



Ministry of Diaspora Affairs

Creating a common Jewish future

Antisemitic Manifestations Worldwide

MONTHLY REPORT

Highlights

ONLINE ANTISEMITISM

- Ministry of Diaspora Affairs recorded 345K antisemitic posts in June 2021 compared to 621K in May 2021, which represents a 45% decrease. This positive trend should be interpreted with caution as the level of online antisemitic activity remained high in June compared to a regular period (+38% in June 2021 compared to April 2021). The month of May was characterized by an explosion of online antisemitic hate speech directly connected to the last round of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- #USSLiberty: Iranian online disinformation campaign against Israel fuels antisemitism

MAIN EVENTS

- French far left chief implies Jewish school murders were part of election conspiracy.
- France's regional elections—The penetration of antisemitic elements into the electoral process.
- Germany—Arson attack on Ulm synagogue on Shabbat.
- German Intelligence Service: Rise in extremists and extremist offenses .
- US—Jews were physically assaulted in New York, Los Angeles, and Pittsburgh.
- US—Bullet fired into Brooklyn synagogue on shabbat.
- UK—Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn speaks at pro-Palestine rally with antisemitic signs on display.
- Belgium to remove military protecting jews amidst rising antisemitism.
- Latin America—Organization of American States (OAS) establishes commission for fighting antisemitism.
- Moldova—Bill to combat Holocaust denial and racist propaganda approved by government.

FRANCE

French Far-Left Chief Implies Jewish School Murders Were Part of Election Conspiracy

France's far-left leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon, who won 19 percent of the votes in France's last presidential race, sparked outrage after suggesting that a jihadist's 2012 murder of four Jews in Toulouse was part of an election conspiracy. "You'll see that on the last week of the presidential campaign, we'll have a serious incident or a murder," the controversial head of the *France Unbowed* party warned during an interview. "In 2012 it was Merah¹, last week it was Champs-Elysee," said Mélenchon, adding: "All of this has been planned in advance." Mélenchon has made multiple statements widely condemned as antisemitic.

France's Regional Elections—The Question of Antisemitism During the Electoral Campaign

Regional Election Results, June 27th—President Emmanuel Macron's LREM party and Marine Le Pen's National Rally party (RN), who both remain clear frontrunners in next year's presidential elections, did not win any region in key regional elections. The big winners seem to be the mainstream right Les Républicains (LR) and, to a lesser extent, the Socialist party (PS).

The Penetration of Antisemitic Elements into the Electoral Process

- Left wing— Many left-wing candidates in France's regional elections were accused of antisemitism, conspiracism, and Islamism, including Ali Besli, Abdelaziz Hafidi, and Jeber Trad. In the aftermath of the large-scale terror attacks perpetrated by Islamists on the French soil, the denunciation of the intersection of radical Islam with radical left (called "Islamism-leftism") has taken major prominence in the French contemporary public discourse; especially during election campaigns.
- National Rally—Three RN candidates for the regions of Creuse, Corrèze, and Gironde, were dropped or suspended by the RN after racist and antisemitic comments were exposed in the media. The RN published a statement in which it "reiterates its strongest condemnation of antisemitism which has no place in its ranks."
- National Rally—Philippe Vardon has been the campaign manager of Thierry Mariani, the RN candidate for the key southern region of PACA. Vardon has been repeatedly accused of having neo-Nazi sympathies.

French Court Sentences Antisemitic Polemicist to Five Years in Prison for Death Threats

Ahmed Moualek was sentenced to five years in prison by a French court after he posted videos of himself calling for the murder of prominent French Jews. Moualek founded the Anti-Zionist Party 10 years ago with Dieudonne and Alain Soral, both prominent antisemitic figures.

France Launches Parliamentary Inquiry into Sarah Halimi Verdict

The Union of Democrats and Independents Party announced it would establish a parliamentary commission of inquiry to investigate "possible dysfunctions" in the Sarah Halimi affair². The court verdict sparked massive outrage in France and across the Jewish world.

¹ Mohammed Merah murdered three Jewish children and a rabbi at a Jewish school in Toulouse in 2012.

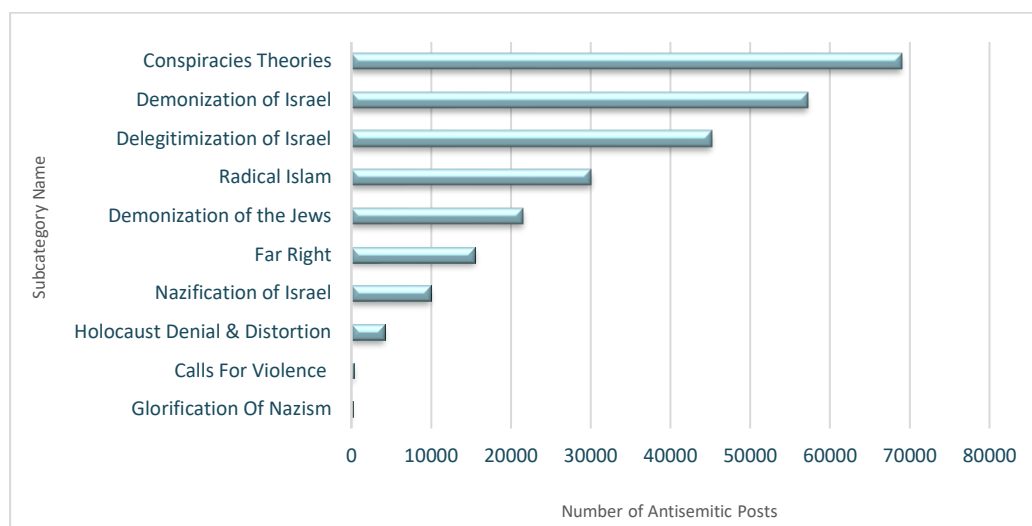
² France's highest jurisdiction ruled in April 2021 that Kobili Traoré, who murdered 64-year-old Jewish physician Sarah Halimi, could not be tried because he had a "delusional episode" brought on by his use of cannabis. Traore entered Halimi's apartment and beat her to death while shouting "Allahu Akbar" and reciting Quranic verses. Traore then threw Halimi out the window.

ANTISEMITISM ONLINE—STATISTICS & TRENDS IN FRENCH DISCOURSE

Methodology: Data retrieved from the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs' Antisemitism Cyber Monitoring System (ACMS).

1. Key Findings

- ACMS recorded 30K French antisemitic posts in June 2021 compared to 105K antisemitic posts in May 2021, which represents a 72% decrease. The most dramatic decrease was recorded in the discourse classified as *Calls for Violence* and *Radical Islam*.
- The end of the latest round of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict strongly correlates with a de-escalation of the antisemitic activity online. Data revealed strong evidences of a causal link between the explosion of antisemitic hate speech recorded online in May 2021 and the military escalation in Gaza, which has been instrumentalized by extremist elements to disseminate radical anti-Zionist sentiment and traditional antisemitism, both offline and online.



Breakdown of French antisemitic discourse by subcategory—June 2021 (Source: ACMS)

2. Trending Topics

A significant proportion of the collected antisemitic posts in French are still connected to the last round of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with a high occurrence of #SaveSheikhJarrah hashtag. However, new hashtags related to the recent Israeli elections, and to the Tour de France [Ex: #TDF2021 and #TourDeFrance2021], an outstanding cycling competition that is held in France every year, also took prominence in June. It should be noted that the BDS movement has recently launched a campaign against the participation of the Israeli professional cycling team in the 2021 Tour de France³, and what they call the “sportswashing” of the “Israeli crimes against Palestinians.”

³ In a similar campaign launched for the 2020 Tour de France, some pro-BDS comments posted on social medias called for the harm of the Israeli riders.

GERMANY

Baden-Württemberg: Arson Attack on Ulm Synagogue on Shabbat

A man poured a bottle of liquid on a synagogue wall and set it alight. Firefighters were able to extinguish the fire within minutes, and thus prevented structural damage to the building. The alleged perpetrator is a Turkish citizen who was born in Germany. Police assume that he fled to Turkey after the attack.

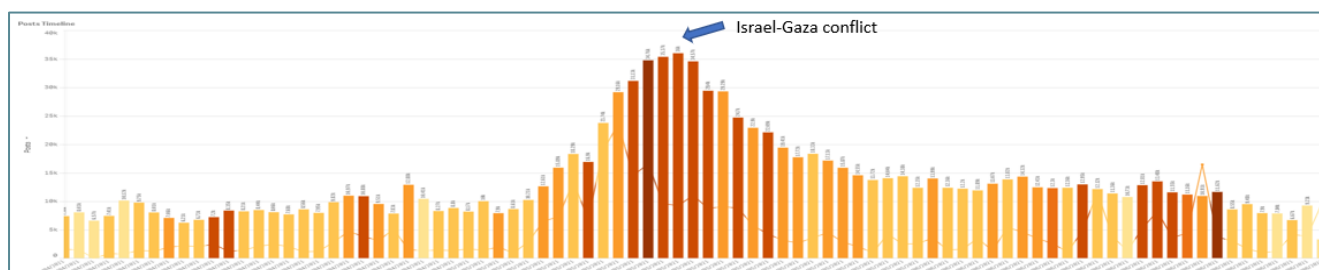
Federal and State Interior Ministers Announce Crackdown on Antisemitism

- Convicted antisemites will not be able to obtain German citizenship. The Bundestag eventually passed this law on June 25th.
- Anti-Israeli gatherings in the vicinity of synagogues will be restricted and, if necessary, prohibited.
- Unresolved antisemitic crimes will no longer be automatically assigned to the right-wing spectrum. Instead, they will be recorded in a special category in the crime statistics.
- A federal-state working group will develop measures against antisemitism together with the Antisemitism Commissioners.

German Intelligence Service: Rise in Extremists and Extremist Offenses

- The estimated number of right-wing extremists has risen to 33,300 people; of which 13,000 people are classified as violence-oriented. The number of right-wing extremist offenses with an antisemitic background rose by 17.8% to a total of 2,173 offenses.
- Left-wing extremists rose by 2.4% to a total of 34,300 people and more than every fourth left-wing extremist was classified as violence-oriented. Left-wing extremist acts of violence increased by 34.3% to 1,237 offenses. There is clear radicalization in parts of the violence-oriented left-wing extremist scene. Thus, calls for an Intifada in the streets of Germany by left-wing BDS activists should be seen as a real threat.
- Islamist extremists rose by 2.5% to a total of 28,715 people, while Salafist extremists remained at 12,150 people.

ANTISEMITISM ONLINE—STATISTICS & TRENDS IN GERMAN DISCOURSE



The number of antisemitic German posts collected by ACMS in June was significantly lower than during the conflict between Israel and Gaza on May 10-20, but still remained almost double as high as in March. Moreover, the share of posts featuring New Antisemitism remained high after the conflict; 61.1% in June compared to 50.8% in the two months prior to the conflict. Thus, the aftermath of the 600% rise in antisemitic discourse due to the wave of false accusations against Israel and the misinformation concerning the conflict could still be seen in June.

UNITED STATES

Group of Jews Targeted and Attacked in New York on Shabbat

A witness says the group of visibly identifiable Jews were sought out, followed, and then targeted by passengers in a car who violently threw eggs at the group. The attack occurred on a busy street filled with pedestrians. One woman sustained a concussion following the assault.

12-Year-Old Visibly Jewish Boy Assaulted by Man without Provocation in Los Angeles

The boy and his friends were riding scooters when a man walking by punched the boy in his face. The man was arrested on-site and is being charged with a felony while an investigation is underway.

Pittsburgh Police Investigating Antisemitic Physical and Verbal Assaults

According to police, four male victims were targeted in two separate incidents. In one incident, a victim was severely injured when he was pushed to the ground. The victim was later taken to the hospital. In the second incident, a group of Jews were verbally assaulted with antisemitic hate slurs while walking home from synagogue. Police are investigating both cases.

Bullet Fired into Brooklyn Synagogue Window on Shabbat

The shot was fired through into the synagogue on Shabbat afternoon on June 19th. The synagogue was closed at the time of the incident and no injuries were reported. An investigation is ongoing.

Antisemitic Hate Mail Sent to New York State Senator Anna Kaplan

Police are investigating hate mail centered around the Covid-19 vaccine which included antisemitic slurs and the white supremacist slogan “109 soon 110.” The phrase is white supremacist shorthand for the antisemitic claim that Jews have been expelled from 109 countries and that the U.S. will be the next and 110th place to expel Jews.

Phoenix Children’s Hospital Fires Doctor Who Shared Antisemitic Tropes

Dr. Fidaa Wishah, daughter of convicted terrorist Jaber Wishah, who led the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and was jailed for 15 years for attempting to kill Israelis, shared antisemitic tropes on social media. Wishah accused Israel of cannibalism and claimed Israelis have a “thirst to kill.” As a result of a social media campaign condemning Wishah, the hospital announced she was fired.

UNITED KINGDOM

Former Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn Speaks at Pro-Palestine Rally with Antisemitic Signs on Display

Jeremy Corbyn and ex-shadow chancellor John McDonnell both spoke at a demonstration organized by the “Friends of Al Aqsa” group. The rally featured signs containing a plethora of classic and new antisemitic slurs regarding Jews and the Israeli government.

Bus Belonging to Jewish Children’s School Has its Tires Slashed

The bus, which featured religious memorabilia, was empty when the incident took place and was located in Stamford Hill.

MUSLIM WORLD

Palestinian Jordanian Influencer: Hitler Assisted the Zionist Movement

In a post from June 8th, Dr Fatima al-Wahsh, a Jordanian Palestinian influencer and professor of education (200k followers), claimed that Hitler assisted the Zionist movement through the Haavara Transfer Agreement, to bring Jews to Palestine. She further claims that “the fraud called the Holocaust was carried out with the approval of the Zionist movement and affected a limited number of Jews for reasons.” Al-Wahsh joins other Palestinian speakers who recently minimize the significance of the Holocaust, deny it, and even justify it. In April 2021, prominent Hamas’s member Mahmud al-Zahar explained the reasons for the extermination of European Jewry, which he considered justifiable.

RUSSIAN SPEAKING AREAS

MOLDOVA

Bill to Combat Holocaust Denial and Racist Propaganda Approved by Government—Chisinau

President of Moldova, Maia Sandu, ratified on June 16th changes to criminal law which allow criminal sanctions for expressions of Holocaust denial, propaganda of ideas of racism, xenophobia, and fascism. The bill was submitted by a number of Moldovan MPs in 2020, and members of the Jewish community in Moldova were among the drafters of the bill.

ESTONIA

Estonian Government to Set Up Group to Fight Antisemitism

The working group will include representatives from various government ministries, as well as representatives from the Jewish community in the country, and will address issues related to antisemitism in Estonia.

UKRAINE

Dozens of Jewish Gravestones Destroyed—Radvanc (Uzhorod District)

Local police estimate that the incident took place in the afternoon of June 3rd. Suspects in the act have not yet been arrested.

RUSSIA

Trial Against Man Accused of Sharing Violent Antisemitic Posts on Social Media—Tver

The man posted racist and antisemitic content and calls for violence against Jews on the social network VK during 2019.

Famous Actor Attends Ceremony Wearing Yellow “Coronavirus” Star of David—Moscow

The actor, Egor Biroyev, came up to speak during the Russian TV Awards ceremony wearing a yellow Star of David on his chest. The star was in reference to what Jews were forced to wear during the Holocaust. Biroyev spoke out against the coronavirus vaccines while comparing the duty of immunization to the persecution of Jews during the Holocaust. His remarks provoked a wide discourse in the media and social networks, and most of the discourse referred to his words and the way he presented them in a negative way.

LATIN AMERICA

IBERO-AMERICA

Organization of American States (OAS) Establishes Commission for Fighting Antisemitism

Luis Almagro, Chairman of the Organization of American States, announced the establishment of a Commission for Combating Antisemitism in Latin America. This is within the framework of the global virtual forum of the American Jewish Committee. The main purpose of the Commission will be to promote the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism by the countries in the region.

ARGENTINA

Antisemitic Tweets by Argentine Meat Industry Celebrity Alberto Samid

Alberto Samid, a public figure and businessman from the meat industry in Argentina has once again made headlines in the country due to his antisemitic tweets. After declarations in the media of the Israeli ambassador to Argentina that stated that Israel would look for another source of meat imports due to Argentine export policy, Samid tweeted that the best thing that can happen to Argentina is if the Jews will stop buying from them, noting that Jews are terrible as customers and the world does not want to sell them anything.

Nazi Propaganda Pamphlets Left at Offices of Argentinean Federation of Jewish Communities (DAIA)—Viedma and Carmen de Patagones, Rio Negro Province

The pamphlets were hung on the window of the representative offices of the Association of Jewish Communities in the city and were scattered at the entrance to the building. The pamphlets included a picture of Hitler and the emblem of the German Nazi Party with quotes from Hitler on economic issues.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Switzerland Adopts IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism

The government of Switzerland has adopted the working definition of antisemitism of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Belgium to Remove Military Protecting Jews Amidst Rising Antisemitism

The Belgian government announced that it will remove military security from Jewish institutions across the country. The move comes amidst rising antisemitism across the country connected to the coronavirus pandemic and Israel's conflict with Gaza last month.

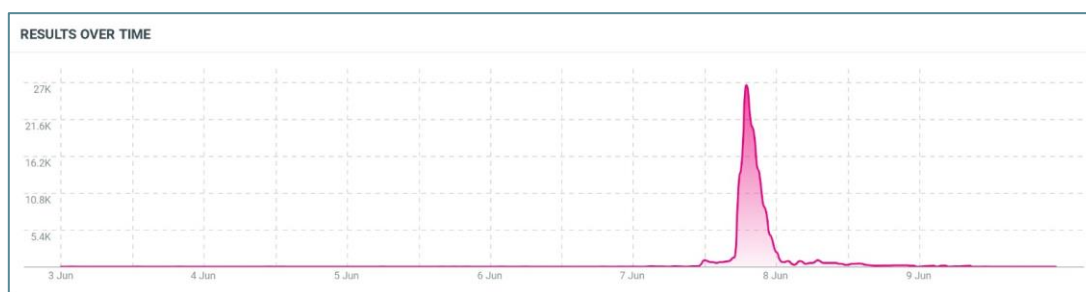
Background—A counterterrorism operation called *Operation Vigilant Guardian*, started in 2015 following the Islamist terror attack against *Charlie Hebdo* in Paris. Military personnel were deployed to secure locations considered sensitive, including Jewish institutions. The new Belgian government—which was sworn into office in October 2020—approved a gradual troop withdrawal and the end of the operation by September 2021. It should be noted that the previous redeployment of the military personnel in 2017 coincides with a sharp increase in antisemitic incidents.

#USSLiberty: Iranian Online Disinformation Campaign against Israel Fuels Antisemitism

In recent years, Facebook has removed several disinformation campaigns by Iran aimed at harming Israel. Once again, some elements indicate that either the Iranian government or private Iranian actors are behind—or pushed—an anti-Israeli and antisemitic campaign online about the 1967 USS Liberty incident, using the hashtag #USSLiberty, as part of its proxy war against Israel. Data shows that 106K tweets referencing the hashtag #USSLiberty were posted on June 7-8th. Moreover, conspiracy theorist Ali Akbar Raefipour, who has ties to IRGC, seems to be involved in this twitter campaign to “inform” Americans about the USS Liberty incident claiming that “#Israel has no mercy even for Americans⁴.”

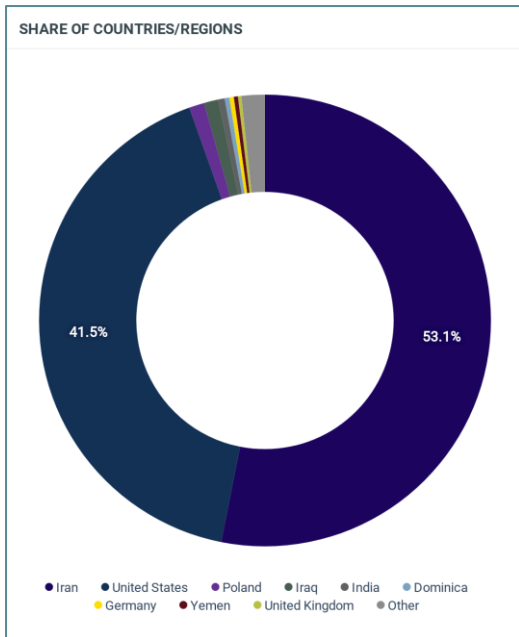
It should be noted that hashtag #USSLiberty is often associated to hashtag #Covid1948, comparing the State of Israel to the novel coronavirus. #Covid1948 was mentioned 366.5K times on Twitter between May 10th and May 16th, 2021. Of these tweets, more than 56% referencing #Covid1948 were written in Persian and 44% were localized in Iran.

Data Analysis for Hashtag Campaign #USSLiberty

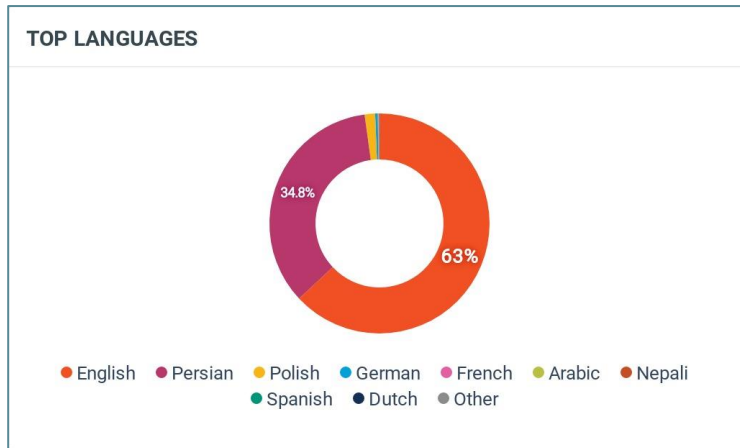


Timeline of Twitter Conversations referencing hashtag #USSLiberty. It shows that most of the campaign was concentrated in two days (June 7th-8th)

⁴ <https://twitter.com/KhosroKalbasi/status/1401831966878674944>



Geographical distribution of Twitter conversations referencing hashtag #USSLiberty



Linguistic distribution of Twitter conversations referencing hashtag #USSLiberty

Examples of Tweets Referencing Hashtag #USSLiberty

LEILA
@LeylaRostami

Izrael has caused countless troubles for the American people so far:

_NUMEC nuclear theft
_Assassination of JF. Kennedy
_911 incident !
_And attack on [#USSLiberty](#)

[Traduire le Tweet](#)

18:31 · 07 juin 21 · [Twitter Web App](#)

103 Retweets 4 Tweets cités 160 J'aime

کاراگاه پیکاجو @Det_Pikachu2 · 1 j

I feel sorry for people who pay taxes to save the country that killed 34 Americans in the [#USSLiberty](#) incident.

Israel is a virus that has infected the world and needs to be killed.

RIP to everyone who died because of this virus, [#covid1948](#)

1 114 138

عماد @em_peyvandi · 2 j

Israel is like a parasite for the United States. [#USSLiberty](#)

44 54