

**May
2020**

Monthly Report

ACMS

Antisemitism Cyber Monitoring System

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UNITED STATES

Two Charged in Antisemitic Attack on Jewish Man in New York

A New York couple has been charged with aggravated harassment as a hate crime after making antisemitic remarks related to Covid-19 while violently attacking a Hasidic man.

Far-Right Extremist Caught Buying Illegal Assault Rifles after Antisemitic Posts Rallying Race War

A man whose Instagram account glorified antisemitic killings and called for a “racial jolt war” was arrested after trying to purchase a cache of illegal weapons with his neighbor. The man maintained a hate-filled account under the name “SouljaGoy,” in which he identified himself as a “Far Right Propagandist.” Posts and messages entered into evidence show Joseph Miner, 29, giving the Nazi salute with the text “God I hate women Jews and n-----,” and holding a knife in a photo praising Hitler and celebrating the antisemitic attack in Monsey, NY, captioned “overthrowing [Jews] is our Christian duty.”

Aryan Brotherhood Member Arrested for Targeting Kent State University Jews with Machete

Matthew Slatzer, who carried an antisemitic sign at a Columbus protest against Coronavirus restrictions, was arrested after walking into a convenience store on May 3rd with a hatchet and machete, and asking where the Jews were before declaring that he was heading to Kent State University to find them. Slatzer, who has a Nazi tattoo on the back of his head, was wearing a shirt with a Nazi symbol and swastika, black tactical pants, and tactical boots during the incident. He has a history of antisemitic and white supremacist activity, including attending a National Socialist rally in Michigan. He was also photographed with Timothy Wilson, who planned to bomb a hospital with COVID-19 patients and was shot in a firefight with FBI agents (see March report). Slatzer’s arrest report lists the offense as disorderly conduct and “physically risk of harm” with a motivation or bias as “anti-Jewish intimidation.”



Elan Carr Announces Fight Against 'Tsunami' of Coronavirus-Related Antisemitism

The Trump administration’s special envoy to combat antisemitism, Elan Carr, warned that the world was witnessing a “tsunami” of antisemitism linked to the spread of the coronavirus. Carr expressed “deep concern” over a “wave” of online antisemitism that blames the spread of the global pandemic on Jews. He added that his office is actively working to combat such hate speech, and that “the answer there isn’t censorship, but the answer to protected hate speech is strong, unequivocal condemnation.”

Far-Left Pro-BDS Group Blames Minneapolis Police Violence on Israel in Online Campaign

The Democratic Socialists of America’s BDS national working group took to social media to blame Israel for the recent police killing of George Floyd, an unarmed black man. The group claimed “The police violence happening tonight in Minneapolis is straight out of the IDF playbook,” adding, “US cops train in Israel.” The group’s statements were part of an ongoing organized campaign called “Deadly Exchange,” which posits that racist police tactics in the US are Israel’s fault. “So-called ‘less-lethal’ weapons like tear gas are manufactured in the US and sold to Israel where they are tested and used on Palestinians,” the group claimed, before going on to say, “Surveillance tech is made in Israel & brought to the US to invade the privacy of Black, brown, Muslim, poor, and otherwise marginalized people.” Such claims are a blood libel and responsible for inciting antisemitic hatred and violence towards Jews.

United Kingdom

Survey Finds One-in-Five English People Believe Covid-19 is a Jewish Conspiracy

The Oxford Coronavirus Explanations, Attitudes, and Narratives Survey (OCEANS), published in the journal *Psychological Medicine*, surveyed 2,500 adults who were representative of the English population according to age, gender, region, and income, on their attitudes toward the government narrative on coronavirus and related conspiracy theories. It found that 5.3% of respondents “agree a little,” 6.8% said that they “agree moderately,” 4.6% said that they “agree a lot,” and 2.4% said that they “agree completely” with the statement “Jews have created the virus to collapse the economy for financial gain.”

Brent Councilor Under Investigation by the Labour Party for Posting Antisemitic Video to WhatsApp

Councilor Aslam Choudry is under investigation by the Labour Party after he shared an antisemitic video in a residents’ WhatsApp group that suggested America is controlled by a “Jewish lobby.” It was reported that Councilor Choudry apologized to the group and said he posted the clip by mistake. He has also announced he will be seeking to undertake training on antisemitism.

Prominent Professor, Far-Left Activists Claim New Head of Labour Party ‘Bought’ by “Zionist Money”

A renowned academic at the University of Bristol is among numerous far-left activists to attack Sir Keir Starmer over “Zionist money” behind his leadership campaign. Far-left activists have criticized the new Labour leader following the revelation that Jewish philanthropist, Sir Trevor Chinn, donated £50,000 to his leadership bid. Prominent lecturer, Professor David Miller, reportedly claimed that because Sir Keir is “in receipt of money from the Zionist movement,” he is “obviously not going to [conduct] a proper investigation” into the leaked Labour report into the handling of antisemitism cases at Labour Party headquarters. The remarks were apparently made after he took part in an online broadcast with disgraced former Labour MP Chris Williamson, who made antisemitic remarks about Israel in the past.

Antisemitic TikTok Videos Mocking Holocaust Victims Go Viral

Two videos on the social media platform TikTok making fun of the numbers tattooed on Jews during the Holocaust have received upwards of one million ‘likes’ combined. Both videos, which are still available on TikTok, were posted in the UK under the pretense that they were a joke.

FRANCE

France’s National Assembly Gives Final Green Light to Online Hate Speech Law

The “Avia law” aiming to fight online hate speech was adopted in final reading by the National Assembly on May 13th. The Avia law key aspects¹:

- The “Avia Bill” obliges social media platforms and search engines to remove “manifestly illegal content” within 24 hours of it being reported.
- In the event of non-compliance with this directive, the penalty incurred set by law could reach a fine of up to 1,25 million euros

¹ For more information, please refer to detailed report: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Yr9_5E1BF8e-SWuepZljUDyee-aW5FgRBxc5DgiSvvs/edit

- Communication service providers with several users set by decree are concerned. The threshold has not been determined yet.
- France's broadcasting regulator, CSA, would be responsible for imposing the sanctions and a dedicated prosecutor's office would be created.
- Companies would be required to have a legal representative in the country in which they operate.

Right Wing Extremist Arrested After Allegedly Planning Antisemitic Terror Attack

Aurélien C, a 36-year-old suspected right-wing extremist was arrested by France's DGSi domestic intelligence agency and charged with terrorism offences, after he allegedly planned to commit a violent action against Jewish community institutions. Investigators seized mortar-type incendiary devices at his place. The former soldier who was currently working for a private security company in Limoges, has been spotted by the DGSi after he increasingly posted virulent messages on his Facebook page. In addition to mentions of the Great Replacement theory, the suspected white supremacist referred to mass shooters such as Brenton Tarrant, Andre Breivik, Timothy McVeigh, and William Luther Pierce. Aurélien C. received two prison sentences in 2019 for unlawful possession of a weapon and for death threats against an anti-racist association. He participated to the Yellow Vest protests; a social movement plagued by antisemitic incidents.

Paris Ramming Attacker Inspired By Palestinian Cause, Reportedly Shouted About Hitler

A suspected Islamist terrorist was arrested in Colombes, near Paris, on April 27th after ramming his car at high speed into two police motorcyclists who were standing by their bikes and a patrol car. The attacker named as Youssef Tihlal told police that he wanted to commit an act of terrorism having watched videos relating to Gaza and Palestine. He reportedly shouted about Hitler at arrest and mentioned Islamic State, to which he said he had sworn allegiance. A handwritten letter by the perpetrator was found in the car, in which he wrote that he intended to die as a martyr. A knife was also found in his possession.

Alleged Killers Of Holocaust Survivor Mireille Knoll Will Face Trial On Antisemitic Murder Charges

The two men accused of the brutal murder of Mireille Knoll, an 85-year old French Holocaust survivor, in her Paris apartment in March 2018 are to face trial on charges of homicide aggravated by antisemitism. Paris Prosecutor's Office has referred the case to France's main criminal court, the court of assizes, after more than two years of deliberations. The main accused, 30-year-old Yacine Mihoub, was a neighbor of Knoll's and knew her personally. Knoll was stabbed 11 times in the back, throat and stomach. The assailants then tried to set fire to her corpse.

Antisemitic Hashtag Trends in Twitter France

The hashtag #sijetaitunjuif ("If I Was Jewish") appeared on May 18, at the tops of French users' Twitter Trending Topics as a barrage of tweets hit the social network mocking the Holocaust and touting terrorist attacks against Jews, causing an outcry.

GERMANY

Antisemitic Manifestations Moved from the Virtual to the Real World

As ACMS shows, the number of posts and videos featuring Holocaust trivialization and antisemitic conspiracy theories referencing Covid-19 have been on the rise since March (see previous reports). In May, these antisemitic manifestations began trending in public. Moreover, clothes and accessories expressing Holocaust trivialization are being sold in online shops and worn in public (ex: Politaufkleber.de is owned by a neo-Nazi and had 150K visitors in April). The picture to the right shows how the infamous phrase “Arbeit Macht Frei” has been repurposed to say “Impfen Macht Frei” (Vaccination Sets You Free) on social media; it then moved to real world protests (see below).



Holocaust Trivialization and Jew-Hatred Fueled at Coronavirus Restriction Protests Across Germany

Weekly rallies have taken place all over Germany; some attended by several thousand people. At these rallies, people propagate antisemitic conspiracy theories and Holocaust trivialization. They, inter alia, compare the restrictions to the 1933 burning of books by the Nazis and the mask requirement to the wearing of the Yellow Star of David. They speak of a "Corona economic Holocaust" and warn of a "new Holocaust" against anti-vaxers. The slogan “Impfen Macht Frei” has become increasingly popular, along with badges and shirts featuring the Yellow Star with the inscription “unvaccinated.” Chancellor Merkel and Antisemitism Commissioner Klein warned of the danger of these antisemitic manifestations.



Antisemitic Manifestations at May 1st Rallies

In Potsdam, the neo-Nazi party Der Dritte Weg (The Third Way) distributed flyers and stickers featuring “no solidarity with Israel” on top of a blood-smeared Israeli flag. In Cottbus, speakers spoke of the Jewish world conspiracy at a rally attended by AfD members and prominent AfD state parliamentarians.

AfD Parliamentary Leader calls May 8th “A Day of Defeat”

Alexander Gauland argued that the day World War II ended should not be commemorated as a public holiday, because its legacy was too "ambivalent (...) it was a day of liberation for the concentration camp inmates. But it was also a day of absolute defeat.” His words are reminiscent of the rhetoric of neo-Nazis, right-wing extremists, and Holocaust deniers, and can be understood as a clear message to them. Around May 8th, there was a surge on social media of posts calling it a day of defeat and mourning.

Campaigns Against Federal Antisemitism Commissioner for Opposing Pro-BDS Professor

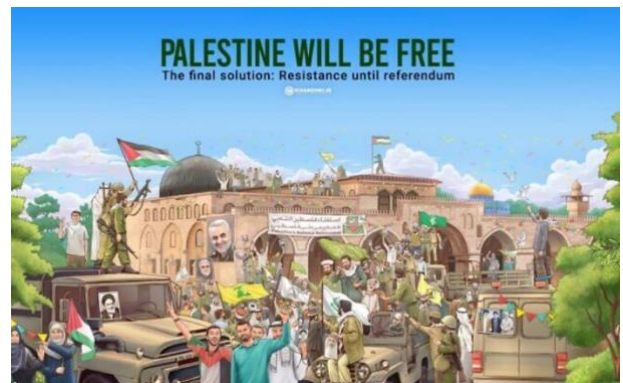
National and international scholars have called for the resignation of Federal Antisemitism Commissioner, Felix Klein, over his opposition to the participation of pro-BDS Cameroonian professor Achille Mbembe at the publicly-funded Ruhrtriennale festival; a popular German cultural event which has since been cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Klein’s opposition also triggered a surge of discussions on social media on whether the BDS movement is antisemitic, and whether studying the Holocaust in a comparative context is legitimate or a downplaying of the Holocaust and antisemitism.

Hundreds of Israeli Sites Hacked in Coordinated Attack on Jerusalem Day by “Hackers of Savior”

The hacked websites featured threatening messages claiming the destruction of Israel was imminent. The messages were accompanied by video clips and imagery of an Israel in ruins, and depicted major cities like Haifa and Tel Aviv burning and destroyed. Although the number of hacked websites reached into the hundreds, it was a small percentage. The hackers were apparently Muslims from all over the Arab world, and it's estimated that they prepared for the attack in Turkey, Northern Africa, and the Gaza Strip. The most common text on the hacked sites read, "the countdown for destruction of Israel has begun," with an inaccurate translation to Hebrew and English.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei Calls for the “Final Solution” of Israel on Social Media

A post on Khamenei's Arabic Twitter profile repurposed the infamous Nazi phrase referring to the extermination of Jews in Europe during the Holocaust to call for the destruction of Israel. In addition to this, Khamenei also used the platform to compare Israel to the Coronavirus accompanied with the hashtag #Covid1948. At the time of publication, the leader's Arabic Twitter page had 104K followers.



Al Jazeera Airs Antisemitic Interview

In an interview with an Islamic cleric, the head of the Sharia department at the University of Doha, Dr. Abed Al-Gabar Sa'id, talked about the need for killing Jews. In addition, he called for a violent conquest of Israel because "the victory comes through shahids' blood." During the interview, Sa'id quoted the tradition from the prophet Muhammed which says that "Doom's Day won't come until the Muslims fight the Jews." In 2017, Al Jazeera announced an initiative to change the way they portray Jews on their network because it wanted to improve the negative light in which Jews were usually portrayed.

Palestinian Member of Parliament During Speech to Parliament: “We Need to Kill the Jews”

In a speech on May 6th to the Palestinian Parliament, which is controlled by Hamas, Yunes Al-Astal, said that the "Jews are more dangerous than the Coronavirus." He also mentioned that Allah demanded all the Jews should be killed and he hoped the Parliament would embrace this idea. The speech was given during a discussion on Israeli annexation. Al-Astal, who is connected to Hamas, also addressed Saudi nationals who support the "deal of the century" and the normalization of relations with Israel, and claimed that the Jews are planning to annex the Saudi cities of Tabuk and Medina.

Hamas' ideology contains bold antisemitic notions. The most prominent expression appears on the Hamas Charter from 1988, which hasn't been changed since. The Charter quotes the need to kill Jews on Doom's Day.

RUSSIAN SPEAKING AREAS

UKRAINE

Two Suspects Arrested for Attempted Synagogue Arson—Kherson

According to testimony, the two young men, aged 18-19, met through messenger chat services (the platform has yet to be confirmed, but it was likely WhatsApp, Telegram, or Viber) and planned to burn down a synagogue on Hitler's birthday. They were arrested on May 12th.

“News One” TV Channel Investigated for Promoting “Hate and Racism” —Kiev

The investigation, which began on May 21st, was initiated by the National Committee on Television and Radio Affairs after several TV shows commemorating Victory Day on May 9th raised allegations by studio guests about Jewish cooperation with the Nazis. One guest claimed that 180,000 Jews served in the Nazi army during the war, while another claimed there were "SS divisions that consisted of Jews."

The main administration of the Donetsk region has responded negatively opening of a criminal investigation following the spraying of "death to Jews" at the opposition party "za zhyttia" in the city —Mariupol

On March 14th, Nazi Symbolism and “Death to the Yids” graffiti were Sprayed outside the local branch of the party “Opposition Platform-For Life.” The United Jewish Community Director of Ukraine, Michael Takach, has demanded opening of a criminal investigation but responded negatively. From the letter states comes up that the police "did not provide sufficient reason for the opening of a criminal case." Following the publication of the refusal and appeal of the Israeli ambassador to Ukraine Interior Minister, the decision was changed, and a criminal investigation was initiated pursuant to section 161 of the Criminal Code (ethnic hatred).

Ze’ev Jabotinsky Memorial Plaque Stolen—Odessa

The plaque was stolen on May 5th from the front of a building where Jabotinsky grew up. The motive is unclear.

LITHUANIA

Chairs with Fake Money were Placed atop a Jewish Cemetery—Vilnius

The chairs were placed as a protest by the city’s tourism and entertainment organizations on May 1st against the delay in construction of a convention center on the site. The protest was directed at Jewish organizations, which oppose the construction atop a former Jewish cemetery, which was destroyed during the Soviet era.

RUSSIA

Arrest Made Against Suspect Accused of Spreading Antisemitic Coronavirus Conspiracies—Moscow

The suspect, who is a 54-year-old man, is accused of creating and disseminating a video containing antisemitic conspiracy theories accusing Jews of “distributing the Coronavirus.” The video, entitled “Virus like Matzah,” was posted on VK about a month ago, and the suspect was arrested on May 22nd.

LATIN AMERICA

VENEZUELA

Simon Wiesenthal Center Condemns Iran's Attempts to Export Antisemitic Policies to Latin America

The Wiesenthal Center stated that a series of Iranian organizations, including "The Latin American Center for Cultural Exchange with Iran" in Caracas, Venezuela, is responsible for promoting an "Iranian atmosphere" in the region. The Center condemned Iran's attempts to spread antisemitic policies and has published a number of posters distributed in Venezuela marking Israel and Zionism as an epidemic using the term (SION48).

Article on State News Outlet Contains Holocaust Denial and Refers to Israel as a "Genocidal State"

In an article published on May 14th regarding the situation in Jerusalem, Venezuelan government news portal Telesur described Israel as a terrorist state that commits genocide with the intention of "cleaning" Jerusalem of Islamic presence. The article states that American Jewish organizations throughout Latin America, such as AMIA and DAIA (Argentine Jewish Organizations), are fascist organizations which help fund the Palestinian genocide and are responsible for psychological warfare. They also stated that this "warfare" is similar to Anne Frank's "bogus" diary that was invented to carry out propaganda.

ARGENTINA

New Banknote with the Image of a Nazi Regime Sympathizer Provokes Controversy

The Argentinian government has faced significant public criticism over their intention to commemorate a former Health Minister on the new 5,000-peso banknote. Ramon Carillo, a former minister during General Peron's administration, is known for being a Nazi sympathizer and for promoting conversion-therapy treatments for homosexuals. Following major public outcry, the government cancelled the initiative. It is important to mention that the grandson of the former minister met with heads of the Jewish community and presented documents showing his grandfather's relationship with the Israeli government, which he claimed, clarifies that he was not antisemitic at all.

Famous Argentinian Sociologist Compares Zionism to Fascism

Sociologist and political consultant Amraino Lopez stated through his Twitter account that "Zionism is the continuation of fascism in other ways." The Argentine Zionist Organization (OSA) and the Association of Argentine Jewish Communities (DAIA) have officially condemned the statements.

BRAZIL

Jewish Head of Parliament Targeted with Online Antisemitism

Davi Alcolumbre received antisemitic comments on his Facebook profile. The comment stated: "We hope that God will continue to enlighten President Bolsonaro even though he now has a Jew as Head of Parliament." The comment was blocked by Facebook following a request from the Brazilian Israelite Confederation.

ADDITIONAL INCIDENTS

Germany

13% Increase in Antisemitic Crimes in 2019, According to New Report

According to the report on "politically motivated crime" presented by Interior Minister Horst Seehofer on May 27th, police registered 2,032 antisemitic crimes, including two killings, in 2019. This is a 13% increase from the 1,799 incidents recorded in 2018. The number of attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions has thus reached the highest level since their statistical recording began in 2001. The crimes range from propaganda incidents, including Holocaust denial and the display of banned Nazi symbols, to vandalism, verbal and physical attacks, and murder.

Austria

Report Shows Antisemitic Incidents Doubled Over Five Years

According to the 2019 Antisemitism Report published by the Jewish community of Vienna on May 27th, the number of antisemitic incidents in Austria increased by 9.5% since 2017 and is now double what it was five years ago. The 550 incidents included 6 physical attacks, including attacks on children in Vienna public transportation, 18 threats, 78 property damages (an increase by over 50%), 209 antisemitic mass letters, and 239 cases of hurtful behavior. For the first time, the report classified the incidents according to their ideological motivation. Most incidents (268) have an extreme right-wing background, followed by Muslim (31) and left (25) antisemitic motives. No assignment was possible for 226 incidents. Community leaders also reported a manifest increase of antisemitic incidents, including attacks, since the beginning of the Coronavirus crisis.

United States

President Trump Signs "Never Again" Holocaust Education Bill into Law

On May 28th, a bill which garnered bipartisan support for allocating \$10 million in federal funding over the next five years to further Holocaust education was signed into effect by President Trump. The Never Again Education Act directs the funds toward expanding the US Holocaust Memorial Museum's education program, supporting a website with curriculum materials for teachers, and hosting workshops in Holocaust education and awareness throughout the country.

ADL Audit on Antisemitic Incidents in 2019

In 2019, ADL recorded 2,107 antisemitic incidents throughout the United States. This is a 12% increase from the 1,879 incidents recorded in 2018 and marks the highest number on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979. Of the 2,107 incidents recorded in 2019, 1,127 were cases of harassment, a 6% increase from 1,066 in 2018, and 919 were cases of vandalism, a 19% increase from 774 in 2018. The 61 incidents of antisemitic assault (a 56% increase from 39 in 2018), involved 95 victims and led to five deaths. More than half of the assaults nationwide took place in the five boroughs of New York City.