

**July
2020**

Monthly Report

ACMS Antisemitism Cyber Monitoring System

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UNITED STATES

Orthodox Man Assaulted in Brooklyn in Suspected Hate Crime

On July 11th, three men in an SUV yelled “F**king Jew!” at the man, who responded with giving them the middle finger. The attackers, all presumed to be under the age of 40, jumped out and punched him in the head. The incident is being investigated as a potential hate crime and no arrests have been made.

Antisemitism in Political Campaigns Ahead of Upcoming Elections

Politicians from both sides of the aisle are accused of employing antisemitic tropes in political ads before the upcoming election. Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar, who has been accused of antisemitism in the past, is under fire for a mailer which stated, “Can we trust Antone Melton-Meaux’s money?”, along with quotes from various donors. It accuses him of “being in the pocket of Wall Street,” among other things. However, Jewish businessmen are the only names cited in the mailer. On the other side of the aisle, Republican Sen. David Perdue ran a digital campaign ad featuring a manipulated picture of his opponent Jon Ossoff, who is Jewish, with an enlarged nose along with the quote, “Democrats are trying to buy Georgia!” Perdue called it an “unintentional error” by an outside vendor and the image was removed.

Protestors Chant Antisemitic Slogans at Joint Pro-Palestine, Black Lives Matters Movement Rallies

In July 1st rallies defined as a “Day of Rage,” protesters in Brooklyn and Washington, D.C., chanted “Israel, we know you, you murder children, too,” and “From Gaza to Minnesota, globalize the Intifada!”

Prominent Celebrities Spread Antisemitism and Promote Nation of Islam Leader Louis Farrakhan

Throughout July, prominent celebrities with massive social media audiences have voiced support for Farrakhan on various social media platforms. Some have also shared his antisemitic conspiracy theories.

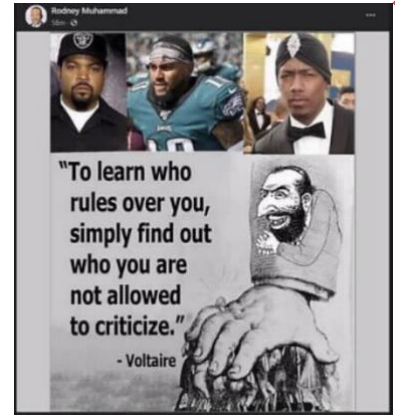
- Ice Cube: Shared various antisemitic conspiracy theories and caricatures on Twitter, including a claim that Karen Abdul-Jabbar was paid “30 pieces of silver” for condemning antisemitism.
- DeSean Jackson: Shared antisemitic quotes (inaccurately) attributed to Hitler claiming Black people are the “real Jews” and they will extort America as part of their plan for world domination. The post was followed by a clip promoting Farrakhan’s July 4th TV special (see below). Former NBA player Stephen Jackson defended DeSean Jackson for “speaking the truth” even after Jackson apologized.
- Nick Cannon: Shared antisemitic conspiracy theories similar to Jackson’s on his YouTube podcast.
- Madonna and Sean “Diddy” Combs: Shared video clips promoting Farrakhan’s July 4th TV special.
- Chelsea Handler, Jameela Jamil, and Jessica Chastain: All shared old clips of Farrakhan speaking.
- Jay Electronica: Tweeted the antisemitic conspiracy theory that Blacks are the “real Jews” and called the Rabbi who spoke to Cannon a “liar and the Devil.”

Farrakhan Spreads Antisemitic Conspiracy Theories During July 4th TV Special

On July 4th, Louis Farrakhan delivered a three-hour speech that was streamed live on the Nation of Islam’s YouTube channel. In the speech, Farrakhan said that Jews had poisoned him with “radiated seed” to test whether he was truly a man of God, and that his survival is proof that he is. He also claimed that prominent Jewish figures such as Alan Dershowitz and Jason Greenblatt are Satan and emphasized that it is his job to expose Satan so that every Muslim picks up a stone against him like they do during the pilgrimage rituals in Mecca. He went on to say, “Jews hate me because I reveal their wickedness,” and claimed he exposes those who “suck the blood” of the poor. He also claimed that Israel is the reason guns, drugs, and counterfeit money are in black neighborhoods.

Philadelphia NAACP Head Posts Antisemitic Caricature on Facebook

Rodney Muhammad, head of the local NAACP, posted a known antisemitic meme on his public Facebook page known as “the Happy Merchant.” The meme on Muhammad’s Facebook page included photos of Ice Cube, DeSean Jackson, and Nick Cannon (see above) and the quote “To learn who rules over you, simply find out who you are not allowed to criticize,” falsely attributed to French philosopher Voltaire. The quote originated with Kevin Strom, an American neo-Nazi. Muhammad, 68, is a civil rights figure and local Nation of Islam leader. He had previously posted criticism of the backlash that Cannon, Jackson, and others have faced after posting antisemitic content on social media.



New York Man Arrested for Making Antisemitic Death Threats

Christopher Rascoll faces federal charges after sending antisemitic death threats to a Stratford resident via text message on December 23, 2019, during Hanukkah. In addition, Rascoll also threatened to blow up the victim’s house and car. Authorities said some of Rascoll’s threatening text messages contained antisemitic references to the Holocaust and gas chambers. Rascoll was charged with interference with the right to fair housing and two counts of threatening communications.

Baltimore Police Make Arrest Following Robbery and Antisemitic Abuse of Jewish Teens

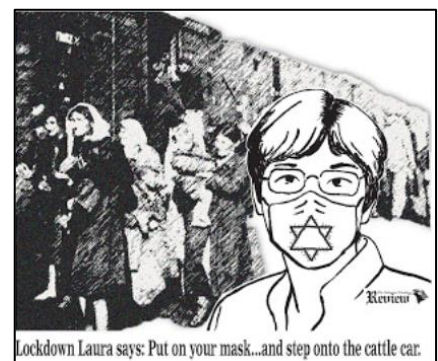
Police have arrested a “person of interest” in connection with the July 9th robbery of four Jewish teenage boys by an assailant who used an antisemitic epithet. According to authorities, the man threatened the boys with a knife and at least one of the boys was wearing a kippah which was taken during the attack.

Suspected Neo-Nazi Leader Arrested and Under Investigation in California

A 27-year-old named Andrew Richard Casarez, who claimed to have influenced the Pittsburgh Synagogue shooter, has been unveiled as the leader of “Bowl Patrol,” an online White Supremacist group. The name is a reference to the hairstyle of convicted White Supremacist and mass murderer Dylann Roof, whom they idolize. Casarez has been linked to the recent vandalism of a synagogue and is currently under investigation by the Sacramento County sheriff’s department. According to authorities, “Sheriff’s detectives had concerns after [Casarez] was doxed and his identifying information was released publicly that he could feel forced to react and/or carry out acts of violence based on his ideology.” The investigation is ongoing and federal and state authorities are collaborating.

Kansas Newspaper Equates Mask Mandate with Holocaust

A weekly Kansas newspaper posted a drawing on its Facebook page likening the governor’s order requiring people to wear masks in public to the treatment of Jews during the Holocaust. The image depicts Gov. Laura Kelly wearing a mask with a Jewish Star of David on it, next to a drawing of people being loaded onto train cars. Its caption is, “Lockdown Laura says: Put on your mask...and step onto the cattle car.” The paper’s owner and publisher also planned to publish the cartoon in the newspaper’s next print edition.



United Kingdom

Labour MP Steve Reed Tweets Antisemitic Conspiracy Theory

The tweet asked, "Is billionaire former porn-baron Desmond the puppet master for the entire Tory cabinet?" Following condemnation, Reed apologized and deleted the post. No action will be taken by the Labour Party against him.

Rapper Wiley Sparks Virtual Twitter 'Walkout' Over Two-Day Antisemitic Rant

Artists, activists, and organizations staged a 48-hour protest over the platform's handling of antisemitic posts by British rapper Wiley, who posted a string of antisemitic posts on his Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook accounts starting July 24th. Although some of the posts were blocked or removed, public figures and UK government officials blasted both platforms for leaving some posts up for too long and for not doing enough overall to stop antisemitism. Following Wiley's antisemitic outburst, police were called to investigate. Wiley has since been dropped by his management company and his social media accounts have been suspended on all three platforms.

Jewish TV Star and Activist Against Antisemitism Rachel Riley Wins Legal Victory over Internet Troll

A High Court judge has found that Daniel Bennett, who harassed Riley under the name "Harry Tuttle," a reference to a subversive saboteur in the film "Brazil," must disclose all tweets referring to Riley. The judge further ruled that Bennett had used his Twitter platform "as a medium to attack a number of Jewish people by harassing and defaming them." Bennett must further provide tweets to online researcher and pro-Israel commentator David Collier, who is also charging harassment and defamation. Bennett confessed that the account was his, but has not taken responsibility for the offending tweets.

Chairman of Muslim Charity Foundation Forced to Resign Over Antisemitic Remarks

A trustee and former top official in the UK's largest Muslim charity, which has ties to the Muslim Brotherhood, has resigned after *The Times* reported that he posted antisemitic comments on Facebook. The newspaper found posts from 2014 and 2015 in which Islamic Relief Worldwide's Heshmat Khalifa said the Jews were "grandchildren of monkeys and pigs." In other posts, he called Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi a Zionist pimp, pig, traitor, and criminal for his support of Israel, and described Hamas as "the purest resistance movement in modern history."

Neo-Nazis Encouraging Followers to "Deliberately Infect" Jews with Coronavirus

A UK government counterterrorism agency has warned that neo-Nazis and far-right activists are telling followers to "deliberately infect" Jews and Muslims with Coronavirus to capitalize on the pandemic. Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, the UK's Commission for Countering Extremism said it has received increasing reports of far-right, far-left and Islamist extremists exploiting the crisis to promote divisive, xenophobic and racist narratives "to sow division" and create social discord.

Football Player who Tweeted about Rothschilds is Banned and Fined

Port Vale player, Tom Pope, will not be able to play for the next six games and will have to pay £3,500 over a social media post of his which was deemed antisemitic. When asked by another Twitter user to "predict the WWII result," Pope replied: "We invade Iran then Cuba then North Korea then the Rothchilds [sic] are crowned champions of every bank on the planet."

FRANCE

French Far-Left Leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon Accuses Jews of Being Responsible for Jesus' Death

The president of the far left political party, Jean-Luc Mélenchon¹, has been accused of recycling the age-old antisemitic deicide trope during an interview on French TV. "Listen, I don't know if Jesus was on the cross. I know who put him there, it seems that it was his own compatriots," he claimed.

Marine Le Pen Paid Homage to the Memory of the 1942 "Vel d'Hiv Roundup" Victims

Marine Le Pen, the leader of the National Rally party, praised on Twitter the memory of the victims of the Vel d'Hiv roundup², denouncing "the most abject and abominable expression of antisemitism" and "the new preachers of hate" who "attack our fellow Jews". In reaction to Le Pen tweet, France's most famous Nazi hunter and leading historian, Serge Klarsfeld, said that Marine Le Pen "took a step forward to aligning with republican values." He added: "by condemning in the strongest way the Vel d'Hiv raid organized by the police of the French state of Vichy, she disowned her father [ed.: Jean Marie Le Pen]." Klarsfeld stance sparked controversy over the de-demonization and normalization of Marine Le Pen's image.

French Senate Report Sounds the Alarm on "Islamist Radicalization"

A Senate Committee investigating Islamist radicalization and the means to combat it published an alarming report highlighting a "radical polymorphous Islamism in France [...] tending to impose a new social norm by taking advantage of individual freedom." The new Minister of the Interior Gérald Darmanin claimed last week that "political Islam was a mortal enemy of the Republic."

Neo-Nazis in the French Army? (Mediapart)

A dozen soldiers have posted pictures of themselves on social media, exposing Nazi symbols (tattoos, t-shirts, etc.), according to an investigation published by online journal *Mediapart*. None of them have been excluded from the army ranks, precise *Mediapart*. It should be noted that far-right movements are attempting to recruit military personnel and security forces.

Dozens of Gravestones Vandalized with Antisemitic Messages in Southern France

About 20 graves in the Gruissan municipal cemetery (south-western France), were vandalized with swastikas and the words "Death to Jews" and "Death to the French."

Mireille Knoll: French Judges Order Trial Over Antisemitic Murder

Two men accused of killing 85-year-old Mireille Knoll at her Paris home in 2018, will stand trial on a charge of murder aggravated by antisemitism, the Paris prosecutor's office announced. Yacine Mihoub and his associate Alex Carrimbacus are alleged to have brutally murdered 85-year-old Mireille Knoll, a Holocaust survivor who survived the mass deportation of the Jews of Paris in July 1942.

¹ Mélenchon received 19% of the vote in the first round of the 2017 French presidential elections.

² In July 1942, over 13,000 foreign Jews living in Paris, including more than 4,000 children, were arrested by French policemen and confined in extremely harsh conditions to the *Vel' d'Hiv*. Most of the deportees were then sent to Auschwitz and murdered.

YouTube Channels of Iconic French Antisemitic Activists Soral and Dieudonné Closed

Far right prominent antisemitic essayist Alain Soral's YouTube channels were closed down as part of the online video platform's effort to remove hate speech. "ERTV Officiel" had more than 185K subscribers and recorded 80 million views since its creation in 2010. In parallel, convicted antisemitic comedian Dieudonné's YouTube channel (450K subscribers) was deleted due to his "repeated violations of YouTube community policies."

Twitter Bans Several *Identity Generation* Accounts

Key figures in far right organization *Identity Generation* saw their profiles shut down alongside national and regional factions in France, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Denmark. Amid increasing social media platforms crack down on white nationalists, several ultra nationalist influencers denounce a full-scale purge of dissenting voices, calling their followers to join them on alternative platforms, such as Gab, VK, Telegram, or Parler.com, to protect freedom of speech.

French Far-Right Extremists Gatherings

From July 13th to July 19th, the ultra-nationalist antisemitic movement *Jeune Nation* led by Holocaust denier and former National Front member Yvan Benedetti organized a "Nationalist Camp." The program included "training, sport sessions, chants, brotherhood." In addition, on July 22nd & 23rd, *Jeune Nation* organized a two-day ceremony in homage to French Nazi collaborator Maréchal Pétain, on his grave in l'Ile d'Yeu.



GERMANY

Munich Rabbi Attacked in Antisemitic Incident

Rabbi Shmuel Aharon Brodman, Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Munich and Upper Bavaria, was followed and antisemitically harassed by four 20 to 30-year-old Arabic speaking men after getting off a train. German politicians condemned the attack and the witnesses for not interfering.

More Right-Wing Extremist Crimes Than Ever Before in Berlin Neukölln District

In the past nine months, the police registered 137 right-wing extremist crimes, which included antisemitic attacks, threats, insults, propaganda offenses, and the publication of “enemy lists” online.

Two Neo-Nazis Arrested Over Far-Right Antisemitic Website and Propaganda

Two men were arrested on suspicion on spearheading the far-right group *Goyim Party Germany*, which posted pro-Nazi and antisemitic material online. The material included Holocaust denial and the approval of Nazi crimes, as well as antisemitic propaganda which included a call to kill Jews.

Former Concentration Camp Guard Convicted—21 Additional Nazi Crime Cases Under Investigation

A former SS security guard of the Stutthof concentration camp was given two years probation. The Hamburg Regional Court found the 93-year-old guilty of complicity in murder in 5,232 cases, and complicity in attempted murder. The trial took place under juvenile law because the man was 17 at the beginning of the crime. The German public prosecutor's office is currently investigating 14 former concentration camp guards and six perpetrators of Nazi crimes committed outside concentration camps. A trial of another camp guard might open soon.

Court Rules Slogan Rooted in Nazi Propaganda and Used by Neo-Nazis is an Act of Sedition

Sascha Krolzig, chairman of the neo-Nazi party *Die Rechte*, was sentenced to six months in prison for sedition and insult by the Federal Constitutional Court. In an article, Krolzig had insulted the leader of a Jewish community as a “cheeky-Jew-functionary” and threatened that his party would reduce the influence of Jewish lobby organizations on German politics to zero. The judges ruled that he was using Nazi language and thus endangered public peace since the term “cheeky Jew” was used by Nazis.

AUSTRIA

Recent Steps Taken to Combat Antisemitism

- Austrian Parliament launches the Simon Wiesenthal Prize: €30,000 will be granted annually to three people or groups for activities against antisemitism and the promotion of Holocaust education.
- Integration Ministry unveils the *Documentation Center for Religiously Motivated Political Extremism*. The center will research political Islam, its structures, and possibly existing parallel societies.
- Parliament adopted a resolution calling on the Interior Minister to examine legal options regarding a future ban of the annual fascist Ustaša meeting in Bleiburg. The event is considered one of the largest gatherings of fascists and neo-Nazis in Europe. In recent years, tens of thousands of people came to Bleiburg to commemorate members of the Waffen SS, the Wehrmacht, and the soldiers of the fascist and ultranationalist Ustaša organization, which headed the Independent State of Croatia; a World War II era puppet government of Nazi Germany and fascist Italy.

ARAB WORLD

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki Accuses Jews of Controlling Apple and Google

There are antisemitic anti-Israel reactions on social media following a claim (which later turned out to be false) that Google and Apple removed the word “Palestine” from their maps. During an interview on July 18th with Palestinian television, a senior figure in the Palestinian Authority linked the claim to Jewish control. During the interview, al-Maliki claimed, “it is obvious who controls these two huge foreign countries and that there is also Israeli-Jewish influence, which makes them biased in favor of Israel.” The channel, in addition to its wide distribution in the West Bank and Gaza, has 4.5 million followers on its Facebook page.

Antisemitic Speech Given by Leader of the Hamas Women’s Movement

Rajaa al-Halabi, leader of the Hamas women's movement, delivered a speech on July 9th to Hamas women broadcast on the Hamas-affiliated al-Aqsa channel. During her speech, she claimed that G-d would punish the Jews and that Hamas would do G-d's will and eliminate the children of Israel, referred to as “the Prophets’ killers.” She also claimed Allah has brought the Jews to Palestine so that it can become their graveyard.

Antisemitic Reaction from Jordanian Professor following Hagia Sophia Decision

While discussing Turkey’s recent decision to transform the Hagia Sophia from a museum back into a functional mosque, Ahmad Nofel, a Jordanian professor and cleric, spread antisemitic rhetoric. In his program on the Jordanian channel *Yarmouk*, Nofel declared, "If we liberate Palestine tomorrow, we will not leave the synagogues in place, we will uproot them, and thrown the Jews into the sea."

RUSSIAN SPEAKING AREAS

RUSSIA

Man Arrested for Publishing Antisemitic and Racist Posts on Social Media—Kazan

The man, who is 38 years old, was arrested on June 29th and sentenced to a five day administrative arrest for antisemitic and racist posts shared on unnamed social media platforms.

Abbot Delivers Antisemitic Speech Claiming Chabad is the “Real Ruler” of Russia—Sverdlovsk District

On July 12th, Sergei Romanov delivered a sermon claiming that “Putin is not a competent ruler because he is just a puppet in the hands of Chabad Hasidics.” On July 20th, a court convicted Romanov for the dissemination of racist opinions and fined him. This is not the first time that Romanov has made such statements, and it is because of them his ecclesiastical status was denied last month.

Elderly Man Arrested for Membership in an Extremist Organization—Omsk

On July 15th, a 72-year-old man was arrested for being a member of an organization called "the Union of Slavic Forces in Russia," which supports radical antisemitic ideology and blames the Jews for the decline of the Soviet Union. The organization has been prohibited in Russia since 2019.

30 Gravestones Smashed at the Jewish Cemetery—St. Petersburg

The cemetery is located in the Nevsky District of the city. The headstones were destroyed at some point between July 26th to July 28th by unidentified vandals while the local guard was off duty.

UKRAINE

Court Passes an Anti-Nazi Memory Law—Kiev

On July 23rd, a law prohibiting the "honoring of Nazi collaborators which were involved in mass killing of Jews and Roma people" was passed by a Ukrainian court. The purpose of the law is to prevent the establishment of memorial plaques and monuments for Ukrainians that took part in mass killing of Jews.

Man Wielding an Axe Attempts to Carry out Synagogue Attack—Mariupol

On July 28th, a young man carrying an axe tried to enter a synagogue after morning prayers. He was stopped by a local guard who fought him and prevented him from entering the building. During the fight, the guard sustained minor injuries. In addition, while fleeing, the attacker managed to throw packages and cans with feces, sand, and an unknown substance towards the synagogue.

LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Professor Shares Antisemitic Remarks During Virtual Lecture at Universidad Siglo 21

During a virtual lecture on International Politics given on July 3rd, professor Esteban Lizondo made antisemitic remarks. A student recorded it and presented a complaint to the Federation of Jewish Communities in Argentina. The professor stated that the State of Israel was established by the Zionist lobby in exchange for money, and that he will give a bonus to students who can give him an example of a poor Jew. In addition, the professor noted that the Germans killed Jews because they envied their wealth during the economic crisis of the 1920s. The university responded to the case and noted that they will initiate proceedings against the professor under the university regulations.

The Vice President's Daughter Posted a Picture on Instagram of Leila Khaled Holding a Weapon

Florencia Kirchner, daughter of Argentine Vice President Christina Fernandez, posted a photo of Palestinian terrorist Leila Khaled brandishing a weapon on her Instagram account and invited her followers to read Khaled's story. The post was censored by Instagram, which prompted Kirchner to claim that she "wishes that they would consider what's happening in the Middle East as violent, and not her posts; that way the lives of thousands of children may be different." She also stated that she didn't mention any terrorist organization and only referred to the annexation plans of Israel while showing a historical figure representing resistance (Leila Khaled).

URUGUAY

Antisemitic Remarks Published in an Editorial in VERDAD

The article, which deals with the internal political situation in Uruguay, stated that Uruguayan President Lacalle Pou does not respond to the demands of the Uruguayan people, but to those who really control the country: the Jews. The Association of Uruguayan Jewish Communities has issued an official condemnation.

Disagreement Over the Possible Auctioning of Nazi Memorabilia

In 2006, a private delegation salvaged a Nazi ship's figurehead, which features a swastika and Nazi Eagle, from the La Plata River. The figurehead belonged to the battleship "Admiral Graff Spee," which sank close to the port of Montevideo after the epic "Battle of the River Plate," which took place in December 1939. The massive piece is expected to be sold in auction. The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Latin America called on the Uruguayan government to cancel the expected auction and argued that such symbols should be presented to the public as a warning from the past and not sold to private hands. A decision by the government is expected next month.



ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Austria

Archbishop of Vienna Calls for Prayers for Local Jews in all Vienna Parishes

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, the Archbishop of Vienna and former Chairman of the Austrian Bishops' Conference, called for prayers in all Viennese parishes to take place on Sunday, July 26th, to thank G-d for the presence of Jewish congregations in Vienna in commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the expulsion of Vienna Jewry. Schönborn sent a proposal for the intercessory prayer to the parishes and also posted it on Twitter: "The Jews were given a deadline of July 26, 1670, to vacate their houses and leave Vienna. Today, after 350 years, Jewish life is blooming again in this city. We ask you, Almighty, Kind Lord: Bless the Jews of this city and their communities, give them endurance and growth in peace."



USA

Antisemitic Hate Crimes Account for More Than Half of Reported Incidents in First Quarter of 2020

According to a report released by the NYPD on July 5th, antisemitic acts accounted for more than half the number of hate crimes reported in New York during the first quarter of 2020. For some context, the report revealed there were 45 anti-Jewish incidents, 12 anti-Black incidents, 11 anti-Asian incidents, 3 anti-Other Ethnicity/National origin incidents, 2 anti-transgender incidents, and 1 anti-Muslim incident.

Antisemitic Hate Crimes Rose in California in 2019

According to a report released by the State Attorney General's office this month, antisemitic hate crimes in California rose nearly 12% in 2019, including a fatal shooting at a Southern California synagogue, even as hate crimes overall declined statewide by 4.8%. Hate crime events involving a religion bias rose 3.5%, from 201 to 208, according to the state's data. Anti-Jewish bias events, such as the fatal shooting at Poway Synagogue, went from 126 to 141.

UK

BBC journalist and UK Labour Whistleblowers Sue Corbyn for Defamation

A BBC journalist and several others who helped him expose widespread mishandling of antisemitism complaints within the UK Labour Party last year are suing Jeremy Corbyn for defamation. The seven former employees, who were responsible for investigating complaints about misconduct within the party, including antisemitism, appeared on a BBC investigative program last year looking into whether Labour was antisemitic. They criticized the party's handling of antisemitism complaints, and sued the party when it issued a statement describing them as having "personal and political axes to grind." The former employees were also accused of trying to undermine Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour leader at the time. The development comes after Britain's main opposition party apologized "unreservedly," withdrew its accusations, and agreed to pay substantial damages to seven whistleblowers who sued the party for defamation.