

**June
2020**

Monthly Report

ACMS Antisemitism Cyber Monitoring System

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UNITED STATES

Jewish Man in Nevada Stabbed by Attacker Shouting “Heil Hitler”

A man outside a bar in Nevada performed the Nazi salute and yelled “Heil Hitler” before stabbing a Jewish man in the head who denied his request for money. The assailant was arrested and charged with attempted robbery, battery with a deadly weapon, battery on a police officer, and obstruction. An investigation into the attacker’s motivation is underway and further charges could be forthcoming.

Antisemitism in the “Black Lives Matter” Movement and Protests

Instances of antisemitic rhetoric and vandalism, along with the spread of antisemitic conspiracy theories, have seeped into the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement in various aspects since mass protests began following the murder of George Floyd on May 25th.

- **Synagogues and Jewish Owned Businesses Vandalized and Looted During Protests**
Several kosher stores, synagogues, religious schools, and Jewish-owned businesses have been targeted, vandalized, and looted throughout the US during various BLM protests. So far, the most notable instances of this occurred on May 30th in Fairfax, California, when riots and mass looting broke out throughout areas of LA. Melina Abdullah, the lead organizer of BLM in LA, has a history of antisemitism and anti-Zionism, and is a longtime supporter of antisemite and Nation of Islam leader, Louis Farrakhan. During the riots, synagogues were tagged with graffiti saying “Free Palestine” and “F**k Israel,” and reports have emerged of protestors chanting antisemitic slogans, such as “F**k the police and kill the Jews.”

- **Israel Being Blamed for Death of George Floyd in Spread of Revamped Conspiracy Theory**

An established conspiracy theory claiming Israel is responsible for police brutality due to joint training exercises has been repurposed in various ways for the current BLM movement. The claims have spread globally across social media and blame the death of George Floyd on various branches of Israeli security forces. Pro-Palestinian and BDS activists have used the claim to



coopt the BLM movement by claiming the technique used to kill Floyd was tested and used on Palestinians. In one example, the USCPR, which represents pro-BDS groups across the country and has more than 50K Twitter followers, tweeted, “The Israeli military trains US police in racist and repressive policing tactics, which systematically targets black and brown bodies.” In another, Charlotte Greensit, the new editor of the *New York Times*, tweeted “Israel security forces are training American cops despite history of rights abuses.”

- **Additional Antisemitic Conspiracy Theories Gain Popularity on Social Media**

A range of conspiracy theories have gained renewed popularity during the BLM movement. They include:

- The claim that Jews financed, orchestrated, or perpetuated the slave trade for profits.
- Claims that George Soros is behind the BLM protests by orchestrating or staging Floyd’s murder, paying and transporting protestors, or stashing bricks to be used as weapons.
- The claim that Black people are the ‘real’ Jews and that ‘current’ Jews are imposters who stole their heritage in order to control and enslave them.

United Kingdom

Man Arrested for Attempted Murder after Stabbing Rabbi in Stoke Newington

On June 12th, an Orthodox Rabbi was attacked and stabbed in broad daylight while standing outside a bank. The assailant has been charged with attempted murder while an investigation into whether the attack was antisemitically motivated is underway.

Labour Leader Sacks MP for Sharing Article Containing Antisemitic Conspiracy Theory

Sir Keir Starmer has relieved shadow education secretary Rebecca Long-Bailey for retweeting an interview with actress and Labour supporter Maxine Peake, in which she claimed "The tactics used by the police in America, kneeling on George Floyd's neck, that was learnt from seminars with Israeli secret services." In response to the incident, Long-Bailey has since claimed she didn't mean to "endorse all aspects of the article." Keir Starmer has stated tackling antisemitism is his "first priority" as party leader.

Ex-Labour Member Jackie Walker Makes Antisemitic and Racist Remarks about the Holocaust

A former UK Labour party member recently expelled for antisemitism retweeted a conspiracy theory article which minimized the significance of the Holocaust and claimed people only cared about the genocide of the Jews because the victims were 'white.' Walker claimed Holocaust atrocities receive more awareness than those committed during slavery "because it's white lives that matter duh!"

Two Teenagers Convicted of Violent Antisemitic Attack

On June 26th, two brothers from Hackney, aged 15 and 16, were charged with racially aggravated assault for attacking a Rabbi on November 29th, 2019 in Stamford Hill. According to reports, the boys targeted the 54-year-old victim for his appearance and shouted, "dirty Jew" and "kill the Jews" as they punched, kicked, and threw him to the ground. Both boys will return to court on July 21st for sentencing.

Far-Right Extremist Couple Jailed for Belonging to Neo-Nazi Group

A former "Miss Hitler" pageant entrant and her partner have been jailed for belonging to the extreme right-wing neo-Nazi group 'National Action.' According to a statement issued by the West Midlands Police, the June 9th sentencing comes after Alice Cutter, 24, and her partner Mark Jones, 25, were convicted of membership of a terrorist group at a trial in March alongside Garry Jack, 24, and Connor Scothern, 19. National Action became the first far-right group to be banned under Britain's terror laws in December 2016. It is a criminal offense to be a member of the organization, which has been described by the country's Home Office as "virulently racist, antisemitic, and homophobic."

Government Investigating Top Firm over Ties to Palestinian Terror

The government is proceeding with a probe into PricewaterhouseCoopers' PwC Global Network on suspicion of enabling a Palestinian terrorist organization. The firm has been accused by the group UK Lawyers for Israel (UKLFI) for violating OECD guidelines by providing accounting services to two organizations with ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The UK National Contact Point, which is responsible for promoting OECD guidelines, issued a decision on June 16th that the charges "merit further examination."

French Constitutional Council Declares Hate Speech “Avia Law” Unconstitutional

The French Constitutional Council, the highest constitutional authority in France, blocked large portion of the “Avia Law,” which was adopted by the National Assembly on May 13th. The Avia bill required social media platforms and search engines to remove “manifestly illegal content” within 24 hours of it being reported, risking fines of up to €1.25 million. The Constitutional Council noted in its ruling that the measure put the onus for analyzing content solely on tech platforms without the involvement of a judge, within a very short time frame, and with the threat of hefty penalties. The court said this created an incentive for risk-averse platforms to indiscriminately remove flagged content, whether or not it was clearly hate speech. The law’s provisions “therefore infringe upon the exercise of freedom of expression and communication in a way that is not necessary, suitable, and proportionate,” the court said in a statement. The controversial text had crystallized harsh criticism from politicians and activists on both the left and right who called the bill liberticidal. Strong anti-hate speech laws already exist in France, often with criminal penalties.



‘Dirty Jews’ Shouted at Paris Rally Against Racism

Some French anti-racism protesters were heard shouting "dirty Jews" while others were seen holding up placards reading "Israel, laboratory of police violence" and waving Palestinian flags at a rally in Paris's Place de la République. In light of the Black Lives Matter rallies, tens of thousands of racial justice protesters took to the streets to protest the death of Adama Traoré, a Malian French man who died in police custody in 2016. Some groups on the far-left have taken advantage of the Black Lives Matter movement to demonize and delegitimize Israel.

European Court Rules Against France In BDS Case, Setting A Significant Precedent

European Human Rights Court (EHCR) ruled that a French criminal conviction against BDS activists had no sufficient grounds and violated their freedom of expression. Eleven members of the BDS movement in France were charged after displaying Israeli-origin products and urging clients not to buy them at a store near Mulhouse on two occasions in 2009 and 2010. In 2015, a French Appeal court found them guilty of inciting people to discriminate against products from Israel and ordered them to pay a joint fine of 1,000 euros.

Appeals Court Overturns Leading Antisemitic Ideologue Alain Soral’s Prison Sentence

An Appeals court overturned far right Alain Soral’s prison sentence which was commuted to a fine of 5,000 euros, with the possibility of imprisonment in the case of non-payment. Alain Soral, was sentenced in 2019 to one year prison for publishing material denying the Holocaust on his website. A central element of contemporary antisemitism in France, Soral, has been convicted multiple times of incitement to hatred due to his antisemitic and Holocaust denial comments over the years.

Paypal Shuts Down Account of French Pro-BDS Group with Terrorist Links

PayPal shuts down the account of Collectif Palestine Vaincra, a French BDS group, with terrorist links. On its website, Collectif Palestine Vaincra mentions the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) - a Palestinian group designated by the US and the EU as a terrorist entity - as one of its partners, and features terrorist Leilah Khaled as its Honorary Member.

GERMANY

Multiple Threats Made Against Jewish Communities in Halle

Jewish community chairman Karl Sommer received an antisemitic threatening letter with a bag containing white powder. That same week, in two separate incidents, swastikas were laid at the entrance to the community center of the Jewish community that was attacked on Yom Kippur.



Monument Protection Authority Forces Church to Restore Antisemitic Relief

The Monument Protection Authority insisted against the will of the local Protestant community that the antisemitic 'Judensau' (Jew-sow) relief should be hung up again at St. Stephan's Church in Calbe (Saxony-Anhalt) after restoration works to restore the church to its medieval state. The relief from the Middle Ages depicts a Jew kissing the back of a pig. Despite the offensive character, the sculpture has landmark status. Similar antisemitic reliefs can still be found at around 30 churches in Germany.

Bundestag Passes Laws to Combat Online Antisemitism and Hate

The Bundestag passed a package of laws and penalties, which include prison sentences of up to three years, against online hate and agitation. They state, among other things, that social networks such as Facebook and Twitter will not only have to delete posts that contain criminal content (see *German Network Enforcement Act, 2017*), but must also report them immediately to the Federal Criminal Police Office together with the IP address to help authorities find the author. Moreover, antisemitism should be given special consideration when assigning punishment; the threat of bodily harm, sexual assault, or property damage will count as a criminal offense; and now even "liking" a post detailing an act of hatred that is either hypothetical or has already been committed will likely result in penalties.

Intelligence Service Placed Brandenburg AfD Under Surveillance

The Brandenburg AfD has been put under surveillance by the Intelligence Service due to its "endeavors against the liberal democratic basic order." It is the second branch of the AfD placed under surveillance; the first was AfD Thuringia. According to the Service, the party has a "biological-racist" world view, manifests extremist positions, and has links in right-wing extremist groups. The Intelligence Service may now use its resources and surveillance methods to monitor the party. This move is one step away from classification as a "verified right-wing extremist endeavor," which can be followed by a ban.

Militant Neo-Nazi Group Banned by Interior Minister

Federal Interior Minister Horst Seehofer (CSU) banned the militant neo-Nazi group 'Nordadler' (Northern Eagle), a right-wing extremist group that predominantly propagates its National Socialist and antisemitic ideology on the Internet. This is the fourth group banned by Seehofer this year, after the militant neo-Nazi groups 'Combat 18' and 'United German Peoples and Tribes,' and Hezbollah.

RUSSIAN SPEAKING AREAS

RUSSIA

Authorities Identify Suspect Responsible for Synagogue Arson Attack—Arkhangelsk

In a letter to the Russian Jewish Congress on June 11th, Russian authorities reported that the suspect has been identified but the motive is still under investigation. The arson took place on April 12th, 2020.

Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center Posted Discriminatory Job Listing—Moscow

On June 16th, a job proposal for a bartending position at the Jewish Museum was listed as “only for people with Slavic appearances.” It was posted on a job-finding website and subsequently spread across social media due to its discriminatory phrasing. The director of the museum issued an apology for the advertisement and claimed it was made by a contracting company and not by the museum.

Editor of the *Zavtra* Newspaper Writes Antisemitic Editorial—Moscow

On June 17th, Alexander Prokhanov referenced recent rumors which claim that the Russian-Jewish oligarch Roman Abramovich bought the famous painting “The Scream” by Edvard Munk. Prokhanov claimed that the picture is reminiscent of the ‘scream’ of the Russian people who are ‘screaming’ because of Abramovich and other oligarchs. Prokhanov also claimed that since Abramovich is living in Israel, he feels content “amongst his people” while the Russian people are left screaming and suffering.

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

An antisemitic sermon delivered on June 28th by Sergei Romanov was posted to YouTube and shared across social media. Sergei is already in conflict with the Russian Church after he delivered a sermon a few months ago in which he claimed the Coronavirus is just a conspiracy which was spread by Jews. After the sermon, he was relieved from his post as an abbot and banned from preaching. As a result, Sergei seized a convent with a group of Cossacks in the beginning of the month and is still holding it.

UKRAINE

Former Mayor Shares Antisemitic Comment on Social Media—Dnipro

In a Facebook discussion June 1st, Svetlana Epifanchava, wrote: “Some people are going to vote, and they do understand that the future is not with money but with people, but still voting for Jews.”

Synagogue Defaced with Graffiti—Ivano-Frankivsk

The graffiti, which was discovered on June 26th, contained an ambiguous sentence which included “Our children are dying for...” along with a spider that had a cross on its back. The synagogue recently began fundraising to renovate the roof and the facade just a few days prior.

LITHUANIA

Two Statues of Famous Jews were Vandalized—Vilnius

On June 27th, statues of “the Vilna Gaon” and Dr. Zemach Shabad were vandalized with bright paint. The mayor of Vilna condemned the incident. The incident happened a day after the Lithuanian writer, Ruta Vangaite, presented her new book in the city’s synagogue. The book, like her previous ones, issues a polemic regarding the role of Lithuanian people in the extermination of Jews during the Holocaust.

LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Antisemitic Slogans During Protests Against Quarantine Guidelines in Buenos Aires

During an anti-quarantine demonstration marking 100 days of lockdown, signs with slogans containing conspiracy theories and antisemitic and anti-Zionist sentiments were displayed. Some examples included “the Zionists and the Jews control the media which spread fear of the Coronavirus,” “the Jews control the world,” and “the media is owned by the Rothschild, Rockefeller, and Soros families.” One sign carried by a demonstrator read, “I voted for Alberto [the president of Argentina] and not for Soros.”

Antisemitic Zoombombers Target Argentine Zionist Organization During Virtual Conference

On June 10th during a Zoom conference attended by approximately 150 participants regarding Aliyah, a number of users infiltrated the video chat and presented flags with swastikas while masturbating in front of the camera. The infiltrators came in and out of the conference several times. Alejandro Malinkowski, coordinator of the OSA (Zionist Organization of Argentina), noted that this was not the first time this type of hacking has taken place, and that this is quite a complex cyber work to do.

Newspaper Editor Compares Zionism to Nazism and Stalinism

Argentine journalist Federico Torpe found himself under fire after publishing an article comparing Nazism to Zionism just days after the Argentine government officially adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism. In an article published in *La Gaceta de Tucuman*, a newspaper in the Tucuman province of Northwestern Argentina, Torpe referred to regimes that used propaganda as a tool, “such as Nazism, Zionism, Stalinism, and Peronism.”

VENEZUELA

Holocaust Denier Appointed Senior Government Position

On June 19th, Nicolas Mauro’s government appointed the former Rector of the Central University of Venezuela, Luis Fuenmayor Toro, to a key role in the National Electoral Council. Fuenmayor Toro, a controversial figure, was previously accused of abusing his son. He is known for his support of Hamas and Hezbollah, Holocaust denial, and constant delegitimization of the State of Israel.

Report by US State Department Claims Venezuelan Government Promotes Antisemitism

According to the US State Department’s annual *International Religious Freedom Reports*, the Venezuelan regime consistently advanced and promoted antisemitic statements under the guise of attacks on Israel and Zionism throughout 2019.

BRAZIL

Pastor Calls for Second Holocaust During Church Sermon in Rio de Janeiro

On June 21st, Topirni da Hora Lurdes, an Evangelical priest, stated during his sermon that what happened during World War II should be repeated. The pastor stated that Jews should be slaughtered because they left their faith and separated from the rest of the nations. He also claimed that the Jews should be destroyed like worms and he called on God to repeat what he did during World War II.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Germany

Leaked Chats Show Antisemitic Right-Wing Extremists Prepare for “Race War”

Several Bundeswehr reservists have attempted to arm themselves and prepare for an alleged crisis. In leaked Facebook chats, the extreme right-wing preppers spoke of preparing themselves for a “race war,” and expressed antisemitic and racist views.

Belgium

Protesters Chant Ancient Antisemitic Islamic Battle Cry at Brussels Rally

Protesters at an anti-Israel demonstration in Brussels shouted slogans about killing Jews. Approximately 500 people attended a protest where some demonstrators chanted a call in Arabic that means “Jews, remember Khaybar, the army of Muhammad is returning,” referencing a seventh-century slaughter of Jews in Saudi Arabia.

Austria

Petition Against Monument to Hitler’s Role Model and the Founder of Political Antisemitism

The Jewish Austrian students’ organization started a petition to have the memorial to Dr. Karl Lueger in the city center demolished. Karl Lueger was one of the founders of political antisemitism and a central role model to Adolf Hitler. Public discussions broke out several years ago and are still ongoing regarding the need to rename streets and squares named after antisemites. The “Dr. Karl Lueger Ring” was renamed the “University Ring” eight years ago. However, the square still bears his name.

Construction Starts for Shoah Memorial Wall in Vienna’s Ostarrichi Park

A ceremony in a centrally located park in Vienna attended by representatives of the Austrian parliament and the Jewish community heralded the start of the construction of the "Memorial to the Jewish Children, Women, and Men from Austria Murdered in the Shoah." An oval arrangement of several stone walls featuring the names of the over 64,000 murdered Austrian Jews will be erected.