures on the planet.”¹² Likewise, the Al-Meshwar newspaper, which accuses the Jews of perpetrating the Holocaust and encourages terror, was removed from local Metro-owned grocery stores in Ontario.¹³ In October, Prime Minister Trudeau appointed Former Ambassador to Israel Deborah Lyons as Special Envoy for Combating Antisemitism.¹⁴ Lyons replaces Professor Irwin Cotler, who has been highly active in the field.



The European Union has, since the outbreak of the war, been highly active in collecting testimony and calling upon social platforms to apply the Union's regulations regarding online hate speech (the Digital Services Act). Within this framework, it has demanded an urgent application of existing regulation and placed a time-bound ultimatum.¹⁵ In this regard, the European Commission in December reportedly initiated official proceedings against the X social media platform for alleged violations of binding regulation.¹⁶ On November 5th, the Commission published a condemnation of the sharp increase in antisemitic incidents in Europe and around the world, determining that the Union will stand by the Jewish communities and employ all tools at its disposal, including enforcing the ban on incitement to hatred and violence and dealing with racist discourse and hate crimes. The Union also stated that it would cooperate with member states to increase security for places of worship.¹⁷



In Britain, in March before the war, former Home Secretary Suella Braverman announced a 15-million-pound allocation to guarding and securing the Jewish community for 2023-2024. As part of the project, a special task force will be established to fight crime and antisemitism, as well as a special forum chaired by the home secretary, which will meet three times annually and include the participation of operative elements who will enforce terror-fighting activities on the municipal level.¹⁸ Following the events of October 7th, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced a new plan for supporting the Jewish community against antisemitic activities, aimed at increasing the community's sense of security.¹⁹ This includes the allocation of 3 million pounds sterling for community security and protecting schools, synagogues, and other community facilities. A month later, the British finance minister announced the allocation of an additional 7 million pounds for fighting antisemitism over the next three years – this given the fear of an


increased rise in hostility towards the local community.²⁰ Moreover, at their meeting in London on November 20th, the foreign ministers of Britain and Austria published a joint declaration on cooperation between the states that includes reference to the fight against antisemitism.²¹ Meanwhile, London police, which at the early stages of the war began to arrest elements who had been expressing antisemitic sentiments at protests throughout the country and cut ties with a professional adviser following the exposure of antisemitic remarks he had made.²²



In France, on January 1st, 2023, Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne announced a **National Plan Combating Racism, Antisemitism, and Discrimination based on origin for 2023-2026.**²³ The plan – developed by the Inter-ministerial Delegation for Combating Racism and Antisemitism (DILCRAH) and formulated by the relevant government ministries, the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH), various associations and commemorative foundations – serves as a direct extension of the original French program, first adopted in 2015, and including 80 activities divided into five categories. These are: (1) improvement of education and teacher training regarding discrimination, racism, and antisemitism, (2) improved measuring of antisemitism, (3) collating and reporting on racism, antisemitism, and discrimination, (4) development of tools to improve online discourse, and (5) support for victims. Moreover, the plan will promote educational programs on antisemitism and racism, including visits of French school pupils to sites of antisemitic and racist incidents. Additionally, French legislation will


**PLAN NATIONAL
DE LUTTE**
CONTRE **LE RACISME,**
L'ANTISÉMITISME
ET LES **DISCRIMINATIONS**
LIÉES À L'ORIGINE 2023 - 2026

be adapted to include charges of antisemitic or racist crimes, enabling the apprehension of suspects of such charges. In addition to the above, the French government has, over the past year, taken action against the activities of the far-right Civitas party for its antisemitic activities.²⁴ One other important event took place in September, entailing the French Municipality stripping Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of his special honor for his antisemitic comments undermining the Holocaust, on which occasion Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo published a letter stating that Abbas' remarks run contrary to universal values and the historical truth of the Holocaust.²⁵ Following the events of October 7th, the French government published a considerable number of statements supporting Israel and condemning antisemitic incidents. This followed a wave of extreme hate that emerged throughout the country accompanied by deeds that are detailed in the chapter dedicated to France in this report. Notwithstanding, the joint initiative of the French government and UNESCO against antisemitism in schools and universities was launched at the UNESCO economic conference on November 12th. This new partnership aims to create educational programs and train educators and decision-makers in the fight against antisemitism using education in France and Europe.²⁶

 **In Germany**, even before the war, the Baden-Württemberg state parliament in March voted in a **prohibition of anti-Jewish and antisemitic protests in public squares and old synagogues** by a large majority.²⁷ Two months later, **German police forbade pro-Palestinian protests in Berlin to commemorate the Nakba**.²⁸ In June, Saxony's ministry for welfare announced the funding of eight new projects to fight antisemitism budgeted at 40,000 Euros per year until the end of 2024.²⁹ In September, the German government outlawed the Hammerskins Deutschland organization – the German branch of the American Hammerskins

Nation, a neo-Nazi group famous for its extremist right-wing concerts and selling racist music.³⁰ Concurrently, training in Berlin continued for judges and government representatives active in the field of antisemitism.³¹ Against the background of the events of October 7th, Germany has forbidden pro-Palestinian protests and canceled over 99 of these.³² Additionally, in October, the German minister of justice announced that support for the Hamas terrorist organization in German streets will be considered a punishable crime³³ and that conviction of antisemitic crimes will be a significant reason for denying citizenship.³⁴ In November, the interior minister announced a total ban on the activities of the Hamas terrorist organization in Germany, and on the activities of Samidoun – a declared terrorist organization in Israel, which is an affiliate of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terrorist organization.³⁵

Moreover, in January, the European Network on Monitoring Antisemitism (EMMA) pilot was launched in Germany, Austria, and Poland, whose aim is to establish and develop a European network to monitor antisemitism through international cooperation between Jewish and non-Jewish civil society organizations in the three countries, which till collate data on antisemitic incidents and crimes, as defined by the IHRA's working definition.³⁶

 **In Luxembourg** in September, the government published a national action plan to combat antisemitism (PANAS).³⁷ The plan aims to identify and deal with antisemitism with the same determination it deals with other forms of racism, xenophobia, and exclusion, however, taking into account the unique characteristics of increasing antisemitism in Europe, in general, and Luxembourg, in particular. According to the plan, the Luxembourg government aims to deal with the source of the problem and recognize antisemitism as a social malady.

 **In Italy** in July, the local government, the Italian Football Association, and the local Jewish community published a joint declaration of intent aimed at dealing with antisemitism in the Italian football league.³⁸ The declaration expresses support for the IHRA definition of antisemitism and calls for specific actions to prevent antisemitism in soccer. In addition, the declaration recommends several policy steps aimed at fighting antisemitism, such as a ban on the display of Nazi symbols and chants at football matches, along with expanding the penalties on perpetrators of antisemitism.

 **Switzerland's** National Council – parliament's "lower chamber", in December withdrew funding for UNRWA. Switzerland, the organization's ninth largest donor, made this decision after suspicions arose according to which UNRWA employees were encouraging terror against Israel, this against the background of the Iron Swords war, and that the organization takes a one-sided position in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.³⁹

 **In Belgium,** The Brussels City Council in May adopted an action plan against racism and antisemitism.⁴⁰ The plan is based on the European Convention of Human Rights and sets forth a two-year timetable for examining the plan and its final results. The main goal of the plan is to increase awareness of racism and antisemitism in all age groups and among Brussels' diverse society.



 **The United Arab Emirates,** in cooperation with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) announced the establishment of a Regional Center for Coexistence – Manara, by name.⁴¹ The center's main task will be the application and development of educational programs on the topic, fostering connections between universities in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, developing educational materials, promoting student exchange between the region's universities, and producing research reports on the state of education in the region.

 **In Argentina,** the only Latin American country to claim full membership in IHRA, the La Plata Supreme Court – a province of Buenos Aires – in May adopted the IHRA's working definition of antisemitism. The decision emphasizes the court's dedication to fighting the phenomenon.⁴² Additionally, in June, Argentine Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero appointed Fabiana Loguzzo as Argentina's special envoy on combating antisemitism.⁴³

A final decision to be noted is Spotify and Apple Music's decision to delete Mohammad Assaf's song Ana Dammi Falastini (lit: My blood is Palestinian) due to its antisemitic lyrics.⁴⁴



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United States of America



The past five years have seen a sharp but gradual increase in the number of antisemitic incidents in the USA, with each year breaking previous records. This trend persisted in 2023 – more so the two months following the events of October 7th, which saw a 337% increase in antisemitic levels compared to the same period in 2022, as well as the highest number of antisemitic incidents for any two-month period since organized documentation began in 1979. This includes the murder of a pro-Israel protester by a pro-Palestinian one. Over 200 protest rallies were recorded in which antisemitic and anti-Israel expressions were sounded or that espoused a support for terror. The number of antisemitic online posts increased by 1000%, false bomb threats against Jewish institutions and synagogues increased by 540%, and the number of on-campus antisemitic incidents increased by 700%. Coincidentally, US campuses continue to be unsafe for Jewish students, of whom only 45% feel physically safe. This trend has worsened following the statements of the presidents of the three large US campuses who testified that calling for genocide against Jews does not necessarily constitute a violation of the rules of conduct in universities. At the same time, widespread support for Israel has been expressed by the political echelons and the local Jewish community, which also expresses itself in grassroots activities, including the largest pro-Israel rally in the history of the US.

As 2023 began, the gradual increase of antisemitism in the country continued steadily. Between January and November 2023, the Jewish community's Secure Community Network documented over 4,260 antisemitic incidents, including over 499 cases that included false warnings and fake bomb threats. Meanwhile, three outstanding events included the January 29th **Molotov cocktail thrown towards the Ner Tamid synagogue in New Jersey**,¹ and – on February 15th and 16th – **two separate shooting incidents in which men were shot by the exit from the Pico-Robertson synagogue in Los Angeles**. The 28-year-old perpetrator, who was

apprehended by police, had months before expressed antisemitic sentiments.² In addition, throughout July-September, growing waves of **harassment were aimed at synagogues and Jewish community facilities**, this through false reports employing antisemitic expressions and alerting law enforcement through fake bomb threats at such locales.³ Such incidents have, in some cases, prompted local authorities to encourage worshippers to carry arms.⁴

After October 7th, as elsewhere throughout the world, antisemitic incidents in the US increased dramatically. The following month, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) registered 2,031 antisemitic incidents,

compared to 465 during the same period in 2022, representing a 337% increase. Notably, this is the highest number of events over a two-month period since the organization began registering antisemitic incidents.⁵ The FBI has acknowledged a 60% increase in hate crime investigations since October 7th, and the organization's director claims that the US is experiencing an historical increase in antisemitism.⁶ This considerable increase also reflects in New York police data, which shows a 214% increase in antisemitic incidents in October – most involving graffiti and harassment of Jews.

The most serious event related to the war occurred on November 5th, when **Paul Kessler, a 69-year-old Jew participating in a pro-Israel rally, was attacked by a pro-Palestinian activist, leading to his death.** Two weeks later, a university lecturer, Loay Abdelfattah Alnaji, was accused of the murder.⁷ Another notable event occurred on October 25th when a man broke into a Jewish home in Los Angeles shouting "Death to Jews."

As in other countries, pro-Palestinian rallies related to the war have taken place in the US, with the ADL reporting nearly **200 protests that included antisemitic and anti-Israel slogans and support for terror.** Most of these rallies were organized by antisemitic organizations, such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), the Palestinian Youth Movement, American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), and Within Our Lifetime. Unsurprisingly, research indicates that a **significant portion of pro-Palestinian protests emanating from the war take place in areas populated by large Arab and Palestinian communities.**⁸

Another characteristic of war-related antisemitism is the **considerable increase in the number of fake bomb threats against Jewish institutions and synagogues,** this reflecting the trend that began even before October 7th but has since been exacerbated. On December 17th, the Jewish community's Secure Community Network reported 199 bomb threats against synagogues in 17 states in



Source: X (twitter) @EnslerPhillip, Dec 17, 2023

the US within 24 hours.⁹ The following day, the ADL reported over 400 Jewish organizations throughout the US receiving fake bomb threats by email since the beginning of that week, **with a sharp 540% increase over the same period in 2022 in such incidents since the beginning of the year.**¹⁰

US campuses have also seen a dramatic increase in antisemitism, as is indicated by a chapter dedicated to the subject. **The Hillel organization registered 683 antisemitic on-campus incidents between October 7th and December 22nd – a figure representing a 700% jump relative to 2022.** It should be noted that antisemitic incidents were reported on 129 campuses throughout the country, with 59 of them reporting more than one incident. Moreover, the organization has never registered more than fifty incidents over a similar period and never more than 40 campuses affected by antisemitism in a single period.¹¹ Another major survey also shows the extent to which campuses have become an unsafe environment for Jewish students, stating that **73% of Jewish students have either born witness to or have personally experienced antisemitism since the beginning of the academic year in September. Only 45% of Jewish students feel physically safe on campus (compared to 66.6% prior to October 7th), and only 32.5% feel emotionally safe (compared to 65.8% before that date).**¹²

The most exceptional campus-related event related to the war occurred on December 5th when the presidents of three leading US

universities (Harvard, MIT, and Penn State), during a highly publicized Congressional hearing on education, had trouble answering the question of whether calls for genocide of Jews constitute an offense against the rules of conduct at their universities, replying instead that they need to take into consideration the context surrounding the incident. This event is covered in detail in the relevant chapter.

Levels of antisemitism have also risen on the municipal level, especially post-October 7th, when some cities, such as Richmond City in California who accused Israel of "ethnic cleansing",¹³ passed anti-Israel rulings. In some cases, pro-Palestinian activists have co-opted city council meetings to accuse Israel of genocide and ethnic cleansing. Then again, the ADL has also documented over 100 cases in which White Supremacists have disrupted public forums, especially city and regional council meetings taking place virtually, to make antisemitic pronouncements.¹⁴ The vast majority of these occurrences have been related to organizations, such as the **Goyim Defense League** and **City Council Death (CCDS)**. As a result, several councils have banned public responses during their debates, especially the online ones.

Another central organization that has been prominent in promoting antisemitism is the **Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)** – the largest promoting Islamic rights in the US, whose leader, when referring to the Hamas atrocities, said he was "happy to see the people of Gaza break the siege on October 7th... and throwing down the shackles of their own land and walk free into their land which they were not allowed to walk in."¹⁵ The organization's Maryland branch manager also posted comparisons between Israel and Nazi Germany, denying the murder of Israeli babies on October 7th. Consequently, the State of Maryland's Attorney General suspended the director from the state task force to combat hate crimes, but retracted some days later, claiming that his office did not have the authority to carry out the suspension.¹⁶

The entertainment world is echoing the antisemitism related to the war, as well. One example is rapper Kanye West, who in 2022 distinguished himself with his antisemitic statements and at one publicized party stated that the Jews rule and manage the hospitals and schools in the country – among others.¹⁷ Another personality is Gigi Hadid who has become famous for her antisemitic outbursts and who published a photo of a Palestinian youth, who was involved in a 2015 terror attack, saying that "Israel is the only country that keeps children as prisoners of war." She later apologized;¹⁸ however, her father, real-estate developer Mohamed Hadid on October 28th published an antisemitic post on Instagram¹⁹ that included a table comparing Israel and the Nazis, claiming that the State of Israel is based on Jewish supremacy and the jailing of ethnic groups in ghettos. In addition, the agency that represents actress Susan Sarandon on November 22nd notified the actress that it was severing its relations with her following statements accusing Israel of genocide and doubting the veracity of reports of the Hamas massacre.

NAZIS	ISRAEL
FOUNDED ON ARIAN SUPREMACY	FOUNDED ON JEWISH SUPREMACY
EXPULSION MILLIONS FROM THEIR HOMES	EXPULSION MILLIONS FROM THEIR HOMES
PUT RACIAL GROUPS IN GHETTOS & CAMPS (EX: AUSCHWITZ)	PUT RACIAL GROUPS IN GHETTOS & CAMPS (EX: GAZA)
USED DEHUMANIZING LANGUAGE FOR UNDESIRABLES	USED DEHUMANIZING LANGUAGE FOR UNDESIRABLES
ENFORCED COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENTS	ENFORCED COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENTS
SIGNATURE METHOD: GAS CHAMBERS	SIGNATURE METHOD: CARPET BOMBING

12,114 likes

mohamedhadid And Both added and labeled the victims as Terrorists.. regardless of their peacefulness of other activities . Some Palestinians and some Jews even changed their names.

Source: Instagram / @mohamedhadid, October 29, 2023

The dramatic increase in antisemitism is reflected in the increasing fear felt by local Jewish communities, which constitute the largest Jewish collective in the Diaspora.

A survey by the Jewish Federations of North America found that 70% of local Jews feel less safe than they did prior to October 7th, and that 75% of them are concerned that their community may have to face security problems due to the war. Furthermore, 72% said they believe antisemitism against their community is on the rise, and that 33% of communities had already experienced violence or hate in some form. For the first time in years, Jews and non-Jews are beginning to perceive hatred of Jews as more prevalent than hatred against other minorities.²⁰

Polls are also indicating an increase in antisemitism. An ADL poll from January 2023 found that 23% of the US public believes – at least to a certain degree – that Israel can avoid the consequences of its action since its supporters “rule the media”, 17% feel discomfort amid people who visibly support Israel, and 20% claim that Jews have too much influence in the United States.²¹ Another survey taken against the backdrop of the war revealed even more dramatic sentiments – especially among the youth. Apparently, **20% of Americans under the age of 30 believe or tend to believe that the Holocaust never happened** (a percentage that is 20 times higher than that of people over 65 who agree

with the statement). 20% of the public claim that Israel uses the Holocaust to promote its own interests, **28% of youngsters believe or tend to believe that Jews have too much influence in American society** (compared to 16% of the general public), 27% of the general public believes that Israel is trying to destroy the Palestinian population and **33% of youngsters support boycotting Israel and products manufactured there.**²² Another survey conducted among New York residents found that 75% of state residents believe that the state is burdened by antisemitism and although 60% believe that the Hamas attacks are an indescribable crime, about 25% feel that Hamas actions are a result of Israel’s attitude towards the Palestinians.²³ Another survey published against the background of the war indicates that 71% of Americans believe that hatred of Jews is a serious problem, compared to 53% the previous year.²⁴ Notably, although **both Democrat and Republican voters are equal in their consideration of antisemitism as a serious problem (68% for both),²⁵ there still exist discrepancies between the two groups.** For example, in a survey conducted last year, double the number of Democrats are more liable to consider Zionism as negative compared to Republicans,²⁶ while in another, Democrats feel more sympathy for Palestinians than for Israelis.²⁷



OCTOBER 17, 2023: A pro Palestinian protester holds a sign on 2nd Ave near the Israeli Embassy in Manhattan. (Joe Tabacca / Shutterstock)



Measures Taken to Combat antisemitism

Against this background of increasing antisemitism in the USA before the outbreak of war, the Biden administration in May published a **National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism**,²⁸ which is detailed extensively in the chapter on steps taken in the battle against antisemitism in the previous year. Besides this, this past year saw the striking **“StandUpToJewishHate campaign**, in which the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism launched a 25 million dollar advertising campaign in March, which features a blue square broadcast on television and social media with the dedicated hashtag, aimed at raising awareness around antisemitism as a social malady and to raise awareness to the battle against it.²⁹

Against the background of the war, November 14th saw **the largest pro-Israel rally in the history of the USA**, which attracted 300,000 Israel supporters to Washington DC, with an additional 250,000 attending online. The event, which was organized by the Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Organizations was attended by senior leaders of both parties, relatives of Israeli abductees, students, comics, influencers, etc. – all who called for the immediate release of kidnapped Israelis, support of Israel and condemnation of rising antisemitism in the country.

Generally, the American political echelons have most expressed unabashed and unequivocal support for Israel and the local Jewish community. Following his historic visit during the war, President Biden delivered a speech to the American people, expressing his unambiguous support for Israel. He called the Hamas attack “pure unadulterated evil” and claimed that the “attack has brought to the surface painful memories and the scars left by millennia of antisemitism and genocide of the Jewish people. “In this moment,” he continued, “it must be crystal clear: We stand

with Israel. We stand with Israel.”³⁰ Additionally, in an interview for the Washington Post from December 26th, the US special envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism, Deborah Lipstadt said that antisemitism “intensifies at times of stress.”³¹

House Majority Leader Chuck Schumer in a speech to the Senate on November 29th warned the American public of the dangers of antisemitism, calling it a “five-alarm fire that must be extinguished,” warning against blaming American Jews for the policies of the Government of Israel, and against the lack of condemnation amidst the American public for increasing antisemitism. He referred to the Nazi period in Germany, saying that “Some of the most extreme rhetoric against Israel has emboldened antisemites who are attacking Jewish people simply because they are Jewish.”³²

Before the war broke out, at the Jewish New Year’s party hosted by Vice President Kamala Harris, she claimed, “We are being presented with a wake-up call, the blast of the shofar. “We are dealing with very powerful forces that are attempting to wage what I think is a full-on attack against hard-won freedoms, liberty.” She called antisemitism “a venom coursing through our country” and assured the audience that “We are the antidote.”³³

Aside from the above, on December 5th, Congress adopted a resolution condemning the rise of antisemitism in the USA and around the world, determining that anti-Zionism is antisemitism. This decision, which was prepared by Republican legislators, won a 311-voice majority versus 14, with 92 Democrats abstaining and 95 supporting.³⁴ Moreover, though considerably later, the US Department of Education opened an investigation of complaints about antisemitic incidents registered on US campuses.

And yet, despite the relatively encompassing support from all sides of the political spectrum in the US, antisemitic expressions are often heard from the extremist fringe. For example, Democrat Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib has claimed that the slogan “from the river to the sea” is not a call for the destruction of Israel but



Photo by Chris A. Williams for the Jewish Federations of North America, November 14th 2023

a desire for liberty, civil rights, and peaceful coexistence. She was later reprimanded by Congress with a majority gained through the support of 22 Democrat congress members.³⁵ Tlaib followed with a post accusing Congress members of meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu in “support of the war criminal”, calling him a “genocidal maniac”.³⁶ Congress member Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez published a Christmas post that also drew widespread

criticism for claiming that Jesus was born in a place that is a part of “modern-day Palestine”, and that he belonged to a population that was being indiscriminately massacred, “as similar stories unfold for today’s Palestinians.”³⁷

Our thanks for the assistance in conducting this research goes to the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA).

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Human Rights Advocacy as a Shroud for Antisemitism

This past year and against the backdrop of October 7th, in particular, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which officially seek to promote human rights and are often supported generously by governments and philanthropic funds – continue to promote antisemitism and the dehumanizing of Jews. As such, several of these organizations denied the massacre of October 7th and, in some cases, even justified it. Some made false accusations that are comparable to modern blood libels, according to which Israel is committing “genocide” and even “ethnic cleansing” against the Palestinians and intensified their use of Holocaust denial motifs and distortion, while comparing Israel’s current policy with that of the Nazis. In addition, some led campaigns aimed at preventing the adoption of the IHRA’s definition of antisemitism, which is a recognized international tool for the identification and battle against manifestations of antisemitism. Responsibility for these activities, which constitute antisemitism – pure and simple – ultimately falls with those entities that fund such organizations, such as governments, philanthropic funds, and UN agencies, which should better ascertain that their support does not enable antisemitic activities in practice.

In recent years, a trend has been intensifying of non-governmental organizations, whose purpose is to promote human rights and humanitarian matters, actively promoting antisemitic activities, the dehumanization of Jews, and the radicalization of Palestinian society. The events of October 7th intensified these trends even more, where – despite expectations that the response to the massacre, rape, torture, mutilation of corpses, and abducting civilians would entail the human rights community uniting around the unequivocal condemnation of the Hamas terror organization and uncompromisingly supporting the Israeli victims – instead **some of these human rights organizations denied the massacre had taken place and in some cases even justified it.**

BADIL
@BADIL_Center

Nothing about the Palestinian resistance is unprovoked!
#DecolonizePalestine #FreePalestine #OngoingNakba

NOTHING ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE IS UNPROVOKED.

The Palestinian people have been suffering for 75 years of colonial-apartheid regime, ethnic cleansing, forcible transfer/displacement, more than 15 years of air, land and sea blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, confiscation of Palestinian lands, massacres on Palestinian towns, desecration of Palestinian holy sites, daily raids into Palestinian homes and arrests, and constant humiliation of an entire people, in addition to Israeli colonizers state-backed brutal attacks. In seeking the inalienable rights of self-determination and return, resistance is the most humane and legitimate act.

4:29 PM · Oct 9, 2023 · 1,947 Views

Source: X @BADIL_Center October 9, 2023

For example, on October 10th, Ziad Hmiedan, head of Al Haq's construction training department¹ reported that he had received indirect funding in 2023 from the French and Swedish governments. "The Hadith says that you must make Jihad and the best Jihad prepares for war, and the best preparation for war is in Ashkelon."² On October 8th, the Badil organization,³ which also receives foreign government financing, posted on X that nothing related to Palestinian resistance happens without reason or justification, and that "resistance is the most human and legitimate action."⁴

This trend even manifests **in attempts to deny testimony of the sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas terrorists.** As proven by research and analysis, **many civil organizations are supported by governments and the UN through official programs for the development and promotion of humanitarian rights, as well as by private funds, civil organizations, and church groups – this despite repeated attempts to raise the issue with them.** Notwithstanding, **following the events of October 7th, signs of increased responsibility arrived from the European Union, Switzerland, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, and Austria, which suspended part of or all funding for Palestinian human rights organizations, subject to the completion of investigations regarding their activities.**⁵ The financial sources – both governmental and private, which provide resources, access, and legitimization for civil society organizations – mentioned in this chapter, are indicated in the links provided in the footnotes and are based on NGO Monitor data.

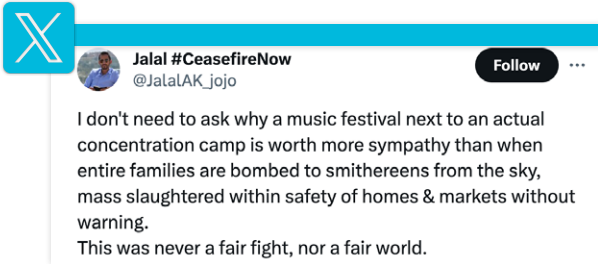
The massacre and crimes against humanity perpetrated on October 7th by the Hamas terror organization created a challenge for human rights organizations that tend to support anti-Israel sentiments. This is especially true of Human Rights Watch (HRW)⁶ and Amnesty International.⁷ This challenge reflects – among others – in their post-colonial ideology, which automatically casts the Palestinians as victims and Israel

as the aggressor. Within the confines of such an ideology, which expresses antisemitism in practice, it is ostensibly impossible to accuse Palestinians of war crimes, just as Israelis and Jews cannot be considered "victims".

Additionally, as was documented in detail in a report published regarding October 7th, **non-governmental organizations that are funded by European countries hurled false accusations on par with medieval blood libels according to which Israel is perpetrating genocide and ethnic cleansing against Palestinians.**⁸ These organizations include Al Dameer,⁹ Al Haq, Al Mezan,¹⁰ Al Shabaka,¹¹ the Belgo-Palestinian Association,¹² Badil, Bisan,¹³ Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCI-P),¹⁴ the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR),¹⁵ the Palestinian Medical Relief Society,¹⁶ the Palestinian NGO Network,¹⁷ Sabeel,¹⁸ Samidoun,¹⁹ the Union of Agricultural Work Committees,²⁰ and Zochrot.²¹

Some of the organizations supported by European countries employ motifs related to Holocaust denial and distortion, as well as attempts to compare Israel's current policies to those of the Nazis, this, even though it contradicts the IHRA's working definition of antisemitism, which some of those donor countries have adopted. The use of such motifs continued more so after October 7th. Some examples include:

- Tamleh's advocacy manager,²² Jalal Abukhater on November 1st tweeted that "One would think Israelis are well-versed with the consequences for those who commit genocide. The Nuremberg trials, the Eichmann trial, etc. They act as if they are immune to similar consequences? As if genocide by some is wrong, but by others is okay? Genocide is Genocide."²³ On October 9th, he asked "don't need to ask why a music festival next to an actual concentration camp is worth more sympathy than when entire families are bombed to smithereens from the sky, mass slaughtered within safety of homes & markets without warning."²⁴



Source: X @jalalAK_jojo, October 9, 2023

- A member of the IfNotNow organization²⁵ tweeted on October 11th “To compare Israelis to holocaust victims during this moment in time is to ignore the ghettos the Israeli government has put Palestinians in...”²⁶
- An official representative of the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, classified in Israel as a terrorist organization, published a Facebook post on October 13th saying, “We live under (conditions of) ethnic cleansing and genocide, accompanied by hunger and disconnection from water, electricity, and fuel. What we are experiencing is stronger and more significant than the Holocaust.”²⁷
- An official Al Shabaka representative tweeted on October 14th that “Gazans have two choices: Ethnic cleansing or genocide. Under the watch of the world. ‘Never again’ is reserved for people with the right color of skin.”²⁸
- The American Muslims for Palestine organization (AMP)²⁹ on November 14th tweeted that “Gaza is most literally a concentration camp. Every single Gazan, whether a baby, a child, or a mother, is viewed as vermin that must be exterminated.”³⁰
- In a press release from November 16th, CODEPINK³¹ referred to what it calls “a 21st Century holocaust of the Palestinian people in Gaza.”³²
- At a meeting of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), an expert for the committee on November 20th determined that “six million Jews died in the Holocaust while Europe looked on. Today, there was a new holocaust and it was the Palestinian people who were paying the price. Israel was a true terrorist State. This was truly a holocaust, and the international community needed to put an end to it.”³³

Another prominent campaign from the year is the attempt to brand the State of Israel as an “apartheid state” – **this to justify claims according to which Israel is inherently illegitimate, and that the existence of a Jewish State is the fundamental cause behind the Israel-Palestine struggle.**³⁴ In some cases, the tag #apartheid is used to justify the October 7th attack. For example, several weeks after October 7th, the Al Mezan organization called in November for people to “raise their voices against Israel’s genocide and Zionist settler-colonial apartheid regime.”³⁵ Simultaneously, AL Haq, Al Mezan, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), the International Parliament for Human Rights (PIDH), and Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCI-P), at a meeting of member states of the “Rome Treaty” of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in December, claimed “flagrant violations of international law and genocide” allegedly carried out by the 75-year-old “colonialist apartheid regime of the settlers,”³⁶ with four of the five organizations mentioned above involved in the publication of “a decision on the crime of genocide in Gaza against the Palestinian people” last November. This last publication defined Israel as an “apartheid colonialist regime.”³⁷ And two weeks following the Hamas attack, Amnesty International announced that the “Israel’s system of apartheid” is the “root cause” of the conflict.³⁸

Human Rights Watch (HRW), whose goal is to promote the protection of human rights around the world, continued last year – and even more so after October 7th – to disseminate antisemitism in direct contradiction to its official task,³⁹ all the while promoting the false apartheid narrative with regards to Israel. In its first statement following October 7th, the organization stated that “The Israeli government’s systematic oppression in the OPT, coupled with inhumane acts committed against Palestinians ... amount to the crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution.”⁴⁰ In addition, it accused Israel of the war crime of intentional starvation by “deliberately blocking delivery of water, food, and fuel...”⁴¹ On the other hand, the organization

has steadfastly opposed initiatives aimed at battling antisemitism.⁴² Furthermore, and even though it is aware of the intensification of antisemitism and Islamophobia as a result of the war, it has refused to condemn this growing antisemitism, refrained from providing details regarding such incidents, and has avoided making any practical recommendations on how to battle the phenomenon. Instead, Amnesty International insists upon lamenting the freedom of expression denied to people who wish to express their protest against the war, and “repercussions in the United States, testing pillars of democracy including the fundamental human rights to free speech and assembly.”⁴³

In fact, organization workers ignored almost completely the increasing wave of antisemitism. For example, in response to a letter from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Brandeis Center in the US calling for organizations to investigate the activities of the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) organization, which serves as one of the most prominent entities promoting antisemitism on campuses, an Amnesty International director wrote, “Can we get the @ACLU @NYCLU involved here? The @ADL are testing just how far they can go... and it’s worrying that they’re seeing so little pushback.”⁴⁴

The bias of international bodies, some of them human rights organizations, was especially prominent regarding the war. Many promoted discourse regarding the conditions in the Gaza Strip at the expense of the atrocities that took place in Israel. In addition, many of them refused to condemn the actions of Hamas directly, with the Israeli abductees in Gaza and the conditions under which they are held receiving little to no attention on their part. For example, UN Women between October 7th and November 23rd published 25 statements and posts regarding Palestinians compared to six joint posts referring to the deaths in both Gaza and Israel, and zero referring to Israel alone. The Red Cross between October 7th and November 26th posted 51 tweets regarding the Palestinians in Gaza, 19 joint posts on Israel

and the Palestinians, and nine regarding Israel. The United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) between October 7th and November 29th posted 99 tweets on Palestinians in Gaza, 16 jointly referring to Israel and the Palestinians, and only three referring solely to Israel.



Civil society organization activities aimed against the IHRA’s definition of antisemitism

The intense hatred of Jews observed around the world following the events of October 7th emphasizes beyond all doubt the importance of the IHRA definition of antisemitism, whose aim is to supply tools to identify and sanction expressions and perpetrators of the phenomenon. Accordingly, non-governmental organizations, especially those that fulfill a central role in generating an atmosphere in which antisemitism is acceptable (such as that which characterizes human rights groups, progressive circles, and campuses) seek to prevent the application of the definition using coordinated campaigns aimed at preventing widespread adoption⁴⁵ vis-à-vis governments, public and professional institutions, and the general public (including the use of mendacious hand-outs and public statements). This campaign has gained momentum alongside the fact that antisemitism has become a permanent and persistent characteristic in the political discourse surrounding Israel and Zionism among these groups, which consistently reject rising antisemitism as a topic related to human rights. For example, Al Shabka held a webinar on November 23rd dealing with the silencing of Palestinian voices, primarily by “specific tools such as the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance ‘working definition’ of antisemitism (IHRA).”⁴⁶ **Ironically, it is specifically those governments that are beholden to the fight against antisemitism, especially through the adoption of the IHRA’s working definition and its application**

in various areas of policy that provide the financial and diplomatic support to non-governmental organizations that strive against their efforts.

In conclusion, the international human rights community bears a crucial responsibility for the rise in antisemitic levels and attacks registered against Jews around the world, which expresses itself– in the direct and indirect dissemination of antisemitism and the fostering of an environment in which antisemitism can flourish. Past experience with some of these organizations indicates that, even if they were subject to structural and personnel upheavals, the agendas they represent cannot be altered or repaired. In light of this, responsibility for their continued activities in a format that promotes an environment that allows hatred of Jews falls on the shoulders of the bodies that finance those same human rights and humanitarian organizations – i.e. governments and UN agencies – which must better ascertain that their support does not enable antisemitic activities in practice.

Note: Our thanks for the assistance in conducting this research goes to NGO Monitor, a research institute that provides information and analysis, promotes accountability, and supports an in-depth discussion of the reports and activities of non-governmental organizations that operate in the field of human rights and humanitarian aid.

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Israel's Accusation of Genocide Based on Post-Holocaust Treaty

The moment the Iron Swords war broke out, the campaign to accuse Israel of perpetrating genocide against Palestinians – an accusation that was swiftly picked up by a myriad of parties, including the Palestinian Authority,¹ civil society groups, such as Al Haq and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR),² and variety of research institutes.³ The accusation even received express support in some international legal blogs.⁴

Consequently, the United Nations in November issued a warning to the international community to prevent genocide against the Palestinians.⁵ A host of different countries joined this campaign, criticizing Israel for perpetrating genocide. Bolivia, Bangladesh, Comoros, Djibouti, Colombia, Turkey, Cuba, and Venezuela were among them. South Africa's president declared that "What is unfolding now, in Gaza, is beyond being unjust. It is genocidal, and that is why we are dubbing it as a genocide against a people and a collective punishment against innocent people."⁶

Later, South Africa went as far as initiating proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), accusing Israel of violating the Convention Against Genocide.

Israel decided to respond, clarifying that South Africa's claim, "lacks both a factual and a legal basis, and constitutes a despicable and

contemptuous exploitation of the Court," and called "on the International Court of Justice and the international community to completely reject South Africa's baseless claims."⁷

This campaign serves as yet one more pillar in the two-decades-old legal-political crusade against the State of Israel, which gained momentum on October 7th. However, the deliberations involve a more complex charge, since it utilizes an ostensible legal framework to falsely accuse the State of Israel with the "crime of all crimes" – according to international law. This reverses the picture so that the true victims of the clearest and most widespread manifestation of this crime, the Jewish People, are now accused of being its perpetrators. What makes this need to reply to such allegations even more galling is that the Jewish Nation is now experiencing calls for its destruction by the Hamas terrorist organization, against which it must fight in response to the atrocities of October 7th.

Both the legal community and Israel's harshest critics are in complete agreement that nothing is further from the term "genocide" than the legal framework related to the war of defense into which Israel was catapulted on October 7th.

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The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism Adoptions in 2023

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition has by now become the most essential, accepted, and effective tool for identifying and marking antisemitic verbalization. By the end of 2023, 1,216 entities have adopted or affirmed the definition, with another 97 adopting it since the beginning of 2023 – more than a third of these (38.1%) in North America, primarily in the USA. This represents a 6.6% increase over 2022.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an inter-governmental organization that was established in 1998, among others, with the aim of uniting governments and experts around the need to strengthen and promote Holocaust education and research related to the commemoration of the Holocaust. On May 26th, 2016, the organization adopted a **working definition of antisemitism**, which had been formulated over several years by organizations, institutes, and independent researchers – Jewish and non-Jewish alike – all working **under the assumption that, for antisemitism to be dealt with effectively, an accepted and agreed upon definition for the term must first be provided, and a common language and framework for identifying and addressing cases of hatred towards Jews – determined.**¹ Within this framework, a concise definition of antisemitism was put forward that refers to a specific perception of Jews, which is accompanied by hate that translates into violent and verbal expressions towards individuals, their property, their

institutions, and sites – all this alongside eleven concrete examples of antisemitism that are an integral part of the definition.

Six years after this definition was put forward, it has become **the most accepted index employed for the joint struggle against the hatred of Jews – a vital tool that is accepted and most effective in identifying and marking all contemporary expressions of this ancient social scourge.** The definition's proven efficacy is through **the consensus it has gained globally**, with dozens of countries, international institutions and organizations, national and local governments, universities, sports clubs, and corporations adopting and employing it.

As of December 2023, 1,216 entities have adopted or ratified the definition, with 97 additional adoptions registered in 2023 alone. This represents a 6.6% increase over 2022.²

Of these 97 adoptions registered in 2023, more than a third (38.1%) were in North America. These were led by the United States of America, where the highest number of

adopters were recorded (35, which represents 36.1% of all adopters this past year). The US is followed by Poland (30 adopters – 30.9%), Argentina (seven adopters – 7.2%), and Italy and Croatia (five adopters each – 5.2%).



Adoption of the Definition by Countries

In 2023, Latvia, Croatia, and Panama adopted the definition, putting the total of countries at 45 (of which 33 are members of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, five are observers, and seven are not members). In this regard, and in accordance with the Council of the European Union's declaration of 2018 regarding the fight against antisemitism,³ which called upon Union states to adopt the definition, 25 out of 27 have already done so, with Malta and Ireland the only members of the EU to not have done so.

Official adoption of the definition by states has far-reaching implications at the local level, as well. For example, following Croatia's adoption of the definition, four additional entities in the country followed suit – the University of Split, Zagreb University's senate, the Croatian Football Association, and the Croatian Olympic Committee. A similar trend occurred in Britain, where within four years of the government's adopting the definition in 2016, 204 local governmental entities did so, as well.



Adoption of the Definition at the Regional and Local Government Level

As of 2023, 514 non-federal government institutions (e.g. municipalities, and regional and state authorities) have adopted the definition, with 47 of them doing so in 2023 alone (72.3% of these in the US). The more prominent entities include Warsaw and Płock in Poland, Florence in Italy, and – in the

US – Kansas City, Cincinnati, Dallas, and Fort Lauderdale. At the regional level, the Buenos Aires province in Argentina and the Piemonte region in Italy adopted the definition. **In addition, four US state adoptees include Arkansas, Missouri, North Dakota, and Colorado – bringing the total to 34, more than two-thirds of US states.** Moreover, the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador brought the total of Canadian provinces to sign on to the definition to eight out of ten.

It should be noted that the adoption by non-federal governments in 2023 constituted 48.5% of all adoptions registered that year. Moreover, adoption on the local and regional government levels is consequential, since local authorities and law enforcement agencies within their jurisdiction play a crucial role in dealing with the antisemitism experienced in the streets by Jewish communities in the Diaspora on a daily basis. Additionally, the adoption of the definition provides an important framework and catalyst for elected officials tasked with battling antisemitism. For example, this past May the Bamberg City Council, which boasts a commissioner for fighting antisemitism, officially adopted the definition – a prerequisite for tasking said commissioner with a clearly defined practical task, enabling him to promote educational initiatives, effectively monitor antisemitic incidents, and cooperate with law enforcement officials to eradicate the phenomenon, all the while employing the definition as a guide.

On the non-federal state administrative level, Britain leads the numbers for 2023 with 271 various non-federal administrations adopting the definition, followed by the US with 123, Argentina with 55, Canada with 20, Italy – 13, Germany – 9, France – 8, Australia – 5, Spain and Venezuela with 3 each, and Brazil and Poland with 2 each. Notably, in Brazil, the cities of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro became the first adopters of the definition in this country.



Institutes of Higher Learning

As of the end of 2023, 345 institutes of higher learning had adopted the definition, with eight of them signing on during this past year. The more prominent of these institutes include Monash and Melbourne Universities in Australia, Mostar University in Bosnia, and Universidad Santa María La Antigua in Panama. **Despite the dramatic increase in antisemitism in the US, only one American institute of higher learning, the University of Boston, adopted the definition this past year (compared to four in 2022).** Notably, the adoption in Boston was by the students' union and not the university itself. In light of the considerable increase in levels of antisemitism on US campuses since the outbreak of the war, the writers of this report encourage as many universities as possible throughout the world to adopt the definition and thereby obtain the tools to deal with current expressions of antisemitism, by promoting educational programs that increase awareness of the historic and contemporary sources and characteristics of the hatred of Jews.



Public and Private Organizations

By the end of 2023, 312 organizations (254 public and 58 private) had adopted the definition, including international organizations, non-government organizations, student unions, professional groups, and private institutions, **with 37 of these doing so during 2023 (36 public and one private).** Most of these were a result of joint efforts by 28 Jewish organizations and schools in Poland during January 2023.⁴ Another important development in 2023 was the adoption of the definition by the Latin American Parliament – the 'PALRANTINO'⁵.



A Call to Adopt the Definition – Why Now?

A close examination of the features of antisemitic incidents from October 7th onward indicates deep ignorance, particularly amongst the younger generation regarding the history of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, the Holocaust, antisemitism in general, and Middle Eastern geopolitics. This tendency is influenced partially by huge financial influxes from countries, such as Qatar, into education institutes in the West aimed at fashioning the worldviews of future generations. As a result, antisemitic and anti-Zionist ideas are assimilated quite often in learning materials to which students are exposed – thereby cultivating distorted views of Jews, who are represented as 'rich', 'influential', and "oppressors'. The Israel-Arab struggle is promoted through false propaganda void of facts. Meanwhile, social networks have become a determining catalyst in the dissemination of false and fabricated information to millions of people worldwide – a trend that is only increasing thanks to the use of artificial intelligence. All these, alongside additional causes such as demographic and social changes, produce a global infrastructure upon which antisemitism thrives, often in its anti-Zionism forms, against which extensive measures are required – primarily a widespread adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism.



Beyond Adoption - Application

Whereas official adoption of the definition creates a joint framework for understanding antisemitism, its true impact lies in its insistent application and integration into different aspects of society, such as legal frameworks, educational programs, and institutional policies. For example, law enforcement agencies should use the definition to identify and deal with antisemitic incidents more effectively and ensure that their perpetrators will bear responsibility by law and local codes that define hate crimes. Educational programs may integrate the definition into their training

programs for staff and students to promote a better understanding of antisemitism on campuses. The integration of the definition into various aspects of society will also empower individuals, organizations, and authorities to promote more effective joint activities within the framework of the battle against antisemitism.

Note: Our thanks for the assistance in conducting this research goes to the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) and the Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University.

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Antisemitism on Campuses

Campuses, against the background of the Iron Swords war, have become one of the central focal points of antisemitism, with pro-Palestinian protests often explicitly calling for the destruction of the State of Israel and the murder of Jews, and a not insignificant number of lecturers and faculty promoting antisemitism. Since the outbreak of war, the Hillel organization has documented 683 antisemitic incidents on US campuses – a 700% increase over the same period last year. Additionally, 73% of Jewish students have reported being witness to an antisemitic attack or experienced one personally since the beginning of the academic year in September, 45.5% of Jewish students feel physically safe on campus (compared to 66.6% before October 7th), 43.5% feel emotionally safe (compared to 65.8% before October 7th), 37% of Jewish students feel it necessary to hide their Jewish identity and over half of Jewish students on US campuses (54%) are concerned with the situation. The most noteworthy event regarding these campuses related to the war occurred on December 5th, when the presidents of three major US universities (Harvard, MIT, and Penn State) during a highly publicized Congressional hearing provided unsatisfactory responses on whether calls for the destruction of Jews constitute a violation of the rules of conduct at their universities. One must consider the context of the comment, they replied. It must be stressed that on-campus antisemitism is not only a US malady; nor is it a new phenomenon that appeared out of a vacuum in response to the Iron Swords war. A survey in France, for example, found that nine out of ten Jewish students had been victims of antisemitic incidents, and another in Australia found that 64% of Jewish students had experienced antisemitism at the universities they attend.

Less than a week after the Hamas terror attack on October 7th, the president of Harvard refused to condemn a declaration by university student organizations that accused Israel itself of perpetrating the attack – a move that sparked public response and to a large degree predicted the trend that today characterizes the antisemitism that is prevalent on many US campuses. In reaction to this refusal, several Congress members called for the president's resignation.¹ **As the war intensified, more and more expressions of antisemitism were reported on campuses, which – alongside pro-Palestinian protests led by student organizations, led by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) that often included unequivocal calls for the destruction of Israel and the murder of Jews**

– saw a significant number of lecturers and faculty promoting antisemitism. For example, a Cornell University lecturer described the Hamas attack as “exhilarating”,² a Yale lecturer published a post describing Israel as a country that promotes genocide,³ and an Irvine University lecturer called Israel a “vile entity” and Zionists “blood-thirsty animals”.⁴ Concurrent with these, various pro-Palestinian bodies attempted to **prompt a cessation of university investments in companies that support Israel and the IDF, and cancel academic programs connected to Israel** amid threats and riots.⁵

Since the outbreak of war on October 7th, the **Hillel organization has registered 683 antisemitic incidents on campuses (before**



December 22nd), a figure that represents a 700% increase compared to the same period last year. Antisemitic incidents since the war began have been reported on 129 different campuses, with 59 reporting more than one incident. It should be stressed that the organization has never registered more than 50 incidents within that time frame, or more than 40 campuses affected by antisemitism in a similar period.⁶ An ADL survey indicates the extent to which campuses have become an unsafe environment for Jewish students, with **73% of Jewish students either witnessing or being personally subject to antisemitism since the beginning of the academic year in September. Only 45.5% of Jewish students feel physically safe on campus (compared to 66.6% before October 7th), and only 32.5% feel emotionally safe (compared to 65.8% before October 7th).**⁷ Yet another survey finds that, as a result of the increasing antisemitism, 37% of Jewish students feel they must hide their Jewish identity, and more than half (54%) are fearful of the situation.⁸

Four more exceptional incidents, which received widespread media attention, clearly illustrate the situation of campuses in the US. On December 10th, a Stanford University instructor was suspended after requiring Jewish and Israeli students to identify themselves; then he sat them in the corner, saying that this is how Israel treats Palestinians.⁹ On October 26th, Jewish students at a New York campus were forced to barricade themselves in the library due to violent pro-Palestinian protesters outside shouting antisemitic slogans.¹⁰ On October 29th threatening posts and calls for the murder of Jewish students – referred to as rats – appeared at Cornell University.¹¹ And, on November 20th, students at a Queens high-school disrupted the peace after learning that a Jewish teacher at the school had participated in an Israeli support rally.¹²

Clearly, antisemitism on campuses is not a US phenomenon only, nor is it a new one that appeared out of nowhere as a result of the Iron Swords war. In France, a survey taken before the war found that nine out of ten Jewish students had been victims of antisemitic incidents.¹³ **In Australia,** a survey also taken before the war found that 64% of Jewish students had experienced antisemitism at the universities they attend.¹⁴ **In Britain,** it was found that, during the past five years, antisemitic incidents in schools had increased by 173.3%.

In the USA, the most telling event regarding campuses and related to the war was recorded on December 5th, when the presidents of three of the leading universities in the USA (Harvard, MIT, and Pennsylvania State University) struggled to answer, during a high-profile hearing in the Congressional Education Committee, the question of whether calls for the extermination of a nation, aimed at Jews, constitute a violation of the rules of conduct in universities, to which they noted that it is necessary to refer to the “context” surrounding the events. Consequently, over 70 legislators publicly demanded of the universities’ boards of governors the resignation of all three presidents.¹⁵ At the same time, Congress on December 13th approved a bi-partisan proposal to rebuke the presidents for their testimonies,¹⁶ with the New York State governor issuing a strongly-worded statement that messages calling for genocide violate New York’s human rights law, and that if the universities fail to meet the requirements, firm measures will be enforced against them.¹⁷ Despite this, the board of Harvard University on December 12th announced they would support their president, as did 700 lecturers who teach there – this in light of the apology she issued following her testimony.¹⁸ Notwithstanding, several days later, **the president of Penn State announced her resignation,¹⁹ and a month later, the Harvard president followed suit.²⁰**

A public opinion poll in the US regarding responsibility for the rising antisemitism on campuses found that 20% blame the students themselves, 18% blame the political left, 11% blame the university presidents and directors, 11% blame foreign funding and student groups, and 7% blame the faculty.²¹

In recent years, and in particular, against the background of October 7th, **attention has been increasingly directed toward the foreign funding that American institutions of higher learning receive – a large percentage of this – unreported.** A report by NCRI in conjunction with The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP), titled Follow the Money, proves that foreign funding to US universities – especially from autocratic countries (a great deal of them in the Middle East, namely Qatar) – has a direct bearing on increasing levels of antisemitism and the erosion of democratic values at US institutions of higher learning.²² For example, the report found that **Harvard University has received more than 890 million dollars of unreported funds and that the highest portion of unreported funds to US institutes of higher learning came from Qatar (over 2.706 billion US dollars between 2014 and 2019).**

In response to the dramatic increase in the scope of antisemitism, pressure has been put on the universities in several axes to motivate them to act to eradicate the antisemitism within their walls.

The economic axis: Major donors have informed universities in which high levels of antisemitism have been identified that they are withdrawing their support due to a lack of sufficient response on the universities' part,²³ with the American Education Secretary on November 6th warning that these institutions may lose their federal funding barring sufficient response to the problem of antisemitism on their campuses.²⁴

The political axis: the White House on October 26th announced that it condemns the rise in antisemitic rhetoric on campuses,²⁵

with senators and congressmen sending a letter of protest to the universities citing their poor handling of increasing antisemitism and expressing concern for the hostile environment towards Jews and supporters of Israel on campus.²⁶ These calls were joined by organized initiatives of alumni, lecturers, and students at the universities themselves.²⁷

In addition, civil initiatives were registered, which also added to the pressure on the universities. These include several leading US law firms warning schools of law at leading universities that, unless they take drastic action against antisemitic protests on campus, they would refrain from hiring students from those universities at their firms.²⁸ A similar response came from a Berkeley law lecturer, who called upon employers not to employ his students who promoted hate against Jews.²⁹ Also, in the beginning of November, the Anti-Defamation League, Hillel International, and the Brandeis Center for Human Rights, along with the US law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher opened a legal helpline for students and lecturers facing antisemitism on campus.³⁰ Moreover, Jewish students have begun to file claims against universities for what they define a failure to foster a safe learning environment.³¹

Based on these axes, **some universities began in November to take action in the fight against antisemitism.** For example, Harvard established an advisory group for dealing with the phenomenon, Penn announced it would examine security measures and establish a task force on the subject, Columbia University also announced it would establish a task force,³² and later – on December 20th – the establishment of student-faculty discussion forums on antisemitism, improved reporting procedures, and dealing with incidents of hate speech, as well as examining its policies and behavior norms regarding free speech.³³ Alongside these, in some cases, lecturers who have published antisemitic sentiments have been suspended or placed on leave.³⁴ Concurrently, **the US Department of Education has initiated**

investigations of antisemitic incidents at universities and how to deal with them in over 15 universities.³⁵

Regarding student organizations that disseminate antisemitism, some universities have suspended the activities of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), which has served as a central catalyst in the outbreak of antisemitism on campuses. Brandeis University, for example, on November 6th suspended its activities and ceased funding, claiming that the organization supports the Hamas terror organization,³⁶ Columbia on November 10th announced that the organization would not be allowed to hold activities on campus or receive funding from the university until the end of the semester,³⁷ Rutgers in New Jersey on December 12th suspended the organization for allegedly violating university procedures, including disturbing the peace, harassing guests, and disrupting classes and students.³⁸

A survey by Brandeis University published on December 14th examined the opinions of almost 2,000 first-degree students at 51 universities with a high Jewish population for the period between November 19th and December 12th regarding the prevalence of anti-Jewish and anti-Israel perceptions on campus and their concerns with antisemitism at the universities they attend.³⁹

The survey found that the universities with highest levels of antisemitism include **Boston University, Columbia University, George Washington University, New York University, Ohio State University, Queens College, The University of California at Berkeley, The University of California at Los Angeles, The University of California at San Diego, The University of Michigan at Ann Harbor, The Pennsylvania State University, and The University of Wisconsin at Madison. (see table below).** Not surprisingly, Jewish students on campuses with higher levels of antisemitic hostility were much less likely to feel safe and inclusive.

Table 2. Antisemitic hostility index by school group

Highest antisemitic hostility Highest 25% of schools in sample	
Boston University Columbia University George Washington University New York University Ohio State, University – Columbus Queens College – CUNY	University of California - Berkeley University of California - Los Angeles University of California - San Diego University of Michigan - Ann Arbor University of Pennsylvania University of Wisconsin - Madison
Above average antisemitic hostility Second highest 25% of schools in sample	
Baruch College – CUNY Binghamton University Cornell University Emory University Northwestern University Rutgers University Tufts University	University of California - Davis University of California - Santa Barbara University of Illinois - Urbana/Champaign University of Massachusetts - Amherst University of Southern California University of Vermont
Below average antisemitic hostility Second lowest 25% of schools in sample	
Indiana University – Bloomington Michigan State University Northeastern University San Diego State University Syracuse University Temple University University of Arizona	University of Georgia University of Maryland - College Park University of Pittsburgh University of Texas - Austin University of Virginia Vanderbilt University
Lowest antisemitic hostility Lowest 25% of schools in sample	
Brandeis University California Polytechnic State University Duke University Florida Atlantic University Florida State University Pennsylvania State University Tulane University	University of Central Florida University of Colorado - Boulder University of Delaware University of Florida University of Miami Washington University in St. Louis

Note: Schools in each quartile listed in alphabetical order.

Brandeis University: Levels of antisemitic hostility on university campuses
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The Palestinian Arena

Antisemitism within Palestinian society remained strong in 2023, with the general public and its leadership in particular reactions to the events of October 7th illustrating the extent to which Palestinian antisemitism – which calls for the destruction of the State of Israel, demonizes Jews, and calls for their cold-blooded murder – is much more than an unrelated compendium of hate speech, as many were led to believe, but an extremist antisemitic ideology (based on the IHRA's working definition of antisemitism) that is systematically distributed by political and religious aspects that are deeply ingrained in the Palestinian national identity. Within this context the Palestinian education system's involvement is especially prominent, school books in particular, in shaping the Palestinian national identity in a manner that focuses on the struggle against Israel and a hatred for Jews. Additionally, the events of October 7th highlight the connection between terrorism and the promotion of incitement within the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) including, throughout the schools it administers, the teachers who work there and promote antisemitic content, and its alumni who participated in the slaughter and its media publicity.



Palestinian political antisemitism

The Palestinian Authority's has been distributing its political antisemitism since its inception, and 2023 was no different. This basic component is inherent in the PA's ideology, which claims that the Jews sport a wide range of negative character traits, including arrogance, racism, and more, that express themselves in contemptible behavior that includes improper financial conduct, such as charging interest, and other activities, which, according to the PA, have wrought destruction within every society they have lived. The PA claims that this behavior has brought hatred upon the Jews throughout history wherever they have lived and that they themselves have

generated antisemitism, the Holocaust, and the acts of terror that they have been subjected to over the years. This form of antisemitic ideology has served the PA as a tool to explain the existence of the State of Israel as a part of the Western world's desire to rid itself of the Jews, and they accordingly found a solution in the creation of a Jewish state in the Middle East. A central expression of this ideology was delivered in 2023 by Mahmoud Al-Habbash one of the PA's most important religious figures – an adviser to President Abbas for religious affairs and Islamic relations, as well as the PA's supreme Sharia judge in an interview to the PA's official television channel:

"They (the Jews) have no history. They have no existence in this country at any time during history... What is this proposed entity? Oh! You are so stupid! But the liar continues to lie until people believe him... We really

are in this land, and they are the dream and the invention. For over five or six thousand years, we have been here, living in this land, populating it, and building a civilization".¹

The PA's worldview defines Israel as an illegitimate or artificial state. This ideology is disseminated by the leaders of the PA, especially Mahmoud Abbas and his appointees, as well as by the institutions under its control. In an interview given to the PA's official television station in January 2023, Mahmoud Al-Yihye, a prominent Palestinian researcher, described the Jews' 'wicked' nature, which expresses itself in their arrogance and self-preservation, explaining why they are hated. Partially for their belief that they are a chosen people, adding that Europe initiated the idea of a Jewish state in order to rid itself of them.² Notably, this interview was rebroadcast three times by the channel in 2023.

PLO Central Council Member Ghassan Barakat also spoke on the PA's official channel this past May, explaining that Jewish control of the money in Europe encouraged the Europeans to finance and help the Zionist movement in order to expel the Jews from Europe.³ PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas also stressed this ideology in two separate speeches in 2023. The first was a **speech delivered before FATAH's Revolutionary Council in September, where he explained that Hitler did not destroy the Jews for their religion but because of their social role and their occupation with money and interest:**

"It has been explained in Jewish literature that say that Hitler killed the Jews because they were Jews and that Europe hates the Jews because they are Jews. No! It has been explained precisely that fought (the Jews) because of their social role and not because of their religion... they fought these people because of the social role related to interest and money and so forth. Even Hitler ... fought the Jews because they worked in interest and money, in other words, they caused destruction, he believed, and that's why he hated them."⁴



Palestinian Media Watch, Official PA TV. August 24, 2023. 11th conference of the Fatah Revolutionary Council in Ramallah.

In another speech delivered at the UN, Abbas explained that the reason the US and Britain created the modern State of Israel was to 'plant' a colonialist entity in the Middle East and thereby rid Europe of the Jews.

"Britain and the USA, specifically, bear direct political and moral responsibility for the Nakba of the Palestinian people (because of the establishment of the State of Israel). They are the ones who participated in making our nation a victim when they decided to establish and plant a foreign entity in our historical homeland, and this for colonialist purposes of their own... The truth is that these Western countries wanted to get rid of the Jews—and profit from them in Palestine. 'Two birds with one stone.'⁵

It should be noted that Abbas, alongside other senior PA officials, its education system and official media have been expressing this same ideology for years, and its continued reiteration has rendered it intrinsic to the Palestinian mindset. In 2018, Abbas addressed the 23rd convention of the Palestinian National Council and explained that hundreds of years of European slaughter of Jews, including the Holocaust, were, in fact, a European reaction to Jewish behavior that is not a result of their religion but their social role, which is related to interest, banks, etc.⁶



Significant Antisemitic Statements by the PA Leadership Following the Events of October 7th

- On October 7th, speaking before an emergency meeting of the PA long before Israel launched its response, Abbas, who has never condemned the events went so far as to define the events as a reaction to “the terror of settlers and occupation forces,” and instructed his audience to “provide protection for our people.”⁷
- PA Prime Minister, Mohammad Shtayyeh defined the events as a “natural reaction” to Israel’s “crimes”.⁸
- Fatah’s Central Committee Secretary General, Jibril Rajoub was quoted on November 11th saying:
“What happened on October 7th was an unprecedented event ... replete with epics and heroic deeds orchestrated by the Palestinian nation these past 75 years.”
- Political commentator Kamal Zakarne explained to PA TV viewers that the visits by world leaders in Israel following the massacre are an expression of Europe’s desire for Israel’s continued existence, since after managing to get rid of its own Jewish “human refuse” by creating the State of Israel, they would prevent Israel’s weakening and the creation of a “reverse immigration” of that human refuse back to Europe.⁹
- An official FATAH representative in Jenin on PA TV defined the massacre as a “morning of victory, joy, and pride,” and – in the name of Fatah – called upon Palestinians to “participate in this heroic story” by continuing to slaughter Jews.¹⁰
- FATAH’s Telegram account in Bethlehem expressed its joy at the slaughter and published a picture of a Palestinian shoe-soul crushing Israel, which here is represented as a rat (October 8th).¹¹

- The Palestinian Wafa news agency on October 7th published FATAH’s declaration and call for a general strike and the intensification of the conflict on all fronts.¹²
- Well into the fighting, by when the scope of savagery was known, FATAH elements continued to refer to the slaughter as a “heroic operation”, calling the HAMAS terrorists who perpetrated it “heroes”, denying that they had murdered civilians, explaining that these only fought against “military units”, and glorifying the “lesson they had taught Israel.”¹³



Palestinian Religious Antisemitism

If political antisemitism is deeply integrated into the Palestinian identity, it is religious antisemitism, which the PA and its leaders aggressively promote, that is meant to deepen the existing hate by assimilating “the will of god” into the formula. Mahmoud Al-Habbash mentioned above, has been promoting an ideology of demonization of Jews in the name of Islam and Allah, and this serves as a significant branding for Jews in Palestinian society as people whom it is “fit” to kill. Indeed, this past July, Al Habbash spoke to the PA’s official television channel, denying the Jews’ humanity, presenting them as Satan, the source of evil in the world, and those who try to divert Muslims from their faith.¹⁴ On the eve of the Israeli hostage release, Al Habbash warned the Palestinians against “trusting the Jews”, since it was “Jewish tribes that violated the agreements with Muhammad.”¹⁵

Moreover, less than two weeks after the Hamas terror attack, the PA’s religious establishment began promoting the narrative that Palestinians should see the Hamas actions against the Jews as religious rituals aimed at “bringing humanity’s redemption closer.” Additionally, the PA’s Ministry for Religion published a set of guidelines for imams throughout the PA’s mosques including content that should be distributed



Palestinian Media Watch. October 22, 2023. PA: All mosques must teach that extermination of Jews is an Islamic imperative.

through their Friday sermons against Jews and against the Israeli entity (see graphic). They mentioned Hadith quotes saying that the resurrection of the dead and the redemption of humanity is contingent upon Muslims fighting and ultimately killing all the Jews.

Such statements create a situation in which the PA promotes a situation in which murderers of Jews are honored, supported, and recognized as “shahids” (martyrs). A prominent example of this was registered in 2023 when, upon the apprehension and killing by the IDF of the murderers of Lucy



Palestinian Media Watch. May 20, 2023. Mohammad Shtayyeh, the Prime Minister of the PA, claims that the murderers of Lucy Dee and two of her daughters, Maia and Rina Dee, are Palestinian heroes.

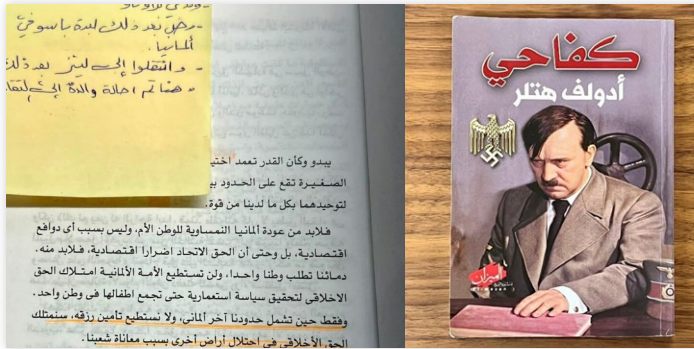
Dee and her two daughters, Maya and Rina (on April 7th), PA Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh posted photos of the murderers on his Facebook page alongside the quote, “Glory and eternity to our righteous Martyrs” (see image).¹⁶ Moreover, in accordance with the PA’s payments policy, the families of the murderers immediately received a NIS6,000 grant plus a NIS1,400 monthly pension.¹⁷

Shoa, Nazism, and Glorifying Hitler

Mirroring the Arab and Muslim world in general, the Palestinian Authority leadership, its media, and the FATAH continue to reify the reality and of the Holocaust, accuse the Jews/Zionists of being the new Nazis, and vigorously promote the narrative that Jews collaborated with the Nazis during World War II. It should be noted that, although this comparison of Jews with Nazis has been most prominent as the current war progressed, it existed long before.

Accordingly, PA TV last January broadcast an interview with a Palestinian journalist in Jordan, Muhammad Al Burini in which he claimed that the Holocaust was “fabricated” and that the Zionist movement cooperated with the Nazis in killing and burning Jews in order to generate sympathy for the idea of establishing the State of Israel.¹⁸ That same month, a Fatah official, Jamal Obeid told the station that Israeli Nazism threatens world peace.¹⁹ The PA’s president also compared the Israeli narrative of cultivating the desert to the lies of Joseph Goebbels, Nazi Germany’s propaganda minister.²⁰ The following month, the station hosted writer/researcher Aziz Al Asa, who claimed that, as part of the cooperation between the Zionist movement and the German government, the Nazis taught and trained young Zionists, taken out of the concentration camps, how to murder Arabs in an inhumane manner and without remorse:

“Many of the Jewish fighters during the Nakba [the establishment of Israel in 1948] came from Germany... They were trained to commit



Arabic version of 'Mein Kampf' found on the body of a Hamas fighter. Source: President's Residence

*heinous acts of murder without feeling anything, inhumanely... The Zionist movement reached an agreement with the German government, that it would take the young people from the [concentration] camps, train them, and prepare them."*²¹

Furthermore, similarly to the trend seen throughout the Arab and Muslim world, and even more so recently, the image of Hitler has been stressed among Palestinians as a source of inspiration. Consequently, during the war, IDF forces found translated copies of 'Mein Kampf', where Adolph Hitler describes his doctrine regarding the Jewish people, in a children's bedroom in Gaza that served as a Hamas terrorist organization base of operations.²² This was not an isolated incident, many copies of the book can be found throughout the Gaza Strip.²³ Soldiers also found an iPad whose screensaver was a picture of Hitler.²⁴



Antisemitism and Glorifying Terror within the Palestinian Education System

The issue of responsibility for content in Palestinian learning materials has, in recent years, become an international issue, following pressure and criticism of the PA and UNRWA for problematic content, including support of violence and terror, as well as expressions of antisemitism. 915,000 Palestinian students attend public schools with the remainder at UNRWA-run and other private schools.²⁵ It should be stressed that

public schools both in the PA and Gaza are under the responsibility of the PA's education ministry, which is solely responsible for formulating the learning materials in all subjects.

Generally, the attitude towards Jews and Israel in Palestinian textbooks continues to be characterized by Israel's delegitimization and demonization of Jews. Alongside this, elements of violent Palestinian nationalism are also prominent, such as the call for armed conflict, encouraging murder, violence against Jews, and glorifying martyrs. These motifs are expressed in subjects such as religious studies, Arabic, geography, and social studies, but also Math and physics. The IMPACT-se Institute, which examines textbooks in different countries has in recent years commended Arab countries, such as Egypt,²⁶ the United Arab Emirates,²⁷ Morocco,²⁸ Indonesia,²⁹ and Saudi Arabia,³⁰ which have withdrawn antisemitic content from schoolbooks. **The Palestinian Authority stands out negatively for maintaining antisemitic content.**³¹ This conservation clearly aims, to cultivate the Palestinian national identity by the education system, as one in which the struggle against Israel is at the core of the Palestinian experience.

For example, Israel is represented in Palestinian textbooks as an artificial entity with no right to exist. The maps distributed therein do not contain the State of Israel – its area presented as an integral part of Palestine. For example, in social studies books for 6th-grade, students learn that Palestine extends from the Mediterranean in the west to the Jordan River in the east.³² In 10th-grade books for studying Arabic published in 2020, it states that "... the occupier built himself an artificial entity that draws its identity and laws from stories, legends, and fantasies, trying by different means to create material proof or archaeological and architectural proof for these legends that will determine their truth and reliability, but in vain."³³



IMPACT-se. May 2021. The 2020–21 Palestinian School Curriculum Grades 1–12

Additionally, Jews and Israel are presented in schoolbooks as demonic entities. Interestingly, the Palestinian discourse echoed in schoolbooks makes no distinction between “Zionists” and “Jews”, and the two terms represent the same collective. For example, in a 9th-grade textbook used at the UNRWA-run Al-Maghazi school in Rafah, Israeli soldiers are presented as sadistic and barbarians.³⁴ Another 10th-grade history book shows a clearly antisemitic caricature: an arm adorned with a Star of David clutching the earth with the caption: “cultural imperialism”, hinting that the Jews rule the world.³⁵

In addition, according to these books, martyrs are Palestinians who were killed during armed attacks against the Israeli army or during a terror attack in which Jews were murdered. An example is a 5th-grade Arabic textbook from 2023 that devotes an entire chapter to the glorification of the terrorist Dalal Mughrabi, who led the 1978 terrorist attack on a bus on the coastal highway in which 35 civilians were murdered, nine of them children. Her picture hangs in several UNRWA-run school classrooms (for example, the El Zaytoun school in Gaza).³⁶ It is noteworthy that the Belgian government canceled its financial support for the Palestinian education system in 2018 after schools built with Belgian support were named in honor of Mughrabi.³⁷ Additionally, a 5th-grade Arabic textbook used in a girl’s school illustrates how the motherland must be liberated through Jihad and sacrifice.³⁸ In this context, the terrorist who perpetrated the

Neve Yaakov attack in January 2023, in which seven people were murdered, was especially glorified by the Palestinian education system this past year. A report by the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism last February describes examples of school pupils and kindergarten children displaying the terrorist’s photo, glorifying him, and imitating his deeds.³⁹



Posted on the Facebook pages of Palestinian educational institutions and from Shahab News Agency, used in accordance with clause 27a of the copyright law

Antisemitism stands out, especially at summer camps organized by Palestinian organizations, which highlight the armed struggle against Israel and visits to the tombs of martyrs who murdered Jews.⁴⁰ For example, in a report on a camp held by the Islamic Jihad in Gaza broadcast by the movement’s television channel, one young trainee was interviewed who said that “Hitler didn’t destroy all the Jews so he could show the world how evil they are.”⁴¹

Although it is commonly thought that the European Union does not directly finance textbooks used by the Palestinian education system, since it does finance the salaries of PA public employees, it indirectly financially supports the system as a whole, the above-described content included. **Several reports published in recent years regarding problematic content in Palestinian textbooks have found that these books incite antisemitism, promote violence, and glorify terrorism and terrorists.**⁴² **Several international agencies have expressed a**



concern of the findings in these reports, resulting in repeated calls upon the EU from additional countries to examine its support of the Palestinian Authority.⁴³

Based on the above, in 2022 it was reported that EU funding of the PA had been frozen, at first due to technical reasons, later subject to an alteration of the inciting content in learning materials.⁴⁴ However, several months later, the funding was reportedly renewed.⁴⁵

Concurrently, the European Parliament in recent years has adopted a series of decisions calling for a halt in funding for the Palestinian education system, aimed at removing violent and antisemitic content. Recently, in May and July 2023, the EP passed such resolutions and condemned the incitement in the schoolbooks, including the antisemitism therein, and explicitly and unprecedentedly related the incitement in school books to the increase in Palestinian terror attacks by school pupils and youth, calling for subjecting European financing to a reform of the Palestinian educational program.⁴⁶ **Conversely, the Union's High Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has claimed that he will not enable any measures that harm financing for the Palestinian Authority, since this may result in its financial collapse.⁴⁷ In practice, the support that finances the Palestinian education system continues to be transferred.**



The Relationship Between Terrorism and Incitement, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA)

The agency, which was established by the UN and began to operate in May 1950 due to the lack of a solution for the problem of Palestinian refugees is almost entirely financed by contributions from the members of the UN, as is the UN's budget. The agency states that its services include "education, health care, relief, and social services, camp infrastructures and

improvement, microfinance, and emergency assistance – including in times of armed conflict."⁴⁸

As mentioned above, 35% of Palestinian students attend UNRWA schools and private institutions, which use materials prepared by the PA, meaning there is no essential difference between what is taught in these schools and public ones. Based on UNRWA policy, it is not obligated to employ Palestinian learning programs but, rather declares that it chooses to use textbooks written by the PA that denies the existence of the State of Israel as "recommended practice", and does not alter or delete inciting content from those books because, it claims, this is a sovereign issue in which it refuses to interfere. Aside from the antisemitic content in the books used at UNRWA schools, a survey of Facebook pages and the online activities of teachers at these schools reveals antisemitic attitudes, support of terror and terrorists, inciting of violence, non-recognition of Israel, and so forth. In this matter, for example, a recently published report establishes a direct relationship between the content learned in UNRWA schools in Gaza and the massacre on October 7th, with over 100 Palestinians that participated in the slaughter being graduates of UNRWA schools in Gaza.⁴⁹

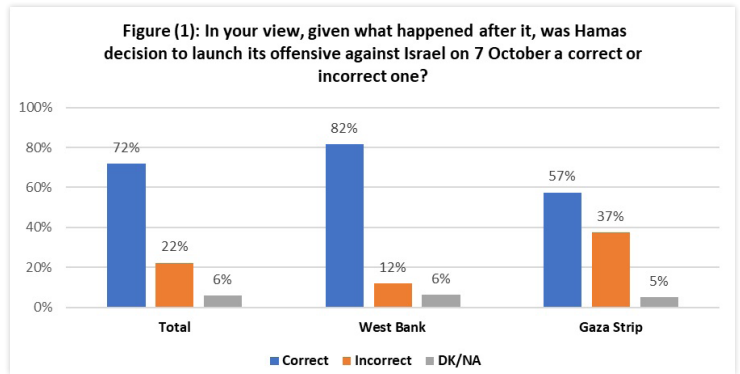
Similarly, as the Iron Swords war raged on, more and more evidence was gathered proving the relationship between the agency and terror, as well as the dissemination of incitement. In fact, in one incident, IDF soldiers discovered explosive devices and arms in UNRWA sacks;⁵⁰ in another, dozens of rockets were hidden in UNRWA crates (see image below, courtesy of the IDF Spokesman);⁵¹ and, in another, soldiers located UNRWA sacks in a clinic in which HAMAS had hidden military vests belonging to the NUKHBA force.⁵² One report indicates that terrorists had shot at soldiers from within an UNRWA school in Beit Hanoun,⁵³ and in a letter published it has been learned that Israeli abductees had been held for almost fifty days in the attic in the private home of an UNRWA teacher.⁵⁴

Indeed, against the backdrop of the war, UNRWA continues to amplify in the media the extent of the damage and suffering in the Gaza Strip while depreciating the suffering and damage in Israel all while blaming Israel for war crimes. An example of this is the agency's first tweet since the war began – a report of two children killed in an UNRWA school, and three schools damaged by IDF bombardments. Although, reference was made to Hamas rocket launches against Israel and a ground attack on Israeli targets, no mention was made of the massacre – aside from a pithy mention that "...according to different sources, between 150-200 Israelis have been reportedly killed..."⁵⁵ Moreover, UNRWA's commissioner-general, Philippe Lazzarini told the Guardian that the actions of Hamas



December 2, 2023. The IDF revealed: rockets were hidden under UNRA boxes in Gaza (Source: IDF Spokesperson's Unit)

on October 7th "does not justify the ongoing crimes against the civilian population of Gaza, including its 1 million children." In a speech to the UN's Security Council on October 30th, he reiterated that "the atrocities committed by Hamas(on October 7th) do not absorb the State of Israel from its obligation under international human law..."



A graph from a poll published on December 13, 2023, by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research. (PCPSR)

Despite this, since the war began, UNRWA has demanded and even received generous financial donations from several countries, including Ireland,⁵⁶ Holland,⁵⁷ Denmark,⁵⁸ Saudi Arabia,⁵⁹ Jordan,⁶⁰ and Kuwait.⁶¹

To sum up this section, it can be said that the presence of antisemitism in the Palestinian civil, educational, media, religious, and institutional spaces, and its dramatic intensification following the events of October 7th may serve to explain the results of a public opinion poll from December 13th, which presents 72% support among respondents (87% in the PA and 57% in Gaza) for justifying the Hamas attack on October 7th, which resulted in the murder, slaughter, and rape of over 1,200 people – the vast majority of them Jewish, including children and the elderly – simply for being Jewish.⁶²

Note: We thank the Palestinian Media Watch Institute, which specializes in the study of Palestinian society and the Palestinian Authority, for its assistance in conducting the research presented above.



Remarks

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Observations By the Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism

Dr. Felix Klein

My role as Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism was created in 2018 for two specific reasons. Firstly, the Federal Government found it necessary to support Jewish life in Germany so that it could once again flourish as an integral and self-evident part of German society. Secondly, the government recognized that antisemitism was an ongoing problem and would remain so in the future, requiring enhanced efforts to combat it.

It is crucial to emphasize, in this brief introduction to my 2023 summary, that hatred of Jews has always been an issue in Germany. Despite what some may claim, it has never gone away. A notable example of this, but perhaps the most shocking in recent history, is the terrorist attack by a right-wing extremist on the synagogue in Halle on Yom Kippur of 2019, which resulted in the taking of two lives.

Although the terrible reality is that present-day Germany is familiar with relatively widespread antisemitic sentiments and often violence, the attacks of October 7th, 2023 were a watershed moment. The monstrous terrorist attack by Hamas against Israel would in itself have been more than enough for October 7th to live on in infamy. On this day more Jewish people were slaughtered than on any other day since the end of the Shoah. For Jews in Germany, it was shocking, and indeed traumatic to see the utterly barbaric violence committed against both Jewish and non-Jewish people in Israel due to antisemitic hatred. Suddenly, they realized that this level of violence could have been committed against them, too, once again – simply because they are Jewish.

As if this were not enough, antisemitic incidents have skyrocketed in Germany since October 7th. As soon as reports of the Hamas massacre of innocents began emerging, members of the pro-terrorist organization Samidoun were handing out sweets in public places in Germany to “celebrate” the murder, rape, mutilation, and abduction of Jews. Since that day, the German Federal Police have reported more than 4,300 Islamist crimes in connection with the Hamas terrorist attack, most of which being antisemitic in nature.

A Molotov cocktail was hurled at the Berlin synagogue. Radicalized young locals were discovered planning further attacks against synagogues and pro-Israel rallies. Stars of David were sprayed on buildings to mark their residents as “Jewish”. Demonstrators at numerous violent antisemitic rallies called for the annihilation of Israel, and members of a Hamas terror cell were arrested for planning attacks against Jewish targets.

Throughout all of this, what has disappointed me most is the absence in Germany of a large public outpouring of solidarity with the Jewish people, the lack of an expression of opposition to antisemitism – the kind of expression we have seen in London, Paris, and Washington, D.C.

However, there have been some positive developments that we should not overlook. The government and our security institutions have reacted swiftly and strongly, increasing security for Jewish communities and organizations immediately after the events of October 7th. All Samidoun activity has been outlawed. Hamas has been banned in Germany, and the domestic intelligence service, along with the police, have been working relentlessly and successfully to track, find, and arrest those who plan to harm Jewish people.

Our work to sensitize police officers and other officials regarding all forms of antisemitism is yielding results, more than in the past. Israel-related hostility to Jews is now being treated as what it is – antisemitism, plain and simple. My initiative to outlaw the burning of flags of foreign countries, including the Israeli flag, has helped make it possible to ban antisemitic rallies. Ninety-six percent of Jewish community leaders report that they are satisfied with the work of the police protecting their communities.

We still have a lot of work to do, including in civil society. I am confident that a silent majority of Germans oppose antisemitism and want Jewish life to flourish in our country. This majority must become more vocal. It needs to be made clear to everyone that, while antisemitism first and foremost endangers Jews, it also threatens our democracy and our open, liberal society.

As so many government officials have already done, I want to state very clearly that Jewish life is an integral part of Germany, and the Federal Government will continue to do everything in its power to protect Jewish people against any form of hatred. German democracy is stronger than antisemitism. Together, we will overcome October 7th and its aftermath!



Germany



During the first half of 2023, levels of antisemitism in Germany remained high and largely resembled figures for the corresponding period last year. However, in Germany, as elsewhere, October 7th precipitated a dramatic turn, in which, reportedly, each new day brought 29 antisemitic incidents on average, this compared to an average of 7 incidents per day in 2022 (a 320% increase!). Accordingly, about 80% of the Jewish communities in the country feel insecure. They report that the main threat lies in immigrants of Turkish and Arab origin and in left-wing circles. The increase in antisemitic levels in the country is expressed through hate graffiti in public places, antisemitic statements in universities, damage to Jewish memorial sites, the marking of Jewish homes with Stars of David, and – in extreme cases – even violence. One extreme incident reported against the background of the war involved a Molotov cocktail thrown at a Jewish community center. On the other hand, approximately 98% of the Jewish communities in the country express satisfaction with the cooperation of local security forces, and to this must be added the high commitment of the German government to fight rising waves of antisemitism through measures that are already showing their signs on the ground.

Based on data from Germany's Federal Criminal Police (Bundeskriminalamt – BKA), the number of antisemitic incidents recorded during the first half of 2023 (960) remains high and included 25 violent incidents – figures similar to those recorded during the first half of 2022 (965).¹

If we focus upon this past year's second quarter, 380 incidents out of 446 were attributed to extreme right-wing elements, as were seven out of 14 violent crimes, which were related to antisemitic sentiments. Concurrently, four criminal incidents and one violent crime were ascribed to "religious Islamist ideologies".²

In Germany, too, the attack of October 7th presented a dramatic shift. Information published at the end of November by the Federal Association of Antisemitism Research and Information Center (Bundesverband der Recherche- und Informationsstellen Antisemitismus – RIAS) indicates that, during the month following the outbreak of the war, 994 antisemitic incidents were registered – more than the entire number of cases recorded during the first half of the year. These include 3 cases of extreme violence, 29 attacks, 72 cases of property damage, 32 threats, and 854 cases of abusive behavior.³ 38% of the incidents (373) were classified by

motive, of which 208 were classified as anti-Israel activities, 62 as originating from Islamist elements, and only 17 as originating from extreme right-wing elements.

Likewise, based on the information, most antisemitic incidents (387) occurred in the streets, 197 in the online sphere, 106 in public buildings, 71 at educational institutions, and 55 in means of public transport.

It is noteworthy that this brings the numbers up to about 29 incidents per day, on average – this compared to 7 antisemitic incidents per day in 2022 (a 320% increase).

RIAS research institute branches in respective German states also report a considerable increase in the levels of antisemitism reported since the outbreak of the war. In Berlin, the number of antisemitic incidents recorded in October was especially high for a one-month period, compared to recorded data for the city since documentation was instituted in 2015.⁴

In the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, 218 antisemitic incidents were registered since the war began and up until November 9th, with 92% of these ascribed to the war. This data represents an average of seven incidents per day, compared to an average of five per week in the previous year.⁵

In Bavaria, during this same period, 148 antisemitic incidents were recorded during the same period, information that reflects a 285% increase compared to the same period last year. 91% of the recorded events were related to the war.⁶

Similar trends are discernible in data published by the Federal Criminal Police against the backdrop of the war. **Since the war began, about 4,200 related crimes have been recorded, with about 2,000 of them politically motivated and about half of those (about 1,000) related to antisemitism. These include a wide variety of crimes, from verbal threats to intentional damage to property.**⁷

To compare, during the year's first quarter, 558 antisemitic incidents were recorded, during the second quarter – 609, and during the third – 540.⁸ Additionally, the head of the federal police claimed that a portion of those incidents was related to immigrants from countries in which Jews and Israelis are considered "the enemy", stressing the need to align those immigrants to German history and values, including the right of Israel's existence and of German Jews to live safely.⁹

One report from early November indicates a considerable increase in the level of antisemitism in Germany since the war began. Based upon it, **5.7% of Germans harbor antisemitic sentiments, triple that found in a similar report from two years ago.** The report also indicates relative success by local extreme right-wing elements in promoting their narrative calling for freeing Germany of its "historical yoke of the Holocaust", as well as the willingness of progressive leftists to legitimize "anti-Zionist" antisemitism.¹⁰

The aforementioned results are also reflected in reports by many Jewish communities in Germany, which stress the presence of antisemitism as a fundamental part of daily life in the country. This is evident through, inflammatory graffiti in public spaces, antisemitic statements on university campuses, vandalism of Jewish commemorative sites, affixing Stars of David to Jewish homes,¹¹ and even extreme violence. Consequently, many Jews report strong sentiments of general insecurity.¹²

One of the more extreme cases reported occurred on October 18th in Berlin, when Molotov cocktails were thrown at a Jewish community center housing a synagogue, a school, and a daycare center.¹³ The event generated shock and fear amidst the entire Jewish community.¹⁴

A survey published by the Central Council of Jews in Germany indicates that a third of Jewish communities in the country have reported experiencing an antisemitic incident since the outbreak of the war. Moreover, the



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Berichte aus der jüdischen Community in Berlin. Gestern wurden private Wohnhäuser, in denen Jüdinnen/ Juden leben, mit Davidsterne markiert.



Houses where Jews live are marked in Berlin

I've never been so scared to walk around the city I've spent my whole life in

Source: X (Twitter) @AStaroselski, October 14, 2023

<https://twitter.com/AStaroselski/status/1713150097284870320>

survey – conducted among 98 German Jewish communities – indicates that **80% of Jewish communities have felt a lack of security since the war began. The communities reported that the major threat is felt from Turkish and Arab immigrants, as well as from leftist associations, but less so from extreme rightists.**¹⁵

Against this background of the published data, one event stands out concerning Berlin's integration commissioner, Güner Balci, who in a televised interview suggested that Berlin's Jews should hide symbols of their Jewish identity in the face of increased antisemitic and anti-Israel sentiments resulting from the war.¹⁶ Furthermore, towards the end of November, the head of Germany's security agency warned that the war in Gaza was fostering pacts between antisemitic groups in the country, raising the level of danger of attacks against Jews. Hostility against Israel, he said, is unifying German and Turkish Palestinian and Islamist extremists on the far left and far right in the country. Similarly, he stressed that the danger is concrete and greater than in the past, and that local

security elements are acting "at full speed" to secure the Jewish community and Israeli institutions in Germany.¹⁷

In relation to this, one survey reports that 98% of communities are satisfied with the cooperation with local security forces.¹⁸

Additionally, it should be mentioned that **German authorities are fully dedicated to the fight against antisemitism.** Accordingly, following the attempt to set fire to the Berlin Synagogue, the German chancellor stated that "Attacks against Jewish institutions, violent riots on our streets – this is inhumane, disgusting and cannot be tolerated. Antisemitism has no place in Germany."¹⁹ In addition, several days after the outbreak of the war, the country's federal prosecutor announced an investigation of Hamas' connection to the murder of German citizens during the war. A few days later, Germany's justice minister stated that expressing support for the Hamas terrorist organization in the streets of Germany would now be considered a criminal offense,²⁰ and – correspondingly – that accusations of antisemitic crimes would be a basis for refusing citizenship.²¹

Germany's interior minister, on her part, announced that Germany will begin deporting Hamas supporters, and she is employing all police and intelligence resources to protect the Jewish community. Moreover, she stated that she is adopting an uncompromising policy towards Islamist elements who express support for the Hamas terrorist organization in Germany and will employ the full force of the country's police and intelligence forces towards this end.²²

The head of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz – BfV) has also declared that Germany's security forces are swiftly implementing the ban on organized activity by, and support for Hamas.²³ German Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck on November 1st published a video speech in which he speaks out against the rise of antisemitism in Germany – a video garnering about 10 million views!²⁴

The imposition of a complete ban on the activities of the Hamas terrorist organization in Germany, as well as the ban on the activities of Samidoun, an Israeli-declared terrorist organization, by Germany's Minister of the Interior was a defining moment that took place in early November. Samidoun allegedly seeks to "obtain justice for Palestinian prisoners" but is, in fact, an affiliate of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – a declared terrorist organization in Europe. In accordance with the announcement, the branch of the organization in Germany is to be disbanded. In this context, the activity of the Samidoun Deutschland affiliate, which also operates under the names Hiraq – Palestinian Youth Mobilization Jugendbewegung (Germany), and Hiraq e.V., has also been banned.²⁵ Likewise, antisemitic chants in the style of "From the river to the sea" have been banned by local authorities, and posters against hatred of Jews have been hung throughout Berlin.²⁶

In general, the fight against rising antisemitism is not novel for Germany's government, which has adopted an aggressive and proactive approach. This includes, among others, a program established in 2022 under the title, A National Strategy against Antisemitism and for Jewish Life.²⁷ This program serves as the basis for many other similar programs, which have since been introduced around the world. It includes various strategies for protecting the security of German Jews and enhancing the visibility of Jewish life in the country. This is expressed in:

- **Collating data** and digital research.
- **Fostering cooperation** between cities and Jewish communities and institutions to aid the fight against antisemitism through data pooling.

- **Training local judges and law enforcement** towards implementing legislation against antisemitism.
- **Requiring regional general prosecutors** to appoint coordinators tasked with fighting antisemitism and examining ways of increasing punishment and enforcement in the field.
- **Requiring local universities** to teach about the Holocaust in a manner adapted to each degree or professional training.
- **Supporting the Jewish communities**, while promoting institutions for commemorating the Holocaust.

Despite the German government's considerable efforts, it should be noticed that anti-Israel protests, often exhibiting distinct antisemitic sentiments, continue to take place throughout Germany.²⁸ In some instances, the police prevent the event – often by force, in others, relatively small protests are permitted. On the other hand, there have been several rallies against the rising tide of antisemitism in the country. On December 10th, several thousand people marched through Berlin protesting antisemitism with the participation of the Minister for Labor, the President of the Bundestag, and the Mayor of Berlin.²⁹



28.10.23, Berlin, Pro-Palestinian Demonstration in Berlin on the Oranienplatz (Timecker/Shutterstock)




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United Kingdom

 The first half of 2023 saw only a slight increase in the levels of antisemitism (2%), compared to the corresponding period in 2022. However, the Iron Swords war turned Britain into one of the main focal points for a meteoric increase in the levels of antisemitism – manifested in the highest number of events recorded in the country since documentation began in 1984. This has resulted in a general increase of 512% in incidents, with local police even citing an increase of more than 1,000% in the number of antisemitic crimes recorded during the first month of the war. Consequently, published surveys show that about half of British Jews were considering leaving the country following this wave of antisemitism, 60% of Jews have experienced an antisemitic incident, or know another Jew who has experienced one since the outbreak of the war, and that about half of them have not felt safe on the streets since October 7th.

Even before October 7th, incidents of antisemitism recorded throughout Britain in the first half of 2023 presented the consistent reality of a moderate, gradual increase in the number of antisemitic incidents.

Thus, according to a report published by the Community Security Trust (CST – the local Jewish community's security organization), during the first half of the year (January-June), 803 antisemitic incidents were recorded in Britain,¹ compared to 786 incidents in the first half of 2022 (an increase of about 2%).²

These figures reflect the relatively moderate trend that existed until the events of October 7th, events that have wreaked an upheaval in the lives of Britain's Jewish communities, one whose ramifications may take generations to gauge. CST's data, released on December 6, reveals that, from October 7th onward, 1,890 antisemitic incidents were recorded in

Britain,³ marking a 512% increase compared to the same period last year. These included 80 physical attacks, 148 direct threats, 117 cases of desecration and damage to Jewish property, 1,537 instances of antisemitic behavior encompassing verbal attacks, graffiti, threatening emails, and antisemitic posts online, as well as eight instances of mass-distributed antisemitic literature.

Geographically, **1,062, of these incidents – over half – occurred in Greater London**, 326 in Greater Manchester, 35 in Scotland, and the remainder in other regions of Britain. It is noteworthy that this represents **the highest number of antisemitic incidents measured in a similar time frame since the CST began documenting antisemitic incidents in 1984**. On December 24th, the organization provided an update according to which 2,093 antisemitic incidents had occurred since the war began.⁴



Alongside this data, published by the Community Security Trust, **in London alone**, local police reported that the number of antisemitic incidents registered **increased 14-fold (1357%)** during the first month of the war!⁵ **Manchester** police have reported a dramatic increase in antisemitic crimes in October 2023 – 74 as opposed to 15 in the corresponding period last year, and 14 in that period in 2021.⁶

To compare, throughout the single month of the Guardian of the Walls operation, between May 8th and June 7th 2021, 691 antisemitic incidents were registered, with the level of incidents in the UK diminishing considerably after June 7th, 2021.⁷ Alongside the dramatic increase in antisemitic incidents that were registered during the period beginning October 7th and compared to the first half of 2023, noticeably, during that first half of the year, the discourse centered on increased anti-Jewish sentiments, whereas after October 7th, the discourse turns towards mainly anti-Israeli sentiments and an increased focusing on – among others – the denial of Israel's right to exist.

Based on this data, one survey indicates that **nearly half of British Jews have considered leaving the country as a result of the antisemitic wave that has surged since the beginning of the war.**⁸ In addition, the report indicates that **60% of Jews have personally experienced an antisemitic event or are acquainted with another Jew who has experienced an antisemitic event since the war began;** and 90% said that they would avoid entering the city during a large anti-Israel protest. In this context, only 16% of Jews believe that the local police are treating antisemitic hate crimes in a manner that is similar to the way in which they treat other hate crimes.

An additional survey, published against the background of the war, reports that 77% of respondents feel that local government is not doing enough to deal with the hate speech of Islamic preachers.⁹ In this regard, we should mention several instances of investigations against the more prominent antisemitic

discourse emanating from British mosques, including calls for the slaughter of Jews and the annihilation of Israel.¹⁰ In addition, about **half of the respondents report that they have not felt safe in British streets since October 7th.**

Meanwhile, London police report that **they have arrested about 400 individuals for hate crimes related to the war, with 83 prisoners arraigned.**¹¹ A significant portion of those arrested were apprehended during major pro-Palestinian protests, including one that police estimate drew about 300,000 protesters (November 11). **Throughout these various protests, which continue weekly in many British cities since the war began, numerous calls have been reported advocating harm to Jews and Israelis; comparisons are made between Israeli policies and Nazi policies¹² alongside the “river to the sea” theme (to annihilate the State of Israel); and clear support is expressed for the actions of the Hamas terrorist organization – among others.**

It was against this background that Suella Braverman, former British Secretary of State for the Home Department, called in mid-November for the suspension of pro-Palestinian protests, arguing that “week by week, the streets of London are being polluted by hate, violence, and antisemitism.”¹³ A few days later, Braverman was dismissed by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, due to her additional remarks against the overly lenient policy of the local police towards pro-Palestinian protesters during another demonstration.¹⁴ Braverman's statements represented a **significant wave of criticism regarding the handling by local law enforcement of pro-Palestinian protests, where, particularly at the outset, no arrests were made against those inciting with antisemitic calls.**

In response, London's chief of police of the London police announced that local legislation does not allow them to prohibit pro-Palestinian marches, as long as the intelligence assessment regarding the risk to public order during the expected demonstration does not justify such a prohibition.¹⁵

Subsequently, the government adviser on political violence announced on November 13th that he would recommend expanding police powers concerning the prevention of protests that pose a threat to the Jewish community.¹⁶ According to him, police decisions to abstain from action against protests on the grounds that “there is no risk to public order” do not take into account the antisemitism prevalent in Britain, which poses a growing threat to the sense of security of Jews.

In addition to pro-Palestinian demonstrations held in London, **there have been significant pro-Israel demonstrations since October 7th**. On October 25th, thousands of Jews, alongside former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, marched in solidarity with the local Jewish community and against antisemitism.¹⁷ Another substantial pro-Israel demonstration, in which Johnson and other members of Parliament and public figures participated, took place on November 26th with an estimated 100,000 participants.

Antisemitism in Britain – as a topic – cannot be investigated in isolation from the many **political changes** that the kingdom has undergone over the past year. It is reasonable to assume that the frequency of change have significantly affected local Jewish communities, as well as the level of antisemitism throughout the land. In this respect, Britain’s new Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak is considered a supporter of Israel and a staunch opponent of BDS and antisemitism.¹⁸ Sunak has gone as far as to declare Jerusalem as Israel’s historical capital, this despite the backlash from within. His positions have raised optimism within the Jewish community, wherein expectations have risen for his government to strengthen the struggle against antisemitism and increase support for the country’s Jewish citizens.¹⁹

Sunak’s uncompromising positive support have borne fruit. In March 2023, the British government dedicated 15 million pounds sterling to fortifying protective measures against continued hate crimes threatening the security of the Jewish community in Britain.²⁰ In October Sunak announced a 3 million pound

increase in funding for Jewish community security services to protect schools, synagogues, and other Jewish community facilities, promising a solid, “consistent and clear approach” to dealing with hate crimes aimed at the Jewish community.²¹ In November, Britain’s finance minister announced an additional 7 million pound allocation to battling antisemitism over the next three years, this in the face of increasing hostility towards the local Jewish community.²²

Support for the Jewish community has also come from the direction of King Charles the Third, who in his speech to Parliament on November 7th condemned “the barbaric acts of terrorism” against Israel and expressed his support for the Jewish community. “My government,” he stated “is committed to tackling antisemitism and ensuring that the Holocaust is never forgotten.” The king, during his speech, also committed to the construction of a national Holocaust Memorial and Learning Center in Victoria Tower Gardens.²³

Moreover, the British Home Office has announced that it would identify foreign citizens who have expressed antisemitic sentiments following the Hamas terror attack and warned that it would revoke their visas on the grounds of demonstrated antisemitic behavior.²⁴ Accordingly, the Home Office recently revoked the visa of Matar Moataz, an Egyptian television and YouTube presenter with millions of followers, who regularly visits the UK, after he described the Hamas terror attack of October 7th as “the happiest day in his life.”²⁵

Within the British Labor Party, antisemitic sentiments are especially evident amongst its extreme left-wing adherents. Thus, former MP Chris Williamson, in an interview from November 7th described Israel as an apartheid state, claiming that Gaza is a “concentration camp”.²⁶ Appearing on Piers Morgan’s talk show on November 13th, former Labor leader, Jeremy Corbyn avoided describing Hamas as a terrorist organization, this despite the host’s repeated calls upon him to do so.²⁷ Likewise, Labor MP Imram Hussain, whose constituency of Bradford contains a large Muslim community,

resigned from the shadow government on November 8, after his party leader, Keir Starmer refused to call for a ceasefire in Gaza.²⁸

Britain's education system has also registered a significant increase in antisemitic incidents. It should be mentioned, however, that even before the war, research from 2022 by the Henry Jackson Society (HJS) indicates a 173.3% increase in incidents in British schools over the previous five years.²⁹

An additional CST report from January 2023 addresses antisemitism on university campuses between 2020 and 2022, reporting on about 150 antisemitic incidents – a 22% increase during the period 2018-2020.³⁰

Correspondingly, various reports published in 2023, including that of John Mann, the Independent Adviser to the UK Government on Antisemitism,³¹ propose the expansion of educational programs addressing the Holocaust and confronting contemporary antisemitism as a response to this growing blight.

Since the outbreak of the war, data collected daily indicates a clear meteoric increase in manifested antisemitism within local education systems. Thus, the CST's latest report from December 6 reports 140 antisemitic incidents in British universities since the war began out of a total of 1,890. In comparison, during the first six months of 2023, only 17 such cases were recorded, while throughout 2022 – only 56.

Beyond the incidents on British campuses, 126 incidents were recorded at British schools since the war began. 56 of these occurred in non-Jewish schools and targeted pupils and teachers; 19 cases of abuse were reported at Jewish schools; 44 cases took place as Jewish pupils were on their way to or from school, and 7 cases were ascribed to culprits from non-Jewish schools who abused adults in public or at Jewish locations.

Once again, comparison shows that that, during the first six months of 2023, CST reported on 67 incidents in the school sector, while throughout 2022 only 94 such events took place.³²

This wave of hatred places many Jewish students – within the classroom, the public space, and the media-sphere – in a difficult situation. These students are also highly exposed to distorted information that is being disseminated through social networks, which increases the levels of antisemitism and anti-Zionism amidst their contemporaries.

A striking example is that of an eight-year old boy whose family was murdered during the events of October 7th and who received a message from his classmates that called for the destruction of all Jews.³³

This disturbing picture of an unprecedented increase in British antisemitism, in its educational system in particular, should raise concern and raise red flags throughout the kingdom.




November 26, 2023: March Against Antisemitism (Loredana Sanguiliano, Shutterstock)

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France

 Despite a 26% decrease in levels of antisemitism recorded in France in 2022, 2023 offers a completely different picture, especially the period after October 7th, when – alongside Britain and the US, France – became one of the most prominent focus points for a dramatic increase in levels of antisemitism. About 1,800 antisemitic incidents were recorded against the background of the war, over four times more, relative to 2022 in its entirety. These incidents include – among others – the stabbing of a Jewish woman, the door to her home sprayed with a swastika, attacks on youths in the streets, the burning of doors of Jewish homes, and the branding of Jewish homes in Paris and its periphery with Stars of David. The source of a considerable portion of antisemitism in the country continues to be second and third-generation immigrants from Muslim countries, who have been born and educated in France. Moreover, the antisemitism is often influenced by the social polarization in France between extreme left and right, as well as the increasing collaboration between radical Islam and extreme left-wing elements. These trends have resulted themselves in a 430% jump in requests to immigrate to Israel by French Jews since the beginning of the war. Alongside all this, however, the French government's firm stance in protecting the Jewish community and taking measures against perpetrators of antisemitism should be noted. Thus, hundreds have been arrested and even deported from the country.

Over the past two decades, the local Jewish community in France has been no stranger to antisemitism, which expresses itself in various forms such as murder, physical abuse, discrimination, insults, vandalism, and defacing Jewish buildings and symbols. However, antisemitic incidents in France reached unprecedented heights in 2023.

2023 was greeted with quiet anticipation, due to a report published by the local Jewish Community Protection Service (SPCJ) in conjunction with the French Ministry of Interior. According to the report only **436 antisemitic incidents had been recorded in 2022, compared to 589 in 2021 (a 26% reduction)**.¹ This decline has been attributed to the numerous and consistent efforts

that the local government has invested in eradicating antisemitism throughout the country.

Notably, in 1905, France enacted a law that guarantees freedom of conscience and worship² while clearly separating all matters of church and state. Nevertheless, the rising wave of antisemitism in France often results in situations that require the government to react and deal with matters of religion.

Proof of the government's attempts to eradicate local antisemitism was evident in January 2023, when Elisabeth Borne, France's second female prime minister and the daughter of Polish Holocaust survivors, presented a **National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Antisemitism, and Discrimination**



Related to Origin for 2023-2026.³ The plan specifies primary goals, including compiling an all-encompassing analysis of racism, antisemitism and discrimination in France, proposing educational services and improved training on the topic, promoting sanctions against perpetrators, and support for victims.

Despite the aforementioned decrease in levels of reported antisemitism in 2022, 2023 presents a totally different image, especially regarding the period after October 7th. Accordingly, throughout the month of November, the French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin stated that **1,762 antisemitic incidents had been recorded since the beginning of the war (more than four times the number compared to 2022 in its entirety), that 571 people had been arrested, 120 of them foreigners.**⁴ Furthermore, he stated that around 330 investigations of antisemitic incidents were ongoing. In another post (from November 14th), the minister stated that **eleven foreigners had been expelled from the country due to antisemitic activities.** In addition, it was noted that 50% of the antisemitic incidents included antisemitic banners and posters (calling for the death of Jews, swastikas, etc.); 22% of incidents included threats and insults aimed at Jews, 2% included physical attacks against Jews, and 2% included attacks on community spaces.

Reportedly, 11% of antisemitic incidents were dealt with by the local Paris police, the Rhône police handled 5%, the Hautes-de-Saône police 5%, and the Alpes-Maritimes and Seine-Saint-Denis police handled 4%.

It should be noted that upon publication of this information, the Imam of Paris' largest mosque gave a personal interview, in which he expressed doubts as to the veracity of the statistics regarding antisemitism in the country, while understating the gravity of specific events that had taken place.⁵

One of the most disturbing incidents that occurred against the war's backdrop transpired in Lyon on November 4th, when a 30-year old Jewish woman was stabbed at the entrance to her home by a masked assailant who managed to escape – not before painting a swastika on her door, which displayed a mezuzah. The woman was lightly injured.⁶

Another alarming incident on November 12th involved a 15-year-old Jewish teenager on the train to Val d'Oise, who was attacked by two assailants who kicked him, then threatened to murder him.⁷ Additionally, the front door of an elderly couple in Paris was set on fire. According to the Paris police, theirs was the only one adorned with a Mezuzah, thereby identifying them as Jewish.⁸

Since the outbreak of the war, other incidents stand out, including **defacing homes of Jews in Paris and its environs with Stars of David.**⁹ For example, on the night of October 31st, 80 blue Stars of David were sprayed on buildings housing Jews and/or their businesses. Consequently, the Paris police announced on November 2nd the arrest of two Moldovan nationals on suspicion of the crime. Local media later reported that police were investigating the possibility that this was part of a Russia-instigated campaign.¹⁰ In addition, it has been reported that a bot-network, allegedly employed by the Russian Wagner organization, has been distributing photos of Stars of David graffiti on Jewish homes.¹¹

France's education system has not been spared the effect of increasing antisemitism. A survey of French students, published in September 2023, found that nine out of ten Jewish students have been subjected to physical violence of an antisemitic



nature.¹² The report also states that 89% of students have suffered from stereotypes, 80% from humor at the expense of Jews or the Holocaust, 45% from antisemitic insults, and 43% from physical or verbal abuse related to Israel. In addition, the report indicates that only 28% of students (Jewish and non-Jewish) believe that antisemitism and a hatred of Israel is rampant at French universities and colleges – considerably less than students concerned with other social issues on campuses such as sexism (63%), racism and homophobia (56%).

Another important finding is that **83% of Jewish students fear extremist left-wing violence, while 65% fear violence from the extreme right. It should be noted, in this context, that the source of most antisemitism in France over recent years has been second and third-generation immigrants from Islamic countries. Most of these were born and educated in France and express their hate, racism, and other elements of “new antisemitism” through violence and property damage, with an emphasis on antisemitic posts on social media.** Notably, surveys show that half of French Muslims believe that the Hamas attack of October 7th was a legitimate anti-colonialist act, and almost 20% support Hamas’ deeds – this compared to 3% of the general population. Also, support of Hamas among the Muslim population France is especially strong among the young (50% of youngsters up to 25) and the elderly (53% of adults above 50).¹³

Moreover, this local antisemitism is strongly bolstered by the social polarization in France between extremist right and left-wing elements and by the increasing cooperation between Islamic radicals and the extreme left.¹⁴

An example from recent weeks is the widespread public discourse regarding the relationship between the extreme left LFI (La France Insoumise – lit: France Unbowed) party and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Preoccupation with this relationship increased after some LFI parliament members participated in several events in support of Palestinians, to which

Popular Front members had also been invited. Consequently, on November 29th, a parliament member from that party, Manuel Bompard denied connections to the terror group,¹⁵ as did his colleague, Eric Coquerel. An additional party member on December 22nd announced he had called upon the local Minister of Justice to investigate the status of French citizens who serve in the IDF and are taking part in the war in Gaza to examine the possibility of accusing them of war crimes.¹⁶

In a general survey of the French public from October 31st, **83% of respondents expressed concern with the increase in antisemitic incidents in the country related to the Iron Swords war.**¹⁷ Furthermore, 75% expressed the conviction that the struggle between Israel and Hamas breeds tension in France. Another survey (from October 15th) indicates that **48% of French citizens believe that, following Hamas’ terror attack, the Jewish community is a a desired target.** This is compared to 19% who expressed similar concerns in a survey that followed the terrorist attack of 2016.¹⁸

Another public opinion poll shows that the events of October 7th, as well as the antisemitism and anti-Israel demonstrations that take place throughout France every week, during which calls are often heard to harm the Jews and destroy Israel, have generated shock within French society.¹⁹

In this context, 28% declared “sympathy” towards Israel – a much higher figure than those who expressed sympathy toward the Palestinian Authority(10%) or Hamas (3%). Moreover, 54% of respondents consider the events of October 7th as acts of terror, whereas 10% consider these as “acts of resistance”. Additionally, 62% justify Israel’s aim of removing the Hamas terrorist organization from Gaza. 65% state a fear that “deeds such as those perpetrated by Hamas on October 7th could one day occur in France.” 71% consider antisemitism “a serious threat to the French and Jews,” and **72% object to continued pro-Palestinian rallies in the country.**

Against a backdrop of increasing threats, the local Jewish community, which is the third largest in the world (about 440,000 souls) is concerned for its welfare. As a result, one recent Friday, on which calls were made for “a day of rage” and for harming the Jewish community in retaliation for the IDF’s activities in Gaza, about 10% of Jewish schools remained closed. At those that opened, around 30% of parents kept their children home that day. Following the event, France’s education minister, Gabriel Attal on October 11th announced that he would prioritize efforts to ensure the safety of Jewish pupils who may otherwise be subject to attacks.²⁰ Moreover, there have been reports of many Jews concealing their religious identity,²¹ as the fear from harm and the decrease in personal security are accompanied by anxiety reminiscent of times we thought had been forgotten. This trend reflects in the **abrupt 430% jump in requests to immigrate to Israel by French Jews since the beginning of the war**, compared to the same period last year.²²

In general, the sentiments of most decision makers towards Israel in France is positive with a determination to fight antisemitism that is driven by a firm belief in this struggle, as well as a fear that antisemitism may extend towards general public disturbances. Hence, following the events of October 7th, French President Macron visited Israel and expressed his support for its reaction to the acts of terror.²³ Macron stressed that France has always, and will continue its fight against all forms of hate against any segment of its population. Moreover, he added, France will protect its Jewish community and respond forcefully to any antisemitic manifestation or attack.²⁴ However, several weeks later, Macron criticized Israel on the BBC and called for Israel to cease killing women and babies in Gaza.

Despite his previous statements, on December 7th Macron participated in a Hanukkah candle lighting ceremony at the Élysée Palace, conducted by France’s Chief Rabbi. News of the event prompted controversy and it was

condemned by several political parties for the apparent violation of church and state separation.²⁵

Since the outbreak of the war, dozens of cities throughout France have expressed solidarity with Israel and paid respects to the victims, including the city of Paris, where the Eiffel Tower was darkened one night and flooded at its center with the projection of a Star of David the next. In Marseilles, the city’s municipality building was darkened in commemoration, as were other public buildings in Nice, Lyon, and more.

The staunch position against all forms of hate and against support for terrorism from France’s political, legal, and municipal establishment is worth noting. This includes the minister of interior’s update on October 31st that **10,000 policemen and soldiers have been mobilized to secure over 500 Jewish community institutions in France.** Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne stressed to the senate France’s commitment to protecting the community and to the fight against antisemitism and promised that her government would fight “mercilessly” against all manifestations of antisemitism.²⁶

Concurrently, early on the heels of the outbreak of the war, **the French interior minister issued a warrant against support rallies for Hamas.** Requests to approve processions have been denied, and rallies have been forcefully dispersed with attendees being fined. Despite this, **several protests did take place but were mostly dispersed by local police forces.**

Additionally, on October 11th, the interior minister called for **the expulsion of instigators of antisemitic crimes who are not French citizens.**²⁷ Accordingly, on October 17th, he stated that he had called upon the general prosecutor to initiate an investigation against the LFI MP, Danièle Obono, who called Hamas “a resistance movement”, for suspected support of terrorism.²⁸

At the legislative level, Justice Minister Éric Dupond-Moretti leveled criticism at the National Assembly against a far-left MP, asserting that supporting Hamas is a criminal offense that entails a five-year jail sentence. The position against Hamas also reverberates on the municipal level. For example, on October 20th Lyon's mayor prohibited a performance by Dieudonné, an antisemitic comedian, for his incitement to hate.

In parliament, the Jewish President of the French National Assembly, Yaël Braun-Pivet prevented the attendance of Palestinian activist, Miryam Abu Daka, who is affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terror organization. Daka had planned to screen her documentary film before the assembly. She was also arrested and placed under home arrest in Marseilles on October 16th in preparation for her pending deportation for disrupting public order,²⁹ following the decision of the interior minister to deport her from France. However, the deportation order was subsequently suspended by a presiding judge, who ruled that this would violate her freedom of expression.³⁰ Another notable event concerns the detention of Youcef Atal, an Algerian born soccer player who plays for Nice, who is expected to be arraigned on charges of incitement to religious violence, after he published antisemitic posts inciting violence against Jews.³¹

The support of local policymakers in France has been demonstrated through their active participation in the significant pro-Israel demonstrations that took place on November 12th in reaction to the increase of antisemitism since the war. These protests were attended by **180,000 people all over France, including**



Paris, France, 12-11-2023 :demonstrator's sign During the March Against Antisemitism (Antonin Albert, Shutterstock)

100,000 who attended the main rally in Paris. They included Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne, representatives of left wing and conservative political parties, members of President Macron's liberal centrist party, extreme right wing leader Marine Le Pen, and former Presidents Holland and Sarkozy. The rally was tightly secured. President Macron was not in attendance but expressed his support and promised that the perpetrators of antisemitic crimes would be prosecuted. **The demonstration marked the largest gathering denouncing antisemitism in France since the 1990 protest following the desecration of a Jewish cemetery.**

It should be noted that several local commentators claimed that the demonstration was attended primarily by a "white and aging public". They emphasized the lack of participation of the Muslim community and France's younger generation. Additionally, the event was boycotted by the extreme left LFI due to Le Pen's participation.

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Australia



In Australia, where the levels of antisemitism demonstrate a constant upward trend, the number of incidents targeting communities in the country since the outbreak of war on October 7th has increased dramatically – over 600 antisemitic incidents representing a 738% increase compared to the same period last year. These incidents include anti-Israel protests that include a call to attack Jews and destroy the State of Israel, threats of bodily harm and property damage, verbal abuse, sticking posters on Israeli restaurants, promoting boycotts of Israeli products and of businesses owned by Jews, and more.

Antisemitism in Australia has been demonstrating a concerning upward trend over the past few years – albeit from a relatively low baseline. Mirroring global patterns, antisemitic incidents dramatically increased after October 7th. However, even before then, what stands out is less the actual increase in incidents, but more the boldness of the perpetrators.

Two incidents in March 2023 epitomize this characteristic. Taking place during the first week of the month, the Adelaide Festival Writers Week featured multiple Palestinian writers who are well known for their antisemitic and violent perspectives. The festival excluded

Zionist authors, prompting several sponsors to withdraw their support. Nevertheless, the event proceeded as scheduled.

At another event – also in March – neo-Nazis made an uninvited appearance at a rally on the steps of the Parliament building of Victoria, Australia's second most populous state, where they openly displayed the Nazi salute.

While the reported cases of antisemitic incidents may be relatively low compared to similar countries, the Jewish community remains the only minority that requires armed guards outside its schools or places of worship. **In August 2023, a major survey by the Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA) and the Australasian Union of Jewish Students, in collaboration with the World Zionist Organization (WZO), found that 64% of Jewish students had experienced antisemitism at university (88% experienced antisemitism last year).¹ The survey further highlighted that in 70% of the significant antisemitic incidents, staff members were present but ignored them. In 29% of the cases, staff**



Zionist Federation of Australia. (August 2023). Jewish University Experience Survey

members actively participated in the event. Additionally, the survey revealed that 57% of the respondents hid their Jewish identity to avoid antisemitism on campus, and 19% of the respondents even reported staying away from the campus where they study in order to avoid being attacked.

As in the rest of the world, beginning October 7th the number of antisemitic incidents in Australia surged dramatically. Thus, throughout October and November 2023, 662 antisemitic incidents were recorded, representing a sharp 738% increase relative to the same period the previous year.²

In this context, several incidents stand out. On October 14th, neo-Nazis marched into a major train station, boarded a train and asked passengers whether they were Jewish. Then they proceeded to perform the Nazi salute and sing songs about the supposed racial superiority of white people.³

Despite this, most reported antisemitic incidents are of the "new antisemitism" type, characterized by a direct relationship to the war in Gaza, and the State of Israel, in particular. While some incidents received widespread attention (such as the 'gas the Jews' chant on the steps of the Sydney Opera House,⁴ or the protest inside the hotel lobby where relatives of Israeli hostages were staying),⁵ most did not attract major headlines.

In recent years, the many baseless allegations made against Israel have made inroads into the public discourse influencing a subset of the less informed public that believes anyone who supports Israel's right to exist, primarily Jews, to be morally beyond the pale. Local elements, motivated by a hate of Israel who would "punish" its supporters for the IDF's activities in Gaza, take out their hostility on the local Jewish community. This trend has caused a considerable increase in antisemitic incidents since the war in Gaza began. Within this framework, local pro-Palestinian elements in the country have raised fear in the local Jewish community through protests that are held in Jewish neighborhoods,⁶ promoting

boycotts of Israeli products or products produced by companies that maintain economic ties to Israel,⁷ placing posters on Israeli restaurants (and even local Starbucks and McDonalds branches),⁸ and calling for boycotts of Jewish entities known for their pro-Israeli sentiments.⁹ In addition, local Jews have experienced verbal abuse and, in some cases, even physical abuse. Also, several cases of removing posters of Israeli abductees have been registered or covered with "Zionist Propaganda" posters. Social media, already replete with antisemitic content, has also registered an increase in numbers and ferocity of campaigns targeting entities that dare express pro-Israeli sentiments.

A significant factor of the war has been grassroots activism, both for and against Israel. Local councils have passed motions of solidarity with the Palestinians. Pro-Palestinian activists have been writing open letters and organizing media campaigns across many sectors including the medical and legal professions. While few of these campaigns are explicitly antisemitic, they certainly add to the Jewish community's sense of isolation.

On the plus side, the Jewish community has seen an outpouring of volunteerism, with hundreds of small groups organizing around specific issues. One example has been the creation of 'pop-up' installations highlighting the plight of the hostages in Gaza.

On the political and public levels, there has been a vocal public rejection of antisemitism since the war began. Over the last several years, Australian governments at the state and federal level have been outlawing the display of Nazi symbols and, more recently, the Nazi salute. Representatives of the Jewish community regularly meet with senior government ministers and officials to promote strategies to combat antisemitism and the aggressive behavior toward the Jewish community, such as that which we have seen in recent months. In late November, after hundreds of prominent Australians signed an open letter condemning the spike in antisemitism,¹⁰



thousands of ordinary Australians followed suit. Moreover, the political condemnation of particularly intimidating antisemitic incidents has been both swift and unequivocal. Even the Australian Prime minister voiced his unequivocal position in a speech on December 19th where he condemned antisemitism while demanding Israel honor humanitarian laws while operating in Gaza and reiterating his support for a two-state solution.¹¹ Unfortunately, given that many on the left unquestioningly believe the most extreme allegations about Israel the antisemitism displayed by hard left activists appears to be structural.

**A SOCIAL
POST CAN'T
END HATE.**

BUT WE CAN.

Show your support at
saynotoantisemitism.org

Australian Leaders Say No To Antisemitism: [Saynotoantisemitism.org](https://saynotoantisemitism.org)

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South Africa



Throughout the past year, about 200 antisemitic incidents were reported, with over two-thirds recorded after October 7th. This represents a 186% increase over the same period last year. It includes a high number of protest rallies that included antisemitic slogans and those demanding the closure of the Israeli Embassy in the country, attacks and threats targeting the local Jewish community, campaigns to boycott local businesses owned by Jews, and more. The South African government's role was especially prominent, especially in its call upon the International Court of Justice to investigate Israel's alleged war crimes, and its declaration that South African citizens who join the IDF may be subject to prosecution in the country for alleged violation of international law.

One hundred and ninety-two antisemitic incidents were registered in the country over the first eleven months of 2023, with 23 of them (66%) occurring after the events of October 7th. It is noteworthy that this number represents a 186% increase, compared to 67 registered incidents over the same period last year. It should also be stressed that an increase in numbers was recorded before October 7th in comparison with the previous year. However, at 3%, this increase is negligible compared to the increase seen since that date. Moreover, a significant portion of the incidents – especially those post-October 7th – include violent attacks (6). In addition, there have been countless incidents involving the desecration of Jewish property (5), offensive behavior such as verbal insults (35), emails containing hate speech, comments on social networks and written threats (74), major political demonstrations and statements (15), prominent activities promoting BDS (15), antisemitic graffiti (10), and other forms of antisemitism (12).

Cyril Ramaphosa @CyrilRamaphosa
We pledge solidarity with the people of Palestine.
[#FreePalestine](#)

Cyril Ramaphosa @CyrilRamaphosa
As South Africans we have made it part of our national DNA to stand firm against all forms of prejudice including racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and xenophobia. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of both Palestine and Israel as they go through these difficult times.
bit.ly/3SOSUgh

FROM THE DESK OF
THE PRESIDENT

Source: X (twitter) @CyrilRamaphosa October 14 and 16 2023



Similarly to other countries, South Africa has also hosted numerous pro-Palestinian demonstrations, during which **antisemitic chants were prominent, as were calls to shut down the Israeli embassy in the capital.** Concurrently, protests in support of Israel have been met with pro-Palestinian violence. During one such event, held in Capetown on November 12th, police were forced to resort to water cannons and stun grenades to disperse the crowds, prompting the mayor to call for maintaining freedom of speech.¹

As for prominent attacks against the local Jewish community, which numbers about 50,000, the October 17th attack in Durban stands out. A community member was attacked on his way to synagogue by a black man who knocked him to the ground and began beating him, all the while accusing him of all that was happening in the Middle East. On November 10th, a rabbi from Johannesburg reported that, while driving, a car driven by a Muslim man who was following him had purposely crashed into him. The man then challenged him to a fight. On November 12th, yet another member of the Jewish community in Johannesburg was attacked and threatened by dozens of protesters who beat him while waving Hamas and ISIS flags. On November 3rd, pro-Palestinian protesters in Capetown attacked a group sporting the Israeli flag during the celebration of South Africa's winning the world Rugby championship.²

Destruction of Jewish property. Two incidents are notable – the first being the desecration of a Jewish monument in the Pretoria cemetery on October 29th, the second, the November 13th spraying of graffiti over the walls of the Jewish cemetery calling for the cessation of the genocide in Gaza and the freeing of Palestine.

Local Jewish community members also remain exposed to abuse, curses, spitting, etc. – incidents that have taken place outside the Chabad house and synagogues, during which they have been accused of being behind the actions of the IDF.

Other people, associated with the community (e.g. the head of the country's Jewish Students Union), its institutions (e.g. the umbrella organization for the Jewish community), and Jews in general, including students have all suffered from attacks. These include **virulent messages on social media platforms,** both on public pages and private.

Alongside direct threats to their lives, some messages also compare Zionism to Nazism, express remorse for Hitler's "not finishing the job" and blame Jews for the murder of Gazan Palestinians.

In addition to the above, **many campaigns have called for the boycotting of local businesses owned by Jews.** One example is a campaign registered against the Cape Union Mart chain whose chairman, Phillip Kravitz, is Jewish. The campaign involved posting stickers marked, "I have blood on my hands. Boycott Apartheid Israel" on company products and distributing on-line leaflets stating that Kravitz "funds and enables the Zionist colonization of Palestine."³

An additional campaign was reported against a chain owned by a Jew whose children had served in the IDF.

The Jewish 'Herzliya' school in South Africa felt the brunt of yet another campaign organized by the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, which distributed a petition demanding the school cease supporting Israeli apartheid. It called for an investigation of the school's alleged involvement in promoting colonialism and racism as part of its curriculum and claimed that the school's illegally abetting of a foreign army by calling upon its students to volunteer for the IDF. This campaign included explicit threats against the school and its alumni.

The Palestine Solidarity Campaign hosted its international conference, which took place in Johannesburg,⁴ under the auspices of the Global Campaign for the Return to Palestine together with the Mandela family to mark the 10-year commemoration of Nelson Mandela's death. The conference included an official delegation of the Hamas terror organization, which was comprised of



Source: X (Twitter @Africa4Pal) Dec 4, 2023

members of the group's political wing, the main Hamas' representative to Iran, and the official African representative.⁵

Another prominent incident involves South Africa's national under-19s cricket team captain, David Teeger, who was suspended for being Jewish, following a complaint by the Palestine Solidarity Alliance (PSA) against him for having expressed his support for Israel and the IDF's soldiers in Gaza. A hearing on December 7th cleared the rising cricket star and allowed for his return to his team.⁶

With regards to October 7th, several days after the outbreak of the war, on October 14th, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa published a post expressing support for the Palestinian people.⁷ Two days after, he published yet

another, in which he stated that his country opposes any form of racism, including antisemitism and Islamophobia, and that he is praying for both Palestine and Israel.⁸ The following month, during his visit to Qatar, the President announced on November 15th that his country had petitioned the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate "Israel's attacks on Gaza".⁹

And yet the most dramatic step taken by the South African government was its December 29th **application to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to open an investigation against Israel for war crimes it allegedly committed in Gaza, and the violation of its obligation under the 1948 Convention against Genocide.**¹⁰ Concurrently, on December 18th, The South African government has threatened that citizens who enlist in the IDF may be subject to prosecution in the country, for allegedly violating international law.¹¹

Our thanks for the assistance in conducting this research goes to the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

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Canada



The significant increase in antisemitism in the wake of the events of October 7th was also evident in Canada, with data published by the Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver police, along with independent data indicating a 200-800% increase in antisemitic levels compared to the same period the previous year. This includes anti-Israel protests using antisemitic slogans, increased levels of antisemitism in high-schools and universities, and two reported arson attempts targeting Jewish institutions. Shots were fired at Jews, and a young Muslim was apprehended on suspicion of planning a terror attack against the local Jewish community. However, Canada's political echelons should be noted for their support of Israel and local Jewish community and for their determination in fighting the increasing tide of antisemitism.

Canadian police reports from 2022 reveal that, of 3,576 hate crimes reported throughout the country, 502 were motivated by antisemitism (14% of all reported hate crimes).¹ It should be noted that the Jewish community, which numbers about 400,000 people, constitutes about one percent of the entire population of Canada, making it the most threatened religious minority in the country. **Data for 2023 is limited, at this point, but information from the Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver police departments indicate a considerable increase in antisemitic hate crimes reported as of October 7th.**

Toronto police report that in 2023, between January 1st and December 17th, 147 antisemitic crimes were reported in the city, compared to 81 for the same period the previous year (an 81% increase).⁵⁶ ² of these crimes occurred after October 7th, with 18 incidents reported for the same period in 2022 (a 311% increase). Moreover, the police reported that 53% of all

MONTREAL POLICE HATE STATS			
OCTOBER 7 TH - NOV. 14 TH			
	ARAB-MUSLIM	JEWISH	TOTAL
HATE CRIMES	16	63	79
HATE INCIDENTS	14	41	55
TOTAL	30	104	134

Montreal police have been tracking the number of hate crimes and hate-motivated incidents since the start of the israel-hamas war. (Ctv news)

hate crimes reported after October 7th were motivated by antisemitism. Additionally, they reported 111 incidents involving graffiti in 2023, compared to only 12 in 2022.

Montreal police report that during the month between October 7th and November 7th, 104 reports of hate crimes were received throughout the city from Jewish communities – 78% of all hate crimes reported.³ Montreal also recorded two **attempted arson attacks on November 7th – one targeting the Bet Tikva synagogue and the other, the city's Jewish federation (CJA).**⁴ Several days later,

in two separate attacks on the 9th and 12th of November, shots were **fired at Jewish schools** in the city,⁵ and on November 27th a Molotov cocktail was thrown at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in the city.⁶ No injuries were reported in any of the attacks.

Vancouver, local police reported 18 incidents this past October against the Jewish community, compared to 4 in 2022 (a 350% increase).⁷

In Ottawa in December a young Muslim was charged with planning a terror attack against the Jewish community,⁸ having already prepared explosive devices. A television network reported that the youngster's father's Facebook account included posts inciting violence against Jews.⁹

It should be noted that **data from the WZO's department for Combating Antisemitism indicates an 800% increase in reported antisemitic incidents in Canada during the months of October and November 2023, compared to the same period last year.**

On the other hand since October 7th, over 300 anti-Israel rallies were monitored, during many of which swastika flags and pictures of Adolph Hitler were displayed alongside calls for violence against Jews and more. The groups behind these rallies include Samidoun, which serves, for all intents and purposes, as a branch of a declared terrorist organization -- the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Palestine Youth Moment (PYM). Contrary to other countries, such as Germany and France, which have acted against inciteful hate rallies, in Canada they continue to be seen as a manifestation of freedom of speech. Consequently, **hate towards Jewish students on campuses and in high schools has also increased.**

In relation to this, about 2,000 parents on November 21st sent a petition to the Toronto school council expressing concern about increasing antisemitism in Toronto schools.¹⁰ The petition indicated specific incidents, such as Nazi salutes, spraying swastika graffiti on bus windows, stars of David left on the desks of Jewish pupils, threats of violence, and the

use of Holocaust imagery. However, apart from the suspension of a handful of lecturers who had expressed antisemitic sentiments,¹¹ **as in the US, Canada is not doing enough to battle antisemitism.** As a result, five Parliament members on December 14th sent a letter to the presidents of the country's leading universities demanding they take action and improve protection for Jewish students against the growing wave of antisemitic harassment.¹²

In this matter, a survey taken between November 11th and December 1st regarding antisemitism in Canadian society found that **Canadians over 54 are more prone to regard antisemitism as a central problem in Canada (34%) compared to young adults under the age of 35 (22%). Furthermore, the survey found that 75% of Jews in Canada consider antisemitism a major problem.**¹³

Despite the above, several impressive initiatives have been taken to battle antisemitism in the country. For example, on October 16th, about 1,000 people participated in the conference to fight antisemitism under the banner, "Face it, Fight it"¹⁴ - the first meeting of its kind for Canada's Jewish population dedicated to the fight against antisemitism. The aim of the conference, organized by the Center for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), was to mobilize hundreds of Canadian Jews and other partners and provide them with tools for unifying them in their fight against hate and antisemitism. Speakers included Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Another event on December 4th attracted about 20,000 Jews and pro-Israel sympathizers to Parliament Hill in Ottawa in support of Israel through the call to release kidnapped Israeli citizens and to ensure the safety of Canada's Jewish community.¹⁵

**ANTISEMITISM
FACE IT
FIGHT IT**



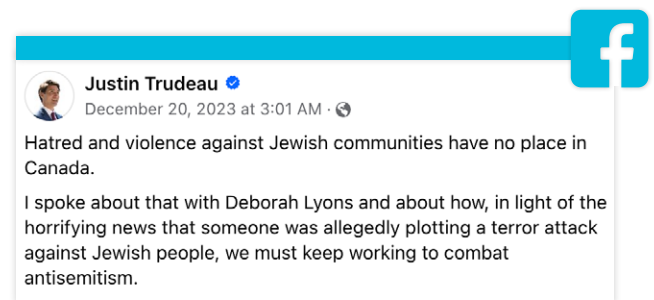
Sign against the wall at a Palestinian demonstration Toronto Canada, 9 December 2023 (Greg finnegan, Shutterstock)

Indeed, **Canada's leadership is generally highly supportive of Israel and the local Jewish community.** Thus, following the events of October 7th, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was quoted as saying that, "Hamas is a terrorist organization that massacred and brutalized innocent people. These people are not freedom fighters, they are not resistance fighters: they are terrorists."¹⁶ On October 19th, after a chain of attacks against the Jewish community, Trudeau published a post saying that, "Hatred and violence against Jewish communities have no place in Canada."¹⁷ Three days earlier, on October 16th, he announced the appointment of former Canadian Ambassador to Israel Deborah Lyons as Canada's Special Envoy of Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism.

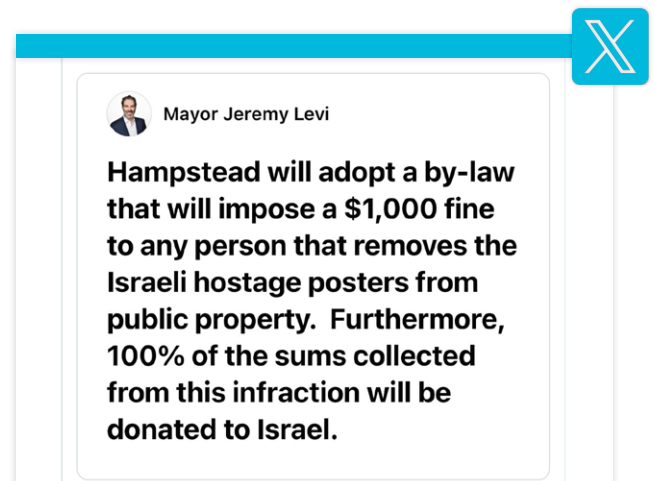
On that occasion, he stated that "Today, in the aftermath of the horrific attacks against Israel, we reiterate to Jewish communities across Canada that we are standing with them. Ms. Lyons will be a critical voice in fighting antisemitism and preserving the memory of the Holocaust so that younger generations know the truth about what happened – and how antisemitism continues today. We all must confront antisemitism, hatred, and intolerance in all its forms so we can build a better, safer future for everyone."¹⁸

An important event took place in Hampstead on November 22nd, when a motion was passed that **imposes a \$1,000 fine on anyone defacing notices of Israeli hostages.** The mayor announced that there was no room for antisemitism in his city and that he hopes to be a role model for how to battle the phenomenon.¹⁹

The local community's proposals for battling antisemitism include improving the reporting mechanism for hate crimes and establishing a national advisory committee for community security,²⁰ adding the Samidoun organization to the list of Canada's terrorist entities,²¹ relentlessly fighting online extremism and hate,²² digital campaigns on antisemitism,²³ strengthening legal tools to deal with hate speech,²⁴ increased physical protection for the Jewish community,²⁵ and education on the fight against antisemitism and preserving the memory of the Holocaust.²⁶



Source: Facebook



Source: X (twitter) @jerlevi November 2, 2023

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Former Soviet Union (FSU)

The considerable increase in Antisemitic levels as a result of the Iron Swords war did not pass over the Post Soviet sphere, including regions that in the past were not host to violent antisemitic rhetoric or sentiments. Consequently, Israel and Jewish-related motifs, which had been prevalent in the distant Soviet past and which it seemed had been forgotten for the past three decades, have returned most voluminously since the outbreak of the war. Adopting a state cross-section, the most significant increases in antisemitism this past year and against the background of the war in particular has been in Russia, Belarus, Armenia, and the Central Asian Republics, with Ukraine actually displaying a significant drop in antisemitism. Notably, though, apart from several violent incidents in Russia's North Caucasus and the Central Asian Muslim republics, antisemitic rhetoric has not yet translated into acts that directly endanger Jews in the region. This does not, however, signify that a change for the worse may not occur at any given moment and lead the rhetoric towards practical violent steps.

The Iron Swords war has resulted in a global upsurge in antisemitism, especially in areas that have traditionally harbored violent antisemitic rhetoric and opinions. A notable example of this is the former Soviet Union, where historically, anti-Israel and anti-Jewish ideologies ran rampant and have been somewhat dormant over the past three decades. Such notions have begun to spring up again vigorously since the war began.

However, this is not a new phenomenon that was born in a vacuum. Over the past ten years, the amount of antisemitic discourse has been steadily growing, often branching towards anti-Israeli themes that help establish the image of the Jew as the ultimate enemy. Accordingly, the Iron Swords war has caused a resurfacing of traditional antisemitic tropes and activities have helped establish a "new antisemitism", which is aimed primarily at the State of Israel.

Moreover, beyond the well-established centers of antisemitism, such as Western (European) Russia, Belarus, and Armenia, major antisemitic themes have also appeared in new areas – Muslim areas most prominent among them – including Russia's Northern Caucasus region and Central Asia.

A state-specific analysis shows a dramatic increase in antisemitism most prominently in Russia, Belarus, Armenia, and the Central Asian countries. Aside from the violent incidents that took place in Russia's North Caucasus region and the Muslim states of central Asia, this antisemitic discourse has yet to translate into widespread violence that directly endangers the Jews in the region. That is not to say, however, that this situation cannot change for the worse at any given moment, leading from the verbal to practical physical violence.



In fact, the **central Asian Muslim republics**, which previously maintained a insignificant level of antisemitism, have suddenly become a focal point for violent antisemitism with an emphasis on social media. In Kirghizstan there have been calls in the capital, Bishkek, to close the Jewish school, and on October 21st an attempted protest was dispersed by the authorities. Kazakhstan has seen attempts to harass the Jewish community, requiring the authorities to address concrete threats. The same is true for Uzbekistan, where Chabad emissaries in the capitol, Tashkent were attacked, as were the Bucharan and Ashkenazi synagogues. However, it is important to note that the local authorities in Central Asian republics are quick to suppress the trend.



The situation in **Armenia** is heavily influenced by Israel's relations with Azerbaijan, to whom it exports weaponry. Such relations raise the ire of the Armenian public, especially due to the heightened conflicts in the Nagorno Karabakh region, which is located between the two countries. Interestingly, the fact that the Armenians have chosen to focus on Israel's assistance and not that of other Azerbaijan supporters indicates that antisemitic sentiments in Armenia run deep – perhaps due to outside influence.

Armenian social media was quick to respond to the Hamas attack with joy, sharing en masse Hamas-produced propaganda. This activity was accompanied by harsh criticism of Israel and explicit demands to support Hamas, as well as comparisons between Israel, Azerbaijan, and Nazi Germany.

Vladimir Poghosyan, a prominent anti-Israel political commentator, who is known for his harsh antisemitic viewpoints and who has previously held positions of official security, has openly threatened the Jews and Israel and repeatedly called to attack Jews. As a result of the violent rhetoric, Armenia's small Jewish community has more than once been a victim of antisemitic harassment, culminating in


two attempts to set fire to the country's only synagogue – once on October 2nd and again on November 15th.



The online and offline discourse in **Russia**, has, not only initiated and promoted antisemitic ideologies throughout the former-Soviet region but even exploited antisemitic and anti-Israeli sentiments to promote Russia's goals around the world. Classic antisemitic clichés describing Jews as bent on world domination have often been used by public figures and Russian politicians, and Russian media has been extremely effective in echoing anti-Israel sentiments – often bordering on blatant antisemitism that faithfully reflects the antisemitic motifs, which were prevalent in the Soviet Union regarding the comparison of Zionism and Nazism.

The events in Russia's northern Caucasus in late October 2023 indicate that antisemitic rhetoric is no longer a stand-alone phenomenon but part of a more serious process of promoting violence against Jews, who are being marked as untrustworthy – this alongside the anti-Zionist discourse that is influenced by reemerging traditional Soviet notions.

Consequently, several incidents have occurred in the Dagestan region. On October 28th an angry mob attempted to take over a local hotel, in which alleged Israeli refugees were hiding, and set it on fire – all the while calling for the expulsion of Jews from Dagestan. The following day, hundreds of Muslims broke into an airport near the city of Makhachkala aimed at attacking passengers from Israel. Notably, Russian authorities blamed foreign elements, most notably, Ukraine, for allegedly trying to disrupt internal Russian stability and relationships between the various communities in the land. Additionally, on October 29th, the Chabad Jewish Center in the city of Nalchik was set aflame, and "Death to Jews" inscriptions were sprayed over it.

 Negative antisemitic trends have surfaced recently in **Belarus**, which traditionally does not have an overtly antisemitic outlook regarding Jews, aside from the conservative Soviet values which are often reflected by antisemitic themes that hail from Moscow. This is in addition to the Soviet tradition of quelling independent discourse on the Holocaust, as well as the discouragement of separating the Holocaust from the general theme of World War Two remembrance.

Since the outbreak of the war, several major antisemitic motifs and myths are noticeable in both Russia and Belarus. For example, we see an attempt to brand Jews as traitors who abandoned Russia and fled to Israel to avoid conscription in the war against Ukraine. Based on this narrative, they are now betraying Israel, who provided them with sanctuary. In this context, the idea of the treacherous Jews' double allegiance has evolved into a demand to bar Jews from positions of local influence – Russian media in particular.

Concurrently, the Jewish topic continues to provide one of the central narratives of Russian propaganda regarding the war in Ukraine. From the beginning of Russia's invasion, the Jewish origin of Ukraine's leadership – for example, President Zelensky, former Defense Minister Reznikov, Kyiv Mayor Klitschko, and others – has spearheaded Russian anti-Ukrainian propaganda.

The Iron Swords war has elevated this idea to new heights. During the war's first days, Russian propaganda claimed that Ukraine would lose Western sympathy in favor of the Jews. Additionally, Zelensky's Jewish origins have – according to the Russian propaganda machine – become additional proof of Jewish treachery against Ukrainian interests. And yet, the most prominent antisemitic narrative concerning the war in Ukraine is the myth of a Heavenly Jerusalem (sometimes referred to as The New Land of the Khazars). This unfounded narrative describes the phenomenon of Jews fleeing Israel for Ukraine in order to establish a Jewish state there, at the expense of the native

Slavic Christian population, which is said to be abandoning its land. Alongside all this, over the past year, Russian propaganda has consistently abused the memory of Holocaust victims by presenting the Soviet Union and then Russia as the principal defenders of their memory.

 In **Ukraine** itself, ironically, this past year saw a considerable decrease in the amount of antisemitic incidents recorded. In this country, where antisemitic discourse and vandalism have been popular for decades – especially after the Russian invasion in February 2022 – hardly any antisemitic incidents or anti-Israel events were reported in 2023. The exception to the trend is the continued glorification of Nazi sympathizers – their hands soaked in Jewish blood – and the expansion of traditional Christmas celebrations (Vertepy) that highlights distorted images of Jews, often imparting upon them negative qualities of those times (such as pandering, theft of military equipment, and aiding the enemy). Otherwise, hardly any antisemitic incidents were recorded. However, it is important to note that, regarding the fight against antisemitism, Ukraine continues to abide by outmoded forms of enforcement, according to which the authorities avoid defining (sometimes to the point of offensiveness) any specific case of vandalism as ethnic or religion-based, refer to these as general bullying – this despite the fact that, in 2021, Ukraine adopted legislation to battle antisemitism, as well as local legislation that includes relevant accusations aimed at providing legal support against nationalism-based incidents, including antisemitism.

Our thanks for the assistance in conducting this research goes to the Nativ administrative unit in the Prime Minister's office



The Arab and Muslim World

The beginning of 2023 saw a dramatic decrease in antisemitic levels in the Arab and Muslim world. However, these skyrocketed against the backdrop of October 7th and as the war progressed. In addition, two serious terror attacks – one in Egypt and one in Tunisia – occurred, in which nine people were murdered, including five Jews. In general, the characteristics of antisemitic activities in the region related to October 7th resemble those of previous armed conflicts between Israel and Hamas, including mass rallies, support for Palestinians in the public space (e.g. soccer stadiums), declarations by senior officials (usually the same ones), meteoric increases in online hate speech (here – 302%) and over traditional media channels, this alongside relatively few physical attacks on Jews and Jewish sites. The difference were is in the volume of activity – not in its characteristics or results.

As in most countries around the world, the antisemitism that characterized the Arab and Muslim world over the past year can also be divided into pre- and post- October 7th. **From the beginning of the year until October 7th, there was a dramatic decrease in levels of antisemitism, partially due to an absence of any extensive armed attacks. Following the Hamas terror attack and a progressive intensification of the war, a meteoric rise in incidents was observed.**

This past year, two serious attacks in the region against Israeli and Jewish targets were carried out, resulting in the murder of nine human beings. In Tunisia, two Jews, Aviel Hadad from Be'er Sheva and his cousin Ben Hadad from France were murdered in a terror attack at the El Ghriba synagogue on the island of Djerba on May 10th, when one

local policeman killed another, took his firearm and began shooting towards the synagogue. Hundreds of Jews were in attendance for the Lag Ba'Omer celebrations. The attack resulted in the death of the two Jews and three local guards, as well as the injury of ten others. The perpetrator was subsequently killed in a shootout with local security forces.¹

In Egypt, on October 8th, a day after the Hamas terror attack, an Egyptian policeman shot three Israeli tourists in Alexandria, after identifying them as Israeli.

In general, the war in Gaza has spawned widespread anti-Israel and antisemitic activities in the Arab and Muslim world.



Accordingly, mass demonstrations in support of the Palestinians were held throughout the Arab and Muslim world throughout the entire period, influencing local governments, which generally enabled the local population to express their solidarity through these “legal” protests. Mass demonstrations were held in Baghdad Iraq, in cities in Iran, Yemen, and Turkey, in Amman Jordan, Cairo Egypt, Bahrain, Kuwait, Tunis, Morocco, Pakistan, and as far as Indonesia.

At these demonstrations, Israel was accused of genocide against the Palestinians and calls were made for the Israel's destruction. Protests were held at Israeli embassies in Morocco, Jordan, Turkey, and Egypt alongside calls to sever relations with the Jewish State. In Turkey, fireworks were fired and the consulate in Istanbul was stoned. In Jordan and Lebanon, demonstrations were at first held along the border, though protesters made no move to cross the border itself. Iraqi militias sent demonstrators towards the Jordanian border, but these were prevented from crossing into Jordan. In Bahrain – a country that is susceptible to sectarian-based political conflicts – the government approved some protests but prevented others and even arrested several activists.

The only countries in the region where no major protests were held were Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (apart from one next to the Israeli pavilion at the UN Climate Conference, held in Dubai) and Azerbaijan.

Additionally, during the first days following the Hamas attack, global Jihad organizations, such as ISIS and Al Qaeda expressed rarefied support for Hamas and called upon Muslims to attack Jewish and Western targets everywhere with the aim of widening the arena of struggle beyond Gaza and turning it into a global conflict.² A Taliban publication in Afghanistan determined that Jihad against Jews is more important than any other form of Holy War (October 24th).³

In the online sphere, from the beginning of the year and up to October 7th, a 240% decrease in antisemitic posts was recorded, compared to the same period last year – the primary centers of antisemitic discourse continuing to be Amman and Cairo. In this context, the leading hashtag for antisemitic content was #FreePalestine, with the highest comparative increase in discourse in February – possibly related to a string of terrorist attacks in Israel that month – and May – perhaps because of the “Nakba day” commemorations.

After the attack of October 7th, the amount of antisemitic content distributed through social media saw a significant rise, with October and November producing more posts than the entire period from year's start and up to October 7th. The levels of online antisemitism increased by 302% over the same period the previous year. The primary focal points in this regard were Algeria and Alexandria, in addition to Amman and Cairo. The most prominent hashtag was #Gaza_Genocide, alongside **a structured attempt to render a comparison of the events of the Holocaust, the suffering of the victims, and the Nazi goal of systematically wiping out the Jewish nation with the suffering of Gazans and the alleged actions of Israel against the Palestinians.** It should be noted that since the war broke out, online classic antisemitic discourse has been sidelined (about 6.5%) in favor of reinforced empowerment of discourse that demonizes and de-legitimizes Israel.

The countries and organizations that comprise the “axis of resistance” (along with the Palestinian organizations) continue to lead and encourage the online antisemitic discourse in the Arab and Muslim world. Internally, these elements continue to espouse Israel's “impermanence” and “fragility”, especially promoting terms, such as “temporary entity” (alkian almaket). Iranian leader Khamenei uses these terms quite often,⁴ and in recent years, a digital billboard was on display on the outskirts of Tehran with a countdown to Israel's demise.



Source: X (Twitter) @khamenei_ir. November 19, 2023


At the basis of this conception is the claim that Israel only seems strong, but is, in fact, weak and fragile, and all that is required is to strike against the country in order to end its existence.


The traditional Arabic media, **especially daily newspapers, continues to publish anti-Israel and virulently antisemitic articles.** In this context, a report by the Anti-Defamation League examined several examples of antisemitic caricatures, focusing on those promoting conspiracy theories, which were published since the beginning of the war in the Arabic press and Arabic websites (in Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia).⁵

Meanwhile, **leaders in the region continue to make antisemitic statements.** Tunisian President Kais Saied has led this trend during the past year. Turkish President Erdoğan is another staunch critic of Israel, who has praised Hamas, claiming that it is not a terrorist organization. In addition, he has accused Israel, which he calls a “terrorist state”, of crimes against humanity. In addition, in a speech from December 27th, Erdoğan claimed that “Netanyahu is no different from Hitler” and compared Israel's attacks in Gaza to Nazi behavior towards the Jews.⁶ Other leaders, especially Iran's Khamenei, continue the same antisemitic rhetoric they have maintained for years.

 In **Egypt**, besides the two attacks mentioned, the local press boasts vile cartoons that accuse Israel of slaughtering civilians in Gaza.⁷ In light of the anti-Israeli discourse, the tiny Jewish community in Cairo decided to cancel the annual Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremony this year.⁸

 **Bahrain** saw a considerable increase in antisemitism, following the events of October 7th, with senior local officials who support the peace process with Israel receiving threats to their lives. Anti-Israel protests held throughout the country's regions included the burning of Israeli and US flags and of photos of Israel's ambassador alongside demands to expel him. Additionally, there have been calls to reverse the normalization process with Israel, with local Shia religious leaders and public figures signing a petition demanding the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador and canceling the normalization process. At the same time, however, the Crown Prince, in a speech on November 19th, condemned the Hamas terror attack of October 7th but also Israel's attack in Gaza, which – he said – is causing the death of innocents.⁹

 In **Morocco**, alongside mass demonstrations,¹⁰ where thousands called for severing relations with Israel, no exceptional incidents were reported. It should be mentioned, though, that the demonstrations, which were organized by opposition parties (as PJD)¹¹ and other left wing and Islamist and pro-Palestinian elements (such as the National Action Group for Palestine),¹² featured Hamas flags.¹³ In one particular incident, on November 19th, Hamas leader Khaled Mashal called upon the citizens of Morocco to petition their government to cut off relations with Israel. This demand resulted in a public outcry throughout the country, causing the Popular Movement party to construe Mashal's words as incitement and a violation of Moroccan sovereignty. Social media reactions included posts using the Arabic hashtag “only the King can address Moroccans”.¹⁴

 The local government in **Tunisia** refused to address the attack of May 10th as an antisemitic or terrorist attack. Notwithstanding, following the attack, the president of Tunisia met with religious leaders in the country, including the Chief Rabbi, and

promised to strengthen the protection surrounding Jewish institutions.¹⁵ Despite this, on October 17th, ten days after the outbreak of the war in Gaza, a mob set the abandoned El Hamma synagogue near the city of Gabs ablaze. Moreover, despite there being no official Israeli presence in the country, the Tunisian parliament debated a bill that would criminalize normalization with Israel. The proposed law sets a six-to-twelve-year jail sentence for a first violation and a life sentence for repeat offenders. The draft was passed in committee but shelved on November 3rd.¹⁶ Strikes in support of the Palestinians, such as the teachers' strike on December 11th, have also been held.¹⁷



In **Iran**, the burial place of Esther and Mordechai in the city Hamadan was vandalized, and one published article reports the threat felt by the country's Jewish population due to increased surveillance by the regime, including pressure upon them to participate in protests against Israel. It has also been reported that, at the government's insistence, the Jewish community has reduced contact with relatives in Israel.¹⁸

It should be noted that Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei was the only leader of a Muslim state to commend the Hamas attack on October 7th. Later, on November 19th, he claimed that the Zionists consider themselves a superior race, which – he said – enables them to kill children without shame.¹⁹ On November 22nd, he stated that the Zionist regime has been “knocked out” by the Al Aksa operation.²⁰



In **Jordan**, alongside mass demonstrations, Queen Rania's doubt as to the veracity of reports regarding Hamas' atrocities in Israel was especially conspicuous. In an interview to CNN, she said that the report of “Israeli children found butchered in an Israeli kibbutz ... hasn't been independently verified.” She continued by stressing the suffering of the Palestinians and claimed that the West applies a “double standard” regarding the struggle.²¹ In another interview for the network, she claimed that expressing support for

Palestinian lives does not constitute antisemitism. Moreover, she said, she condemns antisemitism and Islamophobia, but stressed that Israel does not represent all the Jews in the world and is responsible for its “crimes”.²² Several days later, on December 4th, a spokesman for the Jordanian government accused Israel of instigating a war with Jordan by attempting to forcibly displace Palestinians from Judea and Samaria. He also added that the Israeli government believes that genocide and murder are a form of self-defense.²³ In yet another incident on December 28th, a Jordanian parliament member burned the Israeli flag during a meeting of the Arab League in Cairo.²⁴

Another noteworthy event in Jordan was the publication of an advertisement by a chain of coffee houses for a drink called the “Holocaust drink”, containing burned marshmallows in the colors of the Israeli flag.²⁵

The Jordanian media also stood out this past year for its level of antisemitic discourse. The Jordanian newspaper, Al Rad, for example, published on November 15th an article with a Hebrew headline reading, “The Day After Israel” and dedicated to a discussion of the day after the Palestinian victory over Israel.²⁶



“Holocaust drink” in Jordan advertised with the slogan “I feel the Arab taste.”. X (Twitter)/ @AvivaKlompas. November 19, 2023



In **Qatar**, one noteworthy event occurred when the mother of the Emir of Qatar claimed at a conference in Turkey that Israel was fabricating a false historical narrative based on their ability to “monopolize the Semitic races and claim that any complaint against them constitutes antisemitism.”²⁷ Alongside that, the Qatari press continued publishing antisemitic and anti-Israeli articles, often comparing Israel's activities to those of the Nazis and the Holocaust. Many of these were written by Palestinian journalists living in the state.

On November 1st the Al Sharq daily newspaper featured an antisemitic poem praising Hamas' terror attack, claiming that the treacherous Jews have turned into pigs and monkeys like their forefathers.²⁸ In addition, the Qatari journalist, Abed Al Aziz Alabdullah on July 11th wrote in Al Sharq that, “The Jews won't be satisfied until the last of the Muslims leaves the Holy Land,” condemning those who are normalizing their relations with Israel, while admonishing them to teach their children about Palestinian Shahids (martyrs).²⁹ Similarly, the Al Watan daily on June 12th published a photo comparing Netanyahu with Hitler.³⁰ On May 14th one of the paper's most virulent reporters, Samer Albarguti called out to Palestinians to attack Israelis throughout Palestine.³¹



In **Kuwait**, one billboard campaign was observed sporting photos of Palestinian children amidst the rubble of Gaza and the slogan, “Have you murdered a Palestinian today?” Another campaign involved boycotting Israeli and American products under the slogan, “Don't buy their weapons – Boycott!”



Reports in **Indonesia** claim that members of the Jewish community in the country feel that widespread protests supporting the Palestinians since October 7th promote local anti-Jewish sentiments that may be directed towards them. Some report hiding their Jewish identity.³² Furthermore, Indonesia's religious council on November 10th published a fatwa forbidding the purchase of products manufactured by companies that support Israel.



Anti-Israel discourse in **Turkey** is fanned by various political entities, including President Erdoğan. In an unusual move, the parliament on November 7th announced a halt to the selling of Coca Cola and Nestle products in its restaurants due to these companies' alleged support of “Israel's war crimes and the murder of innocents in Gaza.”³³ The legislator went so far as to issue a joint statement against Israel signed by all parties in the house, declaring on October 18th three days of mourning after the alleged slaughter at a Gaza hospital.

Another incident on December 13th involved a man shooting inside a Starbucks branch in the city of Adana, ostensibly in protest of the company's support of Israel. He called upon the customers to vacate the premises so long as “the blood of children continues to flow in Palestine.”³⁴ Notably, the chain has suffered several attacks in Turkey since the start of the war in Gaza. Concurrently, there has been a recent increase in economic boycotts of Israeli products, and apps are being employed to mark and identify Israeli goods.

One notable incident involves a bookstore in Istanbul displaying a “No Jews Allowed” sign at the entrance.³⁵ Meanwhile, the country's most prominent newspaper, Şafak Yeni published on November 5th an antisemitic article titled, “ZioNazis: they're erasing Gaza using Hitler's methods.”³⁶ The newspaper went so far as to publish on its front page on December 11th an article describing Judaism as a “virus that the world needs to eradicate.”³⁷ It also stated that IDF soldiers operate in Gaza through a deep religious conviction that aims to establish a holy temple and to displace Palestinians from their homes.³⁸

Additionally, the historical synagogue in Izmir was vandalized, and the Jews of Turkey continue to express concern over their safety due to their being identified with Israel by Turkish media and political rhetoric.



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Observations By the Commissioner for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism of the Organization of American States (OAS)

Fernando Lottenberg

Fernando Lottenberg, the Commissioner for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism of the Organization of American States (OAS)

The year 2023, insofar as the fight against antisemitism proceeded, can be divided into two distinct phases – one leading up to the events of October 7 and the other commencing from that date on.

The initial phase was marked by considerable productivity, including a pivotal event at the special envoys meeting in Madrid, organized under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress. At this gathering, we drafted a letter addressed to Linda Yaccarino, the new CEO of X (formerly Twitter) calling for the reinstatement of content moderators and for a more proactive stance against the proliferation of hate speech.

In June, at the American Jewish Committee Global Forum held in Tel Aviv, we were honored with the David Harris Award alongside other special envoys. Earlier, in the Vatican, we met with Pope Francis and urged him to adopt the IHRA definition of Antisemitism.

July brought another significant achievement in Panama, where Chancellor Janaina Tewaney Mencomo officially adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism. This marked the seventh country in the Americas to embrace this formula, with the latest additions being Guatemala, Colombia, and Panama – all during our current term.

Post-October 7, a noteworthy shift occurred throughout the Western Hemisphere that was marked by a surge in hate and antisemitism across several countries in our region. The United States led in the number of incidents, with increased incidents also reported in Canada, Chile, Brazil, and other countries.

Importantly, this escalation is not a direct result of Israel's actions that would cause an increase in antisemitism. Rather, it represents a situation in which antisemites exploit the conflict as an alibi to expose their prejudices publicly.

Consequently, to provide context for the public at large, we engaged in interviews on television shows and social networks, published articles in newspapers and various media outlets, conducted classes at institutions, such as the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and visited countries in the region, including Uruguay and Chile. These efforts aimed to underscore the risks posed to democratic societies in the Americas by this politically-motivated explosion of hate.



Latin America

Not unlike expressions of antisemitism around the world, Latin America (LATAM) also recorded increased levels of antisemitism this past year, especially during the period following October 7th. In Argentina, following the outbreak of war, the increase was almost 100% compared to the first ten months of the year. In Brazil, a 961% increase in antisemitic incidents were recorded since the war began, compared to the same period last year, and a Hezbollah terrorist cell was arrested that had been planning terror attacks against Jewish and Israeli targets in the country. In Chile, antisemitic incidents were reported at universities and synagogues, and health professionals were ostracized for being Jewish, while the country's leadership adopted the Palestinian narrative almost in its entirety. The situation was identical in Colombia, whose president has expressed himself in an antisemitic and hostile manner, recalling the ambassador to Israel for consultations – all this against a background of spraying of swastikas on the walls of the Israeli embassy. Antisemitic incidents were also recorded in Bolivia, which was the first country to announce a severance of diplomatic ties due to the war, in Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, and even Cuba.


The rise in antisemitism in Latin America (LATAM) mirrors the general trend of increasing expressions of antisemitism globally, achieving new heights yearly. The local Jewish communities – many of them descendants of Jews who escaped the Holocaust to LATAM to seek refuge from persecution in Europe – find themselves once again struggling against growing waves of antisemitism. Notably, the frequency and level of attacks vary from one country to another in this region, and their roots may be found partially in the social changes to which each country is subject.

The events of October 7th led to a considerable increase in antisemitism in LATAM. Communities must now deal with hate speech, which is

present in the streets and on social networks, verbal and physical abuse, and vandalism of Jewish businesses and institutions. All these raise levels of fear and anxiety, prompting many Jews to “conceal” their Judaism.¹

The concert tour of Roger Waters, known for regularly expressing antisemitic sentiments in his performances, increased the level of vigilance during the past year in the local Jewish community. As a result of an application submitted to the court in Argentina upon arrival, Waters was prevented from appearing in SS uniform and comparing Anne Frank to Palestinian journalist Shirin Abu Akl.² Furthermore, many hotels refused to accommodate him and his entourage – both in Argentina and throughout LATAM in general.³

The increase in hate speech targeting Jews is especially prominent in the region's social media, and it displays the same characteristics as increasing trends worldwide. Data collated by the ObservatorioWeb (lit: WebWatchers) program,⁴ a joint effort of the Jewish Congress in LATAM (CJL), the Joint Argentina-Israel Association (AMIA), and Delegations of the Israel-Argentine Associations (DAIA) indicates that, until September, the amount of antisemitic content found on YouTube, Facebook, and X (Twitter) was relatively low and stable. However, **as of October and the outbreak of the Iron Swords war, an increase in antisemitic discourse has been registered.** On X, for example, 9.9 million tweets were segmented, and their analysis shows that, during the first three days of the war (October 7–10), 7% of the content was antisemitic. During the next three-day period (October 14–18), 18%. During October 17-19, 24%, and during October 25-29, 16.99% of the content was antisemitic. Moreover, **12% of all antisemitic content on X is from LATAM – a 2.5% increase from 2022. It should also be mentioned that the countries contributing most to the online antisemitic content are Spain, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela.**

 **Argentina in 2022 saw some relatively encouraging data, with antisemitic incidents decreasing in a country that is home to LATAM's largest Jewish community (about 173,000 people).** The DAIA's annual report shows only 427 reports of antisemitic incidents in 2022 – **a 13% decrease from 2021.**⁵

It should be noted that Argentina, in general, and Buenos Aires, in particular, maintain strict policies of coexistence. Notwithstanding, the antisemitic incidents reported are often related to economic challenges and political polarization faced by the government. Notably, despite the decrease in antisemitic incidents reported in 2022, the authorities continue to secure Jewish community institutions and buildings, this owing to the country's past, which has seen numerous disastrous terror attacks against the community.

Before October 7th, several antisemitic incidents were seen throughout Argentina, mostly vandalism, insults, online defamation, and graffiti. One noteworthy event in September was the federal police raid of a publisher who distributed books containing Nazi and antisemitic content through a chain of bookstores. Local law decrees the presentation of Nazi symbols a crime.⁶

And yet, as in the rest of the world, October 7th precipitated an intensification in the severity of antisemitic incidents in the country, including threats to detonate Jewish buildings (with an emphasis on the DAIA and the AMIA),⁷ through emails that contained "Death to Zionist Jews" slogans. One such email was sent to the Israeli Embassy,⁸ and the threats prompted an increase in local security measures. Stars of David were also sprayed over building entrances,⁹ and physical attacks and the destruction of Jewish property were also reported.

Accordingly, many members of the Jewish community have avoided sending their children to school wearing their Jewish school uniforms, some even not sending them to school at all, out of fear of attacks.¹⁰ Additionally, many community members have relieved their children of any form of Jewish identification, such as Star-of-David chains and yarmulkes.¹¹

A survey covering the period beginning October 7th and ending on December 12th, 2023 registers 259 antisemitic incidents (62% online, of which a third on Facebook, a third on YouTube, and 37,5% in the physical realm), almost a 100% increase over the number of incidents reported since year's start and October 7th.¹² Similar data comes from the ADL, which found that since October 7th, 231 antisemitic incidents occurred.¹³

The political situation in Argentina also influences the levels of antisemitism in the country. An extraordinary event occurred at the beginning of November, when one of the five presidential candidates – a woman identified with the left – refused to condemn

the actions of Hamas against Israeli citizens and went as far as blaming Israel for the events of October 7th.¹⁴ **An encouraging development, however, was the nomination of Javier Milei, who unabashedly expresses his support for the State of Israel and the Jews, strongly condemning the Hamas attack of October 7th.**

The situation in local universities is not simple for Jewish students, many of whom report **an increase in anxiety regarding rising discrimination and antisemitism on the campuses following the events of October 7th.** In one case, Palestinian flags and antisemitic slogans were hung at the faculty of philosophy and humanities at Buenos Aires University alongside swastika graffiti. Likewise, at another faculty, documents were distributed directly supporting the actions of Hamas.¹⁵



In Brazil, where the Jewish community numbers 91,000 members, a report published by the Jewish Federation of Brazil (CONIB) reports that **in 2022, 385 antisemitic incidents were recorded,¹⁶ most of them in the digital sphere that related to Holocaust denial and harming Jews. Physical manifestations were usually ascribed to elements identified as extreme right-wing groups, whose numbers have exponentially increased in many central states in the country.¹⁷** In connection with this, last April, the local court instructed telephone networks and app stores to remove the Telegram application for its refusal to provide the state with information on neo-Nazi groups, in accordance with federal police demands, in response to violent attacks that have occurred in schools and the distribution of Hate speech on the Internet.¹⁸

Another event was recorded at the conference of the Association of Latin American Anthropologists, held in collaboration with the Brazilian Society for Anthropology, which took place in August 2023, and during which a resolution was passed accusing Israel of "ethnic cleansing and apartheid", while supporting the "BDS" campaign.¹⁹ Alongside

this, the renewed term of President Lula de Silva, which began on January 1st, 2023, raises local concern due to the repeated criticisms he has leveled at Israel in recent years and against the background of the war in particular,²⁰ these besides his demonstrated support for the Palestinian narrative.

As everywhere else, there was a marked increase in antisemitism in the country following the events of October 7th. The trend is discernible in CONIB's report for the month of December, which presents a dramatic 961% increase in levels of antisemitism over the same period in 2022 (467 incidents versus 44).²¹ At the same time, the online antisemitic discourse is also increasing alongside incidents of property damage and antisemitic calls against Jewish institutions. One notable event in November involved the announcement of the arrest by Brazilian security forces of a Hezbollah terror cell that, under Iranian guidance, was planning attacks against Israeli and Jewish targets in the country.²²



In Chile, which is home to the largest Palestinian community outside the Middle East (estimated at about a half million people), recent years have seen a considerable increase in levels of antisemitism, which tend to grow regularly in tandem with conflicts in the Middle East – mostly at the behest of the influential local Palestinian community. Consequently, against the background of the Iron Swords war, numerous pro-Palestinian rallies were held throughout the country, in which calls for pogroms against Jews were made, as were comparisons between Israel and Nazi Germany.

In addition to broadening BDS activities in the country, hate-motivated attacks against Jewish community members have also increased, generating fear amidst its 16,000 members. Following the October 13th call for a global intifada, Santiago's largest Jewish school closed its gates and decided to dissuade pupils from wearing their school uniform until the end of the year. In addition, calls of "Heil Hitler" were made outside the




Vandalism of the Bicur Joilim synagogue, Chile 22.12.23.
Source: X (Twitter) @comjudiachile

Jewish community's sports center, anti-Israel graffiti was sprayed at the universities and synagogues, and health professionals were boycotted based on their Jewish religion.

Another exceptional incident was the December 22nd vandalism of the Santiago synagogue with "Free Palestine" and "Overthrow Zionism" inscriptions.²³

Meanwhile, many Chilean politicians and leaders continue to call for a boycott against Israel and its supporters, while fully adopting the Palestinian narrative.²⁴ In this context, two political parties have called for an end to the "genocide" that Israel is ostensibly enacting against the Palestinians, this while completely ignoring the events of October 7th. President Boric condemned "Israel's war crimes in Gaza"²⁵ and has even recalled the Chilean ambassador from Israel for consultations.²⁶

 The biggest change in Latin America regarding antisemitism and Israel has occurred in **Colombia**. Whereas former President Ivan Duque strove to strengthen ties between his country and Israel, visiting Israel in November 2021 with the aim of opening a bureau of commerce and innovation in Jerusalem, incoming President Gustavo Petro, identified with the left of the political map, has presented an inverse position, raising concerns among local elements.²⁷ Consequently, since the outbreak of the war, President Petro has expressed hostility and even antisemitic

sentiments regarding Israel,²⁸ comparing the injustice suffered by Palestinians since 1948 with that of the Jews under the Nazi regime and the IDF to Nazis, and stating that Israel is bent on demolishing the Palestinian nation.

On October 16th, Colombia demanded the Israeli ambassador leave and apologize for his criticism of the president's remarks.²⁹ Three days later, the President claimed that his statements against "the occupation and the Palestinian genocide" should not be interpreted as antisemitism, and that this criticism is legitimate. Meanwhile, the antisemitic discourse on social media and the press continue³⁰ alongside activities that include spraying swastikas on the walls of the Israeli Embassy. On November 1st, the Colombian ambassador was reportedly called back for consultations.³¹





Mexico is home to Latin America's third-largest Jewish community – around 40,000 people, who maintain several Jewish schools and a flourishing Jewish community. Most Jews here have not experienced the level of antisemitism found in other LATAM countries; however, the incidents that do occur usually relate to racism against Jews and the Holocaust.

Last July, former Mexican President Vicente Fox described presidential candidate Claudia Sheinbaum as a "Bulgarian Jewess", after the latter demanded a halt to the pensions of former presidents. In this regard, the candidate's Jewish identity, which has generated frequent antisemitic disapproval, may be tested during the upcoming elections.³²

Also in July, a striking occurrence took place after the ATLAS soccer team apologized for an online post that quoted Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels in response to an incident that had taken place during a game.³³ Conversely, the popular Masala & Maiz restaurant, which features anti-Israel propaganda in its menu and social media, published antisemitic slogans on its Instagram account.³⁴




 **Peru** over the past year registered one uncommon event, which entailed the distribution of an antisemitic caricature containing Nazi comparisons in the La Republica newspaper. It being the country's largest newspaper, the Latin American branch of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which deals with antisemitism, contacted the owners, and demanded the removal of the cartoon.³⁵

 **Uruguay**, which was the first LATAM country to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism, houses a 16,000-strong Jewish community, which is deeply rooted in the country and contributes greatly to direct relations between Uruguay and Israel. This past year, President Luis Lacalle Pou, in a recorded speech to the AJC conference, stated that relations between Uruguay and Israel are "historical and unbreakable".³⁶

 On October 31st, **Bolivia** was the first country to announce the severance of diplomatic ties with Israel, following Israel's military response, which constitutes, it said, a "crime against humanity".³⁷ Notably, this is not the first time Bolivia has chosen to break off relations with Israel on the basis of military action and security tension, following similar cases in 2009 and 2022.³⁸ Another notable event this past July was Bolivia's signing of a defense pact with Iran. The Bolivian government's refusal to disclose the details of this agreement has raised concerns within internal and regional elements, since it constitutes an Iranian attempt to strengthen its influence in the area.³⁹

 **Venezuela** also continues to stand out negatively, after having severed diplomatic ties in 2009 following military clashes related to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Warm relations between Venezuela and Iran continue to flourish – Venezuela serving as Iran's gateway into Latin America, according to some commentators. In the context of the two countries' growing relationship, an International Fair of Venezuelan-Iranian Culture and Friendship took place in March in Caracas, organized by a group called the Center for Intercultural Exchange in Latin America.⁴⁰

On November 7th, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro accused Israel of instilling an "ideology more dangerous than Nazism", claiming that Israel is "bombing hospitals, churches and mosques and harming innocents."⁴¹

 Finally, in **Cuba**, which also boasts extensive relations with Iran, thousands, led by the local president, marched in Havana on November 24th towards the US embassy chanting "Genocide in Gaza".⁴²

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Summary

2023 began with a gradual increase in levels of antisemitism. However, this changed abruptly following the events of October 7th, with both the levels and intensity of the events increasing as the war unfolded. A lateral view shows 2023 ending with a 235% increase in the number of antisemitic incidents relative to 2022, with October to December showing a six-fold increase in incidents, relative to January-September 2023.

As in the previous year, under-reporting from certain regions remains a dominant trend, in particular insufficiently detailed reporting. It is important to stress that **the remainder of the reports do not fully and faithfully represent the total of antisemitic incidents experienced by Jews in the Diaspora.** Regarding this, numerous organizations around the world document and monitor antisemitism with some documentation done locally and some distributed more widely, geographically. Notably, in some countries where antisemitic incidents are not documented at all, the information regarding the situation therein derives from the mass media and social networks. The paucity of reporting in some places, along with the absence of a unifying terminological framework and consistent documentation method often constrain understanding of the central trends in some countries and – consequently – to adapt effective policy measures to deal with them.



An examination of main events and trends in 2023 yields several notable conclusions:

A. Social platforms continue to enable the dissemination and assimilation of antisemitic concepts, which influence public opinion and shape both it and

global consciousness. As indicated by the report, the months of October-December displayed a 264% increase in online antisemitic discourse and a 1,200% increase in posts that contained violent antisemitic content, which called for violence against Jews, Israelis, and Zionists. This includes a considerable increase in the levels of online antisemitic discourse that include elements of new antisemitism, denial and distortion of the Holocaust, with the critical majority of content published during November-December on X (formerly Twitter – 68%), followed distantly by TikTok, Facebook, Telegram, and Instagram. Coincidentally, research has found that at least thirty minutes of surfing per day on some of these platforms increases the chance of the viewer entertaining antisemitic attitudes.

B. Global antisemitism continues to rely on ignorance, trends, and disinformation. An indicative example last year involved the repeated use of the slogan “from the river to the sea”, without users understanding the basic meaning of the concept. For example, a Berkeley survey found that only half of the students who had adopted the slogan knew to which sea and to which river reference was being made.¹ In relation to this, the over-use of online information platforms, such as Wikipedia

and artificial intelligence platforms, which are considered reliable despite their clear bias against Israel, widens that same ignorance. Research from the past year, in fact, stresses Wikipedia's intentional distortion of the Holocaust,² and additional research describes the way Iran utilizes Wikipedia as a tool of influence.³

- C. Sympathy for Israel continues its long-term decline, especially in Western countries with an emphasis on the USA, where youngsters and elements identified with the progressive left** seek to undermine the legitimacy of the State of Israel, especially using antisemitic propaganda. **The Iron Swords war has intensified these processes**, with research conducted several days before the publication of this report indicating that less than 50% of Americans believe Israel's struggle in this war is justified, and a decreasing number believe that Israel should continue fighting (between a quarter and a third). Moreover, only two out of five people declare that they support Israel against the war's background, and only one out of three believe that Israel is doing all it can to minimize the number of casualties in Gaza.⁴ These trends are reflected in the many opinion polls quoted in this report that express a strengthening of anti-Zionist rhetoric, which bolsters expressions of antisemitism in many countries. **This includes the surprising but increasing cooperation between extreme left-wing and extreme right-wing elements recorded over the past year, both united by antisemitism and hatred for Israel.**
- D. The Palestinian Authority continues to serve as a global focal point for disseminating and promoting calls for the destruction of the State of Israel and the murder of Jews.** Within this context, the Palestinian education system continues to be the main factor for assimilating antisemitic narratives as part of the Palestinian national identity.

Concurrently, and against the background of October 7th, the involvement of the UN Relief & Works Agency (UNRWA) in antisemitic incitement and violence has been especially prominent.

- E. Civil society organizations, such as the BDS campaign, continue to promote boycotts of the State of Israel in various domains, but without any major success, and continue to strive to deny the right of the State of Israel to exist as the State of the Jewish People.** Additionally, non-governmental organizations, which ostensibly seek to promote human rights and some of which are supported generously by governments and philanthropic funds, continue to stand out in the promotion of antisemitism and the dehumanization of Jews, both directly and indirectly.
- F. With regards to campuses, especially in the USA and Britain, these remain a prominent issue and present an unsafe environment for Jewish students, as well as fertile grounds for influencing the younger generation in many countries – intensifying the scope of antisemitism registered there.** Aside from the testimonies of the three University presidents – who claimed that “context” is a factor when they were required to explain if calls for the genocide of Jews are a violation of the rules of conduct at their universities – a 700% increase in on-campus incidents was registered in regards to the war, with only 32.5% of Jewish students in the US feeling emotionally secure on campus. Additionally, a survey in France from before the war found that nine out of ten Jewish students have been victims of antisemitic incidents, as in Australia, where surveys found that 64% of Jewish students have experienced antisemitism at the universities they attend.



G. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism continues to serve as the most essential, accepted, and effective internationally used tool to identify and brand antisemitic expressions. By year's end, 1,216 entities had ratified the definition, with 97 new adoptees during 2023 – three of them countries (Latvia, Croatia, and Panama) – bringing the total number of adoptee states to 45, in addition to 514 non-federal government entities, 345 institutes of higher learning, and 312 organizations, all in all.

H. Against the background of October 7th, more and more attempts are being made by Arab and Muslim countries to undermine the Abraham Accords and the message they represent – both in those countries that have signed on to the accords and with those that would potentially sign. These attempts include an increasing use of comparisons of Nazi ideology with Israeli activities, on one hand, and the idealization of Hitler as a cultural hero, on the other.

Despite the above and the concerning trends that have been dealt with extensively, it is important to also look at the glass half full, **in 2023, several significant achievements were accomplished in the battle against antisemitism.** At the top of the list, many countries, organizations, and international

institutions passed draft legislation and laws to fight antisemitism – many of them following the events of October 7th, including the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism. Appreciable improvements were made in the **USA**, especially regarding public pressure against the three university presidents who testified in Congress and against other universities that are being required to take a more active approach. **France and Germany** acted forcibly against principal perpetrators of antisemitism and against hate rallies in the streets. Germany's stance in Israel's defense at the ongoing proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) also deserves special merit. Besides these, national plans have been published, huge allocations have been made for securing Jewish communities, laws have been legislated that forbid and extensively limit pro-Palestinian protests, organizations that promote antisemitism have been defunded and outlawed, special envoys for fighting antisemitism have been appointed by countries, and steps have been taken to implement regulations for the enforcement of preventing online hate speech.

And yet, the road to the eradication of antisemitism is a long and complex one, which requires great attention, especially to legislation and enforcement throughout the world.

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Recommendations



Key recommendations - Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism

- Due to the dramatic rise in antisemitic levels around the world, **the operative concept of actions taken regarding the battle against antisemitism should shift from the defensive to the offensive vis-à-vis the perpetrators and centers of dissemination of antisemitism, especially the Palestinian Authority, which has been waging a war of attrition against the State of Israel on the legal front, abetted by BDS organizations and other entities whose purported aim is to promote human rights, and by governments hostile to the State of Israel. Areas to examine include:**
 - » Filing counterclaims of war crimes against the Hamas terror organization, ensuring that its leaders cannot move freely in the world, and exacting a price on countries that host these people or their supporters.
 - » Exposing the antisemitic indoctrination promoted by UNRWA institutions and the Palestinian Authority, especially regarding the support mechanisms for the murderers of Jews, by generating updated and reliable reports. These reports should be distributed among decision-makers and financial support-
- ers of these entities, especially political entities, in a manner that forces them to swiftly and forcibly withhold their funding subject to the cessation of the promotion of antisemitism and terror. Likewise, entities that fund human rights and other humanitarian organizations should be required to better ensure that their funds do not practically enable antisemitic activities.
- Regarding online antisemitic discourse, **deliberate biases should be exposed, and the legitimacy of artificial intelligence networks and platforms that maliciously promote political and antisemitic indoctrination — undermined and impeded, while calling upon friendly nations to act accordingly.** Regulation and oversight of platforms should be especially promoted, as should be their policies regarding antisemitic discourse, and practices, including bolstering content review teams. Government regulation in Israel should also be promoted to sanction such platforms should they continue to enable the mass distribution of antisemitic content. **Moreover, the activities of the national control center for fighting online antisemitism, established by the ministry this past year, should be expanded and entrenched to enable the synchronization and coordination of its activities with those of other governmental entities, national institutions, and civil society circles.**

- **Countries, non-federal government entities, academic institutes, and organizations must be encouraged to adopt the IHRA's working definition of antisemitism.** Alongside a declarative adoption, attention should be paid to the active and consistent application of the definition and its adoption within the various levels of the adopting entities, such as legal frameworks and educational programs.
- **Communities that are not currently involved in the fight against antisemitism, such as young, liberal, and Muslim communities, should be harnessed to take part in combating this social dangerous phenomena.**
- **A mechanism must be created that obligates academic institutes around the world to show increased responsibility regarding antisemitism that is being promoted within their walls,** including by establishing dedicated task teams. This should include **promotion of research activities on those campuses that are unsafe for Jews and the exposure of the identities of lecturers that discriminate against Jews or support the Hamas terror organization. A Detering mechanism should be created against perpetrators of antisemitism, whether they be students, faculty, or senior management.** Moreover, the responsibility of funding entities must be upheld vis-à-vis these institutes, and they should be harnessed to promote an environment void of antisemitism. Syllabuses of official programs should be examined for antisemitic content. Research activity by junior researchers should also be encouraged to study the struggle against antisemitism and to create and promote academically recognized courses and activities that fight antisemitism, including conferences, training, accessing tools, and updating syllabuses in current study programs.



Key recommendations - The World Zionist Organization

The Department for Combating Antisemitism and Promoting Community Resilience, in cooperation with the Department of Pioneering Youth and Future Generations, the Zionist Federations, and the teacher emissaries (Shlichey Hora'ah) around the world are the operational arm in the battle against antisemitism in the Diaspora.

- **Formal and informal education must continuously be emphasized, while encouraging countries, international and academic organizations, and public and private entities to assimilate compulsory training and projects on the Holocaust, Zionism, the Jewish nation, and the fight against antisemitism, as well as the importance of the existence of the State of Israel as a Jewish State – the only democracy in the Middle East.** One prime target audience for this effort is non-Jewish teaching staff around the world, law enforcement officers, and senior judiciary officials.
- **Entities involved in the overall campaign, including the fight against antisemitism, should be tightly integrated by establishing and institutionalizing network platforms based on topics that can serve as sources for knowledge exchange, coordinating messages, pooling resources, and intensifying mutual activities on a variety of fronts.**
- **Research on the Holocaust and antisemitism must be promoted in order to deal with rising trends of Holocaust denial. Informal education delegations** should continue to be brought to Israel so that they can be better acquainted with the country, its institutions, values, and borders.
- **Emphasis should be placed on training Israeli groups, especially youth, to deal with antisemitism in social networks, to strengthen relations with Jews in the Diaspora, and to internalize the challenges**

faced by Jews abroad in light of the fight against antisemitism. Additionally, Israelis traveling abroad, especially Israeli students embarking on studies at institutes of higher learning, must be trained in how to fight antisemitism, while encouraging initiatives, understanding the terminology, and the basic characteristics of antisemitism as these express themselves throughout history and today, and by mapping the existing centers in the fight against antisemitism.

- Action must be continued against **BDS groups that call for boycotting Israel and adopt economic measures and double standards**, a clear manifestation of antisemitism according to the IHRA's working definition of the term, by providing tools and knowhow to strengthen pro-Israel voices around the world.
- Jewish and Israeli identity must continue to be strengthened among small and isolated communities through training and the provision of tools for increasing community resilience in dealing with antisemitic incidents and communal security affairs with an aim of strengthening these.
- Tools must be developed aimed at dealing with Israeli citizen-related entities that promote incitement and antisemitic calls against the State of Israel.



Key Recommendations – The Jewish Agency

Jews must be able to feel secure wherever they choose to live. Nevertheless, Israel will always serve as an anchor for all Jews. The waves of antisemitism we are currently experiencing require a forward-thinking approach and deployment of all entities towards the immigration and absorption of Jews from the Diaspora in Israel.

- **Continued entrenching of ties with Jewish communities in the Diaspora through community emissaries (Shlichim) executing a myriad of tasks and operating Jewish Agency summer camps around**

the world. Jewish Agency emissaries connect communities abroad to the Hebrew language and culture, as well as the diversity of Israeli society in an unmediated manner – serving as an important bridge between Israel and the Diaspora.

- **Young people from the Diaspora must continue to be brought to Israel** to learn about and experience Israel personally through studies, work, tourism, and integration into Israeli communities. The continued connection between communities in the Diaspora and in Israel should be fostered through discourse and visits. At the same time, continued solidarity delegations should continue to be organized, to emphasize the support of communities through meetings with evacuees from the Gaza surrounding region and the North.
- Continued activities to fight antisemitism in various countries through direct activities and partners to the battle should be aimed at harnessing various institutions and the adoption of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism. Jewish Agency Board of Trustees members will continue to operate at all levels to ensure that antisemitic incidents are met with the appropriate responses by the appropriate authorities in each country, in accordance with local laws.
- JReady platform for community resilience, must continue to operate, emphasizing training for additional users around the world.
- Educational activities by campus emissaries in the US should continue against antisemitism and for the promotion of dialogue between diverse audiences.

Members of the UK Jewish community, including children, will be given more protection against attacks in the wake of Hamas' terrorist attacks, Prime Minister has announced.

BLOG

Online Antisemitism After Hamas Attack

DECEMBER 12, 2022

Statement from White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre on the Jewish Agency Group to Counter Antisemitism

After X and Meta, EU warns of antisemitic videos



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...this antisemitism coming from...
...triflic increase in antisemitism since Hamas...
...amation League has recorded more than 2,0



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