



The Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism

2009 Summery



Main Points

- The year was characterized by violence against Jews in reaction to 'Operation Cast Lead': a record level of antisemitic activity both in the number of events (in excess of 1000 – equal to the average of an entire year) and in the level of their intensity.



Main Points

- Even months after 'Operation Cast Lead' the frequency of antisemitic incidents in most countries remained at a relatively higher level in comparison to the same period the previous year.



Main Points

- Broadening of legitimization of antisemitism and violence against Jews.
- An increase in the level of antisemitic activity by those perpetrating antisemitism.



Main Points

- Cooperation between Muslim communities and the extreme Left comprised the central factor influencing the level of threats. The phenomenon of antisemitism with national patronage also increased.



Main Points

- At the same time there was also a certain increase in the level of activity of the extreme Right.
- The extreme Left made effective use of propaganda to gradually undermine Israel's legitimacy to exist as a Jewish State. This propaganda is permeating mainstream public opinion in the West



Main Points

- In general, the process of the blurring of the boundaries between Israel, Zionism and Judaism has been accelerated.

Chanuka 2009 – A year after 'Cast Lead', a record level of incidents of shattering of *Chanukiot* by Christians, Neo-Nazis and Muslims

U.S.A – Eggs were thrown at the Rabbi's Chanukia



U.S.A – A Chanukia was vandalized in New York



Argentina – Graffiti was sprayed on a *Chanukia* in Buenos Aires; "Argentina is Catholic!"



U.S.A – Masked People with Nazi Flags disrupted a Chanuka Ceremony



E.U. – fue dañado el automóvil de un enviado de Jaba'd



Austria – A Muslim bit and injured Rabbi David Gruzman during a Chanuka Candle Lighting Ceremony



Moldova – A Chanukia was desecrated in the center of Kishinev and replaced by a Christian Cross





The Muslim Threat

- The strength of and the potential violence present in the Muslim communities has been revealed.
- Western Europe, North America, Asia and Africa are convenient platforms for extremist Muslim terrorist groups to plan attacks against Jewish targets.



The Muslim Threat

•In the background:

- Calls by Senior *Al-Qaeda* and '*Global Jihad*' officials to attack Jews.
- The aspiration to duplicate the successful attack in Mumbai – the advantage of an attack on an unsecured target while making a large impression and gaining significant media coverage.
- Disrupting the dialogue between Jewish communities and moderate Muslim elements.
- An increasing reluctance among some of the members of the Jewish community to wear or carry Jewish symbols from fear of becoming targets of violence.



USA - Arrest of the architects of the attack on a New York synagogue (May 2009)





Extreme Left

- Anti-Israel stances, "understanding" and tolerance of Muslim violence against Jews, accessibility of Islamic factors to infrastructures, participation in demonstrations.
- Continued attempts to initiate economic, social and academic boycotts of Israel
- Hostile antisemitic statements, such as blood-libel (Sweden) and the provision of a platform to Holocaust deniers in the name of freedom of expression.





Extreme Left

- Assimilation of slogans according to which:
Jew = Zionist = Nazi;
Israel = Apartheid
- As a result – the creation of legitimacy for attacks against Israel
- Effective propaganda to undermine Israel's legitimacy to exist as a Jewish state – is to a large extent pervading mainstream public opinion in the West.





Sweden



An extreme Left and Muslim demonstration against Israel's participation in the 'Davis Cup', Malmo, March 2009



Extreme Right

- Strengthening against the backdrop of the global economic crisis and continued expressions of xenophobia.
- The accumulation of power has been reflected in the success of extreme Right parties in European parliamentary elections (June – among others Austria, Hungary, Greece, and Britain).



Extreme Right

- Most of their activities have been against foreigners however violence is also directed at Jews and includes the desecration of Jewish sites and physical attacks against people and property.
- Some of the extreme Right's strength has been restrained due to separatism, lack of leadership and, in some countries, the authorities' battle against the phenomenon.



Hungary



"Magyar Garda" – a militia of the extreme Right wing Party 'Jobbik'



Desecration of a monument to the memory of Holocaust victims, Budapest, June 2009

Increase in antisemitic activity against the backdrop of internal struggles ahead of the elections.



USA

**Shooting Attack at Holocaust Museum,
Washington, June 2009**



**Victim – Security Guard
Stephen Tyrone Johns**

**The Attacker –
James Von Braun**

**Murder of a Jewish student, Connecticut,
May 2009**



**The Victim –
Johanna Justin-
Jinich**

**The murderer –
Stephen Morgan:
"It is ok to kill Jews"**



Britain

Violent Antisemitic Attack, London, July 2009



Chanelle O'Malley
Suspected of being Jewish



Argentina

**Kidnapping and Torture of a Lawyer involved in the investigation of the Terror Attack at the AMIA (1994),
March 2009.**



Attack Investigation File Number etched on his arm



Claudio Lifschitz



Antisemitism with the patronage of the regime: Venezuela and Iran



Demonstration in Caracas 08/01/2009



Venezuela

- State antisemitism led by Chavez
- Organization of demonstrations, harassments and incitement against the Jewish community during and after 'Cast Lead'.
- Accusing the Jewish community of loyalty to Israel instead of loyalty to the regime.



Venezuela

- The Jewish community is contending with uncertainty regarding its security due to Chavez's conduct and the severance of diplomatic relations with Israel.
- Fear of the nationalization of the state's private education – damaging the possibilities of Jewish education.
- Concern – in Latin American communities – in the face of the closer relations between Chavez and Ahmadinejad and the increase in Iranian influence in the region (Nicaragua, Bolivia and Ecuador)

Venezuela

**Graffiti Sprayed on the Synagogue:
"Jews, Leave Here"**



**Desecration of the "*Tifferet Yisrael*" Synagogue in Caracas,
January 2009**





Venezuela

Offices of the Jewish Governor of the Miranda province were vandalized, June 2009.





Iran

- Use of antisemitic rhetoric while abusing the international stage in order to make public statements (U.N General Assembly, Durban 2)
- Adopting a policy of Holocaust denial as a tool for negating the legitimacy of Israel's existence, as part of a comprehensive plan for "the erasure and elimination of the Zionist entity".



Iran

- Organization of anti-Israel/Zionist conventions in Iran with the objective of "establishing a global front against Zionism".
- Developing relations with, finance and guidance of anti-Israeli/antisemitic, Islamic, extreme Right and extreme Left entities in Latin America and Europe.



Insights and Expectations

- The reactions to the Operation in Gaza reinforced the influence of the conflict between Israel and its neighbors, especially with the Palestinians, on the security of the Jewish communities around the world.
- The main factor influencing the level of antisemitic threat is the cooperation between large Muslim communities and extreme Left Wing entities lending them support. This combination leads to the granting of legitimacy to attacks against Jews in reaction to developments in the Middle East conflict between Israel and its neighbors; exposes the communities to terror; and at the same time strives to undermine the legitimacy of Israel's existence as a Jewish state.



Insights and Expectations

- The process of the delegitimization of Israel and the Jews may increase the daring of the extreme Right to act against Jews.
- In the event of the scenario of a further escalation in the Middle East between Israel and its neighbors, a further intensification of violent antisemitic incidents can also be expected. The level of violence witnessed during 'Cast Lead' and the proven organizational abilities, point to the potential of a significantly higher level of violence during the next escalation.