

**August
2020**

Monthly Report

ACMS Antisemitism Cyber Monitoring System

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UNITED STATES

Two Separate Violent Attacks on Jewish Men in Brooklyn Both Investigated by NYPD as Hate Crimes

In the first instance, a 35-year-old religious man was hit in the face with a hard object while walking home at night. In the second instance, an elderly religious man was violently attacked in the lobby of his apartment building. NYPD has yet to apprehend both attackers, and the investigations are ongoing.

Fire at University of Delaware's Chabad Center for Jewish Life Deemed Arson

According to Deputy Chief A.J. Schall of Aetna Hose, Hook, and Ladder Company, firefighters arrived to find heavy fire coming from the rear of the first floor, on August 25th. It took 45 firefighters from Aetna and several neighboring fire companies approximately 40 minutes to bring the fire under control. The building was not occupied at the time of the fire, and no one was injured. The damage to the building, which will cost an estimated \$75,000 to repair, is describes by firefighters as "significant."

Man Who Harassed Patrons at Massachusetts JCC Arrested for Vandalizing Nearby Synagogue

A 28-year-old man named Kyle Wood was arrested for breaking into and vandalizing Temple Emmanuel in Worcester, MA. Wood broke into the synagogue on August 5th and was arrested following an incident on August 6th, where he verbally harassed parents and children at the JCC Camp drop-off line while becoming aggressive. According to police, the investigation is ongoing and further charges are possible.

Neo-Nazi in Oklahoma Who Shot Woman for Pulling Down Swastika Flag Released on Bail

The Nazi sympathizer has been released on bail after claiming self-defense. A district judge ruled in favor of Alexander Feaster following a successful plea from his lawyers. On June 30th, Feaster, whose home is adorned with swastikas and other Nazi symbols, shot a woman identified as 28-year-old Kyndal McVey multiple times in the back as she was running away after removing the flag.

New York Man Arrested for Threatening to Shoot-Up Jewish Day Camp, Arsenal of Weapons Found

According to police, 58-year-old Nicola Pelle called to complain about social distancing violations taking place at a Jewish day camp in Inwood, New York. While police were en route to investigate, Pelle called again and threatened to shoot the individuals at the location if the police didn't arrive quickly. Upon arrival, police arrested Pelle, who was found to possess five handguns and two assault weapons. Pelle was arraigned on charges including making a terroristic threat, four counts of criminal possession of a weapon, and two counts of criminal possession of a firearm.

Virginia Synagogue Receives Bomb Threat

Police are investigating a bomb threat left on a voicemail at the synagogue Congregation Ner Shalom in Woodbridge, VA. The threat was discovered shortly before Friday night services. A police K-9 responded and searched the area for bombs, but none were located. The investigation is ongoing.

Man Arrested After Making Antisemitic Threats Over Voicemail

A 56-year-old named Jeffrey Alan Gregory, of Asheville, NC was arrested on August 27th for ethnic intimidation, communicating threats, and cyberstalking. Gregory left the antisemitic threats on a voicemail and was released by the magistrate on a \$6,000 unsecured bond.

Antisemitic Protests Outside Michigan Synagogue Are Allowed, District Judge Rules

The demonstrations, which feature signs that say “Jewish Power Corrupts” and “Resist Jewish Power,” have been taking place during Shabbat services at Beth Israel Synagogue in Ann Arbor, MI for over 16 years. Though some members said their right to worship had been violated by offensive signs that caused emotional distress, a US District judge ruled the protests were protected by the First Amendment. The protests are organized by “Witnesses for Peace,” a vehemently anti-Zionist group started by Henry Herskowitz, who identifies as a “former Jew.” Antisemitic signs carried by the group outside the synagogue call for the boycott of Israel, denounce the “Holocaust against the Palestinians,” and claim the US government is controlled by Israel.

Court Rules Florida Principal Should Not Have Been Fired for Holocaust Denial Remarks

William Latson, a high school principal in South Florida, was fired after telling a parent he could not say that the Holocaust was a “factual, historical event” because “not everyone believes the Holocaust happened.” A state administrative judge ruled that his dismissal was in error and that Latson should have been reprimanded or reassigned to another position within the school system. He recommended Latson be rehired but reassigned another position and receive back wages for his unpaid suspension.

GOP Leaders Criticize Georgia Primary Winner over Antisemitic and Racist Remarks

Republican congressional leaders have condemned Marjorie Taylor Greene for making antisemitic and racist remarks. Politico reported that Greene, who recently won Georgia’s primary election for the 14th Congressional District, called philanthropist George Soros “a Nazi,” and shared a video spreading the antisemitic “Great Replacement” conspiracy theory, among other racist remarks. Greene wasn’t endorsed by the Republican Jewish Coalition over the fact that she posted photos with KKK leaders and spread antisemitic conspiracy theories regarding the Rothschilds, Jews, and money.

Antisemitic Graffiti Found at Office of Manhattan Assemblywoman Rebecca Seawright

The windows of the Upper East Side New York office were splashed with white paint accompanied by a vulgar antisemitic note. Seawright, who is not Jewish, hosted a virtual town hall on combating antisemitism last month and held a similar forum last year after swastikas were found at a nearby non-profit Asphalt Green fitness complex. Police have arrested 53-year-old Karan Aggarwala in connection with the incident, and he has been charged with harassment, criminal trespass, and vandalism.

NFL Player Tweets Antisemitic Tropes in Response to Outcry Over Antisemitism in BLM Movement

Continuing the trend set by other prominent athletes last month (see July report), Larry Johnson, a former running back for the Kansas City Chiefs, shared various antisemitic conspiracy theories with his 147K followers on Twitter. Johnson, who is a big supporter of known antisemite Louis Farrakhan, accused a “Jewish cabal” of seeking to conceal their lucrative role in “human trafficking, sex trafficking, pedophilia [sic], ritualistic child torture, perversion, human sacrifice/murder.”

Ohio Doctor’s Training Certificate Revoked by State Medical Board Over Antisemitic Remarks Online

Lara Kollab is now permanently prohibited from practicing osteopathic medicine or surgery in Ohio, and from participating in another medical training program in the future. In online posts made between 2011-2013, Kollab claimed she’d purposefully give the wrong medication to Jewish patients.

United Kingdom

Elderly Patients Beaten by Healthcare Worker After Being ‘Identified’ as Jewish

Two Jewish patients at Northwick Park Hospital in Harrow were abused by a healthcare worker who was said to have pointed them out as Jews to the others in the ward. A non-Jewish patient who reported the incident claimed that the healthcare worker hit the Jewish patients on the knee before lifting them up and shaking them when they complained about the pain. North West London University NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, confirmed that a complaint had been received and the matter was referred to the Metropolitan Police. According to reports, when asked to confirm if a complaint was filed, the Metropolitan Police could not locate it.

Labour MP Barry Sheerman Apologizes for Tweeting Antisemitic Trope about Jewish Businessmen

The Labour whip apologised for tweeting there was a “run on silver shekels” after two Jewish businessmen missed out on peerages. After sparking outcry from Britain's Jewish community, Sheerman quickly deleted the tweet and insisted it had been “misrepresented” and was “an attempt at irony.”

Poll Finds 44% of UK Muslims Back Antisemitic Conspiracy Theories

The report, published by the London-based Henry Jackson Society think tank, found that nearly half of British Muslims endorse some antisemitic conspiracy theories. Antisemitic sentiments drop by as much as 12% among Muslims who are more integrated into British society. The poll also suggests that British Muslims who attend mosque most frequently have the warmest feelings towards Jews and the State of Israel. The poll also indicates that, contrary to some perceptions, younger people and those with a higher education are not less likely to hold antisemitic views. 47% of Muslims with a college degree back the “dual loyalty” charge against British Jews, compared with 40% of those who did not attend university. Likewise, 40% of British Muslims between the ages of 18-24 believe Jews are more loyal to Israel than the UK, while 17% of the general population within the same age range hold the same view.

Entire Board at UK’s Top Muslim Charity Resigns Over Official’s Praise for Hamas

Islamic Relief Worldwide director, Almoutaz Tayara, who joined the board last month after his disgraced predecessor quit over antisemitic comments, resigned after it was revealed that he described the leaders of Hamas as “great men” who were answering the “divine and holy call of the Muslim Brotherhood.” The comments were made on social media between 2014-2015 and were discovered by terrorism researchers. There was also a caricature depicting former US President Barack Obama wearing a blue tie branded with a white Star of David. The Charity Commission for England and Wales is launching a probe into the matter and has requested an urgent meeting with the new incoming board.

Architect’s Board Bans Member for Making Antisemitic Remarks and Promoting Conspiracy Theories

Following an investigation that began last year, the Architects Registration Board announced that Peter Kellow is banned from practicing architecture due to an antisemitic Facebook post saying Jews ‘try to create a society within the general society’ and should be barred from holding influential positions. The post called for discrimination against Jews, justified antisemitic prejudice by calling Judaism a “cult” that “creates resentment and suspicion,” and advocated for barring Jewish schools, among other things. During a disciplinary hearing, Kellow stood by his statements and expressed no remorse. He has announced that he will appeal the decision.

FRANCE

French Jewish Man Assaulted in a Violent Antisemitic Attack in Paris

David S., 29-year-old, said he was violently attacked by two men of African descent near his parents' apartment building located at the 19th arrondissement of Paris. The two attackers hurled antisemitic insults at him, called him a "dirty Jew" and threatened to kill him. The attackers then proceeded to beat him unconscious with their fists and take his watch. The National Bureau for Vigilance against Antisemitism, or BNVCA, praised police's "swift identification and arrest" of the two men.

French Jewish Graffiti Artist Wearing 'Israel' T-Shirt Assaulted in Strasbourg

The public prosecutor in the city of Strasbourg, Eastern France, announced an investigation into an antisemitic assault on a young Jewish graffiti artist. The artist had been working on a project commissioned by the city of Strasbourg when he was accosted by two people who jostled him after they noticed him wearing a t-shirt that displayed the names of several countries and cities, including Israel. One of the assailants aggressively told the victim, "You are a Jew, you have no place here," before telling the artist to take off his shirt; he did. When the young artist returned to the street, one of the individuals used his spray paint canister to write the words "No Jews or sluts allowed."

Prominent French Jewish Philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy Called "Jewish Dog" During Visit to Libya

French Jewish intellectual Bernard-Henri Levy was called "Jewish dog" during a visit to Libya amid protests which erupted near Tarhuna, southeast of Tripoli. In addition, thugs tried to block his convoy on his way from Tarhuna to Misrata. The Jerusalem Post quoted a report by Anadolu, the pro-government press agency in Turkey, as highlighting the "Jewish" aspect of the trip. He was called a "controversial French Jewish intellectual" in a headline on the pro-AK Party website.

BDS Campaign Targets ISN French Riders Ahead of 2020 Tour de France

French MP Meyer Habib has denounced a recent virulent campaign launched by the BDS organization Palestine Will Win, against the French riders of Israel Start-Up Nation (ISN) - the Israeli professional cycling team – who will be participating in the 2020 Tour de France. Some comments posted on social medias called for the harm of the riders, alluding to "a sniper on the Tour," referring to the act of gunning down Israel Start-Up Nation riders as "'bird shooting' as they do in Palestine."

French Prominent Antisemitic Essayist Alain Soral Arrested, Dieudonné Banned

French police have arrested far-right leading influencer Alain Soral, one of the country's most prominent purveyors of antisemitic sentiment. Soral was apprehended at his Paris apartment on July 29th in connection with his website, "Equality and Reconciliation," over incitement to hatred against Jews and actions that "endanger the fundamental interests of the republic." However, a judge finally released Soral a day later. His arrest sparked a wave of antisemitic comments on social networks, including calls for violence against the Jewish community. Separately, Facebook said it has permanently banned French multi-convicted antisemite Dieudonné from its platform and from Instagram for content mocking Holocaust victims. The company said that some of Dieudonné's posts used "dehumanising terms against Jews". TikTok followed the move few days later. Last month, YouTube closed down both Dieudonné and Soral's channels.

GERMANY

Neo-Nazis Set Fire to Berlin Pub Owned by Israeli Jew

The pub was set on fire and burned down almost completely on August 14th. Right-wing extremist hate symbols were carved inside the pub. It was the fourth attack on the pub, which has been targeted with antisemitic graffiti multiple times, and whose owner has received multiple threats over the years. It should be noted that this case is not an exception in Germany; other Jewish and Israeli restaurant owners have been victims of antisemitic attacks in the past.

Antisemitism and Nazi Glorification During Berlin Protests Against Coronavirus Restrictions

On August 29th, approximately 38,000 protesters gathered throughout Berlin; among them were known



neo-Nazis, extreme right-wing conspiracy theorists, "Reich citizens," members of the AfD, and neo-Nazi parties. Protesters held signs and wore shirts featuring Holocaust trivialization, antisemitic conspiracy theories, and neo-Nazi slogans. During the rally in front of the Reichstag, several hundred protesters broke the barrier of the building and stormed up the stairs to the entrance. Some were waving "Reich flags".



The rally was initially banned by the Berlin Interior Senator, but his decision was eventually overturned by Berlin's Administrative and Higher Administrative Courts.

Increase in Antisemitic Crimes in Germany

The Bundestag reported that the police had registered 876 antisemitic offenses in the first half of 2020. This number represents an increase of 177 antisemitic offenses compared to the first half of 2019, and the number is still likely to grow. The offenses include 21 acts of violence in which 14 people were injured; four more than in the first half of 2019. Out of the 469 identified suspects, only four were temporarily arrested and none received an arrest warrant.

Intelligence Service: Right-Wing Extremists Purchase Real Estate to Gain Power and Influence

According to the Saxon Intelligence Service, right-wing extremists are purchasing properties in rural areas in order to lead their ideological campaigns and increase community outreach. Currently, 146 properties are either owned or rented by right-wing extremists where they hold concerts and "testimonials" by Holocaust revisionists, sell neo-Nazi merchandise, and run restaurants whose proceeds are used to fund their movements and possibly money laundering. They are also planning to establish martial arts centers to train young men who reject the state and society to be active fighters.

Freiburg Administrative Court Allows Event Which Openly Trivializes the Holocaust

The court permitted the group *Palästina Spricht* (Palestine Speaks) to hold an event commemorating victims of the 2014 Gaza War by reading out their names and ages at the Old Synagogue square on Shabbat. The city administration previously ordered the relocation of the event, since reading out the

names of victims of the Gaza War at a place of Holocaust remembrance, in the same manner in which Holocaust victims are honored each year during memorial services, would trivialize the Holocaust. In response, the group turned to the administrative court by urgent application and won the case.

Court Rules in Favor of Acquittal Despite Clear Holocaust Trivialization

German-Iranian Saarbrücken AfD politician Laleh Hadjimohamadvali posted pictures on her Facebook page of yellow Stars of David featuring phrases such as "not vaccinated" or "AfD voters." The judge perceived the post as a downplaying of the Nazi mass murder of the Jews but cleared her of charges of sedition. The acquittal was based on legal considerations: If incitement proceedings involve Holocaust trivializing, the statement must lead to public peace being disrupted, and not only by poisoning the political climate. Since that was not the case, society has to endure Holocaust trivialization within the framework of freedom of expression.

Court Forbids Comparing Abortions to the Holocaust

On August 24th the Hamburg district court ruled that Klaus Günter Annen, who runs the website "Babycaust," is not allowed to compare abortions with the Holocaust after doctor Kristina Hänel filed an injunction suit. According to the ruling, the plaintiff does not have to accept being compared to guards and doctors in the Nazi concentration camps and being called a "degenerate." Annen was also ordered to pay €6000 in restitution.

AUSTRIA

Islamic Extremist Attacks Graz Jewish Community President and Synagogue

The President of the Jewish Community of Graz, Elie Rosen, was violently attacked with a wooden stick in front of the Jewish community building on Saturday evening, August 22nd, by a Syrian citizen who came to Austria six years ago. It appears the perpetrator didn't fear punishment, as he returned for the third time within a few days to attack the synagogue. On Wednesday night, he spray-painted the outer walls of the synagogue and the community center with pro-Palestinian slogans, and on Friday night he threw several pieces of concrete against the windows on the north side of the synagogue, breaking one window and damaging several others. Representatives of all political parties condemned the attacks, and Interior Minister Karl Nehammer ordered increased surveillance of all Jewish institutions in Austria. The local police were largely criticized for not having allocated policemen to protect the synagogue.

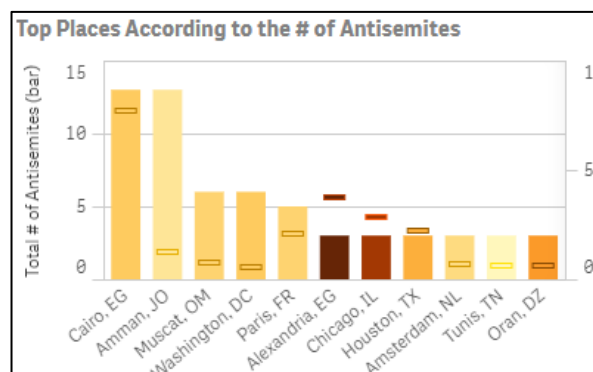
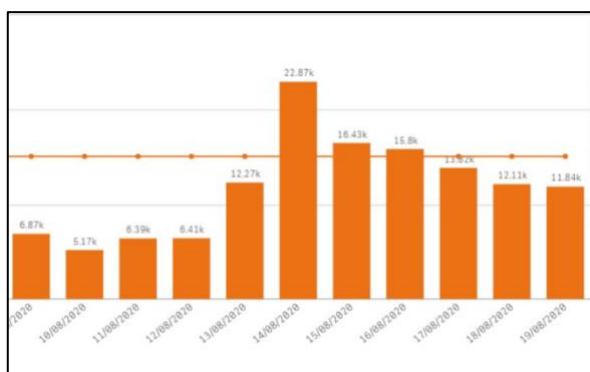
Right-Wing Extremist Activities Uncovered in the Graz Police Force

The police station in Graz, which is responsible for the protection of the synagogue that was vandalized and is only 200 meters away from it, is currently the subject of extensive investigations. Two policemen are being charged under the Prohibition Act for sending Holocaust trivializing and mocking messages on social media. One of the defendants argued in court that the sending of Hitler videos is common practice in police circles. It has been reported that his extreme right-wing mindset was well-known among his coworkers, and he even called his dog Adolf.

Conspiracy Theories Spread on Social Media Following Explosion in Lebanon and UAE-Israel Deal

- Conspiracies Related to the Explosion in Beirut, Lebanon
 - A sermon delivered by the Houthi Islamic Scholar Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Ubeidi claimed that the Zionist Jews are the cousins of apes and pigs and are behind Beirut port explosion, COVID-19, and the 9/11 attacks.
 - On August 6th, the official newspaper of the Palestinian Authority "Al-Hayat Al-Jadida" published a claim that Israel was a partner in the explosion because it wants to destroy the entire Arab nation.
 - Sheikh Jihad Alayesh from Kuwait, wrote on his Twitter and Facebook accounts that the reason for the explosion in Lebanon, which Israel is responsible for, is biblical and not political. To strengthen his claim, he quotes Rabbi Yosef Berger, one of the Rabbis of the prayer site at King David's tomb, who said that the explosion happened because the Messiah has to come. Alayesh has a YouTube page where he uploads videos with purely antisemitic messages.

- Conspiracies Related to the Normalization Agreement Between United Arab Emirates and Israel
 - The major claim, coming from the International Union of Muslim Scholars, which is headed by Yusef al-Qaradawi, who holds clear antisemitic views, claims that the Elders of Zion were behind the agreement between the United Arab Emirates and Israel. The assertion is that this is part of a reciprocal relationship that began in the Arab Spring.
 - ACMS shows that following reports in the media regarding the intention to sign the agreement, the antisemitic discourse on Twitter has grown. According to ACMS in the screenshot below on the left, the day after the announcement, there was a significant jump in the antisemitic discourse in Arabic. In the screenshot below on the right, ACMS shows that Cairo and Amman had the largest number of users sharing antisemitic Arabic posts regarding the normalization agreement. The test range for both screenshots is between August 12-20, 2020.



RUSSIAN SPEAKING AREAS

RUSSIA

Book Store Belonging to Radical Nationalistic Publishing House *The Black Hundred* Opens—Moscow

The publishing house is known for publishing Russian books containing nationalistic content, which at times has been antisemitic. The name “Black Hundred” is a symbolic, which among other things, was the name of a radical antisemitic party that operated in the beginning of the 20th century. The party members took part in pogroms and spread blood libels against Jews. Aside from books, the store will sell merchandise and host lectures.

Man Sentences to Jail for One Year for Antisemitic Remarks on VK—Perm

On August 12th, the 51-year-old was sentenced for making antisemitic remarks while replying to content on the popular Russian social media site. The remarks included blunt expressions against Jews, Caucasians, and Asians.

LITHUANIA

Statue of the ‘Vilna Gaon’ Vandalized for the Second Time in the Last Two Months—Vilna

On August 2nd, an unidentified person poured unspecified liquid on the statue. A similar instance took place in June.

Lithuanian Government Designates Hezbollah as a Terrorist Organization

On August 12th, the government announced that individuals affiliated with Hezbollah will be banned from entering Lithuania for 10 years.

UKRAINE

Suspect in July Attack on Synagogue Arrested—Mariupol

The local Jewish community criticized the investigation after the police defined the incident as an “act of bullying” and not as a “hate crime.” The suspect was arrested on August 12th and the trial is expected to begin shortly.

Deputy of the Ternopil Regional Council Publicly Performed Antisemitic Song—Ternopil

On August 25th, Bohdan Yatsykovskiy, who is a member of Oleh Lyashko’s radical party, performed the song “Jews Before Hanging” during a public concert. According to Yatsykovskiy, the song “is folklore, folk art. Everyone who condemns this folklore song should also condemn and demand the ban of Christmas nativity, [and] poems by Shevchenko and Frank!”

BELARUS

Israeli Citizens Arrested During Anti-Government Riots, At Least One Reported Antisemitic Abuse

One of the Israelis who were arrested in Minsk claimed that severe violence was used against him and that the police made antisemitic remarks once they learned that he was an Israeli citizen.

LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Antisemitic Parade in the City of Córdoba

On September 17th, protests took place throughout the country in response to the current severe economic crisis caused by the five-month Coronavirus lockdown. During the protests in Córdoba, a parade by the “Patriarcado Unido Argentino” (the Argentine United Patriarchate, a marginal militaristic organization) was held. Antisemitic caricatures and pictures of Argentine Jews were displayed, along with accusations that Jews are attempting to establish a “New World Order” and are responsible for the ongoing Coronavirus closures.

Antisemitic Posters Hung Throughout the City of Neuquén

On August 22nd, antisemitic posters were displayed in city of Neuquén, the capital of the province of Neuquén, located in the Argentine Patagonia. The posters claimed Jews are responsible for “the Corona lie” in order to establish a world Jewish dictatorship. The posters also claimed Argentine President Alberto Fernandez collaborated with the conspiracy and asserted that the use of masks by the Argentine people promotes the goals of the conspiracy in order to silence citizens and prevent them from thinking about what is really happening. The Simon Wiesenthal Center condemned the event, as did the governor of Tucumán Province on his official Twitter account.

Frente de Todos’ Offices Targeted with Antisemitic Graffiti in Bahia Blanca, Buenos Aires

On August 30th, antisemitic graffiti was tagged on the front offices of the Frente de Todos Party, which is the government’s party, and throughout additional areas of Bahia Blanca, which is located in the province of Buenos Aires. The graffiti writing changed the letter ‘o’ in the word ‘Todos’ to the Star of David, and additional slogans read “No to a New World Order” and “Leftist traitors.” The Frente de Todos Party is located on the left side of the political spectrum.

VENEZUELA

Venezuelan Politician Posts Antisemitic Tweet

On August 6th, following the explosion at the port of Beirut, the Venezuelan government expressed their solidarity with the Lebanese people on social networks. The secretary of the Venezuelan Constituent Assembly Fidel Vazques I., retweeted the government’s post, tagged Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, and added the following text to the tweet: "It all smells like the United States and Israel. We in Venezuela suffered terrorist attacks by Venezuelans who work for the Empire and understand these matters."