

**November
2020**

Monthly Report

ACMS **Antisemitism Cyber Monitoring System**

Highlights

- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo Announces US Will Designate BDS Antisemitic
- Labour Readmits Corbyn Following Suspension for Claiming EHRC Report “Exaggerated”
- Norway to Extradite Suspect in 1982 Terror Attack of Paris Jewish Restaurant to France
- Rise in Antisemitism in Germany and Austria
- Muslim Brotherhood Channel in Turkey Broadcasts Antisemitic Conspiracy Theories
- Ancient Jewish Cemetery in Moldova Repeatedly Vandalized
- Argentina Raises Level of Alert on Paraguay Border Over Threat to Jewish Community



UNITED STATES

Jewish Couple Targeted in Assault by Neighbor who Glorified Hitler and Shouted Death Threats

On November 7th, after news outlets called the presidential election of Joe Biden, the couple's neighbor approached them, spat on them, and shouted politically charged and antisemitic slurs. The man claimed he knew the couple was Jewish and that "it's no wonder Hitler burned [your] people...I'll put a bullet through your head like Hitler." He then threw rocks at the couple's house which shattered their door and windows.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo Announces US Will Designate BDS Movement as Antisemitic

During his announcement, Pompeo declared the US wants "to stand with all other nations that recognize the BDS movement for the cancer that it is," and will begin immediately cracking down on groups affiliated with it.

Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights Investigating Antisemitism at University of Illinois

The investigation comes after a complaint was filed which described "an alarming increase in antisemitism" over the past five years. It lists multiple alleged offenses, including antisemitic vandalism and "tense interactions" between Jewish students and members of the SJP (Students for Justice in Palestine) group.

White Supremacist Who Plotted Synagogue Attack Receives Two-Year Prison Sentence

A 24-year-old Las Vegas man was arrested in 2019 after federal law enforcement learned he was communicating online with people in the white supremacist group "Feuerkrieg Division." According to prosecutors, he was planning attacks against a synagogue, the ADL, and an LGBTQ bar. An FBI-led terror task force searched his home and found unregistered rifles and components for an explosive device.

Rashida Tlaib Accused of Dogwhistle Antisemitism for Reaction to Biden's Secretary of State Nominee

In response to the claim that Biden's nomination of Antony Blinken, who is Jewish, is a "solid choice" as Secretary of State, Rashida Tlaib tweeted, "So long as he doesn't suppress my First Amendment right to speak out against Netanyahu's racist and inhumane policies. The Palestinian people deserve equality and justice." The Congresswoman has since been accused of invoking the antisemitic trope of 'dual loyalty' for implying that Blinken would suppress her right to freedom of speech regarding Israel due to his Jewish heritage. The incident comes a few days after Tlaib faced widespread backlash over her participation in a Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) panel discussion, entitled "Dismantling Antisemitism," since she has been accused of making antisemitic remarks in the past.

FBI Report Shows Antisemitic Hate Crimes in 2019 Accounted for 63% of Religion-Based Hate Crimes

The report listed 953 religion-based hate crimes with an anti-Jewish bias, which represents an increase of 14% from 835 in 2018. The FBI's report is based on voluntary local law enforcement reporting to the Bureau, and in 2019, 86% of participating agencies didn't report a single hate crime to the FBI, including at least 71 cities with populations over 100,000, so the scope of the problem is likely much larger.

United Kingdom

Labour Readmits Ex-Leader Jeremy Corbyn After Suspension for Claiming EHRC Report “Exaggerated”

Corbyn was readmitted to Labour less than one month following his suspension from the party in October for stating the report’s findings regarding the scale of antisemitism in Labour were “dramatically overstated for political reasons” (see October report). Though the new party whip publicly requested Corbyn apologize for his statement, and party leader Sir Keir Starmer publicly described Corbyn’s reaction as “wrong,” Corbyn has yet to issue an apology for his statements.

Jewish Labour Movement and Jewish Labour MPs Report Growing Antisemitic Abuse

Dame Margaret Hodge and former MP Luciana Berger reported receiving excessive amounts of antisemitic abuse online, including threats. Likewise, the group JLM has also issued a statement to its members alluding to the “growing level of harassment and intimidation” being directed at Jewish members of the party.

Man Accused of Antisemitic Covid-19 Hoax Wears Nazi Armband at Court Hearing

Neo-Nazi Matthew Henegan, 35, faces seven charges of publishing, distributing, and possessing materials containing antisemitic Covid-19 conspiracy theories to “stir up racial hatred.” He is also accused of possessing a document entitled *How to Make Armour-Piercing Bullets*, and attended court wearing a Nazi armband.

Four Universities Adopt IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism

The universities include Cambridge University, Lancaster University, Manchester Metropolitan University, and Buckingham New University.

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

Norway's government approved an extradition request from France for Walid Abdulrahman Abu Zayed, a suspect linked to an attack in a Jewish neighborhood in 1982. "The appeal was unsuccessful and today the decision was final," a spokeswoman for the Justice Ministry said. 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, which stipulated the latter's members would not be arrested if they refrained from committing further attacks on French soil.

France's Crackdown on Radical Islam Fuels Holocaust Trivialization and Competitive Victimhood

President Emmanuel Macron's strong defense of free speech and secularism in the wake of an extremist Muslim's beheading of a teacher followed by the Nice church terror attack, keeps stirring the ire of Muslims across the world who perceive the French universalist model as "Islamophobic." Many keep equating the situation of Muslims in today's Europe with that of Jews before or during the Holocaust; shedding light on the rising phenomenon of Holocaust trivialization and "competitive victimhood." Following the path of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Turkish President Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, who all invoked the Holocaust last month in condemning President Macron's crackdown on radical Islam, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari recently tweeted: "Macron is doing to Muslims what the Nazis did to the Jews — Muslim children will get ID numbers (other children won't) just as Jews were forced to wear the yellow star on their clothing for identification," with a link to an article on the fake procedure, sparking the ire of France's Foreign ministry. She deleted the tweet, however, when the article was updated to reflect that the proposed policy applied to all French schoolchildren.

Appeal by Accused Killers of Holocaust Survivor Mireille Knoll to Drop, Antisemitism Charge Rejected by French Court

The two men accused of the brutal murder of Mireille Knoll in her Paris apartment in March 2018 are to face trial on charges of homicide aggravated by antisemitism, Paris Court of Appeal confirmed. Yacine Mihoub and his associate Alex Carrimbacus are alleged to have brutally murdered (and robbed?) 85-year-old Mireille Knoll, a survivor of the mass deportation of the Jews of Paris in July 1942, after deciding that she would have plenty of money since she was Jewish. Gilles-William Goldnadel, the lawyer for Mireille Knoll's family, told French media outlets that the court decision had come as a "relief."

AUSTRIA

Rabbi Attacked at Knifepoint in Vienna in Antisemitic Assault

A Rabbi was threatened with a knife, physically assaulted, and antisemitically abused by a woman at a tram stop in Vienna's Landstrasse district. She shouted, "Slaughter all Jews," kicked him, and threw his hat and kippah off his head while bystanders didn't interfere to help him. President Alexander Van der Bellen, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, and Interior Minister Karl Nehammer condemned the incident.

Report by Vienna Jewish Community Shows Rise in Antisemitism Throughout Austria in 2020

A report on antisemitism in the first half of 2020 published by the Vienna Jewish community shows the upward trend of 2019 will likely continue in 2020. It recorded a total of 257 antisemitic incidents, among them 3 physical attacks. The report reveals a significant decrease in March and April, which coincides with the start of Covid-19 and the lockdown. Nevertheless, the total number of incidents corresponds to around half the number of antisemitic incidents in 2019. In the first half of 2020, there was an average of 43 antisemitic incidents per month, while in the months without a lockdown, the average was 50 incidents a month. This is clearly above the 2019 monthly average of 45.8 incidents.

GERMANY

Holocaust Trivialization Intensifying in Protests Against Coronavirus Restriction

It has become common for "Corona deniers" and conspiracy theorists to compare government restrictions to the antisemitic policies of the Nazi regime and themselves to the Jews during the Holocaust; which thus abuses the memory of Holocaust victims and trivializes Nazi atrocities. Two speeches held this month at different rallies caused particular outrage and the videos of them went viral. In one speech, an 11-year-old girl compared herself to Anne Frank since she and her friends had to be quiet during her birthday party so as not to be "tipped off by [their] neighbors." In the second speech, a woman compared herself to resistance fighter Sophie Scholl, who was sentenced to death by the Gestapo, because she was "active in the resistance for months."

North-Rhine Westphalia Police Officers Investigated for Nazi Glorification

191 employees of NRW security authorities, almost all of them police officers, are being investigated for right-wing extremism. Investigators have secured substantial evidence indicating the glorification of Nazism and the excessive use of Nazi customs and imagery. The evidence procured includes images of uniformed police officers performing the Nazi salute and singing traditional Nazi songs.

Rise in Extreme Right-Wing and Neo-Nazi crimes

In the first three quarters of 2020, the police reported 15,007 crimes, among them 671 acts of violence, committed by neo-Nazis and right-wing extremists. The numbers represent a respective increase of 874 and 46 more offenses compared to the same time last year.

Bundestag Report Shows a Rise in Criminal Offenses with Antisemitic Background

A total of 1,393 antisemitic incidents were reported during the first three quarters of 2020. The incidents included 35 acts of violence (with 21 injured), but the numbers will likely rise. In the same time frame last year, 1,155 such offenses were reported. Most cases occurred in Berlin and Bavaria. A total of 819 suspects were identified, but only four of them were temporarily arrested.

ARAB WORLD

TURKEY

Muslim Brotherhood TV Channel “Al-Watan” Airs Antisemitic Interviews and Holocaust Glorification

The Turkish media in Arabic, which usually reflects the position of the Muslim Brotherhood, recently broadcasted a collection of antisemitic interviews. For example, in an interview on November 13th, Egyptian actor and TV presenter Wagdy Al-Arabi claimed, “The Jews deserved to be burned in the Holocaust.” In another interview aired on Al-Watan on November 18th, Egyptian scholar Sameh al-Gova stated that Jews have no historical or religious connection with Palestine. He referenced a Hadith which predicts that on the Day of Judgment the trees and rocks will call on Muslims to kill the Jews, with the exception of the Gharqad tree, which is considered to be the Jewish tree. He warned Arab leaders that they must not protect the Jews as the Gharqad tree protects them and said that the Muslims “will soon wipe out the Jews and those who protect them.”

IRAQ

Shiite Religious Channel “Al-R’Dir” Broadcasts Antisemitic Conspiracy Theories and Glorifies Hitler

The trend of antisemitic discourse as a result of the vaccines is rising and aired in a program broadcasted on the Iraqi TV channel Al-R'Dir. The program dealt with the issue of Freemasons and Zionism and the host of the program, Salam Sucker al-Khaldi, asserted that Hitler was right when he claimed that the Jews were the cause of all civil wars. Iraqi lawyer Ibn Yakin al-Mousawi said on the show, “The Coronavirus is a Masonic conspiracy and the future vaccine is intended to implant a chip in people which will allow them to be controlled by satellites.”

YEMEN

Houthi Militia Leader Shares Antisemitic Conspiracy Theories About 9/11

Bushra al-Mahturi, a TV presenter who is also the head of Education for Girls at the Houthi Ministry of Education, told the “Al-Iman” television program (identified with the Houthis) on November 18th that Jews and Christians used false information (disinformation) as a “soft war” weapon against Muslims. She elaborated that the most prominent example of this was the planning and prior knowledge of the September 11th attack against the twin towers. To back up her belief that the attack was planned in advance, she claimed that before the attacks, approximately 4,000 Jews did not come to work.

RUSSIAN SPEAKING AREAS

RUSSIA

Children's Book Praising Antisemitic Movement the "Black Hundred" Gets Published—Tarusa

Tamata Kwitokskaya, head of Tarusa's Human Rights Commission in Kaluga province, wrote a children's book about the history of the "Black Hundred" movement in the city. In the book, Kwitokskaya praised the movement's activities and expressed pride over the fact that the extremist antisemitic movement, which operated in Russia in the early 20th century, is rooted in the city of Tarusa.

Traditional Procession of National Movements on "Unity Day"—Moscow

As is customary since 2005, the parade of nationalist movements took place on November 4th. The main parade was held in Moscow. Due to a split in the ranks of the nationalist movements, the parade was held in four different locations in the city with a few hundred participants. Additionally, in 13 other cities across Russia, events hosted by nationalist were held but no unusual events were recorded.

New Nationalist Movement Called "Tsargrad" Held a Conference to Mark Its Launch—Moscow

On November 22nd, a movement called "Tsar-Grad" (the ancient Russian name for Constantinople) held a conference. The movement's slogan is "Protect the interests of the Russian population," and the head of the movement is Konstantin Malofeev, a famous nationalistic oligarch. A number of smaller nationalist movements merged with the movement and a number of well-known nationalists announced that they would take part in the movement's activities.

Court Fines Man for Posting Two Antisemitic Covid-19 Conspiracy Videos on YouTube—Moscow

The fine, amounting to 400,000 rubles, was imposed on a 54-year-old. In March, he released two videos which claimed that Covid-19 was a Jewish disease and that Jews used it to trade in human organs.

MOLDOVA

Ancient Jewish Cemetery Vandalized Three Times Within a Few Days—Chisinau

During the attacks, 42 tombstones were destroyed and 30 swastikas and pagan symbols were spray-painted on walls and tombstones in the cemetery. The Jewish community in the city warned twice about what was happening, but the local authorities didn't respond in time. An investigation has been opened.

LATIN AMERICA and SPAIN

SPAIN

Antisemitic Graffiti on the Streets of Barcelona

Following protests and disturbances due to the last lockdown in Barcelona, antisemitic graffiti appeared near the Old City in the same area where most of the shops owned by Jews are located. Barcelona's mayor, Ada Colau, condemned the act on social media and stated, "Barcelona is a city of peace and proudly diverse. We will not allow antisemitism or hatred to take place in any of our communities. Fascist graffiti will be reported to the proper authorities for being a hate crime and will be erased immediately. I express my support to the Jewish community."

ARGENTINA

Trial of Suspect Involved in 1994 Terrorist Attack Against Jewish Community Begins

Lawyers representing AMIA-DAIA, primary organizations for Argentine Jewry, demanded that the suspect, Carlos Telledin, be convicted and sentenced to 20 years in prison for handing over the truck used by the terrorists in the July 1994 attack that destroyed a Jewish community building in Buenos Aires. The demand was presented in federal court and included the demanded for the suspect's immediate arrest in order to prevent a possible escape. "Telledin provided the murder weapon. His criminal involvement in the terrorist act was proven," said Miguel Bronfman, an attorney representing AMIA-DAIA who accused Telledin of complicity in the crime that led to 85 deaths.

Argentina Raises Level of Alert on Paraguay Border Over Attempt to Target the Jewish Community

Argentine law enforcement raised the level of alert on the Paraguay-Argentina border after Argentina's embassy in London received an anonymous email warning that a person will be trying to transfer ammonia from Paraguay to Argentina to carry out an attack on the local Jewish community. A few days earlier, Paraguayan police in the city of Encarnacion, which is a town situated on the border with Argentina, arrested a suspect carrying 12 gel-dynamite cartridges. There is currently no information linking this case to the alert received by the Argentine Embassy in London. DAIA has confirmed receiving a warning from the Argentine law enforcement authorities.

VENEZUELA

Famous Singer Wears Nazi Military Uniform While Accepting Medal from the Venezuelan Army

The pictures of rocker Paul Gillman receiving a medal from the Venezuelan army while wearing a German imperial army uniform and a face mask with the German Iron Cross went viral on social media very quickly, especially because none of the military personnel who attended the ceremony condemned nor commented on the act. Julio Borges, Foreign Minister of the Venezuelan transitional government (opposition to Maduro's regime) condemned the act and stated, "Paul Gillman wearing a Nazi uniform is an act that does not respect the Venezuelan security forces. The moral reserve existing in the military is essential for Venezuela's change and reconstruction."

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

GERMANY

Security Services Identify Over 1,000 Potential Islamic Terrorists

At the end of the third quarter of 2020, the police and Intelligence Service classified 619 people as “Islamist threats” and 513 as persons belonging to the Islamist-terrorist scene. Out of the 1,132 potential terrorists, 275 are asylum seekers.

First Time in Germany: Training of Imams in Program Financed by the State

Germany has created a training program to increase the number of German-speaking Imams and teach Western values. The program is in response to the large number of Imams sent to practice in Germany by various foreign governments’ religious authorities who spread hatred against Western values and non-Muslim German communities. The first round of training will begin in April 2021 with approximately 30 participants. However, Imams belonging to several large Islamic umbrella organizations are not willing to participate; such as the Turkish DITIB, whose Imams are sent by Turkey’s Religious Authority.