

**September
2020**

Monthly Report

ACMS Antisemitism Cyber Monitoring System

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UNITED STATES

NY Court Forces Brooklyn Hospital to Readmit Antisemitic and Anti-Zionist Doctor

New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital revoked the acceptance of Walid Khass from his position as a pediatric resident once it was discovered that Khass had a years-long history of posting violent antisemitic and anti-Zionist rhetoric on his social media accounts. At least 57 of his tweets have been documented as calling for violence, spreading antisemitism, supporting terror, and calling for the destruction of Israel. They include tweets such as “Spit on you, Jew dogs!,” “Go beat up a Zionist,” and “Join Hamas. You don’t gotta tell me twice.” Khass sued the hospital to be readmitted to the training program and won. The hospital appealed the decision and the case is due to go before New York’s highest court; the New York Court of Appeals.

California’s New ‘Ethnic-Studies’ Bill Under Fire for Obliging Course Containing Antisemitism

California’s Department of Education released its recommendations to revise the state’s proposed ethnic-studies model curriculum since the original draft came under fire for containing antisemitic and anti-Israel content while not addressing issues of antisemitism or including Jewish Americans. The latest draft gives school districts the option of offering a University of California pre-approved course that includes a unit on Jewish Americans which requires students to write a paper ‘detailing certain events in American history that have led to Jewish and Irish Americans gaining racial privilege’ and asks students to ‘think critically about why and who is allowing this evolution in white identity.’ It was also recently announced that an Arab-American studies lesson, which contains blatant anti-Zionism and BDS promotion, would be added back into the curriculum without the option of reviewing it before the public comment period ends. As a result, 80 groups have called on California Governor Gavin Newsom to veto bill AB-331, which would make the ethnic-studies courses a high school graduation requirement.

Super-PAC Mailers Employ Classic Antisemitic Stereotypes to Depict Jewish House Candidate

Mailer ads depicting David Richter, who is Jewish, with a large nose and surrounded by \$100 bills were distributed by Democratic House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi’s ‘House Majority PAC’. Richter is currently running for the Third Congressional District’s seat as a Republican. In response, the PAC’s Independent Expenditure Director, Brad Komar, denied that the images were antisemitic in nature.

US Army Suspends Officer with 3 Million Followers for Holocaust Joke Clip

A 23-year-old field artillery officer, 2nd Lt. Nathan Freihofer, was suspended for joking about Jews being cremated in the Holocaust in a video he posted to TikTok. In the video, Freihofer acknowledged the controversial nature of his “dark joke” before raising his arm in a Nazi salute. Freihofer’s 3rd Infantry Division released a statement, which did not reference him by name but called his remarks “vile.”

Two Members of the “Boogaloo Bois” Movement Charged with Attempting to Support Hamas

The FBI began investigating two men after they attended a protest in honoring George Floyd as part of the “Boogaloo Bois.” (The “Boogaloo Movement” is a loosely organized far-right, anti-government extremist movement which has also been described as a militia.) According to prosecutors, Michael Solomon and Benjamin Teeter sought to employ themselves as ‘mercenaries’ for Hamas and wanted to destroy government monuments and “target politicians and members of the media.” The men also claimed they had the ability to manufacture unmarked, untraceable and unregistered weapons parts.

United Kingdom

Jewish Couple Targeted in Violent Attack in London

A heavy and large object was thrown at a Jewish couple who were inside their vehicle. The attack occurred in Stamford Hill and no injuries have been reported. Police are still investigating the incident.

Teen Accused of Neo-Nazi Terror Plot Claims He Was Nearly A “Full-On Hitler”

According to prosecutors, the 17-year-old far-right extremist made the claim when asked to put himself on a scale of one to 10, with 10 being, in the police's words, “full-on Nazi Hitler.” During court proceedings, it was revealed that the teenager had been talking to neo-Nazis online for months about making firearms and glorifying lone-wolf shooting attacks. According to police, he gave practical advice about making guns to encourage members of the ‘Feuerkrieg Division,’ which is part of a neo-Nazi terrorist network, on how to convert a blank-firing gun into a live weapon to encourage them to carry out an attack. In a raid on his home, police found a homemade gun stock, knives, a rubber 'practice' knife, a face-mask featuring an image of a skull, and a piece of aluminium pipe. They also uncovered sketches of homemade gun designs and a 'DIY shotgun shell' in one of his notebooks. The trial is still currently underway.

Liberal Democrats Drop Mayoral Contender Over Antisemitic Comments

Geeta Sidhu-Robb has been suspended as a prospective party choice for mayor of London after footage emerged of her urging Muslim voters not to vote for a Labour candidate in a previous general election because he was Jewish. In the footage, Sidhu-Robb can be seen using a megaphone from a car being driven around Blackburn and saying in Urdu, “Don't vote for a Jew, Jack Straw is a Jew.” Sidhu-Robb has since apologised.

Study Finds “Antisemitic Ideas on Israel ‘Rise’ Among Labour Voters”

An academic study conducted by Daniel Allington, a senior lecturer at the Department of Digital Humanities at King's College London, has shown that while the proportion of very antisemitic Labour voters has fallen from a peak in 2018, a belief in New Antisemitism appears to be on the rise among Labour supporters. The study is one of three peer-reviewed reports on the Corbyn years published by the *Journal of Contemporary Antisemitism*. The study takes a statistical look at antisemitism using data collected by the Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA), and found that from 2016, belief in classic antisemitic tropes stayed mostly flat among Conservative voters, declined among Liberal Democrat voters, and rose dramatically among Labour voters, reaching a peak in 2018. It also found that the proportion of Labour voters agreeing with four or more antisemitic statements about Israel and its supporters rose from 11% in 2019 to 16% in 2020.

Senior BBC Journalist Used Anonymous Account to Support Attacks on Jewish TV Presenter

Nimesh Thaker, a senior BBC World News journalist, used Twitter account ‘Not That Bothered’ to encourage attacks against Jewish BBC presenter Emma Barnett. Thaker used the account to promote posts by Jackie Walker and Kerry-Anne Mendoza, both of whom have been at the centre of their own antisemitism controversies, and was critical of Barnett after she delivered a widely praised speech about the impact of the Holocaust on her family on the day that Twitter was being boycotted over its failure to act against rapper Wiley's antisemitic outbursts.

Charlie Hebdo & Hyper Casher Terror Trial Opens in Paris; Jewish Community on High Alert

- *September 2* – The trial of 14 suspects accused of involvement in the 2015 attacks on the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, police officers, and the kosher supermarket ‘Hyper Casher’ has opened in Paris. The proceedings, which are expected to last 49 days and are being recorded live for “the historical record,” began amid high security and will relive the three days in January 2015 during which 17 people were killed.
- *September 25* – Two people were seriously injured in a stabbing attack in front of the former offices of *Charlie Hebdo*. The attacker, a 25-year-old Pakistani man, has said he was targeting *Charlie Hebdo* because it had recently republished cartoons featuring the Prophet Muhammad. In Iran, protesters responded to the re-publication by burning Israeli and U.S. flags in Tehran. Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei accused the U.S. and “Zionists” of using *Charlie Hebdo* to “distract the nations and governments of West Asia” from their “sinister plots.”
- *September 27* – Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin visited a synagogue ahead of the eve of Yom Kippur and said more than 7,000 police and soldiers were protecting Jewish services this weekend. He added that intelligence services have prevented 32 potential terrorist attacks over the past three years.

Norway Will Extradite Suspect in Deadly 1982 Bombing of Paris Jewish Restaurant to France

A Norwegian court approved an extradition request from France for a suspect linked to an attack in a Jewish neighborhood in 1982. The final decision of whether or not to extradite Walid Abdulrahman Abu Zayed will ultimately be up to Norway’s government. The families of the victims of the attack, who have been demanding a trial for nearly four decades, have pinned their hopes on his extradition. Six people were killed when a group of men threw a grenade into the Jo Goldenberg restaurant and opened fire. The attack was blamed on the Abu Nidal organization, a splinter group of the Palestinian Fatah group. In addition to Abu Zayed, France has already issued international arrest warrants for two suspects in Jordan and another in Ramallah. A secret deal between French intelligence services and Abu Nidal was revealed last year, under which the latter’s members would not be arrested if they refrained from committing further attacks on French soil.

French Rapper Freeze Corleone Facing Criminal Prosecution for Antisemitism

French rapper Freeze Corleone is facing criminal prosecution for lyrics that promote antisemitism, Holocaust denial and apologies of Hitler. France’s interior minister Gerald Darmanin confirmed that his ministry would be pursuing legal action. The LICRA urged YouTube, Google, Apple Music and Spotify to remove Corleone’s works while Universal France Music Group announced that it will cease “all collaboration” with him. Within three days of its release, “The Phantom Menace” had sold more than 15,000 copies and attracted 5.2 million listeners on the Spotify digital music platform.

French Courts Jail Muslim and White Supremacist in Separate Antisemitic Incidents

A Muslim man and a white supremacist were given prison sentences, respectively one year and two months, in connection with antisemitic behavior.

GERMANY

Berlin Records More Than Two Antisemitic Incidents a Day

The Department for Research and Information on Antisemitism (RIAS) documented 410 antisemitic incidents in Berlin in the first half of 2020. They included physical attacks, property damage, threats, harmful behavior, and antisemitic propaganda. Every sixth incident was related to the Coronavirus pandemic. The number of antisemitic incidents related to conspiracy theories increased by 34.6%.

30% of Germans Believe in Conspiracy Theories

A survey by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation showed that 30% of Germans believe that "there are secret powers that control the world." When participants were asked who these "secret powers" are, many of them named Jews or Jewish families, such as George Soros and the Rothschilds, the Mossad, or the "financial capital," a common antisemitic code word for Jews. 56% of AfD supporters considered this conspiracy theory to be certain or probably correct.

Nazi-Era Glorification Found in Essen Police Group-Chats

11 police officers sent more than 100 right-wing extremist messages in five private group-chats. The messages contained, among other things, images of Adolf Hitler, swastikas, Reich War flags, and a fictional representation of a refugee in the gas chamber of a concentration camp. The 18 other group members kept silent about the antisemitic content; thus covering-up for their colleagues. All 29 police officers were immediately suspended from duty and disciplinary measures were initiated against them.

Large Cache of Firearms Belonging to German Right-Wing Extremist Confiscated

The police have seized an arsenal of around 250 sharp firearms, including handguns, long weapons, and weapons of war, and several thousand rounds of ammunition from a right-wing extremist near Hamburg. Multiple large weapons caches belonging to right-wing extremists have been uncovered in recent months. In several cases, policemen and soldiers, including high-ranking officers, were involved in these right-wing extremist groups and have been credited with stealing the firearms.

Government Pledged Extra €22 Million for the Protection of Jewish Institutions

The Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Central Council of Jews in Germany signed an agreement on September 16th allocating the funds for structural protective measures. The agreement was signed almost a year after the Halle synagogue attack, which had raised the question of whether synagogues and other Jewish institutions need more protection. The federal and state interior ministers had already promised in December 2019 to expand the protective measures.

Bremen Becomes First State to Ban More Variants of 'Black, White, and Red' Neo-Nazi Flags

While only 'black, white, and red' flags which feature a swastika are banned throughout Germany, on September 21st, Bremen decided that all variants of the 'black, white, and red' flags, which are particularly popular in the neo-Nazi scene and were waved during the storming of the Reichstag on August 29th, represent a danger to public order. Consequently, all variants of the "Reich War flag" were added to the list of historical flags whose display and use is prohibited. In addition, the "Reich flag" may not be shown publicly if "there is a specific provocation effect in individual cases." Officials are allowed to confiscate the flags and the owners face a fine of up to €1,000.

Khamenei Shares Antisemitic Posts on Official Twitter Account

In his first reference to the accords between the Gulf States and Israel, published on his official Twitter account, Iran's spiritual leader Ali Khamenei mentioned "the filthy agents of Zionism" in the American administration, including "that Jew from Trump's family," referring to Jared Kushner. So far, official Iranian news outlets, and Khamenei in particular, refrained from using antisemitic language and distinguished between hatred of the Jews and hatred of Israel. Therefore, this expression is exceptional. Since Khamenei said it in a talk with religious scholars, his expression might have been just a manner of speaking. Whatever the case, this reference sheds light on the world view of the Iranian leader, who is also a Holocaust denier.

A Former Senior Member of Hamas Accused the Jews of Blood Libel

In a September 6th interview with the Iranian Arabic-speaking TV channel *Al Alam*, Mustafa al-Lidawi, a former representative of Hamas in Teheran, claimed that the Jews of Europe were using Christian children's blood for baking Matzah. At present, he said, Jews no longer do it but Israelis still believe God commanded them to use the blood of non-Jews for baking Matzah and distributing them among Jews.

Former Jordanian Minister Compares the Jews to Shylock

On September 15th, the former Jordanian health minister, Dr. Mamduh al-Abadi, was interviewed on the Lebanese channel *Al Mayadeen*, which is associated with Hezbollah. During the interview, he spoke about the accords between the Gulf States and Israel and claimed that the signatories will soon find out that the Jews are only interested in their money. "Jews are known [for that] historically...They are Shylocks."

RUSSIAN SPEAKING AREAS

RUSSIA

Antisemitic Quotes in Teacher Instruction Booklets on Lessons About World War II—St. Petersburg

The pamphlets were distributed to teachers at the beginning of the school year in a number of elementary schools in the Viborg area of St. Petersburg. The booklet contains quotes from the books of antisemitic author Yuri Mukhin, who accuses Western countries of subversion against the USSR on the eve of the war. The booklet includes the following paragraph: "Polish Jews in Auschwitz produced explosives, synthetic gasoline, and rubber to kill Soviet civilians..."

Attempted Break-In at Synagogue During Rosh Hashanah—Moscow

On September 20th during Rosh Hashanah, a resident of the area came to the door of the Synagogue and Jewish Community Center and attempted to break in while shouting antisemitic slogans. After failing to enter, the man damaged the building and tore the license plates from the community Rabbi's vehicle. The attacker was arrested.

Two Members of Nationalist Group Sought to Assassinate Head of Jewish Community—Krasnodar

The detainees, a man and a woman, are members of the Communist-Nationalist Movement 'Citizens of the Soviet Union.' The pair were looking to hire an assassin to commit the murder. Local police discovered their plot and arrested them.

UKRAINE

Vehicle Belonging to the Head of the Jewish Community Set on Fire—Irshava

The vehicle was parked next to the Jewish community building in the city of Irshava, which is located in the west of the country. It was set on fire by unknown individuals overnight on August 30th.

BELARUS

Jewish Communities Received Threatening Letters—Gomel and Grodno

The first letter was received on September 2nd in Gomel and after a few days, a letter with the same content arrived to the Jewish community in Grodno. The letter included the following text: "Jews-supporters of Lukashenko. Leave our land. Belarus for Belarusian, Long live Belarus! Belarus without Jews and Lukashenko." It is very likely that this is a provocation by pro-government elements in Belarus.

LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Again, Antisemitic Graffiti on Billboards Advertising Jewish Radio Reporter and TV Programs

On September 3rd, the Association of Jewish Communities in Argentina (DAIA) condemned the vandalism on posters advertising a radio program hosted by veteran Jewish reporter Eduardo Feinman. The poster was vandalized with swastikas, threats, and the word Nazi. Eduardo Feinman is a highly popular radio and television reporter in Argentina.

President Fernandez Calls on Iranian Government to Cooperate with Argentine Judicial Authorities

On September 22nd during the world leaders' speeches at the UN General Assembly, which took place virtually this year, President Alberto Fernandez called on the Iranian government to cooperate with the Argentine Justice and the local authorities in order to advance the investigation of the AMIA Jewish community attack. The 1994 attack took the lives of 85 Argentine Jews.

Tombstones Smashed in the Jewish Cemetery in Rosario

A number of gravestones in the new Jewish cemetery in the city of Rosario were smashed in what appeared to be a deliberate act. DAIA condemned the incident and stated that it was an intolerable and antisemitic act. An official complaint has been presented to the local authorities.

MEXICO

Indignation Following Social Media Post of Nazi Flags Hanging at Volkswagen Offices

On September 8th, after a picture posted on Twitter depicted a Nazi-era photo hanging on the wall at a Volkswagen car dealership in Coyoacan, and following condemnation from the Wiesenthal Center, the German car company condemned the case and stated that this doesn't comply with the company's policy and that actions will be taken.



SPAIN

Antisemitic Graffiti in Cartagena

Swastikas and the expressions "Juden Rauss" ("Jews out" in German), with a Star of David, and the inscription "No to the Reds," were spray-painted on a monument located in Cartagena, which sits along the Mediterranean coast in the region of Murcia. The vandalized monument is in memory of those who were deported to the concentration and extermination camps during World War II. The inscription "No to the Reds" refers to the left side of the local political map and links the Jews to Communism and the ideology of the left.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

AUSTRIA

Historic Agreement to Safeguard and Foster Jewish Life in Austria

The Vienna Jewish community (IKG Vienna) and the Federal Government have reached a historic agreement for the long-term security of Jewish life in Austria. The government is launching a new bill stating that the Republic of Austria will support the IKG Vienna with €4 million per year. This triples the previous security funding, which was regulated in an agreement between the IKG Vienna and the Ministry of the Interior. IKG president Oscar Deutsch highlighted that the importance of the agreement doesn't only lie in the financial support, but is also a statement by the State of Austria that Judaism and the Jewish community are anchored as a natural part of Austria. The bill will be enacted in the cabinet in the coming weeks and then presented to parliament.

SCANDINAVIA

Neo-Nazi 'Nordic Resistance Movement' Targets Jews on Yom Kippur

The Nordic Resistance Movement (NRM) targeted Jews in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Iceland with antisemitic campaigns throughout the week leading up to Yom Kippur. Websites belonging to the movement listed actions taken by the NRM in approximately 20 different cities. Pictures allegedly showing their actions display members confronting Jewish worshipers and standing in front of synagogues, and the distribution of antisemitic posters and flyers throughout public areas. The NRM wrote that it was choosing Yom Kippur to "make the Nordic people aware of foreign customs and Zionist ruling plans throughout the Nordic region," with posters displayed in multiple countries attacking kosher slaughter and circumcision.

MULTINATIONAL

International Lawmakers form 'Inter-Parliamentary Task Force to Combat Online Antisemitism'

Members of the national legislatures of Israel, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada, and are part of a new panel which will seek to "protect all minority groups from online hate." In a statement released by Florida Democratic Representative Ted Deutch, the lawmakers decided to ban together since "social media posts do not stop at international borders." The task force's goals include establishing consistent messaging and policy from parliaments and legislatures around the world in order to hold social media platforms accountable; the adoption and publication of transparent policies related to hate speech; and raising awareness about antisemitism on social media platforms and its consequences.