

Monthly Report

**March –
April 2021**

ACMS Antisemitism Cyber Monitoring System

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UNITED STATES

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Brooklyn Minivan Hit-and-Run Driver Backs into Five Orthodox Jews Twice

A man backed his parked minivan into a group of five Orthodox pedestrians twice, though there were no cars parked in front of him, before fleeing the scene. He was arrested a day later when a neighborhood watch group spotted his vehicle.

Antisemitic Attack Against Man Walking to Synagogue in New York

A 56-year-old man who was on his way to synagogue was attacked on April 17th, when he was confronted by a 35-year-old man. According to authorities, the assailant launched into an antisemitic tirade before allegedly kicking the victim.

New York Man Arrested for Hate Crime Shootings Targeting Jewish And Gay Victims

Christopher Keller, a 36-year-old from Long Island, is facing various charges, including felony aggravated harassment as a hate crime. The charges are part of a 36-count indictment for a number of incidents, including shooting a firearm into three establishments and one residence. Keller reportedly posted disturbing antisemitic and racist posts detailing threats of violence.

Multiple Synagogues Targeted with Rock-Throwing Vandalism in New York

Four synagogues located in the Bronx have been targeted for multiple weeks in rock-throwing vandalism attacks by an unknown assailant. In each instance, windows and doors were shattered or significantly damaged by thrown rocks. NYPD's Hate Crimes Task Force is still investigating, though they stated via Twitter to have a "solid lead...and we will take swift action against the perpetrators."

FBI Arrests White Supremacist Who Amassed Weapons and Made Antisemitic Threats Online

The FBI have arrested a previously convicted white supremacist in Florida who was amassing weapons and posting antisemitic conspiracy theories and violent antisemitic posts online.

NYC Mayoral Candidate Dianne Morales Calls Israel 'Apartheid State'

A recording of Dianna Morales speaking with Jewish high school students in December 2020 has surfaced where the mayoral candidate described Israel as an apartheid state. Morales claimed she came to this conclusion during a "propaganda trip" she took to the country.

ADL Audit of Antisemitic Incidents Reveals 2020 was the Third-Highest Year Since Tracking Began

In 2020, ADL recorded 2,024 antisemitic incidents in the U.S. Though the number represents a 4% decline following 2019's all-time high, incidents remained at historic levels. 2020 saw 1,242 incidents of harassment, a 10% increase from 2019; 751 cases of vandalism, an 18% decrease from 2019; and 31 assaults involving 41 victims, a decrease of 49% from 2019. The decreases are likely due to Coronavirus lockdown restrictions.

ADL Reports White Supremacist Propaganda Spiked in 2020

ADL's Center on Extremism tracked nearly double the amount of efforts to spread white supremacist propaganda in 2020. The incidents include the distribution of racist, antisemitic, and anti-LGBTQ fliers, stickers, banners, and posters. There were 5,125 cases reported in 2020, which averages to more than 14 incidents per day. The number represents a huge increase of incidents compared to the previous

year, which had 2,724. According to ADL, 2020 contained the highest number of white supremacist propaganda incidents they have ever recorded.

Gab Founder Attacks American Jewish Congress on Eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day

In a post published on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day defending the platform Gab and far-Right Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, who endorses QAnon and has been accused of antisemitic rhetoric in the past, Gab founder Andrew Torba attacked the American Jewish Congress while spreading antisemitic conspiracies.

Miami Heat Player Fined \$50,000 and Suspended for Antisemitic Language

Meyers Leonard, who plays on the Miami Heat, has been fined \$50,000 and suspended for one week after a viral clip showed him using an antisemitic slur while playing a video game on a public livestream.

Professor in Michigan Fired for Antisemitic, Racist Tweets

A professor at Ferris State University, which is located in Michigan, was fired for antisemitic, racist, and homophobic tweets. Among his tweets were antisemitic conspiracy theories claiming “Covid-19 is another Jewish revolution.”

Utah Passes Anti-BDS Legislation

The bill, sponsored by Utah State Sen. Daniel Hemmert and State Rep. Joel Ferry, known as the Anti-Boycott Israel Amendments, prohibits a government entity from contracting with a person that boycotts the State of Israel. The bill will now head to Gov. Spencer Cox, who is expected to sign it into law.

University of Texas Passes Resolution to Adopt IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism

The student government at the University of Texas at Austin unanimously passed a resolution on March 9th urging the school to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. Resolution A.R. 09 calls on UT’s student government to do three things: commit to better address anti-Jewish sentiments on campus; adopt the IHRA definition for antisemitism; and issue “a pledge of support for better Jewish inclusion and protection.”

United Kingdom

Pregnant Orthodox Jewish Woman Attacked

A 20-year-old woman, who was 27 weeks pregnant, was attacked from behind by a man who covered her head with a pillowcase and then proceeded to punch and attack her abdomen. The woman sustained minor injuries and was taken to the hospital. The suspect fled and was later arrested by police.

Labour Party Suspends 14 Members for Antisemitic Rhetoric; Conservative Party to Suspend One

While reports don't specify what the Labor lawmakers said or did, it is reported the members are on government city councils of Peterborough and North Cambridgeshire. The Conservative Party also suspended a Cambridge politician for remarks claiming Israel is carrying out a "Final Solution" in Gaza.

70% of Labour Members Still Think Labour Has No Issue with Jew Hate, Don't Want Corbyn Expelled

A YouGov poll conducted for the Jewish Chronicle reveals that 46% of members still believe the issue of antisemitism within the party was exaggerated. The poll also disclosed that hostility towards Israel remains rampant, with almost half of respondents (49%) claiming Israel is an "apartheid state."

UK Government Bans Neo-Nazi Group 'Atomwaffen Division'

The white supremacist group Atomwaffen Division (AWD) was categorized as a terrorist organization by the UK on April 23rd, along with its successor group, the National Socialist Order (NSO), which has been listed as its alias. According to a press release from Parliament, the move "means that members of Atomwaffen Division or those who invite support for the group could be jailed for up to 10 years."

Holocaust Denier Alison Chabloz Jailed Over Antisemitic Abuse

Chabloz, 57, was found guilty of a communications offence and was sentenced by Westminster Magistrates' Court to eighteen weeks in prison, of which she will serve nine. Chabloz claimed on the social media network Gab that "anything that's worth controlling will have Jews there controlling it," and accused Jews of turning their children into "psychopathic maniacs."

Cambridge Graduate Tried for Threatening Antisemitic Posts and Seeking to Build Bomb

Oliver Bel, a 24-year-old member of far-Right group Iron March, regularly posted antisemitic, racist, and homophobic comments on Facebook and far-Right forums. He regularly posted about a desire to "exterminate" Jews, which he described as "parasites." His university tutor reported him to the Counter Terrorism Unit in Cambridge after he posted about his desire to "go on a killing spree." When police raided his apartment, they found instructions for making a bomb and books glorifying Hitler and Nazism.

Roger Waters and Brian Eno Blame Israel for Antisemitism During Discussion on BDS

During the livestream YouTube event hosted by French activist Frank Barat, both musicians promoted the BDS movement and called for further boycotts of Israel; suggesting a ban on U.K. soccer players participating in matches against Israeli teams, and linking this to the Black Lives Matter movement in the U.S. Waters claimed there was an "antisemitic smear sword wielded at the behest of the Israeli government" against former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, and claimed the Holocaust was used to silence criticism of Israel. Eno went on to claim, "If anything is to inspire antisemitism, it's this type of behavior by the Israeli government."

France's Highest Court: Sarah Halimi's Killer Won't Stand Trial; Decision Sparks Massive Outrage

The court of Cassation—France's highest jurisdiction—finally ruled this month 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. However, the court recognized the antisemitic dimension of the act. Traore, who was 27 at the time and a devout Muslim who was regularly visiting a nearby Salafist mosque, entered Halimi's apartment and beat her to death while shouting “Allahu Akbar” and reciting Quranic verses. Traoré then threw Halimi out the window. The court decision set off a storm of reactions from different bodies:

- **Civil society & Jewish community**—The verdict sparked outrage among French and international Jewish groups. It also led to a large demonstration in Paris, and smaller ones in other cities in France, Israel, the US, etc. France's chief Rabbi Haim Korsia argued that the court decision marks “a grave breach of trust” for the country's judicial system, claiming that anyone who has taken illegal substances has now a ‘License to Kill Jews.’
- **Executive and Legislative Bodies**—President Emmanuel Macron expressed his dissent with the ruling, saying in an interview with *Le Figaro* that he wanted the justice minister to present a bill to change the law “as soon as possible.” Shortly after, Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti announced that a bill would be presented in time for a vote by Parliament this summer and fill the “juridical void” that currently makes it impossible to “take account of the voluntary intake of toxic substances” leading to delirium in the commission of crimes. Bernard Henri Levy called for the new law, if enacted, to be called the “Sarah Halimi law.”
- **Legal Actions**—Sarah Halimi's sister is to file a legal claim in Israel in the hope of getting a trial against Traoré. Israel's criminal law may apply to antisemitic crimes committed abroad that have been denounced by an Israeli citizen, in this case Ms. Halimi's sister Esther Lekover. Ms. Lekover's two lawyers “deplore being forced to expedite this procedure, but they cannot accept a denial of justice which offends reason and fairness far beyond the Jewish community of France,” they said in a statement. In parallel, the lawyer representing Halimi's brother said they intend to refer the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

French City of Neuilly Adopts IHRA Definition of Antisemitism, Strasbourg Rejects it

The city of Neuilly-sur-Seine (west of Paris) has formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. Neuilly becomes the third French city after Paris and Nice to adopt the IHRA definition.

However, resistance to the definition has appeared in Strasbourg (Eastern France). At a city council meeting, the left-wing Europe Ecology Party (EELV) refused to endorse the IHRA definition, which was adopted by France in 2019. Explaining his decision, Jean Werlen, a city councillor said: “We must be able to criticize a state and this definition prohibits any criticism of the policy of the State of Israel.” Opposition council member Pierre Jakubowicz reacted: “We are the first democratic assembly in a European state to reject this definition.” “The city of Strasbourg needs this definition because in recent months there have been several notorious antisemitic acts,” Jakubowicz emphasized.

Man Wielding Knife Arrested Outside Jewish School in Marseille

Police in the southern city of Marseille detained a man who was wielding a knife outside a Jewish school and kosher market. The children were briefly sequestered inside the school.

Paris-Area Jews Catch Suspected Stabber before Handing Him to Police

Jewish residents of Sarcelles chased and overpowered a man whom witnesses said tried to stab three Jews, then handed him over to police. The suspect, a 35-year-old illegal immigrant from Pakistan, approached the men from behind near a synagogue in Sarcelles. The men were wearing yarmulkes. The suspect was identified and released pending further legal action. According to the National Bureau of Vigilance Against Antisemitism, or BNVCA, he “should have been deported a long time ago and kept in custody pending a trial.”

Rise in Antisemitic Manifestations During Corona Restrictions Protests

In 2021, the amount of protests against Coronavirus restrictions, their participants, their level of violence, and the manifestation of antisemitism at the rallies, has risen significantly. While in the last two decades, antisemites and neo-Nazis kept a low profile in Austria, in March and April, the Vienna Jewish community felt compelled to issue warnings to community members not to approach the planned rallies on Shabbat, which for the first time were scheduled to also take place in the second district, where most religious Jews live. Witnesses of the rallies described an unprecedented hate-filled atmosphere, willingness to use violence, and radicalism.

Radicalization and Rise in Antisemitic Expressions in the Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ)

This increasing radicalism and open antisemitism are likely fueled by the shift in the right-wing party FPÖ, which is one of the forces behind the protests against Coronavirus restrictions. It seems that the FPÖ is breaking with its official policy of striving to combat antisemitism, which was especially highlighted during the chairmanship of HC Strache. Currently, under the chairmanship of Norbert Hofer, politicians, such as Kickl, leader of the parliamentary group, increasingly express antisemitic and racist views in public. Kickl is the head of the radical faction within the FPÖ. The strengthening and increasing outspokenness of the radical fraction grants legitimacy and support to right-wing extremists to express antisemitic views in public.

FPÖ Uses Antisemitism as Political Tool

In his speech at a Coronavirus restriction protest in Vienna on March 6th, attended by over 15,000 people, Kickl used antisemitism as a political tool. He bashed Israel for its vaccination campaign and spoke of Israel's "health apartheid." He demonized Israel while being aware that among the protesters were well-known extreme right-wing activists and neo-Nazis.

Antisemites and Neo-Nazis Step Out of the Shadows

Following Kickl's speech, people shouted antisemitic and Nazi slogans, and some performed the Hitler salute. Thereafter, hundreds of hooligans and right-wing extremists marched through the Charedi area of Vienna waving the German Reich flag, wearing the Yellow Star, pretending they are persecuted as the Jews were during the Shoah, and chanting "Heil Hitler." Politicians from all parties represented in Parliament, except for the FPÖ, sharply condemned the rally and the march that followed, and warned that well-known right-wing extremists, hooligans, and Holocaust deniers use rallies as a platform to spread their hateful messages. They also expressed their concern about the fact that the neo-Nazi scene once again appears confidently in public and online.

Rise in Antisemitism in 2020

In 2020, the antisemitism registration office of the Vienna Jewish community reported a total of 585 antisemitic incidents. This is an increase of 6.4% compared to 2019 (550 incidents), and the highest recorded number of antisemitic incidents since documentation began 19 years ago. The number of physical attacks (11) almost doubled. Out of the 390 incidents that could be attributed to an ideological background, 229 crimes were attributed to the Right, 87 to the Left, and 74 to Muslim ideology. However, the majority of physical attacks had a Muslim background.

GERMANY

Berlin Research Center Records Rise in Antisemitism in 2020

The Berlin Research and Information Center on Antisemitism (RIAS) reported 1,004 antisemitic incidents in Berlin in 2020, almost three incidents per day. Despite the profound restrictions on public life and the reduction in interpersonal contacts caused by the pandemic, the number of antisemitic incidents increased by 118 in 2020 (an increase of 13.3%). The incidents included 17 physical attacks and 51 threats. Overall, almost every fifth incident was related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

State of Berlin Records New High in Right-Wing, Racist, and Antisemitic Incidents in 2020

Berlin registry offices reported a total of 3,822 incidents. These are 17% more than in 2019, and an average of ten incidents per day. A majority of incidents (58%) were propaganda, followed by physical attacks (10%). A third of the registered cases were racially motivated acts, 20% were antisemitic incidents, and 16% constituted trivialization of National Socialism.

Racist and Antisemitic Language in the Saxony-Anhalt Police

Stereotypical, racist and antisemitic attributions, such as using the word "Jew" when referring to "business-minded people," are widespread among officials of the Saxony-Anhalt State Police, according to a report by a special commission from the Ministry of Justice Magdeburg, which was presented to the Interior Committee of the State Parliament.

Loss of Votes for the AfD in Two State Elections

In Baden-Württemberg, the right-wing party Alternative for Germany (AfD) won 9.7%, in contrast to 15.1% in 2016. In Rhineland-Palatinate, the AfD won 8.3%, in contrast to 12.6% in 2016. The Central Council of Jews welcomed the AfD's loss of votes in the state elections as a positive development. It's president, Josef Schuster, spoke out once again in favor of permanent observation of the AfD by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution. The issue is currently being discussed in court.

Coronavirus Restriction Protest as Means to Gain Political Influence

According to the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the neo-Nazi party Der Dritte Weg (The Third Way) is trying to win supporters at demonstrations against Coronavirus restrictions. It uses the protests to collect support signatures for admission to the federal election on September 26th.

New Concentration Camp Memorial in Frankfurt

Frankfurt erected a new concentration camp memorial. The memorial and educational site is to commemorate the victims of the Frankfurt concentration camp, also called "Katzbach," a subcamp of the Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp in Alsace.

Court Decides Not to Launch Trial Against Former Concentration Camp Guard

The Wuppertal district court decided not to try a suspected former SS guard from the Stutthof concentration camp, since according to a medical report, the 96-year-old is permanently incapable of standing trial. The former guard had been accused of complicity in murder in several hundred cases from June 1944 to May 1945. However, the court ordered him to pay the costs he had incurred in the proceedings so far because there is a significant suspicion that he had actually committed the crimes.

ARAB WORLD

GAZA

Senior Hamas Official Justifies the Holocaust

In an interview to pro-Iranian Iraqi channel *Al Etijah* on April 10th, senior Gaza-based Hamas official Mahmud al Zahar justified the extermination of Jews during the Holocaust. Al Zahar claimed that “every state in Europe deported the Jews because they spread corruption and cooperated with the enemy in times of war.”

In recent weeks, many Arab speakers—especially Palestinians and Islamists—refer to the Holocaust. This period of the years marks the commemoration of the Holocaust, which this year was also celebrated in Dubai for the first time in the Arab World, irritating antisemites. Arab speakers diminish the significance of the Holocaust, accuse the “Zionists” of perpetrating “crimes against humanity,” compare the Holocaust to other atrocities, or appropriate the name “Holocaust” to refer to other cases, such as “the Syrian Holocaust.” However, a statement like al Zahar’s which justifies the Holocaust, is exceptional.

IRAQ

Antisemitism in Iraqi Pro-Iranian TV Channels

In recent weeks, Shi’i Iraqi pro-Iranian TV channels, particularly *Al Ahd* and *Al Etijah*, became platforms for antisemitic discourse. In interviews broadcasted on these channels, antisemitic topics are discussed and the antisemitic views are shared by the interviewer and the interviewee. Repeated motives are Holocaust denial, Jewish control of the world, and attributing negative traits to the Jews. The antisemitic discourse on these channels is more radical than that of Iranian media.

YEMEN

The Number of Jews in Yemen is Less than Ten

On March 30th, pro-Saudi newspaper *al-Sharq al-Awsat*, reported on the deportation of thirteen Yemenite Jews. According to the newspaper, the Jewish population in Yemen declined to only four elders. Another Jew, Levi Marhabi, is imprisoned in Yemen for several years for trying to smuggle a Torah scroll from Yemen to Israel. Israeli journalists verified the story and added that the Jews were deported to Egypt. In August 2020, a Jewish family from Yemen was united in the UAE with family members from London. All of Yemen’s Jews live in areas under Houthi control. Supported by Iran, the Houthi movement is the only antisemitic movement having control over a sizable territory.

RUSSIAN SPEAKING AREAS

UKRAINE

City Council Names Football Stadium After Roman Shukhevych—Ternopil

The decision, which was made on March 5th, was condemned by Israel, Poland, and a number of international Jewish organizations, and an official complaint was filed with FIFA. Shukhevych was a Ukrainian nationalist and one of the leaders of the Ukrainian military forces during World War II. Some of these forces collaborated with the Germans and actively participated in the murder of Jews and Poles in the country. This is not the first time that a public space in Ukraine has received the name of Shukhevych, who is considered to be a national hero in Ukraine.

Protesters Wear Yellow Badges, Concentration Camp Uniforms at Coronavirus Lockdown Rally—Kiev

The march took place on March 21st in central Kiev, and photos and videos circulated on social media show a number of participants wearing yellow badges and camp inmate uniforms in protest of government policy on the Coronavirus.

Memorial Plaques in Honor of Holocaust Victims Desecrated with Swastikas—Lviv

The incident occurred on March 26th and local authorities quickly cleaned up the graffiti.

Teenagers Carry Out Rock-Throwing Attack Against Jewish Pilgrims—Uman

Two 14-year-old boys were arrested for throwing stones at Jewish pilgrims from a balcony on the ninth floor of a building.

ARMENIA

US State Department Report Notes Sharp Rise in Antisemitism

The rise in antisemitism is linked to the results of war between Armenia and Azerbaijan last autumn, and the fact that Armenians accuse Israel of allegedly supplying advanced weapons to the Azeri army. Since September, there have been a number of antisemitic incidents within the country, in addition to an increase in the level of antisemitic discourse on social media in Armenia. The Jewish community in Armenia numbers between 500 and 1,000 people.

RUSSIA

Lawmakers Ratify Multiple Bills that Tighten Punishment for "Justification of Nazism"—Moscow

Punishment for "appealing the results of World War II," spreading false facts about Soviet activities during World War II, and insulting veterans who took part in World War II, has been increased. The bills have raised the maximum fine for those who break these laws. These laws can also have an impact on the punishment of Holocaust deniers in Russia.

Jewish Cultural Center Set on Fire and Vandalized—Moscow

The Shamir Center was set on fire overnight on April 20th (Hitler's birthday) by unknown individuals. Following the arson attack, damage was done to the entrance to the building. In addition to this, a swastika and "Death to the Zhyds" was graffitied on the building. Last September a drunk man tried to break into the center and damaged the entrance to the building.

ARGENTINA

Group of Orthodox Women Antisemitically Assaulted in Once Neighborhood of Buenos Aires

What apparently began as a car accident turned into an antisemitic attack and an attempt to run over a group of Orthodox women. A woman driving a car collided with another being driven by an Orthodox woman. When she first went to ask for the insurance papers and saw that she was Jewish, she started attacking her, while shouting violent antisemitic remarks.

Two Neo-Nazis Detained After Planning an Attack on the Jewish Community of Tucumán

Police arrested two neo-Nazi activists who planned to carry out a shooting attack on the Jewish community, apparently at a synagogue in the city of Tucumán. Many weapons were found in their apartment. The suspects were under surveillance by the local police for about a year due to acts of aggression and intimidation against people and institutions belonging to the Jewish community in the city. The police increased the protection of the Jewish institutions.

DAIA Files Official Complaint Against Businessman Alberto Samid for Antisemitic Remarks

The Organization of Jewish Communities in Argentina (DAIA) confirmed that they filed a complaint against celebrity and meat industry businessman Alberto Samid after his latest antisemitic tweet in which he attacked Argentine Jews who choose to immigrate to Israel. Samid has posted additional controversial tweets over the past few weeks; one which said: "When the state needs them the most, they leave. When we criticize them for what they do, they say we are antisemitic." Alberto Samid, a well-known businessman in Argentina, has repeatedly made headlines for his antisemitic remarks. In the 1990's, a fight broke out on air between him and the well-known Jewish broadcaster Mauro Viale.

SPAIN

Neo-Nazi Parade Held in Valadolid

Dozens of people attended a rally organized by the "La Falange" movement to mark National Sovereignty Day. According to the Spanish press, the participants arrived by bus from Madrid and at the end of the rally, the police were able to identify about 35 of the participants. During the rally, slogans were read condemning government corruption and many protesters displayed the Nazi salute.